

## **Global Water Partnership in Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)**

### **THE REPORT ON ACTIVITY for January-December 2006**

#### **1. Support to development of water policy and IWRM strategy at respective levels**

1.1. Organization of policy dialogue at national level (as a number of inter-sector workshops and round-tables). The main attention was given to the issues on introduction of IWRM concept in the context of UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). A number of round tables were organized in all eight countries at the expense of financial support of Finland. Formation of policy environment for introducing IWRM principles has begun in different countries to a variable degree.

1.2. Support of campaign on raising public awareness concerning IWRM principles. This activity is a continuation of work which has begun in every country of the region in 2004 – 2005 in order to provide all-round understanding of IWRM concept by civil society in the context of achieving MDG. Different publications as special brochures, posters and information in the mass media were prepared and disseminated.

1.3. The workshop «Finnish approach to transboundary water management and integrated water resources management» was held in Helsinki (Finland) jointly with Finnish Institute of Nature Protection (SYKE) on 12-14 June 2006. 19 water managers of GWP CACENA from all eight countries, including a number of directors of high level took part in the workshop at the expense of special grant from Finland Government. Aspects of transboundary waters, which are of priority importance for general development of CACENA region, have been discussed at the workshop. In this context Finnish experience and knowledge on resolving similar problems are the most important. This will help GWP CACENA in performing its obligations effectively as the guide of IWRM concept and providing adherence of governments to IWRM introduction. It is planned to generalize and publish the workshop results for wide awareness in the region.

1.4. Training was carried out for eight Basin Water Departments (BWD) on 3-5 August in Astana jointly with «National plan of IWRM and water effectiveness in Kazakhstan» Project (UNDP - Kazakhstan, Norway financing). Project results in November 2006 as draft Government Program on transference to IWRM are available in Internet for a wide discussion.

#### **2. Development of IWRM programs and tools in response to regional and national needs**

2.1. Trainings on IWRM implementation problems were held in all eight countries of the region at the expense of Finland Government financing. «Guideline on IWRM planning» CapNet, translated into the Russian language and published in 2005, was used as a basis of the training.

2.2. The English version of Abror Kadyrov's book «Water and Ethics» (Uzbekistan) was published. The book showed that the availability of social ethics needs in the field of water resources use and protection required the right approaches not only during investigating practical water use but in the issues on water management at different levels.

The English and Russian versions of the report «Conservation of inert water ecosystems in Central Asia and South Caucasus», prepared by national experts of CAREC in eight countries with support from Finland Government, were published. Current challenges related to closed reservoirs' ecosystems conservation in Central Asia and South Caucasus within the separate program of Global Water Partnership had been investigated in the report. The general concept and regional analysis of the current conditions were described in the first part of the report. National reports, prepared by all eight countries, were generalized and the more detailed analysis of state of water resources, ecosystems, available mechanisms on providing ecosystems' water requirements and their protection as well as the main conclusions and recommendations regarding every country were given in the second part.

2 resumes for decision-makers and 5 Technical resumes, prepared by TEC GWP- regarding issues on IWRM implementation practice, had been translated into the Russian language and published.

Jubilee GWP book «Boldness of Small Steps» was translated into the Russian language and published in amount of 2000 editions.

GWP CACENA report «Water Financing» of Gurria group for the 4 WWF was translated into the Russian language and allocated on the website.

Due to GWP CACENA publications the public was aware of the main problems related to water in the region as a whole.

2.3. Two joint workshops on disseminating GWP ToolBox were organized by GWP CEE and GWP CACENA.

The first workshop was held on 3-6 May 2006 along Charvak reservoir (Tashkent province), the largest dam in Uzbekistan. The main workshop theme was transboundary IWRM issues. The concrete cases of ToolBox use were discussed as examples. The Russian version of conceptual legal model of International Research Water Law Institute of Dundee was presented as a new tool for transboundary negotiations. Participants from eight countries presented the reports on water governance and transboundary cooperation state and problems.

The second workshop was held on 31 July - 2 August in Cholponata (Issyk-Kul') in Kyrgyzstan. The main workshop theme was practical exercises on making up examples (case study) for ToolBox as well as issues on capacity building – jointly with UCC-Water Project.

### **3. Providing coordination between GWP and other structures, sectors and issues**

3.1. Under the coordination of GWP CACENA, Central Asia delegation (18 persons) took part in all main WWF-4 arrangements during 16-22 March 2006. The major part of delegates (12 persons) received sponsor support from Japan Water Forum. The key arrangement for delegates was subject session «IWRM as a basis of socio-economic development in Central Asia», which was held on 18 March. Session's organizers were SIC ICWC and GWP CACENA. Two local

actions were presented during the session. The delegation also took part in opening ceremony of Regional Asia and Pacific presentation. During the ceremony the Minister for Reclamation and Water Resources of Tajikistan Abdukokhir Nazirov expressed his satisfaction regarding that UN had accepted the initiative of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmonov on proclaiming UN International tenth anniversary «Water for life» (2005-2015). High-ranking persons of the delegation took part in the Ministry Conference. Directors of higher levels confirmed the obligations related to strengthening water cooperation in the region in order to achieve MDG within open Asia and Pacific Water Forum.

GWP CACENA together with IFAS appointed as Regional Coordinators for preparations to the 1<sup>st</sup> Water Summit for Asia and Pacific, which will be held in Japan in December 2007. According to Asia and Pasific Water Forum concept, the regional report on key themes of the summit should be prepared.

3.2. Two rounds of joint workshops with UNDP Project (UCC-Water) were held in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as inter-branch round-tables in supporting achievement of IWRM goals 2005: the first round – in April, the second one – in September-October 2006. The objective of consolidated sub-regional work program of UCC-Water is to speed up implementation of IWRM goals 2005 in Central Asia. The main theme for round-tables was inter-branch cooperation in water use and transference to IWRM within the current reforms in agriculture and water resources as well as development of national «Road maps of IWRM». The final regional workshop on joint project was held on 29-30 November in Tashkent, where the final report and «Road maps of IWRM» were presented for three states. Directions on coordinating further efforts for developing national IWRM plans based on road maps were discussed with involvement of a number of key international organizations and donors.

3.3. In order to attract attention of population to IWRM issues and problems in Kura and Araks river basins, public manifestations were organized on 2 June in Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku. It was the first action carried out by recently created Armenia CWP and Georgia CWP in cooperation with the main water management NGOs of Transcaucasia three states, with support of GWP CACENA in honor of Kura and Araks rivers Day.

With assistance of GWP CACENA, Central Asian NGO Ecoforum on sustainable development and the role of IWRM was held on 25-27 September in Almaty.

#### **4. Establishment and consolidation of GWP partnerships at respective levels**

4.1. Country Water Partnership was established in Georgia. It was registered officially in May 2006 by the Ministry of Justice as non-governmental fund. It is the third CWP created in the region of eight countries (after Kazakhstan and Armenia).

4.2. National Conference on IWRM, organized by Armenia CWP with the support of GWP CACENA, was carried out in Armenia (in Yerevan and Aghveran) on 25-27 October 2006. According to Conference results the program of arrangements on speeding up IWRM implementation in the country was presented to Armenia Government.

4.3. With ADB assistance the activity on involving big operators of drinking water supply and canalization in our region into created network of Asia and Pacific operators has been started. The first regional workshop was held in India (Deli) on 5-7 December 2006, where the representatives of Astana, Baku, Bishkek and Tashkent Municipal Water Supply Organizations took part with assistance of GWP CACENA.

## **5. Effective development and management of GWP network**

5.1. Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC) held two work meetings. The first one was held on 6 May in Chorvak (Uzbekistan). The following main issues were discussed at the meeting:

- New Georgia CWP and representing new Georgian representative of RTAC – Marina Makarova (instead of Tamaz Cholokava, left for another work).
- Organizational issues of the workshop regarding transboundary waters in Helsinki, on 12-16 June.
- Preparation to August arrangements in Stockholm.
- Reorganization process in RWP – preparation to Tbilisi.

The second meeting was on 1 August in Issyk-Kul' (Kyrgyzstan), where the following issues were discussed:

- Preparation of brief resume on IWRM status and Water Partnership development in the countries for Stockholm.
- Reorganization process in RWP – preparation to Tbilisi.

5.2. The first CWP Meeting (65 countries, including 7 from our region), annual conference of GWP partners and anniversary arrangements on celebrating GWP tenth-anniversary were held in Stockholm on 15-22 August. Central Asia and Caucasus delegation consisting of 14 persons took part in the arrangements. National brief reports of 7 countries (excepting Turkmenistan) on IWRM process state and problems on water partnership development for achieving CWP in every country were presented at CWP Meeting. Delegates took part in discussions how to involve CWP in GWP activity planning at regional and global level. The presentation on coordinating GWP CACENA and RECs efforts regarding resolving problems on sustainable development was made at the plenary session of annual GWP partners' conference.

5.3. Coordination of network activities with GWP headquarters and partners in the region. Respective GWP CACENA network governance\servicing system was established through Regional Secretariat under IWMI office in Tashkent. Effective funds use was ensured.