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European Water Directive and Water Development Planning in Central Asian Project Site under Project Rivertwin

The Project Rivertwin is being implemented jointly by partners from Europe, Central Asia and Africa. The project objective is to develop integrated development scenarios (IDS) for river basins. Further, IDS will be submitted to relevant authorities as a tool for strategic water development planning (SWDP).

The river basins from Germany (Neckar river), Benin (Queme river), and Central Asia (Chirchik and Akhangaran rivers) were selected as modeling subjects. Within the project, SIC ICWC conducts research in the Chirchik-Akhangaran basin (CHAB), which covers an area of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan (project countries).

The mean annual water resources in CHAB amount to 9.32 km³, of which: about 88% - Uzbekistan; nearly 12% - Kazakhstan; and, less than 1% - Kyrgyzstan.

The area of CHAB is about 22 900 km², including: 15 600 (71.2%) – Uzbekistan; 3 300 (15.1%) – Kazakhstan; and, nearly 3 000 – Kyrgyzstan.

Sustainable water management in CHAB depends on coordinated actions of the project countries. In this context, it is advisable to take provisions of the European Water Directive² (EWD) in part of river basin management (Article 13) as a basis for SWDP in CHAB.

In CHAB, initially river basin management plans (RBMP) are developed separately for Chatkal river basin (Kyrgyzstan), Keles (Kazakhstan), Chirchik and Akhangaran (Uzbekistan), and next general RBMP for CHAB is drawn up.

When developing RBMP for CHAB, EWD requirements (Annex 7) can be met; however, certain efforts should be made to fulfill the following conditions:

- clear statement of environmental objectives;
- organization of environmental monitoring of water bodies;
- economic analysis of water use;
- other.

In particular, relevant water management authorities in **EU** act within the framework of common **EU** legislation. The project countries have not such legislation but national water agencies could conclude Agreements on sustainable development in CHAB in order to implement the respective decisions made by the Head of Central Asian states in area of transboundary river basin management.

This would be a considerable contribution to legal framework of cooperation between the project countries so that to improve sustainability of water management in CHAB. Development of recommendations on drawing up of agreed, between the project countries, draft general RBMP could be foreseen as one of outputs under Rivertwin on CHAB.

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² Directive of the European Parliament and the European Council 2000/60/EC of 23.10.2000, which lays the foundation for **EU**'s activities in water policy.