

Side-event report:

**Regional Steering
Committee Meeting &
Official Launch of
ReCATH Phase II**



Initiative for Climate Action Transparency – ICAT

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Regional Steering Committee Meeting & Official Launch of ReCATH Phase II

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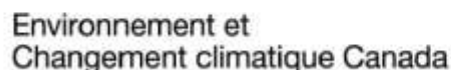
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PREPARED UNDER

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This report summarizes the event held within the framework of the Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency in Central Asia (ReCATH Phase II). The meeting took place during the Seventh Central Asian Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2025) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and was organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) with financial support from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT).

This meeting was organized to officially launch the ReCATH Phase II project in the region, draw high-level attention of key stakeholders to the project's activities, and to present and agree on the Terms of Reference for the members of the Regional Project Coordinating Committee. Thanks to the participation of high-level stakeholders from Central Asian countries at this conference, it was possible to engage them directly in the project and ensure they were familiarized with its objectives and expected outcomes.

The event underscored ReCATH's critical role in empowering Central Asian countries to meet Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) requirements under the Paris Agreement. By leveraging regional expertise and partnerships, ReCATH Phase II aims to ensure long-term sustainability and climate action accountability in Central Asia.



Background

The Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia (ReCATH) supports five Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—in building robust climate transparency systems and transitioning to reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement.

Established with a team of national and regional experts, the Hub has become a center of expertise and coordination for technical support, capacity building, and peer learning. Since 2022, ReCATH has organized over 27 capacity-building events and supported the development of national GHG inventories, adaptation reporting, NDC tracking, and climate finance.

The second phase of ReCATH, officially started in April 2025, aims to deepen the region's technical capacity in inventory, support the preparation of updated NDCs (NDC 3.0), improve climate reporting, and promote regional cooperation. Key activities include peer reviews of GHG inventories, development of regional monitoring frameworks on adaptation, support for green taxonomy and climate finance, and enhanced collaboration with other international transparency initiatives. Through its activities, ReCATH continues to strengthen institutional frameworks and long-term transparency practices in Central Asia.

Objectives

The meeting served as a platform to present the second phase of the ReCATH project, outlining its objectives, planned activities, and expected outcomes. It aimed to discuss priorities in climate transparency and strategies for strengthening Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems in Central Asia.

The main focus of the meeting was the establishment of a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) as a key coordination platform to advance climate transparency issues in the region and provide oversight and guidance on project implementation. Participants were presented with the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RSC for approval, ensuring its effective role in guiding project activities and promoting regional cooperation.

Participants

The meeting was attended by UNFCCC focal points from Turkmenistan, representatives of Ministries of Ecology, agencies responsible for reporting under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, as well as Hydrometeorological Agencies.

The full list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

Meeting minutes

The meeting commenced with an official opening by Mr. Batyr Balyyev, UNFCCC National Focal Point for Turkmenistan, who welcomed participants and reflected on the ReCATH project's earlier achievements and its positive impact on the regional expert community. He underscored that facilitating the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) remains one of the most pressing challenges for countries in Central Asia and expressed his gratitude to both ICAT and CAREC for tailoring their support to national priorities and requests. In this context, Mr Balyev presented the issues

on the agenda noting the importance of establishing a Regional Steering Committee and its role for the implementation of the project and the support provided by the representatives of the countries.

Following his remarks, Ms. Alessandra Fidanza, representing the ICAT Donor Coordination Committee at Italy's Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, delivered a warm welcome address. She congratulated each country on the progress they had made in capacity building, as reflected in the delivery of their first biennial transparency reports, and emphasised the importance of their continued commitment to enhancing transparency in climate action.

Mr. Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Program Manager at ICAT, added opening remarks that framed the objectives for the second phase of the ReCATH project. He explained why the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was established only in this second phase and outlined how the RSC's advisory role would enhance project implementation by strengthening in-country capacities.

Following the opening remarks, Mr Dilovarsho Dustzoda, ReCATH Project Manager in CAREC, took the role of moderator. He invited Ms Oksana Kravtsova, ReCATH Project specialist at CAREC to provide a brief overview of the achievements of the first phase, the work and objectives of the new phase of the project. Ms. Kravtsova highlighted the rationale behind launching the second phase, identified key priorities, and presented the draft work plan, thereby setting the stage for more detailed technical presentations.

Dr. Olga Lyandres, Program Manager at the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the technical support that GHGMI will provide under the project. Her presentation covered several key areas, including approach to capacity building and training, support for greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory development—particularly in the areas of quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)—and the integration of training outcomes into national inventory reports. She also highlighted how these efforts will contribute to the preparation of countries' NDC 3.0 submissions.



In addition, Dr. Lyandres introduced work related to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for adaptation, as well as the development of a framework for the taxonomy of green finance.

A critical component of the upcoming work, she emphasized, is the assessment of how national policies influence GHG emissions. She encouraged participants to analyze both existing and draft forestry policies to explore opportunities for incorporating carbon sequestration metrics. Dr. Lyandres underlined the importance of ensuring that LULUCF sector activities are fully reflected in national reporting processes and integrated into future NDC updates.

Ms. Nailya Temirkhanova, ReCATH Regional Specialist, introduced the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Regional Steering Committee (RSC), detailing its roles and responsibilities. She clarified that, although the RSC would not serve as a decision-making body, it would play an essential role in coordinating project activities, supporting implementation, and guiding the integration of outputs into national documents to strengthen country capacities. She also emphasized the importance of the Committee in providing strategic and technical guidance, promoting policy coherence and coordination across sectors, and enhancing effective project implementation to ensure the long-term sustainability of outcomes.

The meeting then shifted focus to finalizing the 13-month work plan. Attendees discussed the types of support they expect from the RSC and identified LULUCF sector (and Forestry in particular) as the most underrepresented sector in greenhouse gas impact assessments—particularly with respect to calculating emission absorption for national reports.

Representatives from Kyrgyzstan proposed including a provision in the Terms of Reference (ToR) stipulating that decisions within the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) be made by consensus. They also highlighted that many existing national forestry strategies lack explicit integration of carbon sequestration targets. In response, Mr. Bulanyi referred to the existing ICAT guidelines, which are grounded in IPCC methodologies. He explained that these guidelines outline data requirements for both greenhouse gas inventories and projections of future carbon sequestration, and could be effectively utilized within the project to assess the impact on GHG emissions and enhance national forestry policies.

Several suggestions were raised during this discussion. Mr. Temirbekov suggested to conduct a comprehensive training covering inventory development, policy design, and sectoral assessments for forestry.

Furthermore, Mr. Alexey Kobzev suggested engaging national forestry institutions to strengthen local expertise and institutionalise knowledge over time, and to support sustainability of the knowledge gained at the national level.

Participants also recommended that the terms of reference include provision for the submission of a replacement member of the RSC and granting them equivalent rights to ensure consistent representation.

Regional initiatives that support transparency framework development were spotlighted.

Ms. Oksana Kravtsova introduced a new project implemented by CAREC, aligned with ongoing efforts to support countries in capacity building for methane emissions inventory and reporting. The project, titled Central Asia Capacity Building for Methane Emissions

Reduction (CA CBMER), aims to strengthen institutional, technical, and expert capacities across Central Asian countries (+ Azerbaijan and Mongolia as observers). Its focus is on enhancing the effectiveness of methane accounting, monitoring, reporting, and reduction, as well as assessment of the national policies and regulations in key sectors such as oil and gas. The initiative complements existing transparency and capacity-building efforts in the region.

CAREC's Regional Climate Change Expert, Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, presented GIZ's regional adaptation work—outlining efforts to implement a regional adaptation strategy and develop monitoring and evaluation indicators that could create synergies with ReCATH's activities.

Ms. Temirkhanova then summarized the CBIT GEF work plan for 2025 and highlighted areas of alignment with ReCATH, including joint capacity-building opportunities.

Participants expressed their views on the timeline of the project, noting that the 13-month timeframe was tight given the magnitude of the challenges. They also emphasized that some countries still face significant gaps in establishing robust MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) systems.

The concluding remarks highlighted several key takeaways from the meeting. Participants agreed that the forest sector should be prioritized to ensure the full integration of carbon sequestration into national reporting systems and to improve the overall quality of reporting. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was recognized as playing a vital advisory role in supporting project implementation. It was also emphasized that capacity-building efforts must actively involve national institutions to ensure long-term sustainability. Additionally, participants stressed the importance of leveraging existing initiatives—such as GIZ's work on adaptation and CBIT's GEF-supported activities—to maximize synergies and avoid duplication.

The meeting concluded with a decision to finalize the project work plan, incorporate the agreed revisions into the RSC Terms of Reference, and initiate the formal approval process through diplomatic channels. This step will mark the official launch of the second phase of the ReCATH project, which aims to enhance transparency and accelerate climate action across Central Asia. It was also announced that the first technical peer review training will take place at the beginning of July in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Key Outcomes

- The RSC was officially established, with its Terms of Reference reviewed and adopted pending final adjustments. Key revisions included provisions for consensus-based decision-making and equal representation. Once finalized, the ToR will be submitted through diplomatic channels. The RSC, consisting of high-level representatives of the ministries of environment, will play a crucial advisory and coordination role in the implementation of the ReCATH project.
- The project's 13-month work plan was presented, validated, and endorsed by participants. It was recognized as aligned with national priorities and regional transparency goals, although concerns were raised regarding the ambitious timeline and capacity limitations in some countries.
- The forestry sector was identified as a key sector for assessing the impact of policies on GHG emissions, and as a sector relevant to all countries in the region

and requiring attention due to its underrepresentation in national GHG estimates. Participants agreed on the importance of integrating carbon sequestration metrics into national reporting and inventory systems. Emphasis was placed on the active involvement of national institutions in capacity-building activities to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of technical knowledge at the country level.

Representatives from **Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**, who were unable to attend the event in person due to delayed flights, later confirmed their agreement on the work plan and selected forestry as the priority sector for the upcoming policy assessment.

Conclusion

The meeting successfully introduced the second phase of the ReCATH project to high-level stakeholders at the Central Asian Climate Change Conference, utilising the presence of high-level participants to ensure visibility and engagement.

The formal establishment of the Regional Steering Committee and approval of the 2025-2026 work plan were key milestones providing a solid foundation for project implementation.

Forestry was confirmed as a priority sector for policy assessment, highlighting the relevance of the sector to all countries in the region. Participants also recognised the value of complementary initiatives and instruments supporting climate transparency and stressed the importance of engaging national forestry institutions to ensure sustainability. The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to coordinated and transparent climate action across Central Asia, laying the foundation for meaningful progress in the region.

Annexes

- Annex I. List of Participants
- Annex II. Concept and agenda of the event



REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION TRANSPARENCY HUB FOR CENTRAL ASIA (RECATH)

Regional Steering Committee Meeting & Official Launch of ReCATH Phase II

**16:30 - 18:00 | 12th of May 2025 | M floor, Hotel Yyldyz, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2025)**

Background

The Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub (ReCATH) is an initiative under the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), supporting Central Asian countries in their transparency efforts by strengthening national Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks and transitioning to reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. By providing technical assistance, capacity-building activities, and methodological tools, ReCATH helps countries improve the accuracy, consistency, and transparency of their climate data and policies.

The Hub was established with a regional expert and a pool of five national experts from all participating countries. One of its primary goals was to increase human and institutional capacity in Central Asia for enhanced transparency, empowering Central Asian countries to participate effectively in the Paris Agreement and empowering the Hub's experts to serve as resource people and trainers through the established Technical Working Groups (TWGs).

Based on an extensive needs and gap analysis conducted by technical partner GHGMI and CAREC in 2021-2022, the ReCATH team developed a detailed work plan for 2023-2024 to align capacity needs with project activities implemented during this period. Since 2022, the hub has organized and delivered 27 capacity-building sessions to address the countries' needs for input on the main elements of the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), including The national inventory report; Information necessary for tracking progress on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); Mitigation policies and measures; Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals; Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes; Information on financial support needed and received.

In this new phase, ReCATH will expand its efforts to further integrate transparency practices into national policies and sectoral strategies, ensuring that countries are better prepared for NDC updates, implementation, tracking and reporting the progress, including BTRs. The ReCATH will implement its work plan with the objectives to:

- Reinforce the role of the ReCATH as a centre of expertise on climate action transparency in the region and maintain a network of experts and officials of the participating Central Asian States by providing technical support to countries through TWGs;
- Increase human and institutional capacity in Central Asia for enhanced transparency to empower Central Asian countries to participate effectively in the Paris Agreement by providing capacity-building activities to experts and practitioners;
- Ensure the needs of the countries are addressed efficiently by coordinating and delivering training activities jointly with other support providers;
- Secure the long-term sustainability of ReCATH

Objectives of the Regional Steering Committee Meeting & Kick-off of ReCATH Phase II

This meeting will serve as a platform to present the second phase of the ReCATH project, outlining its objectives, planned activities, and expected outcomes. The event will bring together national representatives, technical experts, and international partners to discuss priorities in climate transparency and strategies for strengthening Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems in Central Asia.

The **main focus** of the meeting is the establishment of a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) as a key coordination platform to advance climate transparency issues in Central Asia. The participants will be presented with the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RSC for approval, which will ensure its effective role in guiding project activities and promoting regional cooperation.

Expected Outcomes:

- Establishment of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and adoption of the RSC Terms of reference
- Presentation and validation of the project work plan for 2025-2026, ensuring alignment with national priorities and regional transparency needs
- Strengthened regional cooperation and knowledge exchange

Format of the event

This event is designed for national representatives from Central Asian countries, including government officials, technical experts, and stakeholders involved in climate transparency, MRV systems, and NDC formulation.

The Regional Steering Committee Meeting & Kick-off of ReCATH Phase II will be conducted in a face-to-face format, fostering interactive discussions and knowledge exchange. The event will include presentations, panel discussions, and working sessions to facilitate dialogue on project priorities, regional cooperation, and transparency challenges.

The meeting will be held in Russian.

AGENDA

REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION TRANSPARENCY HUB FOR CENTRAL ASIA (RECATH)

Regional Steering Committee Meeting & Official Launch of ReCATH Phase II

16:30 - 18:00 | 12th of May 2025 | M floor, Hotel Yyldyz, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2025)

12 May	
Opening session	
<i>Moderator: Dilovarsho Dustzoda, ReCATH Project Manager, CAREC</i>	
16:00 – 16:20	<p>Welcome remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Batyr Ballyev, UNFCCC National Focal Point – Alessandra Fidanza, ICAT donor steering committee, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy – Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Program Manager, ICAT
ReCATH Phase II : Objectives, Priorities, and Regional Steering committee meeting	
16:20 – 17:20	<p>Oxana Kravtsova, ReCATH project Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation of ReCATH Phase II: Objectives, Priorities, and Work Plan for 2025-26 <p>Olga Lyandres, Programme manager, GHGMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Technical support for activities <p>Nailia Timerkhanova, ReCATH Regional expert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation of a regional steering committee for the ReCATH project. Its ToR and objectives – Discussion <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>What kind of support countries want to see from steering committee</i> ● <i>ToR discussion and adoption</i> ● <i>Identification of sectors for assessing policy impact</i>
Strengthening Climate Transparency: Regional Synergies & Collaboration	
17:20 – 17:55	<p>Synergies of ReCATH Phase II with Other Transparency Initiatives in Central Asia</p> <p>Oxana Kravtsova, ReCATH project Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Methane Emission Reduction Initiative (10 min) <p>Vladimir Grebnev, CAREC project Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Central Asian Climate Adaptation Strategy (10 min) <p>Nailia Timerkhanova, ReCATH Regional expert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CBIT-GSP: Enhancing Capacity for Climate Reporting (10 min) – Discussion (5 min)
Conclusions & Next Steps	
17:55 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wrap-up & Summary of Key Takeaways (5 min)