

GWP CACENA PROGRESS REPORT

(July-December 2003)

Output 1: Strengthening the Regional Partnership

Brief Description of Significant Activity

Participation in the significant water forums

Participation in the most significant world water events provided recognition of the GWP CACENA as a new and active member of the GWP family. It also gave opportunities for regional professionals to obtain more information about IWRM experiences around the world. During the 2nd half year GWP CACENA organized GWP and Public participation seminars during Dushanbe Fresh Water Forum (August). The most important event was GWP CACENA Stakeholder Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia (December), where new partnership strategy for coming years was agreed upon. CACENA decided to initiate the creation of the country water partnerships (CWPs) under a common umbrella of a future Regional Water Partnership (RWP).

Highlight the Outcomes of the Activity

The GWP CACENA principal stakeholders agreed that further regional collaboration should be addressed to promote the National IWRM plans preparations. In order to strengthen this process creation of a Regional Water Partnership through establishment of country water partnerships was initiated.

Next Steps for the Activity

The next step is organization of the first assembly meeting for the country water partnership. The pioneer country in the CACENA region is Kazakhstan – the most prepared for IWRM implementation. The organizational arrangements are mostly done. The assembly meeting will be held in the beginning of 2004, where the first country water partnership in the region will be officially inaugurated.

Current Problems and Remedial Actions

Strengthening of the Regional Water Partnership requires proper capacity building and funding system. It was agreed upon two main directions of actions in this respect. The first one is formulation of the fundraising action program for GWP CACENA. The second one – step by step preparations in all eight countries for establishment of the country water partnership (national IWRM status reports, institutional arrangements for CWP, and etc.).

The global initiatives of putting water in the center of sustainable development and by stressing the key role of partnerships as platforms of IWRM dialogues have placed GWP-CACENA in a key position.

The future support from Norway, EU, GEF, USA State Department and others will facilitate national and transboundary cooperation and development. The CACENA neutral platform will certainly increase in significance during the coming years as much of the mandate will be given to GWP and its regions.

Output 2: Establish Alliances for Capacity Building and Link to Existing Networks

Brief Description of Significant Activity

Cooperation with the GWP Associated Programmes

GWP CACENA had a negotiation with INBO senior officials concerning the line of future collaboration between the CACENA region and INBO. Collaboration between GWP CACENA and INBO could be organized within the Associated Program using potential funds from the budget of the EU Water Initiative.

Two persons from the CACENA region passed CapNet courses on IWRM in Switzerland.

Highlight the Outcomes of the Activity

Preliminary agreed to create regional INBO (one in Central Asia and another in Caucasus), which will

include the governmental authorities and regional basin organizations. They should promote lobby of the IWRM issues for transboundary basins from top level. GWP CACENA will organize the similar actions from bottom level using NGOs and mass media.

Next Steps for the Activity

The next step in establishing of the real cooperation with INBO should be organization of the relevant dialogue in the region – as a first step towards to the regional INBO. There was also suggestion to create INBO for the CIS region (12 countries of the former Soviet Union). GWP CACENA started negotiation with Russian State Water Service concerning establishment in Moscow of the regional coordination unit for WWC and INBO activities.

CapNet agreed to support a training program on IWRM in the CACENA countries to link it with ongoing regional activities.

Current Problems and Remedial Actions

The main problem is absence of funds. Again it will be worked out within the fundraising plan and continuation of the negotiations with INBO and CapNet representatives.

Output 3: Dialogues on Urgent Themes to Promote IWRM

Brief Description of Significant Activity

Dialogues on IWRM and Public Participation

The policy dialogue was organised in the CACENA region (at least 6 regional workshops and two round tables) on two principal issues: a) IWRM principles and implementation, b) public participation. To support this process “issue papers” were published and widely disseminated, and regional network of libraries was created (hosted by CAREC). The dialogue was divided into 3 blocks:

- Trends of institutional water management reforms and practical issues of Water Users Association establishing and development;
- Ways to increase water efficiency and tools required for IWRM principles implementation;
- Public involvement in water resources management process

Highlight the Outcomes of the Activity

During discussions concrete proposals for institutional reforms in water sector towards IWRM implementation identified and agreed by all CACENA countries, mechanisms for public participation adopted and measures proposed, the mutual approaches for information exchange identified.

Next Steps for the Activity

Creation of the country water partnerships and public involvement into IWRM process are the necessary steps in transformation process from the RTAC to RWP. GWP CACENA is planning now to work out procedures for those transformations.

In coming months GWP CACENA also intends to start new dialogues on Environmental issues. Collaboration of water and environmental professionals around IWRM implementation will form proper “partnership spirit”, which sometimes disappeared among sector oriented institutions. Such spirit will promote respect and understanding of needed mutual actions to improve water and environment problems. This dialogue should provide capacity building and involvement of a big amount of water and environmental specialists into negotiations on the future regional development.

Current Problems and Remedial Actions

Procedures for the CWP and RWP establishment and administration should be clear and acceptable by all key players in the region. Recently RTAC members are sharing and discussing their ideas on these aspects.

Output 4: Dissemination of CACENA Experiences

Brief Description of Significant Activity

Contribution to the ToolBox

ToolBox version 2 was translated into Russian.. Key cases from CACENA under preparation are about the most problematic issue for the region, the reform of existing legislation in water sector and how to share good experience dealing with communication with stakeholders (to describe social mobilization process for Water User Associations (WUAs) creation).

Highlight the Outcomes of the Activity

The work under case studies for ToolBox will create opportunities for better understanding of the IWRM principles and how instruments can help in implementation these principles into practice within the regional circumstances.

Next Steps for the Activity

In the beginning of 2004 Russian version of ToolBox will be published (1000 copies) for wide dissemination over the region. The next step is to establish communication bridges with ToolBox team (NWP and Wallingford) for guidelines and advices.

Current Problems and Remedial Actions

There is a common opinion in the CACENA region that ToolBox is too theoretical. The principal decision makers/high level water officials do not trust ToolBox as a real mechanism to put IWRM into practice. From this view point, the main task of RTAC is to change a such opinion and to make ToolBox as "living instrument".

Output 5: CACENA Network Management and Governance

Brief Description of Significant Activity

It was established GWP CACENA Secretariat with two persons in staff – Network Officer and Accountant. The host institute is IWMI Tashkent office – it was signed the agreement (between GWP Secretariat and IWMI) on this subject in March 2003 for two-year period. Three RTAC meetings and two mini (one Caucasian and one Central Asian countries) meetings were held during 2003. GWP Chair, Mrs. Catley-Carlson visited region two times to attend GWP CACENA events. GWP Network Officer, Mr. Bjorn Guterstam 3 times attended GWP CACENA key events.

Highlight the Outcomes of the Activity

The strategy for GWP CACENA actions for 2004-2008 was agreed by all RTAC members and supported by high level water sector officials from 7 of 8 countries.

Next Steps for the Activity

The main subjects of discussions during next RTAC meetings should be: details of action program for 2004-2008 and creation of the country water partnerships, and reforming of RTAC into RWP.

Current Problems and Remedial Actions

The working atmosphere and consensus achieved among RTAC members are the promising factors for productive outputs of the GWP CACENA activities in 2004, and a proper basis for future partnership network expansion in the region.