



CAREC: A Scoping Study on Climate Change as a Cross-cutting Theme under CAREC 2030

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Background

- Climate change: the defining challenge for global development during the 21st Century
- Now well recognized worldwide; actions at global, regional and national levels
- The CAREC region: contributes to carbon emissions and is vulnerable to the consequences of climate change
- CAREC 2030 strategy: Climate change as a cross-cutting theme, but limited focus to date



The 6th and 7th century hilltop fortress - Karakalpakstan in western Uzbekistan.

Purpose

- Define how CAREC can intensify its support for regional actions to respond to climate change
- Develop a systematic and strategic approach by CAREC to the climate agenda in the region by
- Provide reference document on climate issues in the CAREC region



Approach

- The approach focused on
 - documentary evidence
 - consultations with experts
 - consultations with CAREC country officials
- Coordinated with two other CAREC studies
 - “CAREC Post-Pandemic Plan for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery”
 - “CAREC Strategic Approaches to Agriculture”



Content

- Climate change in the CAREC region: challenges and issues
 - Issue in general
 - Issue in CAREC region
 - Regional dimensions
- Approach of CAREC to climate change to date
- Future directions of CAREC



Main climate change issues addressed in the Scoping Study

	8 Core issues		Cross-cutting issues		On-the-horizon issues	
	National	Regional	National	Regional	National	Regional
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy - Water - Agriculture - Energy/water/ agriculture nexus 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macroeconomic - Private sector - ICT/digital - Hydromet - Institutional capacity - Costs and benefits - Just transition - Gender - Communic./advocacy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the horizon energy issues - Artificial intelligence (AI) - Technology transfer and S-S Cooperation - Migration - New concepts - Research/data 	
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport - Cities - Disasters - Health 					

Overarching conclusion

CAREC has a unique and urgent opportunity to chart a course of proactive, systematic and strategic engagement on climate change

- developing a range of **regional actions** in response to the regional nature of many climate change impacts and solutions, and
- supporting its member countries in reinforcing, modifying and implementing existing **national strategies** on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

8 Main messages on climate change issues

1. Climate change presents a major challenge for CAREC and requires an urgent and powerful response, but also offers the opportunity to develop a “new climate economy”
2. Climate change has important regional impacts and requires regional action.
3. National and regional climate action is complementary and mutually reinforcing.
4. The systemic nature of climate change requires an “all-of-government” and an “all-of-country” approach
5. National and regional climate strategies need to set priorities for action among issues and be transparently implemented, monitored and adapted.
6. The private sector plays a critical role in national and regional climate action.
7. Domestic and external finance is a critical part of national and regional climate action
8. National and regional climate action needs effective support from development partners and South-South cooperation.

8 Main recommendations for CAREC and CAREC Institute (CI)

1. CAREC to incorporate climate change as an urgent crosscutting issue in the CAREC 2030 Strategy.
2. The CAREC Secretariat to prepare a CAREC Climate Change Strategy.
3. CAREC to establish a senior-level Steering Committee for climate change.
4. The CAREC Climate Steering Committee to develop a road map for freestanding climate change projects and targeted climate mitigation and adaptation components in other projects.
5. CAREC and CI to work closely together and to develop an agreed division of labor.
6. CAREC to engage systematically with Development Partners (DPs) and other regional organizations.
7. CAREC to aim to develop a common position on global climate change negotiations (COPs).
8. CAREC and the CAREC Institute to monitor and evaluate progress with the implementation of climate change strategies in the region.

A personal perspective of a young Central Asian: Gulshat Raissova from Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan has experienced the negative effects of climate change, including droughts, floods, heatwaves, and wildfires.
- The country is developing a comprehensive legal framework and national policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation including adoption of a new Ecological Code in 2021.
- Women and young people are taking part in leading the inspiring initiatives that promote sustainable development and environmental protection.
- However, there is still much work to be done to address the urgent issue of climate change, and collective action is needed from governments, businesses, and individuals around the world.



A personal perspective of Central Asian: Turdakun Tashbolotov from Kyrgyzstan

- Water rich Kyrgyzstan is experiencing water shortage. The problem will only get worse if proper action won't be taken.
- Country's economically important region may find itself in severe water distress in the future.
- The rainfall patterns are likely changing threatening agricultural production and aggravating natural cataclysms.
- The efficiency in water use and management are crucial.
- CAREC Institute's research on water issues is very timely and it needs to be further expanded

