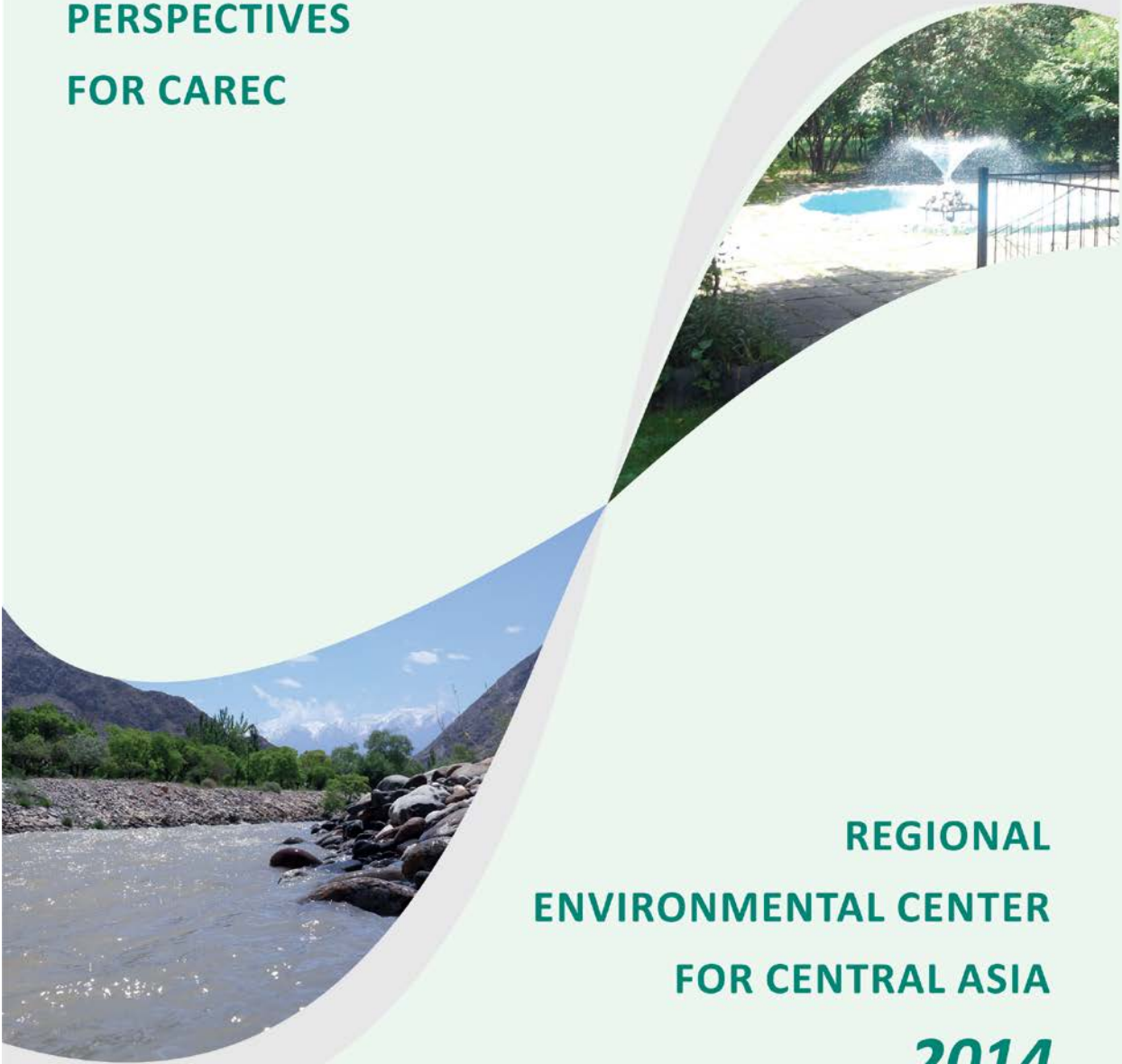




**CAREC 2020
PERSPECTIVES
FOR CAREC**



**REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
FOR CENTRAL ASIA
2014**

**CAREC
Strategic plan
2014-2020**

Preface

At present CAREC is at a crossroad where its future requires strategic decisions on its future role, its focus and possible intervention modes. In order to initiate a discussion, CAREC has prepared this note to consider the next step to further strengthen its **catalyzing - and coordinating role** with respect to the environment agenda in Central Asia. CAREC's strategic planning will be iterative and inclusive to provide opportunities for partners of CAREC to make their inputs.

CAREC continues to provide an acknowledged example of an organization acting as a proactive **social entrepreneur** which has proven its ability to fulfill its public mandate without core support by gaining support from various donor organizations through participation in competitive tendering processes. Thus, CAREC provides a unique interface for the Central Asian environmental community with the international donor community, i.e. for both relevant governmental structures from the Central Asian states, as well as for civil society organizations.

CAREC will continue to act as an **interface** as well as a contact node in Central Asia for initiatives of the donor community on a variety of issues, such as green growth, international climate policies, energy- and foreign policies as well as security related issues in its widest sense.

Increasingly Central Asian states consider CAREC as a tool for linking them with international environmental processes and support their capacity to **access emerging international financing mechanisms** on climate change and biodiversity and to provide support towards regional environmental governance processes such as MKUR and EC-IFAS.

The demands of the donor community and the Central Asian states as well as civil society underline the need for a structural reinforcement of CAREC's catalyzing- and coordinating role. In the period leading to 2020, CAREC aims to increase its cooperation with **regional environmental governance** processes. Beyond its implementing function, CAREC will become a **knowledge hub** and a think tank for environmental solutions for the Central Asian region and will continue to strengthen its profile as an acknowledged social entrepreneur.

The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) will develop a comprehensive, systematic and ambitious strategic plan for next five years. This is an important step towards establishing CAREC as a **center of excellence** on environmental issues in the region.

CAREC will peruse and appraise the **national development strategies** of partner countries, such as their sustainable development programmes, green growth concepts, environmental protection documents, etc. with the aim to identify most suitable areas for intervention. CAREC programmes and the CAREC country offices will identify potential activities and mechanisms for their implementation.

The strategic planning process will be **inclusive and transparent**. All concerned partners from state, civil society, and the private sectors of the Central Asian states and international agencies will be given the opportunity to contribute to the Strategic Plan of CAREC. The strategic

planning will thus enable CAREC to link its current activities, future portfolio with its mandate and include priorities of Central Asian countries on environmental issues.

I. Introduction

The main mandate of CAREC as a regional organization is to facilitate cooperation on environmental issues and to raise awareness on respective CAREC's current programme encompasses four key programmes, i.e. on

- Environmental management
- Education for sustainable development
- Water initiatives support
- Climate change and sustainable energy

Major parts of CAREC's activities are of regional nature. In response to the environmental priorities of Central Asian states, CAREC has included emerging environmental issues on climate change into its portfolio, such as the macroeconomic concept of green growth, new financing mechanisms such as NAMAs, and PES, as well as the integration of Central Asia into international reporting mechanisms such as SEIS, thus underlining CAREC's catalyzing role.

CAREC is cooperating with public and, private organizations. CAREC currently employs more than 30 staff member. Furthermore CAREC is hosting regularly international experts for both short- and long time periods. Experts from the CAS continue to support CAREC in its capacity building exercises and in the exchange of experiences both for its own staff and as well as for the CAS expert communities. CAREC has established itself as a source of information and knowledge on environmental issues in Central Asia.

CAREC has been successful in networking organizations throughout the region and in facilitating networks in Central Asia. Currently CAREC acts as a hub for the APAN, Dry Net, and Energy networks in and on behalf of the CAS.

CAREC's Charter underlines its role as a regional center for cooperation on environmental issues between state, non-governmental and business sectors of Central Asia. The Charter also indicated the international nature of CAREC so as to facilitate cooperation between CAS and other regions of the world.

In the past, CAREC has implemented both the Strategic Plans for 2001-2008 and 2009-2012. During the period 2001-2008, CAREC's focus has been the support of the Central Asia Initiative (CAI) of the European Union and CAS. The formulation of environmental standards, efforts to include civil society, informing the general public on environmental issues and other relevant activities helped to upgrade the level of general knowledge as well as the methodological basis on environmental issues in the CAI. CAREC has been a central player and facilitator in the CAS implementation process.

The CAI implementation has generated both expectations and partnership standards among CAS public sector and civil society. In the past CAREC became a support and informational center and provided grants on behalf of the EU to environmental NGOs in the CAS.

As a result of transforming CAREC from a core funded to a wholly **project funded organization** CAREC sought alternative funding via competitive grants from various sources.

CAREC has sustained its staff capacities and established effective project implementation arrangements both with CAS and international partners. CAREC's performance as a project implementation organization during the 2nd Strategic planning period (2009-2013) was outstanding, not only in terms of projects volume, but more importantly in terms of knowledge and capacities created among CAS stakeholders.

One of the main aims will be to upgrade CAREC from a regional knowledge holder/generator into an internationally known knowledge center/hub on environmental issues. An example will be CAREC's current NAMA project, which has gained interest from international financing institutions, such as the ADB and the World Bank.

CAREC's mission is to assist Central Asian states in addressing their national- and regional environmental issues. In order to achieve this, CAREC will continue to provide dialogue platforms for multi-state and multi-sectoral communication, thus bringing know-how, knowledge and technology to the region, supporting development and application of innovative environmental policies, approaches and practices, and promoting public participation in environmental decision-making and exchange of information in the region.

CAREC's Goals and Objectives are:

- To assist in the establishment of an inter-sectoral dialogue between central- and local governments, NGOs, local communities, the business sector and the donor community to ensure environmental sustainability in Central Asian region;
- To create opportunities for use and intake of the international expertise and knowledge, best practices, and advanced technologies available in the field of environmental management and sustainable development by the countries of Central Asia; and
- To enhance the role of civil society in Central Asia's sustainable development activities.

CAREC in 2020

The main goal of the 2020 Strategic Plan will be identify ways and means to assist CAREC to fulfill its mission and implement the goals and objectives of the organization.

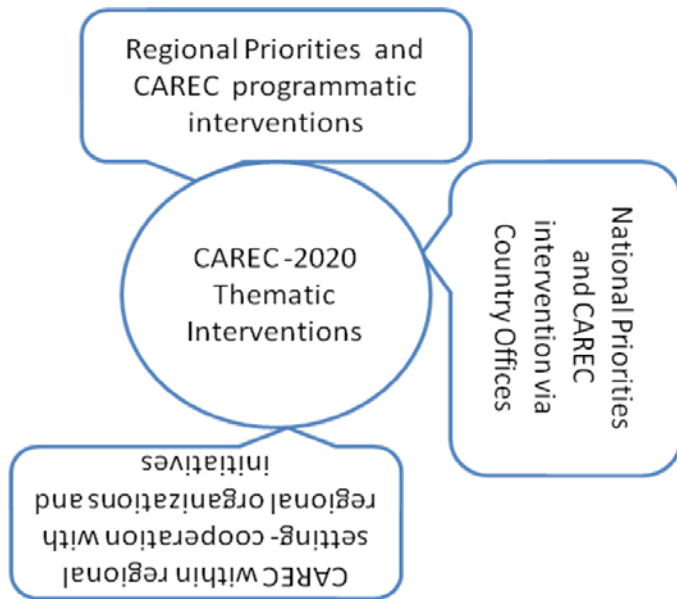
The CAREC-2020 Strategic Plan consists of two interlinked parts:

- organizational development
- thematic interventions

CAREC will expand and or adjust its human, technical and organization capacities in order to fulfill thematic interventions on CAREC's core competences:

- (1.) Environmental management,
- (2.) Education for Sustainable development,
- (3.) Water Initiatives,
- (4.) Climate Change and Energy Efficiency,

- (5) Priorities of the Central Asian states, and
- (6) Regional priorities set up by CAS and international partners (see figure below)



2. CAREC 2020 and its change concept

In order to achieve these ambitious goals CAREC is currently developing its **change management concept**. The change management concept will form the basis of CAREC’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the organizations’ institutional capacities and its thematic competences. A strengthened CAREC will ensure CAREC’s enhanced coordinating role on the regional governance of natural resources as well as further catalyze the introduction and application of new concepts of environmental management in Central Asia.

CAREC will implement its Plan of Action for the Implementation of its Change Concept in order to apply its strengths and skills in a more effective manner. CAREC will improve its management, performance, establish and or renew partnership, and information management structures that will strengthen CAREC’s role as a regional center for environmental cooperation.

The Change Concept will create an evolutionary shift in the management of the organization. Outside competition requires that CAREC must be increasingly adaptive and innovative in both attracting and mobilizing the resources necessary for the effective fulfillment of the organization’s aims and objectives. CAREC will develop harmonized policies governing internal conduct and conduct vis-à-vis external agencies, in line with its regional mandate.

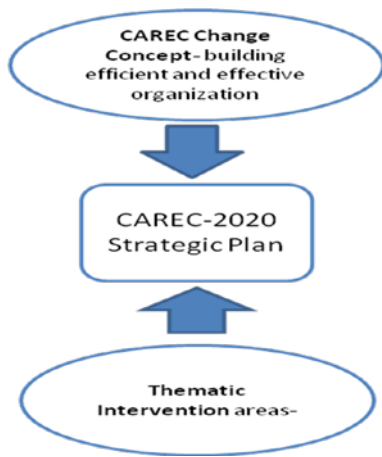


Figure 2. Structure of CAREC -2020 strategic plan

3. CAREC in the Central Asian context

Regional context and global processes are very important elements in determining both CAREC’s future and the relevance of its 2020 Strategy. CAREC is linking the CAS region with global environmental issues by representing them in respective processes.

There are three aspects of the context setting which are relevant in strategic planning:

- Security in the region,
- The EU Partnership Strategy and the Environment for Europe process, and
- The growing interest of the donor community in the regional management of natural resources in Central Asia.

During the last decade, the world has started taking notice of Central Asia. The CAS governments have turned the renewed external involvement into sovereign advantages to reinforce their role. The external involvement in Central Asia has strengthened the CAS governments, who have been able to ensure economic benefits and political support. **Multi-polarity** has led to a decreasing role of European economic influence and China is expected to emerge as the leading economic power in Central Asia. As a result governments in the region are less inclined towards accepting **value based agendas**, such as promoting the role of civil society.

With this geopolitical scenario in mind, the role of an independent regional organization such as CAREC which contributes **towards a more balanced approach** in the governance of natural resources, needs to be further strengthened.

5. CAREC’s Coordinating Role: Regional governance of natural resources in Central Asia.

Regional cooperation institutions in CAS are multi-dimensional, outcome of both joint past and result of efforts of international partners. The collapse of the Soviet Union has been a challenge for the management of shared resources. The CAS established regional bodies in response to the challenges - interstate cooperation on water and environmental problems: Interstate Coordination Water Commission (ICWC) and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). In 1999, the CAS agreed to set up the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC).

Regional organizations are crucial for providing platforms of cooperation and discussion for settling up their differences over shared natural resources. The regional organizations allowed the CAS to formulate regional strategies and plans for cooperation.

Regional organizations lack coordination, human capacities and have structural deficiencies. Communication among the different regional organizations is either absent or irregular. In general, rules of internal organization are and management styles inadequate for regional organization.

CAREC will organize a regional summit of regional organizations and host the event. The crucial component of the regional cooperation is a clarification of functions and activities. CAREC has initiated this process and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with three regional organizations (IFAS, ICWC and ICSD).

6. CAREC's Coordinating Role: CAREC as a Regional Knowledge Center on Environmental Issues

CAREC is committed to become an internationally accepted hub of knowledge on environmental issues. By 2020, international, national partners, and regional stakeholders recognize CAREC as a source for knowledge and "best practices" on sustainable energy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental management, water management and education for sustainable development. CAREC will provide knowledge to the public - and private sector as well as to civil society in forms which are innovative and effective.

CAREC is a provider of information and knowledge since its establishment - its publications, seminars and training series are known as sources of learning and knowledge. CAREC will continue on this path of knowledge generation, management CAREC should show outstanding performance on collecting, systematizing of "best practices" and knowledge on environmental issues from worldwide but also should produce its own knowledge of high quality.

The process of establishing a knowledge Center/hub profile for CAREC could be divided into the following steps:

- Systematization of previous and current knowledge (information, tools, approaches and methods) and transformation into easily useable formats (electronic library, on –line, etc.). Information management ;
- Establish and facilitate Learning Alliances (LA) in partner states of Central Asia and Afghanistan as potential interfaces for knowledge sharing;
- Promote and Manage Communities of Practice - work of regional working groups on different environmental issues. Ensure equality and relevance of the knowledge;
- Provide and coordinate learning platforms: on line web- based and long term capacity building efforts

Knowledge Management structure

Knowledge	Tools/Approaches/	Examples
Information management	Data Management, on-line library, information provision	CAREC programme/project publications, CAREC web site, programmatic/project web based platforms
Learning Alliances	Working groups, contact persons, partnerships and consortiums	CAREC is working with Basin Committees, councils, have formed consortia in a number of its new projects (both international and national)
Communities of Practice	Regional Working groups and experts, peer reviewing	CAREC manages a regional working group on water quality
Knowledge Platforms	Web portals, long – term capacity building, networking	Web-platform www.led-ca.net on NAMA, Central Asia Energy Efficiency Learning Portal (CAEELP) http://www.caeelp.org/ , WEB TEMPUS project http://iwebtempus.kz/?lang=ru APAN and DryNet networks

CAREC will further improve those four directions for a knowledge center/hub on environmental issues through interdisciplinary approaches in its project management. CAREC Staff and experts will work in the same project which will address interdisciplinary approaches such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and the water-agriculture-energy nexus, etc.

Internal changes within CAREC will facilitate inter-programme cooperation so as to project CAREC as a knowledge center among its different partners (research organizations, local partners, international experts).

6. CAREC's catalyzing function: CAREC key thematic orientations by 2020

The strategy's key thematic orientations are linked with CAREC's core competences:

(1.) Environmental management, (2.) Education for Sustainable development, (3.) Water Initiatives Support and (4) Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and priorities of CAREC's interventions at the national level will reflect the priorities of the Central Asian States.

At the regional level CAREC will be an active and leading player on environmental issues. The regional cooperation is a key for sustainability and security of the region. Therefore, CAREC will address regional priorities as outlined in table 3 and 4. CAREC's on-going regional projects and its approaches will be linked those of regional organizations Central Asia (figure 2).

CAREC's suggested strategic interventions on programmes areas are as following:

CAREC programmes	Competence areas	CAREC-2020 thematic intervention areas
Environmental Management Programme (EMP)	Facilitation of multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promotion of environmental dialogues in Central Asia; • Support to the “green bridge” initiative • Support of regional, national and local institutions of environmental governance • Promotion of the concept of green growth
	Promotion of environmental management approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promotion of environmental data management and reporting: • Improved information access and distribution through SEIS and AoA • Economic instruments for sustainable development and green growth such as • Payment for ecosystem services • Scenario Approaches
	Support to networks, civil society and local initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the role of civil society in environmental decision making • Supporting and managing the role of civil society in environmental networks, such as APAN, Drynet) • Representation of civil societies in international environmental processes
	Promotion of sustainable production and consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the role of both civil society and private sector in sustainable production and consumption
	Resilience: Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the role of civil society in activities related to climate change adaptation
	Environmental policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to existing regional organizations active in natural resource governance in Central Asia, such as EC-IFAS , MKUR, etc. to strengthen capacities in establishing sustainable

		development policies and programmes in Central Asia
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Strengthening networks on ESD in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service function on capacity building for CAREC's programs on WIS; EMP, and climate change • Strengthening CAREC's as a regional knowledge hub • Promoting and managing of e-learning platforms which have been adapted to Central Asia
	Develop the legislative and institutional basis to promote ESD in the educational systems of Central Asian countries	
	Harmonize the national education standards and ESD programmes in Central Asia	
	Develop the capacity of stakeholders in ESD and sustainable development	
	Introduce modern educational and methodological materials on ESD	
Water Initiatives Support (WIS)	Promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIS will promote IWRM and Basin planning principles in Central Asia through participatory approaches • Introduction of NEXUS approach through building interlinkages between water - energy and agriculture. • Creation of knowledge center and platform for inter-states, inter-sectoral and multi-level cooperation on water issues in Central Asia. • Harmonization of water quality
	Support the regional water cooperation and transboundary water resources management (TWRM)	
	Mobilize	

	<p>stakeholders to enhance the water use efficiency in Central Asia</p>	<p>management</p>
<p>Reduce the level of pollutants concentration in surface and ground water</p>	<p>Streamline the standards and policies on water management in Central Asia</p>	
<p>Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)</p>	<p>Bring best practices to develop public-private partnerships for climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>	
	<p>Promote Kyoto mechanisms and post-Kyoto dialogues</p>	
	<p>Enhance the energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in Central Asia</p>	

Forthcoming thematic issues:

Furthermore CAREC considers establishing programmes on new thematic issues of immediate interest to Central Asia, such as programmes related to:

(i) Biodiversity:

Central Asia is remarkable for its diversity of bio-geographic zones which support a rich variety of plant and wildlife species. Some areas within Central Asia are a virtual “crossroads” for species, where representatives of both Asian and Mediterranean flora meet. The recent world ecosystems analysis highlights the importance of Central Asia for its globally significant biodiversity. For example, Central Asia’s temperate forests harbor unique communities of fruit and nut trees. Wild relatives of fruit and nut trees such as apple, pear, and apricot, almond, pistachio and walnut trees are just some of the components of this rich ecosystem which occurs on a scale found nowhere else in the world. The same assessment also recognizes the steppes of Central Asia as a unique eco-region that must be preserved in its entirety.

CAREC would focus on capacity building on those aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which would enable Central Asian countries to access the financial mechanisms which are available under the Access and Benefit sharing mechanism.

(ii) Agriculture:

The issue of Biodiversity is interlinked with the impact of agriculture on the environment and the impact of environmental changes such as climate change on agriculture. During the past fifty years, the natural environment of Central Asia underwent dramatic changes. First, the total area of land used for production of crops increased significantly. New efforts in cultivation included large-scale conversion of virgin land in northern Kazakhstan to create the bogara grain crops (crops not requiring irrigation). Throughout the region, the number and size of irrigated fields, especially for cotton production, also expanded far beyond the boundaries of the ancient irrigated oases. In both plains and mountains, large areas of forest fell victim to this intense exploitation for crop and pasturelands.

CAREC will cooperate with the FAO Regional Office for Central Asia to accelerate and enhance implementation of environmentally sustainable practices in the agricultural and forest sectors of Central Asia.

(iii) Environmental health:

The environment affects human health through a variety of distinct media, including air, water, and food. In addition, activities involving industrial production, transportation, and energy generation have the potential to affect health. Similarly, human transformations of the natural landscape through agriculture, construction, and infrastructure projects play an important role in shaping health outcomes. So far only sporadic studies have been carried out on the interface between environment and human health in Central Asia.

In cooperation with the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, CAREC will focus on environmental health impact assessments (EHIA) to provide decision-makers with information about the health implications of policies, programmes and projects.

(iv) **Environmental indicators**

Among 132 countries for environmental performance ranked by the environmental performance indicators (EPI), based on 10 categories, by which a country's approach to managing natural resources and climate change policy is evaluated, the countries of Central Asia rank among the ten lowest ranked countries.

CAREC will aim - in cooperation with ZOI – to increase awareness - in particular of decision makers about impeding issues and the perception of their respective countries.

(v) **Urbanization**

Central Asia is among the least urbanized part of the region with less than a third (29.8 percent) of its population living in urban areas. The relatively low rate of urbanization to date is Central Asia's other advantage in pursuing a course toward sustainable cities and towns.

The region can learn from the mistakes and the good practices of other more urbanized countries and apply the lessons before problems become overpowering. Housing is but one of many issues where demand exceeds supply. Water has become a major issue in the region's cities and towns. Supplies from aquifers and reservoirs are on the whole contaminated and unsafe for drinking. Solid waste management is an equally severe urban problem - the situation is similar with sewage collection systems and sewage treatment plants. Many "good practices" toward sustainable cities and towns can be applied to Central Asia; practices that can embrace change and seek to improve residents' living standards and welfare, while managing and minimizing the associated problems.

CAREC anticipates – in cooperation with Habitat – to adapt tool sets for urban environmental management to the Central Asian region and to establish respective capacity building schemes.

Correlation between National Priorities of Central Asian states and potential areas of support by CAREC

		Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
CAREC Programmes	Objectives and focus	<i>Green Growth Concept approved by the President of Kazakhstan</i>	<i>National Sustainable Development Strategy National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</i>	<i>National Plan of Actions on Adaptation to Climate Change. 2003; Human Development Plan; Plan on improving of socio-economic conditions</i>	<i>Strategy of Economic, Political and Cultural Development of Turkmenistan till 2020, Strategy of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan till 2030, the National Strategy on Climate Change (2009)</i>	<i>Programme of measures on environmental protection in Uzbekistan for 2013-2017</i>
Environmental Programme Management (EMP)	· Facilitate multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Reduction of air pollution; Better waste management; Recycling of wastes Smart and productive agriculture	Implementation of MDGs Green Economy PES Environmental Impact Assessment New financial tools for promoting green development Indicators of Environmental Pollution Green employment	Efficient and sustainable forestry development Development of efficient, adaptive and environmentally friendly agriculture Improving of legal framework on environmental protection according to international standards Improved waste management, Protection of lands Forecast and preparedness to natural disasters Forest management	Air pollution biological diversity desertification Improvements of the Turkmen zone of Lake Aral Protection of Caspian Sea	Efficient use of natural resources Reduction of air pollution Improving of monitoring of environmental systems Improving of environmental situation in Aral Sea region Improving of legislation on environmental protection
	· Facilitate the enforcement of the environmental legislation					
· Promote the efficient environmental management tools						
· Promote sustainable production and consumption						
· Develop the dialogue and networks to exchange experience and best practices on ESD in Central Asia						
· Develop the legislative and institutional basis to promote ESD in the educational systems of Central Asian countries						
· Harmonize the national education standards and ESD programmes in Central Asia						
· Develop the capacity of stakeholders in ESD and sustainable development						
· Introduce modern educational and methodological materials on ESD	Green Education	Civil society involvement into environmental issues				

<p>Water Initiatives Support (WIS)</p>	<p>Promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support the regional water cooperation and trans-boundary water resources management (TWRM) · Mobilize stakeholders to enhance the water use efficiency in Central Asia · Reduce the level of pollutants concentration in surface and ground water · Streamline the standards and policies on water management in Central Asia 	<p>Addressing the water deficit at the national and basin level; Provision of water for the population; Improving of water productivity in agriculture</p>	<p>Support of the Water Code chapters on introduction of the IWRM principles and creation of Basin councils.</p>	<p>Improving water resources management Improving monitoring of the water resources Protection of glaciers Protection of river and water systems Support of the Water Code chapters on introduction of the IWRM principles and creation of Basin councils.</p>	<p>Reuse of drainage water Altyn Asr Lake Improving of water management in agriculture</p>	<p>Improving of the efficiency of water resources use</p>
<p>Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bring best practices to develop public-private partnerships for climate change mitigation and adaptation · Promote Kyoto mechanisms and post-Kyoto dialogues · Enhance the energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in Central Asia 	<p>Reduction of energy consumption; Increase of alternative energy sources; Increase of the share of gas in power generation</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency improvements Legal aspects of climate change adaptation Institutional aspects of intersectoral cooperation for climate change adaptation</p>	<p>Improving energy efficiency in different economic sectors Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions Reform of different sectors of economy for effective climate change adaptation Identification of areas for renewable energy application</p>	<p>Climate Change adaptation technologies</p>	<p>Development of alternative and renewable energy sources</p>

Planned project activities of CAREC in the Central Asian states

CAREC Programmes	Objectives and focus	Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Tajikistan		Turkmenistan		Uzbekistan	
		2014-2016	2016-2020	2014-2016	2016-2020	2014-2016	2016-2020	2014-2016	2016-2020	2014-2016	2016-2020
Environmental Programme Management (EMP)	Facilitate multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Support and promotion of environmental dialogues in Kazakhstan	Facilitate multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues during the EXPO 2017	Support and promotion of environmental dialogues in Kyrgyzstan	Strengthening the role of Civil Society and NGO in multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Support and promotion of environmental dialogues in Tajikistan	Strengthening the role of Civil Society and NGO in multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Support and promotion of environmental dialogues in Turkmenistan	Strengthening the role of Civil Society and NGO in multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Support and promotion of environmental dialogues in Uzbekistan	Strengthening the role of Civil Society and NGO in multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues
	Facilitate the enforcement of the environmental legislation	Support to the green bridge partnership programme; Support to the Green Growth Strategy	Support and contribute to the EXPO 2017	Support to the realisation of a NAMA	Strengthening environmental aspects in the formulation of national policies	Support to the realisation of a NAMA	Strengthening environmental aspects in the formulation of national policies	Contributing to the implementation of national environmental policies	Strengthening environmental aspects in the formulation of national policies	Contribute to the implementation of national environmental policies	Strengthening environmental aspects in the formulation of national policies
	Promote the efficient environmental management tools	PES Up scaling, promotion of SEIS and capacity building for environmental reporting	Support to national and regional SEIS and environmental reporting	PES Up scaling, promotion of SEIS and capacity building for environmental reporting	Support to national and regional SEIS activities in the framework of environmental reporting	PES upscaling, promotion of SEIS and capacity building for environmental reporting	Support to national and regional SEIS activities in the framework of environmental reporting	Promoting economic instruments for environmental protection, promotion of SEIS and capacity building for environmental reporting	Introducing economic instruments for environmental protection and environmental reporting	PES up scaling, promotion of SEIS and capacity building for environmental reporting	Support to national- and regional SEIS activities and environmental reporting
	Support local environmental initiatives / environmental management action plans	Supporting the role of civil society in environmental decision making	Strengthening networks to act independently representing environmental interests	Supporting the role of civil society in environmental decision making	Strengthening networks to act independently representing environmental interests	Supporting the role of civil society in environmental decision making	Strengthening networks to act independently representing environmental interests	Supporting the role of civil society in environmental decision making	Strengthening networks to act independently representing environmental interests	Supporting the role of civil society in environmental decision making	Strengthening networks to act independently representing environmental interests
	Promote sustainable production and consumption	Promoting the role of both civil society and private sector in sustainable production and consumption	Promotion of environmental sustainability as part of corporate social responsibility	Promoting the role of both civil society and private sector in sustainable production and consumption	Promotion of environmental sustainability as part of corporate social responsibility	Promoting the role of both civil society and private sector in sustainable production and consumption	Promotion of environmental sustainability as part of corporate social responsibility	Promoting the role of both civil society and private sector in sustainable production and consumption	Promotion of environmental sustainability as part of corporate social responsibility	Promoting the role of both civil society and private sector in sustainable production and consumption	Promotion of environmental sustainability as part of corporate social responsibility

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	· Support the dialogue and networks to exchange experience and best practices on ESD in Central Asia	Exchange by knowledge and best practices in ESD inside Kazakhstan and between CA countries	Replication of best CA practices in ESD in Kazakhstan	Exchange by knowledge and best practices in ESD inside Kyrgyzstan and between CA countries	Replication of best CA practices in ESD in Kyrgyzstan	Exchange by knowledge and best practices in ESD inside Tajikistan and between CA countries	Replication of best CA practices in ESD in Tajikistan	Exchange by knowledge and best practices in ESD inside Turkmenistan and between CA countries	Replication of best CA practices in ESD in Turkmenistan	Exchange by knowledge and best practices in ESD inside Uzbekistan and between CA countries	Replication of best CA practices in ESD in Uzbekistan
	· Support the legislative and institutional basis to promote ESD in the educational systems of Central Asian countries	Promote of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula of Kazakhstan	Replicate and adapt ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches for education legislation, standards and curricula of Kazakhstan	Promote of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula of Kyrgyzstan	Adapt ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches for education in line with the legislation, standards and curricula of Kyrgyzstan	Promote of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula of Tajikistan	Replicate and adapt ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches for education legislation, standards and curricula of Tajikistan	Promote of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula of Turkmenistan	Replicate and adapt ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches for education legislation, standards and curricula of Turkmenistan	Promote of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula of Uzbekistan	Replicate and adapt ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches for education legislation, standards and curricula of Uzbekistan
	· Develop the capacity of stakeholders in ESD and sustainable development	Promote Green Education competences for educators and students in Kazakhstan	Introduce Green Education competences for educators and students widely in Kazakhstan	Promote Green Education competences for educators and students widely in Kyrgyzstan	Introduce Green Education competences for educators and students of Kyrgyzstan	Promote Green Education competences for educators and students throughout Tajikistan	Introduce Green Education competences for educators and students of Tajikistan	Promote Green Education competences for educators and students throughout Turkmenistan	Introduce Green Education competences for educators and students of Turkmenistan	Promote Green Education competences for educators and students in Uzbekistan	Introduce Green Education competences for educators and students throughout Uzbekistan
	· Introduce modern educational and methodological materials on ESD	Promote Green Packs into education system of Kazakhstan	Replicate and adapt Green Packs for education system of Kazakhstan	Promote Green Packs into education system of Kyrgyzstan	Replicate and adapt Green Packs for education system of Kyrgyzstan	Promote Green Packs into education system of Tajikistan	Replicate and adapt Green Packs for education system of Tajikistan	Promote Green Packs into education system of Turkmenistan	Replicate and adapt Green Packs for education system of Turkmenistan	Promote Green Packs into education system of Uzbekistan	Replicate and adapt Green Packs for education system of Uzbekistan
	· Promote instruments of energy efficiency and greening the economy in Kazakhstan	Promote Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument of energy efficiency and greening the economy in Kazakhstan		Promote Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument of energy efficiency and greening the economy in Kyrgyzstan		Promote the Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument for energy efficiency and greening of the economy in Tajikistan		Promote the Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument for energy efficiency and greening the economy in Turkmenistan		Promote the Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument for energy efficiency and greening the economy in Uzbekistan	

Water Initiatives Support (WIS)	· Promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in Central Asia	Promotion and facilitation of the process of basin planning in the Aspara- and Ugam River Basins	Strengthening of basin organizations for introduction of IWRM principles	Promotion and facilitation of the process of basin planning on Aspara and Isfara River Basins.	Strengthening of basin organizations for introduction of IWRM principles	Promotion and facilitation of the process of basin planning on Isfara River Basin.	Promote IWRM and Basin planning principles in Tajikistan through participatory approaches	Capacity development on IWRM principles and basin planning. Promotion of the process of basin planning on Murgab River Basin	Promote IWRM and Basin planning principles in Turkmenistan through participatory approaches	Promotion and facilitation of the process of basin planning on Ugam River Basin	Promote IWRM and Basin planning principles in Uzbekistan through participatory approaches
	· Support the regional water cooperation and transboundary water resources management (TWRM)	Creation and support thematically Regional Working Groups. Creation and support multi stakeholders committees/Basin councils on River basins and sub-basins	Promotion of joint basin organizations for improving of water cooperation	Creation and support thematically Regional Working Groups. Creation and support multi stakeholders committees/Basin councils on River basins and sub-basins	Promotion of joint basin organizations for improving of water cooperation	Creation and support thematically Regional Working Groups. Creation and support multi stakeholders committees/Basin councils on River basins and sub-basins	Promotion of joint basin organizations for improving of water cooperation	Involving of Turkmenistan in the work of the thematically Regional Working Groups	Capacity development on joint basin organizations	Creation and support thematically Regional Working Groups. Creation and support multi stakeholders committees on River basins and sub-basins	Capacity development on joint basin organizations
	· Mobilize stakeholders to enhance the water use efficiency in Central Asia	Support of Small Basin Councils on Aspara and Ugam Rivers and enhancing capacity building on efficiency of water use	Involvement of specialists into a future knowledge center and platform for cooperation on water issues	Support of Small Basin Councils of the Aspara and Isfara Rivers, including capacity building on efficient water use	Involvement of specialists into a future knowledge center and platform for cooperation on water issues	Support of Small Basin Councils in the Isfara River Basin, including capacity building on efficiency of water use	Involvement of specialists into a future knowledge center and platform for cooperation on water issues	Enhancing capacity building on efficient water use	Involvement of specialists into a future knowledge center and platform for cooperation on water issues	Support of Small Basin Councils in the Ugam River Basin, including capacity building on efficient water use	Involvement of specialists into a future knowledge center and platform for cooperation on water issues
	· Reduce the level of pollutants concentration in surface and ground water	Establishment of joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary river Aspara	Expansion of list of parameters for joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary watersheds	Establishment of joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary river Aspara	Expansion of list of parameters for joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary watersheds	Participation of Tajikistan in thematic Regional Working Groups	Expansion of list of parameters for joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary watersheds	Participation of Turkmenistan in thematic Regional Working Groups	Involvement into joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary watersheds	Participation of Uzbekistan in thematic Regional Working Groups	Involvement into joint monitoring of water quality on transboundary watersheds

	Streamline the standards and policies on water management in Central Asia	Using of economical instruments in the process of basin planning	Introduction of NEXUS approach through building interlinkages between water - energy and agriculture	Promotion of Basin planning process according to Water Code of Kyrgyz Republic. Application of economic instruments in the process of basin planning	Introduction of NEXUS approach through building interlinkages between water, energy and agriculture	Promotion of Basin planning processes according to the Water Code and the reform of the water sector of Tajikistan. Application of economic instruments in the process of basin planning	Introduction of NEXUS approach through building interlinkages between water - energy and agriculture	Promotion of Basin planning process according to national legislation	Promotion of economic instruments in the process of basin planning in line with national legislation	Promotion of Basin planning process according to national legislation	Promotion of economical instruments in the process of basin planning in line with national legislation
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)	Bring best practices to develop public-private partnerships for climate change mitigation and adaptation	- Enhance the participation of the business sector in CC mitigation and adaptation (RES/EE) using B2B approach	- Collect and replicate the best practices from the Kazakhstan projects and initiatives on "green" business to other countries of CA	- Enhance the participation of the business sector in CC mitigation and adaptation (RES/EE) using B2B approach	- Promote and support the development of the CC adaptation and mitigation strategies	- Enhance the participation of the business sector in CC mitigation and adaptation (RES/EE) using B2B approach	- Promote and support the development of the CC adaptation and mitigation strategies	- Enhance the participation of the business sector in CC mitigation and adaptation (RES/EE) using B2B approach	- Promote and support the development of the CC adaptation and mitigation strategies	- Enhance the participation of the business sector in CC mitigation and adaptation (RES/EE) using B2B approach	- Promote and support the development of the CC adaptation and mitigation strategies
	Promote Kyoto mechanisms and post-Kyoto dialogues	Facilitate the implementation of Kazakhstan's commitments on Post Kyoto agreement to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide	Facilitate the implementation of Kazakhstan's commitments on Post Kyoto agreement to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide	- Support the development and implementation of the NAMA in Kyrgyzstan, and - Strengthen the capacity of the national government on financing mechanisms available within the CC mitigation and carbon market funds	- Support the national government in mobilizing resources on CC mitigation and adaptation from international sources/ funds	- Support the development and implementation of the NAMA in Kyrgyzstan, and - Strengthen the capacity of the national government on financing mechanisms available within the CC mitigation and carbon market funds	- Support the national government in mobilizing resources on CC mitigation and adaptation from international sources/ funds	- Advocate the necessity in CC mitigation and low-carbon actions at the national level	- Strengthen the capacity of the national government on financing mechanisms available within the climate mitigation and carbon funds	- Support the development and implementation of the NAMA in Uzbekistan and - Strengthen the capacity of the national government on financing mechanisms available within the CC mitigation and carbon market funds	- Support the national government in mobilizing resources on CC mitigation and adaptation from international sources/ funds
	Enhance the energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in Central Asia	Support development energy efficiency and RES measures, considering priority sectors of the national government	Contribute to reducing the energy intensity of gross domestic product by at least 40% by 2020	- Support energy efficient measures, considering priority sectors of the national governments; - Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)	- Ensure the synergy between the national strategies on sustainable energy and global initiatives (e.g. SE4ALL)	- Support energy efficient measures, considering priority sectors of the national governments; - Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)	- Ensure the synergy between the national strategies on sustainable energy and global initiatives (e.g. SE4ALL)	- Support energy efficient measures, considering priority sectors of the national governments; - Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)	- Ensure the synergy between the national strategies on sustainable energy and global initiatives (e.g. SE4ALL)	- Support energy efficient measures, considering priority sectors of the national governments; - Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)	- Support energy efficient measures, considering priority sectors of the national governments; - Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)

CAREC's regional activities

CAREC Programmes	Objectives and focus	CAREC approaches, tools and potential project activities of regional nature	
			<i>2016-2020</i>
Environmental Programme Management (EMP)	Facilitate multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Update of the Regional Environmental Action Plan for Central Asia (REAP CA)	Regional Environmental Dialogues (RED) for harmonization of environmental legislation among CA states
	Facilitate the enforcement of the environmental legislation		
	Promote the efficient environmental management tools	Promotion of SEIS at the regional level	Shared Information and Data Management Platform for Central Asia (CASIDMS)
	Support local environmental initiatives/environmental management action plans		
	Promote sustainable production and consumption		
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Support the dialogue and networks to exchange experience and best practices on ESD in Central Asia	Leadership Training Series	Green networking for leadership and partnership
	Support the legislative and institutional basis to promote ESD in the educational systems of Central Asian countries	Promotion of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula	Green Education Tools and Instruments for Higher Education system
	Develop the capacity of stakeholders in ESD and sustainable development	Promotion of UNECE educators' competences in ESD	Green Education skills and competences for educators and students
	Introduce modern educational and methodological materials on ESD	Promotion of Green Packs into the education systems of Central Asian states	

	Promote instruments of energy efficiency and greening the economy in Central Asia	Promotion of the Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument of energy efficiency and greening of the economy in Central Asia	Green Education skills and competences for local authorities and energy managers
Water Initiatives Support (WIS)	Promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in Central Asia	Basin Management Principles and Approaches for Small Transboundary River Basins of Central Asia (BMSTR)	Promote IWRM and Basin planning principles in Central Asia through participatory approaches
	Support the regional water cooperation and transboundary water resources management (TWRM)	Setting up and support of a partnership platform for mutual learning: The Eurasia River Portal (EARP)	Promotion of joint basin organizations for improving of water cooperation
	Mobilize stakeholders to enhance the water use efficiency in Central Asia	Introduction of Basin Councils concept for river basins in Central Asia	Creation of knowledge center and platform for inter-states, inter-sectoral and multi-level cooperation on water issues in Central Asia.
	Reduce the level of pollutants concentration in surface and ground water	Support of Water quality regional working groups, piloting of the joint monitoring methodology	Harmonization of water quality management
	Streamline the standards and policies on water management in Central Asia	Promotion and using of economic instruments in the process of basin planning	Introduction of NEXUS approach by establishing interlinkages between water, energy and agriculture
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)	Bring best practices to develop public-private partnerships for climate change mitigation and adaptation	- Enhance the participation of the business sector in CC mitigation and adaptation (RES/EE) using B2B approach	- Promote and support the development of the CC adaptation and mitigation strategies
	Promote Kyoto mechanisms and post-Kyoto dialogues	(i)- Support the development and implementation of the NAMA in CA, and - (ii) Strengthen the capacity of the national government on financing mechanisms available within the CC mitigation and carbon market funds	- Support the national government in mobilizing resources on CC mitigation and adaptation from international sources/ funds
	Enhance the energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in Central Asia	- (i) Support energy efficient measures, considering priority sectors of the national governments; - (ii) Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)	- Ensure the synergy between the national strategies on sustainable energy and global initiatives (e.g. SE4ALL)

Potential Areas of Cooperation among Regional Organizations in Central Asia

CAREC Programmes	Objectives and focus	Regional Organizations on Environment and NRM			
		<i>EC IFAS (MoU, ASBP-3, Reform proposal for regional organizations)</i>	<i>ICSD (MoU, Regional Action Plan on Nature Protection and ICSD Action Plan)</i>	<i>ICWC (Charter, MoU)</i>	<i>EU Strategy for Central Asia</i>
Environmental Programme Management (EMP)	Facilitate multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues	Support to EC IFAS in communicating the ASPB 3 projects	Support to ICSD to involve relevant stakeholder in planning and implementation	Facilitation of multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues on water issues	Provide a platform for EU multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues
	Facilitate the enforcement of the environmental legislation	Support to sustainable basin planning following the NEXUS approach	Support to the action plans with respect to data management and reporting	Support in regard of using SEIS and relevant indicators	MDG's implementation in Central Asia Cooperation among Central Asian countries in combating desertification and safeguarding biodiversity including support for the implementation of the UN Conventions on Biological Biodiversity
	Promote the efficient environmental management tools	Environmental Data Management for regional cooperation Disaster Risk Management at the regional level Biological diversity and climate adaptation at the regional level Assisting the countries in reducing the risk of natural disasters, including through the strengthening of regional cooperation, improve disaster preparedness and response Development of regional environmental indicators and environmental information system Establishment of regional biological diversity monitoring system	Setting up regional network of monitoring systems on ozone layer Promotion of Involvement of Public into Environmental Impact Assessment (Public Environmental Impact Assessment) Inclusion of NGOs into the process of implementation of environmental projects	Environmental Management in Aral Sea basin and protection of Aral Sea basin: desertification, environmental flow, monitoring and protection of wetlands, lakes and other water ecosystems	Support and implementation of the Environment for Europe processes
	Support local environmental initiatives/environmental management action plans	Reforestation of the Aral Sea dried areas Assisting the countries of Central Asia to address the problem of maintaining a steady condition of the environment in the face of climate change	Support to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Nature Protection and ICSD Action Plan	Involvement of basin council in IWRM	Involvement of stakeholders in environmental decision making

	Promote sustainable production and consumption	Regional Program for protection of mountain ecosystems and biological resources in the runoff formation zone Integrated management of Syrdarya and Amudarya deltas for biodiversity conservation	Include sustainable production and consumption in ICSD work	Promote water saving practices	Provision of a platform for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	· Support the dialogue and networks to exchange experience and best practices on ESD in Central Asia	ESD network; CA Leadership Programme & network			
	· Support the legislative and institutional basis to promote ESD in the educational systems of Central Asian countries	Establishment of educational and methodical base on promoting respectful attitude to water (I-WEB - water, Education & Business TEMPUS project; "Caspian Green Pack"; "Aral Sea Green Pack")	Promotion of ESD key themes (water, energy, and others) and approaches into education legislation, standards and curricula		
	· Develop the capacity of stakeholders in ESD and sustainable development	CA Leadership Programme; seminars-trainings for teachers of schools, universities, and educators	Promotion of UNECE educators' competences for ESD	Information technologies and capacity building for sustainable development. Conducting trainings on different issues of common interest (SIC ICWC and CAREC)	
	· Introduce modern educational and methodological materials on ESD	Promote widely in Central Asian region "Green Pack for Central Asia", "Caspian Green Pack"; "Glaciers Green Pack for CA "Pack")	A new resource - "Aral Sea Green Pack"		
	· Promote instruments of energy efficiency and greening the economy in Central Asia	Promotion of the Covenant of Mayors Initiative as an instrument of energy efficiency and greening the economy in Central Asia	Green Education skills and competences for local authorities and energy managers		
Water Initiatives Support (WIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in Central Asia			IWRM and improving of water productivity, dissemination of experience of IWRM Ferghana, Improvement of land -water productivities in field level to other regions of Aral Sea basin	

	<input type="checkbox"/> Support the regional water cooperation and transboundary water resources management (TWRM)	Water and economic development: demand management Capacity building for improved management of transboundary water resources National and regional dialogues on Water Conventions	Development of mechanisms on implementation of interstate agreements among Central Asian states	Transboundary cooperation in river basins	Support the implementation of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI-EECCA) for safe water supply and sanitation and integrated water resources management Promote transboundary river basin management as well as regional cooperation under the Caspian Sea Environmental Convention Enhance cooperation for appropriate frameworks for facilitating the financing of water related infrastructure projects, including through attracting IFI's and public-private partnership funds
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobilize stakeholders to enhance the water use efficiency in Central Asia	Integrated water resources management to meeting needs of water users Strengthening capacity of water Users associations Public awareness raising			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the level of pollutants concentration in surface and ground water	Improving access to drinking water for rural population	Support data and information on environmental conditions of river basin among riparian states Harmonization of legal provisions on water protection zones among Central Asian states		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Streamline the standards and policies on water management in Central Asia	Assisting in the harmonization of monitoring parameters of water resources and irrigated lands	Development and use of normative and methodological documents on Water Quality which are computable international indicators		
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)	Bring best practices to develop public-private partnerships for climate change mitigation and adaptation			Climate change and its impacts on water (water quality, health issues, disasters, etc.)	Promote and support the development of the CC adaptation and mitigation strategies
	Promote Kyoto mechanisms and post-Kyoto dialogues	Support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increase of carbon dioxide absorption in the Aral Sea Basin			
	Enhance the energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in Central Asia	Promote the use of renewable energy in rural areas	Promote and strengthen the national capacity on renewable energy (public-private)		Ensure the synergy between the national strategies on sustainable energy and global initiatives (e.g. SE4ALL)