

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA:

Adapting to a changing climate
for resilient development



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Total current funding:

US\$ 40 mln

Countries supported:

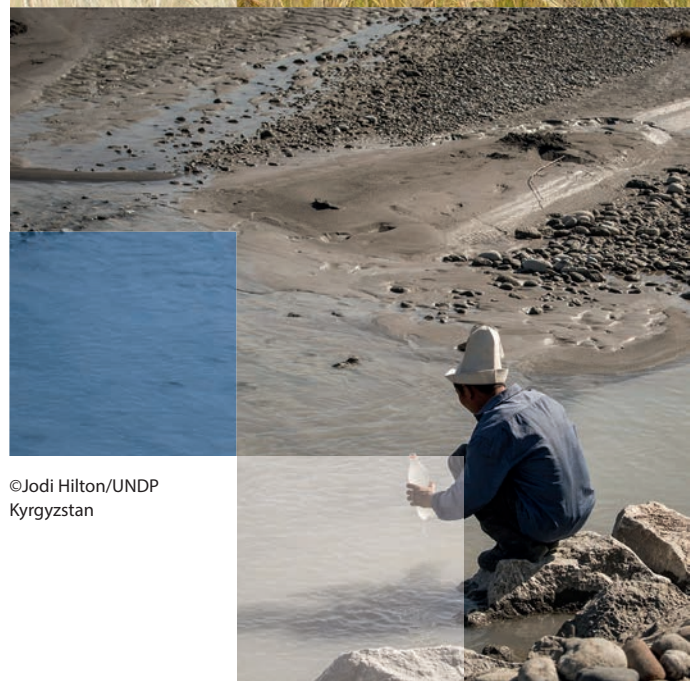
US\$ 85 mln

With impressive development progress over the past two decades, the countries of the Europe and Central Asia region (ECA) are primed for significant environmental, economic, and social growth. Climate change, however, amounts to a significant hurdle that will require the adoption of new policies, concerted efforts involving numerous stakeholders, and substantial financial backing from the international community to create the enabling environments and transformative change necessary to reach targets for low-carbon climate-resilient development.

OVERVIEW

This publication explores the lessons learned from UNDP-supported climate change adaptation efforts over the last decade, examining closely the connections with local and national governments, vertical and bilateral funds, and other thought leaders to build and implement climate change adaptation projects in ECA.

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As countries in the region look to mainstream and accelerate these approaches, UNDP will continue its efforts to serve as a broker to connect nations and vulnerable communities with UN resources, vertical and bilateral funds, and private and blended finance mechanisms to provide the policy support, innovative ideas, financial backing, and technical know-how needed to build true resilience.

THE CHALLENGE

While extreme poverty has largely been eradicated in the region, countries in the region face mounting losses from a range of natural hazards: severe flooding, glacial melting, wildfires, storms and drought. These climate-driven hazards threaten to reverse decades of development progress. Climate change knows no borders, and its impacts cut across countries and varying sectors, from agriculture and water resources to public health and energy.



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THE OPPORTUNITY

Investment in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction is good for national and local economies; good for the health, well-being and prosperity of the people of Europe and Central Asia; good for our global economy and security in the region; and good for our planet.

Given the significant advances over the past decade, the next step for the region is to mainstream and accelerate these climate actions.

Working with national governments, local stakeholders, donors, the private sector and more, UNDP is working to scale-up the effectiveness of these projects, and build out a substantial pipeline of climate actions for the region that will support nations in reaching goals for resilient development, environmental sustainability, peace and prosperity.

CASE STUDY SAMPLES

EU-funded project to protect peatlands in **Belarus, Russia and Ukraine** that has delivered win-win ecosystem-based solutions for enhanced ecosystem resilience and for keeping over 130 million tons of CO₂ from entering our atmosphere over the next two decades.

Turkmenistan, approximately 60,000 farmers and shepherds improved their resilience to climate-induced water scarcity by adopting efficient on-farm water and land-use technologies, while at the national level the project accelerated policy reform in the water and agriculture sectors.



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BY THE NUMBERS

88%

of primary energy supply is from fossil fuels

15%

of the world's migrants from this region

1/3

portion of workforce in precarious jobs

In Tajikistan, where there are domestic food shortages of around 20 percent and roughly half the population lives below the poverty line, a UNDP-supported project worked to increase agricultural productivity by taking advantage of the country's naturally rich biodiversity, identifying native crops better adapted to climate change, and advocating for policies and practices to conserve agro-biodiversity.

In Kazakhstan, UNDP supported climate resilience of wheat farming by advancing application of water saving technologies and practices and enhancing agro-meteorological information. Wheat production in Kazakhstan - a major source of food security for the entire region of Central Asia - has been threatened due to increasingly frequent and severe droughts driven by climate change.

Climate information and early warning systems were advanced in **Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Uzbekistan**, saving lives from floods, protecting valuable productive infrastructure, providing farmers with value insights on when to plant and when to harvest, and informing improved evidence-based decision making for leaders across the region.

In Georgia alone over 200,000 people became more resilient to floods after the introduction of Rioni basin Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System.

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Since 2014, through the joint UNDP-UN Environment National Adaptation Plans Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), UNDP, together with its partners, has worked with 14 ECA countries to take stock of institutional and policy status on adaptation, identify gaps and needs, sensitize national teams and institutions on adaptation planning and budgeting through multi-stakeholder dialogues, and share experiences from other countries.

TOP LESSONS LEARNED



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- **The time for action is now.**
- Inclusive human and social development remain essential.
- Climate change is not a series of individual, linear challenges. It requires interlinked and holistic approaches to arrive at long-term solutions.
- Enhanced disaster risk reduction and evidence-based decision-making through the expansion of climate information and early warning systems will protect lives and promote improved adaptation planning.
- Clean energy solutions for a low-carbon, climate-resilient future will help nations transform their economies and keep the rise in global temperature below 2 degrees.
- Country-driven approaches are essential for the sustainability of climate actions.
- Continued engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders including women, men, national and local leaders, young people, and ethnic groups will ensure no one is left behind.
- Public finance is not enough. Engagement with the private sector and exploration of innovative finance mechanisms are essential for adaptation financing.