



Shveysariya Konfederatsiyasi

Water and Energy

Blue Peace Central Asia (BPCA)



Fostering water diplomacy for equitably shared and effectively managed water resources in Central Asia

Rationale

The Central Asian region, home to 80 million people, is increasingly water-stressed and faces significant challenges in water management. It experiences significant adverse impacts of climate change resulting in melting glaciers, changes in the availability and quality of water resources, and increasing frequency of extreme weather events, further pressuring an already fragile water supply. Water infrastructure is in poor condition resulting in inefficiencies of water use and distribution.

The major rivers, Amu Darya and Syr Darya, traverse multiple countries, yet institutionalized cooperation mechanisms remain limited. This lack of coordination contributes to inefficient water use, environmental degradation, and heightened socio-political tensions, threatening regional stability and sustainable development. Afghanistan's growing hydropower and irrigation sectors, particularly in the Amu Darya basin, are adding further pressure on the region's water resources. The current level of cooperation in water management in Central Asia is insufficient and entails significant costs and major risks for the stability and prosperity of the region.

Overall goal

Blue Peace Central Asia (BPCA) supports regional organizations and policy-makers to foster stability through more equitable and efficient transboundary water management in the context of climate change.

Countries:

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan and Afghanistan

Duration (current phase):

2025 – 2029

Total Budget:

CHF 8'300'000

Implementation Partners:

International Water
Management Institute;
International Union for
Conservation of Nature;
Regional Environmental Centre
for Central Asia

It works across countries, sectors and generations to capacitate water experts and diplomats and to strengthen research and science for policy-making. In line with SDG 6.5.2, it demonstrates benefit sharing solutions in transboundary water management to advance operational arrangements for water cooperation at basin and sub-basin levels. The overall goal of BPCA is for the Central Asian population to benefit from equitably shared and effectively managed shared water resources.

Outcomes and envisaged results

The BPCA initiative is built on three pillars:

- Water Diplomacy: enhancing transboundary water governance frameworks through evidence-based policy dialog
- Benefit-sharing: strengthening water cooperation by demonstrating transboundary basin management, cooperation and investment planning.
- Capacity building: advancing regional water cooperation by women and the next generation of scientists, diplomats and water professionals.

Key outputs

BPCA will enhance interstate collaboration through structured policy dialogue, including the strengthening of regional communities of practice, building science-policy dialogues, advancing climate adaptation strategies, and supporting trust building mechanisms. Concrete projects at the transboundary tributaries level will demonstrate the value of participatory approaches to basin-level investment planning. And finally, improved higher education on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water diplomacy and greater youth and women engagement will prepare a next generation of water managers and diplomats for the challenges ahead. Collectively, these outputs lay the groundwork for more equitable and cooperative water resource management, contributing to long-term regional stability and socio-economic development.

Target group

Ministries and state agencies responsible for water resources and climate, management and ministries of foreign affairs in the five Central Asian countries; national river basin organizations and regional institutions; educational and research institutes in Central Asia and Afghanistan; youth.

Previous phase results

The BPCA initiative (2017-2024) has fostered regional water cooperation in Central Asia by strengthening institutions, building trust, enhancing data exchange, and supporting capacity building of relevant actors and future decision makers. Key achievements include the automatization of two transboundary water flow monitoring stations between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, support to transboundary water quality monitoring efforts, and elevating communities of practices on various issues to advance research for policy-making across the region. Empowering future water leaders through education and capacity-building with a special focus on women has been at the centre of the initiative. Collaborative projects supporting regional glacier and snow monitoring as well as digitizing hydrology workflows for improved forecasting and service delivery are further improving water management across the region.

Contact:

Embassy of Switzerland in
Uzbekistan

Shota Rustaveli Street,
Impasse 1, House 4
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tel.: +998 78 120 54 54
tashkent@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/tashkent

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