

ENVIRONMENT



UNECE Environment activities in Central Asia

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UNECE Conventions

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UNECE has negotiated five environmental conventions, also known as multilateral environmental agreements or MEAs:

- Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, 1983
- Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1996
- Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, 2000
- *Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, 1997
- *Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters*, 2001

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UNECE conventions:	KG	KZ	TJ	TM	UZ
Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	+	+			
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)	+	+			
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)		+		+	+
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents		+			
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	+	+	+	+	

Air Convention: Capacity building programme

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- Analyses of national air quality assessment and management policies and legislation in Uzbekistan (2015), Kazakhstan (2016), Kyrgyzstan (2016) and Tajikistan (2017)
- Outcomes: respective changes in the draft law on air protection of Uzbekistan, drafting of national action plan for ratification of protocol by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Feasibility of accession to the Convention by Tajikistan.
- Reporting on emission data: support to the development of national emission inventory
- Outcomes: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan annually submit their national emission inventory reports

Water Convention

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Capacity building and awareness raising activities

- Support to water cooperation on transboundary basins:
 - Chu-Talas, incl. climate change adaptation (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan)
 - Pyanj, on hydrology and environment (Afghanistan-Tajikistan)
 - Ural, Kigac and Uzen (Kazakhstan-Russia)
- Regional water cooperation: dam safety, water quality
- Support to EC-IFAS, ICSD
- Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus work for Syr Darya
- Legislative work and regular national stakeholder dialogues under EU Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in 4 countries, jointly with OECD

Industrial Accidents Convention: CB Projects



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Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia (2016-2019)

- Support to advance in the implementation of, and possible accession to the Convention
- Enhancing coordination and policy-making at the national level, through national meetings and the development of self-assessments and action plans

Pilot Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular TMFs, in Kazakhstan, and beyond in Central Asia

- Establishment of an inter-ministerial working group on water management and TMF safety (envisaged for fall 2018)
- Preparation of a hazard rating list and map (2019)

Cooperation with the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety
UNECE is an observer organization

Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA

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Update of the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries

Further steps (2018-2019)

- Sharing the draft with CA countries for comments (Feb 2018)
- Submitting for the consideration of Working Group on EIA and SEA at its seventh meeting (Geneva, 28-30 May 2018) and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties (end 2018/beginning 2019)
- Promotion of the Guidelines at the Central Asian International Environmental Forum (tbc) in collaboration with CAREC

Kazakhstan: drafting of EIA, SEA legislation

Subprogrammes

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- Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) as comprehensive policy analysis:
 - 2017 completed for Tajikistan, 2018 starting for Kazakhstan, possibly in Uzbekistan 2019/20
- Transport, Health Environment Pan-European Programme Subregional Workshop in Almaty on sustainable mobility
- Batumi initiatives on Green Economy (BIG-E): KZ-2; KG-1; UZ-5
- Batumi Action for a Clean Air (BACA) – Uzbekistan 4 commitments:
 - to revise its national air quality legislation to reflect modern approaches of MEAs, including those related to emission inventories.



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Environmental Performance Reviews

Conventions and Protocols

Education for Sustainable Development

Transport, Health and Environment

Environment and Health

Greening the economy in the pan-European region

Environment & SDGs

Environmental Policy

Safeguarding our natural resources and promoting sustainable development for ourselves, our children and future generations

About Environmental Policy

The environmental challenges in our region are many and interlinked. Air pollution caused some 600,000 deaths in 2012, and more than 100 million people still do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Added to these, releases of hazardous chemicals, climate change, effective engagement of the public in decision-making and access to environmental information and justice are among major concerns we need to address urgently.

To meet these challenges we work to improve environmental governance across the region and to reduce pollution and the damage it causes.

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[23rd Session of CEP](#)

