

## GWP CACENA in January-February 2008

On January 19 there was organized stakeholder meeting in Bishkek, aiming creation the **CWP in Kyrgyz Republic**. Meeting with involvement representatives of 19 accredited partners (including Department of Water Resources – national authority responsible for water resources management in the country) was leaded by national initiative group. During meeting there were agreed Memorandum about formal creation CWP in Kyrgyz Republic and its Statutes. Mr. Abdibay Djailobaev, NGO “Water Partnership” was appointed as a CWP Coordinator. **Kyrgyz Republic is the fifth country** of eight in CACENA established CWP.

Regional Coordinator of the GWP CACENA, Dr. Vadim Sokolov took participation in the *Dialogue on EU Sanitation Policies and Practise*, which was held on 28-29 January in Brussels, Belgium. The Dialogue was initiated by Women in Europe for a Common Future. GWP pro-actively supported this initiative as synergies in this work with an IWRM approach to involve key stakeholders in a dialogue on options for sustainable sanitation solutions for rural areas. This meeting helps the GWP CACENA to identify proper activities to be included into WP-2008 at the beginning of the International Year of Sanitation.

On 5-7 February 2008 in Tbilisi, Georgia there was held Regional Consultative Meeting Water Financing – GWP & EUWI Financing Work Group. This was the first EUWI sponsored activity in the CACENA region. Convening of this meeting provided a challenge for the region. Although preparatory steps were taken a year ago, it was difficult to fully reach out to and involve the finance sector. Country Situation Analyses were mainly presented and prepared by the CWP representatives, while Armenia and Kyrgyzstan also brought delegates from the finance sector to the meeting. The meeting was opened by the newly appointed Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, Mr. Zaza Gamtsemlidze. The EU delegation to Georgia was represented by Mr. Michal Nekvasil, who pointed out the lack of funding was a key constraint to achieve the water related targets of the MDGs. This Meeting among the EECCA countries is of high significance to help mitigate this shortcoming. EUWI looks forward to next initiatives of GWP CACENA at country level. Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ms. Tamar Beruchasvili honoured the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final day. She had just finished the hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> on the EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which had been held parallel with the GWP meeting. The new ENP+ will also reach out to Central Asian countries. It is still possible to influence this process by organizations like GWP. Alan Hall gave a presentation on **“IWRM helps to solve financing problems”** where e.g. 50% of water financing demands are for governance reforms. Alan’s lecture enlightened the participants of how GWP can help the water sector to reach out to the finance sector. A session with international programmes and their roles in financing the water sector covered mainly Georgia and the South Caucasus region but also to Central Asia in some cases, with contributions from USAID, EBRD, World Bank, Millennium Development Fund, MCG, UNDP-ENVSEC Project, TACIS EU – Environmental Cooperation for the Black Sea, Development of Environmental Monitoring and Management Project (Finnish Environment Institute-SYKE), NATO/OSCE South Caucasus River Monitoring Project, et al. GWP CACENA and its CWPs have a potential to help in bringing coordination in all projects that deal with water resources. The 60 participants from 8 CACENA countries together with observers from GWP CEE had five “Expert Panels” with introductory presentations and active discussions of the following topics:

1. Assessment of cost reforms in the water resources management system in the EU Water Framework Directive
2. Assessment of existing mechanisms of service fees and setting of benchmarks with legal and organizational aspects
3. Identification of financing sources, domestic and foreign
4. Involvement of local organizations in joint financing of the water sector
5. The role of GWP to assist in improved water sector financing

On 8 February 2008 in Tbilisi, Georgia there was held **Outcome Mapping Training CACENA & CEE**. A very well prepared training of 22 participants of the two regions who will serve as OM Journal Writers both at regional and country level. Principles of the OM concept were given as all participants had not been able to attend Ricardo Wilson Grau’s lecture given in Varna in October 2007. The rationale to shift

into a new reporting format was very well presented. Understanding of the key terminology was secured by active participation and excellent, consecutive translation. Examples of Outcomes were given and trained by using the last semi-annual reports from CACENA and CEE. In the end, after a full day, 10 hr training, next steps of planning were discussed and next steps on reporting agreed upon.

**Next Steps after Tbilisi meetings:**

- EUWI funds are available for a water financing meeting to be organized by a CWP in early 2008
- Outcome Mapping Journal Writers\_will write their first semi-annual journals for the period January- June 2008. Ricardo will serve as a back up and make fast review of draft journals from country and regional levels. The final journal shall be available in Stockholm by end of July.
- It was agreed to have additional training seminar on Outcome Mapping as a tool for regional strategy 2009-2013 formulation, which will be conducted by Ricardo on 14 July in Baku, Azerbaijan back to back with ToolBox workshop.

Organized by the World Water Council and WWF5 Secretariat the 2nd Thematic and Regional Coordination Meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was held on 7-8 February in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting was attended by around 400 participants from 200 organisations. GWP was represented by Torkil Jonch Clausen (GWP Senior Advisor), Aly Kerdany (GWP Secretariat), Vadim Sokolov (GWP-CACENA) and Vangelis Constantianos (GWP-Med). There were three main plenary sessions (Opening, Ministerial Speech and Conclusions), several parallel sessions according to Themes and Topics as well as parallel sessions for Regions and Major Groups. The Working group session for Topic 4.5 (Water Governance and Management) was led by GWP-CACENA with the assistance of GWP-Med and other organisations. Also, during the event Vadim Sokolov, Regional Coordinator of the GWP CACENA had a side meeting with Prof. Victor Dukhovny, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia, Prof. Oktay Tabasaran, Secretary General WWF-5, Mr. Cengiz Baykara, Head of the Department Foreign Relations Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey and Mr. Hamza Ozguler, Programme Committee WWF-5. The joint discussion was addressed on how to organize Central Asian session on IWRM for WWF-5. It was agreed to organize sub-regional Central Asian Conference in April 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic as first step in the preparatory process for that with financial support from Turkey. GWP CACENA allocated certain activities and budget within Work Program 2008 to support this process.

Regional Coordinator of the GWP CACENA, Dr. Vadim Sokolov attended GWP TEC meeting, Regional Chairs meeting and Strategy planning workshop, held in Bahrain on 11-16 February.