



CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM FIRST MEETING OF WATER PILLAR WORKING GROUP

17-18 June 2024

CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel
Istanbul, Türkiye

PROCEEDINGS



I. Introduction

1. In 2017, CAREC introduced agriculture and water as a new pillar under the CAREC 2030 strategy to provide a conducive and trusted platform to foster regional cooperation and integration on water security. It was agreed that initial activities of the Water Pillar would focus on the Central Asia region. A scoping report¹ that underpinned the rationale for the Water Pillar and set out its organizing framework of three pillars was agreed by Central Asian countries in 2021. Following a series of

¹ [CAREC Water Pillar Scoping Report | CAREC Program Publication](#)

national and regional consultations² with CAREC countries, a dedicated working group for the Water Pillar was established in 2023 with representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The Working Group of the Water Pillar is an advisory and consultative body that provides guidance on the implementation and future direction of the Water Pillar and development of regional projects and technical assistance, including coordination with other regional initiatives. The Working Group will liaise between ADB and concerned government officials to foster collaboration on identified joint activities. The Water Pillar is envisaged to expand over time to include other CAREC countries.

2. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- **Strengthen collaboration through evidence-based decision making:** The meeting served as a space for sharing knowledge, particularly results of recent studies on climate change and discussing potential joint initiatives in the Central Asia region to achieve a water and food secure future in light of climate change; and
- **Identify potential areas of investment for ADB to support:** During various consultations, candidate projects for support under the Water Pillar have been proposed with projects in three categories: (i) climate resilience and productive water systems, (ii) improvement of land and water quality, and (iii) nexus solutions and cross sectoral collaborations. This objective of the meeting aimed to identify a set of potential pipeline projects for the CAREC Water Pillar that could be taken to the next stage of formulation and assessment.

3. Prior to the meeting, Working Group members from the five Central Asia countries were requested to submit draft concepts of regional projects for consideration at the meeting.

4. In parallel to the meeting of the Water Pillar Working Group, consultations were held with the national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund from CAREC countries to formulate a major new initiative on Glaciers to Farms (G2F). A separate report is prepared for that meeting.

5. The program for the Meeting is given in Attachment 1. the total number of in-person participants for the two meetings was 55 with around 10 online participants. The participants comprised of representatives of:

- Government agencies from the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) led by the nominated Working Group members for the Water Pillar
- Intergovernmental organizations, including the Interstate Commission for Water Cooperation (ICWC) and the Green Climate Fund
- Development partners

² [Regional Workshop on Water Pillar | CAREC Program Event](#)

- Resource people from international institutes, research agencies and private sector
- Asian Development Bank management and staff and consultants.

6. Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia attended the meeting as observers. Other participants unable to travel to Istanbul joined the plenary sessions of the workshop virtually. A full list of participants is given in Attachment 2.

II. Meeting Highlights

7. **Opening session:** The welcoming remarks were given by Ms Yasmin Siddiqi, Director of ADB's Agriculture Food Nature and Rural Development Sectors Group covering the Central and South Asia region. Ms Siddiqi emphasized the need to apply a climate lens to the formulation of future pipeline projects and identify 'solutions for tomorrow'. She welcomed the support of Central Asian countries in coming together to further strengthen regional cooperation on water through CAREC's Water Pillar.



8. The challenges of climate change were echoed in the opening remarks from the representative of CAREC's current host country, Kazakhstan by Mr Danyir Sharip, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. He referred to the vulnerability of countries in Central Asia to the challenges of more extreme conditions with increasing droughts and floods and recognized the importance of joint efforts from neighbouring countries in the region in order to find effective solutions.



9. Mr. Warren Evans, ADB's Climate Envoy, gave the first keynote speech by stressing the importance of building resilience to climate change impacts which, in his words, 'don't care about country boundaries.' He described how ADB has changed how it conducts business in response to the climate challenges and the need to bring solutions to large scale, including with the involvement of the private sector. In this regard, Mr Evans stressed the importance of a long-term commitment and programmatic approach as pursued by CAREC and outlined the future partnership being developed with the Green Climate Fund on G2F.



10. The second keynote speech was given by Ms Xiaohong Yang, Deputy Director General of ADB's Central and West Asia Department. Her first theme focused on co-development of solid investment plans and programs under CAREC, emphasizing the facilitating role of the Water Pillar to help countries work together on mutually beneficial investments. The second theme elaborated ways to create impact in response to the prevailing climate scenarios and the importance of additionality and innovation. Examples included a more integrated approach to water and energy planning, climate smart agriculture, modern more efficient and productive irrigation systems, and others. Ms Xiaohong then outlined the role of ADB and CAREC in leveraging investments for climate resilience.



11. Ms Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head of ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Division covering Central Asia and focal person for CAREC provided a brief introduction to CAREC describing it as an open platform for regional interconnectivity. She stressed the importance of water in addressing the climate resilience challenge and referred to CAREC's Climate Change Vision adopted at the CAREC Ministerial Conference held in Georgia in 2023.³ In closing, Ms Sabyrova introduced the new CAREC Climate and Sustainability Trust Fund, a new mechanism to support preparation of bankable regional projects.

³ [CAREC Countries Endorse New Vision to Fight Climate Change Together | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](https://www.adb.org/en/press-releases/2023/carec-countries-endorse-new-vision-to-fight-climate-change-together)



12. The emphasis then moved to providing an overview of the CAREC Water Pillar by Ms Niloofar Sadeghi, Water Resources Specialist and ADB's focal point for the CAREC Water Pillar. Ms Sadeghi outlined the process followed for establishing the Water Pillar and stressed the importance of the Working Group as the institutional linkage to national CAREC focal points and meetings of the CAREC Senior Officials and ultimately the Ministerial Conference. She also highlighted the role of the Working Group in guiding discussions on ADB's support for regional initiatives through the CAREC Water Pillar.



13. In parallel to establishing the Water Pillar, CAREC has also been facilitating a process to develop an agricultural pillar. Md Abdul Basher, Senior Natural Resources and Agricultural Specialist at ADB provided insights on ADB's activities on agriculture and food security. He noted that agricultural security is at a crossroads in the region due to ageing demographics, increased competition for limited resources, and the stresses imposed on food systems due to climate change. In 2022, CAREC agreed a Cooperative Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security.⁴ Mr Basher informed the meeting of plans to develop a regional lending program on agricultural development which will be further discussed at a regional consultation later in 2024.



14. **Resource speakers:** The opening session was followed by several resource speakers to provide a flavor of relevant and international and regional experience in relation to benefit sharing, climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, modelling of water-energy systems, modernizing irrigation systems, and water productivity.

- Philip Beetlestone of the Stockholm International Water Institute outlined the rationale for **benefit sharing** in a transboundary waters' context. He illustrated his points with case study examples from Africa and Europe, explaining how barriers to cooperation can be overcome through a focus on mutually beneficial outcomes which may be economic, social or environmental.

⁴ carecprogram.org/uploads/CAREC_MC_2022_2a_Agriculture-Food-Security-Framework-EN.pdf



- Mateo Mode', ADB Senior Climate Change Consultant, built on presentations in the opening session with an overview of the **CAREC climate change** theme and linkages with CAREC sectors. Actions relevant to the water sector include the water-energy nexus, grid integration of renewable energy, and disaster risk management. A CAREC climate change working group held its first meeting in April 2024 to develop a portfolio of climate actions.



- Leo Kris Palao from ADB described **upstream climate change assessments** carried out under CAREC for Uzbekistan and Georgia. Such assessments provide a basis for development of future investment portfolios.



- Leon Hermans from IHE Delft presented the importance of incorporating **ecosystem services** in developing climate resilient investments and provided examples where such projects gave higher returns than conventional solutions, for example the adoption of more drought tolerant species in Spain. Adopting an ecosystems service approach requires new ways of operating and overcoming a range of regulatory, institutional, funding and knowledge barriers.
- Julien Harou from Manchester University introduced a new concept of **integrated water-energy modelling** that will be pilot-tested in the Aral Sea Basin under the CAREC Water Pillar. Aimed at overcoming the constraints of conventional modelling systems that view water and energy systems as separate entities, the new approach enables multiple scenarios to simultaneously explore the consequences for both water and energy systems. Once the initial framing of the models has been created and tested with regional institutions, the expectation is that the Working Group will help define the potential development, climate and operational scenarios to be investigated.



- Alan Clark of Northwest Hydraulics Consultants introduced practical approaches to **modernizing irrigation systems** with examples of the transformation of outdated and inefficient systems from Central and South Asia. He indicated solutions adopted depended on the required new level of service, the desired water-use efficiency gains, as well as social and cost considerations, and that they were very site / scheme-specific. He gave the example of installing pressurized pipe systems at distributary level through which irrigators could access water on demand. At farm and field level, the options included precision grading of fields for closely spaced cereal crops and sprinkler and drip irrigation where higher value crops can justify the additional costs.



- Wim Bastiaanssen of IrriWatch and Marat Beksultanov of Geobox presented a number of **remote-sensing based management tools** for water accounting of a system or river basin, monitoring of irrigation water productivity at field level, irrigation scheduling service, and virtual hydro-posts. Considerable experience has already been gained of cost-effective earth observation applications for water resources management in Central Asia. They recommended that capacity in the region for such applications would complement existing ground-based measurements. In particular, the approach would help prioritize investment pipelines and assist in evaluating performance, both pre- and post-modernization.



15. **Country presentations:** Each of the five Central Asia countries presented a draft proposal for consideration under the Water Pillar.

- **Kazakhstan:** Mr Daniyar Sharip representing the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation presented two potential projects. The first on **joint automated water metering system** in the Aral Sea Basin aims to improve the existing outdated monitoring systems of the Amudarya and Syrdarya river basins with more modern equipment that would improve reliability of information as an input to improved decision-making at a regional scale. It would involve creating a unified information system and is linked to a project proposal in the Aral Sea Basin 4 program (ASBP4) of IFAS. The second proposal from Kazakhstan was a bilateral project with Uzbekistan for **modernization of inter-state irrigation channels** to reduce water losses and increase area of irrigated lands.



- **Kyrgyz Republic:** Ms Zhyldyzkan Ashymbaeva from the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industries presented a proposal on **modernization and rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure** in three provinces aimed at enhancing resilience to climate impacts. Although fundamentally a national project, it responds to climate related challenges experienced by all of the Central Asia countries. The proposal could potentially be suited to a sector project modality.



- **Tajikistan:** Mr Daler Abdurazozoda from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources presented a proposal for **effective water resources management of the Bakhri Tajik Reservoir** that generates electricity in Tajikistan and feeds irrigation systems in three countries, (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan). The project is also linked to a proposal included in the ASBP4 of IFAS and Mr Abdurazozoda stressed the importance of the ICWC as institutional coordinating mechanism in Central Asia.



- **Turkmenistan:** Mr. Saparmyrat Charyyev of the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan presented a proposal for **unified Amudarya river water resources monitoring**. Similar to the proposal from Kazakhstan, this was also a regional monitoring program identified in ASBP4 that would ultimately improve resilience to climate change. The approach is to initiate automated water metering systems in Turkmenistan that can be replicated in other countries of the Amudarya river.





- **Uzbekistan:** Mr Shavkat Batirov representing the Ministry of Water Resources presented a project for **rehabilitation of the Kasansay (Orta Tokai) reservoir** that is physically located in the Kyrgyz Republic and supports irrigation in both countries. Management of the reservoir is overseen by a joint bilateral water commission.

Rehabilitation of the reservoir would increase the capacity allowing more reliable supply to improve climate resilience.

16. **Development partner presentations:** Several bilateral and multilateral development partners attended the meeting either in person or virtually and provided insights into their programs and the potential for collaboration with the CAREC Water Pillar.

- Chair of the **International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)**, Mr Ashkat Orazbay referred to the importance of cooperation with established regional mechanisms for cooperation on water resources and the portfolio of projects proposed under the ASBP4 umbrella which have already been through a regional vetting process. He extended an invitation to ADB to visit Astana for consultations with the Secretariat of IFAS.



- Mr Garik Arabayan of the **Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)** referred to their portfolio of irrigation modernization projects in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic and working papers on Natural Hazards (involving Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan) and financing arrangements for climate projects. He identified the following areas of potential collaboration: co-financing of project preparation and implementation; technical support and capacity building; and policy engagement.



- Ms Kunduz Masyllkanova of the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** provided a summary of their portfolio of support in Central Asia with 37 projects amounting to \$6.5 bn of investment. Climate mitigation projects currently form the majority of these (78%), although adaptation projects are expected to grow, including those involving the water sector.



- Ms Caroline Milow representing **GIZ and EU** water programs, presented an outline of EU's major Team Europe Initiative (TEI) that covers water, energy and climate topics and the Green Central Asia Initiative, and Climate Sensitive Water Resources Management program. The German Government supported formulation of the first regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia and is continuing its support for the Green Central Asia program for the next four years. She suggested that

GIZ could provide a link between TEI and the Water Pillar and be a coordination partner utilizing its physical presence in each of the five Central Asia countries.



- Mr Liam Chicca from the **International Fund for Agricultural Development** (IFAD) noted that they worked in Kyrgyz Republic (on livestock), Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (on dekhani farms) and has developed a carbon mapping and biodiversity tool that can be used to identify the most vulnerable areas. He suggested IFAD could support CAREC investments through their experience working on adaptation to climate change in rural areas – what he termed as the ‘last mile’.





- Mr Takayoshi Kato from the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** outlined their program on Water-Energy-Land Use Nexus in Central Asia that brings together a range of development partners with countries of the region to mainstream and operationalize more integrated approaches. The program combines analytic work with political discourse.

- Ms Lisa Gampp of the **Swiss Development Corporation**

- (SDC) presented highlights from their 2020-2025 program including Blue

Peace Asia that has developed a Blue Peace Index to assess the progress of transboundary cooperation; work with national hydrological agencies to improve the quality of forecasts; support for the World Bank CAWEP program which is just starting its fourth phase; and other support for climate sensitive water resources management and cryospheric observations for improved climate adaptation. She stressed the need for strong coordination among various programs of the region.

- Mr Utchang Kang of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** introduced their program on working towards Land Degradation Neutrality and the commitment of regional countries to related targets. He also referred to the need for environmental diplomacy to combat sand and dust storms through sustainable land and water management, including through their Peace Forest Initiative. Publications prepared by UNCCD dealt with sustainable management of rangelands and the role of pastoralists.



17. **Breakout sessions:** The meeting divided into three groups to further consider proposals presented by the Central Asia countries on the first day. Two of the groups focused on shared infrastructure benefits (Groups 1A and 1B) and the third group on automated monitoring systems and digital transformation (Group 2).

- **Group 1A:** The Group discussed the benefits of shared infrastructure. Kazakhstan representatives proposed several projects involving conveyance canals in the Syrdarya River basin which cross into Uzbekistan. The aim of these projects is to reduce water loss and thus increase the irrigated areas in both countries. The Kyrgyzstan delegation proposed the modernization and rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure in the Naryn, Osh, and Chui provinces. Their goal was to modernize the irrigation systems and construct reservoirs for better water regulation. The group discussed both projects from various perspectives, including regional impact, climate adaptation, financing mechanisms, and implementation. While Kazakhstan's project has a direct regional impact with canals shared by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the project proposed by the Kyrgyz Republic has a more indirect regional dimension. Improved water management in the Kyrgyz Republic would also enhance water availability in parts of Uzbekistan. The group concluded that the proposed projects appeared feasible, but a more in-depth study is needed to analyse their feasibility from all the mentioned aspects.⁵

- **Group 1B:** The two proposals for upgrading reservoirs in Tajikistan (Bakhri Tojik) and Kyrgyz Republic (Kasansay) were tabled for further discussion. Potential climate-related benefits of reservoir projects included operations to buffer climate variability, energy saving technology in pumping systems, potential improvements in watershed management, dam safety improvement to cope with extreme conditions and improved irrigation management to save water and increase resilience to drought conditions. In addition to the project already proposed on Day 1, the delegate from Kyrgyz Republic indicated that there were other projects that could be considered for CAREC funding that had broader regional benefits.⁶

- **Group 2:** The group discussed the two projects proposed by Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan regarding upgrading of hydrometeorological gauging stations along the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers. These proposals are reflected in ASBP4 but will need further discussions regionally on technical standards and harmonization. The group agreed that the proposals are necessary to have a uniform measurement system across the region for improved transparency and accuracy of water availability. Although the value of remote sensing approaches was recognized, some concerns were raised by participants about its accuracy and therefore further assessment will be required to gain confidence in the system. The group agreed that investments on modernization of hydromet gauging stations on the main branches of Amudarya and Syrdarya are priority, and technical assistance is also needed for capacity building to use these technologies and prepare for broader water accounting assessment at basin level.⁷

⁵ **Group 1A:** Zhyldyzkan Ashymbaeva, Shavkat Batirov, Alan Clark, Bokhodir Rozikhodjaev, Yasmin Siddiqi.

⁶ **Group 1B:** Daler Abdurazoqzoda, Philip Beetlestone, Jeremy Bird, Khayrullo Kabilov, Kunduz Masykanova, Mateo Mode, Yerbolat Pernekhan, Dastan Usmanov.

⁷ **Group 2:** Olimdzhon Azimov, Aliagha Azizov, Wim Bastiaanssen, Saparmyrat Charyyev, Julien Harou, Utchang Kang, Niloofar Sadeghi, Daniyar Sharip.

18. **Panel of Working Group members:** Members of the Working Group from Central Asia were asked to present their reflections on the meeting and future direction of the Water Pillar:

- Uzbekistan proposed that more guidance be prepared on the type of projects that could be considered for funding under the CAREC Water Pillar in terms of the definition of what constitutes a regional project, whether there are limits on funding resources to be considered, and if other development partners can be considered for co-financing.
- Turkmenistan echoed the points made by Uzbekistan and reflected on a productive first meeting of the Working Group and looked forward to moving towards implementation of the initial CAREC Water projects.
- Tajikistan reflected on the already effective levels of regional cooperation in the water sector in Central Asia and pointed to three areas of support needed (i) institutional strengthening of ICWC and building linkages between CAREC Water and ICWC; (ii) improved infrastructure including better capacity to regulate water in reservoirs; and (iii) education and building the capacity of current and future generations of water professionals.
- Kyrgyz Republic noted the common challenges faced by all countries in the region to achieve water savings through modernisation of irrigation systems and need for 'soft' as well as 'hard' investments such as modernizing legal and regulatory frameworks, retraining staff and upgrading training courses.
- Kazakhstan supported the views expressed by other countries and identified the need to now move ahead with more detailed studies to determine the viability of proposed projects. The delegate invited the Working Group to have its second meeting in Kazakhstan once initial visits by ADB to Central Asia countries had taken place to assess the suitability of proposed projects.



19. **Feedback on Glacier to Farms Initiative:** Chris Dickinson, Senior Climate Change Specialist of ADB outlined four messages from the parallel discussions on G2F: (i) the region is more climate vulnerable, (ii) projects need to align with country priorities, (iii) widespread cooperation is needed, and (iv) there is currently a relatively small number of 'direct access entities' for GCF funding in the region. During this consultation meeting, three elements emerged to frame the G2F, (i) climate resilience through integrated planning and cooperation, (ii) regional investment and TA Facility, and (iii) Green Business Financing Facility for small and medium agricultural enterprises. He expected a formal announcement of G2F at COP29 in November 2024 and funding proposal to be submitted to GCF in 2025.



III. Closing session and next steps

20. Ms Siddiqi provided a brief recap of the discussions on proposed projects. She confirmed that national projects would be eligible for funding under the CAREC program provided there were co-benefits in the region. Ms Siddiqi noted that project sustainability could be enhanced by agreeing O&M cost-sharing mechanisms among beneficiary countries and highlighted the role of modern technology provided it is appropriate to the context. Although the proposed projects concentrated mainly on water resource use, she also raised the importance of interventions on water quality and associated land rehabilitation.

21. In terms of next steps, Ms Siddiqi reiterated the priority that will be given to project proposals that demonstrate a transformative approach to climate change. There is considerable scope to improve water productivity in the region and this will require interventions at multiple levels, including awareness raising and capacity building, as well as physical improvements. TA resources are currently available to undertake pre-feasibility level assessments starting in Q3 2024. Prior to that, a first step would be for ADB specialists to visit the countries for consultations and

screening of proposed projects against funding criteria and discussions with representatives from key agencies including CAREC focal points.

22. In response to Ms Siddiqi's comments, country representatives welcomed the next steps and reiterated their desire for all Central Asia countries to be involved in the CAREC Water Pillar activities.

23. Ms Sabyrova congratulated participants on the success of the discussion and hoped it will become a regular event in the CAREC calendar. She reminded participants of the need for innovation and reiterated that ADB stands ready to assist with project preparation for candidate initiatives. As with other pillars of CAREC, she reinforced the importance of cross cutting issues, including climate change, digital technologies and gender.

24. In closing the first meeting of the Working Group for the CAREC Water Pillar, Ms Sabyrova thanked all the delegates for their participation and wished them safe travel home.

Attachments: 1: Program of the Regional Workshop
2: List of Participants

Attachment 1. Program of the Regional Workshop



**CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM
FIRST MEETING OF WATER PILLAR WORKING GROUP
17-18 June 2024
CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel
Istanbul, Türkiye**

Date	Time	Activity
Day 1 17 June 2024	Opening session 9 – 10 am	Moderator: Mr. Nathan Rive, Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB Welcome by ADB, Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi, Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, Region 1, ADB (5 min) Formal opening by the CAREC host country (10 min) Keynote speech – ADB as the Climate Bank of Asia-Pacific, Mr. Warren Evans, Climate Envoy, Office of the President, ADB (10 min) Keynote speech – Climate Change and CAREC, Ms. Xiaohong Yang, Deputy Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB (5 min) Introduction to CAREC, Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB (5 min) Overview of CAREC Water Pillar, Ms. Niloofar Sadeghi, Water Resources Specialist, ADB (5 min) Overview of ADB's ongoing activities on agriculture and food security in CAREC countries, Md. Abul Basher, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB (5 min)

Date	Time	Activity	
	Group photo		
	10 – 10.30 am: Coffee break		
	Session 1 10.30 am - 12 pm	CAREC Water Meeting Moderator: Ms. Niloofar Sadeghi, ADB Benefit sharing in transboundary water management, Philip Beetlestone, SIWI (20 min) Overview of CAREC climate change approach, Mr. Matteo Mode, ADB consultant (10 min) Upstream climate change assessment in Georgia and Uzbekistan, Mr. Leo Kris Palao and Ms. Kathleen Anne C. Coballes, ADB (15 mins) Nature-based solutions (virtual presentation), Mr. Leon Hermans, IHE Delft (20 min) Q&A (25 min)	Consultation meeting with GCF NDAs Moderator: Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi, Director, ADB Welcome by ADB, Mr. Warren Evans, Climate Envoy, Office of the President (15 min) Welcome by GCF, video message by Mr. German Velasquez, Director, DMA (2 min) Keynote Message: Ms. Xiaohong Yang, ADB (5 min) Group photo (5 min) Presentations: (i) Overview of the proposed regional proposal on Glaciers to Farms (G2F) in Central and West Asia; Mr. Chris Dickinson, Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB (15min) (ii) GCF Priorities and Targets and Updated Strategic Plan; Ms. Kunduz Masyllkanova, Senior Agriculture and Food Security Specialist, GCF (15min) Open discussion (30min)
		12 – 1.30 pm: Lunch break	
	Session 2 1.30 – 3 pm	CAREC Water Meeting Moderator: Ms. Altynay Arapova, Economist, ADB Water - energy nexus modeling, Dr. Julien Harou, Manchester University (20 min) Improving resilience and water use efficiency in	Consultation meeting with GCF NDAs 1.30 – 4 pm: Country priorities for GCF: Approved and Pipeline Projects and Direct Access Entities (15 min each) - Azerbaijan

Date	Time	Activity	
		agriculture across the central Asia region, Mr. Alan K Clark, NHC Ltd. (20 min) Water accounting, Mr. Wim Bastiaanssen & Mr. Marat Beksultanov (20 min) Q&A (30 min)	- Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Pakistan - Tajikistan - Turkmenistan - Uzbekistan
	3 – 3.30 pm: Coffee break		
	Session 3 3.30 – 5 pm	CAREC Water Meeting Moderator: Dr. Caroline Milow, Programme Manager, GIZ Presentation by countries on potential regional or sub-regional projects: - Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Tajikistan - Turkmenistan - Uzbekistan	
	Welcome Dinner		
Day 2 18 June 2024	Session 4 9 – 10.30 am	CAREC Water Meeting Moderator: Md. Abul Basher, ADB Development partners (5 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EC-IFAS• EFSD• GCF• GIZ• IFAD	Consultation meeting with GCF NDAs Feedback from Day 1: Country needs and priorities and Trans-boundary Barriers; Chris Dickinson, and Kat Coballes, ADB (15 minutes) Experience and Lessons on ADB-GCF regional programs; Christian Ellerman and Chris Dickinson, Senior Climate Change Specialists, ADB (15mins)

Date	Time	Activity	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OECD• SDC• UNCCD <p>Long list of project ideas and sample potential projects, Mr. Jeremy Bird, ADB consultant, (15 min)</p>	<p>Complementarity and Coherence: Regional and National Initiatives (Group discussion with ADB country representatives) (30min)</p> <p>GCF Priorities in Central and West Asia, Maksim Surkuv (GCF Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Regional Manager)(10min)</p> <p>Open discussion (20min)</p>
	10 – 10.30 am: Coffee Break		
	Session 5	Moderator: Mr. Jeremy Bird, ADB consultant	
	10.30 am – 12 pm	Breakout sessions: group discussion on potential projects	
	12 – 1.30 pm: Lunch break		
	Closing session 1.30 – 3 pm	<p>Wrap-up and agreement on pipeline of regional CAREC water projects, Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi, Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, Region 1, ADB</p> <p>Reflections by the CAREC water WG members and discussion on the role and modus operandi of the working group, Mr. Jeremy Bird, ADB consultant</p> <p>Overview of the Glaciers to Farms (G2F) regional proposal in Central and West Asia, Summary of discussions with GCF’s NDAs and Next steps for concept note development and stakeholder engagement for the G2F initiative (Ms. Xiaohong Yang, ADB Deputy Director General for Central and West Asia Department, with insights from GCF representative)</p> <p>Closing by Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p>	
3 – 3.30 pm: Coffee break			

Attachment 2. List of Participants



**CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM
FIRST MEETING OF WATER PILLAR WORKING GROUP
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CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel
Istanbul, Türkiye**

No.		First Name	Last Name	Designation/Title	Country	Organization
Country Representatives						
1	Mr.	Saparmyrat	Charyyev	Senior Specialist	Turkmenistan	Digital Technology and Information Security Department, State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan
2	Mr.	Daler	Abdurazoqzoda	Head	Tajikistan	Main Department for Energy and Water Resources Policy
3	Mr.	Olimdzhon	Azimov	Chief Specialist	Tajikistan	Foreign Affairs Department

4	Mr.	Daniyar	Sharip	Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department	Kazakhstan	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
5	Mr.	Yerbolat	Pernekhan	Acting Head of the Water Cooperation in Central Asia	Kazakhstan	Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
6	Mr.	Dastan	Usmanov	Head of the sector for preparing decisions on water and land resources issues	Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry
7	Ms.	Zhyldyzkan	Ashymbaeva	Head of the Technical Policy and Investment Division	Kyrgyz Republic	Technical Policy and Investment Division
8	Mr.	Shavkat	Batirov	Deputy Director of the Center for Implementation of Foreign Investment Projects	Uzbekistan	Ministry of Water Resources
9	Mr.	Khayrullo	Kabilov	Head of the Operation Department of Irrigation Systems and Major Hydraulic Works	Uzbekistan	Department of Irrigation Systems and Major Hydraulic Works
10	Mr.	Aliagha	Azizov	Head of the Science and Innovation Sector	Azerbaijan	Department of Strategy, International Cooperation, and Science
11	Mr.	Gizo	Chelidze	Head	Georgia	Hydro-Amelioration and Land Management Department
ADB						
12	Mr.	Warren	Evans	Special Senior Advisor for Climate Change		Office of the President, ADB

13	Ms.	Xiaohong	Yang	Deputy Director General		Central and West Asia Regional Department, ADB
14	Ms.	Yasmin	Siddiqi	Director		Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Group, Region 1, ADB
15	Ms.	Lyaziza	Sabyrova	Regional Head		Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
16	Ms.	Niloofer	Sadeghi	Water Resources Specialist		Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Group, ADB
17	Mr.	Md. Abul	Basher	Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist		Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Group, ADB
18	Mr.	Christian	Ellerman	Senior Climate Change Specialist		CCSD-CCRE
19	Mr.	Chris	Dickinson	Senior Climate Change Specialist		CCSD-CCRE
20	Ms.	Altynay	Arapova	Economist		Central and West Asia Department, ADB
21	Ms.	Kathleen Ann	Coballes	Climate Change Specialist		Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
22	Mr.	Nathan	Rive	Senior Climate Change Specialist		Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
23	Mr.	Leo Kris	Palao	Associate Climate Change Officer		Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
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45	Mr.	Wim	Bastiaanssen	CEO & Founder		IrriWatch
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50	Mr.	Turakul	Murodov	Deputy Director, Center for implementation of Investment Projects	Tajikistan	Committee of Environmental Protection
51	Mr.	Timur	Sabitov	Head, Project Management Unit, National Climate Center	Uzbekistan	Ministry of Ecology, Environment Protection and Climate Change
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6	Mr.	Khalida	Bashir	Joint Secretary (Climate Finance)	Pakistan	
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