

GWP CACENA – Caucasus and Central Asia Contribution for the GWP in Action 2010 Annual Report

Actually GWP CACENA is a well established regional networking actor with 152 accredited partners, who helps the region to work out complicated interstate water resources issues as well as the countries to develop an Integrated Water Resources Management approach in policies and practices. The concept of providing a neutral platform for dialogues has grown in significance since GWP CACENA was established in 2002.

The most significant outcomes of the network in 2010 were the following:

Outcome 1: Common understanding about water as a key part of sustainable development at national level

The outcome relates to Strategic Goal #1: Support countries to put into practice better water resource management for water security

During 2010 public awareness campaign in all eight countries supported by GWP CACENA and it was addressed to National authorities responsible for water management, environment, energy, agriculture. Also staff of Hydromet Services, Basin Administrations of the key basins was covered. Parliament members and local governments (province administrations) were addressed as well.

Awareness about GWP's role in IWRM promotion among water related stakeholders and their interest to GWP products (ToolBox, technical publications, etc.) was significantly growing. Almost all projects addressing towards IWRM implementation in the region (even those supported by International agencies and donors – the World Bank, ADB, UNDP, etc.) use GWP's products and experiences for capacity development components and for practical implementation. The GWP's products have the highest citation index in all IWRM related publications and reports published in the region.

The outcome of these activities is understanding of the IWRM concept and its role for sustainable economic growth among above mentioned stakeholders, which was spread deeply and widely. It already helps them to properly articulate water related strategies, plans and practical decisions. In some countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan) the IWRM anchored in National Water Law and it became central field of vision for water components of the National economic strategies.

Outcome 2: Strengthen "intellectual capacity" at the national and regional levels to address global and regional issues related to water

The outcome relates to Strategic Goal #2: Promote water resources management to address adaptation to climate change and other critical challenges

There were established formal (and workable) cooperation links with the most active knowledge dissemination institutions in the region: Training Center of ICWC (Interstate Commission for Water Coordination), REC Caucasus, a number of National Universities and also with UNECSO centers – IHE and Dundee. GWP CACENA via these active centers of excellence contributed to the process of capacity development and human resources strengthening across the region and promoted mutual enrichment with practical experiences in IWRM implementation. More and more there are appearing joint publications (GWP with other institutions) addressing IWRM issues.

GWP CACENA translated and published Russian version of the Manual of CapNet “IWRM as a Tool for Adaptation to Climate Change”. It was used as a basis for two rounds of training seminars during 2010 in all eight countries. Understanding of the IWRM as a tool for adaptation to climate change among stakeholders was spread. It already helps water professionals to properly articulate adaptation actions and programs.

GWP CACENA promoted self-involvement into follow-up process of the UN International Year of Sanitation to disseminate results of the Regional Observation on WSS issues (published by GWP CACENA in 2009) among the most influential circles world wide. The Regional Observation was presented at the follow-up Conference of the International Year of Sanitation, held in Tokyo on 26-27 January, 2010 and one copy of the report was send to the UN Secretary General.

On December 3, 2009 in Almaty, Kazakhstan was held **Board of the International Fund for the Aral Sea Saving (IFAS)**, led by Vice-prime Ministers of the five Central Asian countries. The Board approved **Action Plan for realization of the Decisions of the Presidents** of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, which was done in the city of Almaty on 28 April 2009. It worth to remind that one of the principal Presidents’ decisions was the following:

“The Parties assign the Executive Committee of the IFAS together with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development of IFAS, with involvement of national experts and donors, to develop a Program of Actions for support of the Aral Sea basin countries for 2011-2015 (ASBP-3)”

The approved Action Plan is mostly addressing to development of the ASBP-3. There were agreed objectives and framework of the ASBP-3, which will include four main directions:

1. Integrated Water Resources Management with consideration interests of all states
2. Environmental issues
3. Socio-economic issues
4. Strengthening of the institutional and legal mechanisms

The Action Plan scheduled submission of the final version of the ASBP-3 to the heads of states in August 2011.

Today's the Aral Sea – these are two separate lakes with total volume of water about 9 % of the Sea, which was in 1960. The mineralization of water in the western part is above 150 g/l, and in the northern part is about 20-35 g/l.



The GWP CACENA Secretariat coordinates with EC IFAS more efficient involvement of experts from the Partners' organizations over the CACENA region and promotes all available knowledge base (GWP publications and expertise) to the on-going process. There were established permanent communications among EC IFAS (Chair, Dr. Saghit Ibatullin) and GWP CACENA (Regional Coordinator, Dr. Vadim Sokolov).

During January - March 2010 the EC IFAS Chair, Dr. Saghit Ibatullin and leaders of the supporting program – Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE and Mr. Alexander Nikolaenko, GTZ Regional Office – held a round of consultations in all five countries of Central Asia addressing scope and content of the ASBP-3.



Dr. Saghit Ibatullin, Chair of the EC IFAS and **Bo Libert** from UNECE

On 3-7 March this group visited Uzbekistan (Tashkent and Nukus – to see Aral Sea zone). During the meeting of this group with regional organizations (SIC ICWC, BWOs, IWMI, GWP CACENA etc.) held in Tashkent on 5th March, Vadim Sokolov, GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator submitted proposal to the EC IFAS, which is suggesting involvement of the GWP CACENA as key driver for capacity development components of the ASBP-3. The idea is to conduct capacity development component together with information dissemination component as a cross-cutting programmes for the four above-mentioned Directions of the ASBP-3.

In April 2010 the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited all five Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan and the Aral Sea area



“It was shocking,” Mr. Ban Ki-moon told reporters in Nukus after a helicopter tour of the Aral area with Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan. “It is clearly one of the worst environmental disasters of the world! It really left with me a profound impression, one of sadness that such a mighty sea has disappeared,” he said.

In two weeks after Mr. Ban Ki-moon’s visit, the **CWP Uzbekistan** organized a special round table for journalists (more than 60 different mass-media representatives were attended) to discuss results of the visit. The hot discussion was around the UN Secretary-General’s phrase “I urge all the leaders...to sit down together and try to find the solutions”.

Outcome 3: Improve internal and cross regional interaction within the GWP network

Outcome relates to Strategic goal 3: Reinforce knowledge sharing and communications

GWP CACENA via the most active web sources (regional web-portal CAWATER) contributed to the process of knowledge sharing and capacity development.

GWP CACENA is promoting activities of Scientific-Information Center of ICWC, which serves as IWRM Knowledge Hub within the Asia-Pacific Water Forum. The main topics of Knowledge dissemination are river basin management, non-conflict water allocation, organization of water management and conservation on transboundary waterways, environmental disaster management, irrigated agriculture, including irrigation and drainage. Moreover, to pursue the regional collaboration for effective water use, GWP CACENA jointly with SIC ICWC focuses on examining and managing issues such as:

- Improve efficiency and sustainability of water resources management in CACENA region through promotion and application of IWRM principles.
- Extend information coverage of available web-portal and information system
- Become a bridge in knowledge dissemination, linking the international water society and the Russian-speaking audience.
- Develop a regional decision support tool, i.e. integrate the Central Asian Water Information Base (CAREWIB) into decision-making processes of national, regional and international bodies.
- Strengthen water management organizations in CACENA region through sustainable capacity building network.

Further development of information exchange in the region and application of information systems in routine activities of the National authorities responsible for Water Resources and Agriculture and the provincial water organizations, as well as at lower level, i.e. district water organizations and Water User Associations, followed by expansion of extension services and training is undoubted.

The principal clients of the CA IWRM Knowledge Hub are:

- Research and design institutions in water sectors of CACENA countries.
- Water-management organizations, water users and local authorities.
- Higher education institutions (specialized in hydraulic engineering, agriculture, hydrology, etc.).
- Organizations dealing with monitoring of water quantity and quality (meteorological, hydrometric, hydrogeological and land reclamation services, organizations under umbrella of environmental authorities, etc.).
- National authorities responsible for Emergency Situations in countries.
- Organizations responsible for operation of national and regional energy systems.
- Non-governmental, private organizations.

- International organizations and donors.
- Mass media

GWP CACENA is very active partner of the **International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)** and was attended to the INBO General Assembly in Dakar, Senegal from 21 to 23 January 2010. The Assembly gathered 268 delegates, including representatives of GWP – Letitia Obeng, GWP Chair, Reginald Tekateka, Chair of Regional Chairs and Vadim Sokolov, GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator.

The Assembly underlined the great interest of publishing “Briefs”, such as that on basin development and management, jointly published in 2008 with the IWMI and Global Water Partnership, and of course the “INBO/GWP Handbook on integrated management by basin”, which is a great success... already translated into nine languages (Russian translation was done by GWP CACENA)!

The drafting of a second Handbook on transboundary river basin management was launched in 2010, and GWP CACENA invited to contribute cases from the region.



GWP representatives at the INBO Assembly in Dakar, January 2010



His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal Mr. Abdoulaye Wade

In 2010 there were good examples of the inter-regional cooperation among some CWP from CACENA and CEE. One of the best is collaboration of CWP Armenia with CWPs of Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Slovakia for application of their experience in Armenia - for designing wastewater treatment plant. It worth to mention that CWP Armenia won a grant in March 2010 within the framework of GEF Small Grants Program to construct a household wastewater lagoon - type treatment plant for village Parakar.

During 2010 there was a very efficient cooperation with GWP representatives from GWP headquarter in Stockholm. GWP Secretariat was invited by partners from Turkmenistan to attend the International conference “Golden Age Turkmen Lake”. The conference was organized by the President of Turkmenistan and convened by the Minister of Water Resources. It gathered more than 100 participants from 23 countries from sectors of science (mainly ecology), agriculture, water resources, environment, international

organizations, such as UNESCO, UNEP, UNECE, Ramsar Convention, international donors UNDP-GEF, GTZ, the Caspian Environmental Programme, Birds International.

From GWP side contributions for the Conference were given:

- In three TV interviews
- In a plenary lecture on the second day “How IWRM Supports Central Asian Sustainable Development”
- As a speech to the Minister of Water Resources during a dinner at the Turkmen Lake



TV interview with our passed away friend and colleague Björn Guterstam in Conference Venue at Caspian Sea shore in April 2010.

Outcome 4: Properly conduct governance of the GWP CACENA network and streamline financial, administrative and governance structures.

Outcome relates to Strategic goal 4: Reinforce the network for effective performance.

Awareness about GWP’s role in IWRM promotion among Partners is high. CWPs (established in six of eight countries) play principal role to communicate with individual Partners. Regional Secretariat coordinates all administration issues via CWPs or National Coordinators.

Published products of the GWP CACENA in 2010:

With financial support from Finland there were produced two CDs (1000 copies each):

- a) Collection of all publications by the GWP CACENA 2002-2009 in Russian;
- b) "IWRM Experience in Central Asia" – the most full collection of publications and reports from all five countries during last 15 years – in Russian and English.

TEC background paper No 14 was translated into Russian and published for wide dissemination in the region.

GWP CACENA booklet "Network for Water Security" (in English)

Russian version of the Manual of CapNet "IWRM as a Tool for Adaptation to Climate Change".

The GWP Strategy 2009-2013 also is available in Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijan, Georgian and Turkmen languages.

CWP Uzbekistan published book "IWRM in Low Lands of Amudarya" written by Prof. Erejep Kurbanbaev (member of TEC CACENA) with colleagues (in Russian).

Web links: www.gwp-cacena.org ; www.cawater-info.net; www.cwp.am