

Future public policies and development scenarios for sustainable water resources management in Chirchik-Akhangaran-Keles river basin (Central Asia)

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Introduction

The interests' conflict at use water resources (transboundary - between the neighbors countries, national - between the economy sectors) as the objective phenomenon. Important in these conditions it is represented to have the coordinated politics and unified legislation (as on regional and national level) on different aspects of water use. As a rule, at occurrence of disagreements and presence of the appropriate arrangements, interested parties (states, economy sectors, other stakeholders) do accent on the attention on the normative acts rules, which are broken, instead of appeal to the third party. The presence of good legal base of water resources management (WRM) is also factor of restraint of emotions, excludes pointlessness of disputes, is allows carry out actions of the parties within the limits of a legal field.

As is known, World Sustainable Development Summit (Johannesburg, 2002) has called all states to have to 2005 the National integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans, which should be ready to practical introduction. In turn, in the appropriate documents the Central Asian States have confirmed adherence to IWRM principles. On Global Water Partnership (GWP) classification, key elements promoting IWRM introduction are:

- Political decisions ("water politics"),
- Legislative basis ("water politics in the form of the law "),
- Financing and stimulation.

CONSIDERED PROBLEMS AND STUDY OBJECT

Let's notice, that though we will consider the problems of WRM at a local level, the politics and legislation "are made" in each country at a national (central) level. Another question - decentralization of political decisions' execution, which allows solve many local problems more effectively by local communities, according to national politics and legislation. Therefore in given abstract the local problems are analyzed in a context of working national politics and opportunity of its change for increase of WRM efficiency at a local level. As an example the transboundary Chirchik-Akhangaran-Keles basin (ChAKB) is chosen, which allows to considered not only national, but also interstate aspect of WRM. Let's notice also, that in ChAKB EU the Specific Targeted Research Project "Rivertwin" ("A regional model for integrated water management in twinned river basins") is realized.

The project objective is to develop integrated development scenarios (IDS) for each project river basins (RBs) - (Germany, Neckar RB), Africa (Benin, Queme RB) and Central Asia (Chirchik, Akhangaran and Keles RBs). ChAKB covers an area of Uzbekistan (Tashkent province), Kazakhstan (Keles massif of Shymkent province taking water from Chirchik river) and Kyrgyzstan (part of Jalalabad province in Chatkal river upper reaches). Total area of ChAKB is about 21.9 thousand km², of which in Uzbekistan - 15.6 thousand km² (71.2%), in Kazakhstan – 3.3 thousand km² (15.1%), in Kyrgyzstan – about 3,0 thousand km² (13.7%). In ChAKB the basic international RBs are Chatkal RB (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), Ugam RB (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan), Chirchik RB (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan).

The development of Keles RB (Kazakhstan) is possible only at water submission from the river Chirchik (Uzbekistan).

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WATER POLITICS

If is brief - acceptance of the appropriate political decisions in water sector - most "advanced" part in sphere of the interstate water relations between the Central Asian (CA) countries, including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, in which the project “Rivertwin” is realized. On one aspect of the interstate relations the Heads of the Central Asia states did not meet so often, as on water-ecological problems. The confirmation to this is served an acceptance by the Heads of all CA-states the Kyzyl-Orda, Nukus, Alma-Ata, Dushanbe Declarations, the Tashkent, Ashgabat Applications, 2 Aral Sea Basin Programs (ASBP-1, ASBP-2) under the decision of regional water-ecological problems of region, not including other bilateral and multilateral meetings top-level on these questions. Thus, coordinated by the Heads of the CA-states the political base for the joint transboundary WRM of region is present.

NATIONAL WATER LEGISLATION

National Water legislation and reflection in it of base principles IWRM, in particular – WRM on river basin principle. Key IWRM provisions cover all water management aspects, but the basic principle is basin WRM principle, it represents WRM integrity.

Kazakhstan. Water Code of Kazakhstan was adopted on 2003, where basin WRM principle as well as set of other provisions (priorities, environment water needs, public participation in WRM, etc.) that promote IWRM adoption at national level have been established.

Kyrgyzstan. Water Code of Kyrgyzstan was entered into action on 2005. Basin and other IWRM principles are reflected in the Water Code. Land and other legislation of Kyrgyzstan allow transition IWRM at national level also.

Uzbekistan. Existing Law of Uzbekistan “About water and water use” was adopted on 1993, later some amendments and additions were brought in it. Basin WRM principle was not reflected in the Law. In the same time basin (hydrographical) principle of WRM came to the effect according to Uzbekistan President Order from

24.03.2003 № VII 3226 «About the most important aspects of deepening reforms in agriculture» by Uzbekistan Cabinet Ministers Statement № 320 from 21.07.2003 «About water management improvement». Water, land, and other legislation of Uzbekistan allow IWRM principles' implementation.

Here it is necessary to note that in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan the appropriate separate legislation on public bodies of WRM at the bottom level (“about water use associations) are accepted, in Uzbekistan the similar law is not accepted and is at a stage of draft development. At the same time Existing Water Legislation permits to create public associations for WRM at different levels.

FINANCING AND STIMULATION IN WATER SECTOR

As a whole: in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan the payment for water use is entered, water legislation provides the opportunity of transfer a line of water sectors' objects to the private persons and structures, in Uzbekistan these questions are studied while only. In all project countries the basic costs on contain of the irrigation infrastructure covers by state. In all project countries there are as the declaration the questions of economic stimulus of water use as a whole.

DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS AND CHANGES IN POLITICS AND WATER LEGISLATION

Analysis on a basis scenarios approaches shows that only realization of the optimistic scenario and IWRM introduction will allow to achieve by the countries the purposes of the sustainable development, putting by the CA-states Heads. In particular, for conditions of ChAKB the following basic requirements should be observed:

- Political stability at regional and national level (low political pressure);
- Rather low and stable rates of population growth (urban - 0.8-0.9 % per year, village - 1.3-1.5 % per year);
- Fast economic growth (GNP growth: 7-8 % per year in nearest 8-10 years);
- Introduction of the technologies water economy and on this basis - decrease of the water submission for irrigation and allocation of water for a nature;
- Decrease of the collector-drainage (polluted returnable) waters' dump;
- Establishment of ecological flows' norms for the ChAKB rivers and channels;
- Organization of effective information interchanges system between the Parties;
- The basic managing forms in agriculture will be private sector (farms etc.);
- Strong public values and decisions, strong public participating in WRM;
- Priority to well-being of the man and education; and some others.

The performance of the mentioned above conditions will require some changes in politics and significant changes in the legislation and acceptance of realization of a line of concrete measures, which are concretized in basic clause.