



Issue №1 (16)

# CAREC NEWSLETTER 2019

CAREC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Dear readers!

Since the beginning of 2019, we continued to work intensively. In January, the EU-Central Asia High Level Conference on Cooperation in the field of Environment and Water Resources was held, our team participated actively. At the conference, we have presented our vision of how to strengthen cooperation.

In addition, the Central Asian Climate Change Conference was held in Tashkent in April 3-4. This is already the second conference, the first one was held last year in Almaty. Both were very successful. We managed to attract a large number of partners, scientists with an international name. The second conference focused on our region. How can we get more information about climate change processes, what efforts are Central Asian countries making?

Over the past period, another significant event took place: a conference «Central Asian Connectivity: Challenges and New Opportunities» was held in Tashkent. CAREC delivered a report at a parallel session on environmental cooperation. This conference helped to lay a very good foundation for further strengthening of cooperation in the region. We must remember that Central Asia has one past and one future. And we can not consider our development separately from each other.

Also this year we continued the creation of innovation clusters in the countries of Central Asia. Recently, a productive meeting was held in Dushanbe, where we considered the possibility of creating such a cluster together with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan and the Tajik Agrarian University. This will be the second cluster; we are already negotiating with the National Institute of Deserts, Flora, and Fauna in Turkmenistan for the third one. These knowledge centers will help make the work of CAREC more productive.

In addition, I want to note that CAREC is waiting for a new round of development. In April, a new executive director of CAREC was elected. Board of Governors approved Mr Zafar Hakhimovich Makhmudov for the leading position.

According to the charter, the Executive Director of CAREC is selected through an open competition for a period of three years, with the possibility of extension for a second term, but not more than two consecutive terms. I worked in the organization for 6 years and I must say that I was very pleased to work with such a strong team. I am proud that I worked in this organization and contributed to its development. From the project organization, CAREC formed into a full-fledged cooperation platform. I myself learned a lot from my colleagues.



*I thank all our partners, everyone who supported our initiatives, for their work. There are still many challenges for CAREC: strengthening scientific capacity, working with NGOs, strengthening national priorities. I believe that under the leadership of a new Executive Director, the organization will enter the next level of its development. I wish success in all endeavors to CAREC team!*

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAREC ELECTED

# 02

TASHKENT. On April 6, at the 42nd meeting of CAREC Board of Governors, new Executive Director of the centre was elected. Board of Governors members approved Mr Zafar Hakhimovich Makhmudov for the leading position.

According to the charter, the Executive Director of CAREC is selected through an open competition for a period of three years, with the possibility of an extension for a second term, but not more than two consecutive terms. From 2013 to 2019, the Executive Director of CAREC was Dr Iskandar Abdullaev. Mr Zafar Makhmudov was elected for three years with the possibility of an extension for up to six years with a probation period of six months.

The main specialization of the newly elected Executive Director, Mr Zafar Makhmudov, is integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into national development plans and strategies. As a Head of the Project Implementation Unit of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan, Mr Makhmudov coordinates all the projects of the committee on natural resource management at all levels of their implementation, including project development, structuring, negotiation, execution and monitoring. Among the current projects are: Pilot program to adapt to climate change in Tajikistan, The project on environmentally sustainable land management and livelihood improvement in rural areas, as well as the Change Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB).

In addition, Mr Zafar Makhmudov is the Senior Advisor to the Chairman of the Committee on the Implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the climate and the environment. It is also worth noting that the newly elected Executive Director of CAREC has experience in management the development of the National Adaptation Plan, the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and the National Plan for Environmental Protection. In addition, Mr Makhmudov has extensive experience in negotiating under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and climate funds.

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# OUTCOMES OF CACCC-2019: CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES NEED TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION OF ADAPTATION MEASURES

# 03



**390**  
people in the sessions and conference



**80**  
speakers



**5**  
plenary sessions



**5**  
parallel sessions

The Second Central Asian Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2019), which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on April 3-4, 2019, was completed. The main objective of the conference is to promote regional cooperation and partnership in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Central Asia.

Also, within the framework of CACCC-2019, 3 pre-conference sessions, a post-conference session of public organizations networks and an exhibition of climate-resilient technologies were held. Participants included representatives of Central Asian governments, international and regional organizations, diplomatic missions, multilateral development banks and civil society organizations, as well as leading experts in the field of climate change, young leaders and representatives of the environmental sector.

The main topics of the conference were: global and regional climate trends, the fulfilment of countries

'obligations under the Paris Agreement, the development of climate services, the introduction of innovative technologies and practices, broad stakeholder involvement, increased academic potential and access to climate finance.

At the closing of the conference there was an appeal to the participants on behalf of the Director of Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the World Bank, Mr. Beno  t Bosquet :



*“I am impressed with the level of preparation and thematic equipment of the conference. This has contributed to the formation of rich bases for discussion at the conference, which became a good platform for all of us, so that we can get together once a year and exchange our views on what has already been achieved and what problems became significant in the meantime.”*

At the end of the conference, a final “call for action” document was adopted.



Closing the Second Central Asian Climate Change Conference, CAREC Executive Director, Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, thanked all the participants: “Climate change has no boundaries. If regional efforts are combined, starting with transboundary waters, the effect will be multiple. Today there is political will, the institutional framework for this, and there is a platform for dialogue - our conference!”

Find more information about CACCC 2019 here >>>

# CENTRAL ASIAN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

# 04

▶ The first day of CACCC -2019: the participants discussed the readiness of Central Asia to achieve the goals of the Paris agreement and the measures taken on adaptations ▶▶▶

▶ Central Asian Climate Change Conference has started in Tashkent! ▶▶▶

▶ CACCC-2019: review of pre-conference sessions ▶▶▶

▶ CACCC 2019 side-events: detailed discussions and search for concrete solutions ▶▶▶

▶ CACCC-2019 votes for reasonable resource consumption! Mobile application instead of printed materials ▶▶▶

▶ CACCC-2019: Climate Services ▶▶▶

▶ CACCC-2019: Climate impacts and challenges in global and regional context ▶▶▶

**Learn more about the speakers of the conference**

**CACCC SPEAKER | 2019**

- 1  
part
- 2  
part
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part
- 4  
part
- 5  
part



ЦЕНТРАЛЬНО-АЗИАТСКАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ  
ПО ВОПРОСАМ ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КЛИМАТА

CENTRAL ASIA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Learn more about conference ▶▶▶

Download the photos ▶▶▶

Download the presentation ▶▶▶

# THE START OF REGISTRATION FOR THE 10TH CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

# 05

CAREC launches on-line registration for the 10th Anniversary Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development, which will take place on September 23-25. The registration will last until May 31.

We welcome advanced professionals from Central Asia and Afghanistan, working in state, non-governmental, academic and green business sectors. The mandatory condition is a gender balance: 50% of the participants are women.

## 10TH CALP



Will be held in Almaty  
(Kazakhstan)  
from 16th to 22d September

This year, CALP will be organized in conjunction with the “Regional training course on water diplomacy with a special focus on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills” promoted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), from 23 to 25 September 2019. The collection of applications for both events will continue until May 31, 2019. The programme is organized in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme, European Union, OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, OSCE Programme Office in Astana, USAID, World Bank and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

The 10th Anniversary CALP and the OSCE training course will mainly focus on environmental innovations and

water diplomacy with an emphasis on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills, and designed for advanced mid-level male and female water professionals from Central Asia and Afghanistan, representing the state, non-governmental, academic and business sectors. The lectures will provide the latest innovative solutions to environmental challenges on national, regional and global levels.

Participation is free of charge; selection is based on open competition, and for civil servants’ – via official nominations. The Programme organizers will cover air travel, accommodation, meals and transfer in Almaty for participants living outside Almaty.

[Learn more](#) ▶▶▶



# MEGAPROJECTS, STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION, POLITICAL SUPPORT: RESULTS OF THE WORK OF CAREC FOR 6 YEARS

# 06

The election of the new Executive Director of CAREC is coming to a logical conclusion. According to the charter, the Executive Director of CAREC is selected through an open competition for a period of three years, with the possibility of extension for a second term, but not more than two consecutive terms. The current executive director, Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, began his duties in 2013. This year, the mandate of Dr Abdullaev is coming to its end, and the Board of Governors of CAREC will elect a new Executive Director.

The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia is starting a new stage of its development. Today, CAREC is the leading regional centre for environmental and sustainable development knowledge in Central Asia, recognized by national, regional and international partners. We bring to your attention an interview with the current Executive Director of CAREC, Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, on the results of the CAREC work of these last six years.

## New format of the work

According to Dr Abdullaev, one of the main challenges for the organization in 2013 was the transition from a project implementing organization to a regional platform.



*“The transition to a regional cooperation platform, to an organization that truly contributes to the development of the region, not only fulfils specific project orders,” explained Dr Abdullaev.*

CAREC was established in 2001 by the governments of Central Asian countries and until 2008 received directly targeted grants to support its activities.

In the last six years, Iskandar Abdullaev notes, this issue has been resolved. In the period from 2013 to 2018, CAREC created a number of dialogue platforms with the aim of expanding cooperation on various environmental issues: the Central Asian International Environmental Forum, the Central Asia Climate Change Conference, the Meeting of Parliamentarians and Foreign Ministry representatives. It is also worth noting that from a large number of point projects, CAREC has moved on to the implementation of large-scale system projects.

[Read more](#) >>>



## LOOKING BACK: THE RESULTS OF 2018

# 07

The past 2018 was marked by a number of key events and achievements which stimulated the development of regional environmental partnership and the resolution of pressing regional issues, including water use.

**In particular, on March 15, 2018, the first working consultative meeting of the heads of Central Asian states was held in Astana.**

The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Speaker of the Parliament of Turkmenistan sat down at the negotiating table to discuss the most pressing challenges of the region. The heads of Central Asian states haven't met in such composition for almost 10 years. In the context of regional security, special attention was paid to environmental issues. The meeting gave a vital push to more effective multilateral cooperation in all spheres of the life of the region. The parties agreed to meet in this format every year on the eve of the common holiday Nauryz in order to coordinate positions.

**The next landmark meeting for the region was held on August 24 in Turkmenistan.**

The first in nine years summit of the heads of the founding states of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea was held in the city of Turkmenbashi. The meeting was attended by presidents of all five Central Asian countries. A communique was signed as a result of an open dialogue between the presidents of the countries. The document drew attention to the critical shortcomings

in the development work in the Aral Sea basin. The communique also reflected further tasks to strengthen cooperation on this issue.

In particular, it noted the importance of consolidating efforts to comprehensively address the problems associated with the improvement of the socio-economic and environmental situation in the Aral Sea Basin, especially in areas affected by the environmental crisis.

**In addition, exact proposals were made:**

reforming the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

creating a water and energy consortium

organizing joint training and staff development

“Such joint actions have become possible due to the change in political conjuncture in the region. There have been positive changes in relations between the countries of Central Asia. Relationships have become more open and pragmatic. Now all questions can be discussed without making any claims to each other. That is, to discuss the essence of the problem, and not to complain,” noted Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

read more >>>



# EUROPEAN UNION-CENTRAL ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

# 08

The European Union is one of the leading development partners in Central Asia. The EU Global Assistance Package for the region is 1 billion euros for the period 2014-2020. The main task of investments and grants of the European Union is to promote the sustainability of the region. It is worth noting that environmental protection and water resources management are among the priority areas of cooperation in accordance with the EU strategy for Central Asia, adopted in 2007. The EU implemented a series of long-term projects in the region: TACIS, WBOCA, CAWECOOP, WECOOP, etc. These projects provided technical support, played the role of cooperation platforms, provided investments, and also contributed to capacity building.

In 2009, the EU-CA High Level Conference in Rome (Italy) created the EU-Central Asia Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation. One of the last meetings within the framework of this platform was held on January 24-25, 2019 in Tashkent. At the 6th EU-Central Asia High Level Conference on Environment and Water Cooperation the parties discussed the progress made by countries since 2015. In addition, delegations from Central Asian countries, representatives of the European Union and development organizations discussed areas for further cooperation.

During the conference, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Ambassador Peter Burian stressed that cooperation between the EU and the countries of Central Asia had strengthened in all areas.



*“The EU and partners in Central Asia need to build on the new momentum in regional cooperation and advance joint efforts in addressing together common regional challenges ranging from sustainable and transboundary water management to climate change adaptation and mitigation, from improved environmental governance to the transition to a circular economy. To this end, the EU is ready to share its experiences and advanced technologies,” said Peter Burian.*

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# WATER DIPLOMACY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL ASIA

09

On February 19-20, Tashkent hosts the international conference “Central Asian Connectivity: Challenges and New Opportunities”. During the conference, more than 100 experts from 35 countries of the world will discuss regional security and cooperation. Among the participants are the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian, Deputy General Director of the World Trade Organization, Alan Wolfe, head of the administration of the Organization of American States (OAS), Gonzalo Conca, who is visiting Uzbekistan for the first time.

The thematic areas of the parallel meetings reflect key elements for the sustainable development of the region. In particular, the parties will discuss the prospects for joint work in the field of trade, transport, water management, environmental protection, energy, tourism and culture. The organizers are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA).

During the opening of the conference, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov, emphasized the need to coordinate efforts in addressing the challenges associated with the Aral Sea catastrophe. According to Mr Kamilov, the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region, established in November last year, plays an important role in this.

At the end of the speech, Abdulaziz Kamilov noted that Central Asia has always been a unified and integrated region that is united by history and culture. “Combining

our capabilities and efforts will allow us to reach a fundamentally new level of cooperation and development. Together we can transform Central Asia into a stable and economically prosperous region,” concluded Mr Kamilov. The conference will result into specific recommendations to the presidents of the countries of Central Asia, who will meet in Tashkent in April 2019 to discuss regional issues. This was announced at the opening by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, the head of the UNRCCA, Natalia Gherman.

[Подробнее](#) ▶▶▶



# ENHANCING WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

# 10

The current global trends, related to the economic advance, population growth, urbanization, and changes in the consumption patterns will objectively result in increased water, energy and food consumption. For ensuring water, energy and food security, it is required to take into account the interconnection of these sectors.

“

*“Unfortunately, technological improvements don’t always imply saving these resources. Moreover, under the conditions of severe resource constraints, the traditional decision-making theory is no longer as effective as it used to be. Consequently, the importance of a human factor is gaining momentum and the key role, played by the people, consists in ensuring the effectiveness of technological innovations, their reliability and sustainability in the context of climate change. The business sector is already displaying an ever-increasing understanding of the benefits from the implementation of integrated investment decisions, now it’s the turn of the government”, - says Saltanat Zhakenova, a leading specialist of the CAREC Environmental Management Programme.*

In the year 2016, CAREC, with the support of the European Union, has launched the Project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment”. The project aims at laying the groundwork for investments during the second phase of the “Nexus Dialogues” Program of the European Union (EU), which is expected to start in the year 2020.

In this connection, in the course of the current (first) phase, the project contributes to the creation of favourable information and technical environment for sustainable multi-sector investments. Such investments are aimed at increasing the level of water, energy and food (WEF) security in Central Asia, in combination with a comprehensive set of measures for protecting the ecosystems. The project provides an innovative approach and structure for building a multi-sector dialogue and joint development of regional investment projects. The project is implemented in Central Asia by CAREC in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature with the support of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. The first phase of the Project with a total budget of 1.52 million, of which 1.3 million is the contribution of the European Union, will last until the end of the year 2019.

Multi-sector dialogues at the national and regional levels, training and practical workshops are regularly held in the frames of the project. About 25 events have been held since the beginning of the project implementation. After the IFAS Board has taken a decision on January

30, 2018, to start developing the fourth Aral Sea Basin Progra (ASBP-4), the focus of the EU Project Central Asia Nexus Dialogue has been reconsidered. As a result, the project team has started to cooperate more closely with the IFAS structures.

One of the recent events has been held on November 28-29 in the city of Urgench, in western Uzbekistan for the employees of the “Amudarya” Basin Water Organisation departments. The workshop has been aimed at developing a multi-sector investment project for strengthening water, energy and food security in the Amudarya river basin for its possible subsequent support within the frames of the second phase of the EU Global Program for the Regional Nexus Dialogues.

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# STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CAREC AND PARTNERS IN TURKMENISTAN. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A PRIORITY

# 11

The CAREC project office in Turkmenistan began working in 2014, after a memorandum on cooperation was elaborated with the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan. It is worth noting that since its establishment, the project office has made a significant contribution increasing the potential of Turkmenistan's environmental protection specialists. Regular trainings and meetings are held with the support of national and international partners. Furthermore, the office contributes to the formation of delegations for the Central Asian Leadership Program, Central Asian International Environmental Forum, Central Asian Climate Change Conference, as well as global environmental events.

Two regional projects are currently being implemented with the assistance of the office in Turkmenistan: Smart Waters and Central Asia Nexus Dialogue. In addition, a national project was implemented as well, between 2016 and 2017: Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Turkmenistan.

It should be noted that within its new 2025 development strategy, CAREC aims to focus its activities on national priorities and programs. On the 22 of February, CAREC held a meeting with national and development partners in Ashgabat in order to identify the needs of Turkmenistan and areas where cooperation could be further developed. The meeting was attended by representatives of the State structures of Turkmenistan, of relevant agencies of the country, representatives of the academic sector

and civil society. International development partners were also present: USAID, EU, OSCE, GIZ, EC IFAS, as well as some of UN programs and projects.

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During the meeting, CAREC specialists presented the results of their activities in Turkmenistan. National and development partners spoke about the work being carried out, and their visions for further strengthening cooperation.



# WATER SECTOR REFORMS IN TAJIKISTAN: INNOVATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CLUSTER ON IWRM TO BE OPENED IN DUSHANBE

# 12

Tajikistan ranks first among the countries of Central Asia in terms of the reserves of water resources. And in terms of hydro-energy reserves - it has one of the first places in the world. It should be noted that sustainable water resources management is one of the priority directions of development in the country. Currently, the implementation of the Water Sector Reform Program is continuing in Tajikistan (2016-2025).

## The main objective of this program

create the foundation of decentralization in the water management system through the introduction of the Integrated Water Resources Management.

Training of highly qualified specialists is also in the focus.

On March 5, in order to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan, the Tajik Agrarian University named after Shirinsho Shohtemur and CAREC signed a memorandum. One of the main areas of work will be the creation of the Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster on Integrated Water Resources Management.

“

*“An innovative approach is most important. We hope that CAREC, which already has experience in this direction, will help us create such cluster in Tajikistan,” said Mr Sulton Rahimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan.*

потенциала специалистов-водников. В частности, подготовка инженерно-технических, педагогических. One of the goals of the cluster will be the strengthening of water professionals capacity. In particular, the preparation of engineering, technical, pedagogical and working personnel in the fields directly related to the use of natural resources. The Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster on IWRM in Dushanbe will promote the development of distance education and hold regular meetings to share knowledge and best practices.

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# CAREC DAY IN KYRGYZSTAN: THE REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

# 13

March 15, CAREC Day was held in Bishkek: a meeting with national partners and development partners. The parties gathered to discuss opportunities for cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable development in the Central Asian region. The meeting was attended by representatives of the academic community, international organizations, related government agencies, NGOs, as well as the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Kyrgyzstan.

CAREC Executive Director Dr Iskandar Abdullayev, in his speech, expressed his gratitude to the participants, and also noted the importance of close cooperation with national partners. According to Dr Abdullayev, this allows highlighting the country's priorities in development and implementation of the projects.

CAREC Executive Director also addressed the academic community with the idea of creating the innovations and scientific research cluster in Kyrgyzstan. Dr Abdullayev noted that creating clusters in the region will help to make the work of CAREC and other environmental organizations and agencies of Central Asia more efficient. Also, the need to attract national projects to the CAREC office in Kyrgyzstan was underlined.

The State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of Kyrgyzstan expressed its gratitude to the Executive Director of CAREC for his significant contribution to the development of cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. The staff of the Department of Water Management and Land Reclamation of the Ministry of

Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan also thanked the entire CAREC team for their cooperation. In particular, for helping to increase the potential of the staff of the central office and district water management departments, as well as for promoting basin councils and the principles of integrated water resources management.

Read more >>>





**Lyudmila Kiktenko,**  
*Environmental Management  
Programme Manager*

I was born and raised in Almaty. Since childhood, my favourite activity has been the observation of various animals. When I could, I would feed them and treat them. I dreamed of becoming a veterinarian and work in a zoo. At the same time, I loved writing essays and solving complex mathematical problems. My relatives were afraid that if I became a veterinarian, they would send me to work in a collective farm in some remote location, and insisted that I master a specialty new for the time- programmer and computer operator.

After I graduated with a degree in economics, I learned English and earned a master's degree in business administration. The development of my career fell on the period of the birth of the Republic of Kazakhstan. I was lucky to get into the so-called development sector, and I plunged into writing grant projects on a variety of topics: from building adobe houses to developing business and the territory of new settlements.

I joined CAREC in 2008 as a coordinator for resource mobilisation. I continued to develop my skills to assemble working groups and facilitate discussions for the birth of new ideas for regional and already multi-million grant projects. At the same time, I learned about the sphere of environmental protection itself.

For more than 11 years I have been an employee and a direct participant in the development of CAREC. Over the years, the centre underwent a significant transformation from an organisation that was completely dependent on grants from the European Union to an organisation that

professionally executes regional development projects. At this moment, I am the manager of the "Environment Management" program and the manager of the "Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia" program. This project promotes an understanding of the relationship between water, energy and food security in the region. Actions in one sector most often affect one or both of the other two. The project supports the preparation of ideas for integrated investment projects and at the same time adopts a methodological approach.

In my work, what I like most is that we are contributing to the preservation of the environment and sustainable development all over Central Asia. Our work knows no boundaries and territorial divisions, we work with a wide range of partners and organisations, from non-profit organisations in remote settlements, to national and regional government structures.



**Assel Satybaldina,**  
*HR manager*

I was born in Aktobe, in the Western part of Kazakhstan, however, I spent my childhood in the South. I went to the university in Almaty, where I studied to be a translator. In my 5th year of study, I started working for an international organisation, where I realised that such organisations working in the field of sustainable development have a world view close to mine, and I decided to pursue a career in this field.

Trying different positions in the UN structure, I was looking for my place and did not yet have a clear professional plan. But one day, my former boss asked me a question: “Where and by whom do you see yourself in five years? What kind of field do you like? What are you doing well?” It was then I realised that I didn’t ask myself such questions before. It was at the same time that I started an MBA and one of the courses was about “Human Resources Management”, which I followed with great interest, before deciding to dedicate my life to that field. That was the beginning of my career in human resources management, which has been going on for almost eight years.

I’ve known CAREC for a long time, but since I used to live in the capital city of Kazakhstan, I didn’t see this organisation as a potential employer. But just as I began thinking about it more seriously, I received a mail about a vacancy in CAREC. And after a couple months, I was in Almaty, working for this unique organisation.

When I started working, I was surprised right away by how dynamically CAREC was developing. I liked the

projects and the plans of the organisation. But, of course, the main discovery for me was the CAREC team, with all its diversity, multiculturalism, cohesion, commitment and love for its difficult business. It is a pleasure working with such colleagues, and with them, I feel I can play a great part in improving the environmental situation in the region.

Today, CAREC is a leader in the field of environmental protection with an excellent reputation throughout Central Asia, which is, in my opinion, the result of the excellent work of the professionals working here. Therefore, I can say with confidence that people are everything in CAREC.



**Dovlet Jumagulyyev,**  
*Coordinator of CAREC projects  
in Turkmenistan*

I was born and raised in the sunny city of Ashgabat. I graduated from secondary school and then continued my studies at the Turkmen State University's Faculty of Law. In my student years, I showed interest in research work, social activities, and scientific activities. After that, I continued my education in Moscow, at the Institute of Sociology, where I received a degree in sociology in 1993.

My experience is wide. I began my working career as a teacher of social sciences, then worked in the research field, in public service, and in business. Since 1995, I have worked in projects of UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, the European Union, USAID, and other funds. I have experience in projects in various spheres: socio-economic, demographic, medical-social, research, etc. I have extensive regional and international contacts with organizations and contact persons.

My experience with these projects led me to the environmental sector, where for a long time I worked as a consultant in projects of the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, GIZ, the European Union and others.

I started working for CAREC in 2016 as a Project Coordinator in Turkmenistan. Since that time, I see that the organization has grown professionally. The work of CAREC in Turkmenistan has also reached a qualitatively new level.

The project office is working hard to increase the capacity of specialists in Turkmenistan working in the field of environmental protection. With the support of partners, CAREC holds trainings and meetings on a regular basis in Turkmenistan. In addition, the CAREC team in Ashgabat is actively involved in the formation of delegations to participate in regional and global environmental events. At this moment, CAREC is implementing two large-scale regional projects in Turkmenistan: Water, Education and Cooperation, and Nexus Dialogues in Central Asia. It is also worth mentioning the national project "Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Turkmenistan", which was implemented in the period 2016-2017.

In our work, what I like the most is the search for new ideas and opportunities, as well as self-realization. In addition, I am inspired by the fact that our activities bring real benefits to the people and the country.



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