

GWP CACENA Six-monthly Regional Journal

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According to the Regional Strategy adopted for 2004-2008, during 2008 – the last year of the cycle GWP-CACENA network must develop an agreement on subsequent strategic actions for broader development of water partnership in the region in order to reinforce the results in hand in promoting the concept of IWRM in the past five years.

The Plan of Activities in 2008 includes five dimensions of activities in accordance with the outputs approved by the GWPO (Stockholm) headquarters:

1. IWRM Water Policy & Strategy development facilitated at relevant levels

Activities of past six months:

Output 1a. On 22 March – International Day of Water - GWP CACENA supported new round of the political dialogues on IWRM implementation at the national level in all eight countries of the region. It was organized using grant from Government of Finland in the form of inter-sector round tables led by Regional Council members in each country. The principal issues for discussion were how to create inter-sector platform to facilitate governmental commitment to the process and details of the IWRM national planning activities.

Output 1e. On March 24-26 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan there was organized Workshop of Central Asia and South Caucasus Water Utilities Network (CASCWUA), where representatives of 14 Water Utilities from seven countries attended. The Workshop and following on 27th March the CASCWUA Steering Committee meeting was supported by ADB. The main output of the meeting was agreement on CASCWUA Statutes and Program of joint activities for 2008-2009.

Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

GWP CACENA has helped to establish a policy environment for implementation of IWRM principles through facilitation activities in all CACENA countries since 2003. For instance, in Armenia and Kazakhstan the governments recognize GWP CACENA as an advocate of active public involvement in most events initiated by the government bodies. All governments have started the process of finalizing national water legislation for regulating IWRM principles. It is planned to continue dialogues in the form of inter-sectoral roundtables. The Finnish Government is providing support to these activities since 2005. Expected outcome is to form government commitments on IWRM principles, which must be implemented in practice (through national water policies, laws, local actions, etc.). Neutral platforms of Country Water Partnerships should play greater role in the process of nationwide IWRM promotion and implementation.

2. IWRM Programs & Tools developed in response to regional and country needs

Activities of past six months:

Output 2a. The first round of the training seminars on IWRM was conducted during April – May by the GWP CACENA Secretariat in seven of eight countries (unfortunately, due to new political leadership in Turkmenistan for the moment GWP activities at the country level still not agreed). This round of seminars is an element of the capacity development program to facilitate National IWRM planning process in all CACENA countries. This activity is continuation of actions started in 2005 and continued in 2006-2007 with support from the Government of Finland. The target is capacity development for key players of planning and IWRM implementation process, not only involving water specialists, but also water users and other stakeholders (around 25-30 persons in each country attended). The principal basis for training courses are the GWP paper “Catalyzing Change...” and the set of TEC Policy and Technical Briefs (nine issues), and also the CapNet “Manual on IWRM planning” - all were translated into Russian. Also experience of a number of ongoing pilot projects (“Kazakhstan National IWRM plan” and “IWRM-Fergana”) were used for dissemination during these seminars.

Output 2c. During 17-19 June GWP CACENA met for a second workshop on Water Financing as a follow up of the Water Financing Meeting in Tbilisi (Feb. 2008). Both meetings were sponsored by the EUWI Financing Work Group. The two days workshop focused local and country level aspects of water financing. It included a ToolBox training part and regional water financing part on Water Users Associations. The venue was located in city of Atyrau, situated at the Ural River delta on NW coast of The Caspian Sea, i.e. in the western-most Ural-Caspian river basin of Kazakhstan. Atyrau has the fastest growing economy of Kazakhstan and consequently in Central Asia, because of its rich oil reserves which are exploited in cooperation with American oil companies.

The workshop convened by the regional coordinator, Vadim Sokolov and with twenty participants (six women) from six of the eight countries of GWP CACENA, i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, while participants from Turkmenistan and Georgia for special reasons could not attend. Among them were experts from ministries, agencies, science and two chairs of the newly established river basin councils according to the adopted IWRM plan of Kazakhstan, i.e. Ural-Caspian BWO and Ili-Alakol BWO.



Caspian sturgeon



Ural River embankment works in city of Atyrau

Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

During first six months of 2008 about 300 persons from eight countries involved into process of the IWRM planning and implementation including not only water managers but also water users and other stakeholders who have improved their knowledge of IWRM and their capacity to support the incorporation of IWRM principles into their working programs. Capacity building is continued in 2008 with the support of the Finnish Government in order to facilitate the process of national IWRM planning in all regional countries.

3. Linkages between GWP and other frameworks, sectors & issued ensured

Activities of past six months:

Output 3a. Regional Coordinator of the GWP CACENA, Dr. Vadim Sokolov participated in the *Dialogue on EU Sanitation Policies and Practises*, which was held on 28-29 January in Brussels, Belgium. The Dialogue was initiated by Women in Europe for a Common Future. GWP CEE and CACENA pro-actively supported this initiative as synergies in this work with an IWRM approach to involve key stakeholders in a dialogue on options for sustainable sanitation solutions for rural areas. This meeting helped GWP CACENA to identify strategic activities to of the WP-2008 at the beginning of the International Year of Sanitation.

Output 3a. On 5-7 February 2008 in Tbilisi, Georgia GWP CACENA organized a Regional Consultative Meeting Water Financing – with support from EUWI Financing Work Group. This was the first EUWI sponsored activity in the CACENA region. Convening of this meeting provided a challenge for the region. Although preparatory steps were taken a year ago, it was difficult to fully reach out to and involve the finance sector. Country Situation Analyses were mainly presented and prepared by the CWP representatives, while Armenia and Kyrgyzstan also brought delegates from the finance sector to the meeting. The meeting was opened by the newly appointed Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, Mr. Zaza Gamtsemlidze. The EU delegation to Georgia was represented by Mr. Michal Nekvasil, who pointed out the lack of funding was a key constraint to achieve the water related targets of the MDGs. This Meeting among the EECCA countries is of high significance to help mitigate this shortcoming. EUWI looks forward to next initiatives of GWP CACENA at country level. Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ms. Tamar Beruchasvili honoured the meeting on the 3rd and final day. She had just finished the hosting of the 2nd on the EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which had been held parallel with the GWP meeting. The new ENP+ will also reach out to Central Asian countries. It is still possible to influence this process by organizations like GWP. Alan Hall gave a presentation on **“IWRM helps to solve financing problems”** where e.g. 50% of water financing demands are for governance reforms. Alan’s lecture enlightened the participants of how GWP can help the water sector to reach out to the finance sector. A session with international programmes and their roles in financing the water sector covered mainly Georgia and the South Caucasus region but also to Central Asia in some cases, with contributions from USAID, EBRD, World Bank, Millennium Development Fund, MCG, UNDP-ENVSEC Project, TACIS EU – Environmental Cooperation for the Black Sea, Development of Environmental Monitoring and Management Project (Finnish Environment Institute-SYKE), NATO/OSCE South Caucasus River Monitoring Project, et al. GWP CACENA and its CWPs have a potential to help in bringing coordination in all projects that deal with water resources. The 60 participants from 8 CACENA countries together with observers from GWP CEE had five “Expert Panels” with introductory presentations and active discussions of the following topics:

1. Assessment of cost reforms in the water resources management system in the EU Water Framework Directive

2. Assessment of existing mechanisms of service fees and setting of benchmarks with legal and organizational aspects
3. Identification of financing sources, domestic and foreign
4. Involvement of local organizations in joint financing of the water sector
5. The role of GWP to assist in improved water sector financing



Water Financing Meeting 5th Expert Panel in Tbilisi

Output 3b. On 29 March - The GWP CACENA Secretariat in cooperation with IWMI and Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia organized Media-tour for journalists (represented about 50 Mass-media organizations from Uzbekistan) visiting water distribution structure of the Basin Water Organization “Syrdarya” equipped by SCADA and the Charvak water reservoir, located on the Chirchik river in 90 kilometers upstream of Tashkent city. The field trip was followed by round table discussion of the most important water issues in the region. This activity is the part of the awareness campaign addressing to wide information dissemination about GWP CACENA activities on IWRM, WS&S and others.

Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

During Tbilisi meeting there were clearly articulated next steps for strengthening of GWP’s role in supporting the countries in water sector financing, which are to following:

- GWP network can attract experts, representing both Government and the Civil Society;
- GWP CACENA should advance their activities in partnership development and better understanding of its possibilities;
- GWP should foster dialogues between key actors in society, including government, non-governmental organizations and private sector;
- GWP should promote efficient water use in context of water financing;
- GWP CACENA should assist countries in basin management both at national and transboundary levels, by elaborating recommendations for efficient operation of the Basin Councils;
- GWP should disseminate and share its experience and information at regional and interregional levels, e.g. by scrutinizing the GWP CEE experience;
- GWP should assist in comprehension of the EU legislation and should elaborate recommendations for harmonization of regional countries legislation;
- GWP should continue to further popularize IWRM principles in the society;
- GWO should facilitate private sector involvement in water management.

Working with the most active NGOs, GWP CACENA disseminated knowledge of IWRM among public in general and involve civil society into the process of “bottom-up” policymaking.

4. GWP Partnership established & consolidated at relevant level

Activities of past six months:

Output 4a. On January 19 there was organized stakeholder meeting in Bishkek, aiming creation the **CWP in Kyrgyz Republic**. Meeting with involvement of representatives of 19 accredited partners (including Department of Water Resources – national authority responsible for water resources management in the country) was led by national initiative group. During meeting Memorandum about formal creation CWP in Kyrgyz Republic and its Statutes was agreed upon. Mr. Abdibay Djailobaev, NGO “Water Partnership” was appointed as a CWP Coordinator. **Kyrgyz Republic is the fifth country** of eight in CACENA that established a CWP.

Output 4a. On 29th February there was organized national stakeholder meeting in Dushanbe, aiming creation the **CWP in Tajikistan**. Meeting with involvement 28 representatives of 10 already accredited partners and some other national institutions (including Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources – national authority responsible for water resources management in the country) was led by a national preparatory group. During meeting it was agreed upon A Protocol about formal creation CWP in Tajikistan and its Statutes. Prof. Yarash Pulatov, Director General of the Tajik Research Institute for Irrigation and Water Management was appointed as a CWP Coordinator. **Tajikistan is the sixth country** of eight in CACENA that established a CWP.

Output 4a. Accreditation of five CWPs. On 17 June at a small ceremony was held in Atyrau, Kazakhstan for the Country Water Partnerships of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan which were given their Accreditation Letters from GWPO out of the hands of Bjorn Guterstam, the Network Officer, while the fifth CWP Georgia was congratulated in their absence. In a press release from Stockholm it was said that: “In the last 15 years countries have started to move away from a command management towards participatory and sustainable management of their water resources where stakeholders from various sectors contribute. This typically entails improving governance and reforming the institutions responsible for water, building capacity and raising public awareness as well as increasing political commitment to addressing critical challenges. Partnerships serve as a convening mechanism in these reform processes since they provide a platform for all stakeholders and address the water problems at both regional and national levels based on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management.”

Output 4d. Organized by the World Water Council and the Fifth World Water Forum Secretariat the 2nd Thematic and Regional Coordination Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum was held on 7-8 February in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting was attended by around 400 participants from 200 organisations. GWP was represented by Torkil Jonch Clausen (GWP Senior Advisor), Aly Kerdany (GWP Secretariat), Vadim Sokolov (GWP-CACENA) and Vangelis Constantianos (GWP-Med). There were three main plenary sessions (Opening, Ministerial Speech and Conclusions), several parallel sessions according to Themes and Topics as well as parallel sessions for Regions and Major Groups. The Working group session for Topic 4.5 (Water Governance and Management) was led by GWP-CACENA with the assistance of GWP-Med and other organisations. Also, during the event Vadim Sokolov, Regional Coordinator of the GWP CACENA had a side meeting with Prof. Victor Dukhovny, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia, Prof. Oktay Tabasaran, Secretary General WWF-5, Mr. Cengiz Baykara, Head of the Department Foreign Relations Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey and Mr. Hamza Ozguler, Programme Committee WWF-5. The joint discussion was addressed on how to organize Central Asian session on IWRM for WWF-5. It was agreed to organize sub-regional Central Asian Conference in April 2008 in

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic as first step in the preparatory process for that with financial support from Turkey. GWP CACENA allocated certain activities and budget within Work Program 2008 to support this process.

Output 4d. The Third Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth World Water Forum took place on 28-29 May in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with the participation of more than 200 people from 13 countries. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industry of Kyrgyzstan, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey and GWP CACENA. The Conference title was “Climate Change, Water Resources Management, Governance and Capacity Building Issues in Central Asia”. Ministers from Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan attended to the meeting. Presentations were made by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey. Roundtable meetings followed by many experts from the countries of the region sharing similar problems were fruitful and provided guidance for managing and protection water resources to meet human and environmental needs. Many interesting ideas and comments have emerged in this context.

Output 4d. Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA Vadim Sokolov participated in the 3rd Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), which was organized at the occasion of the 1st Singapore International Water Week (June 23 – 27) in Singapore. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large of Singapore. It was the first GC meeting since the landmark 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Japan, and was addressed to follow-up and review progress on water initiatives over the five corners of the region.

On 26 June in Singapore twelve organizations from across the Asia-Pacific region launched a network to share solutions for improving water management to tackle the region’s many pressing water challenges. The network, known as “KnowledgeHubs,” is an initiative of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, which was established in 2006 with support from Japan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to promote leadership and boost investment in the water sector.

“The region is in urgent need of updated solutions—and more water professionals to implement them,” ADB Lead Water Resources Specialist Wouter Lincklaen Arriens said at the launch that “KnowledgeHubs will harness the region’s rich experience with water issues and give governments, water sector agencies, institutions and communities access to the best solutions available.”

KnowledgeHubs is supported by ADB, Singapore’s national water agency PUB, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. At the launch, Ravi Narayanan, Vice Chair of the forum’s Governing Council, introduced the 12 founding members of KnowledgeHubs. They are PUB WaterHub, Singapore; International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management, Japan; National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia; Center for River Basin Organizations and Management, Indonesia; Korea Water Resources Corporation, the Republic of Korea; Center for Hydroinformatics in River Basins at the Yellow River Conservancy Commission, the People’s Republic of China; Institute of Water Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore; International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka; Central Asia IWRM Resource Center, Uzbekistan; Pacific IWRM Resource Centre, the Fiji Islands; International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation, the People’s Republic of China; and the International WaterCentre, Australia.

The First Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum also was organized on 27th June in Singapore with the participation of the Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum, representatives from Istanbul, the World Water Council and more than 25 leading institutions from the region.

Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

The GWP CACENA Secretariat provided support to the CACENA partners in specific activities for developing partnership networks in each country. Currently there is no distinct organizational model of a country water partnership in the region – each country choose its own way, structure and arrangements, but all created CWP (for the moment – six) supported the general line of actions within the regional work program.

The GWP CACENA proved its key role as regional coordinator for more efficient involvement and preparations for World Water Forum 5 (in cooperation with ICWC) and for APWF activities (in cooperation with IFAS).

5. GWP Network effectively developed & managed

Activities of past six months:

On 8 February 2008 in Tbilisi, Georgia there was held an **Outcome Mapping Training for CACENA & CEE**. A very well prepared training of 22 participants of the two regions who will serve as OM Journal Writers both at regional and country level. Principles of the OM concept were given as all participants had not been able to attend Ricardo Wilson Grau's lecture given in Varna in October 2007. The rationale to shift into a new reporting format was very well presented. Understanding of the key terminology was secured by active participation and excellent, consecutive translation. Examples of Outcomes were given and trained by using the last semi-annual reports from CACENA and CEE. In the end, after a full day, 10 hr training, next steps of planning were discussed and next steps on reporting agreed upon.



OM Training with Ricardo in Tbilisi

Regional Coordinator of the GWP CACENA, Dr. Vadim Sokolov attended GWP TEC meeting, Regional Chairs meeting and Strategy planning workshop, held in Bahrain on 11-16 February.

Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

Regular coordination between GWP headquarters and CACENA Secretariat and among regional network of partners is in place. Appropriate operation and management system of GWP CACENA network has been put in place. It is expected that the OM approach will be fully implemented into practice during the first half of 2009.

