

Status of implementation status of the recommendations

**Strengthening Cooperation on Water Quality Management in Central Asia** (Dec 2018)

**Final Progress report as at 31 December 2019**

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	It is recommended that the UNECE continues efforts in improving transboundary water quality cooperation in Central Asia, capacity building of relevant authorities, and supporting the RWG as one of the most successful platforms for regional cooperation.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>A project document to further support Central Asia water quality cooperation is developed and funding opportunities are explored.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>Closed and not implemented</b></p> <p>A project document to further support Central Asia water quality cooperation was developed and funding opportunities were explored by UNECE in 2019. The future project would have further strengthened cooperation on water quality management in Central Asian states through piloting joint monitoring of water quality and application of joint analysis, data and information sharing. However, no donors have shown interest to support this proposal, hence the recommendation is closed as of December 2019.</p>
2	<p>(a) It is recommended that the UNECE ensures that the Mandate for the RWG is approved by all five Central Asia countries as soon as possible by the means of both working on the policy level and supporting local experts involved in coordination with authorities. The UNECE should put further efforts into the “incorporation” of the RWG into an officially existing and reputable interstate structure.</p> <p>(b) The UNECE could also consider re-assessing the needs for establishing a separate database for water quality issues and, if the result is positive, identify a politically acceptable and technically feasible solution.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>(a) Should UNECE be successful in mobilizing resources for the future project a follow up discussion with the RWG will continue to ensure the Mandate is approved.</p> <p>(b) Discussions will also be held with the RWG on allocating appropriate regional platform.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>(a) Implemented</b></p> <p>The mandate of the RWG was approved in March 2019</p> <p><b>(b) Closed and not implemented</b></p> <p>The issue of incorporating the RWG into officially existing interstate structure and assessment of the needs for establishing a separate data-base for water quality would have been considered in the framework of a future project. However, as UNECE was not successful in mobilizing resources, this proposition will not materialize, hence the recommendation is closed as of December 2019.</p>

3	<p>For similar projects of the UNECE, the furniture and equipment class of expenditure (“Investments” budget component) can be regarded as not appropriate. It is recommended to the UNECE to ensure that the project starts without delay or, should it be impossible, that the Project term is extended proportionally.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>Better situation analysis will be conducted at the project design stage to ensure the project starts without delay. The recommendation on furniture and equipment is also accepted.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>Implemented in June 2019.</b></p> <p>These recommendations were considered and included in the project proposal. The situation analysis was conducted in close cooperation with agencies concerned and furniture/investment component is excluded from the project proposal.</p>
4	<p>The UNECE is recommended to explore the possibility of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) support for meetings of the RWG in the future via its Blue Peace initiative. The UNECE could also approach other donors to request funding for more specific activities, including joint monitoring of water.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>The SDC supported the meeting of the RWG in February 2019. Funding opportunities will be explored in 2019.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>Closed and not implemented</b></p> <p>Further cooperation with the SDC and other donors would have been explored within the frame of the future project. However, as UNECE was not successful in mobilizing resources, this proposition will not materialize, hence the recommendation is closed as of December 2019.</p>
5	<p>The UNECE should continue working with the Governments of the five Central Asia countries on the problem of quality of water. Provided the donor funding is secured, the UNECE could design similar projects not to lose the momentum and to have a long-lasting impact.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>Draft project document is developed, and funding is sought. The draft project among others include: improvement of transboundary monitoring systems and establishing a mechanism for data and information exchange.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>Closed and not implemented</b></p> <p>Project document developed and was submitted to the Mission of Russian Federation for financial support. The project proposal was declined, hence the recommendation is closed as of December 2019.</p>
6	<p>If the UNECE secures funding and decides to continue supporting the RWG and the “quality of water” theme in Central Asia in general, it could consider doing this in close cooperation with other development partners.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the SDC, EU (under the NPD process) and other UN organizations active in Central Asia to establish cooperation on water quality issues in Central Asia.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>Closed and not implemented</b></p> <p>In 2019, UNECE sought to include the water quality component under the NPD process for Central Asia through a new project. However, as UNECE was not successful in mobilizing resources, this proposition will not materialize, hence the recommendation is closed as of December 2019.</p>

<p><b>7 The practice of involvement of women in the project activities, especially participation in the capacity building, expert and Regional Work Group, should be continued. Giving a special notice on equal participation of women to respective ministries should be continued as a good practice for similar projects. It is recommended to explore opportunities to cooperate with the UCA or with UN Women on gender aspects in Tajikistan within similar kind of projects in the future.</b></p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE has no control over nominations of participants in the project activities. However, in future projects UNECE will encourage governments to include more female participants in the project activities particular in Tajikistan, including those from UCA and UN Women, Project Manager will follow up in 2019 with potential donors</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajjiev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p><b>Closed and not implemented</b></p> <p>Such outreach will be conducted by the Environment Division when the meetings are planned. The recommendation is closed as of December 2019.</p>
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