

Responding to Environmental Challenges in Central Asia:

Institutions and Infrastructure

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Introduction

- Water resources in Central Asia play a **crucial role** in:
 - *economic* growth,
 - *social* harmony and *peaceful* development
- Further **sustainability** depends on efficiency of:
 - *coordinating* the use of shared natural resources
 - *responding* to the natural disasters.
- Efficient and effective **institutions** are key to responding environmental challenges
- Outdated and enormous **infrastructure** is a major obstacle on addressing of environmental problems

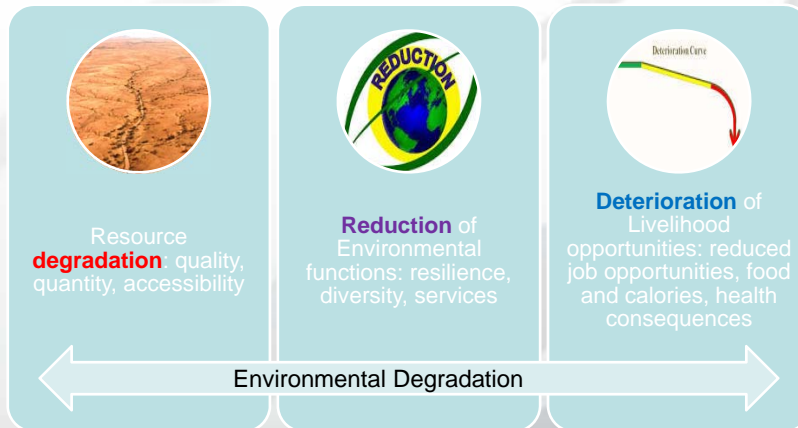
Central Asia: Focus on Securities

- **Currently** Countries of Central Asia are focused on:
 - Water Security: National priorities, climate change adaptation, demand driven, efficiency improvements, policies and institutions for IWRM
 - Energy Security: New production, alternative energy sources, policies, transmission systems, energy markets
 - Food Security: Self-sufficiency, export and markets, distribution, efficiency
 - Environment: Protection, rehabilitation, environmental services, eco-tourism, biodiversity

Central Asia: Major Environmental Challenges

- Management of **shared natural resources**- water, biodiversity and related resources
- **Recovery and rehabilitation** of disturbed ecosystems is huge challenge
- Impact of **climate change**: natural disasters will be increased both in frequency and scale
- **Resource efficiency**: productivity and efficiency of natural resources use is major problem for region
- Current **institutional setting** is not integrative and slow on responding to the changing environment

Central Asia: Environmental Challenges



Central Asia: Climate Change Challenges

Indicators	Trend
Demand for irrigation water in food production	↑
Demand on power production (energy)	↑
Damage to the hydro infrastructure	↑
Agriculture production (food)	↓
Environmental sustainability and diversity	↓

Central Asia: Role for OSCE

- Support for **regional cooperation** on Environmental Challenges
- Setting up **competence centers** on natural disaster management
- Support to developing and strengthening **National disaster risk management** policies and institutions
- **Capacity** building and **knowledge** management on environmental challenges, disaster risk management