

## Fifth Regional Steering Meeting

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

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## Minutes

**Date:** 31 May 2012

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

**Languages:** Russian and English

The Fifth Project Steering Committee meeting was chaired by Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, Chair, EC-IFAS.

### Opening speeches:

Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, Chair, EC-IFAS has opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He has underlined that projects objectives are fully corresponding to the IFAS priorities as IWRM is one of the key concepts for implementation in the Aral Sea Basin. He has informed about current EC-FAS activities – particularly in regard to the Aral Sea Basin Management Programme -3. The Programme was developed in cooperation with all national partners and donors, and recently got approved by all five states. This approval confirms national commitments towards solving water issues and cooperating on the regional level.

Mrs Alia Baidebekova, Project Manager, EU Delegation in Kazakhstan, noted that the project is close to its finalization and therefore we have to concentrate on visualizing its results. IWRM is a complex approach – in this regard the project has strong international support and national partnership that secure proper attention and high level of commitments. EU is supporting EC-IFAS, national governments and related water activities and therefore the new EU projects will contribute towards building the dialogue platform and advancing cooperation.

Ms. Caroline Millow, Political Advisor, EEAS, underlined the emphasis which is put now from the EU side on the partnership with the CA states, review of the new CA Strategy is ongoing – and water and environmental issues are among the priorities for cooperation. She noted that coordination is crucial in this regard – among different sectors, policies and projects. Therefore the dialogue platforms are important – and the project is well progressing in this regard.

Mr. Kodir Aliev, the Ministry of Water Resources and Melioration, Tajikistan, informed on the support provided by the project towards the water reform process on the national level – via supporting irrigation assets inventory and providing capacity building to the experts and authorities. Cooperation with TAJWSS network and activities is also important – the same as the inventory of water supply and sanitation infrastructure. IWRM is a part of the water reform process as the state has to ensure food and energy security and therefore relevant follow up activities are requested.

Mr. Ondasyn Zhienkulov, Deputy Chair, Committee of Water Resources, Kazakhstan, thanked the project for support provided to the Committee. He has referred to the differences among the legal and institutional structures, national requirements – however all these factors do not prevent us from increasing water use efficiency and advancing IWRM. As the most of participants are aware, IWRM Plan for Kazakhstan is not formally approved – nevertheless it is

integrated now in the draft water strategy being developed at the moment. Support to Balkhash-Alakol' water basin administration provided by the project was very important – and the Basin Management Plan has been drafted and discussed with key stakeholders. Joint Water Commission between China and Kazakhstan has entered negotiations on water-sharing arrangements – and technical inputs from the project team are very useful for advancing bilateral cooperation. Finnish support to the information aspect of this cooperation is very timely and welcomed a lot.

Mr. Ibatulling presented the 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.**

Mr. 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.

Mr. Anatoliy Khomatov, Project 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). Feasibility studies of hydroposts rehabilitation were developed 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 one of the priority interventions for the support from the project side. Several seminars and meetings are organized – including the national SC meeting.

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Manager, UNDP Kazakhstan, presented Ili-Balkhash/Kazakh component of the project. 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. Other methodological documents are being developed. 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.

Ms. 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. Regional meetings are also organized following the requests from the countries. 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. The monitoring mission is in progress at the moment – recommendations are to be presented at the next meeting.

### **Session 2: Project plans for the rest of 2012**

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.

Anatoliy Kholmatov shortly presented planning for the second half of 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 continued – 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.

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 if the state funding is approved.

Natalia Alexeeva gave a short review of activities planned for the regional component. There would be regional seminars/meetings similar to the current ones (tentatively planned for September in cooperation with Cap-Net), 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.

Mr. Ulugbek Islamov, IWRM Project Manager, UNDP Uzbekistan, has informed about related activities in Uzbekistan. National IWRM project is extended for one year – and so far is focusing on updating Water Code according to IWRM principles, and working on the basin level (Zeravshan) on developing sectoral water efficiency plans and integrating into the IWRM plan. Proposals on the legal amendments will be handled to the government by the end of 2012.

### **Discussions:**

Active discussion was ongoing regarding WUAs support and sustainability – as the project works on this issue in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, the partners exchanged their opinions and relevant experience. WUAs conference which was organized in Bishkek (and supported by the project) was providing the platform for related discussion and coordination among different partners and donors. One of the issues is also equipment and infrastructure transfer to WUAs – particularly important now in Tajikistan in relation to the ongoing water reform.

Climate change adaptation (CCA) is among the regional priorities currently – so project has contributed in

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Kyrgyzstan to developing CCA national strategy for water sector. All developed materials were presented and already used by different project and presenters.

GIZ (Aleksandr Nikolaenko) has presented their current activities focusing on Isfara – and informed on planned interventions under the next phase.

WECOOP Project (Anatoly Krutov) requested the access to the IWRM project reports – they are mainly uploaded to the web-site and shared with the EU Delegation and state partners, and therefore could be easily referred to or used.

Participants from Tajikistan once more welcomed the support to the Water and Energy Council provided by the project.

EU WI NPD process is starting now in Kazakhstan – so the project team would be interested to cooperate as appropriate.

EU is interested to review the risks for Ile-Balkhash Basin and assist to bilateral cooperation.

Groundwater issues are important and need to be considered at different levels. Therefore UNDP is developing now the application to GEF for financing – this was already presented at other events and at the moment discussed with the governments and experts.

Next SC meeting is planned for Almaty, fall 2012 – in case of any changes, it will be communicated additionally.

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.
3. The next SC meeting will be organized in Almaty in connection with the final conference Kyrgyzstan in fall 2012 .

Annexes:

1. Agenda of the meeting
2. List of participants

## Fifth Regional Steering Meeting

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

#### AGENDA

**Date:** 31 May 2012

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

**Languages:** Russian and English

#### Thursday, 31 May 2012

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

09:30 – 09:45 **Welcoming remarks:**

Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, Chairman of EC-IFAS

Mr. Ondasyn Zhienkulov, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Water Resources, Kazakhstan

Ms. Alia Baidebekova, project Manager, EU Delegation in Kazakhstan

**Adoption of the agenda**

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

09:45 – 11:15 **Reporting from the project components:**

Mr. Ryspek Apasov, IWRM Project Expert, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Questions & answers

Mr. Anatoly Kholmatov, IWRM Project Manager, UNDP Tajikistan

Questions & answers

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Expert, UNDP Kazakhstan

Questions & answers

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

Questions & answers

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

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

11:30 – 12:30 **Reporting from the project components:**

Mr. Ryspek Apasov, IWRM Project Expert, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Questions & answers

Mr. Anatoly Kholmatov, IWRM Project Manager, UNDP Tajikistan

Questions & answers

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, National Project Expert, UNDP Kazakhstan

Questions & answers

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

Questions & answers

12:30 – 12:45 **Any other business**

**Next steps and agreements**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

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

**31 May 2012**, hotel “Kazzhol”, Gogol str. 127/1, Almaty, Kazakhstan

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>№</b>	<b>Surname, Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
1.	Akhmetov Serik	NPCO (Project GEF CASPECO)	Ministry of Environment	Kazakhstan, Astana
2.	Alexeeva Natalia	Water Programme Coordinator for Central Asia	UNDP BRC	Kazakhstan, Almaty
3.	Aliev Kodir	Head of Irrigation System Department	Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the RT	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
4.	Arifjanov Oybek	Head of Hydraulics Cathedra	Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
5.	Apasov Ryspek	National Project Expert	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
6.	Beishekeev Kydykbek	Leading Enginee	"Kyrgyzsuudoluor"	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
7.	Gafarov Bakhrom	Deputy Director	Tajik Branch of Scientific Information Centre of ICWC	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
8.	Ibatullin Saghit	Chair	EC-IFAS	Kazakhstan, Almaty
9.	Islamov Ulugbek	Project Manager	UNDP Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
10.	Khamidov Abdujabor	Head of Water Use Department	Kanibadam State Department of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Kanibadam

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<b>№</b>	<b>Surname, Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
11.	Kenshimov Amirkhan	National Project Manager	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Almaty
12.	Kholmatov Anatoliy	National Project Manager	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
13.	Khoshmukhamedov Sukhrob	ARR/Programme	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
14.	Kim Stanislav	Head of Unit, Energy and Environment Unit	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana
15.	Keuls Carel	Advisor on Knowledge Management	UNESCO-IHE	The Netherlands, Delft
16.	Lazarev Sergey	Director	Almaty Cluster Office of UNESCO	Kazakhstan, Almaty
17.	Leendertse Kees	Senior HDR Specialist	Cap-Net	South Africa, Pretoria
18.	Makhmoudov Ahad	Advisor, EEP	UNDP Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Dushanbe
19.	Milow Caroline	Political Advisor	European External Action Service, Office of the EU Special Representative for CA	Brussels, Belgium
20.	Mirzaev Nazir	Manager of IWRM-FV Project	Scientific Information Centre of ICWC	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
21.	Mukataev Serikali	Head	Balkhash-Alakhol Basin Inspectorate	Kazakhstan, Almaty
22.	Nikolayenko Alexander	Regional Advisor	GIZ	Kazakhstan, Almaty
23.	Reddy Junna Mohan	Head	IWMI	Uzbekistan, Tashkent
24.	Sargsyan Simon	Natural Science Specialist	UNESCO	Kazakhstan, Almaty
25.	Sarsenbekov Tulegen	Deputy Chief, Department of Technical Assistance	EDB	Kazakhstan, Almaty
26.	Shomirsaidov Rustam	Head of department	Isfara State Department of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tajikistan, Isfara
27.	Strikeleva Ekaterina	Water Program Manager	CAREC	Kazakhstan, Almaty
28.	Temirbekov Alexandr	National Project Manager	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

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29.	Usupov Abdymitalip	Head of Department, Agrarian Development and Nature Use	Batken Regional Administration	Kyrgyzstan, Batken
30.	Wahlstrom Emilia	Program Analyst, Energy and Environment Unit	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Astana
31.	T.L. Yap Jan	CKNet Coordinator	Cap-Net	Indonesia, Jakarta
32.	Zhienkulov Ondasyn	Deputy Chair	Committee of Water Resources, MOA	Kazakhstan, Astana
33.	Zhumabayev Yerlan	Project Manager	UNDP Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Almaty