

# The 2020-2025 Strategy of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia

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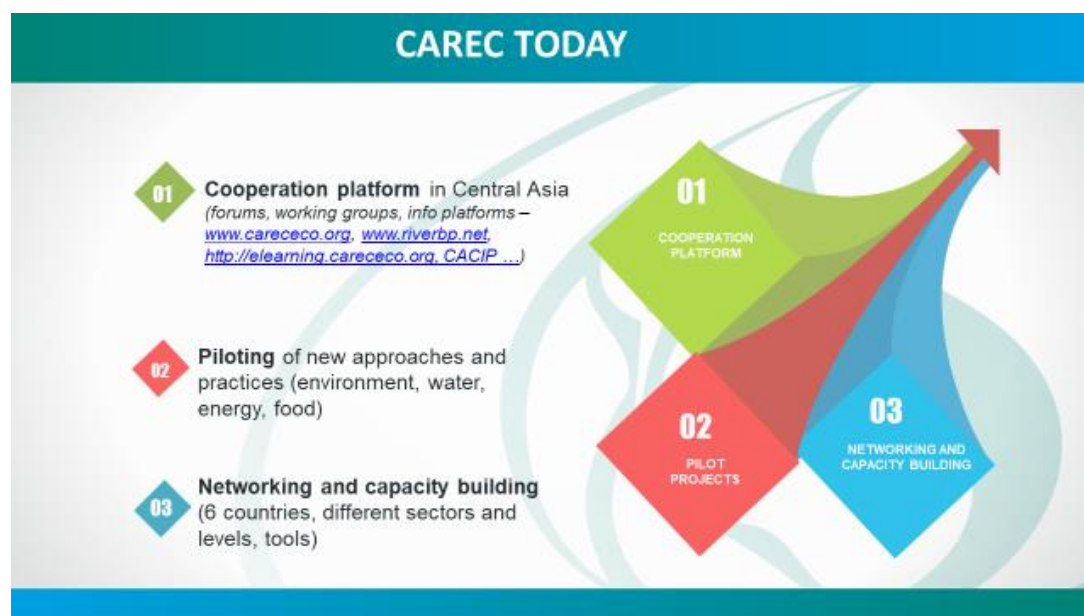
## 1. The Narrative

This document sets forth a vision of priorities to be pursued by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC). Their implementation in 2020-2025 is to ensure progress in achieving the CAREC's mission: enhance cooperation in addressing environmental problems in Central Asia (both at the national and regional levels) between non-governmental organizations, government agencies, businesses, local self-government authorities, and any other stakeholders.

Turning CAREC into a region-wide Knowledge Hub, with sustainable and sought-after services, interactive dialogue platforms and good financial standing, is an important mechanism to help achieve this strategic goal. As we see it, the CAREC Knowledge Hub is a three-legged stool: 1) analytics; 2) methodological and technological know-hows, and 3) dialogue platforms.

CAREC's 20-year-long experience in implementing international development projects in Central Asia, as well as main outcomes of its previous, 2014-2020<sup>1</sup> development strategy, include: 1) organization of regional multi-sector dialogue platforms, well established in Central Asia, such as the Central Asian International Environmental Forum (CAIEF), the Central Asian Climate Change Conference (CACCC), the Central Asian Leadership Program (CALP), the Platform of Regional Organizations, the Platform of Parliamentarians and Diplomats, the Platform of Academic Organizations; 2) initiation and conceptualization of the *Environment for Central Asia* process as a venue to coordinate actions between countries and partners in support of sustainable development in Central Asia; and 3) implementation of major multi-partner and long-term projects. Based on its expertise, CAREC has gained experience, knowledge and a toolbox for further development towards the Knowledge Hub in Central Asia.

Fig. 1. CAREC Today



The 2020-2025 strategic priorities are based on the following principles:

1. Better understanding and use of new approaches and solutions in Central Asia require an evidential basis and hands-on testing (Strategic Priority 1).
2. If segregated from national priorities and support by governments and communities, development projects fail to gain any sustainable results (Strategic Priority 2).

<sup>1</sup> Please see Exhibit 1 for a brief summary of previous CAREC development strategies.

3. Use of new approaches and technologies necessitates continual knowledge updates and rigorous networking (Strategic Priority 3).
4. Utilization of CAREC's regional potential requires its organisational strengthening and availability of operating mechanisms and funding (Strategic Priority 4).

Fig. 2. CAREC in the Next Five Years



As before, the strategy will be implemented with CAREC's four program areas: Environmental Management Program, Education for Sustainable Development Program, Water Initiatives Support Program, and Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program.

The strategy will be implemented mainly with grants from international development partners and donor organizations. Acquisition of CAREC's services in implementation of national government projects is an important future activity, and will be considered separately by each constituent country.

## 2. CAREC Strategic Priorities and Expected Results in 2020-2025

In the next five years, CAREC's activities will include the following areas:

### **Strategic Priority 1: Generation of knowledge, experience and evidential basis in support of making informed decisions**

Expected Results:

#### *1.1: Piloting, testing and upscaling of innovative approaches and technologies*

Basin planning, establishment of basin councils and supporting their joint actions will advance to a new level. CAREC's long-standing experience of working in small basins will be used to survey needs and establish basin councils for medium-sized and bigger river basins in Central Asian countries and, possibly, in Afghanistan.

Bringing together the interests of various sectors and water users, the Nexus cross-sectoral approach will be tested to perform different tasks, ranging from joint action planning to restore a transboundary infrastructure facility, to purely technical tasks such as performance evaluation of waterworks systems. CAREC will bring in international expertise and involve local experts to jointly utilize know-hows, approaches and tools in assessing the most feasible and resource-efficient solutions.

To promote the economic greening, CAREC will be looking for opportunities to use other tools in support of sustainable economic solutions such as cost accounting of ecosystem services, payment for ecosystem services, etc.

National partners will be provided with support in technical upgrades of climate-related monitoring systems, including innovative methodologies and tools. A mechanism will be introduced to assess climate investment; knowledge products will be developed, and workshops offered on using them. An extensive advocacy campaign will be carried out, and support will be provided for stakeholders' networking.

#### *1.2: Knowledge database*

Development of a common regional information database is a vital necessity as it will convey environmental information to government bodies, non-profit organizations, scholars, teachers and students, businesses and employers, mass media, and individuals. They will learn about different projects by various partners, results, products and opportunities, find appropriate links, contacts, etc. To this extent, CAREC will:

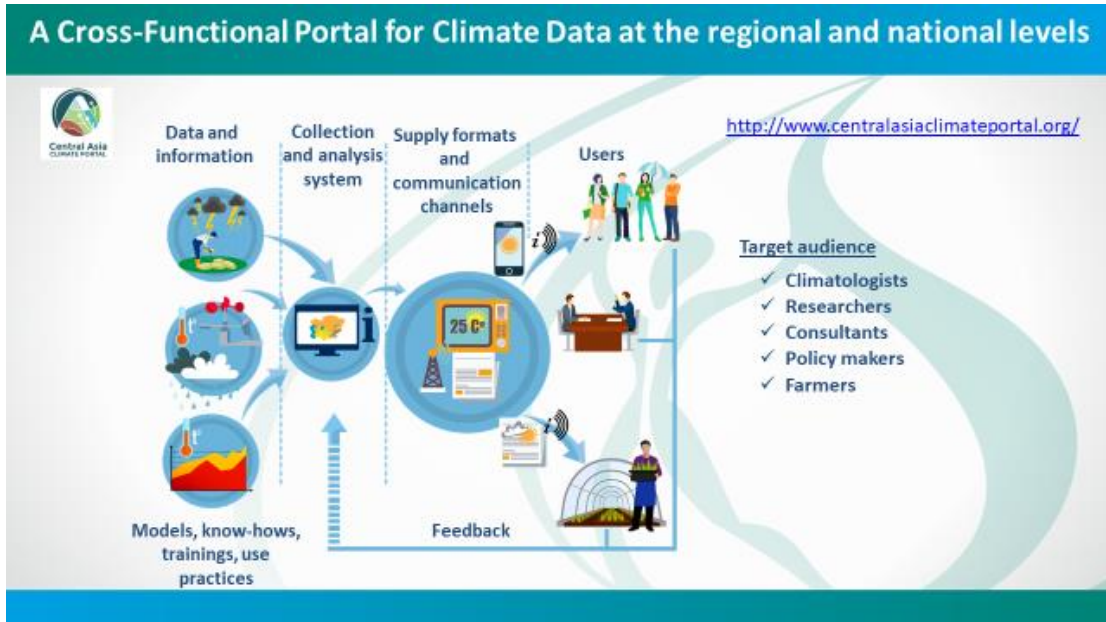
- marshal CAREC project information and products, improve and update the [www.carececo.org](http://www.carececo.org) portal, which currently incorporates the Eurasian River Basin Portal (<http://www.riverbp.net/>), the Information Portal on Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Central Asia (<http://ca-climate.org/>), the E-Learning on Environment Protection and Sustainable Development (<http://elearning.carececo.org/>), a database of publications with almost 200 analytical and methodological materials (<https://carececo.org/main/ckh/publications/>), and the Debate Club (<http://riverbp.net/discuss/>);

- negotiate the establishment of a unified information database with development partners. This database will be regularly updated and augmented with products from various partners;

- develop new methodological, analytical and training materials on different areas within CAREC's scope;
- integrate the best practices into a uniform interactive map.

A unique Central Asian Climate Information Platform (CACIP) will be developed and launched to offer complete data and climate-related information for Central Asia.

Fig. 4. A Cross-Functional Portal for Climate Data



The platform will be functioning as a one-stop shop (portal) for climate data at the regional and national levels. Innovative technological solutions and client-centered interface will ensure a convenient access to information from global, regional and local sources which could be analyzed, time-imaged, visualized and interpreted (e.g., hot spot mapping, risk zoning, analysis tools, etc.).

### 1.3: Preparation of analytical documents

While practicing project impact evaluation, CAREC has developed its own in-house expertise. Building on its project experience, knowing its partners and realizing the countries' and donors' priorities, CAREC will be providing services in critical impact evaluation of development projects and use of novel approaches at the partners' and donors' request.

As yet another service, CAREC will invite its partners to formulate project proposals and work on pilot projects in order to test novel approaches and technologies.

The documents will be drafted using a simple, intelligible and reader-friendly language. Workshops and in-house seminars will be offered to master the skill of presenting complex things in simple words.

### 1.4: Workshops and trainings

Capacity building of specialists from line ministries, non-profit organizations, academia, the expert community, and mass media, as well as potential use of novel approaches, technologies and tools, will be provided by involvement in training workshops, study tours and pilot projects.

In particular, workshops will be held on measurement, control and monitoring of national climate indicators, use of methodological tools and models, application of the IWRM and basin planning

principles. Pilot projects will test economic instruments to assess ecosystem services, cost-benefits, cost of no action, etc.

**Strategic Priority 2: *Support of national governments, communities and other stakeholders in formulation of integrated policies, plans and strategies on climate change mitigation and sustainable use of natural resources***

Although the CAREC's mandate is of a regional character, national governments need support at the country level in areas such as capacity building and harmonization of in-country measures with regional and global efforts in addressing environmental problems. Examples include the Water for Sustainable Development International Decade of Action (2018-2028), the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Regional events will only be successful with appropriate institutional support, effective institutions and knowledge at the target country level. The expertise and lessons learned at the national level will be instrumental in demonstrating the resiliency of ideas and solutions supported at the national level. CAREC will be rendering technical assistance for Central Asian countries to secure national inputs and upscale them to regional and global efforts.

Expected Results:

*2.1: Enhanced cross-sectoral interaction at the national level*

The crosslink between water, food, energy and environmental security is uncontroversial, as is co-dependency of these sectors and the need to achieve win-win solutions and negotiate compromise. Yet, practical application of the concept, methodological facilities and tools is still in its development stage to be tested in Central Asian countries and throughout the world.

In this regard, CAREC will endorse the countries' initiatives on testing the still little-known Nexus approach (the water, energy and food axis) to perform versatile tasks, ranging from evaluation of the irrigation pump system to the recovery of water collection and conservation system for a specific population group, and pilot cross-sectoral planning of the joint investment initiative.

As cross-sectoral interaction tools, the IWRM and basin planning on the rivers in Central Asia and Afghanistan will be significantly extended.

Climate change related challenges cannot be resolved by a single agency. In this regard, CAREC will support interaction between hydrometeorological services and other national agencies and non-profit organizations in information exchange and coordination of actions. CAREC will support development of climate change based Environmental Codes of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Low-carbon development and harmonization of national water and air quality policies and standards of the region's countries also mandate well-coordinated and concurred actions to be taken by various agencies. CAREC will be looking for opportunities of engagement.

Achievement of SDGs requires that any specialists realize environmental consequences of their decisions. To this effect, CAREC will continue promoting approaches, principles and methods of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to be included into national curricula, courses and plans. The role of ESD as an interdisciplinary instrument will increase. Capacity building and development of environmental leadership skills will be given special emphasis through CALP, CAREC's flagship initiative.

Extensive public participation is a basic requirement for transition to environmentally sound and sustainable development of the countries and the region overall. To that end, CAREC will continue

informing and involving representatives from environmental organizations into expert panels, cross-sectoral and regional dialogues and project activities, thus promoting implementation of the Aarhus Convention principles and provisions.

CAREC country offices will undoubtedly be pivotal in the interaction with national agencies and enhancement of sector-specific policies.

### *2.2: Support interaction between national governments and international conventions, and share countries' experiences at the regional level*

The Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP UNFCCC) offers Central Asian countries a great opportunity of drawing attention to the problems and efforts in the Central Asian region for implementation of the Paris Agreement. Given the fact that the year 2020 is critical for the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement commitments, CAREC will support participation of Central Asian delegates in the COP UNFCCC in 2020 and 2021 to shape out a common vision of the Paris Agreement implementation, with due account for national conditions and technical capabilities.

Having attained the status of an independent observer with UNFCCC's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – which drafts reports with recommended actions to be taken in different countries – CAREC will enjoy access to information on initiatives, opportunities and actions planned under the UNFCCC, and will share that information within the Central Asian region.

Apart from that, CAREC will continue strengthening the institutional and technical capacity of Central Asian countries to ensure preparation of UNFCCC reports, compliance with the established Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and impact assessment of national efforts in preventing climate change related risks.

*The Ramsar Convention.* CAREC will continue functioning as the secretariat of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA) and undertaking efforts for Tajikistan to accede. As the RRI-CA secretariat, CAREC will develop two regional strategies based on national strategies of all five Central Asian countries.

*The Convention to Combat Desertification.* CAREC will support development and implementation of strategies to mitigate risks of sandstorms, dust storms and droughts at the national and regional levels. Experts, partnerships and resources will be mobilized simultaneously to facilitate coordination of measures between a broad range of stakeholders, including government institutions, academia, practitioners and local communities.

*The UNECE Transboundary Water Convention.* The water issue in the region remains sensitive. To date, three of the five countries in the region have not yet ratified this convention. CAREC will help create accession conditions and harmonize national legislations of these countries to meet the Water Convention provisions.

At CAREC regional conferences, the countries will be offered an opportunity to report on the progress made in the implementation of their national commitments, and share their experiences with regards to the conventions above.

### *2.3: Raise the countries' awareness of climate financing mechanisms and facilitate access to them*

Within the next five years, funding the implementation of national initiatives to secure sustainable development will require stakeholders' specific knowledge and skills, evidential base and tools, and the ability to size up all risks and impacts.

CAREC possesses due expertise in facilitating the project concept development process at the regional level. Within the next five years, transboundary investment project preparation and

management skills will be improved, to include appropriate technical, economic and comprehensive assessments, cost-benefit analysis, alternative solution cost analysis, and profitability.

CAREC will begin collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help the government of Turkmenistan build a system of preparation and coordination of project proposals for the GCF, raise additional funds for the regional component implementation of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB), and initiate implementation of the regional project Readiness.

CAREC will also explore the possibility of working with the Adaptation Fund and introducing open-end funds in Central Asia to enhance the climate event funding capabilities in the countries.

CAREC will explore the possibility of providing the countries with assistance in preparing major infrastructure investment projects financed by banks.

*2.4: Engage non-profit organizations and academic institutions in environmental processes and decisions made at the national and regional levels.*

Although collaboration with non-profit organizations – just like with any other partners – will be based on CAREC’s project capacity, the NGO engagement mode will stay the same as ever: 1) participation in CAREC’s strategic development through the Board of Governors, 2) regular consultations and meetings at the country offices, 3) expert involvement in projects, 4) fulfilment of service contracts, 5) participation in events, including regional conferences, to coordinate development partners’ initiatives and make decisions.

CAREC will marshal resources to continue the initiatives and programs that had begun before, and where non-profit organizations were at the forefront. Examples include the Central Asian Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP), the CA + Afghanistan Network of Academic Societies, and the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations on Climate Change in Central Asia (RNCSSO).

CAREC will enhance practical cooperation with academic institutions to carry out joint research, assessments, development and integration of syllabi and curricula on environment protection, sustainable development, water resources and climate change into national education systems.

CAREC will continue working with training centers and centers for professional advancement in Central Asian countries to assist in developing training modules and courses and their integration into professional development systems. This also includes improving the HR capacity in innovative approaches to environment protection, sustainable development, water resources and climate change.

***Strategic Priority 3: Enforcement of regional dialogues with national and transboundary know-hows and experience to enhance information exchange, cooperation and partnerships***

Central Asia has every prerequisite to enforce cooperation and integration between the countries in order to achieve sustainable “green” development in the region. Understanding the climate change consequences and impact on land and water ecosystems, as well as the water, food, energy and environmental security nexus, improve collaboration and utilization of novel approaches.

Expected Results:

*3.1: Support regional multipartite, cross-country and cross-sectoral dialogue platforms on sustainable development in the region*



CAREC will continue providing support for meetings of the regional working group of diplomats and parliamentarians to discuss climate change related challenges in the Central Asian region and mitigation efforts. Members of the group will also be familiarized with the basin councils' capabilities and results of applying novel approaches and technologies in Central Asia. The overarching goal is to increase representativeness of the region's challenges and potential solutions at governmental and inter-governmental working platforms.

The current regional platforms such as the Central Asian International Environmental Forum, the Central Asian Leadership Program and the Central Asian Climate Change Conference have proven their relevance to the region. They will hence be supported as multi-partner dialogue platforms to strengthen cooperation, practice reporting by countries and development partners, and come up with joint initiatives.

CAREC will continue developing cluster working groups and a network to promote regional cooperation in areas such as the regional working group for water quality, the network of basin councils of Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, and the youth network of leaders of Central Asian countries and Afghanistan.

Realizing that sustainability of the platforms above depends on their countries' engagement and willingness to take up the responsibility for implementation and outcomes, CAREC will be working with national governments.

### *3.2: Cooperation with regional organizations*

CAREC boasts a rich history of practical cooperation with key regional organizations involved in the process of intra-regional cooperation in environmental and water issues, and namely, with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD), and the Interstate Coordination Water Commission (ICWC).

As stated before, CAREC has provided expertise and financial support in preparation of IFAS and ICSD regional programs. CAREC projects, too, contribute to the implementation of priorities set forth in those programs.

Within the next five years, CAREC will continue constructive cooperation with regional organizations and provide input in effort coordination.

CAREC will offer its services as an implementer of the IFAS projects.

CAREC will raise funds for preparation of a few investment projects including those from the Nexus portfolio under the Aral Sea Basin Program 4 (ASBP-4).

CAREC will join the ICSD Coordination Council and contribute to the implementation of the following priorities of the Central Asian Regional Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program: cooperation under the UN conservation conventions; improving the efficiency of water quality monitoring in the Aral Sea basin; introduction of climate risk accounting, vulnerability accounting and regional climate scenarios using climate models of the climate change impact; development of regional approaches to combat sandstorms and droughts; making the functioning of wetlands in Central Asia sustainable through implementing the best management practices; and implementation of an ecosystem-based approach for climate change adaptation.

### **Strategic Priority 4: *Strengthening of institutional mechanisms and management systems in CAREC to implement this strategy***

Since its beginning in 2001, CAREC has covered a long way and significantly changed its scope and activities, as well as capabilities and skills of its staff. As a result, the CAREC's mandate has expanded

to ensure flexibility and adaptability to political, environmental and economic changes. Strategic development of the organization requires implementation of a series of institutional and operational modifications to achieve the following results:

#### *4.1: Approve the CAREC's mission and mandate*

In accordance with its Charter and constituent documents, CAREC is a regional organization mandated to provide assistance to governments in addressing environmental problems. However, being a project-based organization without any institutional funding, CAREC is somewhat limited in utilizing its potential. Therefore, under the guidance of its Board of Governors, CAREC will review its statutory regulations, i.e. the Charter and mandate, to assess their impact on achieving the goals of this strategy. In collaboration with its partners, CAREC will make a decision on any potential changes needed.

The CAREC's new/updated mission and strategy will be supplemented with clear and measurable indicators to assess the organization's performance.

#### *4.2: Introduce the monitoring and evaluation system*

The current project monitoring and evaluation system lacks the capability of monitoring the whole organization. In this respect, CAREC will improve its project management system and introduce a uniform system to collect information from all projects.

CAREC will develop a range of universal indicators based on CAREC's key strategic goals and objectives. These will enable to track the projects' input in achieving the CAREC's mission.

The annual action plan will, too, include target indicators to assess its performance.

The monitoring and evaluation system will necessitate improvements of internal knowledge management procedures, technical capabilities on collection and management of project and in-house data, and continuous capacity development of CAREC employees – especially newcomers.

#### *4.3: Diversify CAREC's funding sources*

Diversification of CAREC's funding sources will be central to the successful implementation of the 2020-2025 strategy. This will include not only stronger partnerships but also finding ways to raise additional funds in support of the CAREC's mandated activities.

With support from its Board of Governors, CAREC will draft a concept to handle new funding sources, based on their priorities, financing mechanisms and mechanisms of operation.

The annual budget of CAREC's projects must be not less than US\$ 2 million.

Fig. 5. Potential Services

SERVICES AND PRODUCTS		
Service Packages	Products/Services	Annual Cost, EUR
<b>1 INFO PORTAL</b>		<b>300 ths</b>
Technical services (Equip stakeholders with info and knowledge)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central Asian Calendar of events</li> <li>2. Library(projects, experts, lessons...)</li> <li>3. Data Bases (projects, maps)</li> <li>4. Analytical documents (CC forecast, water, land)</li> <li>5. Capacity building tools (webinars, on-line courses, forums)</li> </ol>	50 ths 50 ths 100 ths 50 ths 50 ths
<b>2 ANALYTICAL SUPPORT</b>		<b>580 ths</b>
Research and assess the impact of project interventions to draw and communicate viable learnings to key stakeholders in decision-making positions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Needs assessments, reports/reviews</li> <li>2. Policy briefs</li> <li>3. Bulletins (water, climate, env., education)</li> </ol>	4*100 = 400 ths 4*20 = 80 ths 4*25 = 100 ths
<b>3 CAPACITY BUILDING</b>		<b>350 ths</b>
Gather knowledge from implementation of projects to support national and regional decision-making processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conceptualization of projects (5 p/year)</li> <li>2. Preparation and conducting webinars, courses</li> <li>3. Conducting forums (moderation, expertise)</li> <li>4. Ad-hoc requests of countries: Intern. expertise, reporting, etc. (legislation, statistics, indicators, reporting)</li> </ol>	100 ths 50 + 25 ths 50 ths 50 ths
<b>4 DIALOGUE PLATFORMS</b>		<b>400 ths</b>
Support regional multi-stakeholder, -country and cross-sectoral dialogue platforms on sustainable development issues of the region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Central Asian Environmental International Forum / Climate Change Conference</a></li> <li>2. MFA and Parliamentarians platform</li> <li>3. <a href="http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/">Central Asian Leadership Program (http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/)</a></li> </ol>	200 ths 100 ths 100 ths
<b>CAREC administrative costs (7%)</b>		<b>114 ths</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1744 ths</b>

To secure successful and well-focused resource mobilization, the capacity of resource mobilization specialists must be developed. Also, to make the work systemic and efficient, a specialist must be available to coordinate resource mobilization efforts.

Program and country office specialists will need to build on their contacts and partnerships, improve their skills in developing high-quality project documents, and enhance their insights and vision.

### 3. Conclusion

Implementation of the CAREC's fourth 2020-2025 development strategy will be based on the approach that the CAREC projects serve the purpose of developing the countries and Central Asia overall. CAREC, in turn, expects constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation with its partners.

With all global goals and project scope, it is worth recognizing that project implementation is the main source of income for the organization. This means that the quality of project implementation, compliance with every rule and procedure of funding organizations, communication and diplomacy skills are indispensable prerequisites for the organization to remain an appealing and sought-after partner for donors and countries in the region. Strategic decisions must be made to organize all processes and systems at CAREC in order to ensure effective implementation of high-quality projects.

CAREC is an organization of international standards, and hence all systems, procedures and approaches within the next period will be streamlined to make it a paragon organization, with a democratic management system and high international standards.

Given that CAREC's program areas (Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, Education for Sustainable Development, Water Initiatives Support and Environmental Management) remain of immediate interest, they will prove crucial in the next stage of the organization's development. In addition, negotiations will be held to discuss topics new for CAREC and highly demanded in the region such as solid waste management, biodiversity conservation, etc.

Successful resource mobilization and timely implementation of high-quality projects are key to the continuing operation of CAREC. In this respect, improvement of human resources, teambuilding and effective business processes come to the forefront. Each office, area or project manager must be a leader, a diplomat, an administrator, a financier, and a project developer. The CAREC Executive Director, in turn, will ensure stability, adherence to all rules and procedures, compliance with countries', donors' and CAREC's priorities, consistency in decision-making, fair field and no favor.

Sufficient funding is instrumental to sustainable operation of the organization. It enhances the organization's capabilities to smoothly manage implementation of regional initiatives and engage the countries. Taking into account that currently the organization has but a few major projects with completion near at hand, funding sources must be diversified. A system must be put in place to effectively manage implementation of even a large number of projects. CAREC is open to collaboration with any stakeholders in diversification of funding sources.

## 4. Exhibits

### Exhibit 1. A brief summary of previous CAREC strategies

Since its very beginning, CAREC has effectuated three development strategies, and each of them has met the changes and achievements at the time. These include:

**The 2001-2008 Strategic Plan** – its implementation was supported by a European Union institutional grant and some smaller additional projects. The main goal during that period was to facilitate the development of the Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development (CAI) put forward by the Central Asian countries through the ICSD at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The work of CAREC and its program areas was designed to meet the CAI's priorities. These included: environmental management, strengthening the role of the civil society, facilitating education for sustainable development, and climate change. Thus, the focus was made on interaction with government agencies and public environmental organizations. A stand-alone grant program was implemented for NGOs, too.

**The 2009-2012 Development Strategy** covered the period when institutional funding by the European Union came to an end. The impelled strategic focus turned to CAREC's transformation into a project organization, diversification of funding sources, building the expertise in professional implementation of grant-funded projects, name recognition, and development of services and knowledge products. The focus on survival and project implementation was met with an outcry among the target group in Phase One. As habitual support stopped, partners from government institutions and NGOs blamed CAREC for failure to comply with its mission and implement the CAI. And yet, the main goal in that period, make its living in order to continue operation, was completed.

**The 2013 CAREC Concept of Change and the 2014-2020 Strategic Plan Concept** aimed at structuring interaction with donors and at project implementation in order for CAREC to return to its mission. This included activities such as providing assistance in addressing environmental problems in Central Asia, at the national and regional levels, to encompass NGOs, government entities, businesses, local self-government bodies and any other stakeholders. The overarching goal was to enhance free flow of information, assist non-government environmental organizations and other stakeholders, increase public participation in the decision-making process and thus further democratic development of civil societies in Central Asia.

Core results of the 2014-2020 period:

- 1) CAREC has aligned project actions with the countries' priorities and set up a series of cross-sectoral dialogue platforms at the regional level. Both donors and the region's countries are getting more and more interested in platforms such as the Central Asian International Environmental Forum, the Central Asian Climate Change Conference, the Central Asian Leadership Program, the Platform of Regional Organizations, and the Platform of Parliamentarians and Diplomats.
- 2) The Environment for Central Asia Process has been initiated to bring together different stakeholders in the region's environmental development and enhance implementation of the inter-state programs ASBP and REPPSD.
- 3) Experience has been gained in implementation of bigger and long-term regional projects.