



**“REGIONAL ECOLOGICAL SUMMIT 2026:
A SHARED VISION FOR RESILIENT FUTURE IN CENTRAL ASIA”
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Date and venue	22–24 April 2026, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan High-level segment with the participation of world leaders: 22–23 April 2026.
Initiative	<p>The initiative to hold the Regional Ecological Summit 2026 (RES 2026) in partnership with the United Nations was announced by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in 2023.</p> <p>During his address at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in 2025, President Tokayev confirmed that the Summit would be held in April 2026 in Astana.</p>
International Support	<p>The Summit has received broad support from international partners, including the United Nations, OECD, IRENA, IEA, and other organizations. In particular, the United Nations expressed its support in UN General Assembly Resolution 78/147 of 19 December 2023, <i>“Central Asia facing environmental challenges: strengthening regional solidarity for sustainable development and prosperity.”</i></p> <p>Support for the initiative was also reaffirmed in several key political documents at the level of heads of state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Karabakh Declaration of the Informal Summit of the Organization of Turkic States (6 July 2024, Azerbaijan); • The Joint Statement of the Sixth Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia (9 August 2024, Kazakhstan); • The Bishkek Declaration of the Eleventh Summit of the Organization of Turkic States (6 November 2024, Kyrgyz Republic). <p>In 2025, this initiative received further recognition at the Astana International Forum, during the opening ceremony of the UN Regional Centre for the Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan with the participation of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and at the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (Turkmenistan).</p>



Goals of the Summit	<p>To develop agreed and actionable solutions and mechanisms that reflect a regional approach to addressing climate and environmental challenges, including the tragedy of the Aral Sea—now a global symbol of environmental degradation—and the continued decline in the level of the Caspian Sea.</p> <p>Particular attention will be given to identifying the actual needs of Central Asia in green financing aimed at supporting adaptation measures, fostering the development of low-carbon technologies, and enhancing the region's environmental resilience.</p>
Benefits of the Summit	<p>The Summit will serve as a regional platform for dialogue and solidarity, strengthening cooperation among governments, international organizations, as well as scientific and business communities.</p> <p>It will help raise awareness of priority environmental issues, identify practical solutions, and shape joint action plans for the future aimed at promoting the sustainable development of the region.</p>
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State of Central Asia on regional cooperation in ecology and sustainable development. - Approval of the Regional Programme of Action with UN agencies (2026–2030) for a sustainable future of Central Asia, including regional initiatives under the Summit's thematic areas. - Launch of new environmental projects and initiatives across the Summit's key directions.
International Partners	<p>United Nations; the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD); UNECE; UNDP; UN-Habitat; UNEP; UNICEF; UNFPA; FAO; UNESCO; UNIDO; WMO; ILO; OECD; IEA; IRENA; ADB; World Bank; IWMI; WHO; SWITCH-Asia</p>
Expected Participating Countries and Number of Participants	<p>Around 1,500 participants are expected from the countries of Central Asia, the European Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the Middle East.</p>



KEY THEMATIC AREAS OF THE SUMMIT AGENDA

1. Supporting the Climate Transition	<p>Focus: improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and introducing low-carbon technologies.</p> <p>Practical benefits: promoting regional cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the share of renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and developing low-carbon industries in line with global climate goals and the UAE Consensus (COP28).</p>
2. Adaptation and Economic Resilience to Environmental and Natural Risks	<p>Focus: joint measures to protect against climate risks, preserve glaciers, and strengthen intergovernmental exchange of knowledge, best practices, and technologies for adapting communities and vulnerable ecosystems to climate change.</p> <p>Practical benefits: reducing economic damage from environmental disasters and climate-related hazards.</p>
3. Food Security and the Region's Ecosystem	<p>Focus: ensuring food security and developing sustainable agricultural systems through regional cooperation, considering the vulnerability of agriculture to environmental risks and the need for coordinated action in managing land, water, and energy.</p> <p>Practical benefits: fostering sustainable, environmentally and socially balanced food systems in Central Asia through enhanced regional cooperation, integrated natural resource management, and comprehensive consideration of climate and migration risks.</p>
4. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	<p>Focus: joint actions to preserve ecosystems, manage water resources, and save the Aral and Caspian Seas.</p> <p>Practical benefits: strengthening the region's environmental security and preserving resources for future generations.</p>




5. Combating Air and Waste Management	<p>Focus: implementing circular economy principles, reducing air pollution and dust storms, and developing waste recycling.</p> <p>Practical benefits: improving quality of life, reducing the burden on public health, and increasing the environmental sustainability of cities.</p>
6. Mechanisms for Achieving Environmental Ambitions	<p>Focus: development of environmental financing, technology transfer, and participation in the market mechanisms of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>Practical benefits: ensuring access to investment, technology, and transparent reporting systems.</p>
7. Just and Inclusive Transition	<p>Focus: supporting vulnerable groups, creating new jobs, ensuring gender equality, and retraining workers.</p> <p>Practical benefits: promoting social justice and reducing risks for workers during the transition to a green economy.</p>
8. Ecological and Digital Competencies	<p>Focus: environmental education, digital solutions, and the application of artificial intelligence algorithms for sustainable resource management.</p> <p>Practical benefits: raising awareness among the region's population and integrating AI into natural resource management.</p>
Regional and International Consultations	
Almaty, Kazakhstan — 13 March 2025	<p>The first regional consultation, with participation of all Central Asian countries, focused on justifying the idea of the Summit and launching preparations.</p>
Samarkand Climate Forum Samarkand, Uzbekistan — 5 April 2025	<p>The second consultation focused on strengthening regional environmental cooperation and took the form of a high-level dialogue involving the heads of environmental agencies of Central Asian countries. A proposal was made to form a pool of regional projects.</p>



Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC-2025) Ashgabat, Turkmenistan — 13–15 May 2025	<p>The third consultation enabled discussion of the most pressing climate risks in the region and approaches to mechanisms for responding to such risks.</p>
High-Level International Conference on Glacier Conservation 2025 Dushanbe, Tajikistan — 29–31 May 2025	<p>The fourth consultation focused on integrating science into the agenda of RES 2026 and the region's climate policy as a whole.</p>
62nd Session of SBSTA and SBI (SB62), UNFCCC Bonn, Germany — 16–26 June 2025	<p>The fifth consultation was dedicated to discussing the formation of a regional project pipeline, establishing a scientific cooperation network, and developing climate-finance mechanisms for the Central Asian region.</p>
Meeting of Ministers of Environmental Protection of Central Asian Countries Aktau, Kazakhstan — 1–2 August 2025	<p>The updated Concept of the Summit and the draft Joint Declaration of the Heads of State of Central Asia on regional cooperation in ecology and sustainable development were presented and approved. A list of more than 20 regional initiatives was formed.</p>



<p>Briefing for International Organizations on Preparations for RES 2026</p> <p>80th Session of the UN General Assembly New York, USA — 25 September 2025</p>	<p>A draft <i>Programme of Action for the implementation of regional environmental initiatives in partnership with the United Nations for 2026–2030: A shared vision for a sustainable future of Central Asia</i> was presented. The Programme includes key regional initiatives on developing a climate and environmental investment portfolio, nature-based solutions, launching a regional environmental performance review, circular economy approaches, and more.</p>
<p>30th Conference of the Parties (COP30), UNFCCC</p> <p>Belém, Brazil — November 2025</p>	<p>15 November 2025</p> <p>A joint event with IOM titled “<i>Climate-Induced Migration and the Development of Green Skills in Central Asia: Pathways to the Regional Ecological Summit 2026</i>” was held. The event demonstrated regional approaches to addressing climate-induced migration through the development of green competencies, job creation, and strengthening the adaptive capacity of populations.</p> <p>18 November 2025</p> <p>Together with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), and UNFPA, an event was organized titled “<i>Climate Change, Health, and Declining Productivity in Central Asia.</i>” Interim scientific findings were presented on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of climate change on labor productivity in Central Asia (PIK), • the impact of climate change on mental health (HIGH), • the impact of climate change on maternal and newborn health in Central Asia (UNFPA). <p>19 November 2025</p> <p>An event titled “<i>Forests and Land Degradation: Synergy of the Three Rio Conventions and the Contribution of Central Asia to Global Solutions</i>” was held, with participation of representatives of all three Rio Convention Secretariats (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD), FAO, and OECD.</p> <p>Discussions addressed the development of science-based solutions to protect vulnerable ecosystems and communities in Central Asia</p>

	<p>and Armenia, which will host COP17 on biodiversity in October 2026.</p>
<p>7th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)</p> <p>Nairobi, Kenya — December 2025</p>	<p>Within the framework of the seventh session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), held from 8 to 12 December at the headquarters of the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi, a side event titled “Drying of seas and lakes – a global catastrophe of the 21st century” took place. The event brought together representatives of environmental authorities from various countries, senior leadership of UNEP, UNECE, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, financial institutions, research centres, and the expert community. During the event, Kazakhstan proposed developing a resolution on addressing the water crisis for UNEA-8.</p>