

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For December 2015 –
January 2016

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1. Seminar "IWRM role in rational use of water resources"

The Seminar "IWRM role in rational use of water resources" organized by CWP-Azerbaijan in cooperation with the working group of the World Bank project "Support for Water User Associations" and international consultants of Turkish company "Su Yapy" was held on 2 December 2015 in the Imishlinsky district, Azerbaijan.

This project provides a repair & restoration of the on-farm irrigation and drainage networks on the area of 85 thousand. ha.

The seminar aim was to inform participants who deals with water and land use about IWRM principles and water resources use and protection in the rational manner. The seminar was attended by water users, farmers, local administration (Total: 28 people).

The CWP-Azerbaijan member Mr. Rufullaev E. made a presentation "IWRM and Climate Change". Other participants reported about the implemented land reclamation, climate change impact and way to its mitigation.

As a result participants were informed in detail about existing and project water facilities, current situation with water resources use and IWRM implementation in Azerbaijan.



2. The Roundtable "Water Resources of Georgia under Climate Change and Water-related Challenges"

On 28 December 2015, CWP- Georgia together with the Greens Movement of Georgia held the Roundtable in Tbilisi. The aim was to improve coordination between stakeholders for strengthening collaboration in the water resources management.



Representatives of ministries, national agencies, academia (Total: 28 people) took part. Participants analyzed current situation with hydrological cycle, climate change impact, forecasting etc. They were informed about GWP activity in these spheres and plans for the next period.

Participants decided to create the working group that in 2016 will start to develop recommendations for decision-makers in order to achieve water security and IWRM as a whole.

3. The USAID meeting in Tbilisi

On 22 December 2015, presentation of draft document "Water Resource Management Guidance Documents Applicable for Georgia -- Delineation of Surface Water Bodies, Reference Conditions and Classification Systems in Georgia" was held in the Conference Hall of the Hotel Betsy's in Tbilisi. This meeting was organized within the USAID project. The document was prepared by the Deloit Consulting LTD. About 50 stakeholders took part.

The document is a review of existing situation with implementing the EC guidelines on water. It prepared for wide range of stakeholders (managers, agencies etc.) who is developing the basin plans.

The document is based on results of international projects implemented in Georgia last years.

Contribution of CWP-Georgia to new water legislation was highly appreciated. CWP-Georgia was represented by Mr. George Dzamukashvili, CWP-Georgia Chairman.

Participants agreed that this document is very important as a practical guidance for stakeholders and various organizations.



4. USAID-CAREC meeting

CWP-Kyrgyzstan took part in the meeting of the Working Group on the USAID-CAREC project "Fostering transboundary cooperation on small watersheds in Central Asia". This meeting organized by CAREC was held on December 11, 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Participants: representatives of CAREC regions, governmental agencies, local administrations, civil society (total: 45 people, including 22 women).

The following matters were considered and discussed:

1. Implementing the pilot projects in the Aspara, Isfara and Ugam river basins.

2. New pilot area: the Sudochie lake system in the Republic of Uzbekistan; the work plan of the project for the next period.
3. New project "Water, Education and Collaboration".

Review on development of basin agreement as one of the financial sustainability mechanisms or implementing the Basin Plan was presented.



5. The National Seminar "Economy of Climate Change in Central and Western Asia" in Kyrgyzstan

The National Seminar "Economy of Climate Change in Central and Western Asia" in Kyrgyzstan organized by ADB was held on 9-10 December 2015 in the Park Hotel in Bishkek.

Participants: representatives of ADB, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Environment Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources, Energy Sector, Civil Society, specialists on climate change adaptation (total: 30 people incl. 12 women).

The aim was to determine the prioritized investment options to improve sustainability to climate change and low carbon development.

The following matters were considered and discussed:

1. Regional economic and social perspectives and weaknesses.
2. Generalizing effects of climate change impact on Central and Western Asia including Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
3. Investigation of climate change impact (and damage) on water sector of Central and Western Asia.
4. Investigation of climate change impact (and damage) on energy sector of Central and Western Asia.
5. Strengthening potential to adaptation, and development of sustainability to climate change consequences (interactive training and assessment of needs).



6. FAO Information-Technical Seminar "Voluntary guidelines for responsible land management, fisheries and forest resources in the context of national food security"

CWP-Kyrgyzstan was invited to participate in the FAO Information-Technical Seminar "Voluntary guidelines for responsible land management, fisheries and forest resources in the context of national food security" held on 10-11 December 2015 in Bishkek.

The aim was to empower smallholders and family farms in order to improve the quality of life in rural areas and reduce poverty.

Participants: representatives of public authority, WUA, FUA (total: 25 people incl. 9 women).

Mr. Abdybai Djailoobaev made presentation on thematic investigation on Kyrgyzstan (it was a main report discussed during this seminar).

The main output of the seminar: recommendations on possible ways for involving Kyrgyzstan to the voluntary guidelines for responsible land management, fisheries and forest resources in the context of national food security.



Participants

7. 2d National Simposium of River Basin Organizations in Mongolia

CWP-Mongolia took part in the 2d National Simposium of River Basin Organizations in Mongolia held on December 2, 2015 in the Chingiz Khan Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

More than 150 participants from 29 basin organizations discussed water management development and need to improve water legislation and water partnership in the Water World. CWP-Mongolia suggested to strengthen water partnership and much more close interaction on water security sphere.



8. Workshop on Improving Water Supply and Sanitation in Schools and Kindergartens of Mongolia

The Workshop on Improving Water Supply and Sanitation in Schools and Kindergartens of Mongolia organized by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education of Mongolia was held on December 4, 2015 in Ulaanbaatar.

Ten representatives from the Ministry of Health Care, Asian Fund of USA, Red Cross, the Institute of Social Study etc. participated. There was created a working group on improving sanitation in the schools and kindergartens of Mongolia.



9. CWP-Mongolia's interview to the National TV

On 14 December 2015, Prof. Basandorj Davaa gave interview to the National TV of Mongolia. Millions viewers were informed about the safe potable water, local method on water treatment for drinking purpose, as well about water situation in the Gobi Desert and water standards for drinking water use.



10. CWP-Mongolia participation in the TV Program "Morning Guests"

Prof. Basandorj Davaa was invited to the TV Program "Morning Guests" held on 23 December 2015. This program was devoted to safe pure water.



11. The meeting on water security audit

The meeting on water security audit organized for 12 mongolian organizations (incl. CWP-Mongolia) was held on 28 December 2015 in the Ministry of Health Care of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar. Dr. Bolormaa, representative of the Ministry of Health Care of Mongolia, made presentation on audit of water security.



12. 9th meeting of the Coordination Council of the National Water Policy Dialogue on IWRM within the European Union Water Initiative

CWP-Tajikistan was officially invited to participate in the meeting held on December 3, 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Representatives of relevant ministries and government agencies as well international organizations such as EC, WB, UNDP, ADB, SDC, the Aga Khan Fund participated (total: 80 people).

The aim was to consider the reforming process in water sector of Tajikistan.

Within the reforming of water and energy sectors, the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan was transformed into the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan with responsibility for water policy and regulation, and the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with responsibility for land reclamation and irrigation (Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on 19 November 2013, №12 «On improvement of the structure of the executive authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan").

The main principles and objectives of this reform are separation of water policy and regulation from the production and business activities, IWRM implementation, shifting to basin principle of water resources management based on hydrological boundaries, with the creation of basin and sub-basin organizations.

A wide range of issues concerning the reform of the water sector was considered, including "Draft Program of Water Sector Reforming in Tajikistan for 2016-2020"; "The program of reforming the land reclamation and irrigation sector of the Republic of Tajikistan".

CWP-Tajikistan presented proposals on some issues addressed.



13. The Roundtable "The Syrdarya River Basin Management Plan for the Tajikistan territory"

The Roundtable "The Syrdarya River Basin Management Plan for the Tajikistan territory" organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and GIZ was held on December 4, 2015 in Dushanbe.

More than 30 attendees from various governmental and public organizations, as well academia and international organizations took part.

The roundtable aim was to consider the draft management plan of the Syrdarya River Basin on the tajik area. This roundtable was initiated within the project "National Water Resources Management in Tajikistan" (HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation). More information: https://tajikistan.helvetas.org/en/projects_tajikistan/

CWP-Tajikistan proposed some approaches for implementation of that project: approach based on "water-energy-food-environment" nexus; adaptation of UNECE methodology to the Syrdarya Basin; using the GWPToolBox, etc. CWP-Tajikistan expressed willingness to cooperate and participate in this project.



14. The Roundtable "Rational Use of Water Resources for Irrigation in Tajikistan"

The Roundtable "Rational Use of Water Resources for Irrigation in Tajikistan" organized by CWP-Tajikistan was held on December 5, 2015 in Dushanbe.

The roundtable aim: Consider and discuss the result of WACDEP CACENA demo-project in Tajikistan; development and implementation of water-energy saving technologies in irrigation under market economy for 2011-2015 by the national organization "TajikNIIGIM"; The crops cultivation technology within the year-round use of irrigated land as a way of adapting to climate change in the Central Tajikistan.

Participants: scientists of the national organization "TajikNIIGIM" and the Institute of Land Use of the Tajik academy of agricultural sciences as well executors of WACDEP CACENA demo-project in Tajikistan (total: 15 people).

The spreading of achievements on water saving, adaptation to climate change, the year-round use of irrigated land was recommended throughout the Republic of Tajikistan.



15. The Scientific-Practical Session "Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources"

The Scientific-Practical Session "Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources" dedicated to 70th Anniversary of Academician Abdusamadov M. was held on 19 December 2015 in Dushanbe. This session was organized by CWP-Tajikistan together with the Committee of Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Environment of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. This event was attended by 40 representatives of academia and managerial personnel, as well education and culture.

Participants discussed problems and recommendations related to the water resources management, use and protection within all sectors of economy of Tajikistan. Contributions of Academician M. Abdusamadov to development of irrigation and drainage as well environmental science and training were especially highlighted.





16. CWP-Tajikistan's partners meeting

The CWP-Tajikistan's partners meeting was held on 23 December 2015 in the Conference hall of the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Environment of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.

Participants: representatives of CWP-Tajikistan's partners, national, scientific and public organizations (total: 42 people). Participants discussed results of CWP-Tajikistan activity for 2015, GWP CACENA Regional Work Plan for 2016, CWP-Tajikistan Work Plan for 2016.

Participants defined main tasks as follows:

- strengthen efficiency of CWP-Tajikistan's partners network and get support of national and non-governmental organizations of Tajikistan;
- facilitate speeding-up of IWRM implementation in Tajikistan;
- raise of partners' capacity;
- more active participation of CWP-Tajikistan in the national, regional and global water processes especially in implementing water initiatives of Tajikistan.

The relevant decisions on all the agenda items have been taken.





17. Meeting of Civil Society Network in Armenia

On 23 January 2016 CWP-Armenia participated in the meeting of Civil Society Network where the working group coordinators discussed the Work Program for 2016. CWP-Armenia coordinates the working group on Environment Protection and Health Care and is a member of the Coordinating Board of Civil Society Network. CWP-Armenia proposed to develop the work plan of the working groups on implementing SDGs. Also CWP-Armenia proposed to organize a workshop and invite all interested organizations (ministries, local administrations, public and international organizations etc.) to discuss SDGs for Armenia and working areas. The CWP-Armenia's proposals were adopted by participants.



18. Discussion of the Concept of implementing the UN Summit "Rio+20" recommendations in Armenia

CWP-Armenia took part in discussing new version of the Concept of implementing the UN Summit "Rio+20" recommendations and proposed amendments and addendums that were approved by the Association For Sustainable Human Development (a main developer of the Concept). The new version is correspond to SDGs and agreed with the Ministry of Economy of Armenia and the Ministry of International Economic Integration and Reforms which are responsible for its implementing.

19. WACDEP CACENA in Armenia

In December 2015 CWP-Armenia and LLC JINJ prepared the article on demo project results to be published in the European Water Journal.

20. 2d USAID meeting in Tbilisi

On 15 December 2016, the second meeting to discuss the document "Develop Water Resource Management Guidance Documents Applicable for Georgia -- Delineation of Surface Water Bodies, Reference Conditions and Classification Systems in Georgia" was held in the Conference Hall of the Hotel Holiday Inn in Tbilisi. This meeting was organized within the USAID project. The document was prepared by the Deloit Consulting LTD. About 70 stakeholders took part. Mr. George Dzamukashvili, CWP-Georgia Chairman, and Ms. Nino Chkhobadze, GWP CACENA Chair, took part in the discussion.

Some documents prepared by CWP-Georgia were listed in that document:

Draft Law of Georgia on Water Resources Management, UNECE/NWP.

Draft Governmental Decree on Approval of the Rules for Identifying Water Bodies and Establishing Boundaries, EPIRB/NWP.

Draft Governmental Decree On Approval of the Boundaries of River Basin/River Basin District Territorial Entities of Integrated River Basin Management, EPIRB/NWP.

Draft Governmental Decree on the Procedure of Elaboration, Review and Approval of River Basin Management Plans, EPIRB/NWP.



21. The Kick-off workshop "Water Cooperation in Central Asia"

The kick-off workshop on regional project "Promotion of dialogue on the prevention of conflicts related to water and energy issues in Central Asia" financed by EC was held on January 29, 2016 in the Park Hotel in Bishkek.

Among other 35 people (incl. 18 women) CWP-Kyrgyzstan members took part. The project will be implemented by CAREC in 5 countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

The central aim is to stimulate transboundary confidence and a high level of transnational political cooperation in the water-energy sphere in Central Asia through resolving the following tasks:

1. Creation of national and regional networks on cooperation within water&energy cooperation by helping countries to prepare for major activities on water resources management;
2. Promotion of tools that contribute to improvement of regional cooperation in water resources management, such as remote sensing and modeling;
3. Maintaining exchange of experiences in Central Asia on issues related to water, land use and energy efficiency;
4. Providing capacity building for target groups with a focus on specialists of medium operational level.

Outcomes of CWP-Kyrgyzstan participation:

1. Agreement on participation of CWP-Kyrgyzstan in some activities of the project was reached.
2. The beginning of cooperation between CWP-Kyrgyzstan and CAREC was discussed. CWP-Kyrgyzstan invited CAREC to participate in the nexus side event at the Batumi Ministerial Conference.



22. The Working Seminar on the USAID project "Water, Education and Cooperation"

CWP-Kyrgyzstan participated in the Working Seminar on the USAID project "Water, Education and Cooperation" held on 29 January 2016 in the Conference Hall of the Park Hotel in Bishkek.

Organizer: Kyrgyz Office of CAREC

Participants: representatives of CAREC, governmental agencies, local administrations, civil society (total: 35 people, including 18 women).

The main objective of the project is to develop a system that will solve the problem of lack of specialized knowledge in the region, as well developing of working relationship between water managers and specialists, and also demonstration of basin approach to water resources management and cooperation with academic institutions.

The project will be implemented by CAREC in 6 countries: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (more information: <http://carececo.org/news/natsionalnaya-rabochaya-vstrecha-po-proektam-smart-waters-i-ec/>).

CWP-Kyrgyzstan agreed on cooperation with CAREC in implementation of the "Water, Education and Cooperation" project (Smart Waters) in Kyrgyzstan with regard to organization of trainings on IWRM and IWRM Toolbox. They agreed to share information, articles as well to organize on-line discussions etc.



23. CWP-Mongolia in Social Media

In January 2016 CWP-Mongolia started to promote its GWP-related activity in Social Media - Facebook and YouTube channel. These social media will serve as the online water partnership platform in Mongolia to engage partners and stakeholders to implement GWP mission.

<https://www.facebook.com/MongolianWaterPartnership/?fref=ts>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBjOMjCvLGTDXGF3UiEcqDQ>

The objectives are:

- disseminate information and knowledge on sustainable water management,
- advocate and mobilize general public; raise their voice and influence at national and international water policy discussions,
- provide opportunity to unite and coordinate the partner organizations registered under CWP-Mongolia,
- introduce the partner organizations and their activities to public all over the Globe,
- share all previously developed materials such as reports, posters, photos and videos on sustainable water management in one place to be easily accessible to anyone.

There will be at least 3 contents uploaded weekly to ensure continuity and sustainability of the social media pages. CWP-Mongolia is planning to engage more than 2000 followers by the end of March 2016.

24. The meeting "Water Security of Mongolia"

The meeting organized by the Mongolian Water Forum and ADB was held on January 29, 2016 in the Prime Tuushen Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

The meeting discussed development of the project on water security and case study.

Participants from the Ministry of Nature and Green Growth, UN, CWP-Mongolia, local administration and civil society (total: 32 people) agreed to assess water security in four watersheds. CWP-Mongolia will participate in consultations and organizing the meetings and trainings.



25. ISTC Workshop

On 26 January 2016 CWP-Tajikistan took part in the workshop organized by the International Science and Technology Center in the Conference Hall Of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.

The aim was to discuss results of ISTC activity on scientific-technological cooperation in Tajikistan and the ISTC work plan for next period.

More than 100 participants from scientific and educational organizations as well international organizations and other stakeholders were informed about methodology on preparing the scientific-technological projects for funding by ISTC, as well about ongoing projects in Tajikistan. There were discussed main directions of science and technology development and cooperation.



26. The Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council Meeting

CWP-Kazakhstan partners took part in the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council Meeting held on December 4, 2015 in Almaty.

This meeting was organized by the UNESCO cluster office in Almaty, Centre "Sustainable Development Promotion", the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Inspectorate.

Aim: discussing and signing the basin agreements.

Participants: members of Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council, representatives of international, local, public and industrial organizations, as well KazHydromet, mass media.

The basin agreement between administration of Karaganda area, the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Inspectorate and LLP "Kazakhmys Holding" was approved and signed.

CWP-Kazakhstan suggested to the basin council members that their decisions have to be based on IWRM principles.

27. The meeting on transboundary water resources use

The CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev took part in the meeting dedicated to development of draft agreement on water resources use of transboundary rivers between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China.

This meeting organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan and the Institute of Geography was held on 23 December 2015 in Almaty.

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, the Committee on Water Resources, the basin inspectorates, as well national, international, public, scientific organizations and NGOs considered and valued implementation of the Plan of main technical works for water apportioning on transboundary rivers between Kazakhstan and China.

CWP-Kazakhstan advised to take into account IWRM principles when developing the water apportioning agreement between Kazakhstan and China.

28. IWRM training for lecturers of universities

CWP-Kazakhstan partners participated in the IWRM training for lecturers. This training was organized by the German-Kazakh University, UNESCO cluster office in Almaty and Centre "Promotion of Sustainable Development" on December 11, 2015 in Almaty.

Lecturers from universities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well representatives of national and international organizations, research institutes, NGOs were acquainted with the updated course of lectures on IWRM.

The obtained new knowledge will help university professors and water specialists to acquaint students and young professionals with the IWRM methodology and practice, and to prepare managers working in the field of rational use and protection of water resources.

CWP-Kazakhstan made some amendments and additions into the updated IWRM course.

29. Discussion on realization of the second phase of the Syr Darya Control and Northern Aral Sea Project (SYNAS-2)

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev took part in the video conference organized by the World Bank and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan to discuss realization of the second phase of the Syr Darya Control and Northern Aral Sea Project (SYNAS-2). This video conference was held on January 25, 2016 in Almaty.

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Committee on Water Resources, WB and CWP-Kazakhstan participated.

Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev expressed his view on decision-making related to SYNAS-2 project. He proposed to take into account IWRM principles when developing project measures.

30. Round table on realization of the second phase of the Syr Darya Control and Northern Aral Sea Project (SYNAS-2)

The Round table on realization of the second phase of the Syr Darya Control and Northern Aral Sea Project (SYNAS-2) organized by the World Bank and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan was held on January 27-28, 2016 in Almaty.

The aim was to foster dialogue on agreement between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan related to implementing SYNAS-2.

Delegations of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan didn't reach consensus on prolongation of the project.

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev presented to participants the documents related to saving the Aral Sea and use of transboundary water resources of the Syrdarya River, signed by all the Presidents of Central Asian countries.

31. IWRM course of lectures for Kazakh universities

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev has prepared the course of lectures on IWRM for 3rd/4th year students of Kazakh universities (Kazakh National Research Technical University after K.I.Satpayev; Kazakh National Agrarian University). He will deliver lectures on IWRM in January - February 2016.

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The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.