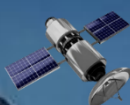




Within the framework of the regional GIZ project
«Climate Risk Management in Central Asia »

TASK 3: Support for assessing the needs to strengthen the capacity for reducing transboundary climate risks related to water and assistance in taking measures to establish a transboundary early warning system....



RECOMMENDATIONS

for improving the mechanism of information exchange on hazardous *hydrometeorological phenomena in transboundary areas between emergency agencies of Central Asian countries.*

PROPOSALS FOR DEFINING THE TARGET GROUP

for conducting a needs assessment to strengthen the capacity of Central Asian countries in reducing transboundary climate risks related to water...



Brief Justification:

Climate change poses a serious threat to the Central Asian region, worsening socio-economic development and aggravating the environmental situation, particularly negatively affecting water and land resources. Geographical features such as water scarcity, drought risks, and land degradation are intensified by climate change, increasing vulnerability to climate risks, including those related to water. Therefore, ambitious climate adaptation actions are of primary importance alongside mitigation efforts¹.

Key organizational and legal foundations for improving information exchange mechanisms, as well as for establishing and ensuring the functioning of the Technical Working Group (TWG)/Target Group to conduct a needs assessment for strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries in reducing transboundary climate risks related to water, include:

- Political will and a shared position of the leaders of Central Asia to expand cooperation in the fields of environmental protection and climate change mitigation, expressed during the Fourth and Fifth Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia, held on 21.07.2022 in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic² and on 14.09.2023 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan³.

During these Consultative Meetings, the Heads of State of Central Asia emphasized the importance of further strengthening regional cooperation in climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and emergency response, combating desertification, the rational and integrated use of water and energy resources, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, glacier preservation, and the promotion of projects and programs in these areas;

- The Regional Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation in Central Asia⁴, developed and agreed upon by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Regional Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation in Central Asia is a framework strategic document with planning timeframes aligned with the horizon for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals up to 2030. The long-term vision of the Strategy is that by 2030, Central Asian countries will enhance climate resilience and minimize vulnerability to climate impacts in line with the Paris Agreement through a joint action approach of «better together».

Central Asian countries are systematically developing and strengthening cooperation and advancing regional processes and policymaking aimed at addressing the climate crisis. In particular, joint statements of the Conference of the Initiative of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany “Green Central Asia” (2020), the C5+1 Ministerial Meeting on Climate (2021), and others emphasized not only the necessity of implementing adaptation measures, but also noted that accelerating action to address climate change can serve as a driver of economic growth.

Central Asia is home to hundreds of thousands of lakes, rivers, temporary watercourses, artificial water bodies—including reservoirs, ponds, and other small and large water management and hydropower facilities—some of which are transboundary water resources. Nearly all transboundary water resources are classified as high-risk objects for

¹ https://greencentralasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Strategy_rus-2.pdf

² <https://e-cis.info/news/568/101986/>

³ <https://www.mfa.tj/index.php/ru/main/view/13369/sovместnoe-zayavlenie-po-itogam-pyatoi-konsultativnoi-vstrechi-glav-gosudarstv-tsentralnoi-azii>

⁴ https://greencentralasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Strategy_rus-2.pdf

arge-scale and transboundary emergencies of natural and man-made origin, the consequences of which cannot always be addressed by the forces and means of a single country alone.

To ensure the safe management of transboundary water resources, Central Asian countries must, on a continuous basis, undertake coordinated joint actions in monitoring, assessment, analysis, and disaster risk reduction, prevention and response to emergencies, as well as ensure timely mutual data exchange and notification on the status of potentially hazardous facilities and emerging emergencies.

Within the framework of this component of the GIZ regional project "Climate Risk Management in Central Asia," it is planned to implement a set of activities aimed at:

- 1) The establishment of a Target Group / Technical Working Group (TWG) to conduct an assessment of needs for strengthening capacities in reducing transboundary climate risks related to water, as well as to carry out a series of training sessions for representatives of hydrometeorological services and emergency agencies of Central Asian countries;
- 2) The improvement of the mechanism for information exchange on hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena in transboundary areas among the emergency agencies of Central Asian countries.



RECOMMENDATIONS

on Improving the Mechanism for Information Exchange on Hazardous Hydrometeorological Phenomena in Transboundary Areas among Emergency Agencies of Central Asian Countries

The following “Recommendations on the Improvement of the Mechanism for the Exchange of Information on Hazardous Hydrometeorological Phenomena in Transboundary Areas among the Emergency Agencies of Central Asian Countries” have been developed on the basis of and taking into account:

- 1) The multilateral intergovernmental Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations, dated July 17, 1998, Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyz Republic);
- 2) Bilateral intergovernmental agreements, ratified between the Central Asian countries, on cooperation in the field of civil defense (protection), prevention and response to emergency situations;
- 3) The bilateral intergovernmental Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on joint measures and cooperation on timely notification in the event of a breakthrough of Lake Sarez, dated May 30, 2000;
- 4) The Regulation on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Emergency Response, approved by the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries (Protocol dated November 5, 2021);
- 5) The Regulation on the Regional Early Warning System and Mutual Information Exchange on Threats and the Occurrence of Emergency Situations, approved by the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries (Protocol dated October 6, 2022);
- 6) The Agreement of the national hydrometeorological services of Central Asian states on the exchange of information on transboundary surface waters of the Aral Sea basin, dated May 20, 1998;
- 7) The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of hydrometeorology, dated June 17, 1999, Bishkek;
- 8) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Hydrometeorological Services of the Central Asian States on the implementation of a program of regional activities within the framework of the initiative to improve hydrometeorological services in Central Asia, dated November 12, 2009, Tashkent.

Practically all intergovernmental agreements on civil defense and emergency situations, emergency prevention and response, as well as on joint activities and cooperation regarding timely alerts in the event of a breach of Lake Sarez stipulate that:

- Authorized / Competent authorities of the Parties are the [emergency agencies of the Central Asian countries](#);
- The authorized / competent authorities establish [working groups / TWGs and other bodies](#) for cooperation in the field of civil protection, as well as emergency prevention and response.

⁵ <https://cesdrr.org/uploads/legal/2.11.%20Обзор%20межгосударственных%20соглашений%2C%2001.pdf>

⁶ <https://cesdrr.org/uploads/legal/2.11.%20Обзор%20межгосударственных%20соглашений%2C%2001.pdf>

⁷ <https://cesdrr.org/uploads/legal/2.11.%20Обзор%20межгосударственных%20соглашений%2C%2001.pdf>

⁸ <https://cesdrr.org/uploads/regforum/2021/05.11.21.%20-%20Положение%20о%20Региональном%20механизме%20координации%20по%20реагированию%20на%20чрезвычайные%20ситуации.pdf>

⁹ <https://cesdrr.org/uploads/2022-news/38/new/181022/Положение%20о%20ПСПО.pdf>

¹⁰ https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z010000137_

For example, the Regulation on the Regional Early Warning System and Mutual Information Exchange on Threats and the Occurrence of Emergency Situations, approved by the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries (Protocol dated October 6, 2022), stipulates that::

- **The competent authorities** responsible for the establishment and functioning of the Regional Early Warning System and mutual information exchange are the **crisis management Centers** of the emergency agencies of Central Asian countries;
- **The working body** for the establishment and functioning of the Regional Early Warning System and mutual information exchange is the **Technical Working Group (TWG)**, composed of **delegated expert specialists from Central Asian countries (three experts from each country)**;
- Where necessary, the **Technical Working Group (TWG)** may additionally include, upon agreement, **expert specialists from scientific institutions, international, non-governmental, and other organizations** specializing in seismology, early warning systems, and disaster risk reduction;
- **Support in establishing and ensuring the functioning** of the Regional Early Warning System and mutual information exchange is provided by the **Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction — the Secretariat of the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries**, within the framework of initiating and implementing regional programs and projects financed by donor agencies and international organizations.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- **conducting an assessment of the needs for strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries in reducing transboundary climate risks related to water;**
- **improving the mechanism for information exchange on threats or the occurrence of emergency situations and hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena (including emergency hydrometeorological information) in transboundary areas among emergency agencies of Central Asian countries,**

RECOMMENDED:



- 1. The CESDRR – Secretariat of the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries – to establish a Target Group / Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of delegated experts from Central Asian countries, as well as experts from international organizations and scientific institutions.**


In 2024–2025, CESDRR is proposed to organize the work of the Target Group / TWG and conduct a series of trainings (online and offline) aimed at:

- **discussing the existing mechanism of information exchange on threats and emergency situations (strengths, weaknesses, challenges);**
- **to develop proposals for improving the mechanism of information exchange on threats and occurrences of emergencies, as well as hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena in transboundary areas among the emergency authorities of Central Asian countries;**
- **to develop and agree on draft documents aimed at improving the mechanism of information exchange on threats and occurrences of emergencies and hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena in transboundary areas among the emergency authorities of Central Asian countries.**

- 2. To develop and agree on a draft standard form (e.g., No. 1 CA): "Quarterly operational information on forecasting and monitoring hazardous natural, technological, and environmental processes and phenomena, as well as on the condition of potentially hazardous facilities posing a threat of emergency situations, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other Central Asian countries."**


Based on the Regulation on the Regional Early Warning and Mutual Information System on threats and occurrences of emergencies (approved by the Regional Forum – Meeting of Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian countries, Protocol dated October 6, 2022), it is established that:

- The Regional System for Mutual Information Exchange on Threats or the Occurrence of Emergency Situations is established in order to ensure that the emergency agencies of the Central Asian countries carry out the immediate and urgent mutual exchange of operational information on threats or the occurrence of emergency situations of natural, technological, and environmental nature (including threats or occurrences of hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena), the impact factors of which pose a risk of spreading to the territory of other countries in the region, as well as to facilitate the adoption of a set of measures aimed at reducing socio-economic damage and losses caused by emergency situations, particularly those of a large-scale and transboundary nature.
- The established Algorithm of Actions for the creation and functioning of the system of mutual information exchange on threats or the occurrence of emergency situations consists of two main stages:
Stage One: The emergency agencies of the Central Asian countries, on a quarterly basis, carry out the exchange of operational information on the forecasting and monitoring of hazardous natural, technological, and environmental processes and phenomena, as well as on the condition of potentially hazardous facilities that pose a risk of emergency situations, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other countries in the region.
However, in practice, the emergency agencies of the Central Asian countries do not carry out such quarterly exchange of operational information, including due to the absence of an established standard form entitled: “Quarterly Information on the Forecasting and Monitoring of Hazardous Natural, Technological, and Environmental Processes and Phenomena, as well as on the Condition of Potentially Hazardous Facilities Posing a Risk of Emergency Situations, the Impact Factors of which may Spread to the Territory of Other Central Asian Countries.”
- The development and implementation of a standard form entitled: “Weekly Operational Information on the Forecasting and Monitoring of Hazardous Natural, Technological, and Environmental Processes and Phenomena (including hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena), as well as on the condition of potentially hazardous facilities posing a risk of emergency situations, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other Central Asian countries” will contribute to the improvement of the information exchange mechanism...., including those related to hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena....

 **3. To develop and agree on a draft standard form (e.g., No. 2 CA): “Operational information on threats of emergency situations or hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other Central Asian countries.”**

Based on the Regulation on the Regional Early Warning System and Mutual Information Exchange on Threats and the Occurrence of Emergency Situations (approved by the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries, Protocol dated October 6, 2022), it is established that:

- *The established Algorithm of Actions for the creation and functioning of the system of mutual information exchange on threats or the occurrence of emergency situations consists of two main stages:*
- *Stage Two: Upon identification of a threat... of emergency situations of natural, technological, or environmental nature, the impact factors of which- based on monitoring, forecast, forecasting and situations assessment- pose a risk of spreading to the territory of other countries in the region, the emergency agencies of Central Asian countries ensure the immediate exchange of urgent operational information and organize interaction and cooperation operation to coordinate joint actions;*
- *The development and implementation of a standard form entitled “Operational Information on Threats of Emergency Situations or Hazardous Hydrometeorological Phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other Central Asian countries” will contribute to the improvement of the information exchange mechanism, including information related to hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena.*

 **4. To develop and agree on a draft standard form (e.g., No. 3 CA): “Emergency operational information on the occurrence of emergency situations or hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread or are spreading to the territory of other Central Asian countries.”**


Based on the Regulation on the Regional Early Warning System and Mutual Information Exchange on Threats and the Occurrence of Emergency Situations (approved by the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries, Protocol dated October 6, 2022), it is established that:

- *The established Algorithm of Actions for the creation and functioning of the system of mutual information exchange on threats or the occurrence of emergency situations consists of two main stages;*
- *Stage Two: In the event of the occurrence of emergency situations of natural, technological, or environmental nature, the impact factors of which—based on monitoring, forecasting, and situation assessment—pose a risk of spreading to the territory of other countries in the region, the emergency agencies of Central Asian countries shall ensure the immediate and urgent mutual exchange of operational information and organize interaction and cooperation for the purpose of coordinating joint actions;*
- *The development and implementation of a standard form entitled “Emergency Operational Information on the Occurrence of Emergency Situations or Hazardous Hydrometeorological Phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other Central Asian countries” will contribute to improving the mechanism for information exchange..., including information related to hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena...*

 **5. To develop and agree on a draft standard instruction for Crisis Management Centers (CMC) of emergency agencies of Central Asian countries:**

“On the procedure for mutual exchange of operational information on threats or the occurrence of emergency situations or hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread to or are spreading to the territory of other Central Asian countries”, including:

- 1) *Quarterly operational information on forecasting and monitoring hazardous natural, technological, and environmental processes and phenomena, as well as on the condition of potentially hazardous facilities posing a risk of emergency situations with possible transboundary impact;*
- 2) *Operational information on threats of emergency situations or hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena with potential cross-border impact;*
- 3) *Emergency operational information on occurring emergency situations or hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena whose impact factors are spreading to the territory of other Central Asian countries.*

 **6. To develop and agree on a draft standard instruction for hydrometeorological services of Central Asian countries:**
“On the procedure for providing emergency agencies of Central Asian countries (CMC) with emergency hydrometeorological information (storm warnings) on hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread to the territory of other Central Asian countries.”

In virtuality all laws and other regulatory regulatory legal acts of the Central ASian Asiancountries governing relations in the field of hydrometeorological activities, it is stipulated that:

- *Specially authorized state bodies in the field of hydrometeorological activity (hydrometeorological services of Central Asian countries):*
 - *provide state authorities, local government bodies, legal entities, and individuals with information on observed and expected hydrometeorological conditions, climate change, and environmental pollution, including emergency hydrometeorological information;*
 - *are part of the unified state system for prevention and response to emergency situations and operate in accordance with national legislation on the protection of population and territories from natural and technological emergencies.*

The following Recommendations on improving the mechanism for information exchange on hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena in transboundary areas among the emergency authorities of Central Asian countries are primarily aimed at enhancing the exchange of urgent hydrometeorological information between these authorities through Crisis Management Centers.

In turn, the emergency agencies of the Central Asian countries (Crisis Management Centers – CMC) are provided with emergency hydrometeorological information by specially authorized state bodies in the field of hydrometeorological activities (hydrometeorological services of Central Asian countries):

Emergency hydrometeorological information (definition) means:

- ✓ hydrometeorological information provided immediately on hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena that may pose a threat to the life and health of the population, as well as cause damage to the environment, economic sectors, and the social sphere;
- ✓ hydrometeorological information transmitted without delay on urgent and advance warnings of severe storms and/or notifications thereof, as well as on observed and forecasted significant changes in weather conditions that may cause harm to human life or health, the environment, and property;
- ✓ emergency information (storm warning) — information transmitted immediately on hazardous natural hydrometeorological phenomena that may pose a threat to the life and health of the population and cause damage to the environment and the national economy.



7. The CESDRR, in cooperation with the Target Group / Technical Working Group (TWG), shall prepare and submit in 2025 to the Regional Forum–Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries draft documents aimed at improving the mechanism for information exchange between the emergency agencies of Central Asian countries on threats and the occurrence of emergency situations or hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena, the impact factors of which may spread to or are spreading to the territory of other Central Asian countries.

Non-official translation

