

NEWSLETTER

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UNEP Support to Central Asian Countries in Achievement of IWRM 2005 Objectives. “Accelerating the Process”

The Central Asian component and its organization

This Central Asian component of the program had been developed by UNEP and UCC-Water in close cooperation with GWP CACENA¹. Development of this component was commenced in October 2005, and would be continued up to October 2006.

The regional coordinating and consulting group had been formed from representatives of the GWP CACENA, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UCC –Water agency. At the end of 2005, the National groups for coordination and support of IWRM were formed in all three republics. These groups had comprised representatives of the key ministries and agencies concerned in progress and Intersectoral interaction in water resources management.

The planned activities of this component envisage the different phases of progress:

- *Sub-regional reporting on progress in achievement of the IWRM 2005 objectives and the structure of IWRM with concentrating of attention on the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan*
- *Development of the National road maps/plans for the IWRM 2005, in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan*
- *Creation of managerial capacity of the senior water resources managers for the IWRM planning and its issues with the aim to “speedup” progress in the IWRM planning.*

The sub-regional and national working plans addressed to the IWRM 2005 objectives were prepared during the first stage of activities on this component.

Progress at the regional level

15 representatives of the ministries and organization from the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and SIC ICWC² had participated in the working meeting on 28.01.06, in Fergana (Uzbekistan). The presentations were focused on the objectives, tasks, and planned approaches to the project implementation and monitoring of progress in activities aimed at transition toward the IWRM. The National project consultants had submitted reports on implementation of the first stage “Assessment of the National Status of Water Resources Management from the IWRM principles viewpoint and the main provisions of the National Program for water resources development in the long-term perspective”.

¹ Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus

² Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination

The booklet with the brief overview of progress towards transition to the IWRM in the Central Asian Countries had been prepared for presentation at the 4th World Water Forum. The progress towards IWRM and bottlenecks requiring the staged solution for managerial capacity building had been identified in this review.



Progress on National IWRM Roadmaps

In April 2006, the seminars on the “Issues of Intersectoral Interaction in Water Use and Transition to Integrated Water Resources Management” were conducted in all the three republics.

Kyrgyz Republic

The first national seminar within the framework of the component was held on 21 April, 2006, in Bishkek. 30 representatives from the departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Food Processing Industry, Kyrgyz Integrated Hydro-Geological Expedition, the Ministry of Health, the State Agency for Environment Conservation and Forestry, Opened Joint Stock Company “Electric Stations”, the Main Administration on Hydro-Meteorology of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Kyrgyz Department of SIC ICWC, the Center for Support and Regulation of WUA³, the State Water Inspection, Basin Water Management Authorities, the projects which are being implemented in the republic with support from the international agencies participated in this seminar. The Regional Consultant, Coordinator of the sub-regional program participated in the seminar as well.

In the reports and presentations of the members of the National Groups for Coordination and Support to IWRM at this seminar the following issues were reflected:

- IWRM objectives and tasks and the planned approaches to their implementation
- Tasks of the National Group for coordination and support to the IWRM
- Problems and conflicts in water resources management and their possible solutions
- Problems in reformation of water resources management and use
- Problems in the state support to WUAs
- Problems in conservation of the aquatic ecosystems
- Role and place of the hydro-meteorological service in the IWRM system.

The main provisions of draft “Water Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic” were presented to participants of the seminar. This paper is now under approval of the ministries and agencies concerned. The participants were informed about the decree on establishment of the National Water Council, adopted in February 2006. This council is headed by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

³ Water User Association

In the adopted on the results of seminar decision, it was offered to assign the UCC-Water national consultant together with the National Coordination Group to prepare the draft national “road map” of activities aimed at transition to the IWRM for its subsequent presentation at the regional seminar (July, 2006). The final, agreed with the stakeholders, version of this “road map” will be presented at the closing national seminar (August 2006).

Republic of Tajikistan

The first national seminar within the framework of component was held on 29 April, 2006, in Dushanbe. 53 representatives of the Ministry of Amelioration and Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Committee for Environment Protection and Forestry, the Scientific and Production Associations and the Scientific and Educational Institutions, the local Executive governmental authorities, the Non-governmental organizations, the President’s aparat, the Parliament of Tajikistan, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the Tajik Department of Scientific-Information Center of ICWC, oblast water management organizations, the international projects, media and public awareness participated in the seminar.

In the reports and presentations of the members of the National Groups for Coordination and Support to IWRM at this seminar the following issues were reflected:

- IWRM objectives and tasks and the planned approaches to their implementation
- Problems in establishment and the state support to WUAs
- Perspectives of water resources development from the IWRM viewpoint
- Water legislation in the light of implementation of the IWRM principles
- Strategy and priorities for development of water sector
- Role of information system, capacity development, and public awareness campaign in the IWRM process
- Technical, managerial, ecological and social aspects of the IWRM.

The following papers were presented to the participants of seminar:

- The main provisions of the “Strategy for development of water sector in Tajikistan” that is under preparation now, and
- Draft law on “Water User Associations”, submitted for consideration to the Parliament of the republic. Adoption of this law is expected in the current year.

On the results of seminar it was adopted the decision (similar to the one adopted at the Kyrgyz seminar) on preparation of the draft national “road map”.

Republic of Uzbekistan

The first national seminar within the framework of component was held on 29 April, 2006, in Tashkent, at the conference hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 42 representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Justice, the State Committee for Nature Protection, the Joint Stock Company “Uzbekenergo”, the Agency “Uzkommunkhizmat”, the Scientific and Research, Design, and Educational Institutes, the Basin Irrigation System Authorities participated in the seminar. The Chairman of GWP CACENA, Regional coordinator from the UCC-Water and Regional Consultant to the program, representatives of the UNDP, JICA, and the projects, which are being implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan with support from the international agencies, participated in the work of seminar as well.

In the reports and presentations of the members of the National Groups for Coordination and Support to IWRM at this seminar the following main issues had been reflected and discussed:

- Further development of the on-going in the Republic reformation of the water management and use sector and the hydrographic principle of water management
- Transition to the chargeable water use in the irrigated agriculture of Uzbekistan
- Integration of the energy sector priorities with the IWRM system
- Legal basis for establishment and state support to WUAs
- Conservation of the aquatic ecosystems
- Provision of the IWRM system with the reliable hydro-meteorological and environmental information.

The report of the National Consultant to UCC-Water about current situation in water sector and progress with the IWRM implementation in Uzbekistan was presented to the participants. The preliminary content of the “road map”, compiled with consideration of the specific conditions of water management sector in Uzbekistan, was offered to the participants of seminar for review and subsequent discussion. After discussion it was adopted decision offering to the National Consultant to UCC-Water jointly with the members of the National Group for Coordination and Support to the IWRM to prepare draft national “road map” for subsequent approval by the key ministries and agencies.



Regional Seminar in July, 2006

The regional seminar is to be held in the third decade of July, 2006, in Cholponata, the Kyrgyz Republic. The key water resource managers and decision makers in the Region of Central Asia (from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) will participate in this seminar.

The objective of the regional seminar is: Information and consultation with the stakeholders about development of the National “road maps” of planned actions aimed at transition to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water saving in pursuance of the commitments adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002). In the course of this seminar it is planned to:

- Assess status of the IWRM implementation at the sub-regional level, including lessons learned from the “IWRM-Fergana” project and experience of Kazakhstan associated with development of the National Work Plans on IWRM and water saving
- Identify concept and content of the IWRM strategy and the “road maps”
- Identify problems that required the special attention, arising during training of the stakeholders in the IWRM principles.

It is also planned to conduct joint session of the program participants and participants of the seminar “Tool Box Dissemination”, that is included in the framework of program, prepared by the GWP CACENA.