UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TERMINAL REPORT OF THE UNDA 6TH TRANCHE PROJECT 08/09V

"Water Quality in Central Asia"

(2008-2012)

1. Summary of your overall assessment of the project results (to be used for the website and other reports to the GA)

The objective of the project was to contribute to the development of efficient and coordinated national policies with regard to water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management in Central Asia.

As a result of the UNDA project, the five countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, sharing water resources in Central Asia have for the first time defined a platform for cooperation on water quality management. A Regional Working Group on water quality management with officially nominated representatives of these countries has met six times in 2009-2012 and has developed a Diagnostic Study and a plan for future cooperation "Development of the regional cooperation to ensure water quality in Central Asia" and "Guidelines for water quality monitoring in Central Asia" that have been approved by institutions in all five countries of Central Asia.

The low capacity in the field of water quality management in the region has been developed through the organization of five training workshops on core principles of the management of water quality and training material developed to support future capacity building.

The combination of the joint planning for cooperation and the capacity building has significantly increased the understanding of the issues and the readiness to engage in the development of regional cooperation in this area. The project has contributed to the inclusion of water quality issues in the Aral Sea Basin Programme 3 (ASBP 3), recently approved by all five Central Asian states. This programme is the key cooperation instrument for the countries in the Aral Sea Basin, and its reference to water quality issues is a political endorsement which also opens up opportunities for continued financial support.

Joint assessments of transboundary waters have been made and a monitoring pilot on the basis of the approved Guidelines has been implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. While the results so far are only indicative on the water quality situation, this practical cooperation between the countries has contributed to confidence building and improved working relations.

Availability of additional funds as well as commitments from the authorities in the countries and international organizations will make it possible to continue the work started under this project during the next three years. In the longer term project results are expected to contribute to an improvement of water quality in the five countries.

2. Review of the performance indicators and activities as per logical framework of the project document.

| EA1 | A proposed step-by-step plan to develop coordinated national policies on water quality aspects of integrated water resources management in Central Asia based of the conclusions of the diagnostic study |
|--|---|
| I.1.1. Diagnostic study including an overview of the existing legal framework in the five countries I.1.2. The regional | The Diagnostic Study has been produced and published in Russian (http://www.carecnet.org/assets/images/Quality_rus_web.pdf). The English version is presently being edited and will be made available in the end of 2012. The Regional Working Group has been established with official representation from all five countries of up to four |
| working group established | agencies. |
| I.1.3. A plan presented to ICSD and ICWC for approval | The plan «Development of the regional cooperation to ensure water quality in Central Asia» was launched during the Astana Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in September 2011. It is available in the same publication as the Diagnostic Study (http://www.carecnet.org/assets/images/Quality_rus_web.pdf). |
| | While ICWC has not convened regularly during the past years, the plan will be presented to ICSD during its next meeting, in November 2012. However, the following organizations reviewed and approved the Diagnostic Study as well as the proposed cooperation plan: 1) Committee on Sanitary-Epidemiological Control, Ministry of Health, Republic of Kazakhstan 2) Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic |
| | of Kazakhstan 3) Ministry of Health of Kyrgyz Republic 4) Agency of Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic 5) State Agency for Protection of Environment and Forestry, Kyrgyz Republic 6) State Committee on Water Management and Melioration, Kyrgyz Republic 7) Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan |
| | 8) State Agency on Hydrometeorology, Tajikistan |

| | 9) Ministry of Environmental Protection, Turkmenistan |
|-------------------------------|---|
| | 10) Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan |
| | 11) State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic |
| | of Uzbekistan |
| | 12) SIC ICWC, Tashkent, Uzbekistan |
| Qualitative | |
| Results achieved | |
| for EA1: | |
| A.1.1. Drafting | A core group (including national and international |
| of a background | consultants) was set up for the drafting of the Diagnostic |
| study including | study. This core group met separately to discuss the structure |
| an overview of | and draft the study (13-14 April 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan). |
| the existing legal | The Regional Working Group commented on and discussed |
| framework. | the consecutive drafts. Before finalization of the background |
| | study it was distributed to 20 agencies and institutions in the |
| | five countries for comments and approval. To this date a |
| | broad support is given by 12 agencies (see above) that have |
| | sent written approvals of the report. |
| | In addition to these reports, separate, more detailed overviews |
| | on water quality management for each of the Central Asian |
| | countries have been developed and published. This additional work has been done in cooperation with a project funded by |
| | the European Union: "Harmonization and Approximation of |
| | Water Standards and Norms in Central Asia". |
| A.1.2. | The Regional Working Group was established by requesting |
| Establishment of | nominations from environmental, water, hydro-meteorological |
| a regional | and health agencies of the respective countries. |
| working group. | Representatives of international organizations engaged in |
| | water management projects or initiatives in the region were |
| | also invited to the meetings to contribute to the work. At the |
| | end of the project the Regional Working Group agreed to |
| | continue their work to develop the regional cooperation on |
| | water quality and request a more permanent mandate from |
| | ISDC. |
| A.1.3. Meetings | The Regional Working Group has met six times: twice in |
| of the regional | Bishkek on 3-4 March 2009 and 25-26 May 2011, in Almaty |
| working group | three times on 6-7 October 2009, 13-14 December 2010 and 3 |
| with | May 2012, and in Astana on 21-23 September 2011. |
| contributions | International congultants have newtrainested and made |
| from consultants to develop a | International consultants have participated and made contributions to all meetings of the Regional Working Group. |
| plan for the | Continuum to an incentige of the Regional working Group. |
| establishment of | In addition to the meetings of the Regional Working Group, |
| coordinated | the cooperation with the EU project referred to above has |
| national policies | made it possible also to organize national meetings of |
| national policies | made it possible and to organize national meetings of |

| on water quality | agencies involved in water quality assessment and |
|-------------------|--|
| aspects of | management. |
| integrated water | |
| resources | |
| management in | |
| Central Asia. | |
| EA2 | Improved capacity among water experts and officials in |
| | the field of water quality aspects of integrated water |
| | resources management |
| I.2.1. Training | On the basis of the Diagnostic Study, the Cooperation Plan |
| material | and the material presented during the meetings of the |
| developed on the | Regional Working Group and the three workshops, the |
| basis of | training material consisting of four main blocks of issues was |
| experiences of | developed: |
| activities A.1.1- | _ |
| | Block 1. Assessment of water quality management in |
| 3 and A.3.1-3 | Central Asia |
| and adapted for | Block 2. Practical studies of water quality |
| training | Block 3. Influence of water quality on public health |
| purposes. | Block 4. International experience in water quality |
| | management |
| | The training material has been developed in the format of CDs |
| | and has been distributed to universities in the region. |
| I.2.2. Number of | The total number of participants from Central Asia in the six |
| water experts | meetings of the Regional Working Group and the three |
| and officials | workshops organized is 249. |
| trained in the | |
| regional | |
| working group | |
| (see EA1) and | |
| workshops. | |
| Qualitative | |
| Results achieved | |
| for EA2: | |
| A.2.1. | The training material was tested in two repetitions with |
| Development | students in Bishkek and Almaty in May 2012 with positive |
| and adaptation | feedback from participants. |
| of training | 1000 and 110111 participation |
| material | |
| A.2.2. | The Workshop was held in Almaty on 24 March 2011. |
| Workshop on | Contributions on the theme of the workshop were made by |
| permitting and | representatives from OECD and the EU project Water |
| | |
| water-quality | Governance in Central Asia. The number of participants from |
| standards | Central Asia was 40. |
| A.2.3. | The Workshop was held in Almaty on 14 December 2010. |
| Workshop on | Contributions on the theme of the workshop were made by |
| monitoring and | representatives from Moldova and Germany. The number of |

| assessment of | participants from Central Asia was 27. |
|----------------|--|
| transboundary | |
| waters | |
| A.2.4. | The Workshop was held in Bishkek on 26 May 2011. |
| Workshop on | Contributions on the theme of the workshop were made by |
| setting of | representatives from Slovakia and Germany. The number of |
| objectives and | participants from Central Asia was 32. |
| programme of | |
| measures | |
| according to | |
| WFD | |

| EA3 | Improved coordination of joint assessment, |
|----------------------------|---|
| | monitoring and information exchange with regard |
| | to water quality |
| I.3.1. Guidelines for | The document was developed under the project. |
| water quality monitoring | «Guidelines for water quality monitoring in Central |
| and exchange of | Asia was launched during the Astana Environment |
| information, and joint | for Europe Ministerial Conference in September |
| assessments presented to | 2011. While ICWC has not convened regularly |
| ICSD and ICWC for | during the past years, the document will be presented |
| approval. | to ICSD during its next meeting, tentatively in |
| | November 2012. |
| I.3.2. Establishment of a | On the basis of the results of analyses from the |
| joint database for water | monitoring pilots a joint database was established. |
| quality records. | The database can be found at http://www.cawater- |
| | info.net/water_quality_in_ca/index_e.htm. |
| I.3.3. Joint pilot | An analytical review was made of available data – |
| assessment of one | including from the monitoring pilot – on the water |
| transboundary river | quality and monitoring situation in the Vakhsh and |
| based on available data | Talas rivers. |
| made according to the | |
| Guidelines. | |
| I.3.4. Monitoring results | The monitoring pilot was set up with the involvement |
| exchanged between | of Hydromet laboratories in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan |
| countries participating in | and Tajikistan on the rivers of Vaksh, Talas and Chu. |
| a monitoring pilot. | Results were exchanged via the database accessible |
| | on: http://www.cawater- |
| | info.net/water_quality_in_ca/index_e.htm |
| Qualitative Results | |
| achieved for EA3: | |
| A.3.1. Development of | The Guidelines including the background study were |
| guidelines for water | developed by a consultant with the involvement of |
| quality monitoring and | the Regional Working Group. |
| exchange of information | |

| by the regional working group with contributions from consultants. This will also include a background study on the existing monitoring network in the region. A.3.2. Establishment of a joint database for water quality records. | Proposals for the database were developed by SIC ICWC and discussed by the Regional Working Group before its finalization. Results from the monitoring pilot were introduced in the database by the involved laboratories. A training seminar on the use of the database was organized for the involved laboratories |
|---|---|
| A.3.3. Joint assessment of a transboundary river based on available data. | as well as Uzbek specialists in August 2011. The analytical review was discussed and conclusions drawn during the final Regional Working Group meeting. |
| A.3.4. Implementation of a pilot for monitoring and exchange of data. | Three laboratories were involved in the monitoring pilot: • The branch of the Republican State Enterprise "Kazhydromet" in Zhambul oblast • Agency of Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic • State Administration for Hydrometeorology, Environmental Monitoring Centre (EMC), Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan Monitoring according to the Guidelines was made in the following locations: • Tigrovaya Balka on the Vakhsh river • Blagoveshenka village on the Chu river • Zhasorken village on the Talas river • Downstream Talas town on the Talas river • Boor-Terek village on the Talas river • Uch-Korghon village on the Talas river • Manas village on the Talas river |
| | Monitoring results were shared via a joint database accessible to all involved partners (see I.3.2). As part of a pilot project, an exchange visit was organized to the Taraz laboratory 14-18 November 2011. Representatives of laboratories from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in this exchange visit. During the exchange visit, the |

| participants got acquainted with the equipment of the |
|--|
| laboratory, gauging stations on the Talas river, where |
| measurements were carried out in a pilot project, and |
| participated in an introductory tour of Taraz city. |
| Procurement of equipment contributing to improved |
| quality of future monitoring is completed. Most of |
| the equipment has been delivered and the remaining |
| will be delivered by the beginning of 2013. |

3. Statistical data

3.1 Number of workshops (participants, gender) and advisory mission

- The first meeting of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality in Central Asia, 3-4 March 2009, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan- 45 participants (14 women)
- The second meeting of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality in Central Asia, 24-25 March 2010, Almaty, Kazakhstan 40 participants (19 women)
- The third meeting of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality in Central Asia, Almaty, Kazakhstan, December 13-14, 2010 27 participants (12 women)
- The fourth meeting of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, May 25-26, 2011 32 participants (11 women)
- The fifth meeting of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality in Central Asia, Astana, Kazakhstan, September 21-23, 2011 23 participants (8 women)
- The sixth meeting of the Regional Working Group on water quality in Central Asia, 3 May 2012, Almaty, Kazakhstan 51 participants (26 women)
- Core group meeting for editing of the Diagnostic Study, Almaty, 13-14 April 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan 11 participants (4 women)
- Workshop on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, 14 December 2010, Almaty 27 participants (12 women)
- Workshop on permitting and water-quality standards 24 March 2011, Almaty 40 participants (19 women)
- Workshop on setting of objectives and programme of measures according to WFD, 26 May 2011, Bishkek 32 participants (11 women)
- Training workshop Water quality data base, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 18-19
 October 2011 15 participants (6 women)
- Study visit to the Taraz laboratory, Kazakhstan, 14-18 November 2011 15 participants (7 women)
- Pilot training session 18 May in Almaty and 22 May in Bishkek 44 participants (25 women)

3.2 List of countries who benefited from interventions

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

3.3 Main partners in project implementation

CAREC (co-responsible for implementation), Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC), OECD, European Union, UNDP national offices, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) in Slovakia, and Finnish Environment Institute.

3.4 Beneficiary institutions

Kazakhstan

- o Committee of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture
- o Ministry of Environmental Protection
- National Hydrometeorological Service "Kazhydromet", Ministry of Environmental Protection
- The branch of the Republican State Enterprise "Kazhydromet" in Zhambul oblast
- Committee of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Ministry of Health
- Eurasian Center on Water within the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan

Tajikistan

- Department of Hydrometeorology, Committee for Environmental Protection
- Department of Hydro-Geological Land Reclamation Expedition, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Management
- o Hydrometeorological Agency, Committee for Environmental Protection
- Laboratory of Surface Waters, Hydrometeorological Agency, Committee for Environmental Protection
- State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Service, Ministry of Health

Uz.bekistan

- Department for Protection and Efficient Use of Water Resources, Conservation of Land Resources, Common Minerals and Waste Management, State Committee for Nature Protection
- Laboratory for Monitoring of Surface Water Pollution, Atmosphere, Surface Water and Soil Pollution Monitoring Service, Center for Hydrometeorology under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzhydromet)

Kyrgyz Republic

 Department of Monitoring of Pollution of the Environment, Kyrgyzhydromet

- Department of Water Resources and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
- o State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Ministry of Health
- o Agency of Ecological Monitoring, State Agency for Environmental Protection

<u>Turkmenis</u>tan

- Turkmenistan was represented in the regional work of the project by a representative of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea
- o In meetings on the national level the participating institutions included:
 - Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP)
 - Ministry of Water Management
 - National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, MNP
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - EC IFAS of Turkmenistan
 - Turkmen State Scientific-Research and Design Institute "Turkmengiprovodhoz"
 - State Sanitary-Epidemiological Service under the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry
 - National Committee on Hydrometeorology
- 4. Please elaborate on the following issues related to the project, both in terms of project design (i.e. materials, type of activities, expected accomplishments, objectives, etc.) and project implementation (collaborations, implementation structures, etc.).

a. Good practices

- i. The official involvement of national as well as regional organizations in the project implementation has been a positive factor.
- ii. Linking the project to other processes and projects has served to improve the impact of the project politically and also given access to additional resources for the project.

b. Problems encountered

- i. Water quality is in some countries not seen as an important political objective while water quantity is more in the center of the attention and it has taken some efforts to overcome this problem.
- ii. Procurement of laboratory equipment for countries in the region has been difficult from an administrative perspective. Relations

- with the customs and some aspects of internal UN administrative regulations are causing some delays in deliveries.
- iii. Not only relations between countries are restricting the development of appropriate water quality management and information, but also the bottle-necks with regard to inter-agency cooperation at the national level.

c. Lessons learned (both positive and negative)

- i. It has been possible to develop a regional platform for cooperation on this issue and there is a willingness among institutions and countries to continue this work.
- ii. The development of this cooperation is a long-term challenge where national and regional champions as well as international support will be important to make it sustainable.
- 5. Are some of the products or approaches generated by the project continuing to be used by the target audience or other groups?

As this project is among the first attempts to regularize cooperation on water quality in Central Asia, the project has been designed to establish guidelines and a platform for cooperation that can be used sustainably in the future. It is expected that the principles outlined in this project will be approved by the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development as a basis for future cooperation on water quality in the region. See also the external evaluation of the project.

6. Are there any plans to continue or to replicate any of the activities or initiatives of the project?

UNECE and its partner, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, plan to support further cooperation on water quality in the region according to the framework established by this project. Some funds have already been raised for this purpose.

7. Were supplementary funds raised during the course of the project to support the project's objective and facilitate the achievement of the expected accomplishments?

The parallel implementation of the <u>EU project "Harmonization and Approximation of Water Standards and Norms in Central Asia"</u> gave opportunities for synergies substantially as well as co-funding of activities. Funds for project activities have also been contributed by IWAC and the Finnish Environment Institute.

8. List of additional information materials on project activities available, such as press clippings, media coverage, meeting reports, publications, websites etc. You may include important materials with this report as desired; if the information is

available online, it would be particularly useful to send the relevant URLs. Reports of internal and/or external evaluations conducted should also be included.

The project material is available in English on

http://www.carecnet.org/programmes-and-activities/water-initiatives-support/project-water-quality-in-central-asia/?lang=en, and in Russian on http://www.carecnet.org/programs_and_projects/water_initiatives_support/proekt-kachestvo-vody-v-centralnoj-azii/.

Press releases of the UNECE can be found on:

http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26356

http://www.unece.org/press/pr2012/env_p01.html

Some media clippings are attached in Annex 1.

The list of equipment purchased for laboratories in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan under the project is in Annex 2.

Selected news items related to the UNDA project Water Quality in Central Asia 30/6/2012

WATER QUALITY IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS OF CENTRAL ASIA - THE LAUNCH OF A PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION

September 25, 2011

Source: <u>US Fed News Service</u>, <u>Including US State News</u>. The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. 2011. *HighBeam Research*. 24 Oct. 2012 http://www.highbeam.com>.

ASTANA, Kazakhstan, Sept. 22 -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council's Economic Commission for Europe issued the following news release:

UNECE and Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia are pleased to announce that the first comprehensive Cooperation Plan on water quality, Development of the regional cooperation to ensure water quality in Central Asia was launched today in a side-event during the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana 21 September after approval by a Regional Working Group representing all five Central Asian states.

The plan builds on a Diagnostic Report developed under the UNECE project "Water Quality in Central Asia" ...









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September 2011

WATER QUALITY IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS OF CENTRAL ASIA – THE LAUNCH OF A PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION

Source: <u>UNECE</u>, 22.09.2011

UNECE and Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia are pleased to announce that the first comprehensive Cooperation Plan on water quality, «Development of the regional cooperation to ensure water quality in Central Asia» was launched today in a side-event during the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana 21 September after approval by a Regional Working Group representing all five Central Asian states.

The plan builds on a Diagnostic Report developed under the UNECE project "Water Quality in Central Asia" and includes three strategic directions of work:

- Information exchange and harmonisation of national policies with regard to water quality;
- Cooperation on water quality monitoring and data exchange, and
- The establishment of a regional expert body.

11 authorities in 4 countries of Central Asia so far have approved the Plan for future cooperation, and discussions and approval by regional cooperation organizations is planned as a next step.

The work of the project and the Cooperation Plan build on the principles of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (further Water Convention) and its Protocol on Water and Health as well as the EU Water Framework Directive that are important international frameworks guiding the national as well as transboundary developments in this field.

The countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are dependent on each other with regard to the water resources of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters. Water quality is an important aspect of integrated water resources management that needs further efforts on the national as well as regional levels. Although Central Asian states are actively cooperating on water quantity issues - there is presently no regional cooperation on water quality.

CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES APPROVE JOINT COOPERATION PLAN ON WATER QUALITY

10 May 2012 Source: AKIpress

Representatives of the five Central Asian states endorsed the first comprehensive Cooperation Plan on water quality for the region at a meeting in Almaty on 3 May. This Plan, "Development of the regional cooperation to ensure water quality in Central Asia", was developed within the project "Water Quality in Central Asia" implemented by **UNECE** and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe said.

The plan includes three strategic directions: information exchange and harmonisation of national policies with regard to water quality; cooperation on water quality monitoring and data exchange, and the establishment of a regional expert body.

12 authorities in 5 countries of Central Asia have approved the Plan for future cooperation, and approval by regional cooperation organizations is planned as a next step. It was agreed by the country representatives to continue the work of the Regional Working Group on water quality after the conclusion of the project.

Other achievements of the project include the demonstration of coordinated water quality monitoring with the sharing of information between the involved countries and training of experts on key issues related to water quality management. Laboratories are receiving key equipment to improve their possibilities to monitor water quality.

The work of the project and the Cooperation Plan build on the principles of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (further Water Convention) and its Protocol on Water and Health as well as the EU Water Framework Directive that are important international frameworks guiding the national as well as transboundary developments in this field.

The countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are dependent on each other with regard to the water resources of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters. Water quality is an important aspect of integrated water resources management that needs further efforts on the national as well as regional levels. Although Central Asian states are actively cooperating on water quantity issues – the project has initiated a regular framework for cooperation on water quality.

The **UNECE** project "Water Quality in Central Asia" funded by the UN Development Account was launched in March 2009 and will be concluded in June 2012.

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia is an organization working on environmental issues in Central Asia. Founders of CAREC are Central Asian countries

consisting of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission (EC). The CAREC headquarters are located in Almaty, Kazakhstan with country offices operate in all the five member Central Asian countries.

CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES APPROVE PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN WATER QUALITY

Source: http://en.trend.az/capital/business/2023749.html also in RU http://www.trend.az/capital/business/2023700.html

8 May 2012

Trend News Agency (Azerbaijan) Azerbaijan, Baku, May 8 / Trend V. Zhavoronkova /

Representatives of the five Central Asian states approved of the first comprehensive plan for cooperation in the field of water quality at a meeting in Almaty, the UN Economic Commission for Europe said on Tuesday.

A plan, entitled "Development of regional cooperation on ensuring water quality in Central Asia" has been developed under the project "Water quality in Central Asia", which is implemented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

The plan provides for three strategic areas of work, including information exchange and harmonization of national policies on water quality, co-operation on water quality monitoring and data sharing, as well as the establishment of a regional body of experts on the subject.

Plan for future cooperation has been approved by 12 agencies of five states of Central Asia. Discussion and approval of it by regional organizations on cooperation is planned as the next step. Representatives of the States have agreed to continue the work of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality after project completion.

Other achievements include a demonstration coordinated project of water quality monitoring, including the exchange of information among participating countries and the training of experts on key issues of water quality management. Under the project, laboratories in the Central Asian countries receive the necessary equipment that will improve the water quality monitoring.

List of equipment delivered to the laboratories in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Branch of the Republican State Enterprise "Kazhydromet" in Zhambul oblast (Taraz, Kazakhstan)

- Water still Aquadistillator YA-ZD-10
- Portable Oxygen Meter Oxi 3210 SET 2 and Additional Electrode CellOx325-3
- Mettler Toledo pH-Conductivity meter SG23
- Jenway 6300 Spectrophotometer and cuvette holder
- SEBA radar water level stations (SEBA radar sensor SEBA Puls 20)

Agency of Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

- Handheld Oxygen and pH/temp Meter OM-51 and D-51
- Thermostat and Water Bath TW-2.03
- Fridge BEKO GNEV 422X
- Titration device ANION 4100

State Administration for Hydrometeorology, Environmental Monitoring Centre (EMC) (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

- Water still, 'Aquadistillator EMO', model D3-10
- Photometer 'Expert-003': professional set for analyses of natural waters, drinking water, waste water and soil
- Portable Oxygen Meter: 'WTW ProfiLine Oxi 3210, set 2 with CellOx 325-3' (3m cable) + additional electrode CellOx 325-3 (3m cable)
- Thermostat and Water Bath TW-2.03 (8.51, 20-100 degrees)
- Pack-Test Kit for COD Analyses (Chemical Oxygen Demand): Measurement Range 0,0-16 mg/l O₂
- Glassware
 - o Burette 10-50 ml
 - o Flask 250 ml (measured, conic), 6 pcs in one pock
- Reagents:
 - o Manganese Chloride, Tetrahydrate (MnCl2•4H2O), powder
 - o Potassium iodide (KJ), powder
 - o Sodium Thiosulfate (Na2S2O3), powder
 - o Starch (C6H10O5)n, powder
 - o Fixanal Hydrochloric acid (HCl), 0.1 #10
- Conductivity Meter: 'COND-1970i'
- Device for vacuum filtration $\Pi B\Phi$ -35 (+ 500 filters)
- Aquameter AM 200 portable water quality testing equipment equipped with AP 900 multisensor and Rugged Carry Case

- SEBA Flow Sens portable electromagnetic current meter, including digital control unit / rod 6m
- SEBA radar sensor SEBA Puls 20, including data logger Unilog, casing, solar panel for power supply