ACTIVITY BRIEF

Training Workshop
Removing barriers towards climate change adaptation in Central Asia

25–26 September 2014 | Almaty, Kazakhstan

BACKGROUND

All five countries in Central Asia are vulnerable to climate change and face common climate challenges that impact social, economic and environmental development. The emerging climate change impacts in Central Asia are becoming well-recognised and the countries are focusing on reducing vulnerability and moving towards climate-resilient development. Acknowledging that climate risks cut across borders of Central Asian countries, a number of studies and assessments have been performed over the past few years. These include regular publications of National Communications on climate change under the UNFCCC and the recent overview assessment conducted by the World Bank on Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Central Asia (CAMP4CA).

The different countries are facing similar sectoral challenges as they attempt to strengthen resilience and adaptation measures. In light of this, and the increasing recognition of climate impacts, effort should be undertaken to raise awareness among young professionals of the current and expected trends of climate change and its impacts on development sectors.

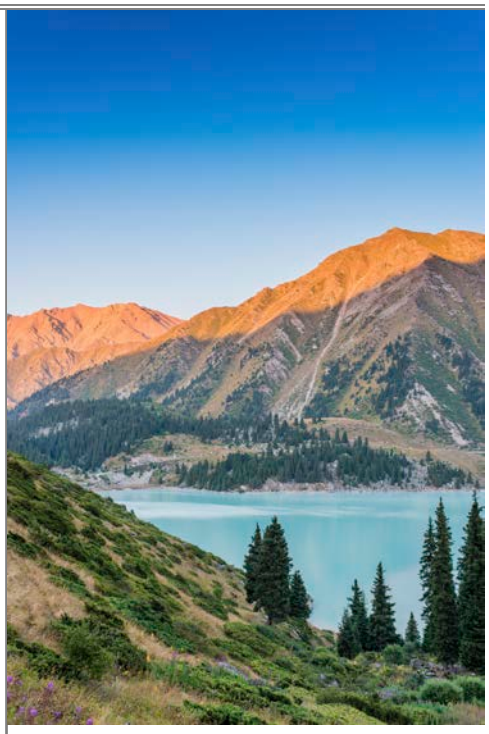
OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the training was to tackle climate change challenges emerging in socio-economic and environment sectors in each country of Central Asia (vulnerability mapping) by providing not only a set of adaptation measures, but also by identifying and prioritising barriers facing the development sectors in making progress towards resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.

The two-day practical training made use of the Participatory Scenario Development (PSD) approach. PSD is an approach applied in a multi-stakeholder context to help anticipate and understand the consequences of climate change in the context of plausible socio-economic scenarios. It identifies well-suited adaptations encompassing hard and soft measures to reduce risks, to remove barriers, and to increase resilience and adaptation in accordance with goals set over different time horizons. It is a process involving the participation of stakeholders to explore the future in a creative and policy-relevant way.

OUTCOMES

Participants prioritised (i) Water Resources and Management; (ii) Agriculture; (iii) Energy (including Hydro); and (iv) Forestry as the main economic sectors most vulnerable to climate risks, while (v) Health; and



Big Almaty Lake, Tien Shan Mountains in Almaty, Kazakhstan

WORKSHOP PARTNERS

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ABOUT APAN

APAN is a leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

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(vi) Biodiversity have been identified as the key socio and environmental segments most susceptible to climate change impacts. The key barriers that hamper the progress in integrating adaptation measures in all sectors of socio-economic development and natural ecosystems were identified as the following:

- Policies and regulations: Lack of appropriate legal basis and program and development plans envisaging climate change and adaptation; bureaucracy obstacles.
- Institutional capacity: Absence of inter-departmental body, office, and staff dealing with climate change and overseeing integration of climate change adaptation into sector-based interventions and activities.
- Information exchange and access to data
- Communication and coordination: Activities and initiatives on climate change among different players (ministries, departments, academia and civil society institutions) need to be strengthened.
- Technical capacity: Lack of capacity among different target groups, including policy-makers, specialists and local communities about best practices and policies on climate change.
- Finance: Lack of state budgets and high degree of dependence on external resources to cover measures and interventions on climate change.
- Awareness and education: Low awareness and education about climate change at different levels: schools, universities, work places, etc.
- Crosscutting barriers: Migration and gender inequality intensify vulnerability risks across the sectors.

CONCLUSION

The training reaffirmed that the most vulnerable sectors of economic development for the Central Asia region are water resources, agriculture, energy, forestry, health, and biodiversity. Despite different adaptation efforts made by Central Asian countries, barriers to mainstream adaptation measures in these important sectors are essentially the same across all countries. For example, smart and lean policies on climate change and its mainstreaming into key sector-based programs and plans, as well as the lack of institutional and technical capacity, have been highlighted across all countries of the region. Other issues such as migration and gender equality have been prioritised for Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

The training results indicated that the target group consisting of mid-level specialist and young leaders should be targeted when delivering practical trainings on climate change and related topics. This may help strengthen the inter-institutional capacity and improve the coordination process among the key institutions.

For more information, visit:
http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/removing-barriers-towards-climate-change-adaptation-central-asia