

# 2023 SPECA Economic Forum

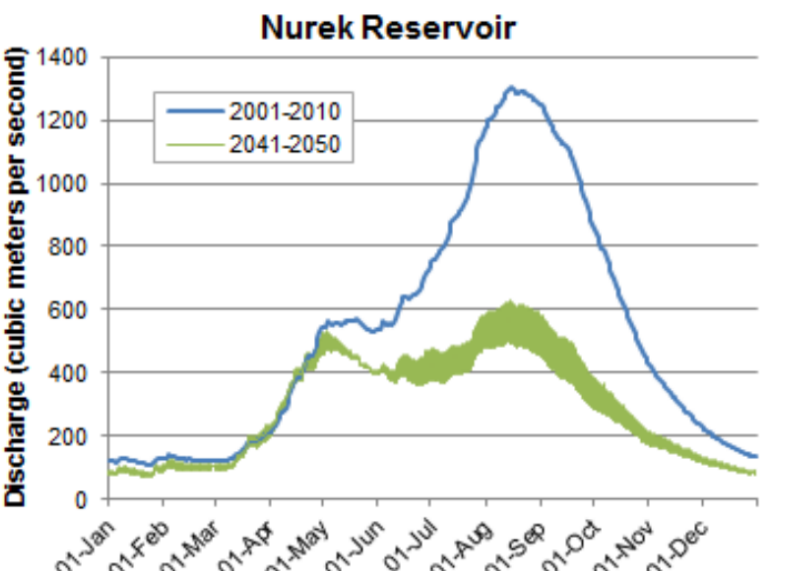
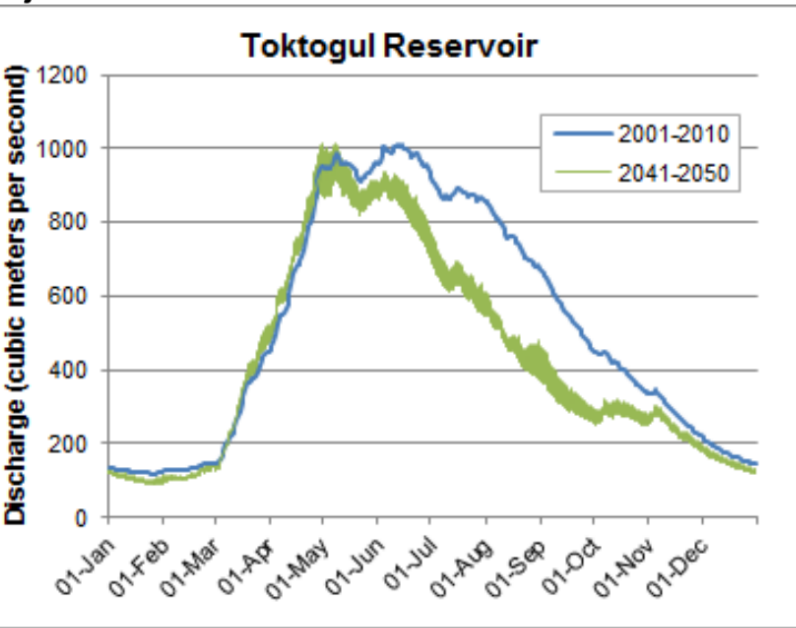
## “Transforming the SPECA Region into a Connectivity Hub with Global Outreach”

SESSION IV: SPECA AT 25 AND VISION FOR THE 25 YEARS TO COME

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Figure 12: (a) Annual Hydrographs for the Toktogul Reservoir (Kyrgyz Republic, Syr Darya Basin) and (b) Nurek Reservoir (Tajikistan, Amu Darya Basin) in 2001–2010 and 2041–2050 Modeled Using Five Different Climate Change Projections



# CENTRAL ASIA

## Waste Management

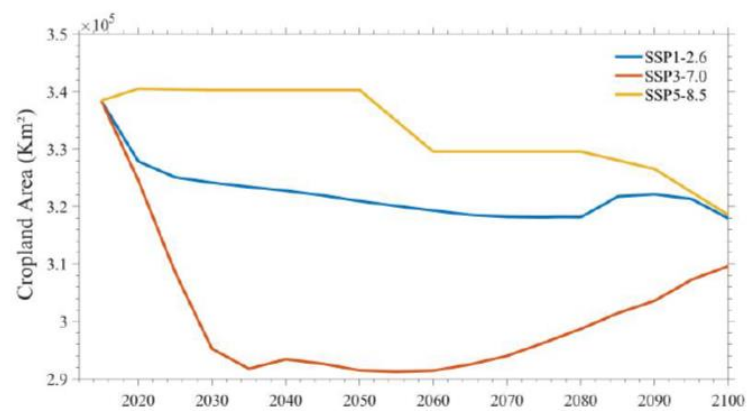
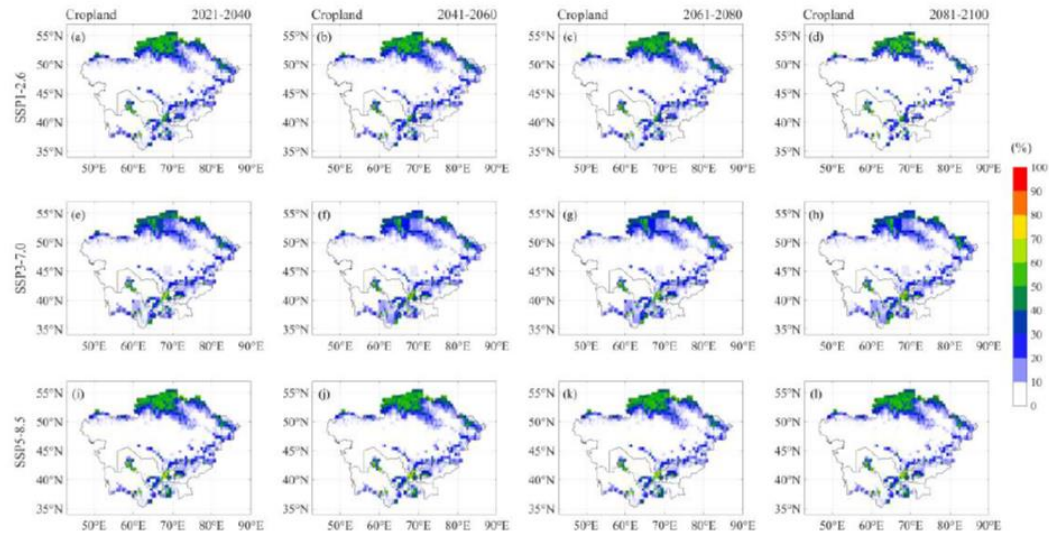
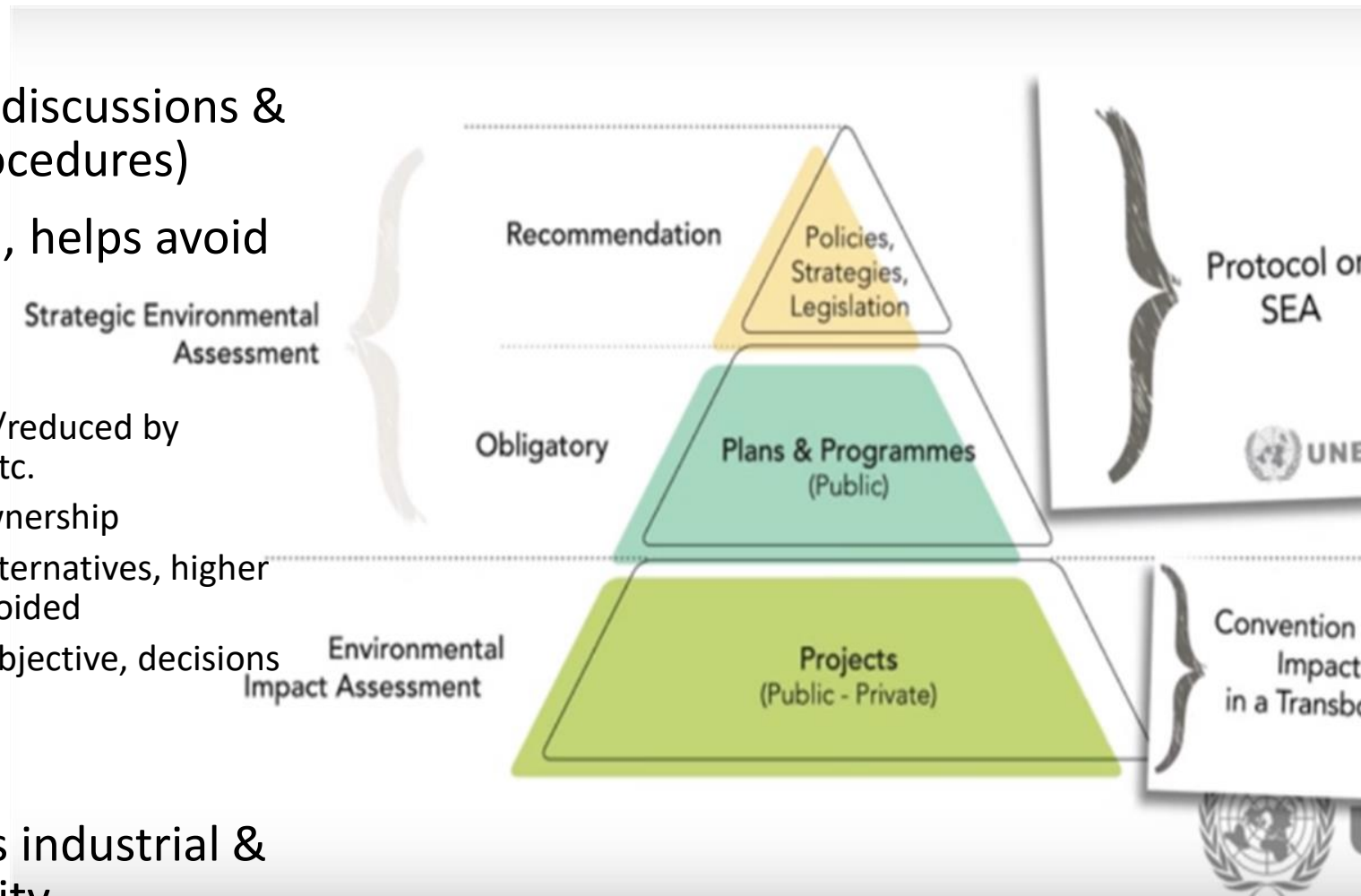


Figure 2. Spatial distributions of 20-year average cropland area share and projected total cropland area of Central Asia (CA) for the period 2020–2100 under five different climate change scenarios (SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0, SSP4-6.0, and SSP5-8.5).

# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

## UNECE Espoo Convention

- **Common framework** for inter-State discussions & cooperation (binding but flexible procedures)
- **Enhances international cooperation**, helps avoid tensions
- **Improves**
  - **Environmental protection:** impacts avoided/reduced by mitigation, revising project design, resiting etc.
  - **Governance:** transparency, participation, ownership
  - **Planning:** improved project design, better alternatives, higher environmental standards, costly mistakes avoided
  - **Decision-making:** better informed & more objective, decisions better understood & accepted
- **Sovereignty retained**
- **Confidentiality respected:** preserves industrial & commercial secrecy + national security



# Examples of pilot SEAs in Central Asia and Azerbaijan

- SEA of the Strategy for the development of the Fuel and Energy System of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030 (UNECE)
- SEA of the Astana Master Plan (UNDP)
- SEAs for 2 regional development plans, Kazakhstan (GIZ)
- SEA for Forestry Road Map (to the National Forestry Strategy to 2030), Uzbekistan.
- SEA of the National Strategy on the Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources (2015 – 2020). Azerbaijan(UNECE)
  - Provided a new approach to address environmental and health impacts of renewable energy sources at the strategic level.
  - Revealed opportunities for enhanced environmental and health protection.
  - Highlighted potential conflicts between renewable energy and other economic sectors.
  - Formulated recommendations and measures to be considered in further renewable energy development (including guidance for project level assessment).
  - Improved communication among governmental bodies on environmental issues.

REGIONAL STRATEGY  
FOR SAND AND DUST STORMS  
MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA  
2021–2030

REGIONAL SDS STRATEGY

# Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries

National EIA/SEA legislation, harmonized across region

National capacities built (institutions, expertise)

Functional communication channels (consultations)

Integration of environmental experts inputs into policy making and planning



The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention  
Geneva  
26–28 June 2023



## MRC Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TbEIA) Guidelines and its Voluntary Application

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