



CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Abstract

The article highlights the fact that climate change in a number of regions of the world and Central Asia creates socio-economic problems of various levels and their harmful consequences.

Keywords: Central Asia, climate, environmental problem, threats, natural resources, "green economy", the problem of the Aral Sea

Today, not only the countries of Central Asia, but the entire world community are striving to find answers to the problems and threats posed by climate change. These problems can include an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, an increase in the temperature of the upper crust of the Earth, a shortage of Water Resources, frequent recurrences of natural disasters, an increase in the desertification process, etc.

Experts say that while climate change creates conditions for the emergence of new types of natural disasters, it can increase the damage force of existing natural disasters several times, even reaching an uncontrollable level.

International organizations and scientific circles predict that climate change will pose various levels of socio-economic problems in a number of regions of the world. In particular, according to the World Bank, climate change causes a strong internal migration, forcing 216 million people living in six regions of the world to leave the space in which they live and move to other regions until 2050.

The presence of Central Asia among these regions as well as more than 5 million residents living in it proves that this problem is very relevant for the countries of the region. The 5th International Conference on climate change issues in Central Asia, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, showed that issues related to the Environment, Water, Land Resources and other ecology have already become pressing problems that are difficult to manage.

Currently, Central Asia is one of the regions that is developing economically in fast pictures. At the same time, the region is geographically such that the productive use of water and land resources here, a reasonable course in their management, will serve for further sustainable development, stability and the well-being of citizens.





All countries in the region, in particular Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, have ratified the Paris Agreement in order to combat climate change threats and adopt appropriate measures.

This agreement was developed in 2015 and signed by 196 countries in the same year. One of the key aspects of the Paris Agreement is that, along with developed countries, developing countries are also committed to reducing the amount of emissions into the atmosphere.

At the same time, the following three important goals were set before the states in this international document:

The first is to mitigate the effects of climate change, a goal set before the states. This involves keeping the global average temperature on Earth at 1.5°C, as far as possible, below 2°C compared to the pre-industrialization period (mid-18th century). To date, there has been a huge gap between the policies pursued by the countries of the world and the policies required to keep the global warming of the planet at 1.5°C. According to the forecast of experts, if the current reality does not change and the relevant measures are not adopted by the members of the Paris agreement on time, then by 2100 global warming on Earth will average 3.2 °C. In a large part of this globe, the ecosystem is out of the way. Holding global warming on Earth at 1.5°C provides for a reduction in atmospheric emissions by 43 percent by 2030 and 84 percent by 2050. Only achieving this goal makes it possible to keep our planet "healthy".

The second goal is to increase the capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and promote low-carbon development. On the way to achieving this goal, state programs were adopted by all states in the region with appropriate amendments to national legislation. In particular, a strategy to achieve carbon neutrality was approved in Kazakhstan by 2060. In accordance with it, it is established to reduce the amount of discharges into the atmosphere by 0% by transferring all sectors of the economy to renewable energy sources, developing bioenergetics.

Tajikistan, on the other hand, adopted a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy until 2030.

Also, in 2019-2030, the strategy for the transition of Uzbekistan to the green economy was adopted. This document defines the activities to be carried out in the water and agricultural sectors to adapt to climate change.

We witness that efforts by individual countries in the region to adapt to climate change represent a much smaller percentage than they do on a regional scale.

The third objective is to call on states to fund development-focused projects while maintaining climate stability. In particular, the World Bank Group stated that in





2021, 35% of the funds allocated for the next five years will focus precisely on projects adapted to climate change. In the period 2016-2020, this figure was 26%.

This criterion is important for all developing Central Asian countries. When large projects in regional countries do not reflect the requirements for adaptation to climate change, their financing by foreign investors becomes more difficult. This in turn causes a slowdown in the growth of the economy.

It is necessary that all countries that seek to increase their attractiveness for investment in the future take into account the requirements that arise with climate change.

It is worth noting that today the environmental problems that arise as a result of climate change have already become a transnational threat from the national level.

Therefore, it is clear that the actions taken by a separate single state to solve these problems do not pay off. The only solution to this problem is to expand cooperation between neighboring countries at all levels, to attract the public and make joint decisions on issues related to climate change.

At the same time, there is a need to make the most of the media in order to bring the environmental situation in the region to the general public and to form an ecological culture in Citizens. Especially with the island problem and the scarcity of Water Resources, "living" Central Asia is considered much weaker than other regions of the world in terms of its ability to withstand the consequences of climate change

Experts believe that 50% of the water used for irrigation is being lost due to the inefficiency of irrigation technologies in Central Asian countries. As a result of changing climatic conditions, the region's glacial area has shrunk by 30% in the last 50-60 years, with annual costs associated with land degradation accounting for 4% of GDP. These figures indicate that climate change is intensively entering the Central Asian region.

Today, the Central Asian region has a number of international structures to adapt to climate change and combat its negative consequences, in particular, the Central Asian Regional Environmental Center, the International Fund for island rescue, as well as non-governmental organizations, environmental activists, journalists and research institutes operating on the basis of programs funded by international financial institutions and donor countries.

In addition, in recent years, initiatives promoted by the heads of states of Central Asia in international and regional organizations on climate change issues have become important.





In particular, the president of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to establish a council on climate issues within the organization at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Samarkand on September 16, 2022.

Also, the president of Kazakhstan Kasim-Jomart Toqaev promoted the initiative to establish the "Green Finance Council of Turkic states" at the Samarkand summit of the organization of Turkic states (TDT) on November 11, 2022. The promotion of such initiatives by heads of state will make it possible to further expand cooperation in adapting to climate change in the region and combating its consequences, to consolidate existing forces and Means.

From the above, it is necessary to regularly introduce climate change issues into the agenda of higher and higher level international events, meetings on climate change in the Central Asian region.

It is also necessary to form a register of industrial enterprises and entrepreneurs operating on the basis of "green technologies" by the relevant ministries and departments, as well as to stimulate an increase in their number.

In this process, it will be useful to develop eco-journalism, in particular, to expand the activities of national and international publications, television, to include eco-journalism as a separate direction in prestigious competitions.

In all schools and higher education institutions, it will be advisable to form a group of volunteers under the names "young naturalists", "young environmentalists" and conduct training in cooperation with eco-activists.

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