



CAREC

NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

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Dear reader,

Affirming the need to protect, preserve and improve the state of the environment, the Central Asian countries took formal steps in further progressing environmental cooperation in the region and founded the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) during the Fourth Ministerial Conference as part of the "Environment for Europe" process in Denmark in 1998. Three years after sketching its formal shape, CAREC commenced its initial operations delivering its first project activities in 2001. This year CAREC turned 15, executing more than 230 projects for a total amount of 48 million euros.

CAREC has passed through various phases of development, guided by its mandate – to serve as a regional platform for environmental cooperation and the dissemination of ecological knowledge. The organization has also contributed to the creation and promotion of best

practices in the field of water resources management, environmental education, and adaptation to climate change in Central Asia. Capabilities and expertise of CAREC are expanding from year to year, enhancing cooperation with national and international partners, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

On the occasion of the 15 th anniversary of CAREC, the year 2016 was full of essential events: platforms for regional partnership became stronger – a project office opened in Afghanistan, CAREC held a series of meetings with parliamentarians and diplomats of countries in Central Asia, launched new projects, strengthened positions on existing programmes. This year also hosted the Central Asian Environmental Forum entitled "Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia", which launched new initiatives and activities, thereby forming the newest platform for cooperation in the region. The next Central Asian Environmental Forum will be held in Ashgabat in 2017.

Today CAREC has achieved a great success, continuing to move forward in the performance of its mission and role in the region. The organization has a strategic plan and it is ready for new results. The success of the organization resulted from the hard work of not only the competent team, but also that of all partners. We would like to express our deep gratitude to all our partners and staff for this interesting and busy year. There are future steps ahead of us for the benefit of the regional sustainable development and environmental protection.

Happy New Year!

Yours faithfully,

Dr Iskandar Abdullaev,
Executive Director
The Regional Environmental Centre
for Central Asia

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15 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL WORK

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

- ▶ Report on CAREC 15th anniversary activities [link here](#).
- ▶ CAREC anniversary movie [link here](#).
- ▶ Our short movie about the Leadership Programme [link here](#).

1

OUTLOOK TO THE FUTURE - ECOLOGICAL TOURISM: CAREC PARTICIPATED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOTOURISM

On 5-6 October 2016, Tashkent hosted the international conference «Ecotourism is an important aspect of sustainable development and environmental protection: the experience of Uzbekistan and foreign practice», which gathered more than 200 participants, including representatives of the UNWTO, UNEP, UNECE, the International Ecotourism Society, international financial institutions, diplomatic corps and representatives of Oliy Majlis – parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The event was organized by the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection and the Uzbektourism National Company with the participation of the OSCE Project Coordinator in

Uzbekistan. The conference was also attended by the guest of honor – Mr Zhu Shanzhong, Executive Director of Technical Cooperation and Services at the World Tourism Organization.

During the «Ecotourism prospects of natural objects» session, Executive Director of CAREC, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev made a presentation on the theme «Ecological tourism - ecosystem services: experience and approaches of CAREC». Dr. Abdullaev announced the global statistics on ecotourism and spoke about CAREC projects and activities in Central Asia in this sphere.

Learn more about the event [here](#).



Photo: Information service of the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection

2

THE FIRST MEETING OF REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE WITHIN CAMP4ASB PROJECT

CAMP4ASB, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Programme for Aral Sea Basin, is a five-year project, which aims to enhance regionally coordinated access to improved climate change knowledge services for key stakeholders in Central Asian countries, as well as to increased investments and capacity building that, combined, will address climate challenges common to these countries.

Project comprises the following partners: the World Bank, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and National Partners of Central Asia. CAREC is responsible for realization of regional component of the project, which aims to strengthen the knowledge and capacity base for climate action and facilitate regional dialogue.

October 10, 2016, Almaty hosted the first meeting of Regional Steering Committee (RSC) within the framework of the project. The representatives of national coordinating institutions from Central Asian countries attended the meeting along with the international organizations.

The main goals of RSC includes an advisory support, definition of annual climate investments' priorities, recommendations for the future directions and monitoring of the progress of the project implementation. The participants agreed on the work plan for the first period of the project and expressed their readiness for further cooperation.

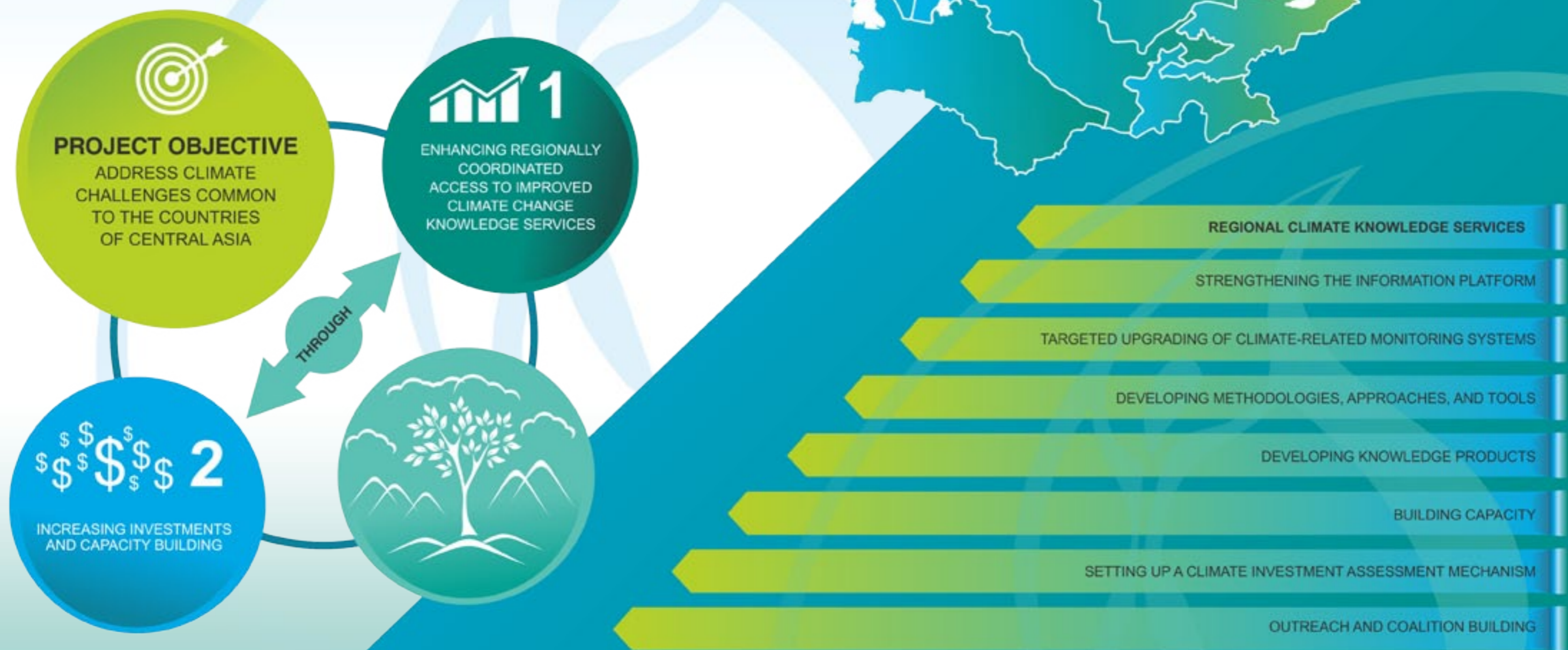
For more details about CAMP4ASB, please follow the [link](#).



CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PROGRAM FOR ARAL SEA BASIN (CAMP4ASB)



	BUDGET: US \$15 million	LOCATION ► KAZAKHSTAN ► KYRGYZSTAN ► TAJIKISTAN ► TURKMENISTAN ► UZBEKISTAN
	DURATION: 2016-2021	



3

CAREC PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL PRISE CONSORTIUM MEETING IN DUBAI

October 11-14, 2016, Dubai (UAE) hosted the annual PRISE Consortium Meeting. The overall aim of the meeting was to take stock about knowledge has been generated to date, identify connections among PRISE projects to be taken up for the synthesis stage of the research and ensure project teams to have a clear work plan mapped out for the coming year ahead.

On behalf of CAREC, Ms Nailya Mustaeva, Climate Change & Sustainable Energy

Programme Manager, and Mr Henry Wyes, Deputy Executive Director of CAREC, took part in the meeting. They introduced the country's progress of the research, which aims to define a role of migrant remittances to a climate resilient future in semi-arid lands. The project is implemented jointly with IED Afrique and tracks the commonalities and differences between the two countries – Senegal and Tajikistan.

Learn more [here](#).



Photos provided by: <http://www.iedafrique.org/>

4

TALKS WITH JASIL OF MONGOLIA - NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR COOPERATION

October 24, 2016, Executive Director of CAREC, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, together with CAREC Board member Mrs Kuralai Karibayeva, held a meeting with Mr Hijaba Ykhanbai, Director of Environment and Development Association – Jasil. During the talk, the parties have discussed the opportunities for cooperation in Central Asia and Mongolia.

Jasil is an environmental organization based in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) with the mission to promote sustainable management of natural resources and land use in Mongolia advocating study, networking and training for economic development and environmental protection by equitable and participatory approaches. Its aim is to support for community based pro-poor policies and facilitate the empowerment of communities and its associations.

Activities and projects carried out by Jasil have alignment with those of CAREC that could possibly open an avenue for future collaborative efforts in tackling environmental challenges of the Central Asian region and Mongolia. The sides have agreed indeed to start cooperation with the view to join forces and create a knowledge transfer channels on crosscutting issues of both sides.

In the context of CAREC's expanding environmental activities across Central Asia and Afghanistan, Mongolia could be the next neighbor, which would benefit from the organisation's experience while CAREC, in its turn, would draw best practices from Mongolian counterpart on environmental and sustainable development matters for the Central Asian region.



5

PARIS AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO FORCE

The Paris Agreement entered into force on November 4, thirty days after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for an estimated 55% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depository.

This is to remind us that the Paris Agreement is the treaty, which regulates stabilization of the greenhouse gas emissions and set the goal of keeping the temperature «well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C by 2050».

Such an ambitious and comprehensive approach towards climate actions is an important turnover in the climate negotiations history. The Central Asian countries are also actively promoting the global climate processes. As of today, the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan signed the Paris Agreement.

CAREC supports the countries of Central Asia in the global climate processes. The goal is to maintain a sub-



regional dialogue platform to explore opportunities and formulate a joint vision of the countries of Central Asia towards implementation of the global climate policy. In the context of its new programmes, CAREC intends to expand its support for the countries of Central Asia to access to modern tools on data and knowledge management, methodologies, capacity building and information exchange on climate change.

You can read full text of the document [here](#).



6

THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

October 18-21, 2016, Baku (Azerbaijan) the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development took place. It combined plenary sessions, parallel workshops and site visits over four days. The Forum assembled up to 300 international energy experts, government officials, and representatives from the business community, financial sector, academia and civil society.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, the United Nations and other international actors, countries and the private sector are exploring how they can

implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other aspirational pledges such as the Paris Agreement on climate change. The sustainable development agenda requires countries to pursue concerted action on energy in their national programmes in both their own national contexts and others.

The Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development provided the opportunity to reflect on the challenges ahead and to agree on concrete measures.

Learn more [here](#).

7

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION PLATFORM – MEETINGS WITH OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS

This year, CAREC regularly met with parliamentarians and diplomats of the Central Asian countries. These discussions contribute to the emergence of coordinated national decisions regarding environmental issues, and it is, in turn, an important step towards sustainable development of the region. In this context, over the past three months, the organization not only held several round tables in own premises, but also met with members of parliament in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Astana (Kazakhstan).

November 3, the Committee on Ecology and Nature management of the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan held a conference

on Legislative Support for implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Over 70 people attended the conference: representatives from the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador at Large, and other national partners. CAREC has proposed to supplement the recommendations with an idea of using the existing capabilities of the organization to promote regional cooperation and dialogue on the achievement of SDGs, the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

[Learn more.](#)



Photo: www.parlam.kz



November 7, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of CAREC met with Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Vice Speaker, Chairman of the Committee on Environment and nature protection of the Legislative chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The representatives of CAREC, Ecomovement and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan along with other

parliamentarians of the Legislative chamber attended this meeting. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the Road map on how parliamentarians and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can interact on issues related to environment and nature protection.

[Learn more.](#)



8

ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION IN ASIA - INCEPTION WORKSHOP

The degradation of land and forest resources threatens the livelihoods of the millions of people who depend on them. Every year, some 12 million hectares of land are degraded while 7.6 million hectares of forest are converted to other uses or lost through natural causes (FAO, 2015).

In this context, it is crucial to evaluate the extent and severity of land degradation in the region and to offer tools for the implementation of policies and practices for sustainable land management. That is what was discussed during special workshop on the study on the economics of land degradation in Asia.

Issues on decrease of land productivity are important for Central Asia since this region is predominantly agricultural. These issues are

also applicable to economic development and food security.

During the workshop, 45 participants from 15 countries of Asia, which represented public authorities, expert community and international development organizations, discussed the planned Report on natural capital and land degradation, made presentations on their countries, projects and initiatives, discussed the challenges and best practices for sustainable land use in different regions and countries. Experts proposed the results of this meeting in the report on specific issues related to land degradation, such as information needs, economic evaluation, SDG 15.3 and regional policy.

It is expected that the document will be ready by the summer next year.



9

CAREC AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER DIPLOMACY

November 16-17, Stockholm (Sweden) hosted the International Symposium on Water Diplomacy. The Symposium brought together researchers, diplomats, decision-makers, thought leaders and practitioners to discuss international cooperation over shared water resources and water diplomacy as an approach to conflict transformation, peace-building and regional security. Discussion topics include environmental peace-building

and grassroots diplomacy, and the role of women in these issues.

CAREC participated in «A regional approach to water diplomacy» session on the 1st day and «Environmental Peace-building & Grassroots Water Diplomacy» session on the 2nd day as a panelist.

Learn more [here](#).



CAREC AT THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH TASK FORCE

November 29-30, 2016, Vienna hosted the Sixth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) arranged by the Government of Austria, to begin and advance the preparation of the political outcome documents for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.

In total 36 countries were present at the meeting out of 53 members. NGO sector was represented by Ecoforum, European Environment Agency, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Regional Environmental

Center (REC), European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC) as well as CAREC. UN agencies were represented by UNECE, UNEP, WHO Regional Office for Europe.

It was the first participation of CAREC in the EHP.

[Learn more.](#)



TURKMENISTAN WILL HEAD THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

November 30 – December 1, 2016, Ashgabat hosted the meeting on preparation of Turkmen presidency of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan organized the event with the support of the German agency for international development cooperation (GIZ).

The working meeting was also attended by representatives of the UN, the World Bank, the European Union, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and CAREC. In the framework of the event, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of CAREC, talked about potential ways to facilitate the work of IFAS. In particular, it was proposed to strengthen regional coordination through meetings of regional organizations, cooperation with parliamentarians,



work at the Environmental Forum of Central Asia as a platform for regular exchanges of efforts and progress on sustainable development of Central Asian countries.

[Learn more.](#)



12

ALMATY HOSTED THE THIRD MEETING OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The achievement of regional rallying in addressing environmental issues is possible through the achievement of a consensus between the bodies that deal with these questions.

This truth is confirmed by the meeting of regional organizations, involved in sustainable development and management of water resources in Central Asia, which was held on December 5-6, 2016, in Almaty.

The initiators of the meeting are the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and CAREC with the support of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). This meeting is organized in the framework of the project “Strengthening capacities of regional, national and local level institutions and sustaining the



experiences gained in the previous phases” in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

[Learn more.](#)



13

CAREC AT GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON THE WATER-FOOD-ENERGY-ECOSYSTEMS NEXUS

December 6-7, 2016, Geneva (Switzerland) hosted a workshop on assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and response measures in transboundary basins. Target audience of the event included country officials, practitioners, river basin organizations, project managers, international organizations, research institutes and

academia. Overall, there were 36 countries, 37 international organizations, 7 research institutions and many others participated in this event.

The workshop was organized under the leadership of the Government of the Finland, with the support of the UNECE secretariat of the

Water Convention. Funding for the workshop and the nexus assessments under the Convention was provided by Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland.

On behalf of CAREC, Ms Ludmila Kiktenko, Environmental Management Programme Manager, facilitated the discussion on Nexus

opportunities in Central Asia and presented a new EU-CAREC-IUCN project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-sector Investment in Central Asia”.

[Learn more.](#)

14

CAREC CONDUCTED THE SECOND MEETING OF REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

December 7, 2016, Almaty hosted the second meeting of Regional Steering Committee of Smart Waters project financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and «Promoting dialogue for conflict prevention related to environment, water nexus issues in Central Asia: Central Asia Water-Nexus Cooperation» (CAWECOOP) implemented with the support of the European Union.

Regional Steering Committee monitors and evaluates the implementation of CAREC projects on water issues and makes recommendations at the regional level.

Overall, there were 40 participants – members of RSC, representing ministries, which are engaged in water resources management issues, irrigation, energy, environmental

protection, all target countries of the projects, CAREC staff, as well as representatives of the regional office and missions of USAID in Central Asia and Afghanistan.

[Learn more.](#)



15

END OF THE YEAR: TIME TO REVIEW

December 14-16, 2016, CAREC held series of internal workshops and meetings to increase knowledge and awareness of employees about the achievements, internal procedures and basic rules of the organization in dealing with financial and logistics tasks.

Within three days of seminars by in-house experts and the chief accountant of the organization, interactive seminars were conducted to equip office managers and assistants with better understanding of the internal procedures to improve communication in the performance of daily activities, exercising contribution to rational planning of medium and long-term objectives.



Moreover, in the framework of these events an interactive session with the participation of members of the Board of Governors and CAREC team was held. The meeting aimed to inform CAREC Board of Governors about plans for the future in the context of the approved strategic development plan.



THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

IS A DECISION-MAKING BODY OF CAREC.

THE BOARD REPRESENTS THE ORGANISATION AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

The 37th meeting of CAREC Board of Governors was held in the framework of CAREC Development Day. The Board members from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and international organizations and NGOs took part in the meeting.

Executive Director of CAREC, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev presented his report on the assignments given by the Board, and the governing body shared its comments and suggestions. Next Board meeting is scheduled for 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

February 02	World Wetlands Day	June 15	Global Wind Day
March 22	World Water Day	July 11	World Population Day
April 22	Earth Day	September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	October 04	World Animal Day 2017 World
June 05	World Environment Day	October 13	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
June 08	World Oceans Day	December 11	International Mountain Day

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