

Regional Action on Climate Change: A Vision for CAREC in 2050

Integrating Gender and Climate Change Actions in ADB
Operations in Central and West Asia

9-10 October 2023

CAREC Secretariat



Introduction



- CAREC Secretariat prepared a Scoping Study on climate change in the CAREC region; it was shared during CAREC Ministerial Meeting in November 2022 and published in May 2023.
- Draft document on “Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC in 2050 ” prepared by Secretariat; it outlines approach towards strategic regional climate action for endorsement at the CAREC Ministerial Meeting in November 2023.
- The CAREC Secretariat is now consulting with the CAREC authorities, regional think tank community and Development Partners on the contents of this draft document.

Content of the CAREC Climate Change Vision document



Introduction

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Vision, Goals, and Principles

CAREC Climate Vision Statement:

***“ A Region of Sustainable Development,
Shared Prosperity and Climate-Resilience ”***

3 Goals:

- ***Mitigate*** climate change
- ***Adapt*** to climate change
- ***Cooperate*** across borders

5 Principles:

- ***Align*** with national strategies
- ***Deepen*** regional cooperation
- ***Expand*** coordination with DPs
- ***Integrate*** private sector/civ.soc.
- ***Build*** open regional platform

Implication of climate change for regional cooperation



- **Impacts of climate change are visible today and will get worse.**
 - Higher than average increases in temperature, and greater variability and extremes in temperature and precipitation.
 - Resulting in greater water scarcity, more floods, landslides, wild fires, and droughts, the melting of glaciers, expanding desertification, declines in agricultural productivity, food insecurity, migration, worse health outcomes, and possibly conflict.
- **Climate change in the CAREC region requires an urgent response.**
 - Energy transition, more efficient use of water, climate-smart agriculture and industry, climate-responsive design of transport and cities, more effective health systems, improved risk management and early warning systems to mitigate climate-linked disasters, with strengthened education, social security, and financial management.
- **Climate change has important regional impacts, and many climate issues need to be addressed on a regional basis for maximum effect.**
 - Regionally interconnected climate challenges (energy, water, transport, etc.) require regionally coordinated action.

CAREC – a regional platform for Climate Action



- **CAREC can play a leading role in supporting coordinated climate actions among member countries.**
 - Strong track record as convenor and promoter of regional action
- **CAREC will continue to serve as a platform for cooperation and coordination among DPs in support of CAREC DMCs' regional climate action.**
 - Building on its history of effective coordination of DP support for regional action and on the MDB Joint Principles on Alignment with the Paris Agreement
- **CAREC in coordination with CAREC Institute (CI) can drive a strong knowledge base and capacity building with a focus on regional climate change.**
 - CAREC's 5 operational clusters offer strong potential for regional climate actions as a cross-cutting priority sector including Gender and ICT issues to be incorporated
 - CI's research and capacity building efforts will support CAREC regional climate action
- **ADB shall strongly support the implementation of the CAREC climate vision in providing the CAREC Secretariat by drawing on a wide range of its Asia-Pacific-wide climate initiatives.**

CAREC's focus on climate change in strategies and programs



- **CAREC shall explore opportunities to support its DMCs in designing and implementing their national climate strategies**
 - CAREC will focus especially on the regional dimensions of NDCs and NAPs
- **CAREC shall revisit the sectoral and thematic strategic documents it has developed in its five operational clusters, as well as in its project classification methodology**
 - The aim will be to assure alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- **CAREC shall explore opportunities to pursue its regional climate agenda within its priority clusters by focusing on selected priority areas**
 - These are: (i) energy, (ii) water, (iii) agriculture, (iv) transport and trade, (v) climate-smart cities, (vi) climate-related disasters, and (vii) health, education and social assistance

Financing approach for climate action



- **CAREC shall explore opportunities to develop financing plans and innovative instruments for regional climate action programs in close partnership with DPs and private sector investors.**
 - Climate mitigation and adaptation will require large financial resources.
 - CAREC will assist DMCs in
 - **developing their climate finance plans and instruments**, including domestic resource mobilization as well as access to external official finance and catalyzing capital markets and private sector investors.
 - **increasing coordination and collaboration among DPs** to pool financial resources, share and transfer risks, and combine knowledge and technical expertise in planning and implementing climate-informed development programs or projects.
 - **strengthening DMCs' project preparatory capacities** and establishing a CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparation Fund.
 - **Facilitating access to global climate funds** (GCF, GEF, CIFs, etc.)
 - **Building capacity building for attracting climate financing** and developing and using innovative disaster risk financing instruments
 - **Providing access to finance for innovation, piloting and scaling up** regional projects that can help bring more sustainable prospects.

Guiding and monitoring results for implementing the climate vision



- **CAREC shall establish a high-level Climate Change Steering Committee.**
 - The Committee will
 - (i) Oversee and guiding CAREC's efforts on climate action;
 - (ii) Review the strategies, action plans and project portfolios of the five priority clusters and cross-cutting priorities to ensure alignment with and support to the implementation of the CAREC Climate Vision; and
 - (iii) Develop a three-year CAREC Climate Action Plan and monitor its implementation.
 - The Committee will report annually to the CAREC Ministerial Conference on the progress of the CAREC climate agenda
- **The CAREC Climate Change Steering Committee could be assisted by a Cross-sectoral Working Group on Climate Change and/or a Climate Expert Group.**
 - The Cross-sectoral Working Group shall focus on the Paris Climate alignment of the activities in the CAREC priority clusters and cross-cutting priorities.
 - The Expert Group brings together climate and finance experts from the CAREC region and internationally to advise the Steering Committee on the technical aspects of the CAREC climate agenda.

Recommendations for ministers



- ⇒ Ministers to endorse the CAREC Climate Change Vision document and adopt the CAREC climate vision statement: ***“A Region of Sustainable Development, Shared Prosperity and Climate-Resilience.”***
- ⇒ CAREC to include climate change as a **cross-cutting priority** in the CAREC 2030 Strategy
- ⇒ CAREC to establish the **CAREC Climate Change Steering Group**, which could be advised by a Cross-sectoral Working Group on Climate Change and/or a Climate Expert Group.
- ⇒ The CAREC Climate Change Steering Group to develop a **three-year CAREC Climate Action plan** which will prioritize and phase the actions recommended for consideration in this vision document.
- ⇒ The **CAREC Secretariat and CI to coordinate** their respective analytical and capacity building activities to better understand climate and disaster risk and support risk-informed policies and investments.
- ⇒ The CAREC to organize a **CAREC Development Partners Forum** event to further strengthen cooperation and coordination of Development Partner support for the operationalization of the Vision.
- ⇒ The CAREC to develop a **communication and outreach plan** for the CAREC Climate Change Vision document.