

Adoption of the integrated water resources management in the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Global trends

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) appealed to all countries to "develop integrated water resources management and efficient use of water by 2005".
- 3d World Water Forum (Kyoto, 2003)
- 4th World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006)
- 5th World Water Forum (Istanbul 2009)
 - It is noted that water crisis is, first of all, the crisis of management, non-coordinated actions by stakeholders and insufficient financing.

What is the Integrated Water Resources Management?

IWRM is the process providing the coordinated development and management of water, land and other related resources aiming to achieve the maximal socio-economic wellbeing on the basis of equity without causing damage to vital ecosystems.

IWRM is more the political process aiming to conflict resolution, but the need in **IWRM** is caused by the need to achieve the equitable use of shared water resources.

IWRM is the key of sustainable development.

About the need to start the institutional reforms on water resources management

- Institutional capacity of the Committee for Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture (CWRMA) is invariable and limited.
- The elaborated national plan of **IWRM** and water saving for Kazakhstan didn't obtain the needed status.
- Decentralization of water sector governance.
- Low status of CWRMA and lack of staff.
- Insufficient financing of the water sector.

Main water problems of Kazakhstan

1. Critical shortage of water resources both in some regions and in the Republic as a whole.
2. Unfavorable hydrologic regime of the majority of non-regulated rivers and temporary streams.
3. Relations between neighboring countries concerning transboundary water use aren't fully adjusted.
4. Surface water quality virtually in all water bodies does not meet the established standards.
5. Inefficient, unreasonable use of water resources in agriculture (*water management problems both in water intakes and the irrigated fields*).
6. Low productivity of irrigation water due to the outdated irrigation machinery (*sprinkling machines, drip irrigation systems, etc.*).
7. Water metering system and monitoring of water resources formation and use don't meet modern requirements.
8. Shortage or actual lack of qualified hydraulic engineers.

Reasons to develop and implement IWRM in Kazakhstan

- Development Strategy for Kazakhstan up to 2030.

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and obligations of country "to develop Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and to increase the water use efficiency by 2005".
- The concept of water sector development and water policy of Kazakhstan up to 2010, endorsed by the Government decision of 21.01.2002, ¹ 71
- Water Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2003).
- Government Decree of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 11.10. 2006. ¹ 978 "On Signing the Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and UNDP concerning the project on the National Plan of IWRM and Water Saving for Kazakhstan."
- The Concept of Transition of Kazakhstan to Sustainable Development for 2007-2024, approved by the Presidential Decree of 14.11.2006, ¹ 216, where water issues are considered as one of the key factors of environmental, social and economic development.

The project was developed on the basis of:

- Paragraph 26, Chapter 4 of the Implementation Plan of resolutions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

Paragraph 10 of the Action Plan on implementation of agreements reached during the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, Mr. K.M. Bondevik to the Republic of Kazakhstan on May 25-26, 2004, approved by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 13.10.2004, ¹ 302-p;

The Project Budget amounted to \$ 1,726,210 as a grant. The need to develop and implement IWRM was also due to a number of water-environmental problems in Kazakhstan, of which the main reasons are primarily problems in the water management and use.

In addition, the mentioned reasons for the IWRM development and practical application indicate to the international obligations adopted by the Republic of Kazakhstan at the international forums.

Concerning promotion and status of the National IWRM Plan and Water Saving

Following the internal endorsement in the ministries and departments, in late 2008, the Government has prepared a draft presidential decree on the National Plan of IWRM.

The project was withdrawn on May 2009.

The meeting of concerned ministries, agencies and representatives of international organizations, where the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been entrusted to develop a sectoral program on IWRM, which is currently in consultation process with interested organizations, was held on June 2010 at the Executive Office of the President of Kazakhstan.

Thus, the status of the National Plan was reduced to the level of sectoral program of the Ministry, which is the main consumer of water resources, with all the ensuing consequences...