

Notes for Delhi meeting (2-3 November 2009)

GWP CENTRAL ASIA AND CAUCASUS Cooperation Areas with Support from ADB

Brief on GWP CACENA strategy 2009-2013

According to the Regional Strategy adopted for 2009-2013, during 2009 - the first year of the new cycle - the GWP CACENA network developed an agreement on subsequent strategic actions for strengthening of country water partnerships in the region in order to reinforce the results in hand (from the past years of 2003-2008) in promoting the concept of IWRM towards sustainable development in all eight countries and to sustain their cooperation capacities (keeping in mind specifics of the two sub-regions – Central Asia and Southern Caucasus).

During the second stage of the new cycle – the years 2010-2011 – the GWP CACENA network will focus on promotion of its neutral platform (in cooperation with other active actors – e.g. Executive Committee of IFAS, Finland, ADB, APWF, SDC, EU and UNECE, et al.) for dialogues among countries / stakeholders on the most challenging issues (transboundary cooperation, climate change adaptation, drinking water supply and sanitation and further promotion of the IWRM concept) – with the principal goal: to help countries to achieve sustainable cooperation processes.

During the third, final stage of the new cycle – the years 2012-2013 – the GWP CACENA network based on the established sustainable cooperation platform will be focusing on a more substantive programme of activities – to help countries with implementation of their agreed measures, which will appear at the stage as outcomes of the above-mentioned dialogues. Thus, the work programme for this stage should be specified in 2011.

The annual Work Plan (2010) includes four dimensions of activities in accordance with the GWP Strategy 2009-2013:

- Strategic Goal #1: Promote water as a key part of sustainable national development
- Strategic Goal #2: Address critical development challenges
- Strategic Goal #3: Reinforce knowledge sharing and communications
- Strategic Goal #4: Build a more effective network

Areas of cooperation supported by ADB within the framework of GWP CACENA Work programme

There are three possible cooperation directions, which are correlated between ADB and GWP strategies:

- IWRM implementation at the basin level
- Water and Climate
- Network of water operators

1. IWRM implementation at the basin level

The ADB proposed TA for three regions in Asia and Pacific, including Central Asia, which aims to accelerate economic growth and improve the living standards in river basins through efficient, effective and sustainable water resources management, environmental conservation, and water disaster risk mitigation through IWRM. The TA will contribute to identification and justification of investment programs leading to the preparation of feasibility studies that will increase water security in three river basins in the region. The one selected basin is Syrdarya river basin in Uzbekistan. The TA will strengthen the capacity of concerned Government agencies and other stakeholders for implementation of future investment programs. The proposed TA will have two components: (i) preparation for future investment programs and (ii) capacity development of government agencies, RBOs and related organizations for the preparation and implementation of the ensuing investment projects, including conduct of demonstration activities in the region. The output will be used in the design of ADB's project preparatory TA for executing and implementing organizations in the three river basins separately.

In Uzbekistan, the TA is expected to (i) support assessing IWRM issues and preparing a pre-feasibility study aimed at improving water security in the Syr Darya basin by applying IWRM principles through stakeholder consultations and advisory service; and (ii) organize workshops and seminars to address the above. Possible IWRM issues for assessment will be selected among the following topics: (1) reinforcement of existing water facilities including proper maintenance practices; (2) modernization of monitoring system for water resources management; (3) improved management of the facilities for effective water use (supply side); and (4) water saving (demand side).

The second component of the TA is Capacity Development. Capacity of RBOs and related agencies in the each river basin will be strengthened to implement future investment programs and gain optimal benefits from the application of the *IWRM Guidelines at river basin level*¹. Capacity development will be achieved through demonstration activities, regional workshop, international seminars, thematic workshops, training organized by NARBO and ADB, and other related knowledge sharing forums. These demonstrations will help improve knowledge networking and regional cooperation among interested developing member countries and development partners in the Asia and Pacific region.

In Uzbekistan, the TA is expected to support the capacity development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Syrdarya River Basin Organization, the State Inspectorate for Safety of Hydro-Technical Facilities and other stakeholders in order to address priority water security issues through practical knowledge from training and advisory services.

How GWP CACENA could be involved

The above-mentioned TA from ADB is in line with outputs of the SG-1 and SG-2 of the GWP CACENA Strategy. GWP CACENA partners will be called on to contribute with a full luggage of experiences and knowledge in hands to the regional workshops, international seminars,

¹ The IWRM Guidelines was published by UNESCO in collaboration with JWA and NARBO in March 2009.

thematic workshops and training organized by ADB with full set of GWP publications (mostly in Russian -common language for the region). It will bring more inputs to the common understanding and facilitate process of policy making.

2. Water and Climate

The climate change impact in CACENA region already could be observed as growing and unpredictable deviations of climatic parameters from long-term average level and reduction of renewable water resources. These factors will call for changes in water consumption patterns and new approaches for water resources management. As well as about 80 % of total water resources used for irrigation, there is need for more precise assessment of water demand for irrigation with account changes in temperature regime, aridity of air, crop patterns, best practices at on-farm level and etc. The only by this approach it would be possible to survive within increased water scarcity.

It is obviously that climate changes come gradually and there is not sense to be worried - we gradually will adapt to possible impacts. But social-economic developments require long-term actions and outcomes will appear only after 10-20 years. The climate changes affect not only to economy, but also to environment and social well-being. Thus, policy-makers and planning authorities should be prepared to these changes already today including the following:

- Short-term measures at the level of end users (farmers) to combat deepening of water shortage by implementing water saving methods and technologies, crop pattern changing, re-use of water and etc.
- Long-term measures at the national and regional levels addressing to rational water use, including new regulations for food security and demand management.

Before that some urgent actions are needed already now:

- to create public awareness about possible changes and impacts;
- to demonstrate possible ways for overcoming of these phenomena;
- to build up road map for the future actions.

The role of GWP in the Climate Change Programmes

As it was stated in the GWP Strategy 2009-2013 this is an opportunity for the Global Water Partnership to play a catalytic role by demonstrating clearly that water security is not a sectoral concern, and is fundamental both to reducing disaster risks and to achieving practical and effective climate change adaptation. This conceptual framework is broadly in line with the 5 Guiding Principles for Adaptation to Climate Change which was developed by DANIDA together with GWP and a number of other organizations, and summarized in the Nairobi Statement on Land and Water Management for Adaptation to Climate Change (April 2009). Building resilience through water security needs to be done on the basis of sound evidence and timely information. While climate services to provide this information are being developed and expanded, there is currently a gap in linking this information to concerned stakeholders in various

sectors at regional, national and local levels. Here again GWP will have a key facilitating role to play.

As this is a crucial point in the creation of the international architecture, including GWP as one of the actor - for climate change adaptation, which will only be finally decided at COP15 in December 2009, future activities in 2010 and beyond will be highly dependent on the outcomes of these activities. During the GWP CP meeting in August in Stockholm there were discussed the key objectives addressing to climate change adaptation strategy:

- building water resource management capabilities as an important contribution to adaptation in a number of dimensions, from disaster management to sustaining water supplies and food production
- mobilizing climate interest and climate adaptation resources to promote better water management, to address both current pressures on the resource as well as the longer term climate change drivers
- highlighting the need for a more structured approach to IWRM financing
- promoting the message that water is one of the main media through which climate change will impact on societies; and
- ensuring that adaptation funding will support the long-term core capability enhancement in water resource management

From this point of view, it is important for GWP CACENA to be engaged with the ADB on their adaptation programmes.

3. Network of water operators

In August of 2006, at the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and GWP signed a cooperation agreement covering, among others, the implementation of the Water Operators Partnership program in the Asia Pacific region. A key task is to set up water utilities networks as a mechanism to share knowledge and build capacity among utilities that are facing similar challenges. This will strengthen the utilities and facilitate access to finance.

A Southeast Asian Water Utilities Network (SEAWUN), a network of 47 water utilities in Southeast Asia, by that time has already been established. This has been very successful and the aim was to replicate this network in South and Central Asia and China so that these regions can enjoy the same benefits as the Southeast Asian region.

On March 24-26, 2008 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan there was organized Regional Meeting of Central Asia and South Caucasus Water Utilities Network (CASCWUN), where representatives of 14 Water Utilities from seven CACENA countries were attended. The meeting and following on 27th March the CASCWUN Steering Committee meeting was supported by ADB and GWP CACENA. The main outcome of the meeting was agreement on CASCWUN Statutes and Program of joint activities for 2008-2009.

It was agreed that CASCWUN will serve as a venue for the exchange of experiences among water utilities in the region and will be responsible for the implementation of capacity development programs. Essential to the start of any program is the determination of the base case of a utilities' performance. An initial agreed activity therefore is a benchmarking exercise that should determine performance levels in the following core areas of water utility operations:

- service levels
- service quality
- operational efficiency
- financial management

The data secured through this exercise provides a baseline of utilities performance and allows the tracking of improvements over time on the basis of mutual enrichment within the another part of the program, which includes a number of training workshops to be jointly organized covering administrative, financial and technical aspects of utility management.

How GWP CACENA could be involved

In 2009 GWP CACENA conducted preparations and publication (in August it was released) regional observation report "Water supply and sanitation in the countries of Central Asia and Sourthern Caucasus". Analysis of submitted data by experts on water resources and the needs of respective sectors shows that the regional countries, on average, are provided with water resources. However, the worn-out state of the systems, the low operation level and the lack of clearly defined economic mechanisms, as well as inefficient management do not allow ensuring the people with sustainable water supply and sanitation.

In this matter the network of the Global Water Partnership might play a significant role to support CASCWUN. For the purpose of integration of the water supply and sanitation sector into IWRM the following measures should be arranged and implemented in the region (as a minimum):

- Elaboration of strategies for small-scale water supply and sanitation systems;
- Development and implementation of WSS pilot projects to introduce advanced, acceptable and affordable technologies on sewage treatment, and modern techniques for monitoring of potable water quality;
- Conduction of workshops and trainings for the specialists working in the WSS sector;
- Assistance to involve the private sector in the WSS development.

The GWP CACENA is currently exploring the possibility of securing technical assistance grants from ADB and the Government of Japan to support CASCWUN follow-up program.