



Project concept

Title: Workshop on Climate and Water Law and Governance in Central Asia and Afghanistan for young civil servants.

Dates: 24-26 September, 2018.

Venue: Training and workshop at the German Kazakh University in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Participants: Young decision makers (civil servants) from ministries and governmental agencies who will be nominated by relevant Central Asian states related to environment protection and water resources.

Initial Partners: The German-Kazakh University (GKU); Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) of Germany; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Kazakhstan; The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Commission for Europe (UNESCO); Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); The Central Asian Regional Environment Centre (CAREC).

Background: The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which governments of Central Asia agreed in September 2015, recognizes that climate change is “one of the greatest challenges of our time” and voices concern about “its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.” In order to address this challenge and ensure appropriate actions on political level in Central Asia it is important to train future decision-makers and to demonstrate them advanced practices of climate change adaptation and consequences mitigation measures. Public awareness raising is important for involving civil society into the climate change related activities, thus one of the workshop objectives would be aimed at wide dissemination of the climate-related information.

Project type & characteristics:

The 3 days long project will consist of training for young civil servants from water related agencies from Central Asian states, including close interaction with civil society representatives. The training will be conducted in synergy with CAREC's Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development.

The training will include following topics:

- Climate change and water law in global and regional context of Central Asia;
- Climate change, mitigation and adaptation in global and regional best practices;
- Climate financing and investment of climate related action and its local challenges;
- Climate change and open governance.

The lectures will be presented by Prof. Stefano Burchi - Chairman of the Executive Council of the International Association for Water Law (AIDA), Honorary Lecturer at the UNESCO IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, University of Dundee, UK; Dr. iur. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, UNESCO Chairholder in Water Management in Central Asia at the German-Kazakh University; Tilman Rost, Professor, Freie Universität Berlin; Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Professor, University of Cambridge; Lutz Mez, Professor, Freie Universität Berlin; Markus Gehring, Professor, University of Cambridge.

Project objectives:

The project shall strengthen capacities of young decision makers responsible for water management on national level in the context of the changing climate;

The project shall have regional outreach on the decision making level on water and climate related policy thanks to the participation of civil servants from all states of Central Asia and Afghanistan;

The project shall contribute to strengthening of a regional cooperation in the Aral Sea basin, including with regard to trans-boundary aquifers, through networking among the young generation of the civil servants from the water related ministries of different Central Asian countries, which will allow to work towards prevention of climate related risks of conflicts in the region;

The project shall offer the young decision makers a platform for meeting and exchange with representatives of civil society active on the field of the climate change and water to secure mutual understanding and broader outreach in the society;

The project shall familiarize young water specialized civil servants with the German-Kazakh University and its Master Program on Integrated Water Management to secure future candidates for the MA study program.

Project output:

Interaction and in-depth understanding and legal tools for cooperation with civil society will be offered to the participating decision makers regarding sharing information on climate related policy and law and its impact on water resources, which is at the disposal of governmental agencies to stimulate their open attitude and assistance towards sharing information and allowing for the civil society participation in the relevant decision-making processes.

The dissemination of training outputs among representatives of the civil society will be guaranteed thanks to the partnership.