

**United States Department of State and USAID Programs Discussed at the
5th Meeting of the EU-Central Asia
Working Group on Environment and Climate Change**

**Brussels, Belgium
December 15 & 16, 2016**

Ellen Connorton, Senior Science Advisor

Through environmental diplomacy, the U.S. Department of State and USAID work with other federal agencies to forge cooperation and commitments through a variety of diplomatic approaches globally, regionally and bilaterally.

These approaches include:

- Negotiating effective science-based global treaties and promoting their enforcement;
- Developing international initiatives with key countries to harness market forces to the cause of sustainable development;
- And creating a foreign policy framework in which innovative public-private partnerships can flourish in developed and developing countries worldwide.

The State Department and USAID work closely together on climate change, environment and water programs. We collaborate with outside partners including multilateral development banks, the United Nations, and other donors. Other U.S. Government agencies with programs in the region include the Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Environment Protection Agency, the U.S. Forest Service.

Our efforts on water security in South and Central Asia seek to: 1) advance regional cooperation on shared water resources; 2) promote water management solutions that address the nexus of water, energy and food within the context of climate change; and 3) expand economic opportunity. Our projects focus on facilitating dialogue, promoting data and information sharing.

Climate Change:

- Through the C5+1 diplomatic platform, we are launching two new projects under the Environment and Climate Change Working Group. **Power the Future** will help energy sector policymakers and mid-level staff in their efforts to scale up renewable energy throughout Central Asia.
- Another C5+1 project, **Supporting National and Regional Adaptation Planning**, will seek to increase the capacity of Central Asian states to plan for adaptation against the impacts of climate change and incorporate shared cross-border adaptation strategies into the countries' national adaptation plans.
- In Kazakhstan, the USAID **Climate Resilient Wheat** project has helped KazHydromet to analyze weather trends and create a Geoportal where weather information can be used to create climate forecasting models.

- USAID’s project “Contribution to High Asia Runoff from Ice and Snow” – or CHARIS – is assessing the role of glaciers and seasonal snow in high Asia.
- USAID supports snow leopard conservation through its **Conservation and Adaptation in Asia’s High Mountain Landscapes and Communities (AHM)** project.
- USAID also facilitates information sharing and lessons on climate-related sectoral issues and solutions. **Energy Links** helps Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to increase energy efficiency and reduce demand side management in order to build a more climate-resilient energy sector.
- Through the **Kazakhstan Climate Change Mitigation Program (KCCMP)**, USAID is helping Kazakhstan to achieve long-term reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity.
- In Tajikistan, **Feed the Future** is working with small scale, female farmers to diversify crop production, use climate resilient varieties and promote practices and technologies that improve water management and efficiency.
- In Uzbekistan, the **Agriculture Value Chains** project helps farmers diversify production away from thirsty cotton to less water-intensive horticulture crops.
- In Kazakhstan, the **Climate Resilient Wheat** project works with the national extension service to promote climate resilient wheat varieties as well as agronomic practices to conserve soil moisture and increase yields.

Water:

- Our Regional Environment Office in Astana collaborated with the U.S. Geological Survey to sponsor a workshop on "**Empowerment of Women in Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Central Asia and Afghanistan**" last June.
- My office directly supports the **United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)** to facilitate regional dialogue on trans-boundary water issues, build capacity of Central Asian countries in water diplomacy, support implementation and coordination of international donor initiatives, and support the development of positive transboundary water relations between Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- We have also worked with **the World Bank Central Asia Energy and Water Development Program (CAEWDP)** through a grant administered by USAID.
- USAID’s **Smart Waters** program is building the capacity of the region’s water managers, and facilitating cooperation on small river basins.
- Our National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and USAID are matching researchers in Central Asia with counterparts in the U.S. through **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research**, or PEER.