

# **Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC): activity in Kyrgyzstan**

**Bishkek 2012**



## *History in brief*

- The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) was established in accordance with the decision of the 4th Pan-European Conference held in 1998 in Aarhus (Denmark).
- CAREC commenced its operations in 2001, after the Republic of Kazakhstan ratified the Agreement on Operating Conditions of the Centre as an independent, non-commercial and non-partisan organization of the international character.



## *History in brief*

- Founders of CAREC are Central Asian countries consisting of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan , as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission (EC).
- The CAREC headquarters are located in Almaty, Kazakhstan with country offices operate in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.



# ***Mission***

- Promote multi-sector cooperation in addressing environmental problems in Central Asia at the local, national and regional levels.



# Objectives

- Establish an inter-sectoral dialogue in Central Asia involving the donor community;
- Create opportunities to attract to Central Asia the advanced knowledge, best international practices and technologies in the field of environmental management and sustainable development;
- Enhance the role of the civil society in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development in Central Asia.
- Others.



# ***Mobilization of Stakeholders***

- The national multi-stakeholder dialogues in all CA countries were conducted to assess the country needs in the framework of CAI. CAREC will provide the assistance to the Central Asian countries in the conceptual preparation for the ministerial conference “Environment for Europe” of the UNECE region (Astana 2011).
- Multi-stakeholder water dialogues were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan within the framework of CAI. The pilot basins of small transboundary rivers for projects realization were selected through the intersectoral working groups.



# ***Mobilization of Stakeholders***

- A subregional network on Education for Sustainable Development operates in CA since 2003 and subregional conferences are held annually.
- A dialogue platform was provided for Central Asian NGOs to formulate and present their positions at the Ministerial Conferences “Environment for Europe” (Kiev, 2003; Belgrade, 2007).
- A “Gap analysis in the area of climate change and sustainable energy” in Central Asia was conducted in 2008-2009.



# **Capacity Development**

- Through CAREC 40 high-level officials from Central Asian countries were trained on sustainable development at the Venice International University.
- National manuals and training modules on the Access to Environmental Justice were prepared and approved in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
- Twenty young environmental leaders of Central Asia enhanced their project development, management and leadership skills, and knowledge in the environmental field over the period of 2008 – 2009.



# ***Applied Environmental Awareness and Practices***

- The existing water quality control systems, standards and specifications were assessed in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, and the regional working group on water quality was established.
- The project on energy efficient and environmentally sustainable offices of CAREC equipped with the renewable energy facilities is ongoing.



# ***Applied Environmental Awareness and Practices***

- Manual and database of experts on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in transboundary context were developed for Central Asia.
- Within the Drynet project, 5 issues of the newsletter in seven languages were published; more than 20 successful project stories on combating desertification and land degradation were collected and 9 of them were described in detail.



## ***Kyrgyz Branch activities***

- Slovak Aid project: «Analysis of the current situation of waste management in the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, and ways to improve“
- OSCE project: "Education in the integrated water resources management and water security in Kyrgyzstan (WTF - a network of schools in Kyrgyzstan)"



## ***Kyrgyz Branch activities***

- FOEN: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in transboundary context in Central Asia within Kyrgyzstan
- SwissRe and REDD+: Payment for Ecosystem Services in Issyk-Kul Lake basin



# ***Kyrgyz Branch activities***

- Environment Protection Agency: Awareness raising on environment protection in Kyrgyzstan
- European Commission: Rehabilitation of irrigation systems in the south of Kyrgyzstan.
- NAMA/NAPA: National plan to Adaptation to Climate Change.



***Thank you!***