



CAN EECCA

Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Public report 2023

CAN EECCA Board foreword

2023 was transformative year for the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) region. It was time of resilience, cooperation, and unwavering commitment to our shared vision for a climate-neutral future. This public report encapsulates our collective journey, achievements, and the challenges we've navigated together. It is a testament to the power of unity in the face of adversity and a reminder of the urgent need for continued action and solidarity in our fight against climate change.

The past year has underscored the critical role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in driving meaningful climate action. From the frontlines of environmental advocacy to the strategic corridors of policy influence, our network members across the EECCA region have demonstrated remarkable adaptability, innovation, and a deep-rooted commitment to climate justice. Despite facing unprecedented challenges, including geopolitical tensions and the growing threats to civil liberties and environmental sustainability, our community has not only endured but emerged stronger and more cohesive.

Our report highlights the vast array of activities, initiatives, and milestones achieved throughout the year. It showcases the deeper efforts of our members in promoting ambitious and equitable climate policies, mobilizing society at all levels, and fostering collaboration among a diverse array of stakeholders. Through the Climate Dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and strategic advocacy at COP28, we have strengthened our collective voice and impact.

The challenges we face are formidable, but so is our resolve. The climate crisis demands urgent and sustained action, innovative solutions, and a global shift towards equitable and sustainable development. As CAN EECCA, we remain committed to supporting and empowering civil society in the EECCA region to lead this transformation. Our vision of a just and climate-neutral future is within reach, but it requires the collective action, courage, and perseverance of all stakeholders.

On behalf of the CAN EECCA Board, we would like to thank the Secretariat and all members of the Network for their contributions and involvement in implementing our common goals. We hope that our endeavors will continue into the next year.

CAN EECCA's organizational development

CAN EECCA's Vision

Our Vision: Strong civil society of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia countries contributed to preventing climate crisis through achieving climate neutrality, fossil fuels phase out, equitable use of natural resources, and green economy opportunities development.

Our Mission: To support, reinforce, and develop civil society organizations in EECCA region in their capacity for influencing development and implementation of climate policy leading to climate neutral and more just future.

Our Values:

- Climate justice
- Horizontal leadership
- Solidarity and mutual support
- Non-violence
- Safety of activists

Our strategic priorities for 2021-2023:

1. Support of the ambitious and equitable climate policy development in EECCA countries, including through coordination at UNFCCC negotiations.
2. Mobilization of civil society and strengthening their influence on climate policy on different levels, including local communities.
3. Sharing experience among various stakeholders, creating platforms for collaboration and dissemination of knowledge on climate crisis.
4. Cooperation with mass media, development and support of communication channels in climate mitigation field.

Our structure

Coordination of CAN EECCA (Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia hereinafter referred to as CAN EECCA) takes place through the work of the Board and the Secretariat. The main decision-making body is the General Assembly of members.

In 2023 the Board consisted of the following people:



Natalia Idrisova
Little Earth, Tajikistan
(left in December 2023)



Nugzar Kokhreidze
RICDOG, Georgia



Anisa Abibbuloeva
Little Earth, Tajikistan
(joined December 2023)



Maria Kolesnikova
MoveGreen, Kyrgyzstan



Iryna Ponedelnik
Green Network, Belarus



Natalia Kravciuk
Gutta-Club, Moldova

In 2023 the Secretariat consisted of the following people:



Olha Boiko
CAN EECCA coordinator



Baktygul Chynybaeva
Communications manager
(left in August 2023)



Nargiza Korgoldoeva
Social media coordinator



Nurjan Estebe
Project coordinator



Nazik Mamasadykova
Communications manager
(joined September 2023)

CAN EECCA is not legally registered and therefore does not have its own resources. Coordination and activities are carried out on a voluntary basis, thanks to contributions from member organisations or through direct donor support for specific projects.

Regular meetings of CAN EECCA members

During 2023, network members met every 1-2 months online to exchange news and plans. These calls helped keep the communication and trust between network members from different countries intact, as well as share plans and opportunities from the CAN network. In addition to this, CAN EECCA members took part in the second part of Climate Dialogues.

Climate Dialogues have been held since 2020, and during that time we have created a platform for engaging more than 200 experts from around the EECCA region. What was different this time is that we finally met offline. Not only we brought together the experts, but we also decided to help the young climate leaders from the region to grow in their expertise and other skills.



The whole 2022 became one big challenge for the civil society of the EECCA countries because of the Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine. Apart from obvious challenges for our Ukrainian members, we have seen more restrictions for the CSOs in the region and new capacity challenges. For example, more CSOs were announced as "foreign agents" or "undesirable" preventing them from getting sustainable funding. Climate topics were deprioritized in some countries which coincided with a big migration wave, leaving organisations without human resources and proper media support. Considering all that, It was a very good time to take stock of the role which the civil society plays in the EECCA countries and discuss how we can make our positions stronger.

Apart from mapping the challenges we meet and the resources we have to overcome them, we have also organised several practical sessions:

- Climate policy and the role of civil society by Olha Boiko, CAN EECCA. We have covered some basics of climate policy as well as more detailed ways to participate as a CSO. The organisations discussed their experience of following the UNFCCC negotiations and shared good practices of their advocacy both on the local and national level.

- Nargiza Korgoldoeva, CAN EECCA social media expert, led a session for participants on improving communication through social media and new challenges of audience engagement on platforms like Facebook and Instagram.
- Baktygul Chynybaeva, CAN EECCA Communications Manager, conducted a session on effective communication with journalists and gave practical advice to the participants.



The second part of Climate Dialogues gave us an understanding that the civil society of the EECCA region stays strong and connected no matter what. We are constantly adapting and finding new ways to continue our work. We'll need many more allies and young leaders to keep the pressure on decision-makers as well as to educate society on ways to combat the climate crisis.

Network members

In 2023 CAN EECCA has updated its membership list and is currently represented by 49 NGOs from 11 countries in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region. Unfortunately, due to the persecutions which many NGOs face in our region, not every member can be publicly mentioned, as it would put them at risk.

N	Name of organization	Country
1	Khazer NGO	Armenia
2	Third Nature	Armenia
3	Biosophia	Armenia
4	Centre for Community Mobilization and Support	Armenia
5	Woman, Development, Future Public Union	Azerbaijan
6	Ecomed	Azerbaijan

7	Ecofront	Azerbaijan
8	Ecopartnership	Belarus
9	Ecoproject	Belarus
10	Green Network	Belarus
11	Ecovision	Georgia
12	Green Alternative	Georgia
13	Greens Movement of Georgia	Georgia
14	World Experience for Georgia	Georgia
15	Gamarjoba	Georgia
16	RICDOG	Georgia
17	Spektri	Georgia
18	Socio-Ecological Fund	Kazakhstan
19	Angel	Kazakhstan
20	Public Foundation for Sustainable Development "Qaragach"	Kazakhstan
21	EcoMangystau	Kazakhstan
22	PA "ECOM"	Kazakhstan
23	BIOM	Kyrgyzstan
24	UNISON	Kyrgyzstan
25	MoveGreen	Kyrgyzstan
26	"Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy" Public Fund	Kyrgyzstan
27	Public Fund "Zhashyl muun"	Kyrgyzstan
28	Public Association "Students of Kyrgyzstan for a Green Economy"	Kyrgyzstan
29	Gutta-Club	Moldova
30	Renasteria Rurala	Moldova
31	Terra-1530	Moldova
32	Public Association „National Energy Council”	Moldova
33	Public Association „National Environmental Center”	Moldova
34	Ecodefence	Russia
35	Goal Number Seven	Russia
36	Environmental NGO ECA	Russia
37	Little Earth	Tajikistan
38	Youth Ecological centre of Tajikistan	Tajikistan
39	Environment-People-Law	Ukraine
40	Our home - Manyava	Ukraine
41	The Voice of Nature	Ukraine
42	Sreda.uz	Uzbekistan
43	Ekolog.uz	Uzbekistan

Participation in CAN International meetings

In 2023, finally, the Climate Action Network met offline. More than 150 NGOs and team members of CAN Nodes gathered to work on a common strategy for the year. The theme was: RESISTANCE AND HOPE: BUILDING POWER FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

CAN EECCA was represented by a coordinator and 3 Board members, which allowed us to be more present in the discussions and build new connections within the network.



Support and development of network members

Climate Dialogues 2023

We returned the Climate Dialogues project with a renewed commitment to empower climate activists and experts as trainers. Implemented by Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) with help from Bread for the World, in partnership with Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), this project aimed to strengthen the capacities of



regional leaders in climate change, energy independence, as well as bring gender justice and decolonization perspectives to the table. The project unfolded in two significant phases: a training program held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from May 24-28, and subsequent online engagements and initiatives implemented by the participants.

We received a total of 151 applications to participate in the project, which indicates the widespread enthusiasm for climate activism in the EECCA region. Ultimately, 22 individuals were invited from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

The project kicked off with an immersive training program in Tbilisi, Georgia, designed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills. The diverse curriculum covered topics ranging from decolonization to climate change science and policies, climate justice, energy independence, facilitation and effective communication.

The engagement didn't stop in Tbilisi, it continued online. On September 21, a lively webinar brought together the project participants and trainers. Conversations ranged from motivations for climate activism to reflections on the current challenges of being young activists in crisis contexts. The discussions also touched upon the environmental consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine as well as the connection between fossil fuels and conflicts.

The Climate Dialogues project has spurred impactful initiatives across our region. The participants implemented seven initiatives in ethnic languages for their communities.

Two participants of Climate Dialogues from Kazakhstan organized a public discussion which featured expert speakers from healthcare, ecology, environmental law, and economics to discuss potential risks of nuclear power plants being built in Kazakhstan and alternative renewable energy resources. With approximately 50 attendees offline and 480 online, including representation from civil organizations, the event received positive feedback.



Participants from Kazakhstan and Georgia brought the "Keep Cool" game to their youth communities in Astana and Rustavi engaging in environmental games to enhance climate awareness among youth. Positive feedback and increased social media likes indicate success. Diverse settings and fun activities contributed to a comprehensive learning experience.

Participant from Moldova implemented training in Grătiești informing rural youth about climate change and gender inequality, fostering engagement through discussions. The initiative received positive feedback, with success measured by participant responses.



Participants from Uzbekistan implemented a series of sustainability workshops in Nukus and Urgench, Uzbekistan, engaging approximately 150 participants, including students, teachers, university students, social activists, and journalists. The workshops covered topics such as climate change, ecological issues, sustainability, and zero-waste principles.

Participant from Tajikistan conducted sustainability workshops, empowering young activists with tools to address climate change. Facilitators, chosen from volunteers, received training on climate change concepts and effective communication. The trained facilitators then conducted awareness sessions in Dushanbe and Khujand, engaging 65 participants.

Participant from Kyrgyzstan conducted a training program in Cholpon to educate 19 local farmers on climate-resilient technologies. It included developing materials, coordinating with municipalities, and organizing peer learning. The training covered climate change issues, adaptation measures, and practical skills.

Webinars and experience exchange

In 2023 we held 6 online events:

1. Webinar: "IPCC Report - Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability 2022: Lessons for Central Asia".
2. Research presentation. "The role of Transparency: Tracing Climate Just Action under the NDCs"
3. Workshop on how to register in the UNFCCC (for NGOs and Media)
4. Webinar in partnership with n-ost: Sustainable Cities Adapting to Climate Change in EECCA
5. Webinar in partnership with n-ost: Adaptation to climate change in agriculture in EECCA
6. Webinar in partnership with n-ost: Nuclear Energy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Communication achievements

Despite the complex process of working with bilingual content - our audience has a higher demand for information, which confirms their interest in our topics.

- We collectively reached almost 1 mln people across our main platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Telegram and Twitter.
- In an effort to broaden our impact, we engaged with various organizations, resulting in 21 collaborative publications with 11 different organizations.
- We have successfully continued our cooperation with members within #WorldWeWant campaign
- During the specified period, our team successfully developed five materials through collaborative efforts with members of our network. This approach allowed us to create content that is not only relevant but also diverse, benefiting from the expertise and insights of various contributors:
 - Climate crisis in Ferghana valley
 - The threat of coal basin in Kazakhstan
 - Climate solutions in Kyrgyzstan.
 - Choosing neighbours in Kazakhstan: between wind turbine and nuclear power plant
- We have continued to produce our weekly news digest in Russian and English. You can subscribe by following this link

In August 2023, our coordinator took part in the Bled Strategic Forum and published an article in the "Bled Strategic times" called "No safe future without a strong civil society".

Participation of EECCA civil society at UN climate negotiations

Participation of EECCA civil society in COP28



15 members took part in COP28 in Dubai, where they had joint side events, took part in actions and participated in coordinated advocacy as representatives of EECCA region. CAN EECCA members synchronised daily at regional and international CAN network meetings, which helped them not to get lost in the multitude of negotiation processes.

During the COP28 Conference of the Parties, the CAN EECCA Network Secretariat shared the Network's common position with country delegates and international partners. We also compiled all the positions from the civil society of different countries that our network members prepared in one publication.

During the first and second week, we closely followed the speeches of EECCA leaders and shared the reactions of our members:

- Loss and Damage Fund, new declarations and Leaders' Summit – highlights of the first week of COP28
- Glaciers melting, increasing renewable sources and saving the Aral Sea: speeches of EECCA leaders at COP28
- Azerbaijan will host COP29 after all
- COP28 results: vague pledges amidst strong civil society

Fundraising, financial and other type of aid for the Network

CAN EECCA exists due to the support of its members and partners. We are glad that this year we have been able to establish new long-term partnerships and to continue our common work with our regular donors.

CAN EECCA would like to thank Bread for the world for their trust and the opportunity to become stronger through the development of communication capacities, direct support to the network members and the continuation of the Climate Dialogues project. And also, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation for their long-standing support in the production of the information digest and advocacy activities.

CAN EECCA also thanks the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for the reliable strategic partnership and support of the network members' participation in the COP28 conference. We are grateful to Friends of the Earth Germany for the overall organisation of the Climate Dialogues and the high level of trust in our work.

We are also grateful to the CAN International secretariat for the opportunity to receive support from the Node Development Fund and for supporting the participation of representatives from the region in CAN international meetings.



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