

Climate change and security

in the OSCE context

4 October 2017

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Climate change and security

- Climate change is a **threat multiplier**
- Impacts on **water security**
- Increased frequency of climate-induced **extreme weather events**
- Increasing competition over access to **natural resources**
- Disruption of **food production**; increased food prices
- Impacts on **energy security**

Flagship Project “Climate Change and Security”

- Implemented through the **Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative** (OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, REC)
- Funded by **EU Instrument for Stability (IfS)** and **Austrian Development Agency (ADA)**
- **Regional Participatory Assessments** of Climate Change and Security Risks
- **Climate change and security hotspots in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Caucasus**



Climate change and security hot-spots in Central Asia

Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan

- Areas with climate change and security risks by 2030**
- High
 - Medium
 - Low
 - Regional/transboundary hotspots

- Densely populated and industrialized regions near mountains: environmental stress, water and energy insecurity
- Desertification
- High mountain areas at risk: energy insecurity, major ecosystem changes, natural disasters, infrastructure damages
- Caspian Sea: risk of flooding due to sea level fluctuation
- Fire prone area
- Severe drought impacts
- Local invasion and spread of dangerous infectious: potential risk of cross-border spread of invasive species and new diseases
- Hazardous waste sites and industries potentially affected by natural disasters and climate change
- Storage of pesticides or fertilizers: contamination by pesticides in the event of flooding
- Storage of radioactive waste
- Reduction of ice cover
- Hydropower plant

- Population density (inhabitants per km²)**
- 5
 - 50
- Projected change in annual river flow**
- Projected increase of river flow by mid-century
 - Projected increase of river flow 2030 - 2050 followed by overall decrease and seasonal change
 - Projected decrease of river flow by 2030 - 2050
 - no change/no information

- Category of security implication**
- Social insecurity
 - Human health insecurity
 - Economic and livelihood insecurity, damage to infrastructure
 - Food insecurity
 - Water insecurity, water resources scarcity
 - Energy insecurity
 - Land degradation, biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage

Map produced by GRID-Arendal and Zet Environment Network, December 2016.
 Source: Compilation of experts' opinion and analysis. The map was consulted with the participants of national consultations in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as on the regional consultation on climate change and security.

High security risk hotspots in Central Asia

■ **Densely populated areas, e.g. Ferghana Valley**

Partly affected by tensions and instability already in the past, security risks could increase if security of livelihoods, water, energy and food decreases due to climate change.

■ **Recommendations (selected)**

- Participatory approaches for natural resources management
- Mitigate impacts of climatic changes
- Improve accessibility to clean water and sanitation
- Improve the efficiency of resource use

High security risk hotspots in Central Asia

■ Remote areas on the Afghan border

Central Asia's southern remote areas, notably the Tajik-Afghan and the Turkmen-Afghan border areas have been identified as climate change and security hotspots in light of extreme weather events intensified by climate change and their exposure to spill-over of instability.

■ Recommendations

- Promote cooperation with neighbouring countries
- Exchange information/experience, implement pilot projects
- Conduct afforestation and reforestation
- Develop and implement warning and response mechanisms

More information

<http://www.osce.org/projects/climate-change-and-security>



Next steps

- **Raising awareness** on findings, e.g. among **Parliamentarians**
- Assist participating States with **developing action plans** for risk mitigation of hot spots and **pilot projects**
- Assist participating States with **implementing risk mitigation measures** ideally at a **regional level** and in a **transboundary context**
- Expand to **South Eastern Europe** and **Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation**

How can we enhance cooperation?

- **Cooperation between OCEEA and Parliamentary Assembly**
 - > OCEEA can provide **briefings, presentations, workshops** on specific topics
 - > **Attend each others meetings**

- **Your work in national parliaments**
 - > Include climate change and security in **national legislation**
 - > Support inclusion of assessment results in **national strategies**, e.g. on environment, climate change and security
 - > Include OSCE/OCEEA and climate change and security in **strategic investment proposals**

Thank you for your attention!

