

GWP CACENA in July 2005

Jointly by GWP CACENA, Regional Ecological Center (CAREC) and UNDP there was published 500 copies (in Russian) of the Proceedings of the Almaty Water Conference Session “Development of the Normative Base on Water Quality for Countries of Central Asia and Caucasus”. This book includes materials of the leading water professionals and NGO representatives from all 8 CACENA countries with the aim to exchange information and formulate recommendations on unified water quality normative (regulation) base, which could be suggested to use at the regional level.

Cap-Net Training Manual “Integrated Water Resources Management Plans” was translated into Russian and prepared for publication and further dissemination in the region. The first set of the Manual was used during 11-16 July in Baku, Azerbaijan, where was organized Regional ToolBox workshop. The agenda of the workshop was prepared by the CEE and MED experts and it was discussed with representatives of the CACENA region. The workshop agenda was focusing mainly on application of instruments that approach IWRM. The second objective was to transfer experience from the EU member states in application of the water related legislation, and the approximation process of the CEE region to join the EU in the water management issues. The working documents were prepared in English, exercises and group works were translated in Russian language. The agenda of the workshop and working documents were disseminated to all participants (totally 40, representing CACENA countries, except Armenia and Kazakhstan). All participants were highly prepared and aware that resulted in fruitful discussion. In addition, practical sessions illustrating the case studies were conducted.

The UNDP and Kazakhstan Water Partnership with involvement of the Regional Ecological Center (CAREC) organized on July 28-29 in Almaty the first National Stakeholders Forum to discuss progress and content of the “National IWRM and water efficiency plan for Kazakhstan”. This activity conducted within the project supported by UNDP, GWP CACENA and funded by Government of Norway. More than 80 participants were attended the Forum, representing national authorities, Basin organizations, scientific and design organizations and NGOs from Kazakhstan and also representatives of the European House, UNDP and GWP CACENA RTAC. It is very important that the most active participation in the dialogue during the Forum took high level officials from the key national authorities: Water Resources Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Emergency, Ministry of Industries and Trade, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Ministry of Energy and Mining, and also representatives of local administrations from provinces. The principal issues discussed during the Forum were the following:

- Structure and contents of the National IWRM and Water Efficiency plan;
- Draft and structure of the Basin Agreement;
- Progress on the way of Kazakhstan to MDGs: water supply and sanitation;
- Pilot project on implementation of ecosystem management in the Ili-Balkhash Basin.

The following key chapters of the National IWRM and WE plan were presented for discussion during the Forum:

- The principal institutional structure in accordance with IWRM concept at the National level and River Basins in Kazakhstan;
- System of monitoring;
- Management and exchange of information, the general information-analytical system for river basins;
- Education and public awareness;
- Improvement of water use efficiency.

Participants agreed to consider these materials as the basis for the National IWRM and WE plan, the first draft of which should be completed in the end of September 2005. Information about the Forum was translated on the National TV and published in mass-media.