



Global Water
Partnership
Central Asia and Caucasus



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For May 2021

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1. Cross-Border Conference “Joint Efforts for the Pure Rivers and Black Sea”

Date: 19 May 2021

Format: online

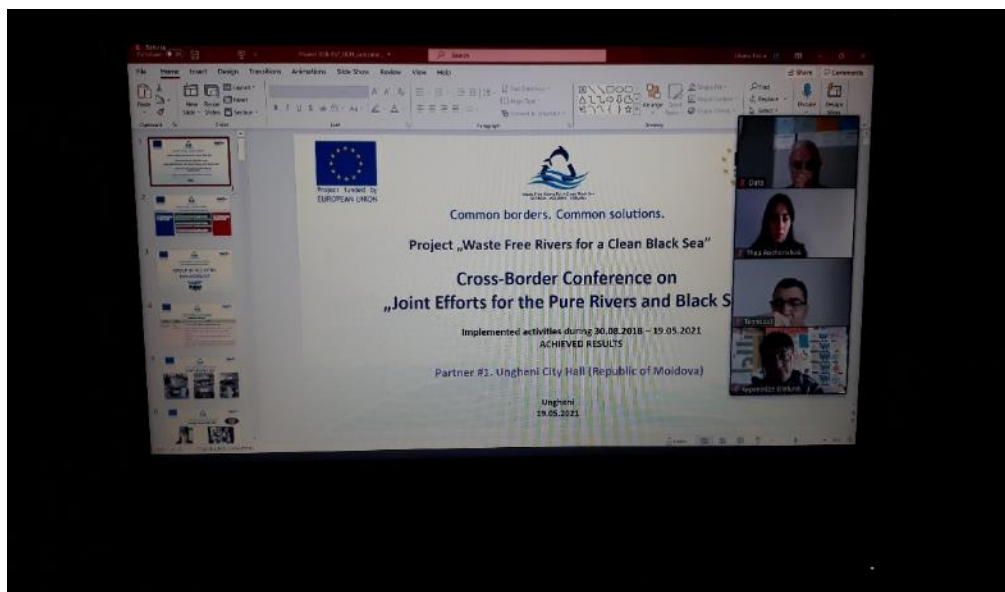
Organizer: NGO Spekri under the Project BSB457 “Waste Free Rivers for a Clean Black Sea”

At the conference, participants from Romania, Moldova and Georgia (total: 80 people) made presentations on the outcomes of the project "Joint Efforts for the Pure Rivers and Black Sea".

Pollution of rivers and the Black Sea is one of the main issues. Contamination with plastic waste is a particularly big problem. Thus, according to recent data, 85% of the waste in the Black Sea is plastic.

At the conference, the project partners made presentations on the activities and achievements of the project in their countries. Participants received important information about best practices and experiences for the protection of rivers and water bodies from pollution, which were discussed by leading experts and specialists in this field: Nino Chkhobadze (The Greens Movement / Friends of the Earth Georgia), Emzar Gordadze (Akaki Tsereteli State University), Manana Devidze (fund “Caucasus Ecology”), Izolda Machitadze (Society for conservation of wild nature Tchaobi”), Giorgi Dzamukashvili, (Global Water Partnership, Georgia) David Gogichaishvili, (Lanchkhuti Information Center).

The conference laid the foundation for an international network “Waste Free Rivers”, which aims to unite common efforts to protect rivers from waste pollution. A Memorandum of Understanding was adopted. 48 interested persons joined the network.



2. 18th meeting of the Kazakhstan-China Joint Commission on the Use and Protection of Transboundary Rivers

Date: 18 May 2021

Format: online

Organizer: Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Participants: members of the Kazakhstan-China Joint Commission

The meeting considered:

1. On the work carried out after the 17th meeting of the Joint Commission;
2. On comparative analysis and exchange of hydrological data of border posts on the Kazakh-Chinese transboundary rivers;

3. On the progress of implementation of the Plan on distribution of water resources of the Kazakh-Chinese transboundary rivers;
4. Concerning the assessment of water resources throughout the transboundary river basins;
5. Concerning the construction of a joint water distribution facility on the Ulken Ulasta River;
6. On the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the joint management and operation of the Kazakh-Chinese joint water intake facility on the Sumbe River;
7. On the progress of management and operation of the joint hydroelectric complex "Dostyk" on the Khorgos River;
8. On the construction of mudflow protection structures in the Khorgos river basin;
9. On the progress of the study and approval of the draft Agreement on water allocation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China.

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Nariman Kipshakbayev took part in the meeting.



3. 4th meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on improving the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS

Date: 27 May 2021

Place: Kazakhstan

Format: online

Organizer: Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Participants: members of the regional working group

The meeting provided information on the work done. Examples of the structure, goals and objectives of some river basin commissions in different regions of the world were presented and discussed. Further steps on improvement of IFAS have been identified and agreed upon.

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Nariman Kipshakbayev took part in the meeting.

4. 26th meeting of the Aral-Syrdarya Basin Council

Date: 20 May 2021

Place: Kazakhstan

Format: online

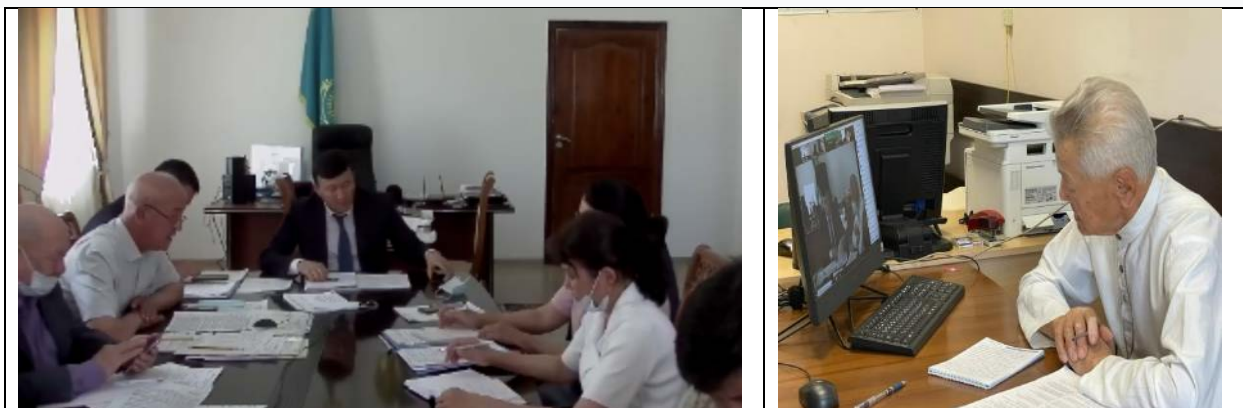
Organizer: the Aral-Syrdarya Basin Inspection

Participants: members the Aral-Syrdarya Basin Council (Total: 36 people).

The following issues were considered:

- 1) Implementation of the 25th meeting decisions;
- 2) Ways to increase the capacity of regional and district operating organizations and tasks to improve the efficiency of land and irrigation water use;
- 3) The water use limits for the growing season in the Aral-Syrdarya river basin, the forecast schedule of the Shardara reservoir and the Koksaray regulator;
- 4) On tariffs for water supply services for water users of the Kyzylorda region;
- 6) On the proposed water-saving technologies for the cultivation of agricultural crops in the Kyzylorda region in conditions of water shortage.

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Nariman Kipshakbayev made a presentation "Ways to increase the capacity of regional and district operating organizations and tasks to improve the efficiency of land and irrigation water use".



5. Regular 80th meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination

Date: 11 May 2021

Format: online

Organizers: SIC ICWC, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Participants: ICWC members

The ICWC members, including Mr. S. Kozhaniyazov from Kazakhstan, Mr. Sh. Khamraev from Uzbekistan, and Mr. D. Mammedov (by proxy) from Turkmenistan participated in the meeting chaired by the ICWC member from Tajikistan Mr. J. Shoimzoda. The heads of ICWC executive bodies also took part in the meeting: M. Makhramov (BWO Amu Darya); O. Kholkhujaev (BWO Syr Darya); Prof. V. Dukhovniy (SIC ICWC); U. Nazarov (Secretariat); and S. Rakhimzoda (Chairman of IFAS Executive Committee). CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Nariman Kipshakbayev took part in the meeting too.

The meeting's agenda included the following:

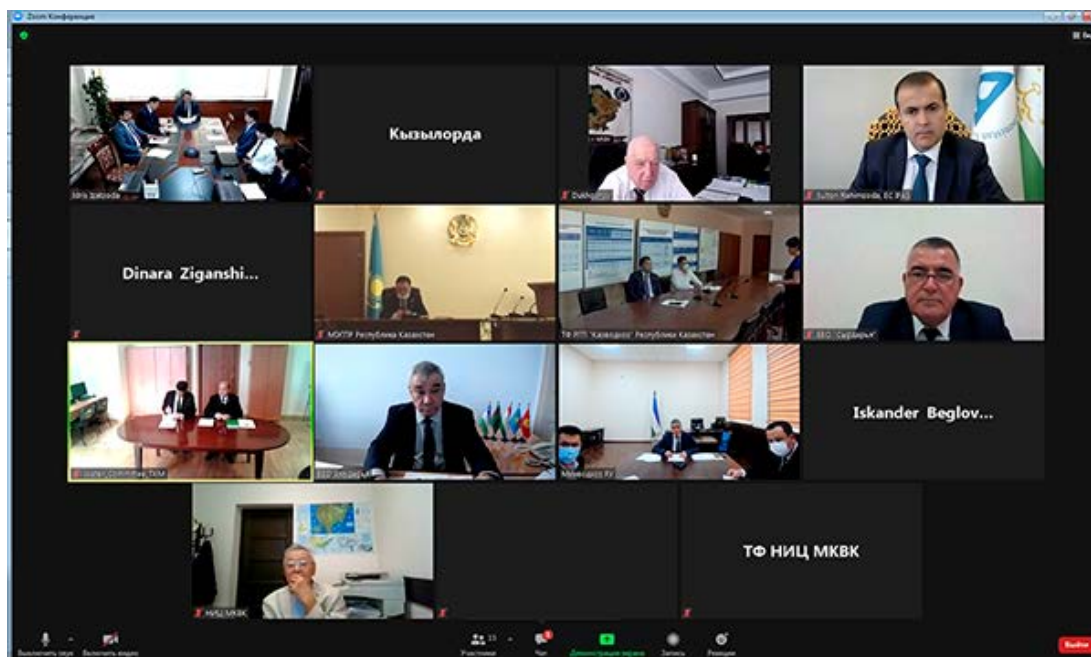
1. Results of the use of water withdrawal limits and operation of the reservoir cascades in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins during the non-growing season 2020-2021.
2. Approval of the country water withdrawal limits and operation regimes of the reservoir cascades in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins for the growing season 2021.
3. Follow up on proposals and initiatives voiced at the Summit of the Heads of IFAS founder-states in the city of Turkmenbashi.
4. Agenda and venue of the next 81st meeting of ICWC. ICWC members in their welcome speeches underlined the continued low-water period and consequent problems and also the importance of Kyrgyzstan's re-joining to discussion of regional water problems.

On the first item, BWO Amu Darya and BWO Syr Darya reported on fulfillment of water withdrawal limits and operation of reservoir cascades in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins during the non-growing season 2020-2021.

On the second item, the heads of BWOs made proposals for the limits of country water withdrawals and the operation regimes of reservoir cascades in Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins for the growing season 2021. ICWC members have agreed on the basis of more accurate forecast data on water availability to additionally consider and agree upon the operation modes of the reservoir cascade for the growing season 2021 in the Syr Darya basin by the end of May.

On the third item, Prof. Dukhovniy reported on work done by SIC ICWC as a follow-up to proposals and initiatives put forward in Turkmenbashi at the Summit of the Heads of IFAS founder-states.

The next meeting of ICWC is to be held in Uzbekistan. The date of the meeting will be decided in due course.



Source: <http://sic.icwc-aral.uz/releases/eng/354.htm>

6. Webinar "China's Green Development Strategy and Green Silk Road "

Date: 6 May 2021

Format: online

Organizer: the Global Innovation for Change initiative under the Asia+ project

Participants: CWP-Kazakhstan, governmental bodies, experts, students, teachers.

The webinar provided civil society, media and academia in Central Asia with an introduction to the environmental aspects of China's policy. It also brought together representatives to discuss the development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The moderator was Kaisha Atakhanova. And the speakers were:

- Niva Yau, a permanent researcher at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. She gave a presentation on China's Green Silk Road: Policy, standards and cooperation on the Belt and Road.

- Eugene Simonov, international coordinator of the coalition "Rivers without Borders", Doctor of Nature Conservation spoke about the "Ecological Civilization Policy of China", the internal policy of ecologization of all directions of development.

- Jackson Ewing, Senior Fellow at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Adjunct Professor at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, and head of the iMEP faculty at Duke Kunshan University. He spoke about "Environmental Change along China's Belt and Road: Drivers, Impacts and Response."

After all the presentations, participants discussed the green development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/i4ccentralasia/>

7. Two-way exchange of experience on SDG 6.5.1 and transboundary rivers management

Date: 3-10 May, 2021

Place: Tbilisi, Georgia

Organizers: CWPs of Georgia and Kyrgyzstan

Participants: Co-chair of the Chu Talas Water Commission Abdybai Dzhalilbaev, CWP-Kyrgyzstan coordinator Kasiet Musabaeva, CWP-Georgia coordinator George Dzamukashvili, CWP-Georgia's members.

Purpose: exchange of experience on SDG 6.5.1 and transboundary rivers management

<https://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/News/two-way-exchange-of-experience-on-sdg-6.5.1-and-transboundary-rivers-management/>



8. Mongolian Innovation Week 2021

Date: 3-9 May 2021

Place: Mongolia

CWP-Mongolia coordinator Prof. Basandorj took part in the event and made a presentation “Water policy and current problems of the country”.

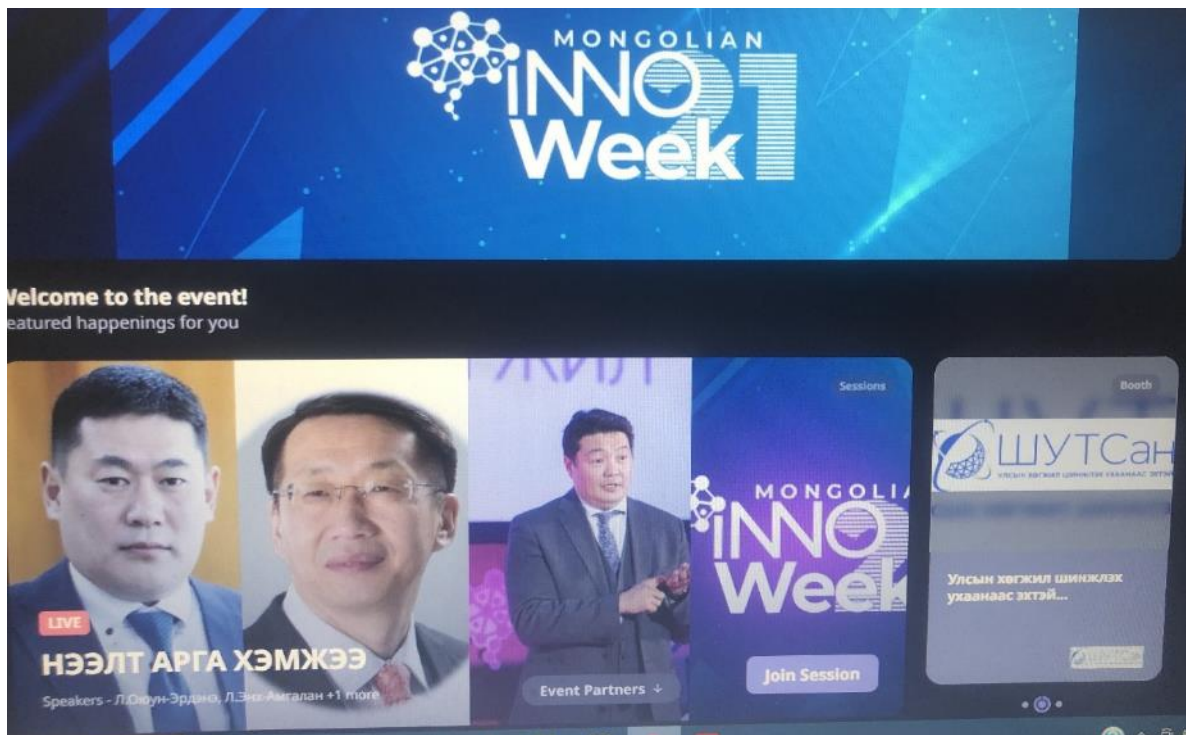
The report highlighted the following issues:

- Water management improvement and strengthen;
- Water programs and policies implementation;
- Comprehensive support for SDG6 and improvement of sanitation and water supply for population in rural and border areas;
- Strengthening water governance and partnerships;
- Drinking water quality improvement;
- Strengthening policy and investment in the water sector;
- Development of innovation in the water sector;
- Renovation of the National Water Program;
- Increasing level of wastewater treatment, and modification and improvement of treatment facilities.

More information (in Mongolian language):

<https://www.facebook.com/MongolianWaterPartnership>

<http://www.mongolianinnovation.mn/?fbclid=IwAR3PPmvzvNENhuduuyMPcFRGnCxdmU7fi-VudHGpvxZv1H1ElgsOOV1E2Pw>





CWP-Mongolia coordinator Prof. Basandorj

9. New Program to Strengthen Regional Water Cooperation in Central Asia

Date: 12 May 2021

Format: online, Tajikistan

Organizer: USAID

Participants: Representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Committee on Environmental Protection, the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation, regional water organizations, civil society, private sector, academic and research institutions, and CWP-Tajikistan.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a new Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity.

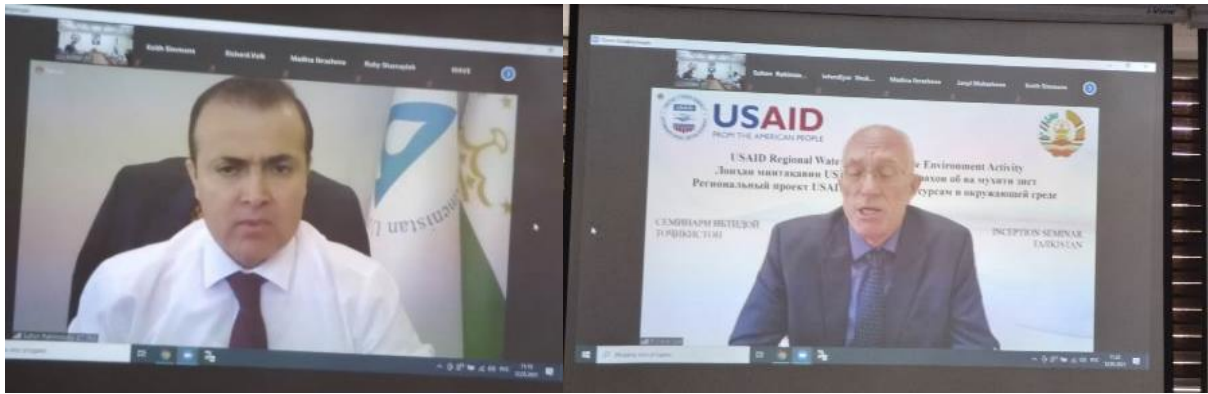
In the welcoming speech the First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Shoimzoda J. noted the importance of implementing the presented USAID program on water resources and environment management, and the importance of the project for solving national and regional water problems, as well as for the further development of water cooperation.

The USAID Water and Environment Project Manager Mr. Richard Wolk made a special presentation. He informed the participants about the goals and objectives of the USAID Program, the content of the main components of the project, which are aimed at strengthening the technical and human potential of the water sector, as well as research tasks in the field of integrated water resources management and NEXUS assessment at the national and regional levels.

Participants took part in the discussion and decided to submit their projects to the USAID program.

CWP-Tajikistan, together with leading partners (Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, State Institution "Tajik Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Melioration", NGO "Dusti ") prepared a project application to the regional tender called by USAID.





10. Towards the 15th anniversary of CWP-Uzbekistan

In May CWP-Uzbekistan held online meeting with partners to discuss preparing a collection of articles on the network's activities towards the 15th anniversary of CWP-Uzbekistan. Besides CWP-Uzbekistan's partners the meeting was attended by researchers, water specialists, as well as others actively participating in the CWP-Uzbekistan activity.

The main topics to be covered in the collection of articles:

- ✓ Irrigated agriculture - water for food security;
- ✓ Transboundary cooperation (water diplomacy);
- ✓ Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems NEXUS as an IWRM tool;
- ✓ Water and environment / ecosystems;
- ✓ Water supply and sewerage;
- ✓ Water and Climate - Adaptation and Mitigation.

It is intended to highlight the role of CWP-Uzbekistan in the promotion, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge for solving problems of national development and regional cooperation on water resources management. CWP-Uzbekistan plays a key role in raising awareness on IWRM in Uzbekistan. The participants approved the topics and the activity plan to the 15th Anniversary of CWP-Uzbekistan.

Participants decided to disseminate the collection among specialists of the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the public and other stakeholders. The CWP-Uzbekistan partners were asked to promote the collection of articles in the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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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.