



Regional Climate Cooperation – challenges and perspectives

**ADBI-CAREC INSTITUTE REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DIALOGUE:
Learning from COVID19 pandemic**

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Before starting:

Key points to highlight:

- **Regional Projects** with direct climate objectives and/or emission reduction (adaptation and mitigation):
 - with at least two countries' collaboration
 - focus on CAREC economic cooperation region countries
- **No blended green/infrastructure projects** (sustainable land and/or water management) were taken into account
- **Timelines:**
 - (a) Completed: 5-year old projects, or
 - (b) with the end date at 2015 and
 - (b) Ongoing

A snapshot of climate change regional projects: agents

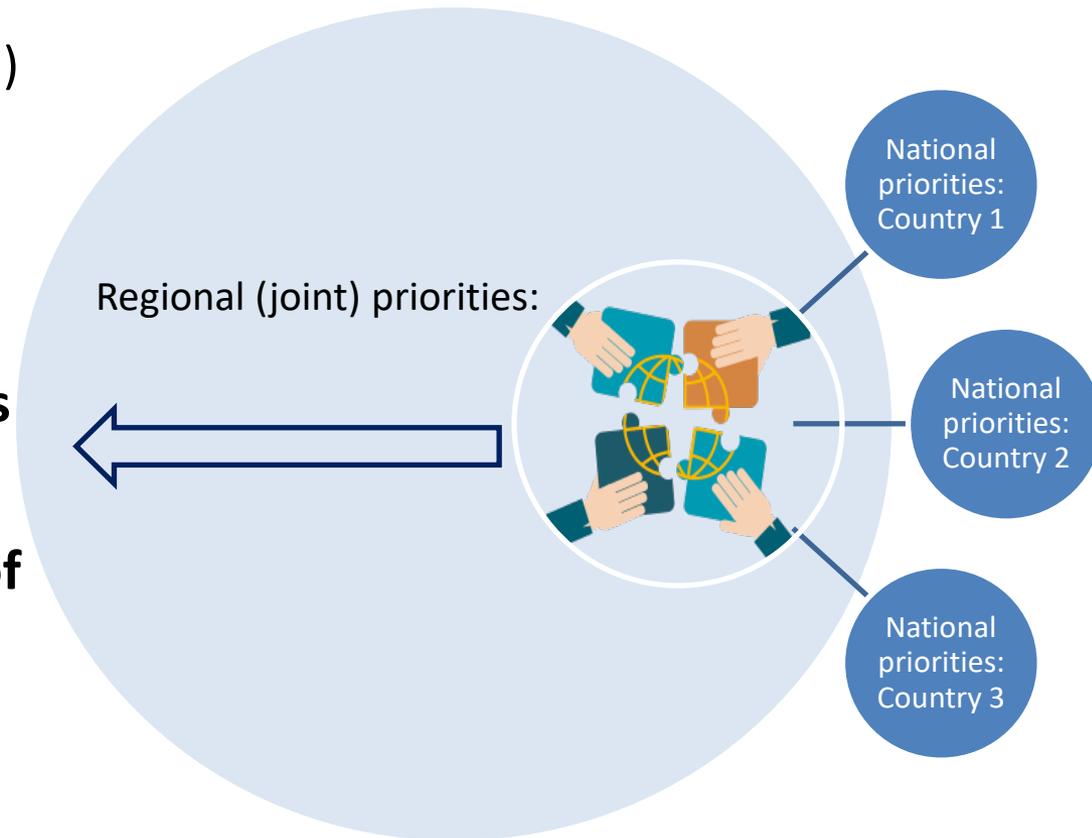
- **UN Agencies, incl.:**
 - UNEP, UNDP (some global and regional projects on technical assistance under the UNFCCC, incl. “Climate Promise” initiative)
 - UNESCO (regional project on glaciers)
 - Others – look on climate through the lenses of their profile activities (e.g. FAO, WFP)
- **Multilateral Development Banks, incl.:**
 - World Bank (climate data and knowledge management)
 - Asian Development Bank (Paris Agreement, formulation of climate policies,
 - European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (sustainable energy, green cities)
- **European Commission and other European Aid Partners, incl.:**
 - EU4Climate (Paris Agreement)
 - OECD (Climate Actions Package of aid)
 - SDC (glaciers, disasters)
 - OSCE (some targeted regional projects on climate change and security)
- **Other development agencies, incl.:**
 - GIZ (ecosystem-based adaptation, forestation projects)

A snapshot of climate change regional projects: **directions**

- **Climate policy** (especially since the adoption of Paris Agreement and its implementation mechanisms – NDCs, MRV, etc): UNDP, UNEP, ADB, EU
- **Data, knowledge, information exchange**: WB, ADB
- **Renewable energy and energy efficiency**: EBRD
- **Ecosystems and reforestation**: GIZ
- **Research** (SDC, UNESCO, UNEP – mountain glaciers)

Specificity of the regional cooperation

- Approach to implementation
 - National (country-based) activities
 - Regional cooperation among participating countries through:
 - **Capacity building exercises, joint events and workshops, access to information portals, elaboration of methodologies and tools, peer-to-peer expertise**



Climate change regional platforms of communication and exchange

- **Global policy and science platforms**
 - UNFCCC (negotiating regional alliances)
 - IPCC regional review panels (6AR)
 - CTCN networking groups
 - WMO regional forums
- **International and sub-regional communication platforms (in-room)**
 - Some project based sub-regional conferences: e.g. CACCC, APAN forums, Caucasus mountain forums, climate brokerage events, international conferences (Pakistan, China)
- **Climate information and knowledge portals and networks (online)**
 - Specialized webpages for targeted climate topics (UNFCCC, IPCC, CTCN, UNEP, UNDP, MDBs)
 - Weadapt
 - Climate Action Network (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)
 - CACIP (Central Asia Climate Information Portal)
 - Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
 - Asia Climate Change Consortium (ACCC)
 - NDC Partnership
 - The Regional Climate Consortium for Asia and the Pacific (RCCAP)



Why to cooperate?





Existing and emerging needs for regional collaboration on climate change:

- Risk of **limited finance resources** for climate change projects/programmes (could be reduced due to COVID-2019)
- **Collection of good practices** and lessons learned across the region, especially on: (i) **Water**, (ii) **Agriculture** and (iii) **Energy** – which match ALL sub-regions and individual countries

Challenges

- **Language** (English, Russian, local languages)
- **Blended mode of investments** (esp. in view of green finance) – not specifically targeting climate issues (resilience or emission reduction)
- **Complexity** of tackling all climate related topics and directions (arising from individual countries needs)
- **Gap between different actors** in a given region (climate policy makers vs economists)
- **Multiple sub-regional platforms**, which are dependent on the project existence – sustainability questioned

Perspectives

- **Ensure climate and crisis resistant** strategies in times of COVID-19 (finance, travels, information technologies, etc)
- **Targeted focusing** on the selected topic(s) in terms of climate change: **Water-Agriculture-Energy nexus** – matching ALL countries in the CAREC region
- **Mainstreaming climate resilient measures** and planning on indicative targets in **regional infrastructure projects** (e.g. amount of GHG emissions reduced)
- **Make an emphasis on economy and climate risks** (good projects on economic assessment of climate change in the region – need to follow-up; account climate risks in economic development regional strategy – WEF)
- **Consider cross-border projects on adaptation:** e.g. with similar ecosystems (mountainous sub-region, desert sub-region, Aral-sea basin, Caspian-sea basin)
- **Maintain regional cooperation** platforms and professional networks (incl. development of new knowledge and scientific products)

Thank you!

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