

# Stakeholder Mapping for Climate Change Action in Tajikistan<sup>1</sup>

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# INTRODUCTION

Central Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change threats, which have negatively impacted both humans and wildlife. Tajikistan, one of the least urbanized countries in the region, is prone to natural disasters, disruptions in rainfall, growing temperatures, reductions in glacial cover, and extreme weather events (Zoï Environment Network 2020; Green Climate Fund [GCF] 2020). The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan acknowledges the problems and risks posed by climate change and is working toward addressing them to meet the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on climate change and environmental concerns. One critical step in this direction is the submission of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2021, which states the country’s proposed efforts to support sustainable and efficient development, taking into consideration climate change, environmental, and socioeconomic challenges for the period 2020–2030 (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2021). Weak institutional capacity and lack of efficient vertical and horizontal coordination between multiple stakeholders could undermine the possibility of undertaking integrated climate change actions, however. Thus, given the interconnected and multistakeholder nature of climate change issues, the first step is to identify all relevant stakeholders. This effort must be accompanied by an understanding of how the country’s multisectoral climate change issues are being addressed through the policy system and national and regional institutions and how development partners support these efforts (Clar and Steurer 2019).

In this paper, we map institutions, stakeholders, and relevant policies that support NDC implementation in Tajikistan and understand their specific roles and responsibilities and related interlinkages. The key impact objective of this paper is to create a knowledge product that helps strengthen vertical and horizontal coordination between institutions working on climate change issues in Tajikistan.

This paper is part of a series of documents prepared by Tajikistan’s NDC Secretariat through funding from the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Tajikistan Mission and the Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative in Asia (CACCI-Asia), supported by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

## Global Climate Change Challenges

Climate change has adversely affected natural and human systems worldwide. The rise in global temperature, heat waves, and extreme events such as floods, cyclones, droughts, and climate-related food- and waterborne diseases have increased vulnerability, resulting in the loss of livelihoods. Climate change has reduced food, nutrition, and water security and contributed to the displacement of many populations as well as involuntary migration (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2022). Its impact is rapid, widespread, and intense, posing challenges that transcend geographical boundaries and requiring cooperation and coordination efforts. A key challenge in addressing climate change is the disconnect between multiple stakeholders, including the scientific community, government, large corporations, small to medium-sized enterprises, industry, social activists, consumers, and the media, among others (Sun and Yang 2016; Clar 2019; Mulema, Cramer, and Huyer 2021).

Recognizing the magnitude and cross-border nature of adverse climate change consequences, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015 reached what is known as the “Paris Agreement,” a legally binding international treaty to set long-term goals to guide all nations in addressing climate change issues (UN 2021a). The key goals are to:

- substantially reduce global emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the rise even further to 1.5 degrees;
- review countries’ commitments every five years; and
- provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience, and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts.

To accomplish these goals, every five years, countries are expected to submit an updated national climate action plan on its NDCs that provides actions they will take to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to build resilience to adapt to the impacts of rising temperatures. This updating process provides countries with significant opportunities to align their climate and development agendas to promote sustainable growth (NDC Partnership 2020). At COP26, held in 2021, countries reaffirmed the Paris Agreement goals and expressed concern that human activities have caused a rise in global temperature and that budget constraints exist in the pathway to achieving the goals. The countries emphasized the need for urgent action and more robust national action plans (UN 2021b).

According to the IPCC (2019), Central Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change, with temperatures rising faster than the global average. Tajikistan, one of the countries in Central Asia, is prone to various natural disasters — including floods, droughts, avalanches, and landslides — that recurrently destroy land, crops, and infrastructure. For a broader context, the status of climate change in Tajikistan is discussed next (USAID 2021a).

## Climate Change Status in Tajikistan

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, demand for natural resources from Tajikistan has increased, resulting in increased pressure on agricultural lands, reduced forest cover and wildlife populations, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and an overall reduction in the adaptive capacity of the country's ecosystems (Vakulchuk et al. 2022).

Aside from limited infrastructure development, low adaptive capacity, and low levels of socioeconomic progress, high dependence on climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture makes the country extremely vulnerable to climate change and climate-induced events (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, 2022). Climate change has also adversely impacted the population's health through food and nutrition insecurity as well as gastrointestinal infections from flood-related water contamination (German Agency for International Cooperation [GIZ] 2021; USAID 2021a).

Political economy challenges to addressing environmental concerns also exist in the country, as highlighted by Peyrouse (2022). While the government claims that 100 environmental civil society organizations (CSOs) operate in the country, many are government-organized nongovernmental organizations (GONGOs) that work in multiple sectors and do not necessarily have the environment as a primary focus. The low count of public requests for environmental information and the lack of coverage of key environmental topics in teaching material, including textbooks, reflect the public's lack of awareness about environmental issues. Access to high-quality, consistent, and comprehensive environmental data remains a challenge in the country, and certain risk analysis information is classified. Monitoring data have limited coverage of environmental indicators, missing out on essential details. Data challenges significantly impact the accurate forecasting of extreme weather events in the country.

In accordance with guidelines developed and adopted by COP under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Tajikistan submitted its First National Communication in 2003, its Second National Communication in 2008, and its Third National Communication in 2014. In October 2015, Tajikistan submitted its Intended NDC (INDC) to implement the relevant decisions made by UNFCCC's 19th and 20th COPs, including the "Lima Call for Climate Action" (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2018a).

Tajikistan's updated NDC, submitted in 2021, provides its proposed pathways to address climate change challenges sustainably through adaptation and mitigation efforts (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2021). To discuss the climate change challenges and the way forward for Tajikistan, a Tajikistan Pavilion was proposed as part of the upcoming COP27 to bring together national and international stakeholders.

The Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan approved an NDC implementation plan in April 2022. It provides pathways for executing mitigation and adaptation actions and building resilience over time. This document guides the timely and efficient

implementation of NDC (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022). Since NDC implementation requires coordination between various stakeholders, Section 2 identifies the roles and responsibilities of essential entities involved in coordinating climate change interventions in Tajikistan.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: KALEIDOSCOPE MODEL IN THE CONTEXT OF NDC IMPLEMENTATION

The kaleidoscope model (Figure 1) presents a formal framework for studying policy systems and for identifying key drivers of policy change; it also serves as an important reference to identify the key players in a policy system. We discuss this framework in the context of NDC implementation in Tajikistan. Resnick et al. (2018) describe the five stages in which the model operates – beginning with agenda setting and ending with evaluation and reform.

Agenda setting is pivotal in understanding how and when certain issues arrive on the policy agenda while others do not. For instance, “critical junctures” are periods when major reforms are possible — a major crisis such as a climate change-related disaster and high-level international declarations, initiatives, and meetings are a few examples. Agenda setting focused on climate change action requires powerful advocacy coalitions that push for action. Advocates can come from a range of sources, including government ministries, political parties, civil society, the private sector, the research community, foreign investors, or donors and multilateral agencies.

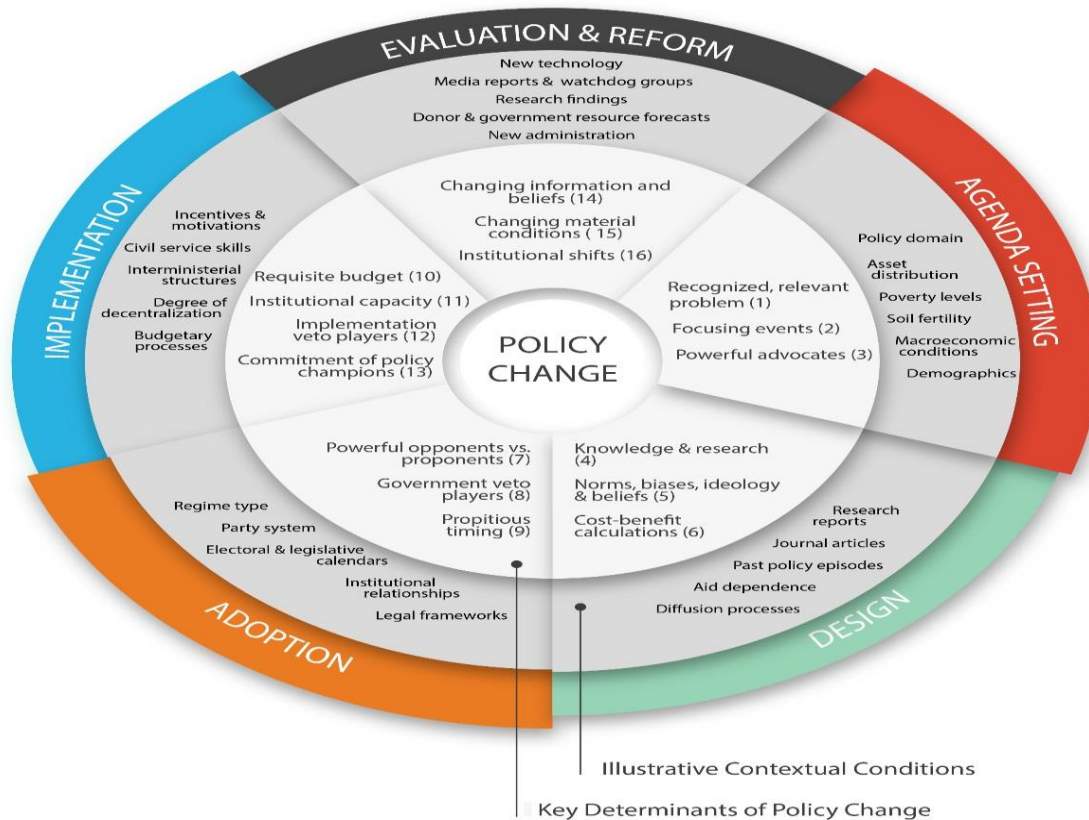
The next stage is policy design. Policy advocates who advance an agenda often do so with a specific idea of policy instruments or modalities that they believe are best suited to achieving a particular policy goal. But policy design requires unbiased and independent technocrats and researchers who have little or no link to the political arena.

Policy design is followed by policy adoption. It involves “veto players” — individuals or collective actors who have to agree for a proposed policy change to occur. In the context of NDC adoption, such players could include all relevant major ministries, research institutions, donors, development partners, NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector. The range of stakeholders will be broad due to the number of sectors that affect and are impacted by climate change.

Once a policy has been adopted, it moves toward the implementation stage. Implementation of NDCs requires technical and administrative capacity. It gives multiple actors the power of implementation and requires intergovernmental coordination between various ministries, such as health, education, agriculture, and environment, and at different levels within each ministry. Other pathways for implementation include public–private partnerships and engagement with international and local donors, NGOs, civil society, think tanks, and local universities.

Once a policy is implemented, monitoring and evaluation are necessary to track progress and impact and to identify and fill gaps in policy design and implementation. In the case of NDCs, given the number and nature of actors involved, a monitoring, reporting, and verification system (MRV) is very useful to identify gaps, improve resource mobilization, and strengthen implementation strategies to meet the desired goals.

Figure 1: Kaleidoscope model



Source: Resnick et al. (2018).

## CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATION MECHANISM IN TAJIKISTAN

Section 3 describes in turn each relevant authority or program associated with coordinating climate change actions currently operating in the country.

### UNFCCC

UNFCCC is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement and 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The UNFCCC secretariat supports the global response to the threat of climate change, and serves to advance the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. It provides technical expertise and assists in analysis and review of climate change information reported by Parties and in implementation of the Kyoto mechanisms. It maintains the registry for NDCs established under the Paris Agreement, and organizes and supports climate change negotiations, including the COP (UNFCCC 2022a).

Tajikistan ratified the UNFCCC in 1998. Following relevant decisions of the COP, the government submitted its INDC and Updated NDC to the UNFCCC secretariat (UNFCCC 2022b).

### USAID

USAID's Strategy for Climate Change 2022–2030 focuses on key high-level targets, including (USAID 2022):

- Mitigation: Reduce, avoid, or sequester 6 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

- Adaptation: Enable the improved climate resilience of 500 million people.
- Country support: Align USAID development portfolios with countries' climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments in at least 80 countries by 2024 and support USAID partners to achieve systemic changes toward meeting those commitments in at least 40 countries.
- Finance support: Mobilize US\$150 billion in public and private finance for climate.

Renewed commitments under COP26, USAID's Climate Change Strategy, and President Biden's President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) Initiative present opportunities to accelerate evidence-driven mitigation and adaptation strategies to address climate change challenges in Asia (USAID 2021b; Michigan State University 2022). In this regard, USAID is funding CACCI-Asia in many Asian countries, including Tajikistan. The initiative will support the Tajikistan government in translating its NDC commitments into specific activities. The USAID Mission in Tajikistan and IFPRI will support execution of the following activities under CACCI-Asia:

- Provide technical assistance (TA) and directly work with national institutions, including CEP and the Ministry of Finance, to establish the NDC Secretariat.
- Strengthen the evidence-generation, project development, coordination, resource mobilization, and monitoring and tracking capacity of the NDC Secretariat through already established partnerships and stakeholders.
- Facilitate a consultative process for the development of multisectoral collaboration and coordination in establishing procedures, policies, and plans required to deliver NDC goals in line with national and sectoral development objectives.
- Provide technical support for conducting in-depth analysis for generating policy options to address medium- and long-term challenges to monitor policy implementation.
- Support deployment of an in-country facilitator to support coordination and implementation of NDC-related issues.

## CEP

CEP is the authorized policymaking and coordination body for climate change-related activities. It controls the use of natural resources, and the protection of land, minerals, forests, water, and other resources. It oversees the work of the Agency for Hydrometeorology, which is responsible for leading the preparation of national communications to the UNFCCC and preparing GHG inventories. The agency also provides climate and weather information and forecasting through the Climate Change Center (CCC). CCC is responsible for managing climate-related research and adaptation and mitigation reporting. CEP is the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Global Climate Fund (GCF) (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022, 2021; GCF 2020).

## NDC Partnership and NDC Secretariat

The NDC Partnership works directly with national governments, international institutions, civil society, researchers, and the private sector to fast-track climate and development action. It supports governments in defining the processes, policies, and plans required to deliver NDC goals alongside other development objectives (NDC Partnership 2022).

In Tajikistan, the process of updating the NDC was supported by the NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) through partners including the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, GIZ, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank, which conducted sectoral assessments. The NDC Partnership has committed to working closely with CEP to mobilize the technical and financial support needed to implement Tajikistan's climate targets. In August 2022, the NDC Partnership organized a monthly review meeting

with CEP and key partners. Partners, including USAID, updated their recent activities in Tajikistan and shared information on the upcoming activities (NDC Partnership, 2020; Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022)

The NDC Secretariat, established under CEP, will support the government in implementing the NDC. It will provide administrative support through coordination, documentation preparation, monitoring, and reporting of NDC implementation status and will ensure that the information generated is transparent, accurate, consistent, comparable, and complete. It will provide a coordination link between the country's international funds for climate change and the necessary support for NDC implementation (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022).

## **Development Coordination Council**

The Development Coordination Council (DCC) was established to facilitate information exchange and collaboration within the development community and to foster dialogue on shared priorities with the Government of Tajikistan. The financial and in-kind contribution to the DCC Secretariat is provided by the World Bank in Tajikistan. The DCC functions as a development partner's coordination mechanism with the government to support Tajikistan's National Development Strategy 2016–2030 and the Mid-term Development Strategy 2021–2025 (DCC-Tajikistan 2022).

## **The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)**

CAREC is an independent, non-political and non-for-profit international organisation with regional mandate to assist the Central Asian governments, regional and international stakeholders to address environmental and sustainability challenges in the region. Established in 2001, CAREC provides a platform for interstate and multisectoral dialogue to introduce cutting edge know-how, knowledge and technologies in the region. Which, in turn, promotes the deployment and application of innovative environmental policies, approaches and techniques, involvement of the public in environmental decision-making, and improvement of information exchange on the regional level. It also aims to build capacity of accessing international expertise, knowledge, best practices and advanced technologies in the sphere of environmental management and sustainable development, and their application in Central Asian states (CAREC, 2023).

# **CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

The policies and strategies discussed in Section 4 were identified based on Tajikistan's updated NDC and NDC Implementation Plan documents.

## **2019 National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change**

The 2019 National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change is a consolidated document reflecting a more comprehensive and dynamic approach to sustainable development while addressing climate change challenges. It focuses on climate change adaptation in agriculture, land tenure, and food security. It provides adaptation options and highlights the negative direct and indirect impacts of climate change. It emphasizes the use of more renewable energy sources, and the need to minimize the adverse impact of the transport sector on the environment and to create an environment to foster "green employment." The strategy is being implemented at national, regional, and local levels (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2019, 2022).

## The 2016 National Development Strategy for the Period Up to 2030

The 2016 National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 highlights the country's plans for overall development while addressing climate change challenges. It emphasizes the need for the development and implementation of effective regional environmental policies that will focus on reducing anthropogenic impacts on the environment and improving the quality of land and drinking water. Besides, it recognizes institutional capacity strengthening at the national level for natural disaster forecasting, preparedness, mitigation, and integration actions as a pivotal step to reduce the risk of natural and environmental disasters in the management of the country's sectors (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2016).

## National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2018, Tajikistan adopted a National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction that considers the National Development Strategy up to 2030. The strategy aims to minimize existing risk and prevent emerging risks associated with natural disasters based on building up the national capacity for risk management of natural disasters. The four key objectives of the strategy are to (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2018b):

- reduce the number of deaths, persons affected, and material damage caused by natural disasters as compared to the period 2005–2015;
- ensure that all stakeholders have access to disaster risk information;
- mainstream disaster risk management into the development process; and
- improve disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

## Medium-term Development Program 2021–2025

The Medium-term Development Program provides a particular focus on development of a green and digital economy, construction of hydroelectric power plants of various capacities, and generation of electricity from other renewable energy sources. It highlights the need to reduce the negative impact of irrational use of nonrenewable natural resources on climate by: promoting resource-saving and low-waste economic development based on green investment in technology; promoting education and science to ensure high incomes, environmental protection, and improvement of the efficiency of energy and natural resources; and increasing production and processing of environmentally friendly agricultural products (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2021b).

## Updated NDC

Tajikistan's updated NDC defines long-term adaptive measures to be implemented over 10 years up to 2030 for priority sectors: Energy, Water Resources, Agriculture and Forestry, Transport and Infrastructure, Industry and Construction, and Cross-Sectoral, which includes Education, Health, Migration, Environmental Protection, and Gender. Some key features are that (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2021; Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022):

- The unconditional contribution (NDC) of reducing GHG emissions in Tajikistan is not to exceed 60–70 percent of GHG emissions as of 1990 (the reference year) by 2030. The conditional contribution (NDC), subject to significant international funding and technology transfer, is not to exceed 50–60 percent of GHG emissions as of 1990 by 2030.
- Three scenarios are formulated to project GHG emissions in Tajikistan until 2030:
  - Baseline scenario—considers any mitigation measure will be successfully implemented.

- Unconditional scenario—considers all existing mitigation measures will be implemented with country efforts up to 2030, and
- Conditional scenario—considers additional mitigation measures will be implemented, for which the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan will require support from the international community.
- It briefly discusses different strategic documents, programs, and concepts adopted by Tajikistan that directly or indirectly affect the adaptive measures aimed at reducing the impact of climate change.
- It identifies sectors, gases, categories, and pools covered by NDCs, including, where applicable, references to the IPCC Guidelines.
- It identifies sector-wise mitigation co-benefits resulting from the adaptation actions that are aligned with the national policies of the Republic of Tajikistan and economic diversification plans, including a description of specific projects, measures, and initiatives.
- It highlights that the Government of Republic of Tajikistan is keen to achieve progress toward implementing the SDGs at the national level by mainstreaming the focus of the SDG Agenda 2030 into the Updated NDC.

## NDC Implementation Plan

NDC implementation plans help countries define how NDCs are implemented over time, which will determine whether the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement is achieved. Tajikistan’s plan presents the key steps for implementation of and the envisioned implementation period for all 80 NDC actions (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022). These were developed in line with the UNDP Technical Report on GHG Forecasting in Tajikistan conducted for development of the Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Tajikistan, along with the sectoral assessments conducted for the update of the NDC in 2021<sup>2</sup> (UNDP 2020).

The NDC Implementation Roadmap 2020–2030 of the Republic of Tajikistan sets out a clear pathway for executing concrete mitigation and adaptation actions that lead to emission reductions and increased resilience against climate change over time. The Republic of Tajikistan reserves the right to periodically update the NDC Implementation Roadmap 2020–2030 to ensure validity, transparency, and accuracy over time. It is envisaged to guide key stakeholders on the activities necessary to achieve the NDC targets by the envisaged deadlines. Moreover, while the commitments stated in the NDC are valid until December 31, 2030, the Republic of Tajikistan will revise target indicators in its second NDC to be submitted in 2025, which will consequently require the update of the NDC Implementation Roadmap as necessary to reflect potential changes in the target indicators (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022).

The plan recommends that within the first two years of NDC implementation (2020–2022) the Republic of Tajikistan conduct an NDC Technology Needs Assessment and develop an NDC Technology Action Plan. These two products should identify the technology needed for each NDC mitigation and adaptation action and develop a concrete roadmap, including a specific set of measures, timing, resources, and responsible entities for fulfilling these needs (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022).

The plan recognizes that the country currently has insufficient capability to execute all mitigation and adaptation actions. To build such capacity, it recommends that the Republic of Tajikistan develop an NDC Capacity Building Action Plan to deliver the necessary knowledge, skills, communication streams, and institutional strengthening required for effective NDC implementation. It provides a roadmap for the development and implementation of the NDC MRV System (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022).

<sup>2</sup> The NDC Implementation Plan provides a list of sectoral assessments.

## The First Biennial Report of the Republic of Tajikistan

Tajikistan submitted its First Biennial Report on the inventory of GHGs as part of its UNFCCC obligation to provide information to the international community on actions to address climate change. The report included information on climate change prevention activities and its impact, including methodologies and assumptions, difficulties and gaps, as well as related financial and technical capacity needs, and a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions from sources and sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including a national inventory report (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2018a).

## National Communications on Climate Change

As part of the guidelines adopted under COP, the government has submitted three National Communications, in 2002, 2008, and 2014. The communications provide country-specific climate change information and analysis, including an inventory of GHG sources and vulnerability analyses of ecosystems and the economy, adaptation recommendations, mitigation analyses, anticipated impacts, and sector-specific implications (GCF 2020).

# NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

## Government Stakeholders

Table 1 provides the key government entities involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation action in different sectors in Tajikistan.

**Table 1:** Government stakeholders by key interventions

Action	Entities
<b>Mitigation</b>	CEP Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Transport Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Agency for Forestry Ministry of Agriculture Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation Ministry of Industry and New Technologies
<b>Adaptation</b>	CEP Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Transport Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Agency for Forestry Ministry of Agriculture Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation Ministry of Industry and New Technologies Forest Research Institute

<b>MRV</b>	CEP Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Transport Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Agency for Forestry Ministry of Agriculture Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation Ministry of Industry and New Technologies
<b>Coordination</b>	CEP Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Transport Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Agency for Forestry Ministry of Agriculture Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation Ministry of Industry and New Technologies
<b>Policy Strategy Development</b>	CEP Ministry of Energy and Water Resource Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Transport Ministry of Education and Science Agency for Forestry Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation
<b>Financing</b>	Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

**Source:** Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (2022).

Based on the NDC Implementation Plan, each entity is briefly described as follows:

- The Ministry of Energy and Water Resource is the body authorized to implement unified state policy and regulation in the fuel and energy sector, water resource management, and development of renewable energy sources. It performs the functions of the NDA for clean development mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Ministry of Agriculture develops and coordinates policies and programs in the agriculture sector.
- The Ministry of Transport focuses on developing and coordinating policies, plans, and programs on transport, including road, railways, civil aviation, and road construction.
- The Ministry of Industry and New Technologies develops and implements policies in the industry sector. It organizes the development of intersectoral research, technical programs, and innovative projects on climate change and environmental issues. Additionally, it selects and controls investment projects that use modern energy-saving technologies and environmentally friendly production. It reviews industrial companies to check their compliance with environmental standards and government requirements.
- The Ministry of Education and Science develops policies. It manages the regulatory framework in education and science, teaching and upbringing, scientific and technical activities, guardianship and trusteeship, and social protection of students and pupils of educational and scientific institutions. It strengthens individual capacity in educational institutions by implementing environmental educational programs.

- The Statistics Agency collects and disseminates statistics through objective and comprehensive research of social, economic, and environmental processes in the country.
- The Agency for Forestry formulates and implements policies, legal regulations, and state management of forest, forestry activities, forest resources, hunting, and hunting facilities, flora, and fauna. It is involved in the implementation of several climate change programs and projects.
- The Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation develops and implements policies, regulations, and state management of land development, land reclamation, land irrigation, and water hazard risk prevention.

## Donor, Development Partner, and International Agency Stakeholders

Government stakeholders often receive support from international entities for implementation of NDCs and related climate change initiatives. Section 5.2 discusses the involvement of some of these entities, listed in Table 2 by key interventions.

**Table 2:** International stakeholders by key interventions

Action	Entities
<b>Mitigation</b>	USAID, UNDP, EU, ADB, UNFCCC, GIZ, SDC, World Bank, FCDO
<b>Adaptation</b>	USAID, UNDP, EU, ADB, UNFCCC, GIZ, SDC, World Bank, FCDO
<b>MRV</b>	USAID ADB, FAO, NDC Partnership
<b>Coordination</b>	USAID, UNFCCC, NDC Partnership, EU, GCF, the Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
<b>Policy Strategy development</b>	NDC Partnership, GIZ, FCDO
<b>Financing</b>	GCF, the Adaptation Fund, GEF, EU, FCDO

**Source:** Various sources.

### *Asian Development Bank (ADB)*

On December 7, 2018, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the regional knowledge and support TA cluster on "Supporting the Implementation of ADB's Climate Change Operational Framework 2017–2030" (ADB 2019, 2021). Through the TA cluster, ADB established "NDC Advance," a dedicated platform to support developing member countries (DMCs) to meet their NDCs through implementation of subprojects that (i) assist in refining and translating NDCs into climate investment plans (Subproject 1); (ii) improve DMC access to external public and private climate finance, including support for innovative financing mechanisms (Subproject 2); and (iii) develop methods and approaches to establish baselines and monitoring tools for indicators to measure and gauge DMC progress on climate actions and ADB's contributions to these actions (Subproject 3). On July 27, 2022, ADB expanded the TA cluster scope with the approval of Subproject 4 to support identification of climate adaptation investment priorities.

NDC Advance is supporting the Government of Tajikistan under Subprojects 1, 2, and 3 on:

- Capacity building on NDC implementation and socializing the updated NDC across ministries, committees, agencies, as well as institutions, which is key to develop a robust project pipeline (Subproject 1).

- Developing a Climate Finance Plan by assessing the climate finance landscape, looking at potential sources and instruments of climate finance for NDC sectors, and setting up recommendations (Subproject 2).
- Conducting capacity-building workshops on MRV and developing an MRV system design for the NDC (Subproject 3).

Under the Joint Scope of Work for Subprojects 1 and 2, ADB organized a capacity-building workshop and roundtable discussions to enhance government representatives' knowledge on NDCs and climate financing. Further data were gathered for preparation of a Climate Finance Plan as well as to develop project concept notes for key NDC sectors.

- **On January 24, 2023, ADB and CEP organized a group consultation with development partners.** The group consultation included 22 participants, including: ADB, CEP, the International Monetary Fund, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), GIZ, KfW Development Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), FAO, UNICEF, and USAID.
- **On January 26, 2023, ADB held a training workshop and roundtable discussions on supporting the implementation of NDCs and developing a Climate Finance plan.** The event was attended by 36 participants, including ADB and CEP. In total, 13 ministries, committees, agencies, and institutions joined.
- **On January 27, 2023, ADB organized a group consultation with financial institutions,** attended by 15 participants, including ADB, CEP, and five financial institutions.

The Climate Finance Plan is targeted to be finalized by mid-April 2023. ADB will further support CEP during the NDC International Forum in Dushanbe in 2023.

Establishing reliable monitoring systems and enabling the measurement of progress will be useful for the Republic of Tajikistan to monitor achievement of its climate and development goals. This will also help ADB measure progress toward the Climate Change Operational Framework (CCOF) 2030 and Strategy 2030 climate finance objectives and their contributions to climate and development outcomes in its DMCs (ADB 2019; ADB, 2021).

ADB conducted a capacity-building workshop on “Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation and NDC Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)” from July 26–29, 2022. The workshop aimed to provide participants with a practical overview of the key concepts and tools in results-based monitoring and evaluation and how it contributes to operationalizing the Republic of Tajikistan’s NDC. It focused on the basic principles of MRV to support the government in developing its economy-wide or sector-specific GHG reporting programs. Workshop participants included mid-level to senior representatives from the Ministries of Energy and Water Resources, Agriculture, Transport, Industry and New Technologies, Economic Development and Trade, and Finance, the State Committee on Investment and State Property, CEP, the Forestry Agency, the State Committee of Land Management and Geodesy, and the Committee on Architecture and Construction, as well as other stakeholders. Additionally, ADB is developing an M&E design paper for the NDC Secretariat and will develop an approach paper for an MRV system (ADB 2022). In line with this, ADB organized a hybrid stakeholder consultation workshop on December 21, 2022. Twenty-nine participants joined the consultative event to raise awareness on national initiatives on climate monitoring, review, and verification and to gather views on the institutional arrangements. The Tajikistan climate action transparency system questionnaire was launched there to gather important insights of stakeholders in designing a functional MRV system.

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GHG reporting programs. Workshop participants included mid-level to senior representatives from the Ministries of Energy and Water Resources, Agriculture, Transport, Industry, and New Technologies, Economic Development and Trade, and Finance, State Committee on Investment and State Property, CEP, Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, State Committee of Land Management and Geodesy, and Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of Tajikistan, as well as other stakeholders. Additionally, ADB is developing an M&E design paper for the NDC Secretariat and will also develop an approach paper for an MRV system (ADB, 2022).

### ***European Union (EU)***

Based on personal communication and interviews with stakeholders, it was noted that the EU is primarily investing in water and energy projects, specifically in climate security in Tajikistan and throughout Central Asia. The EU has supported a climate action enhancement package through which it will support water, energy, and agricultural programs for adaptation and mitigation. The EU is also interested in engaging short-term TA for providing analytical expertise to the countries in the NDC implementation and calls for the Tajikistan NDC to be more ambitious. This call for ambition is centered on improving coordination among sectors such as energy, agriculture, land, and water management. Additionally, the EU is interested in capacity building of CEP. The EU is willing to fund short-term consultancies for requests from the NDC Secretariat.

### ***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)***

The FAO has several initiatives with Tajikistan underway, including projects on agricultural innovation and climate-smart practices and on afforestation (FAO 2022a). It is investing in an MRV portal, with two IT specialists contractually employed and placed in CEP, with the NDC Secretariat expected to buy in.<sup>3</sup> Finally, under the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) trust fund of the GEF, FAO launched the CBIT- Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) program to support countries in meeting the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) requirements under the Paris Agreement (Global Research Alliance 2020). The three aims of the CBIT Program are: strengthening national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; providing relative tools, training, and assistance for meeting Article 13; and assisting in the improvement of transparency over time (GEF 2022). For Tajikistan, this means building an institutional framework to coordinate climate change activities through a multilateral approach. This institutional framework includes developing national communications on climate change; data collection/interpretation; and keeping an inventory of GHGs, timeframes for implementation, mitigation targets, and adaptation contributions.<sup>4</sup>

FAO conducted a workshop on August 3, 2022, the key objectives of the workshop of which were: (i) increased stakeholder awareness of the FAO project recently approved by the GEF on “Strengthening the Capacity of the Republic of Tajikistan to Comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”; (ii) improved understanding of baseline programs and potential co-financing; and (iii) gathering of initial ideas, opportunities, challenges, and limitations regarding possible project activities. The workshop had stakeholder participation from government agencies and academia. FAO also conducted a workshop on climate finance in August 2022 that drew a wide group of partners. The workshop was part of the GCF readiness project, implemented in close cooperation with CEP (FAO 2022b).

### ***GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)***

GIZ has contributed widely to addressing several climate change-related challenges in Tajikistan. This includes the development of plans for climate adaptation at local level with the aid of modern information technology and geodata management (GIZ 2019). GIZ assisted in updating Tajikistan’s NDC. GIZ’s report entitled “Analysis of the Agricultural Sector for the NDC Revision of Tajikistan”: included a breakdown

<sup>3</sup> Based on personal communications and interviews with stakeholders.

<sup>4</sup> Based on personal communications and interviews with stakeholders.

of Tajikistan’s agriculture sector; assessed 96 adaptation-specific practices across all agriculture subsectors; and suggested a long list of adaptation options based on their effect on productivity, adaptation benefits, GHG mitigation benefits, cost-effectiveness, gender, and biodiversity benefits (GIZ 2021a). GIZ conducted a land use sector analysis for NDC revision and updating in the country (GIZ 2021b). Further, GIZ’s report entitled “Options for Nature-based Solutions to Enhance NDC Commitments in Three Countries” offers a cost analysis for various nature-based solutions in Tajikistan (GIZ 2020). Most recently, through its Integrated Rural Development Project/TRIGGER, co-funded by the EU and BMZ, GIZ implemented a set of capacity-building programs on climate change adaptation for village advisors, agronomists, and staff of river basin organizations, and supported the application of a “Climate Expert Tool” to assist businesses in Tajikistan to better understand the climate risks they are exposed to and how to effectively mitigate them.

### ***Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)***

The Swiss Cooperation Program for Central Asia, timeframe 2022–25, focuses on addressing environmental, social, and political issues in Central Asia. This program is wide in scope and is reliant upon understanding the socioeconomic challenges faced by Central Asia, including economic development, cultural expression and preservation, and environmental protection. The program has three major focus areas: (i) Water, Infrastructure, and Climate Change; (ii) Governance, Human Rights, and Service Delivery; and (iii) Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development. The program is in partnership with the SDC and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and includes Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as priority countries. The program aims to support economic and social development, integrate transboundary water management, strengthen economic ties, and promote stable governance (SDC 2021).

An additional contribution by the SDC is the Cryospheric Observation and Modelling for Improved Adaption in Central Asia (CROMO-ADAPT). The first phase, which ran from 2017 to 2021, successfully established glacier monitoring systems in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, trained over 100 local scientists, and established centers of research such as the Centre for Glacier Research in Tajikistan. Phase two (of two) combats climate change in Central Asia, specifically water availability and occurrences of natural hazards. The objective is to inform policymaking and implement adaptive measures in risk and water management through contextualized cryospheric data to increase the resilience of local populations. This will directly benefit Central Asia weather services, the scientific community, and national policymakers, while indirectly benefiting local populations. The outcomes include creating locally managed and sustained monitoring networks, informing basin planning and disaster risk management authorities, and facilitating investment in the water and disaster management sector (SDC 2022).

### ***United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)***

UNDP in partnership with CEP is implementing a project on an integrated landscape approach to enhance the climate resilience of small-scale farmers and pastoralists in Tajikistan. The project achievements include:

- The project team conducted 14 focus group discussions to determine the initial assessment and to plan practical activities in 14 target jamoats (2021–2022).
- The project team delivered trainings on building resilience and adapting to the consequences of climate change for small-scale farmers and pastoralists at jamoat level in 6 target districts (2021–2022).
- To coordinate project activities the with other donors in the field of water sector reform and gain understanding of current related trends, the team held a coordination meeting with representatives of the government, international organizations, and NGOs (2022).

- Seven demonstration plots (six ongoing in target districts) (such as restoration of landscape, renovation of bridges, planting of trees) were completed and contribute to building resilience of the local population in 6 target districts (2022).
- Fourteen Watershed Action Plans were finalized and will serve as the primary documents to undertake ecosystem-based adaptation in 6 target districts (2022).
- Creation of and support for a knowledge platform on climate-related information. To create a sustainable platform for knowledge sharing, a comprehensive study was undertaken to update the CEP website, with the aim to determine a suitable, secure, and flexible content management system (CMS). The CEP website was updated and relaunched using the available server at the CEP building, using a more secure and reliable CMS that is flexible and allows integration of various plugins and add-ons. The main purpose of the new website is to integrate it with the future services described in the project document.

Another project on enabling an effective adaptation planning process for Tajikistan Project has also been implemented. The key achievements include:

- An inter-ministerial working group was established; it held two meetings with the participation of sectoral focal points (2022).
- Indicative indicators and datasets for CCA MRV were discussed with the Agency for Hydrometeorology; the head of the Climate Change Center was appointed as Focal Point from the Agency for Hydrometeorology to work on elaboration of climate change data management. (2022).
- The Statistics Agency was included in the interministerial working group on development of a National Action Plan to National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (2022).
- The project was showcased as part of Tajikistan and UNFCCC through organized side events at COP27 (2022).
- Strategic documentation: the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, NDC, and NDC Implementation Plan were published in a set and disseminated to strengthen the capacity of national agencies, as well as to inform at COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt (2022).

## ***World Bank***

The World Bank is committed to being a key investment partner for the NDC implementation in Tajikistan, focusing on agriculture-related projects, both ongoing and newly initiated. It has several objectives: reinforcing foundations for resilient agriculture, promoting commercialization of farm and agribusiness products, improving sources of livelihood, promoting transboundary landscape restoration, and augmenting existing water resource planning. Regarding the foundations of agriculture, the World Bank proposes improving planting material systems, investing in horticulture centers, and enhancing public capacity for crisis prevention (World Bank 2022a). Transboundary landscape restoration is being addressed through support for institutions and policies as well as regional collaborators, and by enhancing the resilience of landscapes through integrated pasture management, forest, and landscape restoration, protected area management, and biodiversity conservation (World Bank 2022b). Finally, improving existing water resource planning is being addressed through water sector reform and institutional strengthening, such as improving irrigation system management and national and basin-level policy/planning, as well as improving irrigation schemes on a large and medium scale.

Per the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, in 2023 and 2024 the World Bank will produce three analytical reports to contribute to NDC implementation: Strengthening Agriculture Data and Evidence-Based Priority-setting for Food Security; Building Climate Resilience and Adaptation through Climate-Smart Agriculture; and Promoting Livestock Sector Competitiveness, Inclusiveness and Climate-Smartness.

The World Bank’s Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project (SRASP, US\$108 million, 2022-2027) aims to strengthen the foundation for a more resilient agriculture sector and support emergency interventions to address food and nutrition security in Tajikistan. Project activities in the additional financing are aligned with and contribute to the project development objective of the original financing, which is supporting the Government of Tajikistan in successfully transitioning to a sustainable, more productive, climate-resilient, and inclusive model of agriculture sector growth, thereby enhancing food and nutrition security. The project includes investments aimed at:

- Increasing the availability of improved seeds, seedlings, planting materials, and small farm machinery that are climate-resilient, affordable, farmer-preferred, and well adapted to the different agroecological conditions of Tajikistan;
- Developing and operationalizing agrilogistical centers that: improve agrilogistical services, build resilient food systems; promote agricultural diversification; ensure better market linkages; improve quality and food safety standards; reduce food loss/waste; and develop an efficient food distribution system network; and
- Strengthening crisis management, i.e., early warning, nutrition improvement, and the preparedness and response capacity of selected public institutions.

### ***United Kingdom (UK) Government and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)***

The UK government’s “The Darwin Initiative” grants scheme helps countries, including Tajikistan, that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the biodiversity conventions. The objective is to address biodiversity threats such as climate change and habitat loss or degradation (FCDO 2021). The FCDO-funded Central Asia Policy Innovation Facility is a four-year initiative (2019–2023) aimed at providing short-term, rapid-response TA to address high-level requests from the executive offices, ministries, state agencies, and local government of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to help formulate policies that contribute to economic development and prosperity (FCDO 2022; Policy Innovation Facility 2022). In addition to “The Darwin Initiative” grants, the UK initiated the BBC Green Planet project. To mark three big occasions, including the BBC’s Centenary (100 years), the 30th anniversary of UK-Tajikistan diplomatic relations, and commitments made at COP26, the British Embassy in Dushanbe will host two events screening the Green Planet “Human Worlds” episode, with subtitles in Tajik/Russian in Dushanbe and Khujand. The embassy will also deliver the following supporting activities:

- The “Green Talks” forum (a platform to spark climate-related discussions and inspire by presenting effective examples of climate action);
- The “Green Canopy” reforestation activity, incorporating a series of tree-planting events throughout Tajikistan;
- A “Save the Planet” art demo and fair to showcase how climate action mechanisms are working in Tajikistan; and

### ***Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund***

These Funds support developing countries in addressing climate change concerns. In Tajikistan, according to the NDC Implementation Plan, the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, and the GEF will provide financial and technical support for the NDC Secretariat’s daily operations. Additionally, CEP is the NDA to the GCF. It is also the designated authority to the Adaptation Fund, aside from being the Operational and Political Focal Point of the GEF. All three Funds will support strengthening the NDC Secretariat to track the support needed and received for NDC implementation, including capacity building, technology transfer, and finance (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022).

## NGO Stakeholders

Government stakeholders often receive support from the NGO sector (both domestic and international) for implementation of NDCs and related climate change initiatives. Several NGOs are working on forest, wildlife, water, and other issues directly connected to climate change-related adaptation and mitigation. These contributions need to be studied further for larger goals of NDC implementation. Section 5.3 discusses the involvement of some of these entities, enumerated in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Stakeholders from the NGO sector by key interventions

Action	Entities
Mitigation	Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)
Adaptation	AKDN
Coordination	TajCN Climate Network

Source: Various sources.

### *TajCN Climate Network*

Public organizations within the TajCN Climate Network play an important role in capacity building in the Republic of Tajikistan. NGOs of this network conduct capacity-building activities on climate change issues at the community level and in educational institutions (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2021a).

### *Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)*

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), through AKDN, is working with government partners and Caritas to introduce a forest plantation model that integrates income-generation opportunities with disaster risk reduction benefits in Tajikistan. The multipurpose plantation approach promotes diverse vegetation to protect against avalanches, landslides, and flash floods to help vulnerable communities mitigate climate change and disaster risks (AKDN 2020a).

In collaboration with government institutions and with the financial support of various donors, AKAH implements community-based disaster risk management activities in Central Asia, including Tajikistan, to help prepare communities residing in high-risk zones to be aware of and respond to natural hazards effectively. These activities include hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessments, emergency response training, developing village disaster management plans based on the assessments, and installing early warning systems (AKDN 2020b).

## Private Sector Stakeholders

Private sector involvement in the climate sector has been expanding in Tajikistan, collaborating with the government and donors to undertake various projects. Private sector spending on energy technology R&D and innovation is helping develop small hydropower plants HPPs. Local producers CJSCs Ener-goremont and Tojiktekstil mash have started making turbines for small HPPs in Tajikistan. The OJSC Sisatemavtomatika is developing projects with the support of the government and donors. For example, the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) Association of Tajikistan, within OJSC Sistemavtomatika and with support from UNDP, established the National Centre for the Implementation of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency in Dushanbe. Its aim is to train specialists in RES and energy efficiency technologies, including solar energy, energy efficiency, and energy-saving technologies. The RES Association also conducts surveys of the country’s solar and wind potential (International Energy Agency [IEA] 2022).

# Academic and Research Institution Stakeholders

## Tajik Agrarian University

Tajik Agrarian University, through a collaboration between Caritas Switzerland and the Government of Switzerland, developed an educational cluster for hydrology and agrometeorology at its Dushanbe campus. The university has a laboratory, 120 student workspaces, and faculty offices for developing and enhancing national capacities in specialized areas related to the efficient utilization of water resources and accessible weather, water, and climate services (Asia-Plus 2021).

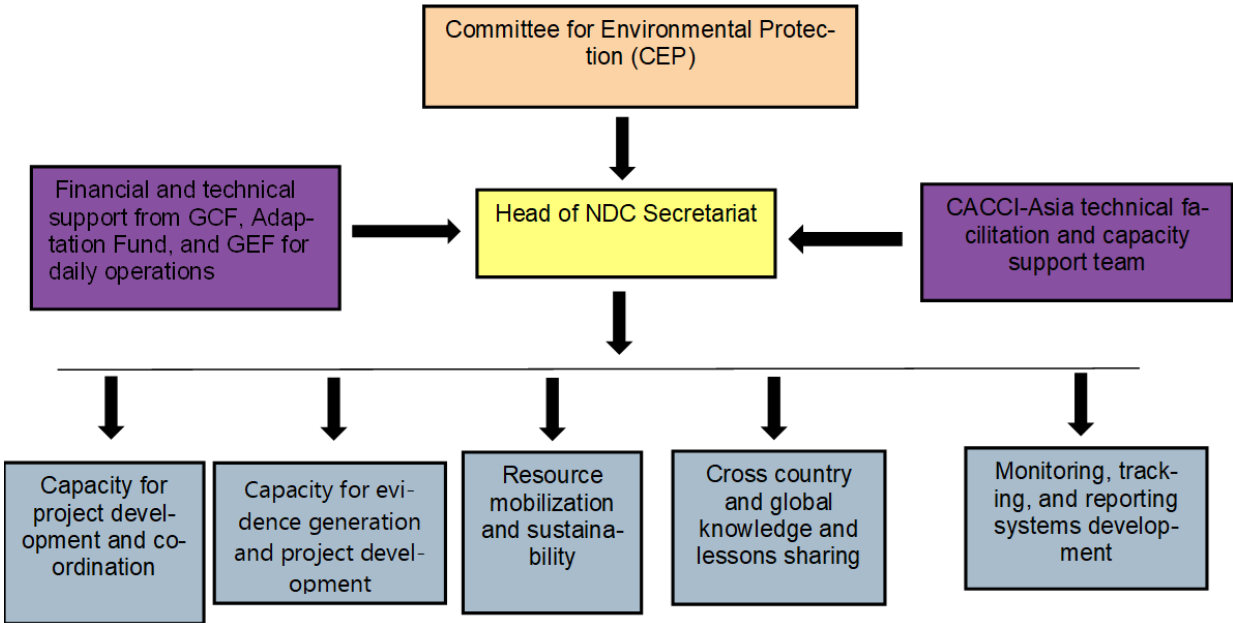
## Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan

This public institution is aimed at R&D and implementation of innovative projects and new technologies, particularly in the energy sector. A key project of the Academy is focused on RES, developing solar energy potential. In 2021, it began a project in collaboration with a Japanese institution on the Construction of a Decarbonized Heat Energy Supply System (IEA 2022).

# OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN

Figure 2 presents the long-term role of the recently established NDC Secretariat through CEP and the support received by the NDC Secretariat through CACCI-Asia, the GCF, the GEF, and the Adaptation Fund.

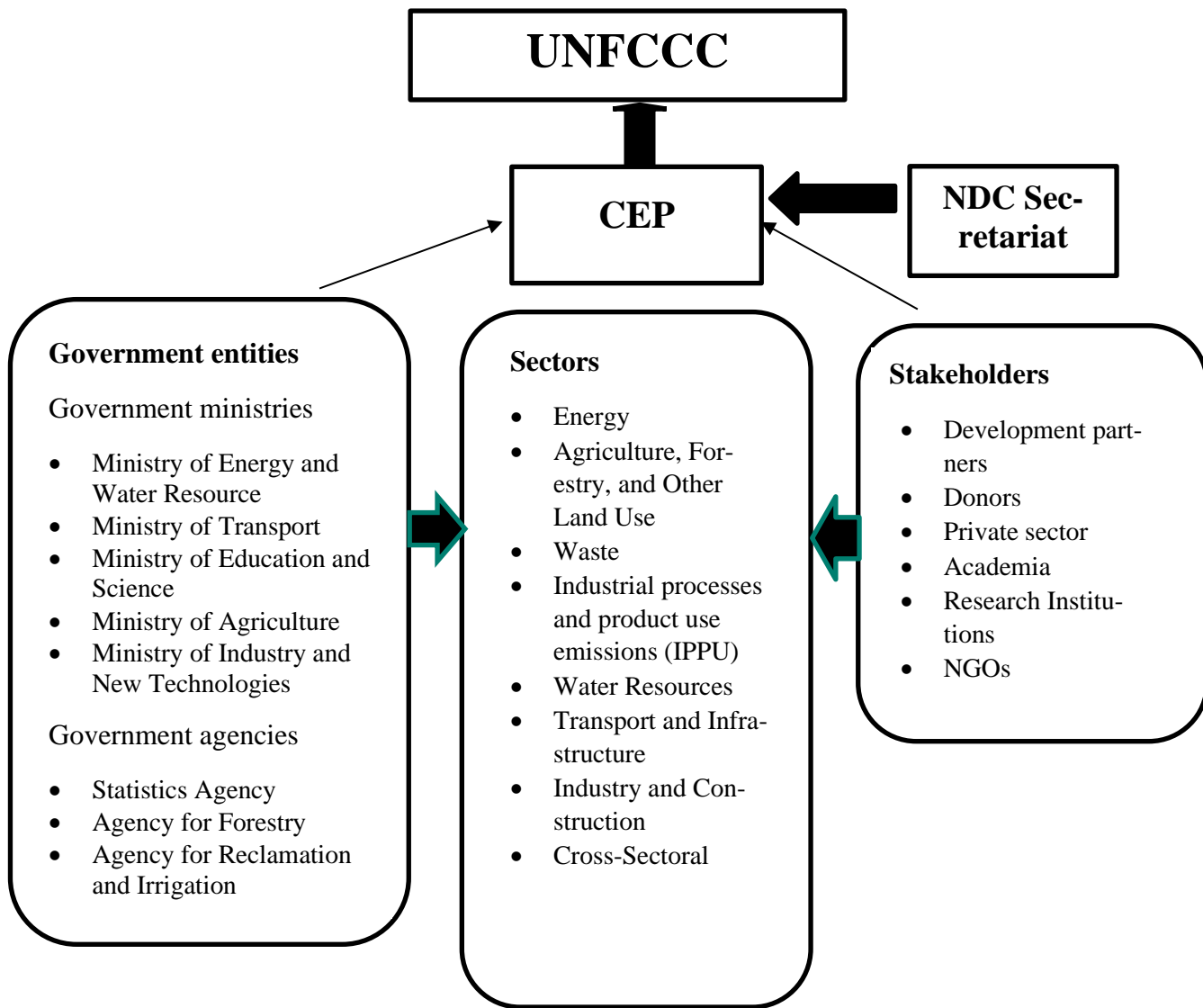
**Figure 2:** Role of the NDC Secretariat through CEP for NDC implementation



Source: Authors’ elaboration.

Figure 3 presents the structure of NDC implementation across different sectors through various government entities and other stakeholders. CEP is the coordinating body for this purpose.

**Figure 3:** Key partners of CEP for NDC implementation



**Source:** Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 2022.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Tajikistan is significantly affected by climate change challenges. As part of its commitment to address them, the government has submitted its updated NDC. This paper maps relevant actors and players that support NDC implementation in Tajikistan, a first step to understanding the specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. By doing so, the paper highlights the key interventions, coordination mechanisms, and interlinkages between stakeholders in the country. This knowledge product will not only help in reducing overlapping interventions by stakeholders but will also encourage vertical and horizontal coordination for efficient implementation of the NDC. This paper will be circulated among key partners for comments and updates.

As part of the NDC implementation support in Tajikistan under CACCI-Asia, research papers are being developed on relevant topics. The next paper focuses on the climate change-related policy process in Tajikistan, which undertakes a detailed analysis of the country's policy system, highlighting existing

gaps and providing recommendations. Another upcoming paper focuses on developing a resilience strategy for the country to address climate change-related challenges. For tracking and reporting on climate change-related data and interventions, a dashboard will be developed. The key findings using the dashboard will be presented through a research paper.

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