



## Regional Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change Central Asia Water & Energy Programme



*Toktogul reservoir, picture by the World Bank*

CAWEP4 is a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank which works to improve the enabling environment for regional cooperation on water and energy security in Central Asia.

### Rationale

Managing water and energy in an integrated manner is crucial for sustainable prosperity across Central Asia. Most of the water resources in the Aral Sea basin are used for agriculture, whilst countries like Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan rely on it for hydropower generation. The region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which is threatening water, food and energy security. Regional, coordinated and multisectoral approaches are necessary to tackle growing climate-related challenges.

### Overall Goal

The CAWEP4 goal is to promote regional cooperation for more resilient and better integrated water and energy management in the context of a changing climate. This involves concentrating on three primary objectives: (i) address regional goals through policy dialogue and the development of regional institutions, (ii) coordinate efforts to manage water and energy jointly, and (iii) integrate climate change as an overarching theme, including both adaptation and mitigation responses in water-energy management.



### Country:

Central Asia (Kazakhstan,  
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,  
Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

### Duration:

2023-2028

### Total Budget:

CHF 5'750'000 SECO  
contribution to CHF 24'750'000  
project

### Partners:

National Water and Energy  
Ministries; Regional  
Organizations; Youth; National  
and Regional Educational  
Institutes

### Implementing Agency:

World Bank

## Outcomes and envisaged results

- Key stakeholders understand the benefits of reforms in water and energy
- Trust across governments on regional water-energy cooperation increases and regional institutions support efficient water and energy management
- New climate-smart water & energy investments are facilitated
- Projects are designed to support climate resilience and critical emerging needs

## Key outputs

- Building the evidence base: producing a comprehensive report on integrated water and energy management under climate change along with a model demonstrating how different approaches affect the economy
- Strengthening regional institutions: making institutions more efficient and effective
- Convening regional policy dialogue: organizing evidence-informed dialogue and draft regional water and/or energy governance frameworks and agreements
- Facilitating investments: preparatory and feasibility studies for new climate smart water and energy sector investments
- Just-in-time support: giving technical assistance on climate change, resilience, and priority needs.

## Target groups

CAWEP works with and supports governments, national and regional organizations, civil society organizations, and development partners, including other international financial institutions. The Program is anchored in partnerships with governments to ensure that program activities address national priorities. CAWEP cooperates with other development and financing partners to enhance the impact in meeting its objectives and to leverage investments by others.

## Previous phase results

Since 2009, CAWEP has facilitated 18 water, energy, and environmental investments worth US\$2.6B. The project delivered solid analytics on water and energy security, and assisted sector reforms, regional dialogue, and institutional strengthening for key regional organizations like the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) and Coordinating Dispatch Center (CDC) Energia. They also contributed to developing the Central Asia Flood and Early Warning System (CAFEWS), which will improve regional monitoring and forecasting of extreme weather events, enhance disaster preparedness, and allow to optimize the management of water resources.

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