

12TH INTERNATIONAL İSTANBUL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS BOOK

MAY 29-31 2024 | İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

PARTICIPATION FROM
23 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



EDITORS:
ASSOC. PROF. DR. M. SEENIVASAN
ASSOC. PROF. DR. MERYEM FIRAT

ISBN: 978-625-6879-60-7
DOI: 10.5281/ZENODO.11394789


BZT TURAN ACADEMY
PUBLISHING HOUSE

www.istanbulcongress.com
istanbulcongressinfo@gmail.com

12TH INTERNATIONAL İSTANBUL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS BOOK

MAY 29-31, 2024 | İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE



PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES

Türkiye, Malaysia, Portugal, India, Algeria, Ukraine,
Poland, Morocco, Spain, Kosovo, Malawi, Namibia,
North Macedonia, Philippines, Azerbaijan, China,
Morocco, Algeria, Pakistan, Vietnam, Philippines,
Nigeria, United States of America.

ISBN: 978-625-6879-60-7

DOI: 10.5281/ZENODO.11394789

EDITOR

ASSOC. PROF. DR. M. SEENIVASAN
ASSOC. PROF. DR. MERYEM FIRAT

BZT TURAN PUBLISHING HOUSE®

2024©

TURKEY, USA

TR: +90 538 334 59 23 USA: +1 518 629 5640



BZT TURAN ACADEMY
PUBLISHING HOUSE

12th INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONGRESS

MAY 29-31, 2024

ONLINE & IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

ZOOM & ISTANBUL, TURKIYE

CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS BOOK

EDITORS

ASSOC. PROF. DR. M. SEENIVASAN
ASSOC. PROF. DR. MERYEM FIRAT

BZT AKADEMİ YAYINEVİ®

TÜRKİYE, GERMANY

TR: +90543 671 0123 GR: +491774586777

istanbulcongressinfo@gmail.com

<https://www.istanbulcongress.com/>

All rights reserved

BZT TURAN YAYINEVİ®

BZT TURAN PUBLISHING HOUSE

Publishing Date: 07.06.2024

ISBN: 978-625-6879-60-7

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.11394789



ANNAMALAI
UNIVERSITY



CONGRESS ID

CONGRESS NAME

12TH INTERNATIONAL İSTANBUL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS BOOK

DATE AND VENUE

MAY 29-31, 2024

ONLINE & IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION (İZMİR, TÜRKİYE)

(FROM 23 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES)

Türkiye, Malaysia, Portugal, India, Algeria, Ukraine, Poland, Morocco, Spain, Kosovo, Malawi, Namibia, North Macedonia, Philippines, Azerbaijan, China, Morocco, Algeria, Pakistan, Vietnam, Philippines, Nigeria, United States of America.

ORGANIZERS & PARTICIPANT INSTITUTIONS

BZT Turan Academy, Türkiye

Giresun University, Türkiye

Pristina University, Kosovo

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Medical College, Mauritius

Annamalai University, India

Tetovo University, N. Macedonia

Presidents / V. President of Organization Committee

ASSOC. PROF. DR. M. SEENIVASAN

ASSOC. PROF. DR. MERYEM FIRAT

President of Scientific Committee

PROF. RENMIR JAN D. MAALA

President of Coordinators' / General Coordinator

Dr. Baha Ahmet YILMAZ

ACCEPTED PAPERS

200 Turkish Participants

240 Foreign Participants

%55 Foreign Participant Rate

%,44 Turkish Participant Rate

REFUSED PAPERS

7 Foreign Participants

EVALUATION PROCESS

All Submissions Have Passed a Double-Blind Referee Evaluation Process

All Responsibility for the Works Belongs to the Author

29-31 MAY 2024

Istanbul Türkiye &
ZOOM Online

12th International İstanbul Scientific Research Congress *Schedule*

www.istanbulcongress.com



ANNAMALAI
UNIVERSITY



INSTITUTIONALIZATION INITIATIVES REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE IN CENTRAL ASIA

Asst. Prof. Dr. Fatih DEMİRCİOĞLU^{1*},
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halil Emre DENİŞ²

^{*1}Hakkari Üniversitesi, İktisadi ve İdari
Bilimler Fakültesi, Siyaset Bilimi ve
Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü, Hakkari,
Türkiye.

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7057-0795>

^{*2} Hakkari Üniversitesi, İktisadi ve İdari
Bilimler Fakültesi, Siyaset Bilimi ve
Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü, Hakkari,
Türkiye.

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9830-5624>

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the institutionalization initiatives regarding climate change in Central Asia, with a primary focus on the international, regional, and domestic levels. The analysis reveals a nuanced landscape where environmental stewardship is gradually becoming ingrained within the region's political and socio-economic fabric. Despite facing challenges such as limited funds and infrastructural deficiencies, Central Asian states demonstrate a positive compliance with environmental discourses and norms. The study highlights the parallel process of environmental institutionalization alongside adaptation to Western liberal norms and financial structures.

Moreover, it emphasizes the region's concerted efforts to engage with global environmental standards while safeguarding fundamental institutions like sovereignty and human rights. Regional cooperation, albeit influenced by diverse strategies and needs, manifests primarily through external partnerships and selective participation in international frameworks. The findings underscore the importance of continued support and engagement from international stakeholders in terms of technology transfer, scientific collaboration, and financial assistance. However, the study recommends a nuanced approach, recognizing the diverse challenges and priorities across Central Asian states. While advocating for regional cooperation, it suggests tailoring interventions to individual country contexts to enhance policy effectiveness and societal relevance. Ultimately, the study calls for a shift towards viewing environmentalism as a moral imperative rather than merely a strategic calculation, urging Central Asian states to embrace it for the collective benefit of their populations and the planet.

Keywords: Central Asia, Climate Change, Institutionalization

INTRODUCTION

From October 31 to November 12, 2021, the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change convened in Glasgow, Scotland. During this gathering, the Central Asian republics came together as a unified entity, sharing proposals and presenting a joint pavilion under the slogan “5 countries, 1 region, 1 voice” (CARECECO, 2021; ECIFAS-TJ, 2021). This collaboration was particularly notable given the longstanding regional tensions, especially concerning border disputes and water management issues (Vakulchuk et al., 2022). The environment holds profound significance for Central Asia, often described by Shirin Akiner as a “symbiotic relationship” between the people and their land (Akiner et al., 2020).

This study explores whether environmentalism has become institutionalized in Central Asia. “Environmentalism” here refers to principles and behaviors aimed at protecting the planet and promoting environmentally respectful living. “Institution” means enduring social practices recognized as legitimate by international society. The study examines Central Asia through an international relations perspective, focusing on shared norms and legitimate behavior among states.

While there is some research on climate change in Central Asia from natural sciences, international relations studies on this topic are less developed. This study aims to advance scholarship on norms, rules, and legitimacy in regional governance from a Central Asian perspective. It also seeks to understand the social incentives and constraints the region faces regarding environmentalism. The research focuses on the five post-Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, acknowledging that environmental issues transcend borders.

Second, to assess how institutionalized environmentalism is, this essay will look at discourses and practices at the international, regional, and domestic levels. If institutionalization appears only in international forums without real action within the region, it would be mere display without implementation. True institutionalization involves state structures, legislation, initiatives, and practices that show a genuine commitment to environmental principles.

Third, institutions include concepts of appropriateness and conformity, so the analysis will also look at elements of rightful conduct, necessity, and moral need to comply with environmental norms. This sociological approach goes beyond simple cost–benefit analysis.

The aim of this analysis is to provide a middle-range theory about environmentalism in Central Asia, considering both international and regional levels as well as key state institutions. This study will focus on state-centric aspects of international relations and will not cover civil society activism and grassroots initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND DOMESTIC LEVELS

At the international level, the institutionalization of environmentalism in the Central Asian republics is evident. All five countries have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, a major multilateral climate change treaty aiming for global efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects (Paris Agreement, n.d.). Additionally, each country has undergone at least one Environmental Performance Review, a voluntary mechanism supporting United Nations Economic Commission for Europe members in improving their environmental management and performance (UNECE, n.d.).

In terms of other international commitments, the number of environmental agreements varies: Kazakhstan has 323, Kyrgyzstan 195, Tajikistan 160, Turkmenistan 186, and Uzbekistan 155 (Mitchell, 2022). These variations reflect each country's capacity and relevance of the treaties to their specific situations. Nonetheless, these numbers show a general commitment to incorporating international environmental legislation into domestic laws.

Furthermore, Central Asian leaders have frequently made public statements supporting environmentalism. For instance:

- In 1994, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov thanked the UN for its efforts in environmental control and disaster prevention, expressing readiness to assist (Kamilov, 1994).
- In 1997, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized the importance of economic growth aligned with social development and environmental security (Nazarbayev, 1997).
- In 2021, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov highlighted Kyrgyzstan's active promotion of landlocked mountain states' interests regarding sustainable development and climate change (Osmonalieva, 2021). These speeches underscore the Central Asian republics' commitment to legitimizing environmentalism within international society and their reliance on the UN to address climate-related inequalities and dangers. They also point to

the role of various international institutions, agencies, donors, and communities in maintaining environmental focus on Central Asia.

Central Asian states have initiated several international efforts to spotlight regional environmental issues. Examples include Tajikistan's "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028" and Kyrgyzstan's proposed resolution on transboundary cooperation for biodiversity conservation (Masalieva, 2022; Zheenbekov, 2020). These initiatives help sustain a green discourse and establish connections between international society and the region.

At COP26, Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia, highlighted the importance of the joint pavilion for showcasing Central Asian countries' investment potential, role in the global climate process, and needs for financing, technologies, and expertise (CARECECO, 2021; ECIFAS-TJ, 2021). This bridges to the regional level of environmental institutionalization.

At the regional level, the institutionalization of environmentalism among the Central Asian republics began in 1992 with an inter-ministerial agreement, followed by the 1993 Aral Sea basin agreement in Qyzylorda, Kazakhstan, which established the International Fund for the Aral Sea (IFAS) (Weinthal, 2002). The Nukus Declaration (1996) and another region-wide agreement on water use rationalization in 1998 further strengthened this foundation. However, the early to mid-2000s saw limited progress in regional environmental cooperation.

Recently, there has been renewed momentum. Under the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Central Asian leaders are negotiating sustainable balances of water, energy, and food (EEU Treaty, 2015). Despite IFAS being one of the few regional mechanisms for environmental protection, the 2021 Joint Statement of the Heads of State of Central Asia and Kazakhstan's Green Bridge Initiative indicate some regional efforts (Akorda, 2022; Shayakhmetova, 2021). The latter, though, primarily facilitates dialogue rather than monitoring progress. Notably, only Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are active in the Green Bridge Initiative, with Tajikistan joining through an association agreement at COP26.

Environmentalism does not play a major constitutive role in Central Asia; it is often seen as a matter of sovereign prerogative and non-interference, despite the transnational nature of climate issues (Falkner, 2021). The institution of environmentalism in the region relies heavily on international donors and organizations. For instance, the Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC), supported by the World Bank and IFAS, has been instrumental in regional cooperation, with the five Central Asian countries presenting a united front at COP26.

The EAEU treaty, referencing environmental preservation 32 times, signals a growing recognition of environmentalism's importance. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Charter also mentions environmental cooperation (Buzan, 2004). China's Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) promotes regional environmental cooperation, with significant projects like the Moinak Hydroelectric Power Plant in Kazakhstan and the Nurek Hydropower Plant in Tajikistan, funded by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the World Bank, highlighting a focus on green energy (Agostinis and Urdinez, 2021).

Despite the lack of indigenous environmental initiatives, Central Asia is engaging in a transregional network involving donors, investors, states, and companies advancing an environmental agenda. China's role in the SCO demonstrates how environmental norms are intertwined with geopolitical interests, showing that even non-democratic states can embrace and promote green agendas (Yu et al., 2021).

To gauge the institutionalization of environmentalism in Central Asia, it's crucial to assess how international and regional principles translate into domestic policies and practices. Key parameters include:

Presence of Environmental Ministries: All Central Asian states are establishing agencies and bodies dedicated to environmental concerns, indicating a commitment to addressing environmental challenges comprehensively.

Inclusion of Environmental Protection in Constitutions: Environmental priorities have been incorporated into the national constitutions of all Central Asian states since the early 1990s, highlighting the recognition of environmental importance from the onset of independence.

National Documents/Programs Addressing Climate Change: Each country has developed documents and programs to address climate change and environmental crises, though variations exist in capacity, budget, and political influence.

References to Environment in Foreign Policy: With the exception of Uzbekistan, Central Asian states have included ‘green principles’ in their foreign policy documents, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship in international relations.

Environmental Performance Index (EPI): Central Asian countries generally rank low on the EPI, indicating challenges in environmental health and ecosystem vitality. However, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have shown improvement, likely due to their hydrocarbon wealth and corresponding reforms (EPI, n.d.).

These observations suggest that Central Asian states are actively working to establish institutional frameworks for environmental governance, despite challenges such as resource dependency and political dynamics. The presence of environmental priorities in national constitutions and foreign policy documents underscores the institutionalization of environmentalism at both domestic and international levels. However, there is still a need for further progress in addressing environmental issues effectively, especially considering the region’s low rankings on the EPI.

CONCLUSIONS

This study aimed to address whether environmentalism has become institutionalized in Central Asia, based on the comprehensive analysis presented earlier. The conclusion is affirmative, albeit acknowledging the complexities and contradictions inherent in politics and international relations.

The first key finding is that environmental stewardship in Central Asia is gradually becoming institutionalized alongside the region’s adaptation to Western liberal norms and financial structures (Falkner, 2021). Despite challenges post-independence, environmental discourse has gained traction, though practical policy implementation lags due to capacity issues (Rahmon, 2021). However, the obstacles are predominantly financial and infrastructural, rather than ideological, indicating a positive inclination towards environmental norms and practices.

The second significant finding is that while Central Asian states cooperate on environmental issues internationally, intra-regional cooperation is less pronounced due to differing strategies, needs, and institutional preferences (Vakulchuk et al., 2022). This underscores a pragmatic approach to environmentalism driven by reputational concerns, funding requirements, and global standards compliance, while safeguarding sovereignty, human rights, and economic interests. Consequently, cooperation is largely transactional, involving isolated payments, external investments, and regional consultations.

In conclusion, two recommendations are proposed for policymakers and stakeholders. Firstly, continued support in technological, scientific, infrastructural, and financial aspects is essential, considering the region's awareness and willingness to address environmental challenges. Secondly, while regional cooperation is crucial to address the transnational nature of environmental issues, a nuanced approach considering regional disparities in resources, human capital, and social priorities is necessary. Ultimately, the goal is to elevate environmentalism in Central Asia from a matter of pragmatism to one of moral principle for the collective benefit of states and populations.

REFERENCES

Agostinis, G., & Urdinez, F. (2021). The nexus between authoritarian and environmental regionalism: An analysis of China's driving role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. *Problems of Post-Communism*, 69, 330–344.

Akorda. (2022). Joint statement following the consultative meeting of the heads of state of Central Asia. Retrieved May 21, 2024, from <http://www.akorda.kz/ru/sovместnoe-zayavlenie-po-itogam-konsultativnoy-vstrechi-glav-gosudarstv-centralnoy-azii-672511>

Buzan, B. (2004). *From international to world society? English school theory and the social structure of globalisation*. Cambridge University Press.

CARECECO. (2021). Kyrgyzstan president visits the Central Asian Pavilion at UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow. Retrieved May 22, 2024, from <http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/prezident-kr-posetil-pavilon-tsentralnoy-azii-na-ks-26-rkik-oon-v-glazgo/>

ECIFAS-TJ. (2021). Pavilion of Central Asia within the framework of COP-26. Retrieved May 21, 2024, from <http://ecifas-tj.org/en/2021/11/03/pavilion-of-central-asia-within-the-framework-of-cop-26/>

Eurasian Economic Union Treaty. (2015). *Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union*. Retrieved May 21, 2024, from http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/kaz_e/wtacckaz85_leg_1.pdf

Environmental Performance Index (EPI). (n.d.). Retrieved May 21, 2024, from <http://epi.yale.edu/>

Falkner, R. (2021). *Environmentalism and global international society*. Cambridge University Press.

Masalieva, J. (2022). Central Asian countries intend to determine water and energy balance. 24.kg. Retrieved May 21, 2024, from http://24.kg/english/224097_Central_Asian_countries_intend_to_determine_water_and_energy_balance/

Mitchell, R. B. (2022). International Environmental Agreements Database Project 2002–2022 (Version 2020.1). Retrieved May 14, 2024, from <http://iea.uoregon.edu/>

Osmonalieva, B. (2021). Sadyr Japarov tells UN General Assembly about unscrupulous investors. *24.kg*. Retrieved May 19, 2024, from http://24.kg/english/207915_Sadyr_Japarov_tells_UN_General_Assembly_about_unscrupulous_investors/

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (n.d.). The Paris Agreement. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <http://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

Rahmon, E. (2021). Address by Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, at the 76th plenary session of the UN General Assembly. *Annex III, A/76/PV.11*.

Shayakhmetova, Z. (2021). Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to cooperate as part of Green Bridge Partnership Program to promote climate policies in Central Asian region. *The Astana Times*. Retrieved April 26, 2024, from <http://astanatimes.com/2021/11/kazakhstan-and-tajikistan-to-cooperate-as-part-of-green-bridge-partnership-program-to-promote-climate-policies-in-central-asian-region/>

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). (n.d.). EPR reviewed countries. Retrieved from <http://unece.org/epr-reviewed-countries>

Vakulchuk, R., Daloz, A. S., Overland, I., Sagbakken, H. F., & Standal, K. (2022). A void in Central Asia research: Climate change. *Central Asian Survey*, 1–20. <http://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2022.2059447>

Zheenbekov, S. (2020). Address by Mr. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, at the 75th plenary session of the UN General Assembly. *Annex II, A/75/PV.6*.