



Proposed Concept Note

Central Asia's climate finance synergy: Unlocking GEF/GCF opportunities with FAO support

Side-event | December, 4th 2023 | 16:45- 18:15 | Hybrid mode

Venue: Central Asian Pavilion, 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-28), Expo Centre Dubai, Dubai, The United Arab Emirates

Background:

Central Asia stands at the crossroads of various environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change, making it imperative for the region to adopt sustainable practices and mitigate GHG emissions. The region's unique geography, characterized by diverse ecosystems, ranging from deserts to mountains, is under threat due to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to develop long-term strategies and action plans, update and monitor NDCs, assess agriculture-related GHG emissions, and implement strategies to decrease emissions from the agri-food system. Additionally, promoting climate resilience in the region requires adaptation measures to address changing climate patterns, such as extreme water events like droughts and floods, as well as other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters. This involves integrating climate measures and DRR actions into national policies, strategies, and planning.

Exploring climate finance mechanisms and opportunities, including the harmonization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF), is essential to enhance resilience to climate change impact. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) present significant opportunities for funding climate adaptation and mitigation projects. However, navigating the complexities of these funds and aligning them with the specific needs of Central Asian countries requires strategic partnerships and technical support.

FAO's work extends beyond technical expertise, encompassing collaboration with member nations, farmers, academia, civil society, and the private sector to establish partnerships and mobilize support for climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems. This is achieved through the integration of tools and approaches within broader frameworks such as climate-smart agriculture and the promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction policies and actions.

Objective

The aim of the side event is to demonstrate how by leveraging FAO's expertise in sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and capacity building, countries in the region can harness the full potential of GEF and GCF funding. Furthermore, by facilitating a collaborative dialogue, the event endeavors to pave the way for impactful projects, enhance regional climate resilience, and contribute significantly to global climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Through collective action and informed partnerships, Central Asia can navigate the challenges posed by climate change and build a sustainable and resilient future for its people and ecosystems.



Finally, this side event aims to explore synergies between these financial mechanisms, identify challenges, and propose innovative solutions that can unlock the financial resources essential for Central Asia's climate resilience.

Format of the event:

Venue: Central Asian Pavilion, 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-28), Expo Centre Dubai, Dubai, The United Arab Emirates

Format of the event: Hybrid

Zoom: XXXX

Zoom access code: XXXX

Conference ID: XXXX

Meeting time and date: 04 December 2023 | 16:45 - 18:15 |

Target audience, language and duration

The event will bring together GEF, GCF focal points, UNFCCC NFP, key experts and specialists of the countries in Central Asia, international organizations.

The meeting will be held **in English** with simultaneous translation in **English/Russian**. Duration of the session is 1.5 hrs.

Proposed Agenda

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Time	Session
16:45 – 16:55	Opening Remarks Jeffrey Griffin, GEF Unit Senior Coordinator, FAO
16:55 – 17:25	Climate and Environmental Finance for Climate action now and in the future in Central Asia Kaan Basaran, REU-GEF Support Specialist, FAO Martina Duncan, International Climate Change Specialist, FAO
17:25 – 18:05	Moderator: Evetta Zenina, Natural Resources Officer, FAO



	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Mergen Yusupov, Deputy Head of the Department on coordination of the international environmental cooperation and projects of the Ministry of the environmental protection of Turkmenistan- Mr Muhibullo Djunaydov, Director of Projects Investment and Implementation Center of Committee and Environmental Protection in Tajikistan- Mr Jakhongir Talipov, GCF Focal Point and Head of International Relations Department in Uzbekistan- TBD Kazakhstan- TBD Kyrgyzstan
18:05 – 18:15	<p>Wrap-up and closing remarks Nadine Valat, Senior Natural Resources Officer</p>