Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report
For June 2019
1. World Environment Day 2019 in Georgia

Date: 5 June 2019  
Place: Gory, Georgia  
Organizers: CWP-Georgia, Greens Movement of Georgia  
Participants: Gory State Educational University, CWP-Georgia, Greens Movement of Georgia (Total: 30 people).

The meeting devoted to the World Environment Day was held at the Gorissky State Educational University on 5 June 2019. The meeting considered issues related to environmental protection, water resources, climate change.

At the end of the meeting, a memorandum of cooperation was signed. The memorandum provides the following joint activities:
- General events  
- Training seminars, conferences  
- Non-formal education programs  
- Publications on environmental issues

The organizers noted the importance of the parties' participation in the SDGs implementation. Memorandum was signed by Nino Chkhobadze and Giorgi Dzamukashvili.

2. The Kura river protection day

Date: 2 June 2019  
Place: Akhaltzikhi, Rustavi, Georgia  
Organizers: CWP-Georgia, Greens Movement of Georgia  
Participants: local administrations, young people, urban communities, NGOs (Total: 100 people)

The cleaning-up action in Akhaltsikhe, Rustavi was organized by CWP-Georgia and the Greens movement of Georgia. Mrs. Nino Chkhobadze in her interview noted the importance of June 2, recalled the history of celebration and touched upon the challenges to water policy of Georgia.
3. Action dedicated to the Kura River Protection Day and the World Environment Day

Date: 9 June 2019  
Place: Borjomi, Georgia  
Organizers: CWP-Georgia, Greens Movement of Georgia, local administration  
Participants: Ministry of Environment, local administration, urban communities (Total: 25 people)

It is known, that forests in the Borzhomi gorge create a curative microclimate and also play a key role in the stability of water regime. Attention of action was focused on the demonstration of new drugs against diseases of pine trees.


Place: Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan  
Date: June 13-14, 2019  
Organizers: International Center for Water Assessment, PF "Center for Water Initiatives"  
Participants: representatives of state bodies, international organizations, scientific institutions, public organizations and independent experts on water resources, CWP-Kazakhstan.

The meeting discussed issues on interaction and coordination of all stakeholders, such as:
1) Development of cooperation on transboundary waters between Kazakhstan and neighboring countries;  
2) Water resources management and safety of storage reservoirs in Kazakhstan;  
3) Water as a factor of economic growth and security in Kazakhstan.
5. Meeting with the Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Place: Almaty, Institute of Geography
Date: 22 June 2019
Organizers: Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and the Department of Transboundary Rivers of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Participants: Institute of Geography, Balkash-Alakol BWI, CWP-Kazakhstan (Total: 12 people).

In Kazakhstan, on June 17, the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources was established. CWP-Kazakhstan chairman Nariman Kipshakbaev and partners met with the Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan Magzum Mirzagaliyev.

Prof. Kipshakbayev asked the Minister to create a republican coordinating council for water because the existing interdepartmental council does not give the desired result on transboundary cooperation and water security of the country as a whole. He also asked to pay attention to interstate cooperation on managing the use and protection of water resources of transboundary rivers.

6. Seminar "Monitoring system analysis and international experience on water quality management in the Syr-Darya river"

Date: July 14, 2019
Place: Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
Participants: Representatives of government bodies and local administration, scientific and public organizations, CWP-Kazakhstan (Total: 26 people).
Organizer: Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Bulat Yessekin made a presentation "International experience on water quality management and suggestions for transboundary cooperation".

7. Network Meeting 2019

Date: 26 June 2019 года

CWP-Kyrgyzstan site:
1. Satymkulova Gulmira, Secretariat of Chu-Talas Commission, E-mail: gulmirasatymkulova@gmail.com
2. Sadabaeva Zhyldyz, Water User Association, Department of Water Management of Kyrgyzstan, E-mail: bassesein@mail.ru
3. Kalashnikova Olga, Central-Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences, E-mail: o.kalashnikova@caiag.kg
4. Nurbekov Adil, Aarhus center in Bishkek, E-mail: adil43@mail.ru
5. Askaraliev Tilek, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, member of the CWP-Kyrgyzstan Youth Wing
6. Turdakunova Syrgajan, GWP CACENA Regional Council member
7. Musabaeva Kasiet, CWP-Kyrgyzstan Chair

"Face-to-face" meeting summary:

1. CWP-Kyrgyzstan partners discussed issues related to rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers; providing population with drinking water; practical measures to combat pollution of water bodies; informing the society about the ecological status of water resources.

2. CWP-Kyrgyzstan partners recommended to develop interaction with state and international organizations on water resources use, in particular with GTZ and other international organizations.

On-line session:
1. About cross-border cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan by Gulmira Satymkulova:

CWP Kyrgyzstan constantly works together with UNECE:

A) In 2016, within the framework of the UNECE National Dialogue on Water Policy under a contract with the UNECE secretariat in Geneva, two meetings of the working group on revising (inventory) targets in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Kyrgyzstan were prepared and held: on 26 May 2016 and 18 August, 2016 in Bishkek.

B) CWP-Kyrgyzstan together with CWP-Georgia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organized and held a side event at the 8th Interministerial Conference in Batumi in June 2016.

C) And this year (September 2019) we signed a memorandum with UNECE on organizing a round table on the project “Dam safety in Central Asia”. As part of the project, a round table is planned to discuss regulatory documents on dam safety in Kyrgyzstan.

D) In 2014, under the contract between the UNECE secretariat in Geneva and the GWP Secretariat in Stockholm, CWP-Kyrgyzstan prepared and organized a seminar “Assessing the “water-food-energy-ecosystems” NEXUS in the Syrdarya river basin”, and it should be noted that this event was originally planned to be held in Bishkek and preparatory work was carried out, but for a subjective reason, it was held in Almaty on December 2-4, 2014. About 70 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan took part.

In 2016-2018 CWP-Kyrgyzstan under the contract on the GEF-UNDP-UNECE project "Facilitating Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins" developed and subsequently implemented a program on increasing capacity building on water resources management in the Chu and Talas River Basins.

2. About SDG 6.5.1 implementation in Kyrgyzstan and other SDGs, adopted legislative acts and government decisions, and implementation of projects in this area by Kasiet Musabaeva

CWP-Kyrgyzstan had also contracts with the following international organizations and institutions:

1. In 2018 - with OECD: a regional conference within the Finnish Water and Sector Assistance Program of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (FinWaterWEI-II) "TOGETHER TO WATER SAFETY"


3. In 2018, with the Norwegian project (Water Harmony of Eurasia)

4. CWP-Kyrgyzstan members were involved under the personal contracts as consultants and experts of the projects of OECD, European Union, UNDP, ADB, UNECE etc.
CWP-Uzbekistan site:

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Mirzaev N.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Chembarisov E.</td>
<td>Institute of Water Problems of Uzbekistan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:echembar@mail.ru">echembar@mail.ru</a></td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Ganieva F.</td>
<td>Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>6.</td>
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<td>Djailoobaev A.</td>
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On-line session:

During the video-conference, Mr. Abduraimov spoke on the first issue related to the achievements of SDGs related to water factors, and noted that it is very important to ensure the achievement of indicators of SDG 6 in Uzbekistan, and he also focused on the assessment of SDGs achievement in Uzbekistan presented at the request of UNEP. After reviewing the assessment of SDGs, participants suggested more investment to water resources management sphere should be attracted. It is clear that for implementing IWRM principles fully and effectively in Uzbekistan a lot should be done.

As to the second issue, Mr. Sanginov S. reported on the work related to environmental protection, water and transboundary issues done by the Environmental Party of Uzbekistan. The partners suggested, given that Uzbekistan has the strongest scientific, industrial and human potential, to consider a proposal regarding their involvement in the implementation of global projects on water and climate problems.
Following the video-conference, participants discussed strengthening the platform for cooperation in the field of water, energy and environment, with a focus on SDGs.

**CWP-Kazakhstan site:**

Participants: CWP-Kazakhstan partners (Total: 14 people).

Participants supported and approved all 3 areas selected for the GWP Strategy for 2020-2025 and put forward their proposals for the Strategy.

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Date: 24-26 June 2019

Place: American University in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Organizers: PEER NAS USAID project "Integrated Water Resources Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Kabul and Amu Darya Rivers".

Participants: hydrologists, hydrogeologists, ecologists, water management specialists, sociologists, economists and other interested parties from Europe, Asia, USA, Russia, Central Asia. (Total: 39 people, including 11 women).

The goal of PEER NAS USAID project is to improve knowledge of Afghanistan on its water resources and eliminate existing barriers for sustainable integrated development and water resources management (IWRM) in the Amu Darya river basin, as well as to promote strategic environmental assessment. The American University in Central Asia plays a leading role in data generation and analysis and collaborates with research and implementing agencies in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The main topics of presentations:

- Assessment of available water resources at the regional / basin level;
- Ecological basic flow / ecological flow to maintain the health of rivers and lakes,
- The water need for a healthy society,
- Impact of climate change and human activities on water resources, etc.
- Water distribution and the management models
- Interaction between water resources and ecosystem,
- Socio-economic aspect as a basis for water resources management,
• Application of GIS and remote sensing in water management
• Risk analysis for water resources systems and related issues

CWP-Kyrgyzstan representatives made a presentation "Gender analysis of trainings in water sector of Kyrgyzstan", as well have exchanged views with other participants on the existing water problems in Central Asia and other countries.

9. Training "Economic management tools for sustainable development of water economy"

Date: June 7-8, 2019
Place: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Organizers: CAREC branch in Kyrgyzstan and CWP-Kyrgyzstan.
Participants: representatives of the Department of Water Management of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzhydromet, universities, non-governmental organizations, WUAs (Tota: 35 people, incl. 25 women).

CWP-Kyrgyzstan members made presentations:
1. “Economy of water management of Kyrgyzstan. The system of economic methods and IWRM tools in Kyrgyzstan”
2. “Existing economic and financial instruments for implementation of basin planning. International and regional practice”
10. Roundtable "Strengthening CWP-Kyrgyzstan's partnerships"

Date: June 11-12, 2019  
Place: Office of the Central Asian Alliance for Water "st. Atabaev 121, Osh, Kyrgyzstan  
Organizers: CWP-Kyrgyzstan, Central Asian Alliance for Water (CAAW)  
Participants: representatives of CWP-Kyrgyzstan, CAAW, (Total: 8 people, incl. 3 women).

Purpose: Discuss and update the Agreement on joint and coordinated cooperation in implementation of projects related to water resources in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Participants signed a renewed cooperation agreement between CWP-Kyrgyzstan and the Central Asian Water Alliance (Osh) as well as decided to disseminate knowledge and experience, and to intensify changes in policy and practice.

11. Roundtable "Actual issues and problems in the field of ecology: participation of government bodies and public organizations in awareness raising of population in the region"

Date: June 21, 2019  
Place: Chui oblast, Kemin district, Kyrgyzstan.  
Organizers: Aarhus Center in Bishkek, Chui-Talas Territorial Department, CWP-Kyrgyzstan  
Participants: representatives of environmental services, universities, business, and civil society (Total: 25 people, incl. 12 women).

CWP-Kyrgyzstan made a presentation "About CWP-Kyrgyzstan activity on informing the public about existing environmental problems and ways to solve the ecological problems of water resources of Kyrgyzstan". The Aarhus Center in Bishkek expressed gratitude to CWP-Kyrgyzstan for active environmental activities and practical steps to improve the environmental situation in the region, as well as for the great contribution to cooperation on environmental awareness of the public.
12. Roundtable "Actual issues and problems in the field of ecology: participation of government bodies and public organizations in awareness raising of population in the region"

Date: May 30 - June 1, 2019  
Place: Talas, Kyrgyzstan  
Organizers: Aarhus Center in Bishkek, CWP-Kyrgyzstan  
Participants: representatives of the Talas Department of SAEPF, SIETS, Talas University, Association “Alliance of NGOs of Talas Region”, independent ecologists and civil society.

Purpose: To acquaint the public of Talas region about the work carried out by environmental public services within environmental protection, and measures taken for nature conservation as well what methods are used.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan made a presentation, spoke about their participation in solving environmental problems, and raised comments and suggestions on how to improve the environment. The round table was covered by mass media (private television "NEXT TV" and the newspaper "Talas Turmush").
13. National Symposium "Water and Desertification"

Date: 7 June 2019

Place: Government building and State hall, Ulaanbaatar

Organizers: President Office, Ministry of Environment, CWP-Mongolia

Participants: CWP-Mongolia partners, Member of Parliament, Member of Government of Mongolia, NGOs, private sectors, water professors and students, water specialists, engineers and officials from the Ministries (Total: over 1000 people).

The welcoming speeches of the President of Mongolia, the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Construction and Urban development, the Minister of Mining and CWP-Mongolia Chairman were focused on the national water institutions and decreasing of water pollution as well on establishment of pollution monitoring at the national level.

All the Ministers agreed to improve IWRM and water management at the national level and update the Water Law of Mongolia.

After opening speeches and all presentations there was a discussion. Over 60 people expressed their opinions on how water sector should be improved and strengthened in coming years.

The symposium discussed the water related problems and decided the followings:

- Establish the New Water Agency under the Prime Minister office;
- Update the Water Law of Mongolia;
- Reduce water pollution and develop the action plan on how water pollution can be reduced;
- Implement big water projects such as the building of water reservoirs and introduction of water saving technologies;
- Water need general coordination and the water related SDGs should be implemented timely;
• National water symposium will send recommendations to the National Security office of Mongolia, which could be discussed with President, Prime Minister and Speaker of Parliament.

CWP-Mongolia is planning to organize water forum for NGOs in October 2019.

14. Awareness Raising Campaign: Lessons on SDG6.1 and SDG6.2

Date: 15-20 June 2019
Place: Countryside in 2 provinces of Western Mongolia
Participants: over 260 local people

Main outputs of activities:

• Under support of local government and the River Basin Council the lessons for & open discussion with local people were held;
• The book "Best sanitation and good quality of drinking water" was printed;
• The local water partnership was created with participation of the River Basin Council;
• The families would like to improve their sanitation conditions and understood water pollution risk and how good quality of drinking water is useful for human health.
15. Training "IWRM in the River Basins of Tajikistan"

Date: June 10-14, 2019.
Place: Gafurovsky district (on June 10-11); Spitamen district and Rasulov district (on June 12) of Sogd region of Tajikistan.
Organizers: CWP-Tajikistan, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan under support of the National Project on Water Resources Management (HELVETAS, GIZ, SDC).
Participants: representatives of district water management organizations, WUAs, jamoats, environmental organizations, sanitary epidemiological stations, emergency committee and other stakeholders (Total: 110 people).
The trainings were held within the water sector reform program 2016-2025 in Tajikistan, as well as the implementation of the Syrdarya River Basin Plan.

The main purpose of trainings was to widely promote the IWRM principles in Tajikistan, to improve the skills and knowledge of water sector workers on IWRM issues, to exchange knowledge and develop water cooperation.

CWP-Tajikistan Chairman Prof. Yarash Pulatov made presentations:
- “Theoretical Aspects of IWRM: History, Definitions and Principles”
- "Interstate Water Cooperation”
- "IWRM in Central Asia”,
- "IWRM in Tajikistan”
- "Tajikistan: Water Sector Reform 2016-2025”.

16. The World Environment Day 2019 in Uzbekistan

Date: 4 June 2019
Place: Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Participants: representatives of ministries, agencies, international organizations, embassies and representative offices of foreign countries in Uzbekistan, labor veterans and pupils of children's institutions.
Organizer: Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, CWP-Uzbekistan.

The festive event dedicated to the World Environment Day was held in the City Park named after Gafur Gulyam.

Welcoming the participants of the festive event, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Kengash of the Ecological Party, B. Alikhanov, noted that the Ecological Party and movement of Uzbekistan are conducting systematic work aimed at improving the current legislation and ensuring the enforcement of regulatory documents in the field of environmental protection, implementation of integrated water resources management, and involvement of people into the environmental and water-saving activities.
as well the formation of ecological and water-saving culture of population.

According to a good tradition, the winners of the Competition “Water is life” were announced and awarded by CWP-Uzbekistan Chairman on this day. The participants were once again convinced of the importance of their contribution to the introduction of water-saving technologies by media coverage, which play an increasingly prominent role in enhancing knowledge in this area in shaping the views in various kinds of population.

CWP-Uzbekistan was awarded with a sign of gratitude by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

17. CITIZEN SCIENTISTS’ GRANT AWARD CEREMONY

The official ceremony of awarding the grant certificates to the “Citizen Scientists” groups formed within the frameworks of USAID-funded PURE-Water Project was held on June 21 this year.

Earlier the 4 project ideas were announced winners of the IDEA Contest, organized for the Project’s “Citizen Scientists” group members. The projects are aimed at the innovative and water saving technology installations in the Project partner communities – Vedi, Pokr Vedi, and Yeraskhahun, as well as development of informative platform for Armavir WUA.

The event was attended by the representatives from USAID, RA Water Committee, Water Sector PIU, “Veolia Djur” CJSC, as well as project partner communities.

During the event each team presented their project, the expected results and further actions, which was followed by an active discussion in Q&A format: the guests shared with their rich experiences as well as provided recommendations to the project teams related to the effective development of their projects.

The event was concluded with the official ceremony of awarding grant certificates to the project teams.
18. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2019

Within the frameworks of EUWI+ “Communication Assistance to Support the Implementation of the Actions Plan for Participative RBM Planning in Armenia” Project, a study tour was organized to Hrazdan River Basin historical, cultural and water monuments on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5. Aiming at introducing those monuments to the students of Hrazdan River Basin schools.

Ararat Valley and Ashtarak town have a crucial role for historical and current Armenia, and used to be an important water distribution point. Here has been preserved one of the canals of the Urartian Era - Akanates (Witness) stream, due to which gardens blossomed and prospered at the Kasakh river bank, and Ashtarak town was founded. The information on the canal, is carved on the walls of Ashtarak town ancient churches, as well as on the gravestones.

Ashtarak is famous for its wonderful nature and special grape species cultivated for wine, related to which written records have also been preserved.

During the event, the schoolchildren from Yerevan, Hrazdan and Charentsavan communities got acquainted with the Hrazdan river basin issues, had an opportunity to share their ideas and solutions for preserving water resources in Armenia, and providing the future generation with freshwater resources.

The event is included in the series of green calendar days celebration, specially selected within the frameworks of the above mentioned EUWI+ Project. Those events will be of continuous nature during the whole Project implementation period, engaging more youngsters from Sevan and Hrazdan river basin communities.

The event was organized by “Country water Partnership-Armenia” NGO, while historical and cultural monuments were introduced by archeologist Boris Gasparyan.
19. WATER QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING FOR HRAZDAN RIVER BASIN SCHOOL TEACHERS

Within the frameworks of EUWI+ “Communication Assistance to Support the Implementation of the Actions Plan for Participative RBM Planning in Armenia” Project, water quality monitoring training was conducted for Hrazdan River Basin school teachers of natural sciences on June 11 this year. The training was attended by the teachers from Hrazdan, Charentsavan, Yerevan, Aratashen and Griboyedov communities. The goal of the event was to transfer simple knowledge to the teachers on the methodologies of water quality monitoring, implementation of measuring activities on daily basis and their importance.

The Project expert Arevik Hovsepyan introduced to the teachers the state agencies responsible for water monitoring in Armenia, their functions, the frequency of water monitoring, the process of data acquisition and exchange. The Project team leader Alisa Savadyan presented in detail the phases of Hrazdan River Basin Management Plan development and time periods, as well as EU requirements for engaging public participation. It was especially stressed the role of EUWI+ Project in the expansion of monitoring network, accurate data acquisition, introduction of new methodologies and equipment, as well as specialists’ training.

During the training the Project team also introduced the simple monitoring tool kits, which were provided by EUWI+ “Communication Assistance to Support the Implementation of the Actions Plan for Participative RBM Planning in Armenia” Project, via which the schoolchildren with the guidance of their teachers will implement water resources monitoring in their communities during summer months. The Project team stressed the importance of participation in monitoring activities and awareness of the community residents on the utilized water quality. The teachers absolutely agreed on that matter and excitedly joining the idea of expanding their knowledge on water quality.

The tool kits were distributed to the teachers, and the testing method was thoroughly explained to them. It was deliberated with the teachers how the measurement process will be organized during summer months. It was decided that the students will separately implement monitoring of the rivers flowing through their communities, as well as of the tap water, given the gaps in awareness on the supplied drinking water quality in the communities. The Project team will also prepare and provide to the teachers, simple spreadsheets that will be filled in after implementation of water quality monitoring by the 8 grade students with the mentorship of their teachers. It was agreed to also prepare power point presentation with relevant photos, that will be introduced on the World Water Monitoring Day on September 18, 2019 to be organized by the Project team.

20. WATER QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING FOR SEVAN BASIN SCHOOL TEACHERS

Within the frameworks of EUWI+ “Communication Assistance to Support the Implementation of the Actions Plan for Participative RBM Planning in Armenia” Project, water quality monitoring training was conducted for Sevan Basin school teachers of natural sciences on June 12 this year. The training was attended by the teachers from Vardenis, Vardenik, Gavar, Martuni, Tsovazard, Tsovagyugh, Chkalovka, Sevan, Gandzak, Lchap, Lichk, Tsovinar
communities. The goal of the event was to transfer simple knowledge to the teachers on the methodologies of water quality monitoring, implementation of measuring activities on daily basis and their importance. The Project expert Arevik Hovsepyan introduced to the teachers the state agencies responsible for water monitoring in Armenia, their functions, the frequency of water monitoring, the process of data acquisition and exchange.

The Project team leader Alisa Savadyan presented in detail the phases of Sevan Basin Management Plan development and time periods, as well as EU requirements for engaging public participation. It was especially stressed the role of EUWI+ Project in the expansion of monitoring network, accurate data acquisition, introduction of new methodologies and equipment, as well as specialists’ training.

During the training the Project team also introduced the simple monitoring tool kits, which were provided by EUWI+ “Communication Assistance to Support the Implementation of the Actions Plan for Participative RBM Planning in Armenia” Project, via which the schoolchildren with the guidance of their teachers will implement water resources monitoring in their communities during summer months. The testing method of the toolkits was thoroughly explained to the teachers. They were also given a summer task to implement together with their students, water quality measurements of the rivers and streams flowing through their communities. The teachers offered to develop essays and record the student’s ideas on the importance of raising awareness on water quality monitoring. It was also discussed with the audience the format, possible areas of cleanup activities on Sevan Day, as well as other issues related to voluntary participation of teachers and students in the event. The participants excitedly welcomed the initiative of implementing clean-up activities in the littoral areas of Sevan Lake stressing the importance of the lake water purity and everybody’s contribution in it.

In September 2019, a joint event is expected jointly with Hrazdan and Sevan basin teachers and schoolchildren, during which the participants will exchange their ideas and experiences of water quality monitoring. It was offered by the Project team to invite the most active teacher and student- participants to the discussion of draft Hrazdan and Sevan basin management plan event, which is also planned to be implemented with the support of EUWI+ Project already in the first quarter of 2020.
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.