

## NEWSLETTER

15 August, 2006

### **UNEP Support to Central Asian Countries in Achievement of IWRM 2005 Objectives. “Speedup of Process”**

#### **Central Asian Component of Program and Its Structure**

This Central Asian component of the program is being developed by UNEP and UCC-Water in close cooperation with GWP CACENA<sup>1</sup>. Development of this component was commenced in October 2005, and would be continued up to October 2006.

The regional coordinating and consulting group had been formed from representatives of the GWP CACENA, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UCC –Water agency. At the end of 2005, the National groups for coordination and support of IWRM were formed in all three republics. These groups comprised representatives of the key ministries and agencies in water resources management.

The planned activities within the framework of this component envisage the following phases of progress:

- *Sub-regional reporting on progress in achievement of the IWRM 2005 objectives and the structure of IWRM with concentrating of attention on the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan*
- *Development of the National “road maps”/plans for the IWRM 2005 objectives in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan*
- *Creation of managerial capacity of the senior water resources managers for the IWRM planning and its issues with the aim to “speedup” progress in the IWRM planning.*

The progress up to July 2006 was reported in the first Newsletter of this project.

#### **Regional Seminar within Framework of UNEP Program (Bishkek, 27-28 July, 2006)**

The regional seminar with participation of the key managers and decision makers on water problems in the Central Asia (the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan) was held 27-28 July, 2006, in Bishkek (the Kyrgyz Republic). The objectives of this seminar were to inform and consult with stakeholders on the development of the national “road maps” of planned actions on transition to IWRM in pursuance of the commitments assumed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002). In the course of this seminar the following was presented and discussed:

- (i) Assessment of the actual state of activities on the way towards transition to the IWRM, including lessons learned from the “IWRM-Fergana” project and experience of

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<sup>1</sup> Global Water Partnership, Central Asia and Caucasus

Kazakhstan in regard to development of the National Work Plans on IWRM and water saving

- (ii) Identification of concept and content of the “road map”
- (iii) Identification of problems which require the special attention during training of stakeholders in the IWRM principles.

On 30-31 July, 2006, in Cholponata (the Kyrgyz Republic) within the framework of program, prepared by the GWP CACENA and UCC Water, a joint capacity building session with participants of the regional seminar and the “Tool Box Dissemination” seminar was held..

24 specialists representing ministries and institutions of the region, as well as representatives of the international organizations participated in this seminar.

Deputy minister, Director General of the Department of water resources<sup>2</sup>, member of the ICWC<sup>3</sup>, Mr. Baratali Koshmatov addressed the welcoming speech. In his speech he stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation of the Central Asian countries, for an efficient water resources use on the basis of transition to the IWRM. He thanked UNEP for assistance in initiating the process of preparation of the national IWRM plans.

During the first day of seminar the heads and specialists of the key water managements ministries and institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan made their general presentations the “*National priority interests, objectives and visions of water resources management in the environmental context and their coordination with the Regional limitations*”.

The main problems of the region’s water resources management in the conditions of reformation and restructuring of water management and agricultural sectors (the main water consumer in the countries of the region) and ways for coordination of the national and regional interests in the environmental context of water resources management were presented in these national reports.



In the next set of reports and speeches, made by the Regional Coordinator of UCC-Water Program, Dr. P. Lindgaard-Jørgensen, chairman of the GWP CACENA, Dr. Vadim I. Sokolov, project consultant on the legal issues, Dr. Yusup Kh. Rysbekov, the sub-regional coordinator of UCC-Water Program, Mr. Michail G. Horst, and manger of UNDP project in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Alexandr Nikolaenko, it was presented:

<sup>2</sup> Department of water resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and Food Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic  
<sup>3</sup> Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of the Central Asia

- Methodological approaches to development of the “road maps”,
- Review and analysis of the political and legal basis of the region’ transboundary water courses management,
- Review and analysis of the current conditions of the managerial capacity for the IWRM planning in Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan,
- Experience and problems associated with development of the National IWRM plan in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The next set of reports was devoted to one of the actual problems for the region – establishment of the Water User Associations (WUAs). Because the major part of the region’s water resources is used in irrigated agriculture, this level of water hierarchy is very important, in the improvement of water use efficiency and water consumption productivity, and involvement of farmers in the processes of water resources management. The reports on the “Experience and problems associated with establishment of WUA, as the element of transition to the IWRM” were presented by: Mr. Erkinbek I. Kozhoyev (Head of the Center for support and regulation of WUA, the Kyrgyz Republic), Dr. Rakhmankul Rakhmatilloev (Leading specialist of the Center for support of farms privatization, the Republic of Tajikistan), and Mr. Normukhammad I. Sheraliev (Head of Department of the Main Administration of Water Resources, MAWR of the Republic of Uzbekistan<sup>4</sup>).



This was followed by a presentation of the draft “road maps” developed by the national groups for support to transition to the IWRM. These presentations were made by: Mr. Abdybay Sh. Djailoobaev (Director of Kyrgyz Branch of SIC ICWC, the National expert to UCC-Water), Dr. Yarash Pulatov (Director General of the TajikNIIGIM, the National expert to UCC-Water), and Mr. Normukhammad I. Sheraliev (Head of Department of the Main Administration of Water Resources, MAWR of RUz, assistant of the National expert to UCC-Water).

During discussions (they were continued on 30-31 July, at the joint UNEP and GWP ToolBox seminar capacity building seminar) comments and proposals on revisions of the presented draft national “road maps” were given by the participants. This comprised e.g. the necessity to stress the improvement of water use productivity, social mobilization of stakeholders, and, especially in irrigated agriculture, training for stakeholders of various levels of water hierarchy in the IWRM principles and tasks. It was proposed along with the revisions of the presented road maps to attach to them the explanatory notes/rationale for the planned short-term (2007-2008) activities and to estimate the budget to undertake the short term activities. Participant of discussion supported and endorsed the objectives and tasks of the project at its final stage of implementation and scope of the planned activities.

<sup>4</sup> Main administration of water resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan

## Further Plans within the Framework of Project

The schedule of works, approved at the regional seminar, envisages the following:

- Follow-on/revision of the national “road maps” and their approval by the key ministries and institutions
- Carrying out the 2. round of national seminars in September 2006
- Development of the final sub-regional report on the project activities
- Preparation and carrying out (in November 2006) the final regional seminar with participation of the potential sponsors to the next stages of activities outlined in the national “road maps”.



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