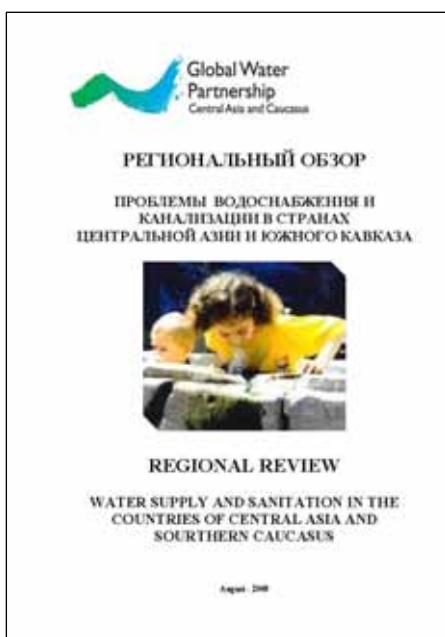


GWP CACENA in August-September 2009

The second round of training seminars on IWRM was conducted during August-September by the CWPs and GWP CACENA Secretariat in all eight countries. Capacity building is one of the basic elements of the Finnish support to the CACENA with the aim to facilitate the process of national IWRM planning in all regional countries. The new round of seminars was an element of the awareness campaign and capacity development program to facilitate National IWRM planning process in all CACENA countries. 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 were attended to the meetings).

GWP CACENA published regional review of the water supply and sanitation issues in all eight countries, which was completed in August in accordance with the Goal 1 of the Regional Strategy for the period of 2009-2013: **Promote water as a key part of sustainable national development.** Objective of this review is to conduct an expertise of the need in rehabilitation of WSS systems on the basis of current situation analysis, in order to provide people with quality and accessible potable water and sanitation. For the purpose of integration of the water supply and sanitation sector into IWRM the following measures should be arranged and (at the least) implemented in the region:



- Elaboration of the strategy of the small-scale water supply and sanitation systems';
- Development and implementation of the pilot projects in the sphere of water supply and sanitation introducing the advanced, acceptable and affordable technologies on sewage treatment, modern techniques of the potable water's quality monitoring;
- Conduction of the workshops and trainings fro the specialists working in the WSS sector;
- Assistance to the involvement of private sector in the WSS management.

The completed review report published in Russian and English and available for wide dissemination on the web-site: www.gwpcacena.net

Delegation of four persons from CACENA took active participation in the CP meeting on 15-16 August in Stockholm contributing to discussions on implementation of the new GWP Strategy for 2009-2013. Regional Coordinator GWP CACENA, Vadim Sokolov did a presentation "**Central Asia and Caucasus: Water Resources Related Conflicts: How GWP CACENA Can Help**" for the plenary Discussion on GWP Strategy 2009 – 2013 Goal 2: Address critical development and challenges on 15th August.

The proper contributions were made for the TEC meeting and Regional Chairs and Coordinators meeting during 10-14 August. Ilhom Babaev took active participation in the meeting of communication officers.

Network Officer Bjorn Guterstam visited Uzbekistan on 21-27 September. During his visit he met with Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA, Vadim Sokolov, in his office at SIC-ICWC (Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination) to discuss:

- Finalising of documents requested by Finland for a final contribution to the 2009 Work Programme of GWP CACENA
- The 2010 Work Plan will take into consideration support from Finland
- Vadim and Björn shortly met with Japan Water Forum manager Mr. Shigenori Asai, who attended a Civil Society Conference in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. JWF has a grant for Grass-root organisations who work with water supply and sanitation. The new report on the WSS status of all eight countries will serve as basis for further work on proposals to JWF.

Meeting with Host Institute IWMI Tashkent, Head of Office, Dr. Herath Manthrithilake. A preparatory discussion about an extension of the present HI agreement that expires by 31 March 2010 revealed that both parties are willing to extend the present agreement.

Study tour together with IWMI to IWRM Fergana project –upstream Aral Sea Basin

This Swiss (SDC) financed project, started in 2001 with the aim to improve water use efficiency of the irrigation systems in Central Asia, by the use of IWRM principles. The implementing institutions are IWMI and SIC. A comprehensive project report was presented in March 2009 at 5th WWF in Istanbul.

In order to introduce GWPO to the IWRM Fergana project of Central Asia, IWMI provided a special study tour for Bjorn to travel with two IWMI scientists and to meet with representatives of the three levels of the irrigation system, i.e. Syrdarya-Sogd Basin Water Management Organisation, The South Fergana Canal Administration together with the Canal Water Users Union and finally a Water User Association. This was done with a very focused and informative programme initiated and supported by IWMI Tashkent Head of Office, Dr. Herath Manthrithilake:

- The deputy director of Syrdarya-Sogd Basin Water Management Organisation gave a comprehensive introduction pointing out the 26% water savings achieved only by institutional rearrangements incl. capacity building at all levels and with no new hardware investments!
- There are transboundary elements in Fergana valley, i.e. between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Today there is no commission that regulates transboundary cooperation at local level in Fergana Valley.

The role of GWP: GWP is recognised for its neutral platform that could help to fill a governance gap, i.e. to initiate meetings to raise “small transboundary river issues”.

- The South Fergana Canal Administration, Mr. Elmurodov Abduranob, and the Canal Water Users Union Chair, Ms. Mastura Safytdinova, received us in the beautifully situated countryside administration building in Fergana Valley. The irrigated area covering 127,000 ha (of which 7,000 ha in Kyrgyzstan) is served by 225 staff members. Monitoring of water has improved immensely including use of a robust computer system. In October a fully automatized water distribution system will be inaugurated by dignitaries from Switzerland and Uzbekistan.

- Canal Water Users Union Chair, Ms. Mastura has a mandate from 49 Water Users Associations (WUAs). She stressed the importance of public participation and representative democracy of the new water governance system. Today there is a direct cooperation between water users with no interference by the government. Instead the water users bring their issues to higher decision-making levels. The Water Users Union finances itself through fees but it also brings in donors, organises seminars and works actively with gender issues to bring in more women into the water sector.

The role of GWP: The Canal Water Users Union Chair expressed a high interest to exchange experiences with Chinese WUAs

- Akbarobod Water User Association is the first WUA of the IWRM Fergana Project. We met with its leaders. The Chair, Mr. Bobojanov with a lawyer background, initiated the principle of registration of WUAs at the Ministry of Justice – as a non-commercial body. The annual planning involves all members in budgeting, monitoring and implementation. Results show improved water use efficiency every year since 2003. They conclude that education must come first in order to secure sustainable water management.
- Finally, the SDC financed project is now in its 3rd phase 2009-2012, with IWMI and SIC as implementers. Today there are 1500 WUAs established in Uzbekistan, who will all learn from the experiences of the Fergana pilot project.

The role of GWP: To help in dissemination of knowledge directly through the CACENA CWP's and by publishing case studies in **ToolBox**, e.g. Success stories of WUAs in Kyrgyzstan, WUAs and water flow monitoring, and IWRM curricula @ Central Asian universities. These examples were given by IWMI Research Officer, Mr. Kahramon Jumbaev, who was my guide in Fergana Valley.

Visit to Nukus, Karakalpakstan – downstream GWP partners of Amudarya River in Aral Sea Basin. Bjorn was hosted by Chairman of the GWP partner Union for the Defense of the Aral Sea and Amudarya (UDASA), Mr Yusup Kamalov. Since 1996 they publish the newsletter *Along Amudarya and something else* aiming at linking stakeholders along the river covering three countries. The situation for NGOs is extremely difficult and GWP CACENA gives financial support for this type of publications. In the present situation with different agendas of upstream and downstream governments on how to use the Amudarya water resources the following two aspects of UDASA are of great importance:

1. The Amudarya downstream water stakeholders in Karakalpakstan benefit from winter releases done by upstream Tajikistan, when they operate their hydropower plants. In this way water reaches the end users in the river delta and summer demand for irrigation, livelihoods and ecosystems is secured.
2. Huge releases of salt into the atmosphere are caused by storms over the dried up Aral Sea which not only have regional effects. From studies of space photos of the Aral Sea experts start to believe that these storms to have stronger impact than volcano outbreaks on the atmosphere (*Along Amudarya*, Oct. 2008).