

**CHARTER
OF THE REGIONAL WATER PARTNERSHIP NETWORK
FOR THE COUNTRIES OF CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (GWP CACENA)**

Article 1

LEGAL STATUTE

(1) The present Charter has been elaborated on the basis of two GWP documents: “GWP Policy on Partners” (January 2005) and “Accreditation Terms for the Regional and National Water Partnerships” (November 2005), and it regulates the structure and functions of the Regional Water Partnership network in the countries of Caucasus and Central Asia (GWP CACENA).

(2) GWP CACENA is not a legal entity. It is a network that unites the national water partnerships (NWP), which in their turn unite the Partners in the regional countries. GWP CACENA is an integral part of the global network of GWP, however it is not a sub-division of the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO).

(3) GWP CACENA encompasses nine countries – the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

(4) The present text of the Charter uses the following abbreviations:

GWP – Global Water Partnership;
GWPO - Global Water Partnership Organization (with headquarters in Stockholm);
CACENA – Caucasus and Central Asia;
CWP – Country Water Partnership;
RWP – Regional Water Partnership;
RC – Regional Council;
RAC - Regional Advisory Committee;
IWRM – integrated water resources management.

Article 2

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

(1) GWP CACENA’s mission is “to support the states of the region to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development,” which is the guiding principle of GWP.

(2) Objective of GWP CACENA is to promote the improvement of governance and management of water resources while introducing the integrated water management principles through implementation of the following tasks:

- a) To determine the vital requirements of the region and countries, and to support the Partners by linking the requirements with available resources;
- b) To support the efforts aimed at introduction of the integrated water resources management at the regional, national, local and basin level;
- c) To develop the tools of information and experience sharing.

Article 3

PARTNERS OF GWP CACENA

(1) Any legal entity can become the partner of global water partnership network. Regional, national and local governmental organizations, inter-governmental and non-governmental commercial and public organizations, academic and research institutions, companies and any other legal entities can become the partners of GWP CACENA.

(2) A legal entity, mentioned in the Paragraph 1 of present Article, which recognizes the GWP principles and values, and undertakes their observance, can become the Partner of GWP CACENA.

(3) GWP document “GWP Policy on Partners” (January 2005) clearly states that individuals can not become GWP Partners. Nevertheless, individuals are important contributors into the GWP’s activity. Accordingly:

- Individuals can participate in the meetings of the Country Water Partnerships and committees established by CWP and RWP; however they do not have the right of vote in decision-making.
- Individuals can be involved in CWP and RWP as consultants.

(4) Standard terms for accreditation to GWP CACENA have been described in two of the GWP documents, mentioned in the Article 1 (1) of present Charter. The standard request form shall be submitted to the Regional Secretariat via the Country Water Partnership and/or the National Coordinator (see Article 6(2)) after consultations with the Country Partners, and shall be a subject for final decision to be made by the Executive Secretary of GWPO.

(5) Rights and duties of the partners shall be regulated in accordance with GWP document “GWP Policy on Partners” (January 2005).

Article 4

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

(1) Structure of GWP CACENA management consists of the General Conference of all Partners, the Regional Council and the Regional Secretariat, as well as the Regional Advisory Committee. GWP CACENA acts on the basis of interaction with accredited Country Water Partnerships and other Partners in conformity with present Charter.

Article 5

CONFERENCE OF GWP CACENA PARTNERS

(1) The supreme body of GWP CACENA is the Conference of Partners, which shall be convened by decision of the Regional Council not less than once in three years. The number and composition of delegations shall be determined by the rules of the Conference of Partners and shall be approved by the Regional Council.

(2) During the Conference of Partners, the Partners shall:

- a) Adopt strategic trends and policies, as well as the necessary amendments and additions to the Charter, if required;
- b) Identify the tasks and actions, which will be undertaken by the Regional Council, the Regional Advisory Committee and the Regional Secretariat on the basis of adopted strategic trends and policies;

- c) Get acquainted and evaluate the activities of GWP CACENA performed during the reporting period.
- d) The supreme body of the Country Water Partnership is determined by the CWP Charter; if it is not available, it shall be done under the established procedure in accordance with the national legislation.

Article 6

REGIONAL COUNCIL

(1) The managing body during the period between the conferences of GWP CACENA Partners is the Regional Council, which manages the work of the Regional Secretariat and the Regional Advisory Committee, and supervises collaboration of Partners within the network.

(2) The Regional Council consists of nine members – equally representing each country of CACENA region – through the Country Water Partnership (CWP). If there is no CWP in the country, a country shall be represented by its delegate (National Coordinator), who has been selected by majority of Partners in the country. The Network Officer, responsible for regional work in the GWPO Headquarters, as well as the Regional Coordinator participates in the work of the Regional Council with the right of consultative voice.

(3) The Regional Council selects a Chair person out of its members. In the case where the Regional Coordinator and the Chairman represent the same subregion, the Co-Chairperson from the other subregion is being elected from among its members.

(4) Members of the Regional Council shall be approved during RC meetings according to the list of proposed candidates from the relevant CWPs or the national delegations for the period not exceeding three years, which can be extended no more than once. The Regional Council shall establish the rules of consequent member turnover. Gender balance shall be taken into consideration during approval of RC members.

(5) Members of the Regional Council are working for the network on voluntary terms.

(6) The Regional Council should be convened at least twice a year.

(7) The Regional Council should:

- a) Develop the policy of GWP CACENA network and determine administrative and financial procedures taking into account strategic trends;
- b) Develop the financial strategy;
- c) Define procedure of the Regional Advisory Committee's operation;
- d) Approve the working plans, budgets and assignments of the Regional Secretariat;
- e) Control implementation of the approved work plans, budget and hear and approve the reports of the Regional Secretariat;
- f) Study and accept the CWP reports on the regional plan implementation;
- g) Adopt decision on recruitment of the Regional Coordinator;
- h) Studies recommendations on amendments to the present Charter and presents them for their approval to the Conference of Partners;

Article 3

- i) Establish strategic contacts with the national, regional Partners and other legal entities and individuals, required for introduction of IWRM principles by legal and physical entities;
- j) Ensure constant communication with GWP Organization and other regional GWP;
- k) Convene the Conference of Partners in conformity with present Charter;
- l) Present reports on RWP work to the Conference of Partners and GWPO.

(8) Decisions of the Regional Council are made by open voting by a majority of at least 3/4 votes (75%) where the two-thirds members attended the Regional Council meeting.

(9) Considering the fact that the Chair person of the Regional Council represents the interests of the region (but not his/her own country), the interests of the country at the Regional Council meetings are presented by the Country Partnership Coordinator.

CHAIR/CO-CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

(1a) The Chair person of the Regional Council (“Chair”) represents GWP CACENA at various forums, shall head the Conference of Partners and supervise the work of the Regional Council.

(1b) The Co-Chair of the Regional Council represents the GWP CACENA in various forums and, in consultation with the Secretariat, can lead the Conference of Partners and guide the work of the Regional Council. In the forums focused on the subregion, represented by the Co-Chair, the participation of the latter does not require additional approvals.

(2) The Chair/Co-Chair should be elected for a period that shall not exceed three years considering the turnover principle.

Article 8

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

(1) The Regional Secretariat is an executive body of GWP CACENA network. It shall consist of the Regional Coordinator, Communications Officer and the staff required for technical and organizational servicing; who shall be recruited based on transparency principle and ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity of the network.

(2) The Regional Coordinator should be appointed on the basis of competitive selection by the Regional Council to the period not exceeding three years, which can be extended. The Regional Coordinator is the head of the Regional Secretariat and should recruit the required staff for Secretariat’s functioning, sign service contracts for implementation of the Regional Work Plan, and should be in charge of the financial management and organization of financial audit of GWP CACENA.

(3) The Regional Secretariat in its activity shall take into account a possible conflict of interests, in which case it shall inform Regional Council for further decision-making.

(4) The Regional Secretariat does have the following duties:

- a) To prepare and manage the annual budget and financial reports for their presentation to the Regional Council, the Conference of Partners and GWPO.
- b) To ensure implementation of the annual work plan and decisions of the Regional Council.
- c) To prepare reports upon request of the Regional Council, the Conference of Partners and GWPO.
- d) To perform functions of the Secretary during the Conferences of Partners and the Regional Council meetings.
- e) To ensure organization of the Regional Council’s meetings, and prepare all necessary documents for the Conference of Partners and the Regional Council.
- f) To ensure communication with all partners, other regions and GWPO.
- g) To ensure implementation of the policy, plans and projects of the regional partnership.

Article 9

LOCATION

- (1) The Regional Secretariat of GWP CACENA should be located in the host institution in accordance with Agreement on Host Institution signed by GWPO, a host institution and the Chair of Regional Council.

Article 7

- (2) The Host Institution should be appointed by the Regional Council and proposed to GWPO for conclusion of Agreement on Host Institution.

Article 10

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- (1) The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is the consulting executive body of GWP CACENA, which consists of the volunteer experts from the regional countries.
- (2) If required, RAC could create the working groups for conduction of expertise, elaboration of reports, presentations, brochures, reviews and other papers.
- (3) If required, RAC members could be involved into the CWPs on voluntary or contract terms; they could participate in the meetings and sessions by recommendation of RC.

Article 11

COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS

- (1) The Country Water Partnerships are the accredited “key functional components”¹ of GWP CACENA. They form a network of concerned Partners within the country.
- (2) The Country Water Partnerships should:
 - (a) Elect Country Coordinator at the general partners’ meeting of the country network.
 - (b) Plan and coordinate the national work.
 - (c) Implement the national programs of GWP in accordance with their plans and budgets.
 - (d) Prepare periodical national reports about the work progress (technical and financial reports).
 - (e) Conduct work on mobilization of funds for implementation of activities at national and local levels.
 - (f) Provide professional contribution to GWP network and the Partners’ work (on voluntary or mutually agreed terms).
 - (g) Ensure development of GWP Partners network.
 - (h) Keep regular contacts within GWP CACENA and with GWPO.
 - (i) Maintain communication within their countries and with other countries of the region.
 - (j) Nominate representative for the Regional Council in accordance with the CWP Charter; if it is not available - in accordance with the present Charter.

Article 12

FINANCES

- (1) For implementation of its objectives the Regional Partnership shall be financed out of the following funds:
 - (a) Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO)
 - (b) Governmental and private funds
 - (c) Volunteer donations, including subsidies, Partners’ contributions, international organizations and foundations
 - (d) International financing institutions
 - (e) Other sources.

¹ §4 “ GWP Policy on Partners” (January 2005)

Financing sources of the regional activities shall be accepted and approved by the Regional Council.

(2) Partners shall not be required to provide financial assistance to GWP CACENA network beyond their voluntary contributions.

(3) During making of GWP CACENA's budget, some part of the funds shall be allocated for support of the network's activity in the countries of the region.

Article 13

AUDIT

(1) Complete audit of financial management and operations of GWP CACENA at regional and country levels shall be carried out annually.

(2) Audit shall be conducted by the host institutions or external auditors

(3) Audit shall be conducted in accordance with the international standards.

(4) The Regional Secretariat shall provide the Partners with report on audit results with any comments that it shall deem necessary.

Article 14

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

(1) GWP CACENA shall be dissolved by two thirds of the votes at the Conference of Partners.

(2) The Steering Committee of GWP within one year after decision on dissolution of GWP CACENA shall invite the GWP donor-partners to extraordinary meeting.

Article 15

AMENDMENTS

(1) Amendments or additions to present Charter should be approved by majority vote at the Conference of Partners. Proposal on amendment shall be initiated by any GWP CACENA Partner and shall be distributed to the members of the Regional Council four weeks before the date of the relevant meeting.

(2) The Regional Council shall inform the ordinary Conference of Partners of any changes or modifications made to this Charter.

Article 16

DISAFFILIATION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP

(1) Partner may quit the GWP CACENA network after written notification submitted to CWP and the Regional Council. The Regional Secretariat shall notify the Regional Council at its ordinary meeting.

Article 17

ENTRY INTO LEGAL FORCE

- (1) Present Charter was adopted by the GWP CACENA Regional Council in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on July 7, 2017.
- (2) In accordance with the Charter of GWPO, present Charter shall be approved by the GWP Steering Committee.

Article 18

WORKING LANGUAGE

- (1) Working languages of GWP CACENA shall be the Russian and English. In case of disputes and different interpretations, preference should be given to Russian version.

Article 19

DEPOSITORY

- (1) GWPO shall be a depository of present Charter. Depository shall distribute notifications having relation to the Charter. Depository shall also provide a summary of these notifications at the Conference of Partners.

Amendments and additions have been made based on decision of RC of July 7, 2017 in Dushanbe, and they should be approved by the Conference of Partners in ????