



Regional Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia



Flood plains along the Syr Darya river, picture by the Canadian Space Agency

Switzerland supports a regional initiative commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ, which aims to consolidate regional cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia through a climate-sensitive, integrated approach.

Rationale

Climate change poses a substantial threat to both national and regional security in Central Asia, creating additional complexities for water availability, energy security and the environment. This arid region already suffers from shrinking glaciers and desertification, along with extreme weather events such as flooding and droughts. Insufficient water cooperation entails significant costs and major risks for the future development of the region. Projections indicate that climate change will intensify these impacts in the coming years. It will have a massive impact on food security – for example in the form of harvest failures or rising food prices. Since the majority of water resources are transboundary, good regional cooperation based on trust is of immense importance.

Country:

Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

Duration:

2023 – 2027

Total Budget:

CHF 2'600'000 SDC contribution to CHF 12'225'000 project

Partners:

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic; Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan; State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan; Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan

Implementing Agency:

GIZ

Overall Goal

To foster regional cooperation the project offers advisory assistance, supports scientific networks and the development of planning and modelling tools, and provides trainings for water practitioners and other stakeholders. The aim of the project is to share knowledge and experience on climate-sensitive, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Outcomes and envisaged results

- Establishment of basin dialogues along the Amu Darya and Syr Darya Rivers for improved regional cooperation
- Improvement of skills and knowledge of national and regional river basin organizations
- Improved cooperation and networking among Central Asian academic institutions working on IWRM
- Implementation of best practices in specific areas of climate-sensitive IWRM in the region and in the countries.

Target group

The project works closely with national and regional organizations, including the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and its subsidiary bodies (Basin Water Organizations Amu Darya and Syr Darya), as well as governmental and civil society bodies.

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