Report

December 2013 – January 2014
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Section 1: Activity in December 2013

1.1. On 6 December 2013 in Tbilisi the Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Georgia organized the meeting with stakeholders for discussing new water law. The new water law was developed within the National Policy Dialogues on Water that are being conducted by UNECE jointly with CWP-Georgia since 2010. CWP-Georgia coordinated work of experts.

The meeting was attended by representatives of ministries, NGOs and private sector, in total 40 participants.

Discussing in the Parliament of Georgia is planned.

1.2. CWP-Georgia took part in the Transboundary Water Cooperation Seminar that was held on 11 December 2013 in Strasbourg, France, and organized by EU. The objective of the seminar was to pursue efforts made during the 6th World Water Forum by promoting successful cooperation programs and demonstrate mutual benefits of joint-management according to different approaches to feed the preparatory process of the 7th World Water Forum on hydropolitics.

1.3. On December, 11-13, 2013, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the GWP representatives (Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, GWPO Secretariat, and Mr. Vadim Sokolov, GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator) took part in the meetings with Mongolian Water Partnership, their members and partners who expressed interest to join GWP.

During these meetings all formalities and issues related to Mongolia membership in GWP were discussed and clarified. Moreover the next steps and activities were agreed. Really high interest is expressed from the members of Mongolian Water Partnership to cooperate with GWP globally and under the regional framework, main areas - WWSS and urban issues, economic regulation and financial, groundwater, cooperation with neighboring countries (especially Central Asia, Russia and...
Mongolian Water Partnership (MWP) was established in spring 2013 in order to consolidate different stakeholders involved into water management – including Parliament, governmental authorities, academic institutions and NGOs. As the country has a growing economy, there is a strong recognition that water sector needs increased capacities to meet existing and future challenges. As GWP is a well-established global actor, advancing and promoting Integrated Water Resources Management approach, MWP decided to join the network and benefit from available knowledge and practical implementation experience.

On December 11 and 12 the members and a Steering Committee of the MWP after reviewing GWP presentations on the operations and activities decided to apply for GWP membership and create a country water partnership on the national level - and to join the CACENA region as the closest in terms of water issues and historical developments. They have also discussed and planned joint activities with GWP in 2014 and beyond. Today the formal accession processes is finalized and now Mongolia is a member of GWP CACENA.

(http://www.gwp.org/CACENA/News/GWP-mission-to-Mongolia/)

1.4. On 13 December 2013 the CWP-Uzbekistan took part in the Conference of EcoForum. The EcoForum activity in 2013 was considered. The Work Plan for 2014 was discussed and CWP-Uzbekistan was agreed as partner.

1.5. On 14 December 2013 in Tashkent, the CWP-Uzbekistan jointly with the Executive Committee of Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan under support of the Journalists’ Union of Uzbekistan organized the Roundtable “Water Diplomacy as a Tool for Transboundary Cooperation: priorities of Uzbekistan”.

The roundtable was devoted to raising awareness on water conflicts and ways to its solutions as well as priorities in Uzbekistan. Participants shared ideas to implement in 2014 in collaboration with
some partners. CWP-Uzbekistan suggested to SIC ICWC to organize in 2014 the regional seminar on water diplomacy for the Zarafshan river basin aiming to agree the activity plan for transboundary cooperation based on water diplomacy tools in the region. Participants (in total: 41) have suggested some ways to improve the mechanism for water diplomacy implementation.

At the same day following the roundtable the results of the Photocompetition “Ubiquitous Water..." was announced by the Photocompetition Jury.

The Jury consisted of representatives of the Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, the Association of Photojournalists, the Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan, the National Television and Radio Company, mass media, as well as of delegates of Legislative House from the group "Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan".

The encouragement prize was awarded to 16 participants. The prize presentation ceremony was held in the Conference Hall at the Institute of Public Initiatives Study. This event was reported in all the newspapers, broadcasted and shown on TV.

All the photos will be placed on Flickr and the photo collection will be created on CD.
1.6. On 14 December 2013 in Tbilisi CWP-georgia jointly with the Greens Movement of Georgia conducted the seminar "IWRM concept". Students from various georgian higher education institutes participated in this seminar (Total: 25). Participants were informed about IWRM concept and GWP network.

1.7 Dr. Vadim Sokolov, GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator, attended the 62nd meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia. The meeting was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 18th December 2013.

The Interstate Commission for Water Coordination on the problems of regulation, rational use and protection of water resources from transboundary sources was established in February 1992 by five newly independent countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The Commission involves in its constitution first leaders of water-related National authorities. Interstate Commission for Water Coordination is entitled to determine of water policy in the region, elaborate of its directions with due regard to all economic branches needs, complex and rational use of water resources, prospective program on the region water supply and measures for its realization.

During the 62nd meeting in Almaty, the ICWC discussed the following issues:

- Report on outcomes of the spring-summer season of 2013 from Basin Organizations of the Amudarya and Syrdarya
- Plan for water delivery, operation of reservoirs and water withdrawal limits for the 2013-2014 winter season. Submitted by Basin Organizations of the Amudarya and Syrdarya
• Consideration of comments and suggestions to the draft "Concept of Water related information exchange mechanisms in Central Asia". Submitted by SIC ICWC

ICWC members invited GWP CACENA to be involved into further steps related to the third issue under the above-listed agenda. In particular, GWP CACENA was asked to assist to create a working group of national experts agreed with the members of ICWC. This working group with representatives of countries and the EC IFAS should re-consider again three documents:

• The "Concept of Water related information exchange mechanisms in Central Asia"
• The Agreement on the formation and functioning of the Regional Information System on Water (CAWATER)
• Temporary rules for using the regional information system on water

Those three documents should be agreed by working group of experts, and final version of them will be delivered for approval by the ICWC in April 2014. Besides the final version of these three documents the WG should provide estimate the operating cost of the information exchange system. If possible, to give suggestions about sources of funding - what to be covered by the country budgets and what should be attracted from donors.

The outcomes of the ICWC meeting shows that GWP CACENA is really demanded regional player at the stage of water related issues.
1.8. On 19 December 2013 in Tbilisi the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia organized the Roundtable on ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health. The meeting was attended by representatives of ministries, NGOs and private sector, in total 30 participants. Stakeholders agreed to ratify the Protocol. The working group was formed to plan activities. CWP-Georgia was entered into the working group.

1.9 For development of cooperation between GWP CACENA and Korean partners (K-Water, GGGI, KICT), Regional Coordinator GWP CACENA Vadim Sokolov took part in the International conference “SMART WATER GRID”, which was supported by the Korean Government and was held in Incheon, South Korea, on 12-14 November 2013. On behalf of GWP CACENA Vadim did a presentation "MONITORING AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN FERGANA VALLEY", and also participated in the panel discussion "Transboundary cooperation."
Outside the conference program, on 12 November there was a working meeting with a group of experts of the Korean Institute of Construction Technology. It was a new round of consultations with the leadership of KICT represented by Mr. Kim Hyeonjun, Director of the Research Department of Water Resources and Environment, and Mr. Hong Ilpyo, a Leading researcher of the Research Department of Water Resources. KICT confirmed intention for cooperation through the network of GWP CACENA with Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan on a joint project to create an information system for water sector of Uzbekistan. The following steps were agreed for the practical implementation of the joint project:

- Visit of KICT President and group of experts to Uzbekistan (in December 2013) for the signing the Protocol of Intentions with the leaderships of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan to develop information system.
- Preparation of detailed proposal (in the form of feasibility study) on development of information system for the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, involving experts of GWP CACENA and KICT (January 2014).
- Submitting the agreed Feasibility study through the Embassy of Korea in Uzbekistan for consideration by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for funding.

Following those agreements, GWP CACENA arranged a visit of delegation of Korean Institute of Construction Technology to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 19-20 December 2013. The delegation was headed by Dr. Hyo Seop Woo, President of KICT, and accompanied by Dr. Hyeon Jun Kim, Director of Water Resources and Environment Research Department; Dr. Young Jin Kim, Head of Global Technology Cooperation Center; and Dr. Hong Ilpyo, Project Manager.

On 19 December 2013, the delegation visited office of Scientific-Information Center (SIC ICWC) to discuss further steps on preparation of detailed proposal (in the form of feasibility study) on development of information system for water sector of Uzbekistan.

On 20 December 2013, the delegation visited the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan to meet Dr. Shavkat Khamaev, Deputy Minister, and key staff of the Ministry responsible for information system. During this meeting the Protocol of Intentions for development of information system was signed, aiming to give "green light" for the joint project.

At afternoon on 20 December 2013, the delegation of KICT visited the Korean Embassy in Tashkent to inform Ambassador, Mr. Lee Wook-heon about achieved agreements and to anchor his support for the next steps.

Thus, GWP CACENA keeps hands on the pulse of growing cooperation between South Korea and Uzbekistan, and is promoting its interests to the water sector needs.
Dr. Hyo Seop Woo, President of the Korea Institute of Construction Technology, and Dr. Shavkat Khamraev, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, meet to sign Protocol of Intentions to create an information system for water sector of Uzbekistan.

Delegation of KICT with Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, on 20 December 2013

Delegation of KICT in the office of SIC ICWC (Prof. Dukhovny) in Tashkent, 19 December 2013
1.10. GWP CACENA Regional Council Meeting was held on 23-25 December 2013 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Minutes of GWP CACENA Regional Council Meeting
23-25 December 2013, Tbilisi, Georgia (Hotel Irmeni)

Present (quorum of 100%): RC members - Arevik Hovsepyan (Armenia), Mamed Asadov (Azerbaijan), Nino Chkhobadze (Georgia), Nariman Kipshakbayev (Kazakhstan), Abdybay Djailoobaev (Kyrgyzstan), Davlat Sultonmamadov (Tajikistan), Guljamal Nurmuhamedova (Turkmenistan), Yusup Kamalov (Uzbekistan) - Chairman. Regional Secretariat - Vadim Sokolov and Ilkhom Babaev. Invited guests: Eduard Mesropyan (Armenia) and George Dzamukashvili (Georgia).

Following the discussion of all the meeting agenda items agreed members of the GWP CACENA Regional Council made the following decisions:

1. On joining the Country Water Partnership of Mongolia into GWP CACENA network
Based on the information of the GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Mr. Sokolov on the results of the joint working visit with the GWPO Network Officer Ms. Natalia Alexeeva to Mongolia on 12-14 December 2013, as well as letter-application of the Country Water Partnership - Mongolia the members of the Regional Council unanimously approved the adoption of Mongolia into the Regional GWP CACENA network starting from January 1, 2014.

Regional Secretariat (Sokolov) promptly to inform CWP-Mongolia on decision and take the necessary measures to harmonize the list of CWP-Mongolia members and contacts; establish links between Secretariat and CWP (contact person); agree on the CWP-Mongolia representative in the Regional Council; send CWP-Mongolia the refined 2014 Work Plan and Budget, as well as calendar of events for 2014 and any other relevant issues.

Members of the Regional Council also discussed the further development potential of GWP CACENA network and unanimously reaffirmed their COMMITMENT TO THE UNITY OF INTERESTS within the Regional CACENA Water Partnership Network. All relationships and collaborations with neighboring countries, sub- regions and networks in Europe and Asia should be built on the basis of these common interests and joint capacity, and should be treated as inter-regional. Members of the Regional Council instructed the Regional Secretariat (Mr. Sokolov V.) to inform the GWPO headquarters in Stockholm on the interest of Iran to join the GWP CACENA network - as a number of countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia have already have long-term relationships and joint programs on water-related problems with Iran.
2. **On the regional GWP CACENA 2014 work program and budget.**

Based on the outcomes of the Regional Council meeting held in Moscow on November 7, 2013 and with the consideration of the Work Plan and Budget modified due to the entry of Mongolia into the network, members of the Regional Council unanimously agreed on the final version of the work plan and budget for 2014 – see attached.

GWP CACENA budget for 2014 is - basic (GWPO) = 220,000 Euros, Climate Change Adaptation Program = 414,390 Euro, funds attracted by the countries = 68,100 Euros.

Regional Secretariat (Sokolov and Babaev) notified the members of the Regional Council of the need and importance to conduct financial audit at the national level - by the end of 2013 and in 2014. Members of the Regional Council take personal control of audit by all Country Water Partnerships of the financial network activities within the GWP CACENA work program and budget with the involvement of local audit firms.

3. **Agreement on the GWP CACENA 2014 Events Calendar**

Members of the Regional Council unanimously agreed on GWP CACENA events calendar for 2014 – see attached.

The calendar should focus on three key activities at the regional level:

It is planned to organize a regional seminar on basin aspects of IWRM in Mongolia in July. To request CWP-Mongolia together with the Regional Secretariat (Sokolov) to make all necessary arrangements for the seminar (seminar program, visa issues, logistics, etc).

Within the regional process GWP CACENA in cooperation with the other national and regional organizations is planning to hold a preparatory conference towards the 7th World Water Forum in Korea. Preliminarily agreed - if the necessary funds are mobilized (GWPO - Stockholm) and in consultation with all countries of the region – to hold a conference in September 2014 in Turkmenistan. Request the Chairman of GWP CACENA (Chkhobadze) together with the Regional Secretariat (Sokolov) to carry out all necessary consultations with GWPO headquarters and countries and for the organization of this conference.

Members of the Regional Council unanimously agreed on the need prepare and publish the regional publication “GWP CACENA Contribution to the development of water security in the region” for this conference on behalf of GWP CACENA. Regional Secretariat (Sokolov) to mobilize a group of experts from all countries of the region to prepare this publication and provide the necessary funding under the budget line (2.1.2).

On the basis of the demonstration projects under the Climate Change Adaptation Program the outcome of these studies will be prepared by fall 2014. On the proposal of CWP-Armenia it is planned to conduct regional workshop in Armenia in October where the results of the

Members of the Regional Council were briefed by the Regional Secretariat (Sokolov) and Climate Change Adaptation Project Manager (Djailoobaev) on the scope of work, expected results and indicators and the organization of project works.

Members of the Regional Council unanimously confirmed the program scope of work and budget for 2014 within the project on climate change adaptation (budget is 414,390 Euros). During January - March 2014 to provide visits of the project manager (Djailoobaev) to all project demonstration sites and to discuss the progress of work with national teams and their coordinators.

5. Organizational issues:

Regional Council members discussed the importance of strengthening the GWP CACENA "political" authority and influence at national, regional and global levels. This is important in terms of efficiency and practicability of the Regional Water Partnership network performance results. On the other hand, it will allow attracting more funds for the expansion and intensification of the network partnership activities in promoting IWRM principles into practice. In this aspect, the role of the Regional Council and its Chairman is of paramount importance.

Given the expiration of the three-year term of office of the GWP CACENA Chairman Yusup Kamalov, members of the Regional Council thanked him for the good leadership and discussed possible candidates for this prestigious post for a new term.

Taking into consideration the importance of this position, the members of the Regional Council by vote elected Nino Chkhobadze as GWP CACENA Chairman - as a person who has political experience as a Minister in the Government of Georgia and has real authority with decision-makers in the water sector in all countries in the region. Voting results - six "for" and one "against" (the voice of Georgia in this poll is not taken into account). The representative of Kazakhstan, prof. Kipshakbayev voted "against". He expressed a special opinion on the Chkhobadze candidacy, considering that in the past (2007-2010) she performed poor as a Chairman. Given this special opinion, the members of the Regional Council decided that the term of office of Nino Chkhobadze will be one year (2014). During 2014 consultations should take place and new candidates should be proposed who meet the requirements and have political authority in the region.

Members of the Regional Council discussed the effectiveness of the Regional Secretariat in 2013 and unanimously noted the positive growth of the efficiency and quality of GWP CACENA network management. Members of the Regional Council unanimously confirmed the high quality of cooperation with the host institution - IWMI, an agreement with which will be valid for two more years (Host Institute Agreement - for the period 2013-2015). At the moment there is no real need to look for an alternative host institute.
Members of the Regional Council decided that the next meeting of the Council will be held at a regional workshop in Mongolia in July 2014.

Members of the Regional Council thanked CWP-Georgia and the Regional Secretariat for the excellent organization of the meeting in Tbilisi and noted the warm hospitality of the Georgian partners.

Members of the Regional Council wishes all GWP CACENA partners a Happy New Year and wishes for the further progress in the partnership development for dissemination of IWRM principles in the region in 2014.

1.11. In December 2013 CWP-Kazakhstan conducted negotiations with the public association "Syr-Myraby" and the Kazakh research institute named Jakhaev l. on implementation of demonstration project "Water regime control, irrigation water saving and efficient use in the pilot plot under

rice in the Syrdarya province of the Kyzylordinskaya region”. The project executors developed the Work Plan on implementing the project and the Explanatory Note.

1.12. In December 2013 the CWP-Tajikistan organized the meeting with executors of the WACDEP CACENA. The outcomes of implementing the demonstration project for August-December 2013 were considered. Further improvements on the pilot plots were agreed.

Section 2: Activity in January 2014

2.1. On 11 January 2014 the CWP-Tajikistan Council meeting was held. There 15 partners participated.

There were considered and discussed the following items:

- the report on work implementation by CWP-Tajikistan in 2013 (Reported by CWP-Tajikistan Chair Yarash Pulatov);

- the regional activity plan of GWP CACENA for 2014 (Reported by the GWP CACENA Regional Council Member Davlat Siltonmamadov);

- the GWP CACENA Regional Strategy for 2014-2019;

- Calendar of events for 2014;

- updated list of CWP-Tajikistan's partners and registration of new partners.

2.2. GWP CACENA initiated the collaborative project "Information System for Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan" that will be funded by KOICA (Korean International Cooperation Agency) through the Korean Institute of Construction Technologies (KICT). The main aim of the project is to create Information System for the Water Management Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan in order to systematize all the water management information at this level.

On 12-14 January 2014 the expert group of KICT (Mr. Hong and Mr. Lee) visited SIC ICWC (GWP CACENA partner) office in Tashkent where they discussed a preparation of feasibility study of the
They also had a meeting with the Ambassador of Korea in Uzbekistan and obtained his support of efforts to attract financing.

2.3. On 15 January 2013 the meeting of the demonstration project executors with the heads of departments of agriculture and natural resources of Kyrgyzdinskaya region and with leaders of the partner organizations was held. There was discussed a preparation of the proposal on implementing innovation project within the agricultural sector of Kyrgyzdinskaya region.

The advanced irrigation technologies and irrigation water control (providing water saving 10-15%) will be implemented on the pilot plot under rice with area of 20 ha on the territory belonging to LLP "Shagan Zher". The prime costs will be for repair-and-renewal operations of the large check including surface layout, the cleaning of irrigation and drainage network, waterworks renewal, construction of water measuring stations etc. The field workshops will be organized from time to time speeding up implementation and replication of advanced technologies in agricultural sector of Kyrgyzdinskaya region.

The meeting discussed the Plan of measures for project implementation.

2.4. The stakeholder meeting on the demonstration project within WACDEP CACENA was held on 22 January 2014 in the Parakar village in Armenia. The technical working design of wastewater treatment units in the Parakar village (second stage) was presented and discussed. Representatives of local authorities, engineers and local residents participated in the meeting. Participants approved the technical working design presented. Impact of construction and operation of wastewater treatment units on environment and human health was assessed. As well the Environment Management Plan was developed. The technical working design was submitted for technical expertise. Currently the documentation is being prepared to organize a tender on construction of wastewater treatment units in the Parakar village.
2.5. Mr. George Dzamukashvili, Chair of CWP-Georgia, took part in the Expert Workshop held in Baku on January 24th, 2014, within the activities of the project "The potential benefits of trans-boundary cooperation in Georgia and Azerbaijan". The expert workshop gathered, for the first time, the national and international consultants involved in the project.

The overall objective of project is to inventory the benefits of cooperative management of the Kura river (for Azerbaijan and Georgia) and to develop a method to assess the economic ones. It will build on three main phases:

1. Inventory of the potential benefits of cooperative water management between the two countries;
2. Assessment of the economic benefits to be gained from cooperative action in water management between Azerbaijan and Georgia. Under this task, different development paths that combine consumptive and non-consumptive uses, to maximize the system value, will be developed. At the same time, a share of benefits and costs for each riparian country will be assessed under alternative scenarios and options to share the costs and benefits of cooperation more equitably will be explored; and
3. Suggestions on mechanisms to realise these benefits.

The first phase –benefit inventory- was finalized in December 2013, whereas the second phase is currently being launched. The overall purpose of the Expert Workshop was to set the basis for the assessment planned under Task 2 together with the national experts involved in the project.

2.6. On 28 January 2014 CWP-Armenia jointly with LLC JINJ organized public hearing on the project "Reconstruction of effluent treatment plant in Yerevan". The project was developed by the French company ARTELIA, and the Environment impact assessment was implemented by LLC JINJ.

Representatives of the Yerevan Djur Company, the Ministry of Environment Protection, the Mayor’s office of Yerevan, the French engineering company ARTELLA, NGOs, massmedia attended this public hearing.

The Chairman of CWP-Armenia Ms. Arevic Hovsepyan was interviewed and then her interview went on TV channel "Kentron" ("Center") within the Program "Ecologic".
The Chairman of CWP-Armenia Ms. Arevic Hovsepyan presents the project. Participants.

2.7. CWP-Armenia became a member of the project “Climate Forum East”.

The regional project "Climate Forum East" has been launched on May 2013. The project is co-financed by the European Union, the Austrian Development Agency, the Austrian Red Cross and the WWF. This regional project is implemented in all six Eastern partnership countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. The Armenian Red Cross leads this project in Armenia.

The overall objective of this project is to (1) contribute to global policy-making processes on Climate Change, (2) to develop civil society in EaP countries and (3) contribute to advancing EaP political priorities in the area of environment governance and climate change. The specific objective is to strengthen the capacity of CSO networks to participate effectively in policy dialogue with local authorities, EU institutions and international organizations.

The members discuss the report "Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in Armenia".

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2.8. WACDEP CACENA Newsletter

The first newsletter on Water, Climate and Development Programme for Central Asia and Caucasus (WACDEP CACENA) is issued in Russian. Also 300 colour copies printed will be disseminated among various GWP CACENA partners. Soon this newsletter will be issued in English too.

http://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/
Member Countries of GWP CACENA:
Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan