

GWP CACENA in October 2008

GWP CACENA supported second round (during this year) of the political dialogues on IWRM implementation at the national level in seven countries of the region (except Turkmenistan). It was organized using grant from Government of Finland in the form of inter-sector round tables led by Regional Council members and CWP in each country. The principal issues for discussion were how to create inter-sector platform to facilitate governmental commitment to the process and details of the IWRM national planning activities, and coordination with International donor agencies, which are acting in the region in the similar projects and programs.

On October 23-25 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan there was organized by Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) in Central Asia and OSCE Workshop “Environmental security and safety – a major factor of water management”. GWP CACENA presented to participants new publication “IWRM in Uzbekistan” published in Uzbek language.

On October 30 in Batumi, Georgia it was organized by CWP – Georgia public manifestation in light of the International Day for the Black Sea Protection.

On 10 October 2008 in Bishkek Heads of Central Asian countries using opportunity to meet within framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States had a discussion addressing regional cooperation on water-energy issues. There was confirmed one more time willingness for regional cooperation in this sphere. Also, there were achieved certain agreements and given orders to relevant national authorities to develop and sign within two weeks period inter-governmental documents to regulate among all five countries water-energy issues during winter season 2008-2009. There are preparations for launching the new EC IFAS arrangements during special regional meeting, which will be held on 17-18 November 2008 in Almaty. All these events show promises for new positive impulse to regional water cooperation.

The GWP CACENA, as one of the recognized regional driving forces on the way forward to the WWF-5, is trying to conduct sub-regional preparations in line with policy and activities of the ICWC – leading regional body responsible for real-time water management. Using outcomes of the Bishkek Conference (May 2008) as a basis – GWP CACENA supported preparation of the National position papers for WWF-5, which were drafted by members of ICWC and passed governmental expertise in all five countries (see www.cawater-info.net/5wwf, where all preparations for WWF5 are located for public access). On agreement with ICWC the GWP CACENA submitted proposal for Central Asian session to the Virtual Meeting Space of the WWF5, which was adopted by Organizing Committee of the Water Forum. The GWP CACENA achieved agreement with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland about proper financial support in 2009, which will be allocated via GWP CACENA Secretariat to cover part of costs for Central Asian delegation to World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009 and to support follow-up activities after forum during 2009.