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## **3<sup>RD</sup> INTERIM REPORT**

*APRIL 2011 – APRIL 2012*



**«Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management  
and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia»**

EU-UNDP Project (2008 - 2012)

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## List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BC	Bilateral Commission
BRC	Regional Centre for Europe & CIS, United Nations Development Program
CWR	Committee of Water Resources (Kazakhstan)
EDB	Eurasian Development Bank
EC-IFAS	Executing Committee of the International Fund for Aral Sea Saving
EU	European Union
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICWC	Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
IMCC	Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council
ITL	International Team Leader
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MMWRRT	Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan
NPD	National Policy Dialogue process
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
SC	Steering Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SHP	Small Hydro Power
UN ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN RCCA	United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WMP	Water Management Plans
WUAs	Water Users Associations

## **I. Summary and context**

The "Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia" project is being implemented by UNDP through its Bratislava Regional Center, which covers the overall project management. This effort is supported by the regional activities (component 4) that are being implemented through three country offices (COs): Kyrgyzstan (component 1), Tajikistan (component 2) and Kazakhstan (component 3).

This current report covers the time period of April 2011-April 2012, and provides an overview on project activities since the last project progress report. All project components are now in the implementation phase.

There are several other ongoing projects and initiatives in the water management sector in Central Asia which are funded by the European Union, UN agencies, German and Swiss governments, and other international donors. Some of these initiatives have similar objectives and aims as the current project. Therefore, in order to maximize synergies between all initiatives in the region, the project is coordinating with other initiatives and partners. In some cases this leads to refining project workplans and restructuring of certain project activities. However, this is in line with the desired adaptive management approach and does not pose a risk to the achievement of project objectives and outcomes.

The project has already facilitated positive impacts and inputs towards national policies and reforms, particularly in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan as described in more details below, and the same type of activities have been started in Kazakhstan following the recommendation of the previous monitoring mission and requests from the governmental partners.

Demonstration projects are either already finalized or close to the end of their implementation phase –covering different sectors according to the project mandate, and providing a good overview of different IWRM principles and approaches used on the local and transboundary levels.

Transboundary and regional activities are ongoing as planned and are in close cooperation with riparian states, and relevant regional structures and partners.

The project team assisted with an EU monitoring mission that was carried out in May 2011 and participated in the meetings with project stakeholders. The findings of the monitoring mission have been addressed in both the project planning and implementation.

## **II. Activities carried out during the reporting period**

**1. Adjusting work plans to ongoing national processes.** This activity was ongoing in all participating countries and at the regional level.

In Tajikistan, the project is supporting ongoing water reform and one of the key issues involved is coordination among different sectors and integration of water issues into strategic and development policies and operations. The Water and Energy Council as the high-level national coordinating body should provide this coordination platform – and the project is contributing by support and active functioning. The project team is also following recent developments in this reform process. Active cooperation with the National Policy Dialogue process is ensured.

In Kyrgyzstan, all planned activities are ongoing, though the situation on the national level is unclear due to planned public administration reform and staff changes which might result from the national political processes. As in Tajikistan, relevant synergies with NPD are in place including joint meetings and effective coordination mechanisms.

In Kazakhstan, the project has adjusted its plans to coordinate with the bilateral Kazakh-Chinese operations, and is currently participating in IWRM discussions at the national level (including water sector development program) as it is closely connected with the basin-wide operations and transboundary relations.

At the regional level, the work plans are updated based on communication with other international partners and climate changes issues, which were addressed in the work plan due to growing related concerns linked to water security.

**2. Recruitment of experts and additional team members.** Since the previous report, additional experts/team members are being recruited/contracted:

- for the Kyrgyz component: national experts on Support to Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Development/water issues;
- for the Tajik component: two national experts for developing feasibility studies on hydro-posts rehabilitation (pumping stations and GPS expert), international and national experts (irrigation specialist) for the development of the methodology for the irrigation assets inventory in the sub-basin of Isfara River;
- for the Kazakhstani component on IBB: expert on legal issues for local trainings and two database experts (hydrologist and hydrochemist).

**3. Coordination and partnership building:**

- (i) Regional coordination is performed from the BRC Almaty office (UN common premises). The main focus is on the implementation of the regional component of the project, coordination of project activities with other international organizations and partners, and ensuring coherence and synergies among national components. The regional SC is operational – 2 meetings were held in May and December 2011.
- (ii) Tajikistan national coordination: the national project team is located in the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan (MMWRRT) in Dushanbe. The national SC is operational – also two meetings were held in 2011.
- (iii) Kyrgyzstan national coordination: the project team is located at the UNDP Environmental Programme in Kyrgyzstan, and the office has been restored after it was heavily damaged due to political clashes in 2010. The national SC is operational – two meetings were held in 2011.
- (iv) The Ili-Balkhash office is located in Almaty – it has been moved out of UNDP premises due to technical reasons. The national SC is operational – one meeting took place in 2011.

4. Missions and meetings of the project team with key stakeholders were carried out in order to: (i) inform them about project plans and activities; (ii) ensure cooperation and integration of project activities into broader frameworks; and (iii) agree on the details of joint activities/cooperation. In this period the project team met with:

(i) Key national partners such as the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources of Tajikistan (the Minister and Deputy Minister – regularly through 2011), the Kyrgyz State Committee on Water Resources and Melioration/reformed into the Department of Water Resources and Melioration (the Head and his Deputy – regularly through 2011) and the Water Resources Committee in Kazakhstan (the Chairman and his deputy – regularly through 2011). Planned project activities were reiterated and discussed in more details. In Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, these meetings allowed for the alignment of project planning at the national level, in Kazakhstan – due to the need to coordinate project activities with Bilateral Chinese-Kazakh Water Commission activities and planned state support to the IWRM activities. In Tajikistan, a new successful partnership has been developed with the Presidential Administration – to support the process of the Water and Energy Council on the national level. An MOU between UNDP and Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources of Tajikistan has been prepared and has been endorsed.

(ii) Other partners and stakeholders at the basin or pilot site level:

**Kyrgyzstan** – Union the Water Users Associations and Water Automation and Metrology Institute on the national level, Batken Province State administration, TAIC (consulting company), communities and WUAs in Batken region. Several meetings with other international projects were held to exchange information on the ongoing activities and to identify and plan possible areas for cooperation and other joint activities. Memorandums of cooperation have been drafted to formalize the partnerships.

Partners met: two WB projects' implementation units (Improvement of Water Management and On-Farm Irrigation), Swiss INGO Helvetas SEP irrigation project and Country Director, representatives of FAO, OSCE, and CAREC, PF TAIC to identify organization's contribution to the project on-site implementation, UNDP Peace and Development on Disaster Risks Management Programmes.

**Tajikistan** – several meetings and events were held in the Isfara river basin in 2011 (management and staff of the NGO "Irrigation Agrarian Consulting" engaged in organization of six WUAs in the sub-basin of the river Isfara, Raivodkhoz of Isfara and Kanibadam districts, Khukumats of Isfara and Kanibadam, Odlvodkhoz in Sugd etc.) on WSS issues in cooperation with SUE (State unitary enterprise) "Housing and communal services". The main aim was to ensure local ownership and encourage support for transboundary cooperation with the Kyrgyz partners. In addition, these meetings served as an opportunity to collect relevant information and advice for the project activities. On WSS issues – cooperation took place with SUE (State Unitary Enterprise) "Housing and communal services".

**Kazakhstan** – The project is actively working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the water sector of the Almaty regional Akimat, the Balkash-Alakol Basin Inspection Committee, the Institute of Geography of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Design Institute "Kazgiprovodkhoz", the Kazakh National Agrarian University, the Kazakh Economic University T. Ryskulov, the Center "Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan", the Kazakh Institute of Water Resources as well as other interested parties. Meetings were organized with a Deputy Akim of Yenbekshikazakh region, Akim of Almaty oblast to align project activities to the local needs and requests.

(iii) International actors: meetings and consultations are held on the regular basis with the following actors:

- EU: for clarifying project activities in all the countries and adjusting them to the NPD process and other ongoing projects;

- UN ECE and OECD: for coordinating the NPD process in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and other UN ECE projects in the region, and for cooperation under Chu-Talas basin activities;
- GIZ: to agree on cooperating and coordinating in the pilot area for transboundary activities support (Isfara) and national activities;
- OSCE: for discussing joint events in Kazakhstan and for Chu-Talas basin activities;
- Cap-Net: to agree on capacity building activities and training courses in Central Asia;
- EDB: cooperation on a small-hydro feasibility study in Tajikistan – the formal application to EDB has been processed;
- EC-IFAS: for discussing regional activities and ASBP-3, information bulleting/early warning system for transboundary waters;
- UN RCCA: for aligning work plans, information bulleting/early warning system for transboundary waters;
- FEEM project - information bulleting/early warning system for transboundary waters;
- UNESCO – joint capacity building activities and events;
- Helvetas: cooperation on irrigation demonstration project in Kyrgyzstan - joint activities in Batken region, an updated MOU for 2012 has been prepared;
- FAO: on coordination and possible joint activities in the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan irrigation sectors, a draft MoU has been prepared for Kyrgyzstan;
- ADB: for discussing funding options for pilot projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan;
- SDC: on coordination of activities on IWRM in transboundary basins and on the national level.

Project events and events where the project activities were presented/discussed (May-Dec 2011):

- Third Regional Steering Committee Meeting - 17 May 2011,
- Subregional workshop "Capacity Development for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Central Asia" – 16-17 May 2011,
- Presentation of the Chu-Talas baseline study to the Bilateral Water Commission – Bishkek, 23-24 May 2011,
- Discussion on the Isfara activities and presentation of plans for the Kyrgyz-Tajik Interministerial Water Working group, 25 May 2011,
- Bilateral Kyrgyz-Tajik working meeting on Isfara among the experts and project teams to reflect on the results of the discussions at the Interministerial Water Working group meeting, 25 May 2011,
- Seminar on "Improving water supply and sanitation" national component "Development and Implementation of IWRM Strategies in Kyrgyzstan," May 31, 2011,
- Round table "Improving Water Supply and Sanitation" in Kyrgyzstan, 1 June 2011,
- National seminar "State and Perspectives of the IWRM in the Republic of Tajikistan", 1 June 2011,
- Training on international and national water legislation (specifically, on the application of the new law "on state control in RK") and on integrated water resources management was conducted on 31 May 2011 for the staff of the Balkash-Alakol Basin inspection (BABI),

- Field mission to Isfara with the EU Delegation in Tajikistan and meetings – 2-4 June, 2011,
- The training on legal issues, integrated water resources management and economy of irrigation – 7 June 2011 in Bakanas village, Balkash region, Almaty region,
- Review mission to assess the conditions of assets and irrigation systems and in order to develop a well-grounded methodology (with participation of the international and national experts), Isfara, 16 - 20 June 2011,
- Workshop on reviewing the first version of the draft Methodology of the irrigation systems inventory in Tajikistan, 7 July 2011,
- Round table "Integrated Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan: prospects for application of the IWRM plan and its implementation at national and basin levels", 15 July 2011,
- Chu-Talas seminar in Almaty (to discuss a background study and proposals for the follow up activities), 12-13 July 2011,
- National Steering Committee meeting for the Kazakhstani component - Astana, 15 July 2011,
- International training course on preparation of irrigation technology and the water economy, Shikhedzy PRC (People's Republic of China) 11-30 August 2011 – invitation to this course was received after the IBB international Conference held in 2010 as a result of supporting the bilateral dialogue and negotiations,
- National Policy Dialogue meeting and Steering Committee meeting - Kyrgyzstan, September 6th, 2011,
- Side-event under "Environment for Europe" process, Astana 23 September – to present Chu-Talas findings and discuss CC adaptation for transboundary water basins, in cooperation with UNECE,
- 13-th Balkhash – Alakol Basin Council Meeting, 30 September 2011, Almaty,
- Training on the methodology of irrigation systems inventory, working with GPS devices, as well as field trainings among relevant employees of the government and non-governmental organizations of Kanibadam and Isfara districts within the territory of the sub-basin of the river Isfara, combined with the field mission - 21 to 25 September 2011,
- National training on the methodology for irrigation assets & facilities inventory, 3-4 October 2011, Tajikistan,
- Second National Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tajikistan, 4 October 2011,
- CRM workshops for water users and rural consumer cooperatives of water users (SPKV) in the area Sarkand, Bakanas Balkash district of Almaty region - 25-26 October 2011,
- Awareness-raising and training meetings for members of 6 established WUAs and of the successfully functioning WUA "Ravot" in Kanibadam and Isfara districts from 26 to 29 October, 2011,
- Seminar "Capacity Building of Professionals in the Field of Water Services", organized by the Center "Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan" as part of the International Exhibition of Water Technology in Central Asia 2011- project experts made a presentation on "The order of registration permits in the area of water", Almaty, November 1, 2011,
- Training: Administration of the WUA, water-saving irrigation technology, accounting methods of irrigation water, Kyrgyzstan, 1-2 November 2011,

- Seminar: "Improving water resource management and conflict prevention", Kyrgyzstan, 15 November 2011,
- National Conference "Education for Sustainability: Training for "Green " Economy and the Efficient Management of Water Resources", Kyrgyzstan, 17 November 2011,
- Round table "Integrated Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan for the Transition to Sustainable Development", organized by the Kazakh Economic University (KAZ EU) and T. Ryskulov in partnership with the Center "Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan", as part of the week of science in Kazakhstan. The project made a presentation on "Integrated Water Resources Management in the Balkash-Alakol Basin". December 1, 2011, Almaty,
- Fourth Regional Steering Committee Meeting 8 December 2011, Almaty,
- Sub-regional workshop "IWRM Implementation in Central Asia – Current Practices and the Way Forward", 8-9 December 2011, Almaty.
- First meeting of the Water and Energy Council in Tajikistan, January 28, 2012;
- The training on "Experience of Introduction of Integrated Water Resource Management Elements and Transboundary Dialogue in the Sub-Basin of Isfara River" ; February 21-22, 2012 in Kayrakkum, Sughd Oblast;
- National workshop in Astana on the Methodology and Parameters of Database and System Monitoring in Ile-Balkhash basin, 23 February 2012;
- Workshop on Effective Water Resource Use in Ile-Balkhash Basin with Preliminary Survey, 16 March (survey), 28 March (workshop) 2012 – the workshop took place in Yesyk city, Almaty oblast;
- Second Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council (IMCC) Meeting on Drinking Water supply, 19 March 2012, Dushanbe;
- Two practical training sessions on resource mobilization were conducted with the main partners from the Kyrgyzstan Union of WUAs and Public Association "Training, Advice and Innovation Centre" (TAIC) for ACT in Central Asia to attract co-financing for IWRM project activities in Kyrgyzstan;
- The 2nd National Conference of the Water Users Association was conducted on March 1-2, 2012, with presentations of the IWRM project outputs and main results in support to the national water sector. The event has been conducted jointly with two WB projects and Swiss INGO Helvetas in support to the Department on Water Management and Melioration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration;
- Round Table "Climate Change Impacts on the Water Resources and Agriculture Sector: Adaptation Strategy of Kyrgyzstan", organized jointly with the Department on Water Management and Melioration, UNDP Environment Programme and Association of Forest and Land Users, 16 March 2012;
- On March 28-29 2012, the IWRM project conducted another joint event together with UNDP Environment Programme – a theoretical and practical Conference entitled "Global Climate Change: Adaptation Strategy of Kyrgyzstan". The outputs delivered by the IWRM experts on annual water runoff models, economic assessment of the loss have been presented and discussed by the participants, who stress the need to continue research in that direction.

Documentation on the key project meetings and selected minutes/reports are presented in Annex 1.

## 5. Development of IWRM documentation and policy inputs is on-going under all components.

In Kyrgyzstan, the project contributes to the development of the National Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation and to study the adverse impacts of climate change on the water sector of Kyrgyzstan. Three climate change scenario models of how surface waters will flow until 2100 taking into account variation due to climate change as well as relevant economic assessments have been drafted and presented to the stakeholders and authorities (Annexes 5, 6 and 7 to the report). These activities were presented during the two events in March 2012.

A Concept of the Investment and Tariffs Policy (ITP) in the water sector and an Action Plan on ITP has been developed and handed over to the national partners for endorsement (Annex 10).

An agreement from the Czech Trust Fund has been concluded to support the project with a particular focus on capacity building in development of the water sector financial strategies at different levels and to contribute to the finalization of proposals developed earlier by the national consultants under the same component. A TOR has been finalized based on discussions with the national partners (Annex 12).

In Tajikistan, the IWRM review has been finalized for the national level (Annex 17). A similar document was developed for the Isfara water basin, and it is currently being harmonized with Kyrgyzstan to align priorities and positions. At the request of the MMWRRT, the project has developed a methodology for the irrigation assets inventory (Annex 14), which has been published and distributed among national stakeholders. The methodology supports current water reform in its move towards improved accountability and empowerment of local water users in the decision-making process.

In Kazakhstan, the emphasis is on the Balkhash-Alakol' basin (Kazakh part of Ili-Balkhash basin). The IWRM review is ready and the publication has been delivered to the national stakeholders and partners. The Water Management Plan for this basin is being drafted by the project and is currently under discussion in the Basin Water Council (Annex 18).

It was also agreed to establish two working groups for the database development:

- Expert group to control the activities of 4 ministries under heads of departments in order to provide effective results;
- Legal Work group to elaborate the appropriate legal documentation for data sharing among the Ministries (Memorandum of understanding or Protocol of Intent).

On March 29, 2012 the national IWRM plan developed by the UNDP was repeatedly sent to the Water Resources Committee to be included into the Development and Updating Strategy for Water Sector (comments are in Annex 20). It is expected that the government will consider this document during April 2012.

The review of regional IWRM interventions has been finalized, as well as the report on relevant water agreements, institutions and policy activities (Annexes 21 and 22).

## 6. Preparation of the documentation for pilot projects and implementation of these projects:

- Kyrgyzstan: The "Water Automation and Metrology" Institute has won the bid to implement the pilot project on modernizing the water metering and distribution system at the transboundary Chumysh Dam. The aim is to ensure appropriate distribution of water in the transboundary Chui River Basin. Equipment has been procured and installed on the Chumysh watermarks system. The project contractor has also organized the introductory training of the Chumysh Dam staff. This pilot project has concluded and the experience of the project should be shared with relevant stakeholders. It is likely that an additional project impact assessment will need to be completed as a future project task.
- Field seminars and trainings on modern irrigation technologies have been conducted with the participation of the WUA staff and representatives of local self governance bodies.

These activities have been conducted by the consulting company "Training Advisory and Innovation Centre" (TAIC), which won the bid in tendering for the leading irrigation pilot project. These capacity building activities have led to improved irrigation practices and reduced water consumption. Follow-up activities are planned with Helvetas and TAIC.

- RWWS pilot - in order to disseminate the pilot experience to other areas, both a seminar and a roundtable have been organized with the participation of the Batken local state administration bodies and heads of rural districts to present the best practices of the Kara-Bulak village. There have been recommendations to include similar project proposals into the overall Province investment plan. A special training course has been organized for public servants of the Province and District State administrations as well as heads of local self governance bodies in Batken on the Kara Bulak village experience.
- In Tajikistan, the pilot documents are being developed for hydro-posts rehabilitation – feasibility studies are completed (Annex 15), and follow up works based on these studies have been initiated – tender documentation is under preparation. The MOU with the beneficiaries is in the process of finalization.
- Based on the methodology for the irrigation assets inventory that was developed under the project, an inventory has begun for Isfara basin as a pilot project.
- The "Irrigation and agricultural consult" NGO was selected to implement follow up demonstration activities in the two WUAs in the sub-basin of Isfara River (WUA "Obu Hayot" in Kanibadam district and WUA "Mehnatobod" in Isfara district). In January 2012, a relevant contract was concluded with this organization and it started mobilization works to involve stakeholders in the establishment of the Water Users' Federation and the Water committee of the sub-basin of Isfara River and to build capacity of the two above-mentioned WUAs.

7. EU monitoring mission support – in May 2011 the monitoring mission visited all the project offices. The project staff provided logistical support and assisted with arrangements for the stakeholders meetings. All key project staff (required by the monitor) were available for the interviews, meetings, and further communication. Management comments on the key raised issues have been prepared and are presented in the Annex 24. The next EU Monitoring mission is planned for May 2012.

8. Visibility and web-site – the project web-site is running (as well as the Intranet), and the updated visibility/communication plan for 2012 has been submitted to the EU (Annex 23).

Additional IWRM project news information has been posted on the regional environment information resource CARNET <http://www.caresd.net> and Kyrgyzstan environment site of ECOIS PF <http://www.ecois.net>

Some examples of media coverage and visual materials under the project:

- Article in Kazakhs newspaper "Panorama" based on the recommendations of the national IWRM seminar in Astana – 22 July 2011,
- Article for the UNDP website [www.undp.kz](http://www.undp.kz) "Ile-Balkash: regulation of water use",
- Batken Province TV televised a program about IWRM project in Batken on the 13th and 29th August 2011,
- National Public TV and private Fifth Channel also broadcasted two programs on IWRM in August 2011,
- Batken Province newspaper the "Batken Tany" published an article on IWRM project improvement irrigation activities on the 15th of August,
- An article on IWRM implementation has been prepared and sent to INBO Newsletter,

- A leaflet on IWRM activities on the local communities' level has been developed for publication.
- A poster for IWRM KG component has been designed and published (Annex 13), assuring visibility of the project in Russian and Kyrgyz;
- A Leaflet "IWRM project and transboundary water dialogue in CA" has been prepared for publication in Kyrgyz, Russian and English;
- A Publication of "Methodology of irrigation systems inventory" in Tajikistan was prepared - 500 copies in a brochure form and 140 copies in electronic version on CD for distribution among interested organizations.

#### 9. Additional funds mobilization

- Two applications (up to 60.000 USD each) have been developed for the UNDP- Coca-Cola public-private partnership initiative "Every Drop Matters" for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Results are to be announced by summer 2012.
- Czech Trust Fund financing is confirmed (up to 50.000 USD) – the TOR for Czech subcontractor has been developed and the tender is open at the moment.

### **III. Emerging challenges and measures taken**

One of the key challenges for the project was the need to coordinate activities among various national and international agencies, programs, and projects in the water sector as well as on the national level in all the countries. Supporting the State Coordination Council for the water and energy issues under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Inter-ministerial Coordination Council for drinking water supply and sanitation system in Tajikistan, the National Water Council in Kyrgyzstan, and supporting cooperation with NPD and regular communication with key stakeholders is greatly contributing to improved coordination and synchronizing different interventions.

In Kyrgyzstan, due to the national administrative reform and the recent political events, the project activities at the national level have been heavily delayed. However, all operations are now resumed and are being implemented as planned. The reorganization of the main project partner in Kyrgyzstan – State Committee on Water Management and Melioration into the Department of the Water Management and Melioration (DWMM) under the Ministry of Agriculture has caused a certain delay of projected activities. The statute of the water management focal institution has been changed and its mandate is still under discussion. This has raised issues with progressing transboundary cooperation in the Isfara basin.

In Tajikistan, the project activities are linked to the reform of the water and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the planned IWRM Strategy or Plan is awaiting the political decision of the Tajik Government on the transition to the water basin principle under IWRM. Other planned activities are ongoing.

In Kazakhstan, insufficient capacity of CWR has led to a lack of knowledge of IWRM principles on both the national and basin levels. This has also led to a loss of state funding for IWRM activities in 2012. Discussions are ongoing to ensure this funding is available for 2013-2014, but the results are not yet clear. Therefore, the project has started to focus more of its work on the national level which is aimed at capacity building, technical support and policy input.

For the Ili-Balkhash component of the project, the major challenge remains in engaging the Chinese side into participating in the project activities (a crucial prerequisite, as the project is aimed at transboundary dialogue). The project is continuing its support to bilateral consultations through the Joint Commission and is aiming at broader engagement of other stakeholders in the activities.

At the regional level, the unclear situation with the EC-IFAS relocation and chairmanship, as well as growing tensions among some countries has created limitations on advancing the IWRM dialogue. However, other activities such as capacity building, IWRM experience exchange, etc. are ongoing as they are not so dependent on the official regional institutions and framework structures. As a possible solution, the project is considering establishing a regional network for IWRM capacity building as a flexible and informal process that also works on selected transboundary basins (Chu-Talas and Isfara) with a sufficient level of partnership and interest among the riparian states.

## **IV. Progress of Implementation by Project Components**

### **Component 1: Developing and implementing IWRM Strategies in Kyrgyzstan**

All project activities under this component have been partly affected by the political situation in the country. The recent development and stabilizing of the situation has allowed for the continuation of the project's implementation; however, the administrative changes in the institutional settings have caused certain delays.

**1.0. Support to IWRM implementation** – as agreed by the Project Steering Committee, this activity has been added to the original work plan in order to allow for the integration of other project activities (having targeted/sectoral character) into the overall IWRM framework and support to IWRM implementation on the national level. After the stabilization of the political situation in Kyrgyzstan, this activity has started. The IWRM report on the Kyrgyzstan regulatory system of water issues along with the analysis of the water management system reform under the Water Code of Kyrgyzstan has been prepared. Based on this review, measures were proposed to support the activities of the National Water Council, and in particular to support the organization of the Secretariat of the Council. The Regulations of the National Water Council, and the Rules of the National Water Council and its secretariat were drafted. The documents were discussed during the National Seminar on December 16, 2010 and recommended for further implementation and follow-up within the Project activities. However due to administrative changes and diminished responsibilities of the Water Administration (currently as a Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration) the Council is not yet operational.

Three project experts have been engaged to contribute to the development of the National Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation and to study adverse climate change impacts on the water sector of Kyrgyzstan. Three models which measure how changing climate conditions will affect the flow of surface waters in different scenarios until 2100 have been drafted and presented at two events in March 2012 (referred above) for discussion and finalization. Key partners include the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, the UNDP Environment Programme, and the UNDP Climate Risks Management Programme component.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, a Conference "Education for Green Development and Effective Water Resource Management" has been organized in Bishkek. The conference was jointly organized with OSCE and CAREC as a part of capacity building measures and follow-up to the regional CB seminar held earlier in 2011.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of the Water Users Association was conducted on March 1-2 2012, with presentations of the IWRM project outputs and main results in support to the national water sector. The event was conducted jointly with two WB projects and Swiss INGO Helvetas in support to the Department on Water Management and Melioration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration. The UNDP IWRM project received a letter from the national partners indicating their gratitude for the conference. The key partners are: Department on Water Management and Melioration (DWMM) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration; WB projects: Improvement of Water Management and On-Farm Irrigation; and Swiss INGO Helvetas. The beneficiaries are: the Union of WUAs and local WUAs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

As a response to the letter from the Ministry of Agriculture requesting expert support to develop the Strategy of the Agrarian Sector Development, the IWRM project developed a TOR for the water management's national consultant to integrate IWRM principles into the corresponding component of the Strategy.

Cooperation with NPD process is ongoing.

**1.1. Irrigation pilot** – The Panfilovka site report and technical documents have been prepared. However, project activities cannot proceed due to considerable lack of financial resources that are needed for construction works. At the beginning of the project the necessary amount was not specified, and construction costs were much higher than expected by the state. In addition, a decision to join forces with the Swiss-funded Helvetas SEP project (which focuses on irrigation improvement at farms levels and WUAs capacity building) in Isfara region was made.

A study was conducted in Batken region on the opportunities and needs of water user associations, the application of sustainable technologies such as gravity irrigation and the establishment of demonstration sites. Six water users associations (WUA) have been selected according to specific developed criteria in Batken Province.

Field seminars and training courses on modern irrigation technologies have been conducted with the participation of the WUAs staff and representatives of local self governance bodies by the consulting company “Training Advisory and Innovation Centre” (TAIC). More detailed information is in the Annex 11. Some topics from the training programme have been developed with the support of the SDC funded project on Fergana valley water sector, and supported with TAIC’s own funds. Several trainings on irrigation best practices and water management for water users, WUAs, as well as self-governance bodies have been organized in Batken jointly with Helvetas and WB.

A joint workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management and Water Conflict Prevention was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> in Batken for the regional administration, WUAs and local self-governance bodies, together with WB, OSCE, GIZ and UNDP Peace and Development Programme (PDP).

IWRM project support to pilot communities’ WUAs in Batken Province has been also complemented with training courses for state administration and local self-governance bodies rendered by UNDP PDP “Cross-border cooperation”. Capacity of local stakeholders have been improved with regards to peace building and conflict prevention, water resources distribution, operation of irrigation channels, use of pastures, and the interaction of local authorities to solve common problems. Training on “Basics of negotiation process” and a study tour for representatives of cross-border communities included cases on natural resource disputes, promoting consolidation of the activities of local authorities, CBOs on consolidating interethnic relations, and cooperation and dialogue for conflict prevention. Established transboundary provinces (Batken, Sogh) working group representatives have also been invited to the IWRM project event mentioned above.

The UNDP Disaster Risks Management Programme has also developed the capacity of the local communities of Batken on disaster risk reduction and fostering community preparedness, thus reducing the local communities’ vulnerability. Rescue teams have been established and trained on several irrigation channels which have been cleaned from sediment and rehabilitated.

**1.2. Irrigation investment plans/strategies** – a general review of financial strategies in Kyrgyzstan has been completed. A Review of existing trends in economic performance of the funding of the irrigation sector in Kyrgyzstan and recommendations for their improvement were prepared, as well as a Draft concept for the development strategy of investment and tariff policies in the irrigation sector of the Kyrgyz Republic. A plan of recommended actions to promote investment and tariff policy in the irrigation sector of the Kyrgyz Republic was developed.

This IWRM output has been complemented by an analysis of various economic tools to sustain the water sector that were conducted within the OECD project. The findings of the research and recommendations have been presented and debated by the stakeholders.

Further implementation and follow-up within the Project activities will be based on the results of these discussions and done in close cooperation with OECD under NPD and with the support from the Czech Trust Fund (TOR is developed and the tendering process is open). The FAO has expressed preliminary interest to cooperate on this project activity.

### **1.3. Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Demonstration Project** (implemented in Batken region/Karabulak village).

Activities carried out: 1) Community mobilization campaign in Batken oblast, Kara-Bulak village targeted towards building of capacity of rural community based associations of drinking water users (DWUAs) for implementation of improved gravity irrigation technologies and establishment of a demonstration site; and 2) Development of the relevant design and cost estimate documentation (DCD) for the construction of the rural water supply system in the selected site in Karabulak village, Batken oblast. Implementation of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Component was partially carried out by the "Civil Foundation Microcredit Fund" which has performed work on the social mobilization of drinking water users of the village of Kara-Bulak (Annexes 8 and 9).

The Community Association of Drinking Water Consumers (CADWC) of Kara Bulak has been established, which has been tasked to repair and maintain the drinking water supply system. Members of the pilot CADWC have received technical support to run their operations. About 40 participants have been trained in the CADWC organization, management, water infrastructure maintenance and improvement of water supply and sanitation based on the pilot. A package of design and cost estimate documents on the rehabilitation of the drinking water supply system of Kara Bulak is handed over to the CADWC.

In order to disseminate the pilot experience to other areas, one seminar and a roundtable have been organized with the participation of the Batken local state administration bodies, heads of rural districts to present best practices of the Kara-Bulak village. There have been recommendations to include similar project proposals into the overall Province investment plan.

A special training course has been organized for public servants of the Province and District State administrations and heads of local self governance bodies in Batken on Kara Bulak village experience.

**1.4. Transboundary Sub-basin management** – started in Isfara. It was proposed and approved under the Addendum to the project activities to expand the nature of the activities and remove the "the agreement preparation activities" since they are supported by other donors (GIZ). Therefore, the project could focus on other arrangements according to the work plan. Proposed activities include the establishment of the working groups, development of a joint protocol (on water supply and irrigation), conflict prevention activities, etc. The same activities are planned in Tajikistan. Information has been collected for a review of the Isfara river basin containing characteristics of the water condition, the distribution of water resources, and the legal rationale for their distribution and at the moment is being harmonized among the countries. An analysis of the issues discussed and decisions made by the major inter-Kyrgyz-Tajik meetings on Water Management in the Isfara basin in terms of their performance / non performance have been prepared. Based on this, the proposals on the scope and purpose of the Kyrgyz-Tajik cooperation in the selected basin, the mechanism of the development, negotiation and adoption of documents regulating the sharing of water resources have been developed, but are delayed pending bilateral discussions (long-planned Inter ministerial working group meeting between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).

### **1.5. Participatory IRBM process**

Consultations and coordination meetings have been held with national authorities and UNECE on the co-financing of the joint works on strengthening the safety of a dam at the Kirovsky water reservoir and regulating transboundary Talas River Basin.

### **1.6 Other Priority Demonstration Projects**

Transboundary water allocation and measuring was selected as the demonstration project through consultations with relevant authorities and partners. The "Water Automation and Metrology" Institute has implemented a pilot project on the modernization of the water metering and distribution system at the transboundary Chumysh Dam assuring appropriate distribution of water in the transboundary Chui River Basing (shared with Kazakhstan).

The procured equipment has been installed on the Chumysh watermarks system. The project contractor has also organized introductory training for the staff. The formal opening of the site is planned for spring 2012 since this period would be better in terms of sufficient water quantity to demonstrate achieved results. The formal acceptance certificate is presented in Annex 2.

Preliminary discussion with the national partners has been conducted to organize the on-site workshop and to discuss the effects of the project supplied equipment that was installed on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Chumysh watermarks system. The event is provisionally planned for May. An additional assessment of the project impact will likely become one of the next project tasks.

**1.7. International River Basin Management (IRBM)** – is implemented in Isfara river basin (shared with Tajikistan) in close coordination with subcomponent 1.4 and in partnership with GIZ. Ongoing activities include initiation/support to the Basin authorities, Joint Commission, Basin Council, and potentially, joint WUAs Federation, etc. A Joint IWRM review report is being negotiated now among riparian states in order to lay the ground for further interventions.

An IWRM project expert in Batken has participated in the workshop on peace building organized by the UNDP Peace and Development Programme, presenting IWRM project activities, and both prevention and possible solutions for water conflict.

## **Component 2: Developing and implementing IWRM Strategies in Tajikistan**

The National project Steering Committee meeting was held regularly (twice in 2011) to monitor project progress and to make strategic decisions. Project experts and staff participated in the activities and meetings of the working group on reforming the agrarian and water sectors and the structure of civil service in Tajikistan.

**2.0. Support to IWRM development** - IWRM review process is complete, relevant publications still needs to be printed. A Thematic Working Group (TWG) has been created composed of 5 experts (water resources specialist – TWG Leader; environmental specialist; economist; hydropower and hydrogeology specialists). The review was presented at several project events in 2011 to collect relevant comments and inputs from the stakeholders.

As support to the national reform process and improved coordination, the project is assisting the National Water and Energy Council via technical and expert inputs, logistical and information support. The first meeting of the Council was held in January 2012 and a technical working group to support its operations has been established.

**2.1. Irrigation pilot project** – supporting irrigation reform process via methodological documentation development and testing in Isfara (support to the inventory) and relevant capacity building/training activities based on the methodology developed within activity 2.2. The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan has already conducted testing of the draft Methodology in 5 districts of Khatlon oblast, so the project would contribute with the basin approach in Isfara (activities have started).

**2.2. Irrigation investment plans/strategies** - compiled on the national level and tested on the water basin levels (Isfara) on the request of the government and in consultation with the EU, the project has started an irrigation inventory process aimed to review the status of irrigation assets as well as management arrangements. This process consists of the methodology development for the national level and pilot testing, and it has been supported by the "Training of Trainers" exercises.

The Methodology was improved and presented for consideration to the meeting of the Steering Committee of the project "Promotion to the Integrated Water Resources Management and Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia" held on October 4, 2011 in Dushanbe. There, it was suggested to submit it for approval to the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. On October 26, 2011, by order of the Ministry, the Methodology was approved and recommended for use for relevant organizations doing inventory. The Methodology

has been published in hard copies and in electronic form in Tajik and Russian. 460 books and 140 CDs were circulated to interested organizations.

To ensure coordination of project activities and to render support to the Ministry of Water Resources and Land Reclamation (MWRLR) within the project scope and possibilities, interactions with MWRLR, the EU and FAO were continuously taking place under the framework of irrigation sector reforms project and the project team was taking part in the most important meetings and consultations.

The Methodology was improved and approved by the Project Steering Committee and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. It was published in both hard copies and electronic form – 460 books and 140 CDs (prepared in Tajik and Russian) have been circulated to interested organizations.

**2.3. Rural Water Supply and Sanitation pilot** – implemented in cooperation with the HRBA/GoalWash project funded by UNDP. Activities aimed at reviewing RWSS status and arranging the public awareness campaign are covering both Isfara and Ayni region – and their results are to be promoted on the national level.

**2.4. RWSS Investment strategies, plans and financial policies** – ongoing on the national level with the focus on drinking water supply, including also some activities for Isfara river basin.

At the national level, the project is working together with TajWSS activities and so far thematic Working Groups (TWG) have been established for developing the manual “On Issuing Permits for Implementation of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Projects”, for developing the “Methodology for the Technical Inventory of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Facilities” and for the establishment of the IMCC (Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council). Several meetings of the “Network of Organizations on Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation in Tajikistan” have been conducted where consultations with TajWSS network members on advantages and disadvantages in the WSS sector took place. Manuals “On Issuing Permits for Implementation of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Projects” and the “Methodology for the Technical Inventory of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Facilities” have been drafted. Based on the results of the Tajik-wide inventory these documents will be finalized. The IMCC should give its final approval to these documents.

The Executive Office of the President issued its final decision on September 13, 2011 approving the Composition and ToR for the intended IMCC (Annex 2). The Council is chaired by the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and supported through two Departments of the Executive Office of the President.

The first meeting of the IMCC was held on 11 November 2011 - over 60 representatives of ministries, agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan, non-governmental organizations, donor community and financial institutions participated in this meeting. The Institute of Advanced Training of Civil Servants under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan is conducting training and seminars for the IMCC members.

Currently the "Guidelines for Technical Inventory of Objects of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Disposal", "Guidelines on Passing Administrative Procedures for Drinking Water Supply Projects", Manual on issuing permits for implementation of drinking water supply and sanitation projects in Tajik and Russian languages are being prepared. The project also formulated recommendations including draft bylaws and implementation acts proposing improvements on ownership and operational management rights in WSS sector management and drafted a roster of water supply and sanitation systems of vital importance.

The project team has also prepared “Training Modules on Capacity Development in Management, Economic Development and Regulations in Water Supply and Sewerage Sectors” (enclosed in the previous report).

The second meeting of the IMCC was held on 16 March 2012 – the minutes are in Annex 1. Currently, the "Guidelines for technical inventory of objects of drinking water supply and waste

water disposal", the "Guidelines on passing administrative procedures for drinking water supply projects" and the "Manual on issuing permits for implementation of drinking water supply and sanitation projects" are being prepared in Tajik and Russian.

The project also formulated recommendations including draft by-laws and implementation acts proposing improvements on ownership and operational management rights in the WSS sector and drafted a roster of water supply and sanitation systems of vital importance.

The project team has also prepared "Training modules on capacity development in management, economic development and regulations in water supply and sewerage sectors" (enclosed in the previous report). The Interim report on Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council (IMCC) activities can be found in Annex 16.

**2.5. Small-scale hydropower investment plan/feasibility studies** – resumed (as the activity was temporarily on hold due to the MMWRRT position) and now the TOR is being prepared for SHP construction on the irrigational channels/structures and currently being discussed with Eurasian Development Bank. The mission of the EDB expert took place in May-June 2011 and the meetings with all relevant stakeholders (MMWRRT, Ministry of Energy, Barqui Todjik) and a site visit to the similar SHP project developed earlier by UNDP as a pilot.

**2.6. Transboundary Sub-basin Management and 2.9. International River Basin Management (IRBM) Institutional Support** – Isfara location is agreed with GIZ and Kyrgyz authorities, MMWRRT confirmation has been received.

A specialist consultant, who was hired on competitive recruitment basis, prepared a review of the current conditions of water in Isfara river basin (and similar activity in also performed for Kyrgyzstan). The review is currently being edited and it will serve as the basis for implementation of further project activities. A bilateral meeting for discussing the results is planned for spring 2012. A bilateral meeting to discuss the results is pending official nominations and agreement.

The project has contributed to the establishment of the Resettlement Coordination Commission (RCC), a group comprised of key local government representatives (total of 20 members) including water management departments, communal and housing services department, local leaders, community representatives, as well as the District Development Council (DDC) of Isfara district. Among the major problems that Shurab town identified, poor access to drinking and irrigation water is a priority. The RCC has already approved the rehabilitation of drinking and irrigation water supply systems and the implementation of these sub-projects is underway.

Preliminary assessments of the infrastructure of Shurab town revealed that the drinking water supply systems, high voltage electric power lines and the social infrastructure at large are in very poor condition. As per the decision of the RCC, drinking and irrigation water supply systems were recognized as a priority for Shurab town. To date, four drinking water and two irrigation water supply rehabilitation projects have started and are ongoing.

A series of training courses to build the capacity of the local authorities in conflict management and negotiations were also organized - in total 70 representatives of local authorities and community leaders received training and improved their skills in peaceful conflict resolution. The next step of capacity building activities in 2011 was the series of thematic discussion for 4 focus-groups: local administration representatives, women from target jamoats, youth and elders. In total, 12 discussions were conducted. At the end of discussions the Civic forum with participation of local authorities, CBOs and international organizations was established.

In 2011, the study tour to Kyrgyzstan for the representatives of local authorities and community was organized in order to introduce them the experience of the Assembly of Peoples of Kyrgyzstan and learn the experience of local authorities and border management state structures in initiating and implementing Peace and Development initiatives.

The project team, in cooperation with the Management of Capital Construction of Isfara district, has carried out a needs assessment of the infrastructure facilities in Shurab town. The RCC decided that the drinking and irrigation water supply systems were of utmost importance and

therefore ranked their rehabilitation as a priority for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of project to help the government in the resettlement process.

Implementation of all the above sub-projects improved access to drinking water for 5096 people (2,565 female), and roughly 918 households. In addition, the homestead plots allocated for the resettling families have access to irrigation water and electricity. Access to water and the electricity power line that was built by the project will make the resettlement process smoother and help to meet the basic needs of the population.

To ensure the sustainable operation of the rehabilitated systems, a self-sufficient unit under the Department for Communal Services was created that is solely responsible for the maintenance and operation of the drinking water systems. The decision to create such a unit was discussed by the RCC and approved by the authorities of Isfara district and Shurab town. Special technical trainings have been conducted in order to build the capacity of the new unit's personnel. In addition, the new unit's personnel have been equipped with the necessary tools, equipment and uniforms.

**2.7. A participatory IRBM process** - Zeravshan IWRM review report has been prepared and sent to the Ministry for comments. Due to the request of the MMWRRT, no additional activities have been planned so far.

Initially, at the experts' meeting, the Zeravshan transboundary river basin was chosen to be the focal point for the implementation of the project activities. But, as a result of the rotation carried out in March 2010, this decision was questioned. After a thorough review of the Project Document and consultations held with the Government of Tajikistan, the decision to instead focus project activities on the Isfara river sub-basin was made.

The process of establishing of the six WUAs in the sub-basin of the river Isfara has now been completed. Two demonstration WUAs have been selected, one in Isfara and one in Kanibadam district who will be the recipients of technical support in the second phase of provisioning office equipment, rehabilitation of 7 small water-discharge facilities with water-measuring devices and 2 bridges (tubular crossings). A Federation of WUAs and Water Committee in the sub-basin of the river Isfara will also be established that will facilitate the transition to the basin principle of management in this sub-basin. The non-governmental organization NGO "Irrigation Agrarian Consulting" was selected to support this process.

**2.8. Other pilot projects** – After several changes in the planning process, rehabilitation of the transboundary hydro-posts in Isfara basin (Tangi-vorukh and Madpari) was initiated. These pilots aligned with relevant expert support towards Tajik-Kyrgyz data exchange and cooperation planned under sections 2.6. and 2.9. The Technical-Economical Feasibility Study (TEFS) of the interstate rehabilitation gauging stations "Tanguy Vorukh" and "Matpari" was completed. These stations belong respectively to the State agency for hydrometeorology (Tajikhydromet) and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. These feasibility studies were reviewed at the meeting of the National Steering Committee of the project "Promotion to the Integrated Water Resources Management and Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia" on October 4<sup>th</sup> in the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. The recommendation was then made to pass the feasibility studies to Tajikhydromet and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan for determining their possible equity participation in the rehabilitation of these gauging stations. The relevant MOU are currently being developed, and the tender will be announced in spring 2012.

### **Component 3: Transboundary Dialogue in the Ili-Balkhash River Basin**

Three National Project Steering Committee meetings were organized so far in Astana (2010-2011), and two more are planned for 2012.

**3.1: Policy and Institutional Analysis.** The Final Report on the analysis of structures and activities in the Ili-Balkhash basin in previous years has been prepared and was disseminated at the International Conference in 2010. Project Expert Working Group members and other leading

experts and scientists of the country have provided an extensive list of research and practical information, which were compiled on a CD. A further 300 books containing this information are being disseminated for general use under preliminary title "IWRM Experience in Kazakhstan". The publication is intended for a wide audience including students, teachers, scientists, public officials, and employees in organizations related to water management. It is being distributed among the staff of the Committee on Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of RoK, river basin and regional organizations, research and design institutes, among students and academics in the water sector, and among other interested agencies. 10 additional copies are being forwarded to the National Library of RK and to the Technical Library in Almaty.

### **3.2: Support to bilateral cooperation and joint activities.**

Joint data base/information sharing: The decision to establish a shared database and information sharing system was adopted by the joint committee expert group in a meeting that took place December 20-22, 2010 in the city of Yining (Xinjiang). Technically, this issue was discussed on October 28, 2011 at a meeting of the Coordinating Council for Technical work on water allocation, which was held at the Institute of Geography. Responsible research and design organizations and agencies in Kazakhstan reported on progress in their respective areas and informed the Coordinating Council and the Committee on Water Resources how information is shared with the Chinese side during research.

Data collection and analysis of data management and exchange procedures has been completed for the development of an information-sharing platform and for relevant support for the project. The Finnish financed wide base of hydrological and climatic data model on the Ile-Balkash was initiated and the planning for this model is presented in the next sections of the report.

Two working groups have been established to deal with legal and coordination issues on the database.

The CB questionnaire developed by the project was also used in 2012 – and several meetings with water users were held to detail the scope of the proposed trainings.

Several training modules on legal issues, integrated water resources management and economy of irrigation were conducted in Bakanas village, Balkash region, Almaty region and in Yenbekshikazakh district in 2012. Water law books with the latest additions in Kazakh and Russian languages were distributed to participants. The participants thanked the project and noted that the training allowed them to look at the problems of the Ile River and Balkash lake ecosystem with new eyes, and to understand the importance of the water resource economy as well as the need to use modern water use technologies and apply legal norms and IWRM principles.

In cooperation with the CRM Project, the project supported the initiation of the small pilot projects in the Almaty region with the aim to improve the welfare of rural communities through the effective management of water resources in agriculture, with the objective to increase communities' resilience to natural disasters. Together with the CRM project, local communities were supported in developing project proposals for improving water use efficiency. Two local organizations in Ucharal Alakol district were supported in the development of proposals for the introduction of drip irrigation: the NGO "Alakol Kamkor" ("Rinat" Farm) and the Association "Ecosystem Alakol". The project also took part in CRM workshops for water users and rural consumer cooperatives of water users (SPKV) in the area Sarkand, Bakanas Balkash district of Almaty region. During the workshops, water users were consulted on the main risks, threats and problematic issues in water resources management. The projects defined the main actions that are needed and key topics for pilot project applications and components.

Capacity building: the Ministry of Science and Technology of China offered Kazakh specialists to the opportunity to enhance their skills as part of an international course on new irrigation technologies. The course was free of charge and included accommodation and meals. As a result, the project assisted (correspondence, coordination of travel routes, sharing, meeting and other procedures) the participation of two specialists from Kazakhstan in the course. The course was held at the

National Centre for Efficient Irrigation Technologies and Research from July 11-30, 2011 in Shihetszy (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China).

A training course on the topic of the rational use and protection of waters was developed for the year of 2011, and a questionnaire for potential participants in the areas of Almaty oblast was set up. Several meetings with water users were held to detail the scope of the proposed trainings.

A questionnaire for water users on the issues of water use and protection has been disseminated. The working meeting and questionnaire allowed the project to define the real needs of the local Akims, the heads of water facility organizations, the village water-user cooperatives as well as the farms on the regional level.

Training on legal issues, integrated water resources management and the economy of irrigation was conducted in Bakanas village, Balkash region, Almaty region. Water law books with the latest additions in Kazakh and Russian languages were distributed to participants. The participants thanked the project and remarked that the training allowed them to look at the problems of the Ile River and Balkash lake ecosystem with new eyes, and to understand the importance of the water resource economy as well as the need to use modern water use technologies, apply legal norms and IWRM principles.

Training on international and national water legislation (specifically, on the application of the new law "on state control in RK") and on integrated water resources management was conducted on May 31, 2011 for the staff of the Balkash-Alakol Basin inspection (BABI). The participants received training certificates at the end of the course. Mr. S. Mukatayev, the deputy chief of BABI, thanked the project for their professional clarification of the norms and regulations of water, administrative and other legislation of RK within the environmental sphere. He noted that the training was very useful and that it increased the knowledge of BABI staff. He also thanked the project for providing BABI with the latest editions of water law books.

The project was supported with cooperation from the CRM project in the initiation of the small pilot projects in the Almaty region with the aim to improve the welfare of rural communities through the effective management of water resources in agriculture, and with the objective to increase community resilience to natural disasters. Together with the CRM project, local communities were supported in developing project proposals for improving their efficiency in water use. Two local organizations in the Ucharal Alakol district were supported in the development of proposals for the introduction of drip irrigation: the NGO "Alakol Kamkor" ("Rinat" Farm) and the Association "Ecosystem Alakol". The project also took part in CRM workshops for water users and rural consumer cooperatives of water users (SPKV) in the Sarkand, Bakanas Balkash district of Almaty region (25-26 October 2011). During the workshops, water users were consulted on the main risks, threats and problematic issues in water resources management. The projects defined the main actions that were needed and key topics for pilot project applications and components.

**3.3. Support to Bilateral Commission operations.** An expert WG under the project has been formed to support the Bilateral Commission. All Commission documents have been collected and reviewed by the project experts. Review and proposals on the legal basis for bilateral cooperation has also been completed, and the project is supporting water-sharing negotiations aimed towards developing a relevant protocol to the existing bilateral agreement, as other options do not seem to be feasible. The minutes of all meetings of the Joint Commission and its Working Groups have been analyzed and are available. However, the contents of those protocols are confidential, so they cannot be used in the report without the permission of the Parties. However, the overview and the chronicle of the negotiations are available in the report.

The National Project Coordinator participated in the several meetings of the Joint Commission on the use and protection of water resources of transboundary rivers between Kazakhstan and China. These negotiations were held at the initiation of technical works on water sharing with the Chinese Republic. During these meetings, the Chinese side has referred to the technical work on water sharing, and feels that as part of its implementation, the countries are already cooperating in the use of water saving technologies and in drip irrigation in particular. Chinese officials have hinted

that cooperation in the EU-UNDP framework, as requested by the MFA, does not support them. At the same time, they have not openly denied the presence of EU-UNDP project experts at meetings.

The legal analysis has been carried out in full and the Report on the updated Kazakh legal framework has been provided. The reference materials for the Kazakh-Chinese joint commission of Transboundary Rivers are prepared and provided based on the CWR's request.

The joint Kazakhstan and China Commission will consider the development and improvement of the bilateral agreement after technical works on water division on Transboundary Rivers. The project expert took part in the last joint commission meeting in the end of March 2012 in Urumchi, China. The parties didn't reach an agreement regarding the Ulken Ulasty River; all legal issues were postponed till the technical works end. The project's independent expert will continue supporting the commission with the aim of resolving this issue.

**3.4: Coordinating Water Management activities and stakeholder engagement** - stakeholder analysis was carried out, the list of stakeholders is completed, and a Draft strategy of stakeholder engagement is ready to be presented for discussions. The list of the members of the joint commission and the working groups of the both countries which are connected through the use of water resources are available.

A Capacity building review was performed, which generated several proposals. In addition, training programs on IWRM and transboundary arrangements for authorities and water users in the border regions of Kazakhstan were prepared and carried out.

Expert group meetings and activities – to support the Bilateral Commission, the Project is now supporting discussion on IWRM activities on the national level in cooperation with OSCE and the NPD process as they do heavy impact basin-level operations and transboundary relations. A June 2011 IWRM seminar in Astana was organized for addressing IWRM issues linked to water development strategy and institutional aspects in Kazakhstan. Relevant follow up documents/recommendations are widely distributed.

Assistance was provided in organizing several Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council meetings – technical and logistics support, and development of two draft basin agreements between the Akim of Almaty region, the PCG XB "Karatal irrigation" and the Balkhash Basin Alakol inspection. During the reporting period, according to the request of the CWR of the MoA, technical assistance was provided to the Balkhash-Alakol basin inspections in the preparation of information on the Sharyn river (the main tributary of the Ile). This information was requested by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in connection with the flooding of the village Taskarasu in the border Uighur region of Almaty oblast.

The project is continuously interacting with the Balkhash-Alakol Basin inspection regarding the implementation of decisions taken at the meetings of the Basin Council. In particular, the project is helping to coordinate work on the development of the Basin Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management. This draft Plan was distributed to all Council members during their last meeting on 30 September 2011 for comments and feedback.

The Project's capacity building expert has provided ongoing support to the Balkhash-Alakol Basin inspection on the following issues:

- Scheduling downstream water releases along the river Ile through Kapshagai hydro-electric station;
- Identification of water use limits for basin water users and planning of the allocation of funds for state water-related subsidies;
- Consultations on the design and construction of Kerbulak counter-regulator, located below the Kapshagai hydro-electric station;
- Consultations on the implementation of state control on over-use and protection of water.

A request for co-financing of the project, an information sheet, and a summary table of funding of funding for the project "Implementation of the Principles of Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency in the RK" (in the amount of 600,000.00) was prepared and sent to the Committee on Water Resources Ministry of Agriculture. The application was approved by the Republican Budget Commission in December 2011 (Annex 2). However, as per recent information from the Ministry of Finance this funding was not approved for 2012 due to weak positioning and low level of engagement from CWR.

Part of this undertaking will assist in the improvement of the Basin Councils across the country, developing and adopting Basin IWRM plans, the application of best practice management of water basins on the basis of the European Water Framework Directive and the principles of IWRM, as well as the use of automated accounting and monitoring of the use of water resources.

The project has provided support to the Committee on Water Resources in the development of the "Programme on Development and Modernization of Water Management in Kazakhstan until 2020" as well as in the development and implementation of the "National Plan of Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Conservation". The project has also offered assistance in integrating the principles and approaches of IWRM into these development programs. Our proposals are presented in Annex 20 sent to the CWR and MOA.

#### **Component 4:**

**4.1: Project Management and coordination** – Thus far, four Regional SC meetings were held in Dushanbe and Almaty where project activities and planning for the next period were discussed. In general, all offices and national teams are running well. However, due to ongoing national processes, additional coordination efforts are needed to ensure relevant synergies and better cooperation on the national level (particularly in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan). Two more meetings are planned for 2012. Several project team meetings took place to reflect on the SC Meeting conclusions and align transboundary project activities, as well as exchange relevant IWRM experience on the national level. Several meetings with international partners aimed at coordinating project activities.

The Project team is coordinating current activities with the UNDP IWRM project in Uzbekistan. UNDP-Uzbekistan is running a national project called "National Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Use Efficiency Plan for Uzbekistan", which focuses on IWRM legal reform on the national level, developing an IWRM Plan for Zaravshan River Basin, as well as Water Supply and Sanitation Strategies. Participants from Uzbekistan are invited to all regional project events and are also taking part in the Regional SC meetings on the regular basis.

So far there have been two EU monitoring missions, and the project team provided logistical support for the meetings and relevant inputs/documentation as requested. Management responses were developed and under now being implemented (Annex 24). One more mission is planned for May 2012 and the project team is ensuring its preparation and smooth implementation.

**4.2: Regional IWRM Dialogue and Water Governance** – a final report on IWRM interventions on the regional level has been finalized based upon comments that were received (Annex 21). In addition, a final overview of regional legal and institutional frameworks is ready and is enclosed in the annexes section (Annex 22). The project has supported a water and energy preparatory session under the CARRA process in 2011 to consolidate knowledge on existing experience and trends in the sector and supported other relevant coordination efforts. In partnership with EC-IFAS, UNRCCA and FEEM, the project has delivered technical support for an early warning/information bulletin for transboundary waters in Central Asia (aimed at information dissemination, conflict prevention and improved water governance).

**4.3. Sector Capacity Building** – A regional IWRM capacity-building seminar was held in May of 2011 (in partnership with Cap-Net and UNESCO). The seminar has provided valuable recommendations for the next steps, some of which are being implemented under the project

including development of the regional network for IWRM capacity building and information exchange, and developing regional events and trainings for priority sectors (Annex 1). A Regional seminar on the IWRM implementation experience and best practices in CA was organized in cooperation with Romania and the EU WI process (seminar report – Annex 1) in order to reveal best practices and discuss the way forward. Collection of IWRM practices and experience in the form of a book/publication is being discussed with other international partners for developing a holistic overview at the regional level. These events are to be followed up in 2012 – relevant networking CB activities and best practices collection/IWRM inputs are planned for spring-summer.

**4.4. Addressing Climate Change via IWRM process and mechanisms** - As approved in the Addendum to the project activities, a new sub-component on climate issues has been integrated into the project. In particular, the project aim is to support the governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to integrate climate change adaptation activities in their operation, and to improve capacities to deal with transboundary water resource allocation and safety in the transboundary Chu-Talas basin. The background study has been finalized and its summary is translated into English (Annexes 3 and 4). This study aimed to identify and assess already ongoing or completed projects, national and international initiatives as well as existing data and impact assessment studies to provide a background for follow up activities. A number of expert meetings and consultations were held with national stakeholders and international partners to coordinate this sub-project with other interventions in the region. The activities have been presented and discussed with the Chu-Talas Bilateral Commission, as well as with a wider audience during the side-event under the “Environment for Europe” process. The modeling work is ongoing to determine the impacts of Climate Change on water resources and a vulnerability report is being prepared in cooperation with UNECE, Finland and other national partners.

Finland is also supporting in the identification of costs and benefits/financial analysis of relevant adaptation measure or costs of inaction in the basin.

## **V. Planned activities**

The summary of planned activities is reflected in more detail in the work plans (Annex 26) and an update of the Logframe (Annex 27). Additional information is given in the events table (developed on the requested of the EU – enclosed in Annex 25). A short summary of the key events/activities is provided below:

### **Component 1: Developing and Implementing IWRM Strategies in Kyrgyzstan**

- The next national SC meeting in Bishkek is in 2012 – for discussing the progress and agreeing on the work plans with all partners,
- Opening of the Chumysh hydro post after improving water allocation measurements as supported by the project, capacity building for Chui Province authorities in the water dialogue related to Chumysh water reservoir,
- Coordination of activities related to the component on Irrigation investment plans/strategies with the FAO, OECD and other potentially interested partners,
- Support to transboundary cooperation in Isfara including a draft joint review report which is under preparation. Bilateral meetings (Taj-Kyr) to be organized according to the progress achieved by the experts and partners,
- Support to/finalization of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy development for the water sector, and presentation/approval from the government,
- Training courses for water management organizations on IWRM and related matters,
- Finalizing pilot activities with WUAs in Batken/irrigation, and capitalizing on the experience and presenting achievements to the Province administration;
- Operationalizing the National Water Council and its Secretariat,
- IWRM inputs to the state policies on water – namely Agricultural Sector Development and Water Strategy (in coordination with NPD),
- Integrating inputs on the financing options/tariffs for IWRM and water basin management (with Czech support) into the state programming and policies,
- Field missions and working meetings with authorities and partners as needed.

### **Component 2: Developing and Implementing IWRM Strategies in Tajikistan**

- IWRM seminars, technical inputs and discussions, publication of an IWRM review which will be linked with the water reform process,
- Next phase of WUAs support and consolidation along the Isfara river basin (WUAs Federation supply of office equipment, office repairs, rehabilitation of seven discharge outlets and construction of two bridges, tubular crossings),
- Support to the Water-Energy Council – expert support, meetings, design and maintenance of the website, etc.,
- Pilot testing of the guidelines on inventory of irrigation systems as part of ongoing reforms in the irrigation sector in the Isfara basin,
- Rehabilitation of gauging stations ‘Tangivorukh’ and ‘Matpari’, based in the Isfara river basin,
- Technical-economic assessment for development of small hydropower facilities on the irrigation systems of Tajikistan,
- Support to the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on Water and Sanitation, conducting joint workshops and roundtables,
- WSS inventory and development of alternatives to improve the water supply in the sub-basin of the Isfara river;
- Trainings on IWRM and related matters;
- Drinking and irrigation system rehabilitation works,

- Transboundary cooperation with Kyrgyzstan – developing joint water programming and support to the operation, including considering different economic instruments for joint water management, support to bilateral agreement and cooperating institutions. In addition, a joint report is being finalized, joint water programming is being developed to support to the operation, including considering different economic instruments for joint water management, and support to the bilateral agreement and cooperating institutions.
- Preparation of the technical-economical feasibility study of small hydropower industry development on irrigation systems in Tajikistan by the Eurasian Development Bank
- Field missions and working meetings with authorities and partners as needed.

### Component 3: Transboundary Dialogue in the Ili-Balkhash River Basin

- National Steering Committee meeting preparation,
- Several training courses for water users and stakeholders on IWRM and water management,
- Technical training courses on database and GIS,
- Presenting an information-sharing platform and a database under the project on the basis of completed data collection and analysis of data management and exchange procedures,
- Balkhash-Alakol' Water Council support – work plan elaboration, information exchange and meetings,
- Update and finalization of the IBB Water Management Plan for Kazakhstan,
- Support to the Bilateral Water Commission working group–on use and protection of transboundary rivers and on providing of technical work on water sharing,
- Support to the national-level IWRM/water sector developments and discussions,
- Support to the local IWRM activities/increasing water efficiency in cooperation with Small Grants Programme/Global Environmental Fund and CA-CRM project,
- Expert group meetings and activities, field missions and working meetings with authorities and partners as needed.

### Component 4: Regional Dialogue, IWRM Governance and Sector Capacity Building

- Coordination of the project activities with all relevant partners on different levels,
- Preparation for the next Regional SC meeting in May 2012,
- Support to the next monitoring mission,
- Regular updates of the project web-site,
- Developing IWRM knowledge briefs to portray and visualize project results,
- Developing exit strategy and planning phasing out/project finalization,
- Support to networking activities on capacity building for IWRM – in cooperation with Cap-Net and other partners,
- Regional capacity building event – most likely on the Climate Change Adaptation and IWRM,
- Working with Chu-Talas Climate Change Adaptation strategy – relevant modeling, vulnerability assessment and discussions on the adaptation measures,
- Support to the transboundary water information/early warning bulletin – in cooperation with EC-IFAS, UNRCCA and FFEM project.



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