Workshop: “Fostering social cohesion and peace through climate adaptation with a focus on Water Governance in Central Asia”

1. **Background**

The Central Asia is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change in the world. At the same time, it is also one of the least explored regions in terms of cooperation in peacebuilding. Water plays an essential role in balancing the climate as a basis of peacebuilding. As a resource for productive activity, water has a political and economic value, and it is one of the most unique and remarkable elements of planet Earth. The interest in this problem is due to the growing importance of peacebuilding for solving the most important task of reproducing the peace process. The future of human civilization, scenarios and models of its development have always been in the focus of attention of both politicians and scientists and have become even more important after the acceleration of all processes of social development. Understanding of regional climate risks, especially for water sector, is limited, due to low number of impact studies conducted up to date, thus also limiting the possibilities for development of adequate adaptation strategies for the region especially in the climate prone water sector.

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by the governments of Central Asian countries, 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”, including the SDG 6 whose importance is to provide all with safe sources of drinking water and the SDG 16 which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

To address this issue and ensure appropriate action at the government and scientific level in Central Asia, it is important to educate not only young civil servants, but also experienced scientists who will undoubtedly contribute and show them best practices in climate change adaptation measures. Achieving sustainable and equitable governance of water resources requires both science and practice. The dialogue between scientific experts and practitioners can foster mutual understanding and sensitize each community for their respective challenges.

The training aims to facilitate sharing of knowledge between the scientific community and practitioners. Theoretical and empirical advances from science will meet on-the-ground challenges of young civil servants and other experts from the field. The dialogue between scientists and civil servants strengthens the process of water management and water diplomacy, as well as environmental peacebuilding.

Objectives:

* Exchange ideas and best practice examples of sustainable growth in CA, improvement of existing cooperation policies and mechanisms on climate impact on water and environmental peacebuilding to inform decision-making process of civil servants of the water sector
* Identify and discuss the potential for climate adaptation as a tool to foster peace, with a special focus on climate-smart agriculture, the water sector as well as DRR/ DRM
* Discuss the role of water management on all administrative levels - communal, national, transboundary - from all Central Asian countries among each other and to identify its impacts on social cohesion
* Address water legislation within Central Asia as a basis for environmental peacebuilding in achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 6 and SDG 16
* Discuss legal challenges in Climate prone Transboundary Water Context
* To increase knowledge on managing water resources under climate impact in Central Asia.
1. **Concept and agenda**

This workshop aims to bring together the peacebuilding and the adaptation community in order to address research gaps and facilitate exchange. Furthermore, this 3-day get-together can contribute to fostering sustainable working relations between both silos and enhance awareness of potential interactions between both silos.

**Organizers of the training**: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Kazakh-German University (DKU).

**Partners of the training**: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), The Center for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL).

There will be input as well as interactive output-focused sessions in the form of World Café Exercises. Input sessions are structured such that one main input is given, followed by a discussion round of three, including the initial input giver.

Participants: scientists and civil servants from the fields of climate adaptation, water resources and conflict transformation

Special attention will be payed to maintaining a gender-balance, both among contributors as well as participants.

Contributors: 10

Participants: 15-20

Location: Kazakh-German University, Almaty, with the potential for hybrid format

Agenda

Day 1 (Sunday)

Arrival of contributors and participants

**19:00** Joint dinner

Day 2 (Monday)

**9:00 - 10:30** Session 1 Climate Impacts in Central Asia/ Afghanistan (organized by PIK)

**10:30 - 11:00** Coffee break

**11:00 - 12:30** Session 2 Hydrological Impacts and Socio-Economic Repercussions (organized by PIK)

**12:30 – 14:00** Lunch

**14:00 - 15:30** Session 3 World Café exercise or simulation game

**15:30 - 16:00** Coffee break

**16:00 - 17:30** Session 4 Climate change and the environment as a factor in conflict transformation (organized by PIK/ Berghof Foundation)

**18:00** Joint dinner

Day 3 (Tuesday)

**9:00 - 10:30** Session 5 Challenges and opportunities regarding climate adaptation for stability (organized by ?)

**10:30 - 11:00** Coffee break

**11:00 - 12:30** Session 6 Scientific & practical findings regarding environmental peacebuilding in water governance (organized by DKU)

**12:30 – 14:00** Lunch

**14:00 - 15:30** Session 7 International Water Law & Governance (organized by DKU)

**15:30 - 16:00** Coffee break

**16:00 - 17:30** Session 8 Law & Security in Water and Climate (organized by DKU)

**18:00** Joint dinner

Day 4 (Wednesday)

**9:00 – 10:00** Wrap up session

**12:00** Excursion

Departure contributors/ participants Part I

Day 5 (Thursday)

Arrival of decision makers in afternoon/ evening

**20:00** Joint dinner

Day 6 (Friday)

**9:00** small breakfast/ coffee break

**10:00** Welcome remarks by PIK and DKU

**10:30** Presentation of findings from Workshop Part 1

**11:30** Discussion round with scientists (mixed regional and international)

**12:15** Lunch

**13:30**

**15:00** coffee break

**15:30 – 17:00** World Café exercise (?) to work on solutions

**17:00 – 17:30** Wrap-up remarks

Departure of participants/ additional night stay at hotel for those who need

Lunch World Café exercise – interactive exchange between civil servants and scientists base on the received input from the Day 2

1. **Envisioned Inputs/ contributors**

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| Name | Affiliation | Potential topic | Gender read as (f/m/n) | Country | Input or Panelist |
| Nora Rathje | Berghof Foundation | Environmental aspects in conflict mediation/ transformation: Lessons from the field of practice | f | D | I |
| Jürgen Scheffran | University of Hamburg, Germany | Climate Change: Current emissions path and tipping points within the earth system | m | D | P |
| Barbara Janusz-Pawletta  | German-Kazakh University |  | f | KAZ |  |
| Tobias Ide | Murdoch University, AustraliaCo-Chair Environmental Peacebuilding Associate | Environmental Peacebuilding: Challenges and opportunities within academia | m | AUS | I |
| Dzhergalbek Ukashev | Center for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management | Challenges regarding climate adaptation in Central Asia | m | KAZ | I |
| Larissa Kogutenko | German-Kazakh University | DRR/ DRM in light of social cohesion (?) | f | KAZ |  |
| Stefanie Wesch | Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research | The Climate-Conflict-Migration Nexus: Pathways,  | f | D |  |
| Kira Vinke | German Association for Foreign PolicyPotsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research | Environmental Peacebuilding in German Foreign Policy: The role of major emitters | f | D |  |
| Iulii DIdovets | Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research | Hydrological impacts of climate change in CA | m | D |  |
| Bijan Fallah | Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research | Climatological impacts of climate change in CA | m | D |  |
| Patricia Wouters  | Xiamen Law School | International Water Law & Governance | f | CHN | I |
| Andrew Allan | University of Dundee | International Water Law & Governance | m | UK | P |
| Alexandra Harrington | CISDL | Law & Security in water and climate | f | USA | I |
| Ilaria Espa | World Trade Institute | Law & Security in water and climate | f | CHE | P |

1. **Data collection**

Taking advantage of the experts that will be gathered on this topic, data collection will be undertaken in the form of a survey, including some open-ended questions that will allow to capture more detail. Furthermore, one or two focus groups could shed additional light on interactions between the fields of climate adaptation and peacebuilding/ conflict transformation.

Potential time slots:

Day 1 prior to dinner

Day 2/ 3 18:00 – 19:00

Day 4 10:30 - 11:30

1. **Participants**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name  | Affiliation | Gender read as (f/m/d) | Country |
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