



Global Water
Partnership
Central Asia and Caucasus



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For April 2021

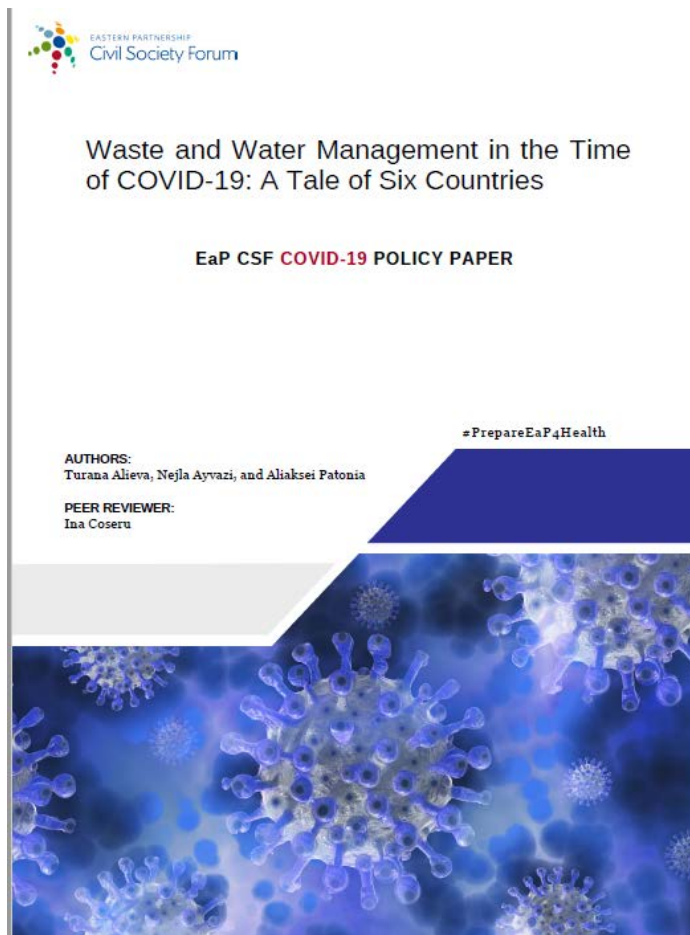
www.gwp.org

GWP Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA) c/o ICARDA-CAC (GWP CACENA/IWMI), Apt 123, Block 6, Osiyo str,
Tashkent, 100000, Uzbekistan Tel: +998 712 652 555, Fax: +998 711 665 097 Website: www.gwp.org

1. Waste and Water Management in the Time of COVID-19: A Tale of Six Countries

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum published COVID-19 policy paper. The project implemented by CWP Armenia is included in this paper.

After Armenia regained its independence, the specific attention of the government was given to the challenges of



increased water demand, dilapidated infrastructure, water leakage and wastage as well as high cost of service provision, which, with the help of the World Bank, were addressed through the establishment of Public Private Partnerships (World Bank, 2015). The government outsourced water supply management and waste water treatment to two foreign companies: the French SAUR Group CJSC and Veolia CJSC (Armenian Environmental Network, 2016). As a result, the water supply to the residents outside the capital was increased to 17 hours per day and the operators' energy consumption was cut by almost 50 percent (ibid).

Some other challenges associated with the energy crisis of the first post-Soviet decade were also addressed through successful small-scale solutions. For instance, due to electricity shortages in 1990s, the Soviet-era pumping system delivering waste water from the villages near Yerevan to the capital's waste water collectors and waste treatment plants was abandoned (Global Water Partnership, 2013). This resulted in such rural areas not receiving sufficient water-related sanitary services (ibid).

Additionally, in the villages, the waste water was often leaked to the irrigation canals, which resulted in contamination of the cultivated lands by waste water and increased threat of a break-out of intestinal and epidemic diseases, especially during the summer (ibid).

This challenge, however, was successfully addressed in the village of Parakar through the implementation of an advanced and relatively cost-efficient waste water treatment system of the lagoon type (ibid). In particular, in 2010 the village community supported by partners from Country Water Partnerships of Armenia initiated and developed this first of its kind pilot project allowing for the treatment of the domestic waste water to the quality required for irrigation of water and using the treated waste water for irrigation purposes (ibid). The project also included a public awareness phase – the distribution of information leaflets and organization of round tables among the community members. As a result, the significant challenge of waste water treatment was successfully addressed.

2. Online consultations on the Methodological Guide on the Process of Adaptation to Climate Change

Date: 6 April 2021

Place: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Format: Microsoft Teams

Organizers: Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Participants: representatives of UNDP, Department of Climate Policy and Green Technologies, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Kazhydromet, various associations, national experts, CWP-Kazakhstan

These consultations were held within the project "Development of the Eighth National Communication of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the UNFCCC and preparation of two (fourth and fifth) biennial reports"

These online consultations are carried out with the aim to finalize the draft Methodological Guide on the process of adaptation to climate change, including taking into account such areas as agriculture, water management, forestry, civil protection. The Methodological Guide will contribute to the implementation of the provisions on adaptation to climate change of the new edition of the Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, adopted on January 2, 2021.

UNDP in the Republic of Kazakhstan expressed hope for further fruitful cooperation in priority areas of development for the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3. World Water Day-2021 in Kazakhstan

Date: 22-24 April 2021

Place: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Format: online

Organizers: Kazakh-German University, CWP-Kazakhstan

Participants: Central Asian university students, young professionals, researchers, as well as university teachers and curators and experts on water issues

The World Water Day - 2021 was dedicated to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the International Year of Peace and Trust.

The World Water Day had 2 parts. The first part of the event was dedicated to increasing knowledge and sharing experience through presentations by leading experts, professors and specialists in the field of water and natural resources. The second part of the event was a student colloquium: students from different universities presented their research on IWRM in Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries.

During the event, students exchanged experiences, knowledge and skills acquired in the process of scientific research on natural sciences. This event was organized as a volunteer event designed to expand academic ties and increase knowledge in the field of water resources and climate among students of universities in Central Asia and Afghanistan.

4. International Scientific and Practical Conference "Modern Trends of Development of Engineering Systems and Structures"

Date: 21 April 2021

Place: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Format: online

Organizers: CWP-Kazakhstan, Department of Engineering Systems and Networks of the Institute of Architecture and Construction named after T.K. Basenov

Participants: students, undergraduates, doctoral students and university scientists

The main topics:

1. Water supply and sewerage;
2. Water resources and water use;
3. Construction engineering.

The collection of works is planned to be published on the University Scientific Library website.

5. Seminar "Climate and information education"

Date: 3 April 2021

Place: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Organizers: CWP-Kyrgyzstan, Aarhus Center in Bishkek

Participants: representatives of state and public organizations (Total: 34 people, incl. 24 women)

Purpose: Involvement of civil society in the process of updating and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC; preparation and collection of proposals on the Nationally Determined Contributions of Kyrgyzstan to the Paris Agreement of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan members took part in the discussion. Representative of CWP-Kyrgyzstan Sadabayeva made a presentation "Study of irrigation networks in the southern regions of Kyrgyzstan".



6. National Workshop "Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to Increase the Ambition of Updating the Nationally Determined Contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic (NDC) to the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change"

Date: 29 April 2021

Place: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Organizers: Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP

Participants: representatives of various state bodies, NGOs and representatives of civil society, incl. CWP-Kyrgyzstan (Total: 51 people).

The purpose: discussion of the risks of updating NDCs in Kyrgyzstan in the framework of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan fully involved into the process of updating NDCs.



7. Scientific-practical conference "Formation of water resources in the Aral Sea basin: cooperation development and water resources assessment"

Date: 31 March 2021

Place: Tajikistan

Organizer: Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Participants: representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan, the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, EC IFAS, international organizations (UNDP, WB, FAO, GIZ, etc.), other interested organizations, incl. CWP-Tajikistan (Total: 65 people)

Purpose: to organize information campaign on the Aral Sea basin problems, to analyze and assess the water resources formation and use, as well as to strengthen cooperation for SDGs achievement in Tajikistan.

CWP-Tajikistan Chairman Prof. Pulatov Ya.E. made a presentation "Implementation of IWRM principles in Tajikistan".

The following presentations were also made: "Long-term monitoring of glaciers in Tajikistan and the factors of their rapid degradation in the context of climate change"; "Modern scientific and innovative methods of glacier monitoring"; "Global Initiatives of Tajikistan in Solving Water Problems and Implementing State Policy in the Field of Integrated Water Resources Management"; "Strengthening international cooperation in the field of protection and preservation of glaciers in the region"; "Integrated use and protection of water resources in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals: Research Results and Prospects."

The participants unanimously recommended to establish "Glacier Protection Fund" and revive monitoring and scientific researches on water resources protection in the formation zone of the main rivers in the Aral Sea basin. Participants discussed the legal, regulatory, organizational, technical, and financial aspects of IWRM and SDGs. Participants adopted a declaration.



8. Meeting on the ISTC project "Assessment of water and land resources in small transboundary rivers of the Amu Darya river basin using data of remote sensing"

Date: 7-10 April 2021

Place: Tajikistan

Organizer: ISTC project

Participants: Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, IWMI, BWO 'Amudarya', Taraz National University, American University in Central Asia, CWP-Tajikistan

Participants were informed about the progress of the ISTC project, and further development of cooperation between the Institutes were discussed.



They visited the State Institution "Tajik Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation" and the Gissar Inter-district Department of Melioration and Irrigation to discuss further work and cooperation.



A study tour to the small interstate (transboundary) river Karatag basin, which is a tributary of the Surkhandarya river (a tributary of the Amudarya river) was organized on April 9.



Participants agreed to cooperate on development of new regional projects.

9. Discussing food systems transformation in Central Asia

<https://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/News/discussing-food-systems-transformation-in-central-asia/>

10. Seminar "Environmental Enlightening for a Digital Society"

<https://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/News/environmental-enlightening-for-a-digital-society/>

11. National Student Olympiads completed in Central Asia

<https://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/News/national-student-olympiads-completed-in-central-asia/>

www.gwp.org

The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.