

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

EXPERTISE FOR BETTER ENVIRONMENT



Regional Environmental Cooperation: opportunities, lessons and future

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Central Asia (1)

Fastest **growing region**, with positive demography and economy

Long-term cooperation with international partners exist and positive



Regional cooperation is improved, **political support** for the regional cooperation is high

Regional cooperation: institutes and programmatic, long-term vision is shaped by both **global processes and national interests**

Central Asia (2)

Environment and Water Cooperation
key elements of sustainable development of Central Asia


Environment and Water became
issue of cooperation - not competition



Political environment tremendously improved in Central Asia last two years: 3 high level meetings and 4 international conferences with focus on regional cooperation, including environment and water

Pragmatic & concrete measures are required for building up durable and sustainable environment and water cooperation

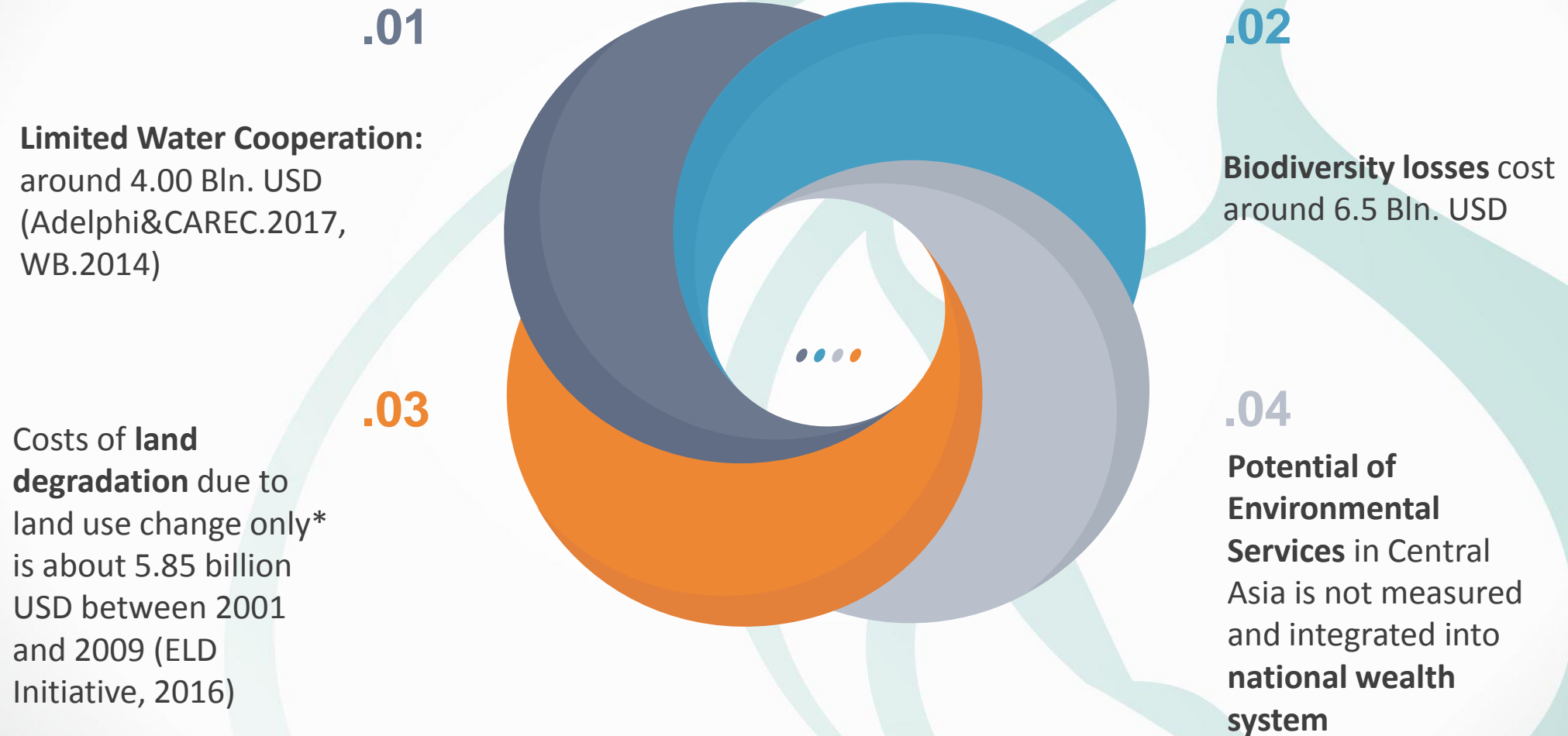
Central Asia's Environmental Challenges

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- **Water challenges:** reduction of quality and quantity, growing competition for water resources, degradation of water environment and increasing of frequency of natural disasters of water nature
 - **Land degradation:** Desertification, salinization and degradation of quality, soil contamination
 - **Biodiversity losses and ecosystems degradation:** reduction of numbers and species, reduced environmental services
 - **Degradation of Environment in Cities:** air pollution, waste and industrial pollution
 - **Climate change:** higher and longer heat waves, melting of glaciers and increased number of droughts, floods.

Central Asia's Environmental Challenges



Economic Costs of Environmental Degradation



EU Support: Environment

Series of **programmatic and long term** interventions (TACIS, WMBOCA, CAWECOOP, WECOOP, etc.): technical support, cooperation platforms, investments, capacity building

Central Asian countries are part of Environment for Europe(EfE) process: experience sharing and linking to the global processes

Technology Transfer, Best practices and Capacity building: legislation update, technology transfer, study-tours, MSc and PhD studies

Improved legislation on environment and support on both human and technical capacity building

Strategies of EU for CA includes/indicates Environmental issues as priority

Cooperation

Joint Work:

- EU is one of the founders of CAREC
- First resource partners for CAREC
- Financial & political support to the meeting of Parliamentarians and diplomats and CAIEF
- Reliable partners

Projects turnover (2001-2018):

- 22 projects with the budget of 13.9 M Euro
- Topics: Water, Environment, Energy, Forest and Biodiversity

Projects

- Support to **Regional Environmental Centre** – 2001-2008 (2,6 mio EUR)
- Development of Ili-Balkhash Basin Management Plan 2005-2007 (747K)
- Administration of **Small Grants Program** to support sustainable development efforts for and by Caspian coastal communities 2003-2006 (1,5 mio EUR)
- Targeted **Awareness Raising** for enhanced EU-CA partnership -2011-2014 (990K EUR)
- COMO-East Supporting Participation of Eastern Partnership and CA Cities in the **Covenant of Mayors** 2011-2013 (136K)
- Forest & Biodiversity governance & **Environmental Monitoring** in 5 CA countries (FLERMONECA) - 2013-2015 (350K EUR)
- **Sustainable Energy** Programme for Central Asia: Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency- 2013-2016 (330K EUR)
- Supporting Participation of Eastern Partnership and CA Cities in the **Covenant of Mayors 2**- 2013-2015 (200K EUR) - 01.11.2011- 25.12.2015 (413K EUR)
- Capacity building on **River Basin Planning** for water management organizations & joint river basin structures - 2012-2014 (80K EUR)
- CAWECOOP: **Promoting dialogue** for conflict prevention related to environment, water nexus issues in Central Asia: Central Asia Water-Nexus Cooperation – 2017-2017 (1,3 Mio EUR)
- UzAWARE - **Raising Awareness** and Partnership for Sustainable Water and Environment Development in Uz -2016-2019 (2,1 mio EUR)
- **Nexus dialogues** in Central Asia- 2017-2020 (1.3 mio EUR)

CAREC Today

01

Knowledge Centre

By promoting dialogue and collaboration among all environmental stakeholders, CAREC has today become a leading regional knowledge hub in the field of environment and sustainable development recognized by national, regional and international partners.

02

Platforms Cooperation

CAREC has launched several dialogue platforms with the aim to enhance collaboration on various environmental matters – they are serving for better regional cooperation.

03

New projects, new programs, new horizons

Despite existing challenges, thanks to its sustained competitive advantage, CAREC enjoys abundant opportunities for launching new projects, new thematic areas and build up new partnerships for future sustainability.

03

A
CATALYST
for NEW
Horizons

02

A PLATFORM
FOR
COOPERATION

01

KNOWLEDGE
CENTRE

Partnerships for Environment

Multi-stakeholder

A platform for state, non-state, business & academia

CAREC has become a catalyst for regional collaboration for environmental matters in Central Asia and established several dialogue platforms

Bridges for partnership

CAREC Country Offices as bridges with national partners

CAREC has well-established country offices & project offices network across Central Asia and Afghanistan and they are crucial in developing partnerships in the countries and region

Trust is crucial

Professional donor relations and resource mobilization

Professional donor relations have been established. CAREC is praised by donor community for its quality work and innovative, strategic thinking (Nexus, CAWECOOP, Blue Peace, etc.)

CAIEF I



CAIEF: GENERAL INFORMATION

GOAL

- Strengthening the regional & intersectoral dialogue
- Developing joint solutions for sustainable development of the region

PARTICIPANTS

- Parliaments, government authorities of CA countries
- UN agencies, international and regional organizations, financial institutions
- Private sector, academic institutions and NGOs
- Environmental authorities across Europe and Asia

CAIEF I - 2017

DATE & VENUE

June 5-7, 2017, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

TOPIC

“Climate change and water cooperation in the context of sustainable development in Central Asia”

200 participants, 13 countries

KEY RESULTS

The initiative to launch the process “Environment for Central Asia” was supported

CAIEF II

DATE & VENUE

June 5-8, 2018, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

TOPIC

“Strengthening cooperation on environment and sustainable development in Central Asia”

400 participants, 18 countries



KEY RESULTS

- Convergence of countries' positions toward the rational use of the region's natural resources
- Further support for “**Environment for Central Asia**” (EfCA) process expressed by countries, international and regional organizations

PLENARY SESSIONS



Renewable energy and energy efficiency



Integrated waste management



Biodiversity conservation and development of PNA



Water diplomacy

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Legal and Institutional Aspects

Research cooperation and best practices

Development of public-private partnerships



CENTRAL ASIA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

CACCC-2018

January 24-25, 2018, Almaty, Kazakhstan



KEY RESULTS

- Identification of regional priorities and needs for information services, technology transfer and finance
- Identification of barriers and needs for access to climate related knowledge, monitoring data and forecast
- Commitments for further support of regional dialogue, knowledge and information exchange and improved decision making



CAMP4ASB
Climate Adaptation & Mitigation
Program for Aral Sea Basin
CENTRAL ASIA



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



CACCC-2019

April 3-4, 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



EXPECTED RESULTS

- Extensive partnership: USAID, EC, GIZ, FAO ..., scientific and academic community, NGOs and regional platforms
- Support for science-driven policy making on national and regional levels
- Agreements on development of sectoral adaptation plans, incl. Aral sea region



CENTRAL ASIA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (CACCC-2019)

CACCC-2019, April 3-4, 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

April 2 – Pre-conference Academic event

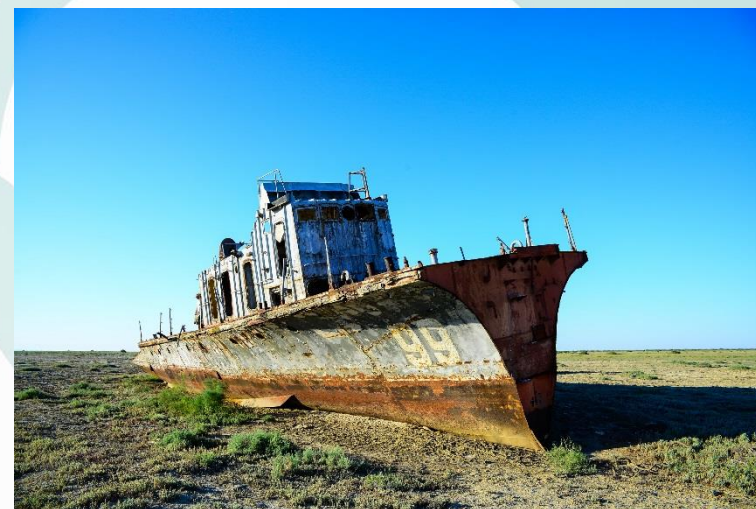
April 4 - 5 parallel sessions: knowledge platforms, new approaches, roles of scientific and civil society, REAP

OBJECTIVES

- Promoting cooperation and partnership in adaptation and mitigation to climate change in Central Asia;
- Fostering regional dialogue, knowledge and information exchange;
- Promoting decision making process on climate change issues;
- Promoting the development of a climate resilient future.

THEMES

- Climate impacts and challenges in global and regional context;
- Global climate policy and national commitments;
- Climate services;
- Climate technologies and practices;
- Climate finance.



Photos by Zhanat Aitkhozhin under the framework of CAMP4ASB's Photo Contest "50 images of the effects of climate change"

Platforms for cooperation

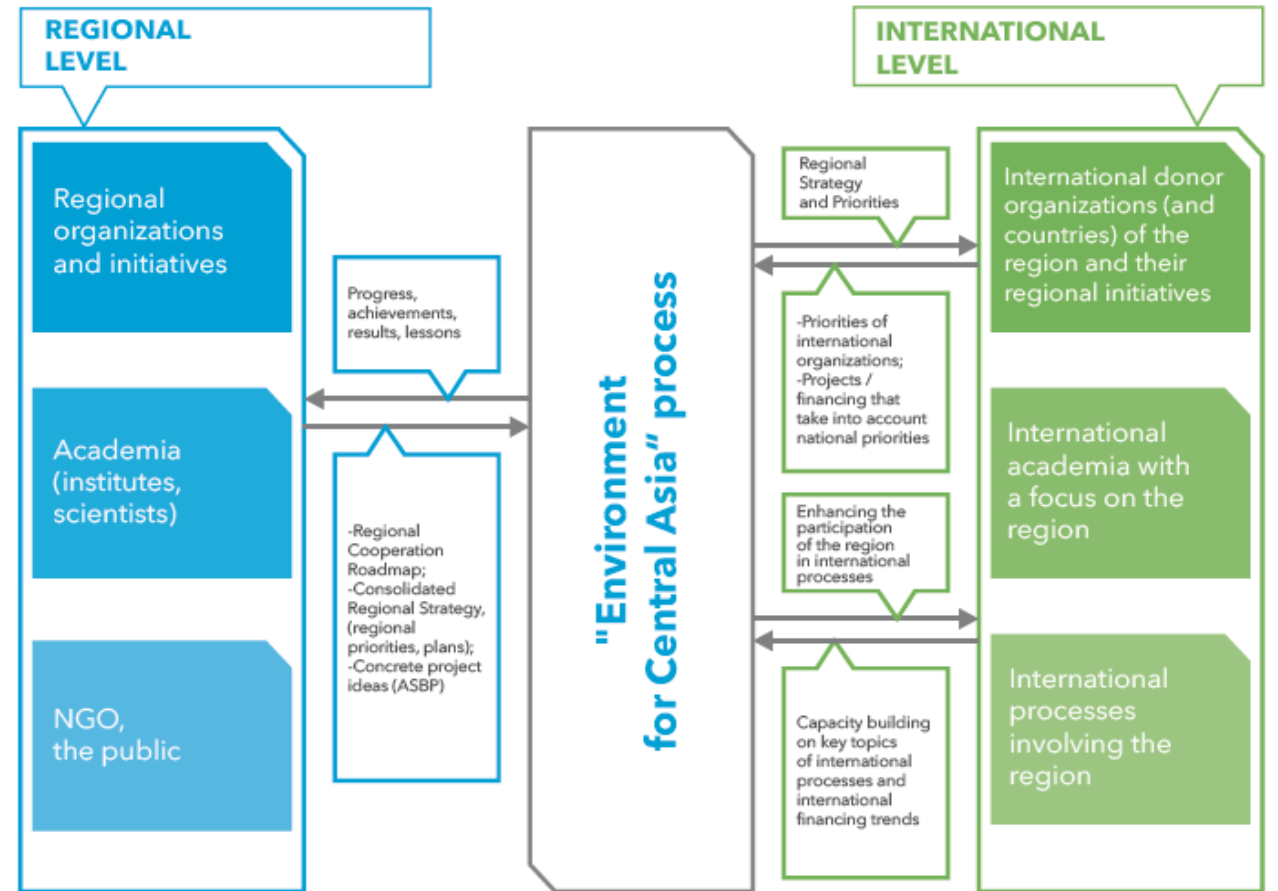
Environment for Central Asia Process – initiated by CAREC in 2017

Goal: The EfCA process aims to create conditions for complementary and interactive actions of national, regional, international and academic institutions at the regional level on environment and water management, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Benefits:

- Streamlined and coordinated mechanism of efforts done in Central Asia.
- Advanced effectiveness of international support and mobilization of financial, expert and technological resources to the Central Asian region
- Increased synergy of various regional projects and initiatives (REAP, ASBP, regional Water Strategy)
- Enhanced promotion of common regional vision of CA countries in international processes (including Environment for Europe" process)
- Integration of scientific and research results into decision-making level

HOW THE ENVIRONMENT FOR CENTRAL ASIA PROCESS WILL WORK



Platforms for cooperation

Central Asian International Environmental Forum

Platform for regular exchange of efforts and progress in CA on environment and sustainable development – cooperation of development partners

Central Asian Leadership Programme

Regional training for young leaders on sustainable development topics as an efficient tool for youth engagement, capacity building and strengthening partnership in CA

Central Asian Climate Change Conference

Promoting regional dialogue, sharing knowledge and information on adaptation to climate change, exploring opportunities for joint action between international, regional and national partners

Meeting of Parliamentarians and MFA representatives

Policy and legislation messages, cooperation through legislative and foreign policy instruments - political support

Meetings of regional organizations

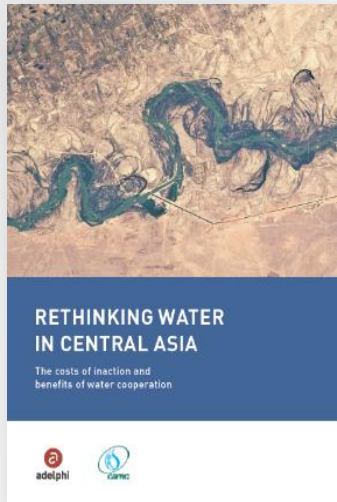
Regionally important decisions, plans, aspects and role of different regional organizations - regional coordination

Secretariat of High-Level Dialogue Platform Blue Peace Central Asia

Support the High level Dialog platform for a successful establishment and management of the political track of the BPCA initiative, with the overall objective of supporting the High-Level Dialogue Platform to strengthen the effective regional water diplomacy in Central Asia

Work of the abovementioned platforms is supported by

Information, Knowledge Management and Sharing



Knowledge Management and Sharing

CAREC has been recognized as knowledge hub gathering and disseminating environmental information and knowledge across Central Asia

Innovative Knowledge Producing

CAREC shifts towards more knowledge producer while keeping its competitive advantage in accumulating and disseminating knowledge and information

2017

2018

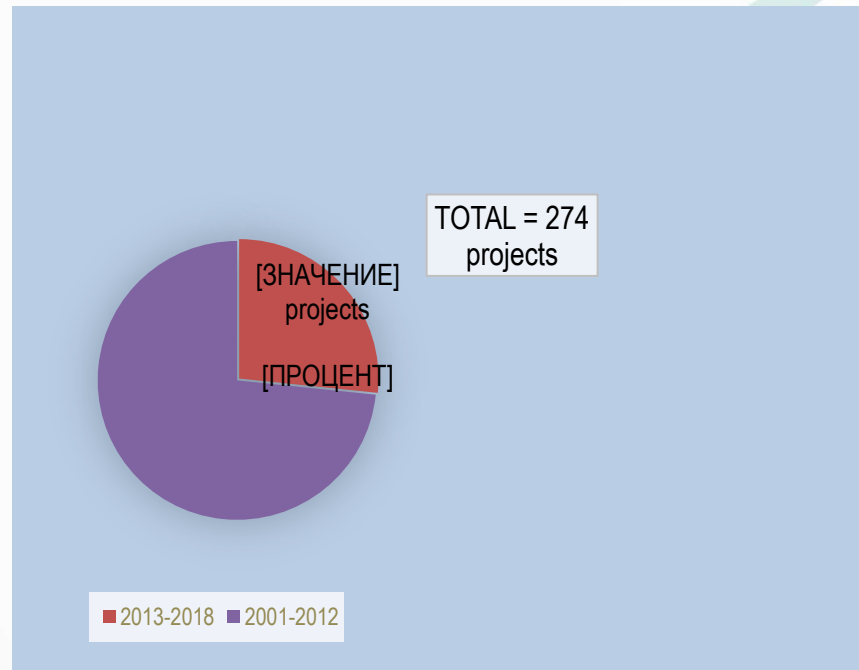
2019

2020

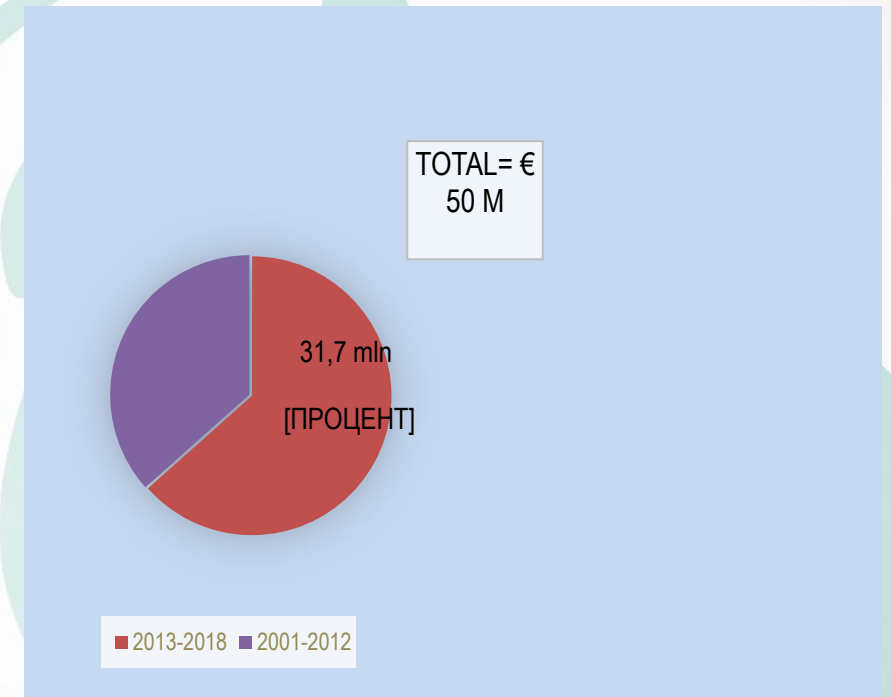
2021

CAREC Projects

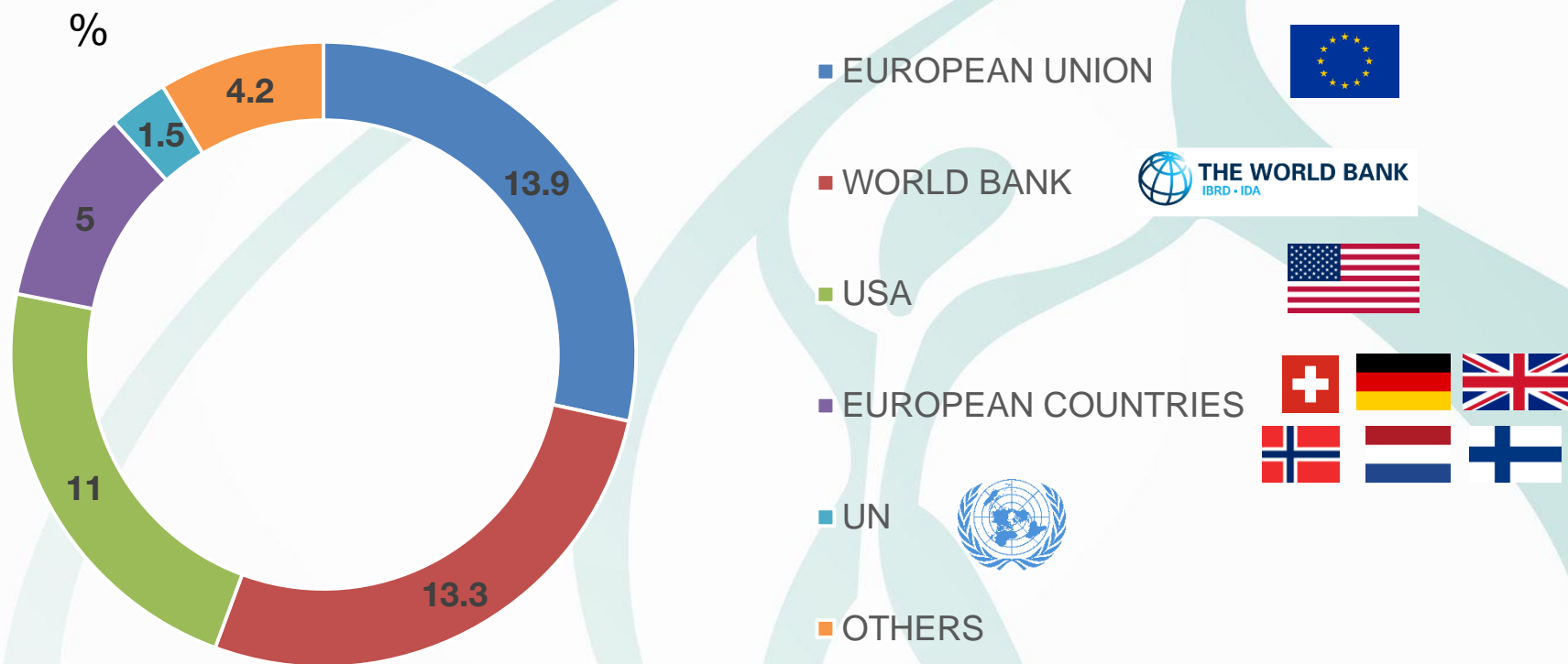
Number of projects



Budget of projects (*mln* €)



Financial Support of CAREC projects by Donors, 2001-2017



Note: the share of the World Bank is mostly made up by ongoing Camp4ASB project

CAREC: Main Principles



1 Structural Change
Each Specialist Plays a Role

2 Profile Change
A Champion Organization

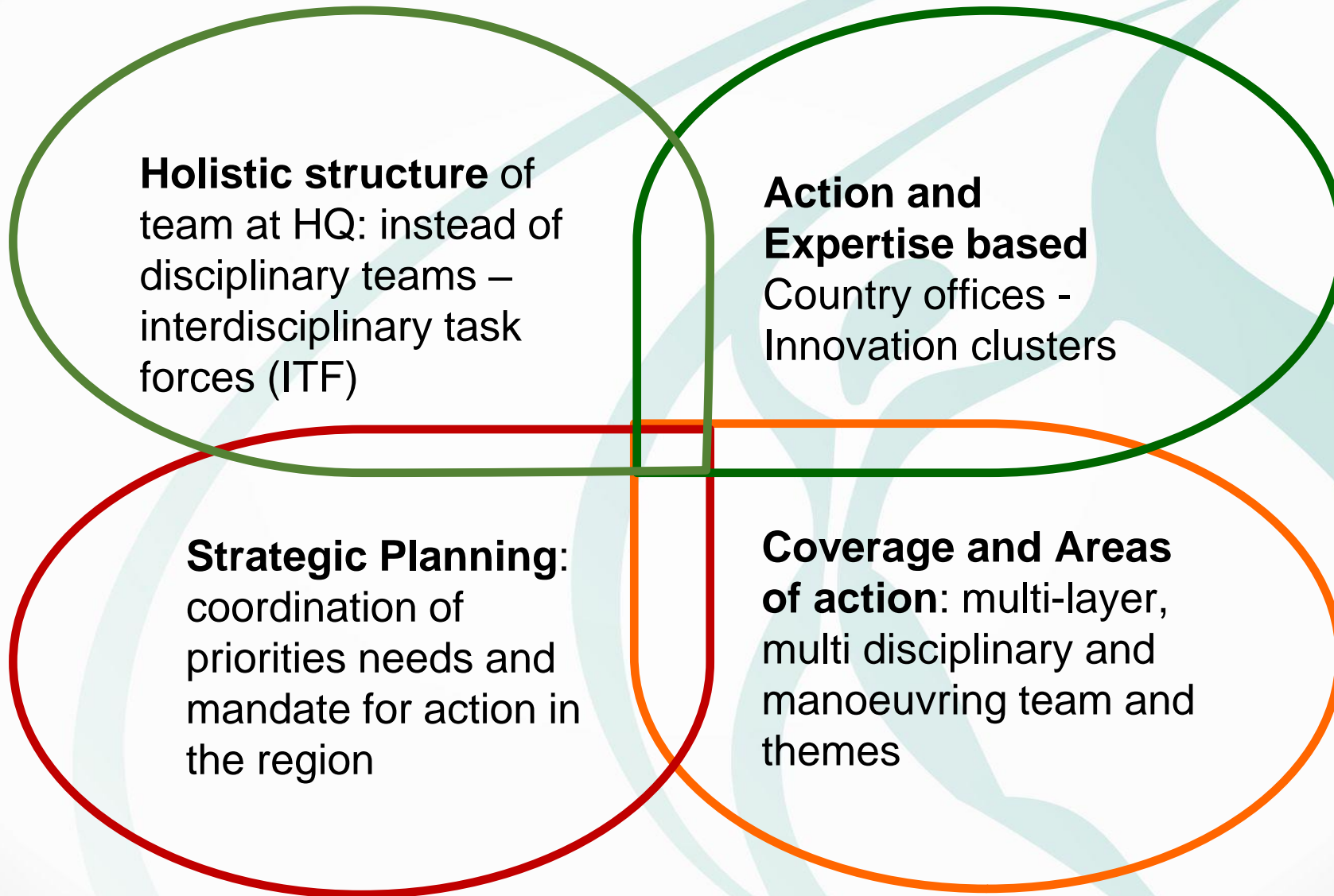
3 Business Model Change
Process Oriented Focus

4 Team Formation
Knowledge Update and
Selection of Best

5 Management Style
Distribution of responsibilities
and conceptual guidance

6 Organizational /Social Aspect
Best work place and
colleagueship

CAREC-2025



CAREC 2020-2025 Strategic Planning

- **Focus** on country **needs and plans** through details and systematic expert work
- Launch a systematic national **dialogues** and regional round table to formulate major **strategic areas** of strategic plan
- **Develop and pre-agree conceptual paper** on Strategic Plan with both
(i) national and international partners
- **Accommodate, streamline and locate major CAREC initiatives** in 2013-2017 into strategic plan: CAIEF, Leadership programme, process environment for central Asia, conventions, Nexus approach, basin work, climate partnership, etc.
- Make a breakthrough and **out of box imagination**: new roles, opportunities, institutional set up, geographical extension
- Make **a change in governance and management**: (i) divide daily management (support) from programmatic guidance, (ii) representativeness and supportive governance structure and (iii) loyalty and support from partners, experts and staff



EU-Central Asia Environmental Partnership

- Experiences and lessons from past: more of **long-term and programmatic support**
- Processes rather than projects: focus on result, supporting **institutions and instruments**
- Linkages** between on-going processes **in the region and priorities** of EU
- Coordination and synergies** between international partners (EU, USA, WB, etc)



**Thank you
for attention!**

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