

CACENA Case Study on Bridging the Divides: Central Asian IWRM Resource Center

To bridge existing gaps in water related information exchange and capacity development there was created the Asia-Pacific Network of Knowledge HUBs. As a response to this initiative, the GWP CACENA in cooperation with Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia (SIC ICWC) promoted establishment of the Central Asian IWRM Resource Center, which became an integrated part of the above network.

The Center committed to serve as facilitator for the integrated water resource management projects, research activities, information exchange and capacity development for local and international actors working at different levels of the water hierarchy within water, agriculture, energy and environment sectors in Central Asia. The Center is a non-profit association of the regional and national water related institutions, covering five countries. The headquarter is located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and its branches in the republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Actually, activities of this Center supported in different extend by Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNECE, ADB, GWP CACENA and CapNet. In coming future the Center foresees to expand collaboration with UNDP and European Commission and to cover countries of the Southern Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia).

As regional water knowledge hub, the Central Asian IWRM Resource Center offers to local, national and regional authorities, academic and education institutions, public and private corporations, specialized water sector institutions, international partners and others the following services:

- Knowledge exchange through unique Central Asian Water-Info web-portal (www.cawater-info.net).
- Access to retrospective hydrological data, real-time data on water allocations and use, estimates of future water consumption, actual and future water and land productivity in the region.
- Access to E-Library of SIC ICWC and GWP CACENA (publications, national and international laws, international conventions, water planning models, an inventory of best practices and more).
- GIS-based services – different thematic maps.
- Cooperation bridges with regional projects addressing to effective water resource use and conservation and the adoption of common water management policies and guidelines.
- Interactive professional training for high and mid-level specialists in water and land management, irrigation and drainage, and environmental protection.
- Regular round tables to support interstate policy dialogues on water use and management.
- Capacities to coordinate research activities and projects – to bridge local and overseas scientists and institutions.