

Third Regional Steering Meeting

Project "Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia"

Minutes

Date: 17 May 2011

Venue Kazzhol hotel, Gogol street, 127/1, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Languages: Russian and English

The Third Project Steering Committee meeting was chaired by Mr. Rene Mally, Head of Operations, EU Delegation in Astana.

Opening speeches:

Mr. Mally opened the meeting by welcoming all participants on behalf of the EU Delegation in Astana. He underlined the importance of the IWRM and relevant capacity building in the CA context and referred to the successful seminar held during two days prior to the meeting. He pointed out also the importance of

He has presented a draft agenda (annex 1) and outlined major discussions points for the meeting. The agenda was adopted by all participants.

Mr. Khairullo Ibodzoda, Presidential Administration, Tajikistan, flagged the importance of the project activities for Tajikistan and confirmed national priorities in cooperation with international partners on IWRM and national water reform.

Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, ARR, UNDP-Tajikistan, stressed that UNDP is happy to partner with the EU and EU MS thus contributing to commonly agreed solutions. UNDP is committed to support governmental requests and related initiatives as water management is among key success factor for the region referring to such challenges as climate change, growing population, and aiming at green growth and sustainable human development.

Mrs. Ekaterina Sakhvaeva on behalf of the State Committee of Water Resources and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan welcomed support to transboundary water cooperation and expressed the interests from the Committee to transfer its successful experience from Chu-Talas basin into other locations.

Session 1: Progress of the project activities.

Natalia Alexeeva, Water Program Coordinator for Central Asia, UNDP BRC, gave a short update on the administrative changes (addendum) and activities of the regional component of the project. Under addendum some of the project activities have been clarified as per actual situation and cooperation agreements with other projects and interventions. For the regional component the part on climate change issues was added due to high interests towards these activities and relevant UNDP experience and programming in the sector. There were also some changes in the budget – for example, an increase in the financing of pilot projects per requests from the national stakeholders (this is compensated by lower budget for the international consultants, for example), travel costs were also added due to the need in cooperation and join meetings among the countries and teams.

Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue In Central Asia



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Finland has formally confirmed co-funding to the project activities – CSA discussions are in the process.

The project is actively engaged into the partnership with many actors aimed to increase synergies among different initiatives and align project activities with the regional and national priorities and efforts.

Chu-Talas component on climate change adaptation is been implemented – the background study is to be presented at the upcoming Chu-Talas Commission meeting for comments and endorsement. The reports on international projects/interventions in IWRM sector and on the institutional and legal CA frameworks are finalized.

Mr. Ahad Makhmoudov, Programme Manager, UNDP Tajikistan, presented the progress of the project implementation in Tajikistan. Project supports water reform process on the national level via developing irrigation assets inventory documentation and contributing towards the inventory in the pilot area (Isfara). IWRM reviews for Zeravshan, Isfara and the national level are been finalized. Feasibility studies of hydroposts rehabilitation were initiated for Tangi-Vorukh and Madpari locations. 6 WUAs have been created at the same area – their capacities are developed and supported via the project as well. Several seminars and meetings are organized – including the national SC meeting.

Ryspek Apasov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kyrgyzstan, gave a short update on the project activities in Kyrgyzstan. So far close cooperation exists with NPD process – especially referring to the project proposals on the economic instruments/tariffs for the irrigation sector and proposals on the support to the Water Council. On the local level, the project has prepared technical documentation for the rural water supply&sanitation pilot in Karabulak village and mobilized community there. Activities aimed at increasing water use efficiency and capacity building for farmer are carried out in cooperation with Helvetas. Cooperation with Tajikistan on transboundary waters is ongoing – focusing on Isfara river basin.

Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kazakhstan, presented Ili-Balkhash/Kazakh component of the project. SC meetings are held regularly. Implementation of the project activities could be expanded in the case of state co-funding from CWR (which was applied and should be confirmed later on this year). According to the work plan, the project team has prepared institutional analysis and completed data collection as a base for all other activities. Informational conference under the project is held in October 2010 in cooperation with national partners and OSCE. Its recommendations are distributed among all key partners on the highest possible level. In fall 2010 - spring 2011 there were several meetings under the project – including support to the Water Basin Council, expert group meetings, meetings with the stakeholders, and Kazakh-Chinese Water Commission.

General discussion was actively ongoing on the questions of sustainability of the pilot projects – referring to Karabulak example. The project has developed all preconditions and documentations, but the real funding for construction is missing - initially it was planned to have it secured from the state program, but this didn't take place. The project team was advised to check once more different funding options and consider also cheaper solutions in order to have real impact on the ground.

Promoting IWRM and
Fostering Transboundary Dialogue
In Central Asia



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Information on IFCA was also presented – this initiative allows EU to cover interest rates for the water-related investments so it could be used in combination with other financing.

EU Delegation has raised the issue on cooperation in Isfara area – indeed, the process is ongoing and Uzbekistan is invited to join it any time. The project closely cooperates with GIZ and key national partners on this.

Session 2: Project plans for 2011 and beyond

Natalia Alexeeva gave a short review of activities planned for the regional component. There would be regional seminars/meetings similar to the current ones (i.e. IWRM seminar combined with the SC meeting), climate change adaptation component will be focusing on the modelling and vulnerability assessment – this will be done in close cooperation with CA-CRM project of UNDP. Other regular activities (such as coordination, administrative & management, information-sharing and visibility) would be continued. EU monitoring mission is ongoing – so the project would be supporting local meetings and contributing to the evaluation.

Ahad Makhmoudov shortly presented planning for the rest of 2011 – it was elaborated based on local & national meetings and coordination efforts. The focus would be on support towards water reform and initiative linked to the IWRM coordination on the national level/ Water and Energy Council. National level – IWRM support (reports, seminars etc.). WUAs support will be contributed – including trainings and capacity building activities. Drinking water supply – drafting relevant technical documents and inventory, proposing management structures and supporting bilateral cooperation in Isfara water basin, proposing economic instruments to be implemented in the area.

Ryspek Apasov stated that the project team will review draft work plan been back to Bishkek as several activities needs to be revised – partially due to the situations in the country and NPD process. The plans will be updated also based on comments from the partners and recent developments. Tajik proposals on Isfara are considered – we will need to review them and confirm with the national partners.

Amirkhan Kenshimov presented planned activities for the second half of 2011: they are based on the earlier communicated yearly plan. SC meeting and IWRM seminar to be conducted in July in Astana, there will be also several meetings of a joint Kazakh-Chinese Commission and experts groups, so the project will continue to support water-sharing negotiations with China. Data base activities are initiated for both national/water basin and transboundary levels. Training program is been implemented as planned – based on the requests from stakeholders and their needs assessment. Monograph/book on Balkhash will be published soon.

Natalia Alexeeva asked SC members to consider approval of relocation of some funding (to be determined based on actual expenditures and available funding) from Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan components due to delays in delivery in Kyrgyzstan and more intensive operations in Kazakhstan than initially planned. No objections have been raised by the Committee.

Next SC meeting is planned for Bishkek, November 2011 – in case of any changes, it will be communicated additionally. Minutes and updated work plans will be circulated after the meeting.

Promoting IWRM and
Fostering Transboundary Dialogue
In Central Asia



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Summary of the Steering Committee decisions:

1. Presented project activities/results were approved in general. Several comments on the individual activities or reports are taken into account and relevant updates will be introduced.
2. Presented work plan/planned activities were adopted in general. The project team will be updating project work plan and circulating it together with other documents to the SC members and participants of this meeting.
3. Approve funds relocation from Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan components – the amount is to be agreed among the offices.
4. The next SC meeting will be organized in Kyrgyzstan in fall 2011 depending on the political developments in the country. Other location will be considered if Bishkek option would not be feasible.

Annexes:

1. Agenda of the meeting
2. List of participants

Third Regional Steering Meeting

Project "Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia"

AGENDA

Date: 17 May 2011

Venue Kazzhol hotel, Gogol street, 127/1, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Languages: Russian and English

Tuesday, 17 May 2011

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch and Registration of the participants**

14:00 – 14:15 **Welcoming remarks:**

Mr. Sulton Rakhimov, Ministry of Water Resources and Melioration, Tajikistan

Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, EC-IFAS

Mr. Rene Mally, EU Delegation in Kazakhstan

Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, UNDP Tajikistan

Chair: Mr. Rene Mally, EU Delegation in Kazakhstan

Adoption of the agenda

Session 1: Progress of the project activities

14:15 – 16:10 **Reporting from the project components:**

Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, Central Asia Water Programme Coordinator, UNDP

Questions & answers

Mr. Anatoliy Kholmatov, National Project Manager, UNDP Tajikistan

Questions & answers

Mr. Ryspek Apasov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Questions & answers

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kazakhstan

Questions & answers

16:10 – 16:30 **Coffee break**

Session 2: Planned activities and their coordination with other interventions

16:30 – 18:15 **Presenting work plans for the project components:**

Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, Central Asia Water Programme Coordinator, UNDP

Questions & answers

Mr. Anatoliy Kholmatov, National Project Manager, UNDP Tajikistan

Questions & answers

Mr. Ryspek Apasov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Questions & answers

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kazakhstan

Questions & answers

18:15 – 18:30 **Any other business**

Next steps and agreements

19:00 **Reception (restaurant "Zheruiyk")**

Third Project Steering Committee Meeting “Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management and Transboundary Dialogues in Central Asia”

17th May 2011, Kazzhol hotel, Gogol street 127/1, Almaty, Kazakhstan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

№	Surname, Name	Position	Organization	Country
1	Alexeeva Natalia	Water Programme Coordinator for Central Asia	UNDP BRC	Kazakhstan, Almaty
2	Akhmetov Serik	NPCO (Project GEF CASPECO)	Ministry of Environment	Kazakhstan, Astana
3	Croxtton Simon	Senior Natural Resources Specialist	World Bank	Kazakhstan, Almaty
4	Shivareva Svetlana	Executive Director	RCH, EC-IFAS	Kazakhstan, Almaty
5	Kenshimov Amirkhan	National Project Manager	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Almaty
6	Meirbek uly Alseit Asanbai	Head	Balkhash-Alakhol Basin Inspectorate	Kazakhstan, Almaty
7	Nikolayenko Alexander	Regional Advisor	GIZ	Kazakhstan, Almaty
8	Sagimbayeva Zhanar	Senior Analyst	EDB	Kazakhstan, Almaty
9	Sargsyan Simon	Natural Science Specialist	UNESCO	Kazakhstan, Almaty
10	Strikeleva Ekaterina	Project Manager	CAREC	Kazakhstan, Almaty
11	Baidebekova Aliya	Project Manager	EU Delegation in Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana

№	Surname, Name	Position	Organization	Country
12	Mally Rene	Head of Operations	EU Delegation in Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana
13	Wahlstrom Emilia	Program Analyst	UNDP Kazakhstan, Energy and Environment Unit	Kazakhstan, Astana
14	Apasov Ryspek	National Project Manager	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
15	Sakhvaeva Ekaterina	Senior Expert	State Committee of Water Resources and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
16	Sulton Rakhimov	First Deputy Minister	Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
17	Ibodzoda Khayrullo	Head of the Dept. of Ecology and Emergency Situations	Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
18	Kholmatov Anatoly	National Programm Manager	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
19	Khoshmukhamedov Sukhrob	ARR/Programme	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
20	Mahmoudov Ahad	Programme Manager	UNDP Tajikistan, Energy and Environment Unit	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
21	Nazirov Zarifjon	Head of Department	Kanibadam State Department of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Kanibadam
22	Shomirsaidov Rustam	Head of Department	Isfara State Department of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Isfara
23	Islamov Ulugbek	Project Manager	UNDP Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan, Tashkent