

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For May 2015

www.gwp.org

Contents

<u>Section 1: Regional Secretariat</u>	1
<u>Section 2: CWP-Azerbaijan</u>	4
<u>Section 3: CWP-Georgia</u>	7
<u>Section 4: CWP-Kyrgyzstan</u>	11
<u>Section 5: CWP-Mongolia</u>	13
<u>Section 6: CWP-Tajikistan</u>	15
<u>Section 7: CWP-Turkmenistan</u>	18

Section 1:

1.1. International Conference “Water conservation and water use efficiency”

The International Conference "Water conservation and water use efficiency", organized by the Network of Water Organizations from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (INBO-EECCA) took place on May 21, 2015 in Minsk.

Conference was organized by OJSC "Vodstroy" (Russia), the Scientific Information Center of ICWC (Uzbekistan), the Research Institute of Land Reclamation of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The conference was supported by UNECE and GWP CACENA.

The conference addressed the following issues:

- Report on INBO-EECCA activity for 2014;
- Increasing water shortage as a challenge to water security: natural - climate change; anthropogenic - the growth of consumption, the future development, including hydropower;
- Implementing of high technologies in all types of water use (automation, water conservation, energy efficiency, etc.);
- Water accounting and improving of water service quality.

Opening remarks were made by INBO-EECCA President Academician Polad-Zade P.A. The conference featured more than 20 speakers.

The report of the INBO-EECCA Executive Secretary Prof. Dukhovny V.A. highlighted the following issues that the water sector in EECCA countries is facing today:

- Water should be the basis of global security.
- There is a worsening of water shortages in arid zones and increase of water availability in areas with abundant moisture.
- Territorial uneven distribution of water resources.
- Poor control of water resources.
- Strengthening of hydroegoism and hydrosolidarity problem.
- Transboundary problems.
- Manmade-technological risks.
- The need to link water, land, climate and nature.

To solve these problems the followings are suggested:

- fight with the "current trends" routine.
- strengthen the Basin Organizations involvement: more and real things can be seen by local organization.
- strengthen the free exchange of information and create an open knowledge bank.
- emphasis on training, knowledge transfer and clear vision of the future (strategy).
- restore the previous capacity of water facilities design and irrigated areas, which were degraded during last 20 years.

A key presentation on water saving issues was made by GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Sokolov V.I. He said that in recent decades mankind has realized growth of global problems associated with the water resources use intensification. Because of population growth and economic development the mankind faces the growing shortage of fresh water resources. This global phenomenon is still burdened by climate change. The

growing scarcity of water resources, suitable for all kinds of needs of society and the nature, is everywhere, but in certain regions of the world, this process is very intense. The report considered measures on water conservation in irrigated agriculture in Central Asia, changes associated with the process of restructuring agriculture and water management. It was stressed that water conservation is not only a technological process, but largely the institutional one, inextricably linked with the further spread of the IWRM principles. It was noted that the leader in the IWRM implementation in the EECCA region is Uzbekistan. In the Fergana Valley, IWRM is implemented on the area of over 130 thousand hectares and in the Zarafshan river basin and other regions of the country - even on the area of 550 thousand hectares.

Among EECCA countries, Kazakhstan has the lowest water supply. In order to ensure water security in Kazakhstan and to overcome the geopolitical, international, social and economic problems, but also due to increasing water scarcity the river flow reallocation is planned, in particular, the runoff transfer. The flow transfer of Ertis river by the "Astana" canal will become the second independent source of water supply to the capital. Further development of irrigated agriculture in the southern regions of the Republic in the short term is possible only on the basis of implementing the water-saving irrigation technologies, the main of them - drip irrigation system. Today in the South Kazakhstan region the drip irrigation system is implemented on the area of 34.0 thousand hectares.

In Tajikistan, taking into account the soil and lay of land, where there are a variety of natural-economic zones, the techniques and irrigation technology is suggested.

In contrast to the countries of Central Asia, Russia has no problems with quantity of water resources. However, the role of water resources in changing the structure of production and population in Russia needs to be studied on the basis of systemic, large-scale, multidisciplinary scientific research without delay to the deadline when the water crisis turn from of the projected into real. As a result of the conference the resolution was adopted by participants.



High level panel of the conference: from left Mr. Kerimov, Deputy Head of Water Agency of Russian Federation, Mr. Poladzade, President of INBO-EECCA, Prof. Dukhovny, Executive Secretary of the INBO-EECCA, Mrs. Dunaevskaya, Director of Institute Belarugiprovodkhoz, Bo Libert, UNECE



Participants of the conference



Group photo of the INBO-EECCA conference participants in Minsk



Presentation from GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov

Section 2:

2.1. GWP Chair Ursula Schaefer-Preuss visit to Azerbaijan

On May 1, 2015, CWP-Azerbaijan has met GWP Chair Ursula Schaefer-Preuss. She came to participate at the 48th ADB Annual Meeting Seminar on Central Asia, Southern Caucasus and the Future of Regional Cooperation and Integration. On May 2, 2015, CWP-Azerbaijan organized the round table to meet her with CWP-Azerbaijan partners.

Fourteen national partners of CWP-Azerbaijan and four new ones took part in the roundtable. Also students from the Baku State University (where the course on IWRM will be started in September 2015) were invited. Total number of participants - 26.

Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss welcomed participants and informed them about GWP role in the IWRM implementation.

CWP-Azerbaijan coordinator Mammed Asadov informed participants about water resources of Azerbaijan, ways to use water efficiently and carefully, and measures done.

GWP CACENA Regional Council member Teimur Osmanov informed audience about IWRM principles implementation in Azerbaijan.

CWP-Azerbaijan partners (Baku State University Dean and NGO Hydrometeorological Consulting Head Professor F. Imanov, the National Majlis representative Sh. Guseynov, Head of Department of the State Agency for Water Resources under the Ministry of Emergency Situations Akhundov) and other speakers highly appreciated the GWP CACENA role in IWRM implementation and asked GWP CACENA to assist in the IWRM training for national trainers.

In conclusion Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss thanked organizers for very fruitful meeting. All participants were given special pens, notebooks and booklets. After midday organizers showed Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss the sights of the Baku capital.





2.2. World Water Day

Every year CWP-Azerbaijan organizes celebrating of the World Water Day on March, 22. This year such celebrating was postponed on May because of some circumstances.

On May, 5, the meeting for students of the Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University devoted to WWD was held to raise their awareness on WWD history, water resources of the republic, IWRM principles as well as water projects being implemented today. This information was delivered by CWP-Azerbaijan coordinator Mammed Asadov and GWP CACENA Regional Council member Teimur Osmanov. University's teachers expressed gratitude for this meeting and students were interested to visit the water structure that is being created.





On May, 8, the meeting for students of the Baku State University devoted to WWD was held. The GWP CACENA Regional Council member Teimur Osmanov informed students about WWD history, IWRM principles, Global Climate Change problem and need to rational use of water resources.



Section 3:

3.1. Cleanup actions in Georgia

CWP-Georgia took part in the cleanup actions organized by the Green Movement of Georgia. These actions were devoted to the Earth Day 2015 celebrated on 22 April every year. Volunteers and local people (up to 80 people) have collected waste along coastal area of the Tbilisi Sea as well along the bank of the Alazan river and the Rioni river.



3.2. GWP CACENA Chair meeting with local administration in the Khulo town

GWP CACENA Chair Nino Chkhobadze has met with administration of Khulo town on 23 April 2015 to discuss local problems in waste and water resources management. She informed participants about the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda and GWP Campaign for Water Goal.



3.3. Role-playing game for Georgian Youth

On April 27, 2015, CWP-Georgia jointly with the Green Movement of Georgia and the Caucasus International University conducted the role-playing game "The Nature is the Overlord" for young people in Tbilisi.

Aim is to raise awareness on environment, water resources and climate change etc. among the schoolchildren (Total: 100 participants).

Before starting schoolchildren were informed about the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda and GWP Campaign for Water Goal.

The idea of the role-playing game for schoolchildren is belong to GWP CACENA Chair Nino Chkhobadze.



3.4. Third meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus

Mr. George Dzamukashvili, CWP-Georgia Coordinator, participated in the 3d meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus on 28-29 April 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

(more details in the GWP CACENA Report for April 2015)



3.5. GWP CACENA Chair meeting with local administration in the Zugdidi town

GWP CACENA Chair Nino Chkhobadze has met with administration of Zugdidi town on 29 April 2015 to discuss local problems in waste and water resources management. She informed participants (total: 50 people) about the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda and GWP Campaign for Water Goal.



3.6. GWP CACENA Chair meeting with local administration in the Akhaltsikhe town

GWP CACENA Chair Nino Chkhobadze has met with administration of Akhaltsikhe town on 11 May 2015 to discuss local problems in waste and water resources management. She informed participants (total: 15 people) about the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda and GWP Campaign for Water Goal.



3.7. Meeting on decreasing river water pollution in Georgia

CWP-Georgia and Green Movement of Georgia organized the expert meeting on 18 May 2015 in Tbilisi. The aim was to discuss small rivers' condition and to find ways for its improvement. The CWP-Georgia contribution to development of water legislation was positively appreciated. Need to approve new water code in near future was emphasized. Participants (total: 20) were informed about some subordinate acts that are being prepared by CWP-Georgia, as well about the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda and CWP-Georgia participation in the GWP Campaign for Water Goal.



3.8. Meeting on nature-conservative issues in Georgia

Up to 20 Environmental NGOs came to discuss urgent nature-conservative issues and to plan joint actions during the meeting within the Eastern Partnership on 28 May 2015 in Tbilisi.

CWP-Georgia presented the Draft Letter in Support of a Global Water Goal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia who will lead a Georgian Delegation at the Post-2015 Development negotiations taking place at the United Nations this year.

Participants suggested to send the Letter in Support of a Global Water Goal to other officials who will attend the Post-2015 Development negotiations in order to ask their support.



3.9. Meeting on SDGs

CWP-Georgia has met with executives (total: 6) of the Department on Water Resources at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia on 29 May 2015 in Tbilisi. The aim was to discuss the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs.

CWP-Georgia informed executives about the Draft Letter in Support of a Global Water Goal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.



Section 4: Kyrgyzstan

4.1. The official opening of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek

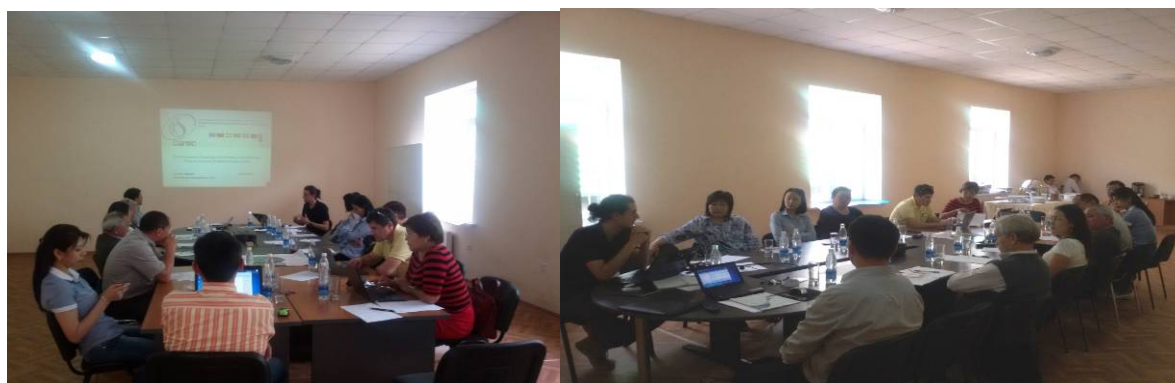
CWP-Kyrgyzstan participated in the Roundtable "The role of the Aarhus Centres in implementing the Aarhus Convention principles in the Kyrgyz Republic," organized by the OSCE Centre jointly with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek.

The Roundtable was held on 7 May 2015 in the "City Bishkek" Hotel in Bishkek. Participants discussed activities planned for the newly opened centre in the capital. Its work is aimed at implementing the Aarhus Convention in the region. CWP-Kyrgyzstan made some remarks and suggestions as well as agreed cooperation on water resources issues with the public at large.



4.2. Cooperation CAREC with NGOs in Kyrgyzstan

CWP-Kyrgyzstan coordinator Kasiet Musabaeva and CWP-Kyrgyzstan partner Omurzakov took part in the Roundtable "Cooperation between CAREC and NGOs in Kyrgyzstan" held on 8 May 2015 in the CAREC country office in Bishkek. Participants discussed the CAREC Concept on cooperation with NGOs in Central Asia as well as ways and mechanisms to implement the Concept.



4.3. VI Annual International Anthropology Conference

CWP-Kyrgyzstan coordinator Kasiet Musabaeva participated in the VI Annual International Anthropology Conference held on 15-16 May 2015 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. This conference organized by the Anthropology department, American University of Central Asia, in cooperation with the Central Asian Studies Institute and with the financial support of USAID (Kyrgyzstan). Ms. Kasiet Musabaeva made presentation "Gender issues in the water problem solutions in Kyrgyzstan".



4.4. International Conference “Water Management in Central Asia”

Mr. Abdybai Dzhailoobaev (WACDEP CACENA Project Manager) has made the presentation "Kyrgyzstan's Water Resources and their Impact on Regional Relations" at the International Conference "Water Management in Central Asia" held on 29-30 May 2015 at the Osh State University, in Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

The conference was organized by the French Institute for Central Asian Studies (IFEAC) and the Institute of Water Problems and Hydropower of the Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Video is here: <http://we.tl/ppmgpOfBVU>

Section 5: Mongolia

5.1. ACF visiting CWP-Mongolia

On 5 May 2015 CWP-Mongolia met ACF International (Global humanitarian organization) to discuss the water supply and sanitation situation in Mongolia and forthcoming International Conference "WASH innovations and future scenarios for Mongolia" that will be held on 22-23 June 2015. As a result -ACF agreed to finance this conference, and CWP-Mongolia will invite up to 100 participants.

5.2. Seminar on Small Treatment Plants in Mongolia

CWP-Mongolia participated in the Seminar on Small Treatment Plants in Mongolia. About 60 people from various organizations including German specialists took part. CWP-Mongolia noted that the treatment plant must correspond to ecological requirements and be powerful. Also CWP-Mongolia said that is going to install the small treatment plants delivered from Japan and to conduct a training on installation and exploitation of small treatment plants.



5.3. Mongolian National Conference on the Mitigation Hierarchy

The Asia Foundation, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has helped convene and support a National Conference on the Mitigation Hierarchy, initiated by the Mongolian Environmental Civil Council (MECC) and co-organized with the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MoEGDT) held on May 27-28.

CWP-Mongolia took part in the conference. The aim of the conference was to develop a common understanding about international standards and best practices for reducing the environmental impacts of mining for over 200 participants, including officials from the Ministries of Environment, Mining, environmental consultants and NGOs, and companies engaged with mining activities across Mongolia. Delivery of this conference was based on a planning approach developed specifically for extractive industries and their particular relationship with the environment. This systematic approach is known as the Mitigation Hierarchy.

As a result of the conference, a number of suggestions and recommendations are expected to be made to the relevant ministries, identifying potential and practical solutions to promote the integration of the mitigation hierarchy as a planning tool and to improve the legislative environment.



5.4. The Tula River Protection Workshop

CWP-Mongolia actively participated at the Tula River Protection Workshop organized by the National Parliament of Mongolia, the President's Office and the Ministry of Green Development. The workshop was held on 29 May 2015 in Ulaanbaatar. About 120 people attended the workshop.

CWP-Mongolia noted that the Water Code of Mongolia has to be implemented and the Parliament has to control this process. In 2012 the Parliament approved the law "Water pollution fee" but till now the Government didn't implement it. CWP-Mongolia called upon local organizations and water partners to control water pollution in water bodies and drink water sources actively.

The workshop outcomes are as follows: 1. Create a network of monitoring river water pollution; 2. Modernize and reconstruct the main treatment plants in Ulaanbaatar as soon as possible.

At the end of workshop CWP-Mongolia announced that the teleconference "Protection of water resources from pollution" will take place on 5 June 2015 and called upon all the attendees to participate.



Section 6: Tajikistan

6.1. WACDEP CACENA in Tajikistan

CWP-Tajikistan has prepared, issued and disseminated "Recommendations on implementation of drip irrigation technology for crops" (100 copies). The aim is dissemination of knowledge on water saving and WACDEP CACENA project achievements.



Implementation of optimal irrigation regimes of winter wheat in the conditions of the Central Tajikistan (farm "Ziroatkor", Hissar district) is being conducted under support of CWP-Tajikistan. Irrigation water use is being controlled, phenological and biometric observations for winter wheat growth are being conducted, and the

recommended agrotechnical measures are being followed. The main goal - rational use of water and land resources, increasing crop yield and farmers' profit.

Field works as of May 2015:



6.2. Meeting of the Steering Committee on National Policy Dialogue on Water in Tajikistan

CWP-Tajikistan took part in the NPD Steering Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2015 in Dushanbe. Over 60 representatives of different stakeholders from governmental, public and international organisations attended the meeting. The Water Sector Reform Strategy developed by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan as well other issues were considered.



6.3. ADB Technical Group Meeting

CWP-Tajikistan took part in the ADB Technical Group Meeting on 13 May 2015 in Dushanbe.

This meeting was aimed to consider progress of the project "Review of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in Tajikistan".



6.4. Towards the UN International Conference on Water 2015

CWP-Tajikistan participated in the roundtable "Reasonable use of water and energy resources and the safety of hydraulic structures" held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Over 30 people attended, representing the scientific community of the republic.

The main purpose is to analyze and evaluate contribution of science to the development of the water sector. The round table was dedicated to the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015.



6.5. International Conference "Energy resources in the mountainous regions of Central Asia in an era of global change: Research and Practice"

On 29-30 Mat 2015, CWP-Tajikistan participated in the International Conference "Energy resources in the mountainous regions of Central Asia in an era of global change: Research and Practice", organized by the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Freie University of Berlin and the Tajik State Pedagogical University named after S.Ayni.

Over 80 people participated.

The Conference was held within the Tajik-German research project "Present and future of energy resources within sustainable development of the Eastern Pamirs".

Presentation "Implementation IWRM principles in Pamirs" was made by CWP-Tajikistan in cooperation with the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.



Section 7: Turkmenistan

7.1. The World Bank Consultations for NGOs

CWP-Turkmenistan representatives took part in the consultation session for NGOs on 13 May 2015 in Ashgabat. The draft new cooperation strategy with Turkmenistan for 2015-2017 was presented by the World Bank Lead Operations Officer for Central Asia, Country Manager for Turkmenistan Agata Pawlowska.

7.2. Second Round of targeted consultations for specialists of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the project initialization and registration procedure in the state departments of Turkmenistan

The Second Round of targeted consultations for EBRD specialists was held on 18-19 May 2015 in Ashgabat. CWP-Turkmenistan coordinator Guldjamal Nurmukhamedova and three specialists of NGO "Ynanch-Vepa" took part in this event. These consultations were conducted to help EBRD experts in their implementation of investment projects in the municipal sphere of Turkmenistan. The first step is supposed to be preparation of proposals on investment of water supply and sanitation, heat supply and removal of solid domestic waste in 10 towns in Turkmenistan.

www.gwp.org

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.