

## **Forth Regional Steering Meeting**

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

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## **Minutes**

**Date:** 8 December 2011

**Venue** WORLDHOTEL SALTANAT 164, Furmanov Street, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Languages:** Russian and English

The Forth Project Steering Committee meeting was chaired by Mr. Omurbek Abdyrazakov, State Secretary, State Committee of Water Resources and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan.

### **Opening speeches:**

Mr. Serikali Mukataev, Head of Balkhash-Alakol' Water Basin inspection has opened the meeting on behalf of the Committee of Water Resources, Kazakhstan. He has underlined that all main water basins of Kazakhstan are transboundary and therefore international experience and cooperation with different partners (such as the EU, UNDP others) are crucial in this regard. Ile-Balkhash basin is very much similar to the Aral Sea basin and therefore the use of transboundary Ile river has a great impact on the Balkhash lake and its future. Hence water saving and protection are of utmost importance for ensuring that future generations would be able to enjoy water and ecosystems of the basin.

Mr. Omurbek Abdyrazakov, State Secretary, State Committee of Water Resources and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan, has welcomed all participants and outlined recent developments in Kyrgyzstan regarding water sector development. He has underlined that donors support is crucial to achieve state targets and ensure IWRM implementation.

Mr. Rene Mally, Head of Operations, EU Delegation in Kazakhstan, informed participants about the monitoring mission organized by the Delegation and presented some recommendations developed for the project – mainly aimed at raising effectiveness and reaching higher impacts. He stressed that the quality of project implementation is important for ensuring sustainability and achieving all planned objectives.

Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, ARR, UNDP-Tajikistan, underlined that UNDP is implementing the project in close partnership with the governments and in line with water reforms in Tajikistan – proud to partner with the EU and EU MS to ensure synergies and improved coordination among different interventions and initiatives. There are numerous ongoing regional and national projects currently been implemented by UNDP – therefore IWRM approach is used to integrate different aspects related to water use and protection in light of climate change, communities' development and other relevant interventions.

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

### **Session 1: Progress of the project activities.**

Natalia Alexeeva, Water Program Coordinator for Central Asia, UNDP BRC, gave a short update on the key recommendations of the monitoring mission and activities of the regional component of the project.

Several studies/reports are completed – for Chu-Talas and regional on IWRM interventions and institutional analysis. Their findings were presented in brief to SC members. Relevant meetings are also organized – also presenting project results at Astana conference (Environment for Europe 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 following one of the recommendations from the monitoring mission. Other recommendations of the mission are addressed in the project activities – for example via intensified capacity building activities; no-costs extension of the project should be still discussed among project components due to different speed of activities.

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 have been finalized. Feasibility studies of hydroposts rehabilitation were drafted for Tangi-Vorukh and Madpari locations – and currently the discussions on rehabilitation and relevant costs-sharing are ongoing. 6 WUAs have been created at the same area – their capacities are developed and supported via the project as well. Follow up tender is completed to develop these activities. Water and Energy Council is suggested by the government is one of the priority interventions for the support from the project side – so relevant MOU is been elaborated. 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. Chumysh hydropost rehabilitation is almost completed. 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. 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. There were several meetings and trainings under the project – including support to the Water Basin Council, expert group meetings, meetings with the stakeholders, and Kazakh-Chinese Water Commission. Publication on IWRM implementation in the basin is been prepared and printed out. Technical support of bilateral discussions on water-sharing is

ensured under the project. Draft Water Basin Management Plan is prepared by the project and sent to stakeholders for their inputs and comments.

General discussion was linked to the need to support water reforms and policy development process (especially in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) and need to coordinate the project activities with new EU-funded interventions been initiated in cooperation with GIZ and CAREC. There was also a suggestion to harmonize IWRM approaches and plans on the regional level among the countries to ensure relevant synergies and experience exchange.

### **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.

Ahad Makhmoudov shortly presented planning for 2012 – 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 ongoing administrative reform 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 - there will be several seminars and 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 started 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. Additional activities on the national level are to be confirmed after the state funding is approved.

Next SC meeting is planned for Bishkek, May 2012 – in case of any changes, it will be communicated additionally. Minutes and updated work plans will be circulated after the meeting.

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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. The next SC meeting will be organized in Kyrgyzstan in May 2012 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

## Forth Regional Steering Meeting

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

#### AGENDA

**Date:** 8 December 2011

**Venue:** **WORLDHOTEL SALTANAT** 164, Furmanov Street 050021, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Languages:** Russian and English

#### Thursday, 8 December 2011

09:30 – 10:00 **Registration of the participants**

10:00 – 10:15

**Welcoming remarks:**

Mr. Serikali Mukataev, Head of Balkhash-Alakol' Water Basin inspection on behalf of the Committee of Water Resources, Kazakhstan

Mr. Omurbek Abdyrazakov, State Secretary, State Committee of Water Resources and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Rene Mally, Head of Operations, EU Delegation in Kazakhstan

Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, ARR, UNDP Tajikistan

Chair: Mr. Omurbek Abdyrazakov

**Adoption of the agenda**

#### Session 1: Progress of the project activities

10:15 – 11:15

**Reporting from the project components:**

Mr. Ryspek Apasov, IWRM Project Expert, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Questions & answers

Mr. Ahad Mahmoudov, Programme Manager, UNDP Tajikistan

Questions & answers

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kazakhstan

Questions & answers

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

Questions & answers

11:15 – 11:30

**Coffee break**

#### Session 2: Planned activities and their coordination with other interventions

11:30 – 12:45

**Reporting from the project components:**

Mr. Ryspek Apasov, IWRM Project Expert, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Questions & answers

Mr. Ahad Mahmoudov, Programme Manager, UNDP Tajikistan

Questions & answers

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kazakhstan

Questions & answers

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

Questions & answers

12:45 – 13:00

**Any other business**

**Next steps and agreements**

13.00 – 14.00

**Lunch**

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

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2011, WORLDHOTEL SALTANAT 164, Furmanov Street 050021, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Nº	Surname, Name	Position	Organization	Country
1.	Abdyrazakov Omurbek	State Secretary	State Committee of Water Resources and Melioration	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
2.	Akhmetov Serik	NPCO (Project GEF CASPECO)	Ministry of Environment	Kazakhstan, Astana
3.	Alexeeva Natalia	Water Programme Coordinator for Central Asia	UNDP BRC	Kazakhstan, Almaty
4.	Aliev Bakhrom	Senior Engineer	Kanibadam State Department of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Kanibadam
5.	Apasov Ryspek	National Project Expert	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
6.	Gafarov Bakhrom	Deputy Director	Tajik Branch of Research Centre of Interstate Coordination Water Commission	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
7.	Galustyan Aurica	Manager of IWRM-FV Project	CIS ICWC	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
8.	Islamov Ulugbek	Project Manager	UNDP Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
9.	Kazbekov Jusipbek	IWRM Project Manager	IWMI	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
10	Kenshimov Amirkhan	National Project Manager	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Almaty
11	Khoshmukhamedov	ARR/Programme	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe

<b>№</b>	<b>Surname, Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
	Sukhrob			
12	Kim Stanislav	Head of Unit, Energy and Environment Unit	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana
13	Lazarev Sergey	Director of Almaty Cluster Office and UNESCO Representative to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	UNESCO	Kazakhstan, Almaty
14	Mahmadulloev Khabib	Business Manager	Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the RT	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
15	Mahmoudov Ahad	Programme Manager, Energy and Environment Unit	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
16	Mally Rene	Head of Operations	EU Delegation in Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana
17	Mukataev Serikali	Head	Balkhash-Alakhol Basin Inspectorate	Kazakhstan, Almaty
18	Narbayev Marat	Representative of Kazakhstan	EC-IFAS	Kazakhstan, Almaty
19	Nikolayenko Alexander	Regional Advisor	GIZ	Kazakhstan, Almaty
20	Sargsyan Simon	Natural Science Specialist	UNESCO	Kazakhstan, Almaty
21	Sarsenbekov Tulegen	Deputy Chief, Department of Technical Assistance	EDB	Kazakhstan, Almaty
22	Shomirsaidov Rustam	Head of department	Isfara State Department of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Isfara
23	Strikeleva Ekaterina	Water Program Manager	CAREC	Kazakhstan, Almaty
24	Temirbekov Alexandr	National Project Manager	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
25	Usupov Abdymitalip	Head of Department, Agrarian Development and Nature Use	Batken Regional Administration	Kyrgyzstan, Batken
26	Wahlstrom Emilia	Program Analyst, Energy and Environment Unit	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana
27	Zhumaboev Kahramon	Water Management Specialist	IWMI-CA office	Uzbekistan, Tashkent