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Council for Sustainable
Development of Central Asia

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International Centre
for Integrated Mountain
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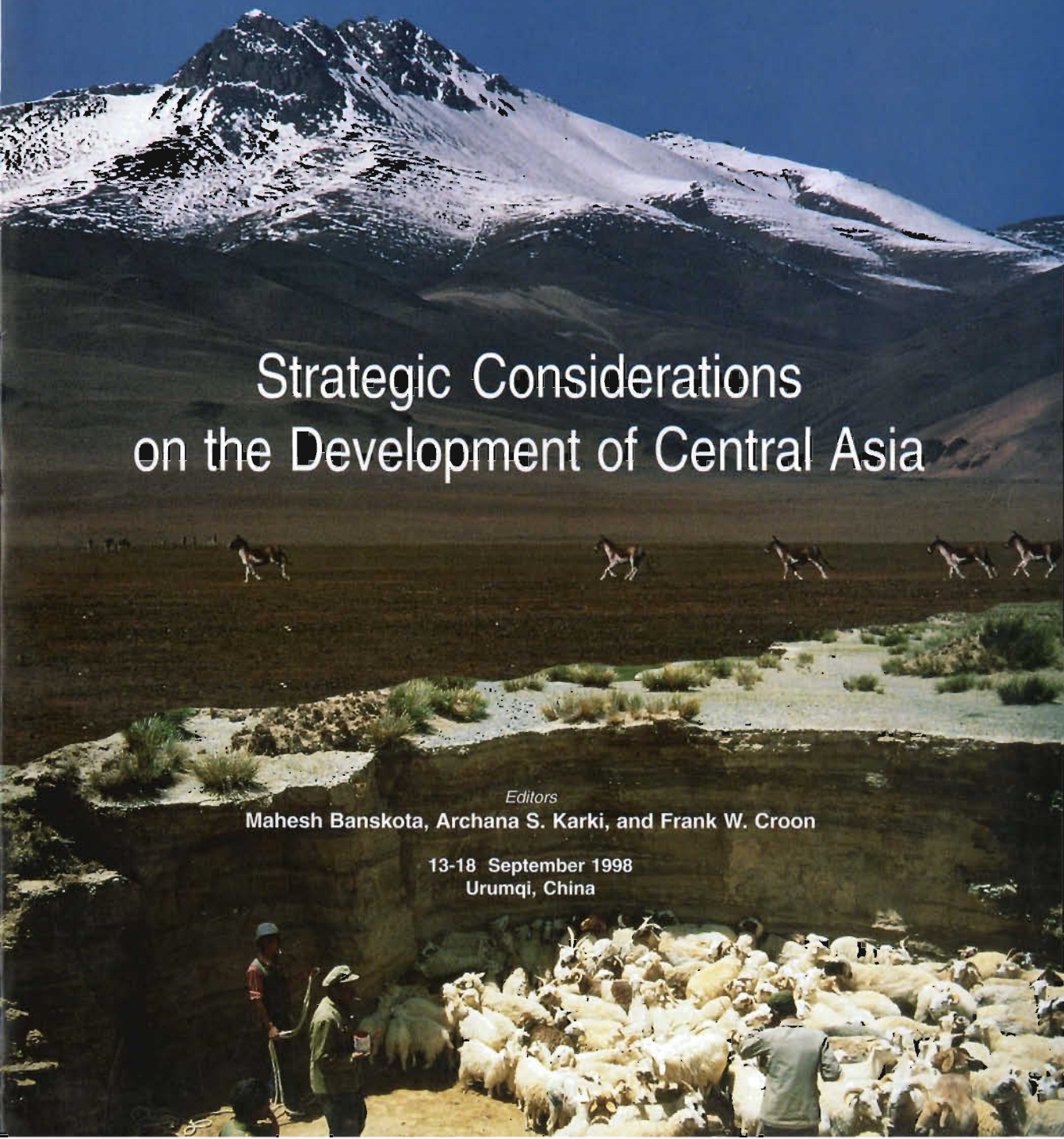
XIEG
Xinjiang Institute
of Ecology and
Geography

**Strategic Considerations
on the Development of Central Asia**

Editors

Mahesh Banskota, Archana S. Karki, and Frank W. Croon

**13-18 September 1998
Urumqi, China**



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Foreword

It is our great pleasure to present the proceedings of the second CoDoCA conference 'Strategic Considerations on the Development of Central Asia' held in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China from September 13-18, 1998.

It was a large gathering with more than 150 participants from 25 countries, the largest meeting held on this topic in this remote part of Western China. By providing a platform for people from different parts of Central Asia, who not only crossed borders that had remained closed for many decades, but who could also discuss topics of common interest that were considered irrelevant or too sensitive until recent times, the conference in many ways had historic significance.

Central Asia is a region of extreme climatic conditions. Extremes range from those of heat in the Turfan basin (where underground water supply systems built 1,000 years ago are still in use) to those of snow and severe cold experienced around the Tian Shan (Heavenly) Lake.

The challenges of Central Asia are not limited to the climate alone. Fundamental questions include how to transform economies that have been subjected to decades of inefficient central planning? how can incomes be generated by scattered rural populations living on arid and fragile lands? how can we combat desertification and erosion and avoid further environmental disaster? how can water quality be preserved and sanitation be implemented? how to ensure sufficient supplies of water where and when it is needed? and - perhaps most urgently — how to cooperate more smoothly and constructively with fellow Central Asians who share so many natural and cultural resources? All these issues surfaced at the conference and many participants were overwhelmed by the amount and variety of problems that were presented. At the same time, by reflecting on the many different approaches of the presentations and discussing these together over a period of five days, many saw glimpses of possible solutions and some were able to take concrete steps towards sustainable development and nature protection.

It took many years to prepare for this conference. It was conceived four years earlier at the first CoDoCA conference in Mongolia in 1994 by the Chinese delegate from Xinjiang, Dr. Yuan Guo Ying, who prepared the ground for the meeting in Urumqi.

We could not have held the event without the strong support and cooperation of our official co-organizers. I would like to mention in particular Prof. Sun Hong Lie and Madame Fu Shuqin, of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Song Yu Dong and Liu Wenjiang of the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography.

We are also grateful to Mr. Egbert Pelinck, Director General and Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Deputy Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development for their wholehearted support. We received timely assistance from Mr. Mambetov and his staff of the Interstate Council for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, and

Uzbekistan as well as from the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences. I would also like to thank the donors, especially Ford Foundation, the Dutch Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

I hope the proceedings convey the spirit of the conference. As said, the topics were diverse, but in their diversity they present an accurate picture of the challenges that Central Asia will face in the years to come.

Sander G. Tideman
Chairman
Council for Sustainable Development of Central Asia

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADF	Asian Development Fund
AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
ASP	Aral Sea Programme
ASP	Aral Sea Programme
ASWRP	Aral Sea Wetland Restoration Project
AusAid/AIDAB	Australian Aid Bureau (International Development)
CAEC	Central Asian Economic Community
CAR	Central Asian Republics
CAS	Chinese Academy of Sciences
CCD	The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIS	Confederation of States Formerly in the USSR (post 1990)
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CoDoCA	Council for Sustainable Development of Central Asia
DMC	Developing Member Countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FSU	Disintegration of the Soviet Union
GBM	Ganga Brahamaputra and Meghana
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HKH	Hindu Kush-Himalayas
HPI	Heifer Project International
ICAS	Interstate Council for the Aral Sea
ICAS	Interstate Council on the Aral Sea
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund

MCL	Maximum Contamination Level
MFI	Micro-Finance Institution
MIS	Management Information Systems
NADRI	National Arid Land Development and Research Institute
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NGO	Non-government Organization
OCR	Ordinary Capital Resources
ODA	Overseas' Development Assistance
OM	Organic Matter
PEACE	Poverty Eradication and Community Empowerment
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RETA	Regional Technical Assistance
SAVE	Society for Afghanistan Volunteer Environmentalists
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TA	Technical Assistance
TEAP	TACIS Environmental Awareness Programme
TIEIAM	Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanisation Engineers
TRACECA	Transport Plans for Central Asia
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
WAPDA	Water and Power Development Authority (Pakistan)
WARMAP	Water Resources' Management and Agricultural Production in the Central Asian Republics
WB	World Bank
WEFTECH	Water Environment Federation
WFP	World Food Programme
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Editorial Note

Paper headings have not received substantive changes. The current document has been produced as a record of a unique process of consultation between representatives of countries, organizations, cultures, disciplines, and language groups and papers are not produced in their entirety.

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