



# Section 1

2020 Calendar of Events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all events were organized in the online format since March

## January

- **13-16 January** – International Water Summit 2020/World Future Energy Summit 2020/EcoWASTE 2020, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **28 January** – ADBI-ICHARM Policy Dialogue on Water-Related Disaster Resilience under Climate Change, ADB Institute, Tokyo, Japan
- **27-28 January** – High-Level Conference “Green Central Asia” as part of the implementation of the EU New Strategy for Central Asia and Afghanistan, Berlin, Germany

## February

- **2 February** – World Wetlands Day
- **19-20 February** – 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, Brussels, Belgium
- **12-13 February** – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Congress and Exhibition “Hydropower Central Asia and Caspian 2020”, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

## March

- **10-11 March** – Workshop on Achievement of Environmental Goals through Energy Reform in the Asia-Pacific Region, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- **14 March** – International Day of Action for Rivers
- **22 March** – World Water Day
- **26 March** – Aral Sea Day
- **30-31 March** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on the Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook under the UNECE Water Convention

## April

- **10 April** – 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICWC (chaired by Kazakhstan)
- **22-23 April** – Workshop on Integration of Renewable Energy in Energy Systems: Perspectives on Investment, Technology, and Policy (ADB Institute), Tokyo, Japan

## May

- **15 May** – 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health
- **18 May** – Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland

- **20 May** – 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand
- **22 May** – International Day for Biological Diversity

## June

- **1-10 June** – June Momentum for Climate Change
- **5 June** – World Environment Day: “Time for Nature”
- **12 June** – Conference “Women and Water Governance at Local, National and Transboundary Level”, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **15 June** – 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of EU-CA WGECC Coordination Committee
- **15-19 June** – 2020 Asian Clean Energy Forum, ADB
- **17 June** – Desertification and Drought Day
- **18-19 June** – ADBI-Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Climate Change Regional Policy Dialogue: Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **22-24 June** – Virtual Workshop on Meeting Environmental Objectives through Energy Sector Reforms in Asia and the Pacific: Energy Pricing Reforms and Emissions Reduction, ADB Institute
- **23-24 June** – 2020 Berlin Climate and Security Conferences by the German Federal Foreign Office
- **25 June** – Virtual Conference “Ecosystems”, San-Francisco, California, USA

## July

- **27 July** – Virtual Meeting on Water Security for Peace and Development in the Islamic World: Preparing the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Dakar 2021”
- **28-29 July** – Workshop on Legal Frameworks for Transboundary Water Cooperation within the UNECE Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland

## August

- **12 August** – Day of the Caspian Sea
- **12-14 August** – Virtual Conference on Low-Carbon Finance and the Sustainable Development Goals, ADB Institute
- **22 August** – Earth Overshoot Day
- **24-28 August** – Online World Water Week
- **31 August-2 September** – 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland

## September

- **14-20 September** – 11<sup>th</sup> Central Asian Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **17 September** – Asia Region Online Workshop “Supporting the Monitoring and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Water Cooperation”, UNESCO, UNECE, ESCAP, GWP
- **19 September** – World Cleanup Day
- **22-23 September** – Regional Meeting on Water Resource Allocation and Environmental Flow Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- **23 September-1 October** – Virtual Workshop on Mobilizing Private Investment in Sustainable Infrastructure in Asia: Central Asian Experience, ADB Institute
- **30 September-1 October** – 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, Geneva, Switzerland

## October

- **2 October** – 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate under the UNECE Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland
- **5-6 October** – Virtual Regional Workshop on Equitable and Sustainable Water Allocation
- **15 October** – International Day of Rural Women
- **19-23 October** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Central Asian Conference on Climate Change, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **20-21 October** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on the Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook, Geneva, Switzerland
- **22-23 October** – 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus, Geneva, Switzerland
- **29-30 October** – IWRA Conference “Addressing Groundwater Resilience under Climate Change”

## November

- **3 November** – Webinar “Earth Observation and Geographic Information System: Applications for Agriculture Development”, ADB
- **4 November** – International Online Conference “Give Life to Aral”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **10 November** – INBO International Liaison Bureau Meeting at the 18<sup>th</sup> “Europe-INBO 2020” International Conference
- **16-18 November** – 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification, Israel
- **17-20 November** – meeting of the Technology Executive Committee to UNFCCC, Bonn, Germany
- **19 November** – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Asian Trade Forum “Central Asia: Development and Prosperity”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- **24 November** – 79<sup>th</sup> ICWC Meeting (chaired by Turkmenistan)
- **24 November** – Preparatory meeting for the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Water Convention
- **24-25 November** – International Symposium “Ecological Restoration and Management of the Aral Sea”, Urumqi, China
- **24-27 November** – Regional Scientific and Practical Online Conference “Silk Road of Knowledge”, Almaty, Kazakhstan

## December

- **7-8 December** – 71<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the International Executive Council of ICID
- **7-8 December** – 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Roundtable on Financing Water
- **10 December** – Korea International Water Week 2020, Daegu, Republic of Korea
- **16-17 December** – UNECE Global Workshop on Financing Transboundary Basin Development

## Major Events in Central Asia

### High-level Conference “Green Central Asia” within the framework of the new EU Strategy for Central Asia and Afghanistan, 28 January, Berlin, Germany

To launch the Green Central Asia initiative, the German Federal Foreign Office hosted a Conference on 28 January in Berlin. It brought together the foreign ministers of the Central Asian states and Afghanistan, as well as more than 250 participants to discuss the climate and security challenges facing Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, and how the “Green Central Asia” initiative could contribute to addressing them.

While the discussions touched on a wide range of issues, some key messages were highlighted. Particularly, Central Asia and Afghanistan are “hot spots” where the impacts of climate change will result in economic and environmental losses. A common regional strategy, with the support of international actors, could help make successes more systematic. Mutual trust is essential for this.

The meeting resulted in the signing of a [Joint Declaration of Intent](#) on cooperation in the field of climate and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan within the framework of Green Central Asia.

The Conference Summary is available on:  
<https://www.adelphi.de/de/system/files/mediathek/bilder/Green%20Central%20Asia%20Conference%20Report.pdf>



Best of Green Central Asia Conference 2020 on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlrZk3Xf6s>



## Central Asia Climate Change Conference, 19-23 October, Dushanbe, Tajikistan



The Third Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2020) was organized within the framework of the “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB) and was a continuation of the World Bank’s initiative on climate change knowledge and regional information exchange in Central Asia launched in 2013.

The main objective of the Conference was to strengthen a regional dialogue on climate change and sustainable development by promoting information and knowledge exchange in Central Asia. Other task of the Conference was to raise awareness of the countries in the region on lessons have been learned in times of the pandemic. The event brought together 232 people from 13 states.



There were four thematic sessions on: (1) Climate change impacts and policy making process in times of COVID-19; (2) Science and research perspectives on climate change in times of COVID-19; (3) Climate-related information and knowledge: challenges and perspectives; (4) Financing climate change actions: international funds and other resources.

The Outcome Document calls for countries in the region to actively participate in the development of IPCC<sup>1</sup> assessment reports and regional climate chan-

ge research, develop and present a regional position on climate change at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, mobilize private investors for climate financing, and appeal to the Green Climate Fund to pay more attention to applications for national and regional projects.

The full report on CACCC-2020 in Russian is available on <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DxSDwftqxpWyVy-MMRaMwr2suGbsn59L/view>.

<sup>1</sup> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. IPCC was established in 1988 by WMO and UNEP to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options

## International Online Conference “Give Life to Aral”, 4 November, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in cooperation with UN offices in Uzbekistan held the International Online Conference “Give life to the Aral Sea” as part of the framework of the “The Aral Sea Region – a zone of ecological innovations and technologies” President’s Initiative. The Conference brought together at about 100 people. They discussed innovative tools and mechanisms in the field of environmental restoration; priority measures to address health problems in the Aral region, as well as prospects of implementing international experience in the development of social entrepreneurship in the region as an additional measure to mitigate the consequences of the environmental disaster. At the same time, the hashtag #GiveLifetoAral has been launched in social networks to disseminate current information about the situation around the Aral Sea (#GiveLifetoAral).



UN Uzbekistan

4 ноября в 21:39 · 🌐

Statement by Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan on the International Online Conference: “Give Life to Aral”:

“Excellent ideas were voiced at the [#GiveLifeToAral](#) Conference to increase the global awareness about the Aral Sea tragedy.

The UN family in Uzbekistan is deeply committed to support the Government's efforts to Give (new) life to the Aral Sea.

The sea is gone, but the people are not”

<https://www.facebook.com/UN.Uzbekistan/posts/3527918273958045/>



## International Symposium “Ecological Restoration and Management of the Aral Sea”, 24-25 November, Urumqi, China

The International Symposium was organized by CAREC Institute in partnership with UNEP, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology & Geography, CAS and in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Alliance of International Scientific Organizations (ANSO), CAS, UN Office in China, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in China, Institute of Botany of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, National University of Uzbekistan and a number of other international and national research centers, organizations, and HEIs.

More than 200 participants from more than 30 countries and regions attended the symposium. The

main aim of this symposium was to establish an international platform for scientific research promotion and knowledge sharing on ecological safeguarding and restoration of the Aral Sea. Participants discussed the most pressing issues related to restoration of the natural environment in the Aral Sea region affected by the desiccation of the Aral Sea.

On the second day, a bilateral webinar was held on the “Joint Uzbek-Chinese Key Laboratory of Eco-Biomes in Arid Land”. The CAREC Institute proposed the creation of an Aral Sea Observatory as the next step in laying the groundwork for a practical platform for multi-stakeholder cooperation.





## Regional Scientific and Practical Online Conference “Silk Road of Knowledge”, 24-27 November, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The Regional Scientific and Practical Online Conference “Silk Road of Knowledge” was organized by GKU with the financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. It gathered 300 people.

The Program of the Conference included 7 thematic sessions: (1) Climate Impact Assessment; (2) Water under Climate Change; (3) Land Management and Food Security under Climate Change; (4) Potentials of Digitalization for Increasing Sustainability in Agriculture; (5) Water and Climate Security in Central Asia; (6) Regional Infrastructure and Logistics under Climate Change; (7) Decarbonization of Energy Systems and Climate Neutrality, as well as Youth Session: Rational Water Use.

An abstracts volume has been launched on the Conference as well.



Prior to the Conference, an online event “UNESCO Water Family: Cooperation in Education and Science in Central Asia” was organized by GKU in partnership with UNESCO Office in Almaty (24 November, videos: <https://www.facebook.com/NRIKGU/videos/403056580834205>).



