



TOWARDS PARIS 2015:

What does a new global climate policy mean for Central Asia?





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CONTENT

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| 1. Background of global climate policy | 3 |
| 1.1. Durban platform for enhanced actions | 3 |
| 1.2. Road from Lina-2014 to Paris-2015. | 4 |
| 1.3. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) | 5 |
| 2. Role of adaptation in global climate talks | 6 |
| 2.1. Adaptation in the context of UNFCCC negotiations | 6 |
| 2.2. Summary of the COP 20 decisions on adaptation and resilience | 7 |
| 2.3. Climate finance and commitments of the parties | 7 |
| 3. Central Asia Towards Paris 2015 | 9 |
| 3.1. Climate change trends in Central Asia | 9 |
| 3.2. National climate adaptation policies. | 9 |
| 3.3. Priorities for climate adaptation | 10 |
| 3.4. Accessing finance for climate adaptation | 11 |
| 3.5. What will a new global climate treaty mean for Central Asia? | 12 |
| 3.6. Opportunities for joint regional actions towards Paris 2015 | 13 |
| Conclusion | 14 |
| References | 15 |

ACRONYMS

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|---|
| AC | Adaptation Committee | GCF | Green Climate Fund |
| ADP | Ad-hoc Durban Platform working group | GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| APAN | Asia Pacific Adaptation Network | INDCs | Intended Nationally Determined Contributions |
| CAREC | Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia | IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on climate change |
| CDM | Clean Development Mechanism | NAMA | Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures |
| CFU | Climate Funds Update | NC | National Communications |
| COP | Conference of the Parties | NDB | New Development Bank |
| CP | Decision of the Conference of the Parties | PPCR | Pilot Program for Climate Resilience |
| CMP | Meeting of the Parties | SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| CTF | Clean Technology Fund | SPCR | Strategic Program for Climate Resilience |
| ETS | Emissions Trading Scheme | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |



It is known that the global climate negotiations in Lima, Peru have resulted in a new document, the Lima Call for Climate Action that sets up the framework for negotiations on a new climate treaty to be agreed at the forthcoming COP 21 UNFCCC in 2015 in Paris. Lima has given a new urgency towards fast tracking adaptation and building resilience across the developing world. The talks were evident in the progress on elevating adaptation onto the same level as the cutting of greenhouse gas emissions. This will be done through the recognition that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) offer an important way of ensuring resilience. The nations also agreed the basic rules on how all countries can submit contributions to the new agreement during the first quarter of 2015. These Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) will form the foundation for climate action post 2020, when the new agreement would come into effect, and substitute for the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and subsequent agreements adopted in Copenhagen (2010) and Cancun (2010). The treaty in Paris is expected to introduce new mechanisms of political and institutional frameworks of the international cooperation to tackle climate change and keep a +2°C limit for the global temperature increase.

The year 2015 is supposed to be a turning point in the history of the global climate change talks, with more than 190 nations to gather in Paris and discuss a possible new global agreement on climate change.

In this context, the countries of Central Asia might use a momentum and explore opportunities for joint positioning towards low-carbon development and climate-resilient future in the region.

This report aims to inform the countries of Central Asia and the international community about the key findings of the recent climate negotiations in Lima (COP 20, 2014) and expectations from the global climate treaty, which is anticipated to be adopted in December in Paris (COP 21, 2015). The report also provides an update on the status quo of the Central Asian countries on their national climate policies and joint regional vision towards a new era of global climate actions.

The report primarily draws from references and literature available at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) website (UN newsroom and COP decisions), analytical reports and working papers of international development agencies. The content of the section about Central Asia relies on the findings and discussions of the **Subregional conference on climate change in Central Asia: an opportunity for joint actions towards Paris 2015**, which was held on February 3-4, 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.¹ The report acknowledges the limitation of data and lack of official national statements and INDCs of the Central Asia countries at the time of the report's completion.

¹ The subregional conference has been organised by CAREC and sponsored by Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), which is supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, the Asian Development Bank, the USAID funded ADAPT Asia-Pacific project and other development partners.

1. Background of global climate policy

1.1. DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTIONS

The UN Climate Change Conference in Durban (COP 17) was a turning point in the climate change negotiations. In Durban, the national governments clearly recognized the need to draw up the blueprint for a fresh **universal, legal agreement to deal with climate change beyond 2020**, where all will play their part to the best of their ability and be able to reap the benefits of success together (UNFCCC COP17/CMP 7 2011).

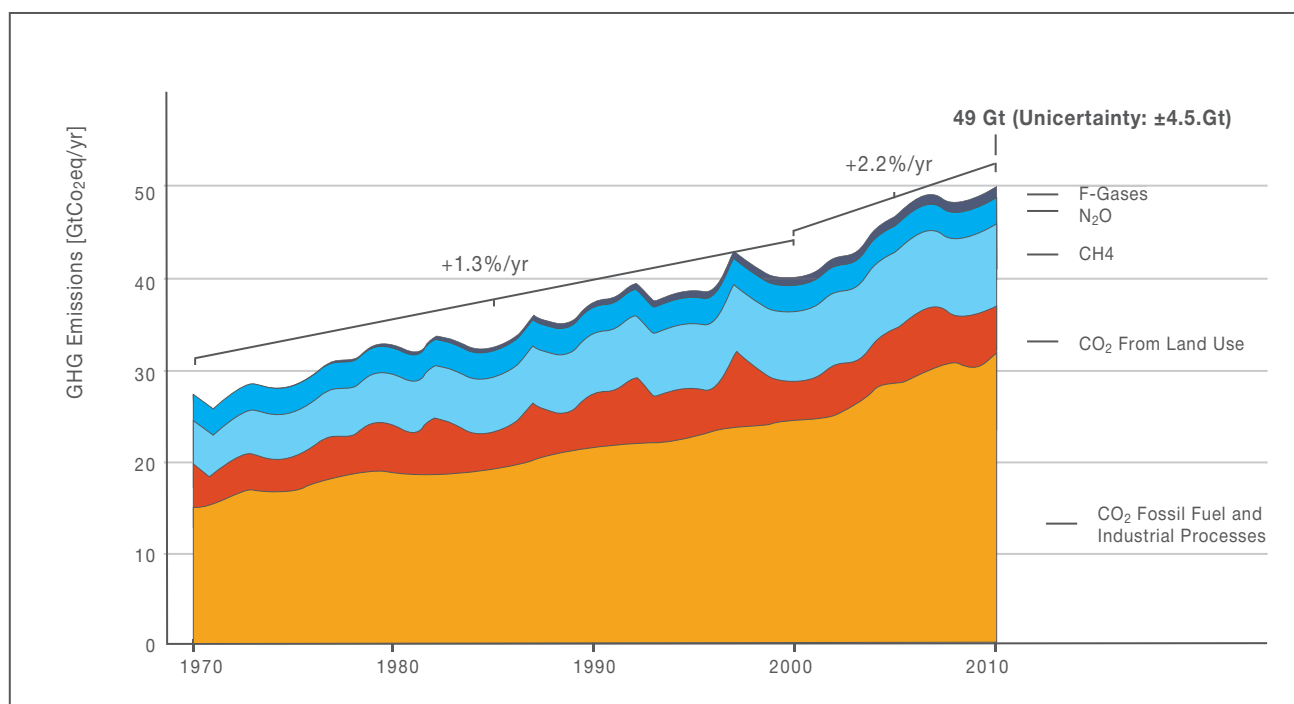
In short, all governments committed in Durban to a comprehensive plan that would come closer over time to deliver the ultimate objective of the Climate Change Convention: to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous interference with the climate system and at the same time preserve the right to sustainable development.

The challenge, then and now, is to push climate action forward as rapidly as possible, both inside and outside the climate change negotiations. The reality is that a looming gap remains between current national and international actions and intentions to reduce emissions and the actual level required to keep average global temperatures rising at no more than **two degrees** above their pre-industrial level, above which science shows that there is a much higher risk of very serious climate impacts.

Additionally, even if the two-degree scenario is met, developing countries, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, would still need much more support **to be adapted** to the change that is already embedded in the global climate system.

Fig 1. CONCENTRATION OF GLOBAL GHG EMISSIONS

Source: IPCC 2014



Background of global climate policy

1.2. ROAD FROM LIMA-2014 TO PARIS-2015

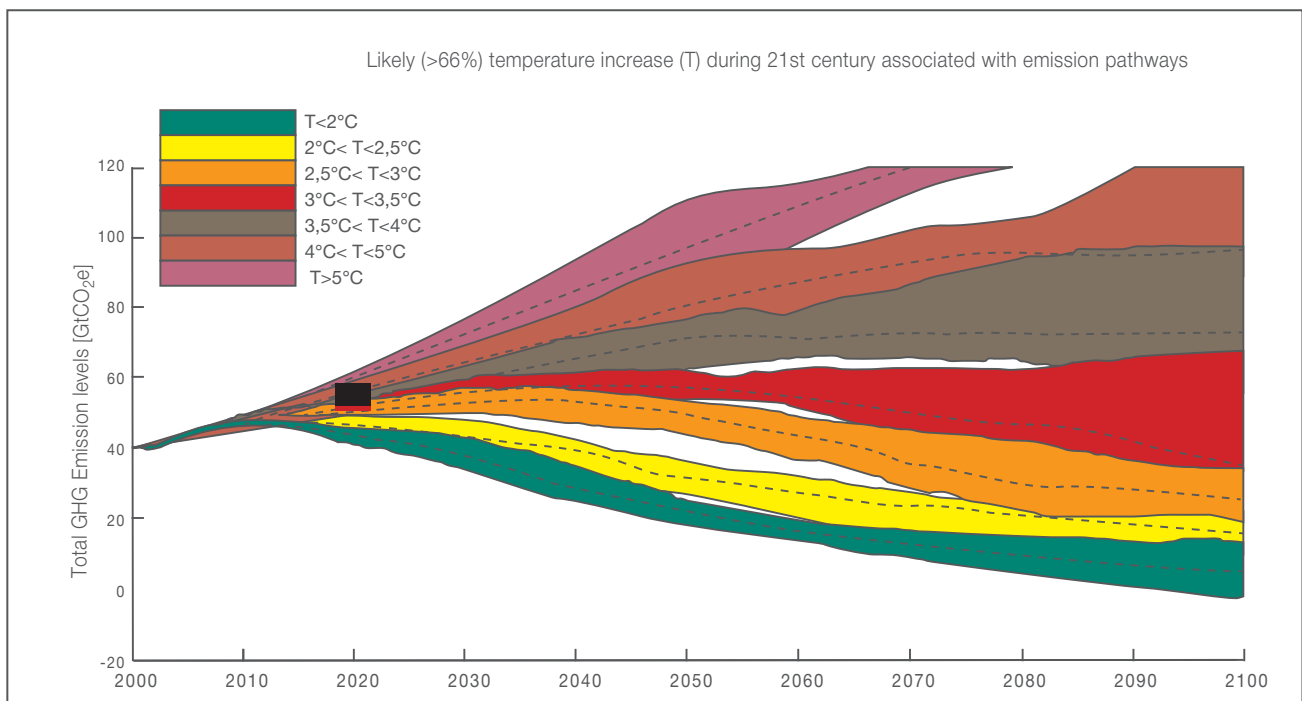
The will to act all together and work on a «protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force», applicable to all UNFCCC parties, keeping within the +2°C limit, which was recognised at the Durban Platform (ADP), created a solid ground for the **Lima Call for Climate Actions**, concluded in December 14th 2014 in Lima, Peru (COP 20). The document was agreed among 195 countries, and approved by the Decision 1/CP.20, representing both (a) classic compromise between the rich and poor countries, and (b) significant breakthrough after twenty years of difficult climate negotiations (UNFCCC COP 20/CMP 10 2014).

The document envisages that the «new instrument» will have to be adopted in December 2015 in Paris and implemented from 2020. The **2013 Warsaw Conference** also made a crucial step towards reaching a universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015, namely that all States will have to communicate their «**contributions**» or the efforts they intend to undertake to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions – before the Paris Conference, for them to be assessed during the first half of 2015.

The Lima Document constitutes a significant departure from the past two decades of international climate policy, which – since the 1995 Berlin Mandate and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol – have featured a coverage of only a small subset of countries, namely the so-called Annex I countries (industrialised nations, as of twenty years ago).

Fig 2. LIKELY TEMPERATURE INCREASE (T) DURING 21ST CENTURY

Source: UNEP 2012



Box 1. WHY INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS?

Intended: The term «intended» relates to the fact that the legal status of the contributions and their final form under the 2015 agreement are yet to be decided. Also, it suggests that the contribution may be a subject to review and/or adjustment, for example, if future rules change the assumptions (e.g. about land use accounting) that Parties made when preparing their INDC, or if Parties communicate final contributions at a later date. Thus, the contributions that Parties first come forward with may be finalised through a process to be defined by the negotiations.

Nationally determined: The language «nationally determined» underscores that contributions will be developed by countries rather than collectively determined.

Contribution: The INDCs were defined in Warsaw as contributions «towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2.» That objective is «to achieve the stabilisation of greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.» INDCs may also contribute to numerous domestic objectives associated with the shift to a low-carbon economy, including gains in energy efficiency, reduced deforestation, curbing of air quality, among others as further described below. In addition, INDCs allow Parties to demonstrate their national contribution to the broader global effort which will involve all Parties. The term «contribution» is used without prejudice to the legal nature of the contribution or type of contribution.

Source: Levin And Rich.2014

1.3. INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCS)

The COP, by its Decision 1/CP.19, invited all Parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) towards achieving the objective of the Convention, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol or another legal instrument under the Convention applicable to all Parties. The COP, by its decisions 1/CP.19 and 1/CP.20, invited all Parties to communicate to the secretariat their INDCs well in advance of COP 21 (by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the INDC (UNFCCC INDCs 2015).

Importantly, the Lima document provides that each country's INDC shall include a clear statement of emissions mitigation, and may include quantifiable information on reference points (such as the base year), time frame of implementation and coverage, assumptions and methodological approaches for estimating and accounting for GHG, as well as each country's own assessment of its INDC's fairness and ambition. All countries are required to submit their INDCs, including the countries of Central Asia. Undoubtedly, there is a series of concerns and challenges towards their preparation (refer to the section on Central Asia), but the basis for the development of the country documents is available in terms of experience while preparing the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures (NAMAs), Clean Development Mechanism (CDMs) projects, and greenhouse gas inventories, which all the countries should report on in their National Communications.

2. Role of adaptation in global climate talks

2.1. ADAPTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS

Climate change impacts and risks, along with efforts towards greenhouse gas emissions reduction in different countries are different. Therefore, adaptation and response measures should be seen as comprehensively as mitigation actions. Such an approach will ensure better environment for a more efficient and fair response to adaptation needs worldwide. As part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, the Parties have established the Adaptation Committee (AC) to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention (UNFCCC Adaptation Committee 2012). However, the absence of a global adaptation goal for the international community and lack of an equal and comprehensive treatment of adaptation in the context of UNFCCC negotiations require more enhanced coordination of the AC and might be a step forward towards enhanced adaptation measures (Magnan et al. 2014).

The lack of funding for adaptation is also a concern. Allocation of funds for adaptation and response measures are drastically lower than for mitigation, amounting to 1/13 out of the global finance com-

mitments on climate change (Zou 2015). Therefore, a new collective ambition and coordinated action at the international level to mobilise resources to fight against climate change and adapt to its effects is crucially important in the context of a new climate era.

It is important to highlight that good progress was made in Lima on *elevating adaptation on to the same level* as cutting GHG emissions. Informing about adaptation strategy of the Parties in their INDCs is a positive point, which has been agreed upon during negotiations in Lima. Since the formulation of adaptation measures at the national level usually considers national circumstances and the specificity of climate impacts, setting the overarching adaptation goal at the global level would require the synchronisation of national contributions. This so-called bottom-up approach would have an advantage of extended networking and information exchange among the Parties that would upgrade the image and role of the AC. Enhanced institutionalisation of the AC and exchange of best practices and knowledge on adaptation in the context of UNFCCC negotiations would in turn define common interests and challenges to better mobilise and allocate resources to the most vulnerable parties (Zou 2015; Kokorin 2015).



*«Lima has given new urgency towards fast tracking **adaptation and building resilience** across the developing world—not least by strengthening the link to finance and the development of national adaptation plans», – Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, the Minister of the Environment of Peru and the COP President*

2.2. SUMMARY OF THE COP 20 DECISIONS ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

The decisions of the 1/CP.20 Lima Call for Climate Action suggest a wide range of interventions to strengthen adaptation. In particular, all parties have been invited to consider communicating their undertakings in adaptation planning or consider including an adaptation component in their INDCs. Prioritisation of adaptation actions have also been highlighted between developing and developed countries. All countries, due to their common but differentiated responsibilities, and the previous decisions of the COP shall cooperate to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, ensure resilience and protect citizens and ecosystems in the context of the long-term temperature limit and to achieve sustainable development, while recognising the local, national and transboundary dimensions of adaptation. Parties shall undertake the steps necessary to ensure that the level of support meets the needs for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the long-term temperature limit (UNFCCC COP20/CMP10 2014)

Integration of climate change adaptation into the national development planning was also recognised. All parties have been invited to integrate adaptation within their national development planning, mainstream adaptation into national policies, undertake a national adaptation plan (NAP) process, and strengthen governance and enabling environments subject to modalities and procedures to be developed and adopted by the governing body. At the same time, actions should be country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory, and fully transparent, taking into account vulnerable groups and ecosystems.

Developed countries shall ensure the provision of new and additional, adequate and predictable financial resources and the transfer of technology and capacity-building to meet the costs in developing countries of addressing the adverse effects of climate change and to enable developing countries to enhance their actions to adapt to climate change so that developing countries may achieve sustainable development.

Recognition of the efforts aiming at adaptation actions was also reflected in the Lima Call for Actions. For example, it encourages the developing country Parties to showcase their efforts and needs and recognize national efforts consistent with the long-term temperature limit. The support should be available by predictable, grant-based, long-term, additional and measurable finance, technology, and capacity-building assistance from developed country Parties.

2.3. CLIMATE FINANCE AND COMMITMENTS OF THE PARTIES

In the context of a new global climate treaty, climate investments are expected to boost for fighting against climate change and help the most vulnerable and poor countries worldwide. During the conference of the parties in Cancun, the developed countries have agreed to allocate 100 billion USD annually to support adaptation and mitigation ambitions in developing countries, with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to be the principle instrument of disbursement. At Lima's conference many countries celebrated as the GCF crossed its goal of a \$10 billion initial capitalisation with the help of some new developing country pledges (Ogden 2014). The key messages on climate finance and pledges for a new global treaty are provided below:

- Governments made progress to coordinate the delivery of climate finance through existing international funds.
- Further pledges were made to the GCF in Lima by the governments of Norway, Australia, Belgium, Peru, Colombia and Austria to the tune of \$10.2 billion
- In a further boost to the adaptation ambitions of developing countries, Germany made a pledge of 55 million Euros to the Adaptation Fund.
- China also announced \$10 million for South-South cooperation with the possibility of doubling it in 2015.

Role of adaptation in global climate talks

Apart from the existing climate investment funds, other emerging development banks, have committed to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects. For example, the heads of state from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (the so-called BRICS countries) agreed to establish a New Development Bank (NDB) at their summit meeting. Initial capitalisation of the BRICS Bank is \$ 50,000 million (Desai and Vreeland 2014).

At Lima's conference it was once again stressed that climate policy is a part of a complex and comprehensive development policy, where a strong emphasis should be made on enhanced coordination between investments, climate ambitions and global development processes. For example, financing adaptation and mitigation ambitions are closely interlinked with sustainable development principles, while fighting against climate change is listed as Goal 13 in the SDGs (Box 2.).



Box 2. GOAL 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS*

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

13.3 Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilising jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalise the Green Climate Fund through its capitalisation as soon as possible

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalised communities

**Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.*

Source: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform ²

² www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org

3. Central Asia Towards Paris 2015

3.1. CLIMATE CHANGE TRENDS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) are particularly vulnerable to climate change compared to the other countries in Europe and Central Asia (World Bank 2009). They face common climate challenges that affect such key resources and sectors as water, land, biodiversity and ecosystems, agriculture, energy, and health. The IPCC states that Central Asia will warm much more rapidly. According to one of the scenarios, the temperature in the region will most likely increase by 3.7 °C by the end of the 21st century, which is 30% above the projected global temperature, while the mean precipitation will most probably decrease (IPCC 2007; IPCC 2014). This undoubtedly will severely impact the socio-economic development and damage fragile mountainous ecosystems of Central Asia. Water resource systems in Central Asia, which are highly sensitive to climate change and variability, will reverberate across the agricultural and energy sectors. Increasing temperatures are expected to increase both crop water requirements and evaporation and to reduce hydro-system storage through changes in snow cover, earlier snow melt, and glacial melt (World Bank 2014).

Critically, as ice and snow melt earlier during the year due to rising temperatures, the timing of river flow is projected to shift within the next few decades. Peak flows are expected to shift from summer to spring, with adverse consequences for agricultural water demand during critical crop growing periods. Furthermore, the intensification of the runoff variability is expected in all river basins, increasing the risk of floods, mudslides, and droughts (Makhmadaliev et al. 2008). These events already have considerable social impacts. For example, economic losses from individual mudslide events have been as high as \$150 million, while over 7000 people have migrated from landslide zones in Kyrgyz Republic alone since 1992. Flooding in Tajikistan in 2005 led to notable reductions in agricultural production. Thurman (2011) reports that 70 % reduction in grain production and 95 percent reduction in grape production with 71 % of affected people to have a loss in income in Tajikistan.

3.2. NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION POLICIES

All five countries of Central Asia are Parties of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. All of them have established legal and regulatory frameworks to meet their commitments under international environmental conventions. On a regular basis, the countries develop their National Communications on climate change under the UNFCCC with detailed GHG inventories, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures, mitigation and policies, capacity building and raising awareness.

Climate policy in Tajikistan is supported by the National Action Plan for climate change mitigation, adopted in 2003 by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. At present, the Tajik Government is developing its National Strategy on climate change adaptation, which will be the first targeted policy document for climate adaptation actions (Khomidov 2014). In Kyrgyzstan, the established inter-ministerial group is tasked to develop the National Strategy and Plan for climate change adaptation (World Bank 2013). In Turkmenistan the main policy document, which targets climate change adaptation, is the National Strategy on Climate Change (2012), which provides a policy framework for building resilience to climate change and low carbon development policy. The development of action plans is in process (World Bank 2013). The situation with the national action plans and programs on adaptation is different in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Uzbekistan does not have a targeted climate change policy document that would provide a strategic framework for national climate change adaptation and mitigation actions (World Bank 2013). Instead, there are several environmental policies and programs that cover a range of adaptation activities in the key socio-economic sectors. Kazakhstan's adaptation framework is still under development (Pawlowski 2012; World Bank 2013).

At the same time, National Communications (NC) under the UNFCCC remain the key policy documents, which serve both as an evidence-based source of information and policy document, which informs about recent changes in socio-economic development and environment in the respective country.

3.3. PRIORITIES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Since the countries of Central Asia share the same climate and environmental challenges, the defined priorities towards adaptation are also common. For example, water resources, agriculture, energy (hydropower generation), human health, natural ecosystems, forests and biodiversity are considered as the same sectors, which have been defined by all five countries of Central Asia in National Communications as the most vulnerable to climate risks, and should be treated first and foremost. At the same

time, extreme weather events and climate-induced disasters are crosscutting for every sector. Undoubtedly, the level of impact might fluctuate from one country to another, but the overall scope of the needed adaptation measures are mostly based on global and regional forecasts and climate scenarios.

The table below provides an overview of the impacts of climate change on key socio-economic development sectors and human health and stresses on the importance for the response measures by all five Central Asian countries.

Table 1. VULNERABILITY OF KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTORS TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN CENTRAL ASIA

Source: Based on National Communications of Central Asian countries to UNFCCC

| Priority sectors | KZ | KG | YZ | TJ | TM | Observed changes |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Water sector | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | The Aral Sea level dropped for 22 m during 1960-2002 (IWRM 2011) |
| Agriculture | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Severe droughts in 2000-2001 leading to 112,600 ha of cereal loss in Tajikistan and \$50 million loss in Uzbekistan (Thurman 2011). |
| Energy (hydropower generation) | | ✓ | | ✓ | | In the past 45 years, the siltation of the Nurek reservoir might have reached >100 m or 45% of the total dam's dead volume (Sirojiddinov 2012). |
| Human health | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Average number of deaths due to climate induced disasters in Kyrgyzstan increased from 61 in 2003-2007, to 281 in 2008 (MoH Kyrgyzstan 2011). |
| Natural ecosystems, biodiversity and forests | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Desertification now affecting 66% of Kazakhstan territory (World Bank 2013). |
| Climate-induced natural disasters and extreme weather events | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | During 1997-2001, due to extreme weather events, about 3.6 thousand km of roads and 500 bridges have been destroyed and damaged in Tajikistan (FNC 2002). |

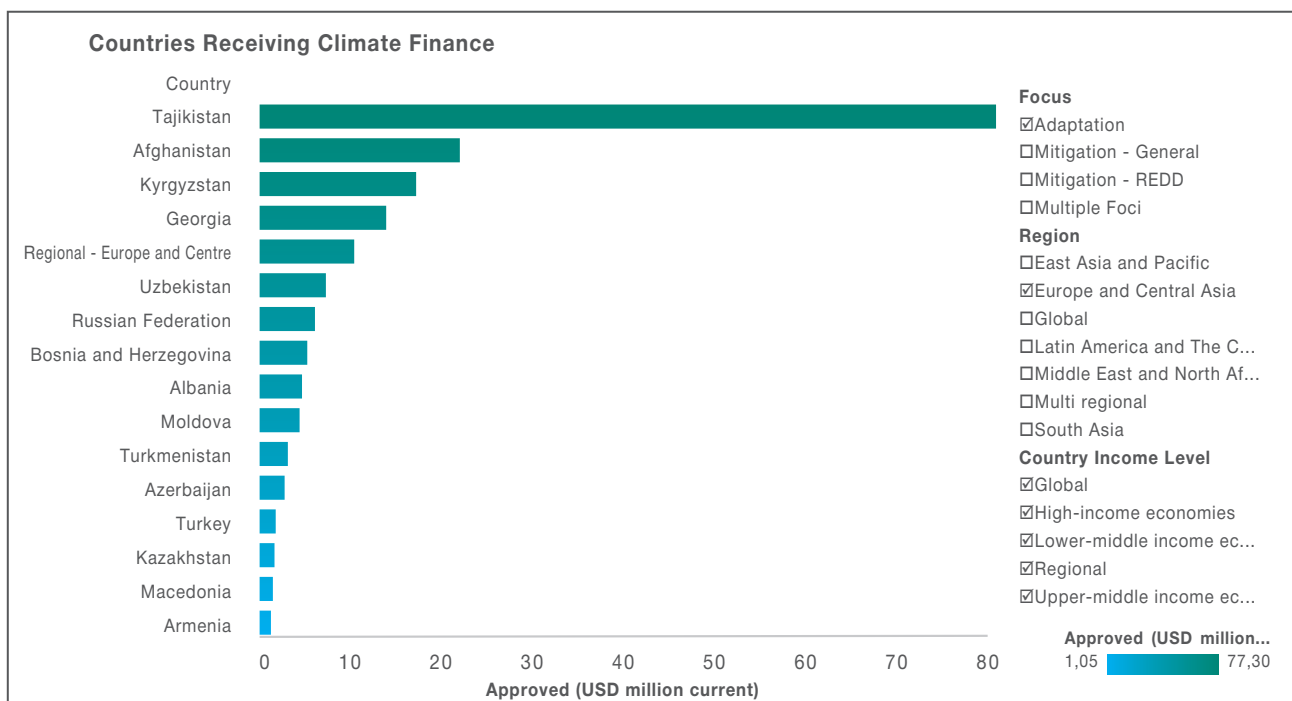
3.4. ACCESSING FINANCE FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Meeting the costs of adaptation to climate change in developing countries is a major challenge for the international community; the UNFCCC projects costs in the range of \$28 – 67 billion per year for such countries by 2030. There has been a considerable increase in adaptation finance from dedicated climate financing instruments in 2011 (Schalatek et al. 2012).

As of the end of 2014, the countries of Central Asia received \$105.09 million for adaptation (CFU 2015) with Tajikistan being the biggest recipient of more than \$77 million entirely for adaptation activities. The most active funding in Central Asian countries is the Pilot Program Climate Resilience (PPCR)³. Tajikistan has received \$72 million of approved financing primarily for building capacity, enhancing the climate resilient energy sector and implementing rural livelihoods projects (CFU 2015)⁴.

Fig 3. CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Source: Climate Funds Update 2015



³ PPCR is under the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) which is one of the two finance envelopes of the CIF

⁴ <http://www.climatefundsupdate.org/>



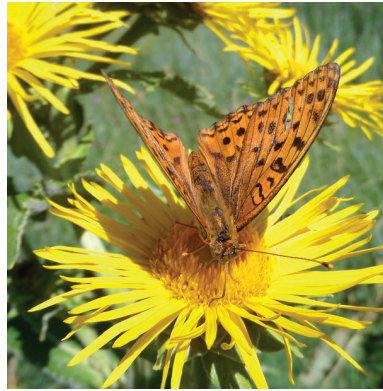
3.5. WHAT WILL A NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE TREATY MEAN FOR CENTRAL ASIA?

Opportunities for the countries of Central Asia in the context of a new global climate treaty are diverse. Without having legal commitments and being non-Annex 1 parties, all five countries in the region nevertheless have the untapped capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strive towards a low-carbon development. For example, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have vast hydropower resources, which can be a key development sector, capable of not only increasing the share of renewable energy in the total energy balance of the region, but also serve as a mechanism towards climate resilience and «green» economy: poverty reduction, employment, access to clean energy, smart irrigation, transfer of technology, safe and sound environment. On the other hand, potential for carbon sequestration has been untapped until recently. Most of the Central Asian countries nowadays undertake serious steps towards reforestation and afforestation. Again, the forestry sector can play a dual role in the region. On the one hand, its effective development can result in increased carbon sequestration, on the other hand – it can bring many more

benefits for sustainable livelihood development, disaster risk reduction providing better environment and ecosystems. In a global context, the countries of Central Asia, such as Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan can benefit from an extended international support, addressing both adaptation and mitigation actions, while Kazakhstan, can benefit from a smooth integration of its what national policy? into a global process of low-carbon development (Kokorin 2015).

During the subregional conference organised by CAREC as the sub regional node of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)⁵ in February 2015, in Almaty, the countries of Central Asia have unanimously supported the approach, which is envisaged in INDCs on differentiated contributions to reduce GHG emissions with specificity of the countries' socio-economic conditions. The countries have also expressed their hope to benefit from capacity building and technology transfer from energy efficient practices and deployment of renewable energy. At the same time, there are a number of concerns, which still hamper the progress of preparation and submission of INDCs by the countries of Central Asia (CAREC 2015):

⁵ The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) was established as the first regional network under the UNEP Global Adaptation Network in 2009. The APAN aims to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems and economies through the mobilisation of knowledge, enhanced institutional capacity and informed decision making processes, and facilitated access to finance and technologies; and equip key actors in Asia and the Pacific Region with adequate knowledge for designing and implementing climate change adaptation measures, building capacity to access technologies and finance in support of climate change adaptation, and integrating climate change adaptation into policies, strategies and plans. (www.asiapacificadapt.net)



- Need for a formalised policy makers' involvement in the process to build political support for the contribution. This was one of the key lessons learned from developing CDMs and NAMAs.
- Lack of international guidance for preparing and presenting INDCs. Although, there are a number of technical guidance notes on INDCs preparation, the countries of Central Asia still lack a clear understanding on methods and tools.
- Need for transparency and comparability of the developed proposals and what type of up-front information should be included in the INDCs.
- Need for further capacity building on GHG inventories, climate change statistics and MRV to be better prepared for their INDCs formulation;
- Limited time for INDCs preparation.

3.6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT REGIONAL ACTIONS TOWARDS PARIS 2015

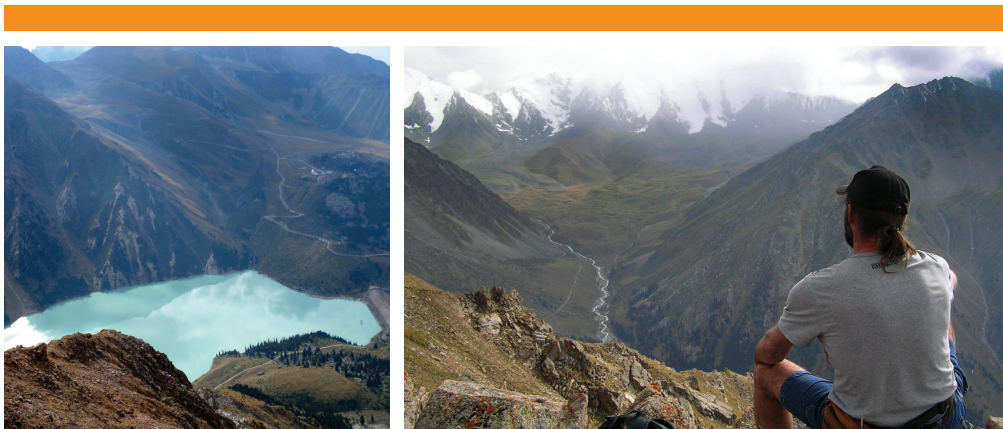
The countries of Central Asia emphasised the need for climate change adaptation in the region due to its high vulnerability to climate impacts and risks, and see the acceleration of the development and implementation of their respective national adaptation program as a priority. They also admit that despite many adaptation interventions and programs, which currently exist in the region, they lack regular communication and exchange of best practices, using the regional platforms for experience and knowledge exchange. There is a great potential to learn from each other on their common adaptation and mitigation priorities. For example, Kazakhstan has progressed under the Clean Technology Fund and launched the national emissions trading scheme (ETS), while Tajikistan has developed a Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR), with five investment and capacity-building activities. Other countries in the region can share their experience with leveraging climate finance instruments, such as Uzbekistan, which features the highest number of carbon finance projects in the region (14 registered projects under the Clean Development Mechanism). Much can be learned also on the policy and institutional arrangements, e.g., on formulation of national and sector-based climate change strategies, policies and action plans; on formal institutional arrangements to coordinate across sectors and facilitate implementation of climate action plans; on public access to information and citizen engagement on climate action such as

from Turkmenistan, which has shown leadership by developing the first national strategy for climate change in the region, and from the Kyrgyz Republic, which has set up a multi-sector ministerial-level committee, chaired by the Vice Prime Minister, for climate policy coordination in the country (World Bank 2015).

On the other hand, the countries of Central Asia have a unique opportunity for increasing their access to climate finance by strengthening their joint regional position towards a new global policy. The «collective» weight can help the countries to break down the sectoral barriers and stand-alone approaches for a better coordination of climate actions. At the same time, the countries of Central Asia can optimise their policies and joint regional actions in the frames of UN Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs and Sustainable Energy for all, which also echo adaptation and mitigation ambitions.


CONCLUSION

The forthcoming Global Climate Talks in Paris 2015 are perceived as a turning point in the history of climate change negotiation process. Many opportunities are emerging in light of new finance and policy instruments for the Central Asian countries. Based on sector-based priorities that they have set in the context of their national policies on development and climate change as well as forecasted global finance opportunities for adaptation and resilience, all of them have bigger chances to leverage additional funds and play a proactive role in a global climate change process. At the same time, the countries have a unique opportunity to use a regional platform to satisfy their country needs on capacity building, information and knowledge sharing in a variety of topics.



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