

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For July 2020

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1. 2nd Public Consultation on Sevan Basin Management Plan (EUWI+ proejct)

Due to COVID 19 situation, the new format of public consultation was organized.

In emergency situation it was impossible to organize face to face discussions, also small target groups meetings as it was done during first stage of consultations in 2019.



It was decided to organize consultation campaign with using online and distance tools.

The Stakeholders consultations on Sevan River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) program of measures has been organized in RA Gegharkunik Region for the period June 11-July 17, 2020.

Announcement on the process starting was uploaded on CWP FB page and RA MoE web page. The announcement with the

corresponding links to consultation documents was relayed on EUWI website and Facebook page and on EU channels (EU neighbours website).



The following actions have been initiated and conducted:

- Developed and submitted action plan with details related to organization of public consultation for second stage.
- Development of brief version of Sevan RBMP 2nd thematically summery, provided by Tech-nical Consultant,
- Development of questionnaire for public consultation, it is in the Annex 1
- Web questionnaire have been developed and disseminated via Sevan regional authorities and other active networks
- Preparation Armenian version of Info-graphic film, demonstrated the main stages of river ba-sin management plan and program of measures, also important points related to RBMP
- Translation to Armenian the Cartoon, demonstrated importance RBMP
- Broadcasting the cartoon and info graphic films on local TV (Gavar TV)
- Organization ZOOM meeting/discussion with one of the main group of stakeholders (teachers of Sevan basin communities), list of participants, agenda and short MoM are in the Annex 2.
- Meeting with the Regional Autorites of Gegharkunik marzpetaran



2. Localization of SDG-6 in Armenia

On 10 July the inception and the first working group meeting of the UNDP “Localization of SDG-6 in Armenia” project was organised in Yerevan with participation of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy, Environment, Health, Water Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, RA Statistical Committee, Country Water Partnership – Armenia, and sectorial experts.

The project supports the Government of Armenia in localization of SDG-6 - Clean Water and Sanitation - targets and development of implementation strategy and monitoring mechanisms. As a result, an SDG 6 Strategy paper and Action Plan with recommendations will be presented to the RA Government for consideration.

During the meeting the participants presented the status of initiatives dedicated to SDG6 targets implementation in each of the respective institutions, spoke about main challenges in the areas of water resource management, as well as discussed main entry points for the projects.

“Localization of SDG-6 in Armenia” is part of the UNDP GoAL-WaterS (Governance, Accountability and Learning for Water Sustainability) programme that aims to support equitable, efficient and environmentally sustainable use and protection of freshwater and marine resources. It helps addressing gaps and constraints in water and ocean governance by developing policy reform and action plans at national and local levels.

The project, which is implemented by UNDP in Armenia in partnership with Country Water Partnership – Armenia, will be completed by April 2021.



3. A PAN-ASIA HELP-GWP CONSULTATION MEETING ON DRAFT PRINCIPLES FOR ADDRESSING WATER-RELATED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Date: 30 July 2020

Format: Video-conference

Organizers: HELP, Global Water Partnership, Government of Japan, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Participants: GWP CACENA, GWP SEA (Total: about 100 people)

The purpose of this consultation was to discuss and gain insight on how to practically implement key suggestions proposed in the HELP Principles to Address Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction under the Covid-19 Pandemic. The consultation also aimed to encourage exchanges among decision-makers, experts and practitioners in the Asian region on how to be better prepared for co-occurring disasters on water and health.

CWP-Georgia partner Prof. Alexander Mindorashvili made a presentation "First experience in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia". This presentation had 2 topics:

1. Ensuring equal access to water and sanitation in Georgia;
2. Georgia's experience to combat the new coronavirus - COVID-19.



4. Environmental NGOs meeting

Date: 31 July 2020

Place: Georgia

Format: Video-conference

Organizers: National Platform of the Civil Society Forum

Participants: 15 Environmental NGOs

Purpose:

1. Discussion of amendments to the Energy and Water Supply Law and their impact on the energy sector of Georgia;
2. Considering issues related to the construction of the Hydroelectric Power Plant.

This event was organized because of the flood occurred in the Rioni basin in the Racha region of Georgia.

Participants decided to prepare a special appeal to the Government concerning the above issues.

5. Discussion of the draft Agreement on management, use and protection of transboundary water bodies

Date: 6-21 July 2020

Format: video-conference

Organizer: CWP-Kazakhstan

Participants: CWP-Kazakhstan experts

Experts discussed the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the joint management, use and protection of transboundary water bodies. On July 24, comments and suggestions to the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan were sent to the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which was discussed on July 2-3 in Tashkent by representatives of two countries.

6. Discussing issues of the water sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Date: 11 June 2020

Place: Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Organizer: Department of Transboundary Rivers, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MEGNR)

Participants: staff of the Department of Transboundary Rivers and the Committee on Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

CWP-Kazakhstan chairman Nariman Kipshakbaev met with the Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The following issues of the water sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan were discussed:

- 1) The State Program for Water Resources Management of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2030;
- 2) Protection of the North Aral Sea, strengthening and increasing the stability of the Kokaral dam and rational use of water resources in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya river to maintain biodiversity of wetlands, water-lake systems;
- 3) Improvement of water resources management systems in the Republic of Kazakhstan in accordance with the existing water legislation;
- 4) On the breakthrough of the Sardoba dam in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 5) Celebrating the Water Management Day in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

7. Discussing development of the State Program for Water Resources Management 2021-2030 for the Republic of Kazakhstan

Date: 20-21 July 2020

Format: video-conference

Organizer: CWP-Kazakhstan

Participants: members of the working group and the CWP-Kazakhstan experts

Outcomes: proposals & suggestions concerning the draft State Program for Water Resources Management were sent to the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan on July 22.

8. 6th online conference “Women and water governance at local, national and transboundary level”

Date: 12 June 2020

Format: video-conference

Organizers: Kazakh-German University in Almaty and the Central Asian Journal of Water Research (CAJWR)

Financial support: Central Asian Knowledge Exchange Network for the Water and Energy Program for Central Asia (CAWEP), World Bank

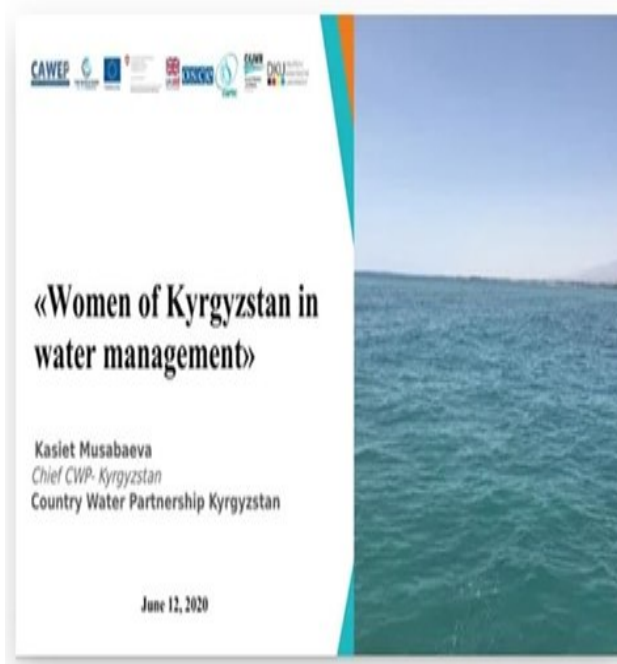
Participants: researchers / experienced authors (candidates of sciences, doctors of sciences), experts, young scientists, graduate students from universities and research institutes working and conducting research in the field of gender and water resources in Central Asia.

Purpose: Provide opportunities for young scientists, researchers, international and regional experts, students, etc. to discuss key gender issues in water resources management sphere. The collection and conference materials (in the format of webinars) will be available on the website: <http://cakanline/en/>.

This online conference is the third conference in a series of similar events dedicated to the gender aspects of water management in Central Asia and Afghanistan, which are held from November 2019 to May 2020.

Key speakers:

- Jennifer Ziering (Senior Lecturer, Department of Water Diplomacy, Integrated Water Supply and Management Systems, IHE Institute of Education in Delft)
- Kasiet Musabaeva (Chairperson of the **CWP-Kyrgyzstan** Council, GWP CACENA);
- Nozilakhon Mukhamedova (Senior Researcher and Project Coordinator, Institute for Agricultural Policy and Market Research).



9. Roundtable "Impact of climate change on water resources and the economy of Kyrgyzstan: the role of government agencies in response and adaptation"

Date: 8-9 June 2020

Place: Hotel HYDE-PARK, Kok-Jar, Kyrgyzstan

Organizer: CWP-Kyrgyzstan

Participants: State Agency for Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzhydromet, State Agency for Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Climate Finance Center under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, civil society (Total: 18 people, including 12 women).

Purpose: Discussing issues and mechanisms for coordinating response and adaptation of the water sector to climate change processes. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has determined the role of the State Agency for Water Resources to coordinate the process of interaction between state bodies related to water resources management. However, the coordination mechanism has not yet been defined.

Key speakers:

- Abdybai Dzhailoobaev, State Agency for Water Resources under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Gulmira Satymkulova, Chu-Talas Water Commission in Kyrgyzstan;
- Kasiet Musabaeva (Chairperson of the CWP-Kyrgyzstan Council, GWP CACENA).

This event was carried out by the CWP-Kyrgyzstan at the request of the State Agency for Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic. It demonstrated the close interaction between CWP-Kyrgyzstan and the state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic as well as possibilities for further cooperation.



10. Virtual Workshop on designing legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

Date: 28 - 29 July 2020

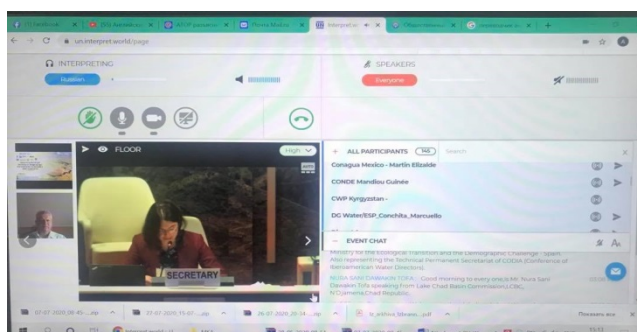
Format: video-conference

Participants: governmental representatives, representatives of joint bodies' secretariats, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations (incl. CWP-Kyrgyzstan) promoting transboundary water cooperation, experts, and academia.

Organizers: UNECE, Geneva Aquatic Center / University of Geneva; The Global Water Partnership (GWP); International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR); International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); The Senegal River Basin Development Organization (ORRS); Northumbria University.

Purpose: to assist countries and/or other relevant stakeholders in the **design and drafting** of agreements or other arrangements.

The workshop took stock of existing experience worldwide with drafting and design, and explored common challenges and gathered lessons learned. The programme was structured around some key aspects related to the drafting of legal frameworks.



11. Online seminar "Innovation and SDG6 achievement in rural areas"

Date: 20-22nd of July 2020

Place: Umnugobi province, South Mongolia

Organizer: CWP-Mongolia

Participants: 40 people living in the rural provinces of Gobi

GWP CACENA RC member Prof. Basandorj delivered a lesson on innovation in sanitation and water management for catchment area. The following issues were considered:

- Improvement of water management in the Gobi waterless areas and introduction of water saving technology;
- Improvement of simple sanitation in rural areas of Mongolia;
- Development of partnership by using facebook and creating the website on water quality management and sanitation linking to website on toilet revolution.

12. Meeting of the Central Asian Expert Platform (CAEP) for Advanced Research in Water Security and Sustainable Development

Date: 9 July 2020

Format: video-conference

Participants: Chairman of CAEP, scientific advisor of CAEP, national coordinators of CA countries, experts, CWP-Tajikistan etc. (Total: 14 people)

Main goal: Discussing CAEP development progress; considering the projects planned on water security and sustainable development of Central Asia.

CWP-Tajikistan participates in the projects:

- "Water as a driving force of sustainable recovery: economic, institutional and strategic aspects of water resources management in Central Asia", initiated by the Center for Central Asian Studies of the University of Corvinus and CAREC;
- "Regional Mechanisms for Low-Carbon Climate Resilient Transformation in Interrelated Energy, Water, Land Issues in Central Asia" within the framework of the International Climate Initiative 2020 (supported by the Government of Germany).

13. Round table "Innovative irrigation technologies and water regulation under climate change in Tajikistan"

Date: 23 July 2020

Place: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Organizers: State Institution "TajikNIIGiM", Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, CWP-Tajikistan"

Participants: scientists and specialists of water sector, young researchers and other stakeholders; participants from the Sughd region participated in online format (Total: 20 people).

Main goal: Discussing development and implementation of innovative technologies for irrigation and water supply in the context of climate change, as well as dissemination of accumulated knowledge on achievement of SDGs 2030.



14. 2nd online conference on results of students' researches within the competition "Sustainable management of natural resources in Central Asia 2019-2020"

Date: 9 July 2020

Organizers: Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia in cooperation with the Kazakh-German University

Participants: students and young scientists (bachelor's, master's, PhD); stakeholders from Central Asia.

The online conference was organized to present the research results of the winning students of the Student Research Competition on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Central Asia 2019-2020.

The competition was aimed to create and develop conditions for young professionals for their participation in applied researches and providing opportunities for solving practical problems in pilot territories in the region. The competition was held within the World Bank projects (CAMP4ASB) and the USAID projects (Smart Waters).

Objectives:

- to acquaint all participants with the results of scientific works of the student research competition;
- to share the experience of regional and international experts working in water sector of Central Asia;
- to discuss water resources management in Central Asia.

International experts shared their experience in conducting research in the water sector in Central Asia. They also discussed topical problems related to water resources management under climate change.

Students - competition winners from different countries of Central Asia presented their researches related to IWRM such as efficient use of water resources, irrigation systems, virtual water, etc.

15. Meetings of the interdepartmental expert group on SDG 6.5.1

A series of meetings of the interdepartmental expert group on the preparation of reporting on SDG 6.5.1 ("The degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management" - baseline survey on SDG 6.5.1) was launched in July, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

The following organizations took part:

- ✓ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan;
- ✓ Parliament of Turkmenistan;
- ✓ State Committee for Water Resources and its subordinate organizations;
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Nature Protection (including hydrometeorological service);
- ✓ Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry;
- ✓ Ministry of Economy and Finance;
- ✓ Ministry of Construction (including the department of communal services);
- ✓ State Concern Turkmengeology;
- ✓ NGOs.

Purpose:

To acquaint the expert group with the international methodology on assessing the current level of IWRM implementation and the methodology for preparing relevant country reports.

The working group will prepare a review on IWRM implementation up today and will recommend how to accelerate implementation of 4 components in the long term until 2030 namely:

- Creation of favorable conditions (state programs, laws, by-laws, regulations and service standards).
- Institutions and participation (optimization of organizational structure, procedures for interaction and involvement of the private sector and citizens, staffing).
- Management tools (processes and decision-making algorithms for planning and operational water management).
- Financing (covering the costs of all management functions - monitoring the condition of facilities, dam safety, hydrometry, etc.).

Methodological and financial support for the working group is provided by UNEP and GWP.

Organizational and administrative support is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Committee for Water Resources of Turkmenistan.



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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.