

**28th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP28)**

November 30 – December 12, 2023, Dubai, UAE

Central Asia Regional Pavilion

<p>Side Event Title</p>	<p>Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Central Asia – December 2, 2023</p>
<p>Short description</p>	<p>The side event will showcase the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, a collaborative effort by Central Asian countries. This strategy is the outcome of the work carried out by the regional Working Group dedicated to developing a strategy for Central Asia, operating within the framework of the "Green Central Asia" Initiative initiated by German Government and adopted by five Central Asian countries.</p> <p>The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Central Asia is a strategic document with a planning time frame that correlates with the horizon for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030. The long-term vision of the Strategy is that by 2030, the Central Asian countries will improve climate resilience and minimize vulnerability to climate impacts in line with the Paris Agreement through a “better together” approach.</p> <p>Based on a long-term vision, the overall Goal of the regional strategy until 2030 is to develop a mechanism for cooperation between the Central Asian countries to overcome the negative effects of climate change and implement adaptation measures.</p> <p>The implementation of most climate change adaptation measures will be carried out at the national levels, with regional harmonization of approaches/methodologies, joint resource mobilization, etc.</p>
<p>Long description</p>	<p>The Central Asia region, consisting of five countries, experiences climate change issues by rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and increased extreme weather events.</p>

Unique regional factors, such as the drying of the Aral Sea, wind erosion of its dried bottom, glacier shrinkage, snow cover reduction, and desertification, contribute to local climate change. Glacial shrinkage in Central Asia continues, with significant reductions over the past 50-60 years. Climate change vulnerability in the region is expected to increase significantly in the 21st century, with higher-than-global-average temperature rises projected.

These changes will result in increased interannual runoff variability and more hydrological droughts. Glacier melt and altered river runoff could destabilize food security, drinking water supply, and hydroelectric power generation. Climate change is already causing substantial human, financial, and environmental losses, affecting food security and poverty levels.

Addressing these climate risks is crucial for the sustainable development of Central Asian countries. Adaptation measures are essential to protect people, infrastructure, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Such actions should also be aligned with food security and poverty reduction efforts. Early adaptation action yields economic benefits and enhances ecosystem and human well-being while strengthening infrastructure and mitigating threats.

In this sense, improving regional cooperation by adopting Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is of utmost importance to improve climate change adaptation and resilience for the population of Central Asia.

In line with this strategy implementation of most climate change adaptation measures will be carried out at the national levels, with regional harmonization of approaches/methodologies, joint resource mobilization, etc. Based on this key understanding, the achievement of the goal of the regional strategy will be achieved through the implementation of 4 strategic objectives:

Strategic objective 1: Strengthen regional coordination for climate change adaptation.

	<p>Strategic objective 2: Creation of mechanisms for the development and implementation of adaptation projects/programs and attraction of financing.</p> <p>Strategic objective 3: Improve adaptive capacity through accumulation and sharing of knowledge and scientific cooperation.</p> <p>Strategic objective 4: Development of climate monitoring, information exchange and forecasting systems.</p> <p>The side event will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Goal and Objectives of the Regional Strategy ✓ Strategic Approach and Priority Areas ✓ Priority areas and relation to the SDG ✓ Implementation ✓ Implementation plan ✓ Overview of Financing Prospects <p>Speakers from different countries and relevant institutions will present strategy and discuss the importance of cooperation, to achieve greater climate change adaptation and resilience in the region.</p> <p>The session advocates for creating strong partnerships across climate change adaptation actions organizations, water-related stakeholders and across different Central Asian countries to scale local to regional capacities. It will showcase how to leverage cooperation, research and state-of-the-art technology for the purpose of improving climate change adaptation and resilience in Central Asia.</p>
<p>Organizing Partners</p>	<p>Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Foreign Office (AA)</p> <p>The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)</p>
<p>Contact persons</p>	<p>Nikolayenko, Alexandr, GIZ (alexandr.nikolayenko@giz.de),</p> <p>Vladimir Grebnev, CAREC Climate Change Specialist, cc_specialist@carececo.org</p>

<p>Speakers / Panellists /Moderators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Torsten Brezina, Cluster Coordinator, Climate, Water, Energy in Central Asia, GIZ Kyrgyz Republic (Moderator) ● Mr. Norbert Gorißen, Representative for Climate Foreign Policy and deputy Special Envoy of the Federal Foreign Office for international Climate Policy ● Mr. Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) ● Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, CAREC ● Mr. Serik Bekmaganbetov, IFAS ● Dr. Bijan Fallah, PIK ● Mr. Daler Abdurazokzoda, Representative of Tajikistan ● Ms Tatiana Chernikova, Representative of Kyrgyzstan ● Representative of Kazakhstan (TBC) ● Representative of Uzbekistan (TBC) ● XXX, GFZ Potsdam
<p>Please indicate proposed format of the event, including any innovative/interesting elements</p>	<p>The event will commence with an opening address by a representative from the German Foreign Office to set the context. Following this, keynote presentations will be delivered by representatives from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, representing both the upstream and downstream countries. Subsequently, a panel discussion will bring together all stakeholders to explore the challenges and considerations involved in adapting the strategy.</p>

Agenda

December 2nd, 09.30 – 11.00, Central Asia Regional Pavilion, CAREC Pavilion (B2-15)

Duration (min)	Agenda Item (description)	Speaker/Moderator (name, organisation, position)
09.30 – 09.35 (5 min)	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Torsten Brezina, Cluster Coordinator, Climate, Water, Energy in Central Asia, GIZ Kyrgyz Republic (Moderator)
09.35 – 09.50 (15 min)	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Norbert Gorißen, Representative for Climate Foreign Policy and deputy Special Envoy of the Federal Foreign Office for international Climate Policy

09.50 – 10.00 (10 min)	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Serik Bekmaganbetov, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS).
10.00 – 10.15 (15 min)	Technical Input on Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, CAREC Climate Change Specialist
10.15 – 10.30 (15 min)	Modeling Climate Change in CA (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Bijan Fallah, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) Senior Scientist (online)
10.30 – 11.00 (30 min)	<p>Panel discussion: Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Central Asia. Potential and constraints. (questions will be asked to each panelist in two rounds)</p>	<p>Ms Sabieva Saule Sagdatovna, Director of Climate Policy Department Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How can Kazakhstan actively work with neighboring countries to achieve the goals of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy?
		<p>Mr. Serik Bekmaganbetov, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Given the unique challenges posed by the drying of the Aral Sea, how can the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea contribute to the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, particularly in addressing water-related issues? ✓ How can the international community better support the efforts of organizations like yours in mitigating the environmental impact and promoting sustainable development in the Aral Sea region? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
		<p>Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, CAREC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In your role at the Regional Environmental Center, what initiatives do you believe are crucial for enhancing environmental resilience in Central Asia, and how can they align with the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy? ✓ How can the Center facilitate the exchange of environmental best

		practices among Central Asian countries to address shared challenges in the face of climate change?
		<p>Mr. Daler Abdurazokzoda, Head of department of Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How is Tajikistan planning to follow the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in its own climate policies, and what challenges do you expect? ✓ How can Tajikistan use its unique features, like mountains, to help in the regional climate efforts?
		<p>Dr. Bijan Fallah, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) (online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How can the Potsdam Institute's research help Central Asian countries adapt to climate change, especially dealing with glacier shrinkage and water variability? ✓ Can you share some insights from your research that could be useful for Central Asia's climate policies?
11.00-11.05 (5 min)	Closing remarks	Mr. Torsten Brezina , Cluster Coordinator Climate, Water, Energy in Central Asia, GIZ Kyrgyz Republic
TOTAL = 90 mins		