



UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA

International Conference on




Mountains, Climate and Health in Central Asia

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

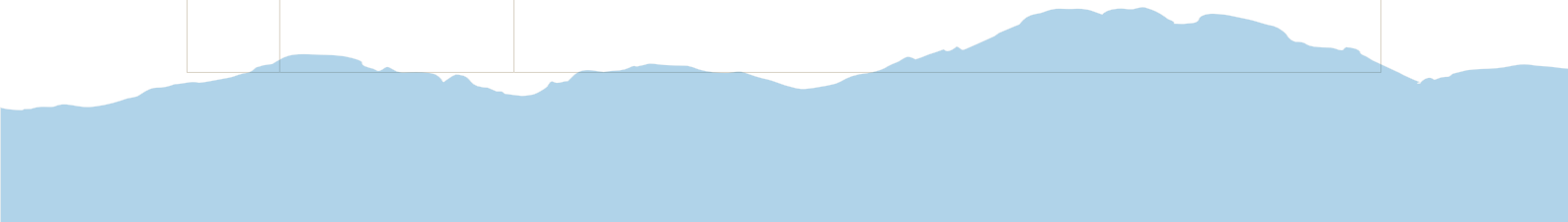
 18-19 June 2026

 Venue: Orion Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan





	08:00-09:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
	09:00-09:45	<p>OPENING: Mountains on the Frontline of Climate Change</p> <p><i>Opening remarks to set the context for the conference, highlighting the urgency of climate and health challenges in mountain systems and the importance of regional collaboration.</i></p> <p>Professor Christopher J Gerry, UCA Rector</p> <p>Mr Musaev Almaz Mustafayevich, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Mr Nurlan Kurmalayev, Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Prince Aly Muhammad Aga Khan</p> <p>Dr Barkat Fazal, AKDN Residential Representative, Kyrgyzstan</p>
	09:45-10:45	<p>ROUNDTABLE I: Regional Priorities for Climate Resilience and Human Well-Being</p> <p>Ms Aizada Barieva, Chief of the Main Department of Ecological and Climate Policy, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Mr Erik Baizhunusov, Chair of the Board, National Centre for Public Health under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mr Jergalbek Ukashev, Director of the Permanent Interstate Body, Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mr Abdurashid Bozorov, Head of Sector at the Center for Economic Research and Reforms under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Ms Patricia Romanowsky, Advisor for Scientific Cooperation with Central Asia; International Department of the Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), Germany</p> <p><i>This roundtable will examine how governments across Central Asia are responding to the growing climate pressures facing mountain systems, communities, and</i></p>

		<p><i>public services. Each participant will reflect briefly on the principal climate-related challenge facing their country and priorities for regional cooperation and resilience.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr Asel Murzakulova, Senior Research Fellow UCA</p>
	10:45-11:05	Break
	11:05-11:50	<p>PLENARY SESSION I: Climate Change and Mountain Systems in Central Asia</p> <p>Keynote Dr Miriam Jackson, Research Scientist, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, Norway</p> <p><i>Accelerated Warming at High Elevations: Implications for Central Asia's Mountains</i></p> <p>Moderator: Deo Raj Gurung, Senior Advisor-Climate Resilience and Mountain Science, UCA.</p>
	12:00-13:30	<p>PARALLEL SESSION I:</p> <p>SESSION 1.1: Climate, Water Systems and Health</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Murodbek Laljebaev, Senior Research Fellow, UCA</p> <p>Dr Gulbara Omorova, Researcher, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Accelerating Degradation of the Adygene Glacier System (Kyrgyz Ala-Too): Evidence from Remote Sensing and Field Ablation Measurements</i></p> <p>Dr Vitalii Zaginaev, Mountain Societies Research Institute, UCA</p> <p><i>Groundwater Flooding in Chu Valley Urban Areas. Exposure, Vulnerability and Implications for Public Well-Being</i></p> <p>Ershova Natalya, Institute of Water Problems and Hydropower, NAS KR, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Runoff in the Chu Basin</i></p> <p>Dr. Sanjar Sadyrov, Mountain Societies Research Institute, UCA</p> <p><i>Geospatial Assessment of Hydro-Climatic Shocks and Rural Livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan</i></p>








		<p>SESSION 1.2: Building Resilience in Climate-Exposed Mountain Communities</p> <p>Moderator: Saule Chalbasova, Research and Strategic Initiatives Office, UCA</p> <p>Alisher Hamurzaev, Center for Economic Research and Reforms under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p> <p><i>Climate Change Mitigation Scenarios</i></p> <p>Dr Chinara Zhusupova, International University of Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Establishing an Interdisciplinary Monitoring System for Climate-Induced Mental Health Risks: A Framework for Urgent Adaptation in the Mountainous Regions of the Kyrgyz Republic</i></p> <p>Dr Madina Junussova and Aigerim Askarova, UCA</p> <p><i>Women’s Role in Just Energy Transition and Urban Resilience in Central Asia</i></p> <p>Salima Bekbolotova, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, UCA</p> <p><i>Measuring Food Insecurity in a Semi-Subsistence Economies: A Probabilistic Panel Approach</i></p>
	<p>13:30-14:30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
	<p>14:30-14:45</p>	<p>Dinara Kemelova, Ambassador, Special Representative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on mountain agenda</p>
	<p>14:45-13:35</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION II: Where Science Meets Story: Climate Change and Human Experience in Mountain Regions</p> <p>Aibek Baiymbetov, UCA Research Fellow and Gulbara Omorova, glaciologist</p> <p>Premiere screening of the documentary film <i>Where Wonder and Warning Meet</i>, dedicated to the rapid melting of the Adygene Glacier</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Aibek Samakov, UCA</p>
	<p>15:35-16:00</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>



	16:00-17:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION III: Climate, Cryosphere and Health - From Evidence to Implications</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Arnaud Caiserman, Senior Research Fellow, UCA</p> <p>Deo Raj Gurung, UCA <i>Climate and Cryosphere Outlook for Kyrgyzstan</i></p> <p>Mushtari Saidikova, University of Cambridge and UCA (PhD Candidate) <i>Health effects of atmospheric particles from natural and anthropogenic sources of emissions</i></p> <p>Dr Jai Das, Aga Khan University, Pakistan <i>Community-Based Climatic Resilience and Preparedness for the mountainous regions of Pakistan</i></p>
	18:00-20:00	Reception



	08:30-09:15	Registration and Welcome Coffee
	09:15-09:45	<p>PLENARY SESSION IV: Green Development, Sustainable Tourism, and Community Resilience in Mountain Regions</p> <p>Keynote Mr Eduard Kubatov, State Agency for Development of Tourism under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p><i>Kyrgyz Republic's climate and green development agenda, including the role of sustainable tourism in fostering community engagement and entrepreneurship in mountain regions</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr Aibek Samakov, UCA</p>
	09:45-10:15	<p>PLENARY SESSION V: Climate and Health in Mountain Regions</p> <p>Keynote, Mr Guangzhe Chen, Vice President for Planet, The World Bank Group</p> <p><i>One Health in the Highlands of Central Asia: Strengthening Resilience, Creating Opportunities, and Sustaining Ecosystems</i></p> <p>Moderator: Professor Christopher J Gerry, Rector, UCA</p>
	10:20-11:50	<p>PARALLEL SESSION 2:</p> <p>SESSION 2.1: Human Health in High-Altitude and Climate-Exposed Regions</p> <p>Moderator: Salima Bekbolotova, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, UCA</p> <p>Prof. Talant Sooronbaev, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Mountains and Health: Adapting to Climate Change</i></p> <p>Aijan Taalaibekova, Gulzada Mirzalieva, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Acute effects of high altitude on the body of healthy women and the use of acetazolamide</i></p> <p>Prof. Michael Furian, Zurich, Switzerland</p> <p><i>Traveling to High Altitudes with pre-existing lung diseases</i></p>

		<p>zamat Akylbekov, Nurdin Shakiev, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>A new strategy for early diagnosis and patient management in remote mountainous areas of Kyrgyzstan using CRP point-of-care testing (POCT)</i></p>
		<p>SESSION 2.2: Climate and Biodiversity</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Maksim Kulikov, Mountain Societies Research Institute, UCA</p> <p>Dr. Koustubh Sharma, Director of Global partnerships Snow Leopard Trust</p> <p><i>Climate Adaptation and snow leopard conservation</i></p> <p>Zafar Gafurov, Regional Representative Office for Central Asia, International Water Management Institute, Uzbekistan</p> <p><i>From “Water Towers” to Resilient Water Landscapes: Strengthening Mountain Water Systems for Ecosystems, Livelihoods, and Climate Risk Reduction</i></p> <p>Maria Chernyavskaya, Fauna & Flora – Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Conservation of Rare Species in Kyrgyzstan’s Forest and Freshwater Ecosystems in the Context of Climate Change</i></p> <p>Professor Kurbonali Partoev, Institute of Botany, Plant, Physiology and Genetics of National Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p><i>The Role of Breeding in the Mountainous Area of Tajikistan to Improve Food Security and Human Health in the Face of Climate Change</i></p>
		<p>SESSION 2.3: Climate and Health Equity</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Bakhytzhon Kurmanov, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, UCA</p> <p>Inna Brusnenskaya, Institute of Water Problems and Hydropower, NAS KR</p> <p><i>Assessment of Winter Weather Conditions Affecting Air Pollution and Public Health in Bishkek city</i></p> <p>Mamytkozhoev Rakhatbek, CADK Project Coordinator</p> <p><i>Community Climate Health Amongst Livestock Keepers in Kyrgyzstan (CCHALKK)</i></p>

		<p>Aisha Toichieva, UCA</p> <p><i>Participatory Sensing for Climate-Health Monitoring in Central Mountain Communities: A Framework Proposal.</i></p>
	12:00-13:15	<p>Moderated high-level roundtable: Partnerships for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Mountain Development</p> <p>Dr Liviu Vedrasco, WHO Representative to Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Dr Ebru Canan-Sokullu, Head, Health and Development Programme, Director, UNITAR Global Water Academy and Deputy Head CIFAL Global Network</p> <p>Dr Peter Liebelt, Head; Representative Office of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Kazakhstan/ Central Asia Sustainable Innovation Bureau (CASIB), Germany</p> <p>Dr Kairat Tabynov, Associate Professor, One Health in Central Asia, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>This concluding high-level roundtable will reflect on the priorities identified by regional governments and the insights emerging from the conference, and will focus on identifying practical opportunities for coordination, investment, and innovation at the intersection of climate, health, and mountain systems in Central Asia.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr Paul Dhalla, AKDN</p>
	13:15-13:30	<p>From Dialogue to Action: Next Steps for Climate Resilience in Mountain Regions</p> <p>Closing summary by Prof Eran Edirisinghe and Deo Raj Gurung</p>
	13:30-14:30	Lunch