



Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan



ICAT

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency



ReCATH
Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia



SFO°C



Global Methane Hub

Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia (ReCATH)

Strengthening Climate Action Transparency in Central Asia: Lessons, Needs, and Future Directions

20 November 2024, | 11:30 - 13:00 Kazakhstan Pavilion, COP 29, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Concept Note

Background

The ReCATH project is an implementation of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), which supports countries in developing their capacity to establish and manage a robust, transparent system that effectively implements the Paris Agreement and facilitates countries' transition to new reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). To this end, ICAT has developed transparency modeling methodologies and tools that can be adapted to the needs of countries.

Tackling climate change involves implementing mitigation and adaptation measures. Thus, countries need to integrate climate change into all national planning instruments; strengthen institutional and technical capacity; implement activities in relevant sectors, address data gaps and improve assessment methodologies; and collect accurate and up-to-date information for the creation and regular updating of databases.

ReCATH implements a collaborative approach that brings together the five Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and supports technical experts and expert institutions in the region to establish sustainable and integrated measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV)/transparency systems.

In the first year of the project, an international team of experts from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) analyzed the components of climate reporting and climate action and identified key gaps and ways to improve. This analysis was presented at an Introductory Workshop held from 19 to 21 September 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Also at this event, a work plan for the ReCATH project until 2024 was developed and adopted. The plan provided several training seminars and workshops, and technical support to experts from Central Asian (CA) countries in greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, adaptation, climate finance and forecasting.

The second and third years of the project were dedicated to intensive training and relevant technical support for the Central Asian experts in different aspects of climate MRV by the GHGMI project team focusing on the topics that were identified through the gap analysis in year 1. These included:

- GHG inventory workshops on the 2006 IPCC methodology, data organization, and management for the two prioritized categories – solid waste disposal on land and emissions of fluorinated gases (March 2023, Tashkent).

- The webinars and thematic workshop on the national climate MRV systems for the inventory and data flow mapping, including the QA/QC and uncertainty aspects. These were based on the example from the energy sector with the real scenarios for each of the Central Asian countries (September 2023, Istanbul).
- Developing a good understanding of data acquisition for preparing national GHG projections based on gaps and needs analysis for Central Asia including a peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and lessons learned from previously developed GHG projections and scenarios; and developing step-by-step instructions and checklists for national GHG projection activities (May 2023, Dushanbe).
- A dedicated workshop on climate MRV policies and measures and adaptation to strengthen the technical capacity of national experts in Central Asia with a focus on data collection and processing for reporting elements related to climate change mitigation, tracking, adaptation and transparency under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). The training aimed at gaining experience in the field of climate change reporting requirements, data collection methods, formats, and deadlines provided for by the Paris Agreement. The workshop was further supported by the follow-up webinars (October 2023, Ashgabat).
- Climate Finance training to build on the UNFCCC's Needs-based Finance (NBS) Project, which developed a regional climate finance access and mobilization strategy for the Central Asian region. The underlying technical assessment identified the lack of a robust MRV system as one of the barriers to scaling up climate action and as an impediment to accessing support (March 2024, Tashkent).

Objective

The event will review key achievements from ReCATH's first phase, highlighting the capacity building of national and regional experts on greenhouse gas inventory management, adaptation tracking, and climate finance. It will also discuss needs in advancing climate transparency across Central Asia and outline plans for expanding the project into new areas of engagement and deeper in-country support.

Other objectives include:

- **Lessons Learned:** A reflection on the success of ReCATH's first phase, including strengthened national capacities in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan in climate transparency and reporting under the Paris Agreement. Focus on specific country case studies, such as Kazakhstan's improvements in GHG inventory systems and Tajikistan's advancements in tracking adaptation measures.
- **Existing Gaps and Regional Needs:** Despite progress, Central Asia faces ongoing challenges in data collection, institutional coordination, and financial mobilization for climate action. The session will provide an overview of these gaps, with recommendations for addressing them in the next phase of ReCATH.
- **Possible Regional Project Initiatives:**
 1. Discuss plans for expanding the project to establish working groups that provide in-country support for national reports, LLINs, inventory reviews, and the development of ambitious climate action plans. The focus will be on making these countries more transparent and effective in their climate actions on the international stage.
 2. Presenting strategies to reduce methane emissions in the region to support international climate goals and promote sustainable development in Central Asia.

Target audience and language

his session will engage regional experts, government representatives, and international stakeholders to continue enhancing transparency systems that enable Central Asia to meet its climate obligations and contribute effectively to global climate mitigation efforts.

The regional workshop will be held in **Russian** with simultaneous translation in **English/Russian**.

Format of the event

The workshop will be in a hybrid mode. Both in-person and online format of participation at the workshop is envisaged.

Venue: Kazakhstan Pavilion, Blue Zone, 29th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-29), Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Format of the event: Hybrid

Meeting time and date: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Nov. 20.

Information for online participants:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcuigqzgvHdZ5zrOgll9AmSIY61wuxjfq>

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Agenda

20 November 2024	
Moderator: Dilovarsho Dustzoda, ReCATH project manager	
11:30 - 12:00	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Mansur Oshurbaev, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i>– <i>Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director, CAREC</i>– <i>Henning Wuester, Director, ICAT</i>
Session 1: Lessons Learned from Phase One of ReCATH Implementation	
12:00 – 12:10	Oxana Kravtsova, ReCATH Project Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Capacity building in climate action transparency across Central Asia. Improvements in GHG inventory systems, climate finance access, and adaptation tracking (10 min)</i>– <i>Success stories from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. (10 min)</i>
Session 2: Existing Needs for Strengthening Climate Transparency in Central Asia	
12:10 – 12:30	Panel of National Experts from Central Asian countries (20 min) <p>Country representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Zufar Tokpayev, Lead Manager of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Department, JSC Zhasyl Damu, Kazakhstan</i>– <i>On behalf of Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyz Republic (TBC)</i>– <i>Sattor Saidov, Head of the Center for Climate Change and the Ozone Layer, Hydromet, Republic of Tajikistan</i>– <i>On behalf of Turkmenistan, Turkmenistan (TBC)</i>– <i>On behalf of Uzbekistan, Republic of Uzbekistan (TBC)</i>

	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Persistent gaps in MRV systems, institutional coordination, and financial mobilization.</i> ● <i>Key challenges Central Asian countries face in fulfilling their Paris Agreement obligations and NDC improvement</i> ● <i>Regional needs for enhanced technical and financial support to meet climate goals.</i>
<p><i>Session 3: Future Directions: Expanding the Scope of ReCATH</i></p>	
<p>12:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Nailia Timerkhanova, ReCATH Regional Project Expert</p> <p>Discussion on upcoming activities and expansion plans for the next phase of the ReCATH project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Establishment of working groups to support national climate reporting and transparency. (QA/QC, peer-review WGs)</i> ● <i>Development of more ambitious climate action plans and climate finance strategies.</i> ● <i>Strengthening methane emission reduction efforts, including methane capture and utilization initiatives.</i>