

**REFORCING THE NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS
A STEP FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

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Countries from Central Asia strongly depend on transboundary water resources for drinking water production, hydropower, irrigation, and for the other uses; it is thus of prime importance to develop an effective IWRM policy for water resource management respecting natural water balances, more especially as climate change threatens these resources in their quantitative and qualitative aspects.

The application of these policies implies **having a complete and detailed assessment of water resources, which is based on homogeneous, coherent and validated data.**

Most of the data necessary for these assessments and for decision making in water management, are before all produced at national level.

In each country, these data are produced by various organisations and, when computerised, are generally in a **fragmented, incomplete dispersed and heterogeneous** way.

So, in order to facilitate the development and the maintenance of the regional information systems used as based tools for regional cooperation, it is particularly recommended to:

- **Reinforce the capacities of the main organisation in data management/validation,**
- **Support each country in developing their own national information system**
- **Develop inter-institutional cooperation and agree on regional procedures for data exchange between partners,**

With that in mind, the project “Capacity building in data administration for assessing transboundary water resources in the EECCA” financed by the FFEM (French Global Fund for Environment) is launching a diagnostic of the situation in data management in the various central Asian countries and will latter support the identification of priority actions that could reinforce data administration at national and regional level.

This project fits in with the assessments of water resources undertaken under the “*Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*” (Water Convention). The central Asian component of this project is registered in the Aral Sea basin Program n° 3 (ASBP3) and is implemented in collaboration with EC-IFAS.