



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For June 2018

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GWP Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA) c/o ICARDA-CAC (GWP CACENA/IWMI), Apt 123, Block 6, Osiyo str,
Tashkent, 100000, Uzbekistan Tel: +998 712 652 555, Fax: +998 711 665 097 Website: www.gwp.org

1. KURA- ARAZ BASIN PROTECTION DAY 2018

Date: June 5, 2018

Place: Azerbaijan

Organizers: CWP-Azerbaijan, OJSC "Azersu"

Participants: water professionals, public

Every year, on 2 June the Kura-Araz River Day is celebrated in Azerbaijan. At the beginning of 2007, according to the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan, the Day of Water and Reclamation Workers is celebrated on June 5 across the country. Therefore, this year these two events were simultaneously held on June 5 in Baku and in the regions of the republic and were widely covered by the country's media.

A scientific and practical conference was organized by CWP-Azerbaijan together with JSC Azersu. CWP-Azerbaijan chairman M. Asadov spoke on the rational use of the republic's water resources. At the moment preparatory work for the publication of the proceedings of this conference is being completed.

These events were widely covered by the mass media and spread throughout the republic. The local operational departments of the Open Joint Stock Company of Land Reclamation and Water Management of Azerbaijan took part in the events.

2. Seminar on the Kura-2 project

Date: June 22, 2018

Place: Baku, Azerbaijan

The workshop was held in the frame of the project "Kura-2" under support of the EU Water Framework Directive. International experts on river basin management, and CWP-Azerbaijan actively participated in the seminar.



3. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



On June 5, the USAID-funded PURE Water project partner communities from Ararat and Armavir, in collaboration with Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia celebrated the World Environment Day. The celebration in Vedi was aimed at increasing public awareness of the importance of efficient water management of the depleting groundwater resources in the Ararat Valley.



The event featured water related photo and painting exhibitions, award

ceremonies, dance and musical performances by local talents.

“The Ararat Valley’s scarce yet valuable water supply demands our ongoing attention, and the U.S. Government will continue to support Armenia’s efforts to use this precious resource efficiently,” Deputy Chief of the U.S. Embassy Yerevan, Rafik Mansour noted in his opening remarks.



4. KURA- ARAKS BASIN PROTECTION DAY 2018

An environmental event on Kura-Araks Rivers’ Protection Day was held by “Country Water Partnership” scientific, environmental NGO in cooperation with Alaverdi Aarhus Center and with the Branch of NABU in the Republic of Armenia in Alaverdi community on June 2, 2018.

June 2, 2000 has been declared a Kura-Araks Rivers’ Protection Day by the initiative of "Kura-Araks" Coalition. This event is celebrated in the three South Caucasus countries every year.

The Debed river is flowing through Alaverdi community; it is a transboundary river and flows through Armenia and Georgia. The importance of the Kura-Araks Rivers’ Protection day was presented during the event, information leaflets, T-shirts with CWP and Kura-Araks Rivers Logos and thermo cups were disseminated among the participants. The head of Alaverdi community, Sasun Khechumyan also took part in this event. He spoke about the importance of the Day and expressed his willingness to join efforts for further cooperation. The participants cleaned a part of the river bank from garbage (plastic bottles, cups, containers, plastic bags, etc). The track of the rural administration later transported the garbage.

5. PROJECT AND WATER MONITORING

Within the frameworks of USAID-funded PURE-Water project, Country Water Partnership Armenia organized a seminar on “Project and Water Monitoring” on June 22nd this year. The seminar was attended by the representatives of project partner communities and active CSOs of the Ararat valley.

The purpose of the seminar was to clarify to the local government-CSO collaboration small sub-grants applicants on the project proposal framework as well on the preparation, improvement and submission of their applications. The participants gained knowledge and skills on the correct formulation of the problem, purpose and expected results in their project proposals. The seminar was followed by active discussions, and the practical assignment in its turn strengthened the acquired knowledge.

6. CWP ARMENIA YOUTH NETWORK WORKSHOP ON SEED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

“Country Water Partnership” scientific, ecological NGO held a CWP Armenia Youth Network’s two-day Workshop on seed project development on 23-24 June 2018 in Aghveran.

Young water professionals who have extensive work experience in IWRM, young representatives of relevant state authorities, CWP’s representatives and other stakeholders took part in the Workshop. On the first day of the Workshop the first phase of Project Logical Framework Approach and its steps were represented and discussed, including:



1. Analysis phase:

- Preparatory analysis – situation analysis
- Stakeholder analysis
- Problem analysis
- Objective analysis
- Strategy analysis.

Then working group discussions took place on Analysis phase. The main topic was SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The participants suggested many ideas on SDG 6 in Armenia and discussed how youth can mobilize efforts to contribute to the implementation of this goal in schools

of Armenia. At the end of the first day, the Workshop participants represented the results of their discussions and how they turned their ideas into a project and working plan.

2. Planning phase (the second day of the Workshop):

- Logical Framework Matrix
- Activity scheduling
- Resource scheduling

Then working group discussions took place on the Planning phase, as they did on the first day.

At the end of the Workshop different administrative questions were discussed and there were suggestions on intensifying the cooperation among Youth.



7. THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE OF ARMENIAN STAKEHOLDERS ON 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Towards High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Country Water Partnership Armenia took part in “The political dialogue of Armenian stakeholders on 2030 agenda for sustainable development” Consultancy

Meeting on 18 June 2018.

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will be held from Monday, 9 July, to Wednesday, 18 July 2018. The theme will be "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

The goal of the Consultancy Meeting was to provide the necessary information for the voluntary national report of the Republic of Armenia based on the priorities of the stakeholders and to establish strategic partnerships with actors for promoting SDG implementation and monitoring in national level.

Various speeches were made by representatives of relevant state authorities and CSOs. CWP Armenia experts Liana Margaryan and Alice Savadyan presented SDG 6 in CWP Armenia projects. During the second part of the meeting the participants drafted possible questions related to the Voluntary National Reviews' presentation of Armenia, which will be raised in the 2018 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of ECOSOC, between 9 and 18 July 2018.

At the end of the meeting, the questions were summed-up and submitted on the platform "Collection of inputs for VNRs 2018 HLPF" platform by CWP experts.



The Political Dialogue of Armenian Stakeholders on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8. Meeting on Environmental Protection



Date: 25 June 2018
Place: Tbilisi
Organizer: CWP-Georgia
Participants: 12 people

A meeting of CWP-Georgia with the chairman of the Environmental Protection Commission of the Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly, Mr. Erekle Kukhianidze and members of this commission was held to

discuss the priority issues. Participants indicated the water problems within SDGs as the most important.

As a result of the discussions, possible joint actions were identified:

Monitoring of the activities of the Georgian Water and Power Company, who are responsible for providing the population of Tbilisi with drinking water, as well as rehabilitation of the treatment plant on the Kura river.
Renewal of the holidays related to the Kura river in the Berikaoba city - festivities, festivals, concerts, etc. to the development of human relations with the river.

Active participation of Tbilisi self-government in the processes of improving the country's water legislation

Implementation of joint pilot environmental projects

Commission and CWP-Georgia expressed the desire to hold such meetings regularly.

9. Environmental Protection Week

Date: 2-9 June 2018

Place: Tbilisi

Organizer: CWP-Georgia, Training Center of Thomas Jefferson

Participants: 80 people

A lecture dedicated to the day of protection of the Kura River (June 2) and the World Environment Day (June 5) was organized for students of the Tbilisi Open University and the National University of Georgia.

Students were informed on the history of the celebration of the days, on the water resources of Georgia, on the mobilization of the community, on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus. The SDGs issues were raised. The participants were also informed about the GWP activity. Lectures were conducted by Prof. Tornike Shurgulaya and George Dzamukashvili



10. 20th anniversary of the proclamation of Day of the Kura River Protection

Date: 9 June 2018

Place: Tbilisi

Organizer: CWP-Georgia

Participants: 42 people

The First Deputy Chairman of the Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly Ms. Marika Darchia invited deputies, historians, environmentalists, artists and active citizens to participate in the event.

There were speeches in the historical context: the significance of the river for the city and the place of the Kura river in the art of Georgia. A special contribution of the Kura-Aras Association to the mainstreaming of the issues of the Kura river and initiating projects was noted. The CWP-Georgia, which is the legal successor of the Kura-Aras Association, is the founder of this holiday.



11. Training "Water resources and adaptation to climate change: options for the Chu River basin and the Talas River basin"

Date: 25-26 June 2018

Place: Taraz, Kazakhstan

Organizer: GEF-UNDP-UNECE project, CWP-Kyrgyzstan

Participants: employees of the Chu-Talas Water Commission (ChTWC), heads of the ChTWC Secretariat , representatives of Kazvodkhoz, Kazgidromet, the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Department of Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Hydromeliorative Expedition, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzhydromet, as well as representatives of civil society (Total: 37 people, including 20 women).

The training was conducted within the ongoing GEF-UNDP-UNECE project "Promoting transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Chu and Talas river basins".

Purpose: To increase the capacity of the ChTWC staff and related agencies through the exchange of information and the experience of the Sava Commission on Climate Change Adaptation.

GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Abdybai Djailoobaev made a presentation "Adaptation measures to climate change in the Chu-Talas basin".





12. HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, 2018 – 2028

Date: 20-21 June 2018

Place: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Organizers: the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the UNDESA, UN-Water and other partners.

Participants: Representatives of UN member countries’ governments, UN institutions, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, business communities, non-governmental organizations (including CWP-Tajikistan, CWP-Kyrgyzstan, CWP-Turkmenistan), civil society, as well as scientists and experts.

Objectives: The main objectives of the Conference are to discuss the ways on how the Member States, relevant UN bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the UN system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector can contribute to the Decade in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As well as to involve a wider range of stakeholders, communities and major groups in the process of discussing the ways of achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals, awareness-raising on the Water Decade, gathering ideas and best practices, pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action on implementation of solutions to water-related issues.

GWP delegation head, GWP CACENA Chair Ms. Guljamal Nurmukhamedova participated in the following thematic sessions:

- Panel/Session 1.2 on IWRM and Water efficiency and productivity;
- Panel/Session 2.3 on Water Partnership Activity

Statement for plenary session by GWP CACENA Chair Mrs. Guljamal Nurmuhammedova was delivered to the organizers of the conference (ATTACHMENT 1).

The Work Group of Central Asian experts to develop the Term of References for the Center on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018 – 2028 was established. CWP-Turkmenistan experts were included in this work group.

More information: <https://wsdconf2018.org/>

13. Pre-Conference Event 2: Women Water Forum: Bridging Voices to Actions

Date: 19 June 2018

Place: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Organizers: the State Committee for Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan, UN-Women, the International Foundation of the Royal Academy of Sciences (RASIT), FinWaterWEI II and the European Union.

Participants: Women from different parts of the World and various communities

The purpose of the conference is to illustrate the ingredients and processes for the empowerment of women and their inclusion in water resources management, to jointly identify women's priorities and areas of action for the Decade of Action for Water in order to provide women with knowledge and experience in the thematic groups of action of the High-level Conference , and also to show how addressing to water in combination with gender factors has a positive and long-term impact on the development of communities in general.

The main messages of the forum:

- Women are key agents of the implementation of the interrelated SDGs
- No one left behind - access to water for the most disadvantaged people;
- Strong multilateral partnership and communication are key preconditions for the successful implementation of SDGs - Gender Road Maps;
- Gender investments including investment of women to the future generation with access to water for improved well-being.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan and CWP-Turkmenistan took part in this event.



14. International Conference dedicated to the 90th Anniversary of the first Protocol on water sharing along the Talas River between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Talas River Day

Date: 25-27 June 2018

Place: Taraz, Kazakhstan

Organizers: Chu-Talas Commission Secretariat, GEF-UNDP-UNECE Project "Promoting Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins"

Participants: Representative of the Government Office or Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Plenipotentiary Representative of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in Talas Oblast; akim of the Dzhambul oblast, the Department of Water Resources and Melioration of the MAFI and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of UNDP, OSCE, SDC, the secretariat and experts of the Chu and Talas Water Commission from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, CWP-Kyrgyzstan.

Purpose: to attract the attention of a wider range of stakeholders, international partners, the public, local communities to the problems and prospects of using rivers.



15. Visiting the Hiroshima University by Prof. Basandorj Davaa

Date: 13-14 June 2018

Place: Japan, Hiroshima University

CWP-Mongolia Executive Director Prof. Basandorj Davaa gave a lecture "Ger area development and implementation of SDG6 in Mongolia" at the Hiroshima University in Japan. He discussed the development of the SATPERS project proposal on Improvement sanitation and adaptation to climate change that could be submitted within collaboration between the Hiroshima University, CWP-Mongolia and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology.

The 395th IDEC Seminar/The 126th Taoyaka Program Seminar

“Ger area development and implementation of SDG6 in Mongolia”

Seminar:

1. Introduction
2. Lecture : Prof. Basandorj
(Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,
Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia)
3. Discussions

Date and Venue:

14th (Thur) June 2018 10:30 – 12:00
IDEC 2F Room 201, HU

Coordinator :

Associate Prof. Han Soo LEE (ext.: 4405, lechs@hiroshima-u.ac.jp)



16. "Value of water" campaign

Date: 11th of June 2018
 Place: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
 Organizer: CWP-Mongolia
 Purpose: Improving of water education

The "Value of water" campaign was organized to involve children from secondary schools to activity on water problems solution such as water pricing and increase value of water.

The call on the best article on water security and value of water was announced at the beginning of the campaign. Five winners among 52 schoolchildren who wrote the best articles were awarded with diploma.



17. IV extraordinary specialized All-Russian scientific and practical conference with international participation "Energy and resource efficiency of low-rise residential buildings": "Olkhon is a model territory for energy efficiency and environmental development"

Date: 27 – 29 June 2018
 Place: Russia, Irkutsk Region, Olkhonsky District, Khuzhir Village

CWP-Mongolia Executive Director Prof. Basandorj Davaa did a presentation "Green technologies for eco-houses in the climatic conditions of Mongolia".



18. Central Asian International Environmental Forum

Forum theme: Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia

Date and venue: June 5-8, 2018, Hyatt Regency Tashkent hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Organizers: Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan , Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and the Ecological movement of Uzbekistan .

Participants: High-level government officials from the Central Asian countries, senior representatives of international and regional organizations, leading environmental experts and practitioners, **CWP-Turkmenistan**.

Aim: To contribute to strengthening the dialogue among the government agencies, academia, the international community for development, civil society and business structures in Central Asia on environmental issues and the formation of joint solutions for sustainable development of the region.

Thematic areas:

- Conservation of biodiversity and development of a network of protected natural areas
- Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency;
- Integrated management of solid domestic waste;

Expected outcomes:

- to intensify joint efforts of Central Asian countries in solving global and regional environmental problems;
- to formulate and agree on joint actions to be taken on the basis of discussions;
- to link the joint actions with the global environmental agenda;
- to identify priority and possible investment solutions for the development of renewable energy, waste processing and nature conservation in general.

Source: <https://www.carececo.org/en/main/activity/forum/>

19. 8th meeting of the EU-CA WGCC in Tashkent

High level representatives of all five Central Asian countries, the European Union, International Financial Institutions, international and regional organizations, and NGOs gathered for the 8th meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change on 7-8 June 2018 in Tashkent to discuss the progress in cooperation on environment, climate change and water. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr Massimo Cozzone from Italy, the coordinating EU country for the process.

CWP-Turkmenistan took part in the event.

More: <http://wecoop2.eu/events/8WGCEC>

20. Meeting of the Central Asia and Afghanistan Women & Water Association

Date: 23 June 2018

Place: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Organizers: Central Asia and Afghanistan Women & Water Association

CWP-Turkmenistan took part in the event and discussed the GWP experience as a network platform

More: <https://www.facebook.com/WomenWaterCAA.org/>

21. World Environment Day

Date: 4 June 2018

Place: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Organizers: Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Participants: the capital's public, representatives of ministries, departments, international organizations, embassies and representations of foreign countries in Uzbekistan, labor veterans and children of "Mehribonlik Uyi" children's institutions, CWP-Uzbekistan.

In the city park Gafur Gulyam the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan held a festive event dedicated to the World Environment Day.

Welcoming the participants of the festive event, the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Kengash Ecological Movement B.Alikhanov noted that the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and its deputy group in the lower house of parliament are systematically working to improve the current legislation and ensure implementation normative and legal documents in the sphere of nature protection, involving the general public in environmental protection formation of ecological culture among the population, development of public environmental control.

In the speeches of the participants of the celebration, it was noted that in 1972, at the 27th session of the UN General Assembly, in order to draw world attention to the issues of nature protection, on June 5, World Environment Day was proclaimed. For already 46 years, mass "green" actions, concerts and contests, scientific and practical and educational events are held all over the world on this day every day.

At the celebratory event, sponsors' memorable gifts were also given to pupils of "Mehribonlik Uyi" children's institutions and labor veterans.

A festive dinner was organized for the participants of the event by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Source: <http://eco.uz/en/bulletin/6553-june-5-world-environment-day>

22. International Conference "Joint actions to mitigate the consequences of the Aral catastrophe: new approaches, innovative solutions, investments"

Date: 7-8 June 2018

Place: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Organizers: Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, *the Ministry of Innovation Development* of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Participants: the capital's public, representatives of ministries, departments, international organizations, embassies and representations of foreign countries in Uzbekistan, labor veterans and children of "Mehribonlik Uyi" children's institutions, CWP-Uzbekistan, CWP-Turkmenistan, CWP-Kyrgyzstan.

Given the proximity of the topics of the forum and conference, as well as a unified composition of participants, international conference was held in the days of the Central Asian International Environmental Forum, held in the capital from 5 to 8 June 2018.

The international conference was organized and held in partnership with the relevant ministries and departments of the republic, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), representative offices of the United Nations Development Program, UNESCO, World Bank, *German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)*, General Secretariat Standing Committee on Scientific and technological cooperation of the OIS (COMSTECH) and other international and regional organizations.

Participants of the international conference were deputies of parliaments and heads of ministries and departments of the countries of Central Asia, specialists and experts of the state authorities and government of the country, national and foreign scientists and specialists, representatives IFAS, CAREC, GIZ, structural institutions UNDP, COMSTECH, Global Water Partnership, World Bank and other leading financial institutions and international organizations, foreign companies, interested in investing in projects to improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region, as well as foreign and national NGOs, business and media representatives.

As participants of the international conference noted, the Aral Sea problem is recognized by the world community as a global problem of our time. For more than 50 years, large-scale negative environmental and the socio-economic consequences of the desiccation of the Aral Sea for the Central Asian region. The Republic of Uzbekistan makes a significant and tangible contribution to mitigating the impact of the Aral catastrophe on the environment and health of the population of the Aral Sea region. However, the scale of existing problems requires drawing the attention of the broad world public to the measures, aimed at restoring ecosystems in the region and achieving its sustainable development. The countries of the Aral Sea Basin still have large investment needs, new technical and innovative solutions for systemic joint actions to stabilize the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region, balanced development of the economy, addressing social issues and adaptation of the region's population to climate change.

Thanks to the efforts of the leadership of Uzbekistan, aimed at establishing good-neighborly relations with all countries of Central Asia, in recent years, some progress has been made in solving a number of complex issues of a regional nature, including problems of management and use of water resources. One of the priorities in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. M. Mirziyoyev, specifically identified the solution of issues of joint use of the region's water resources and unification of efforts in overcoming the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis. This is evidenced by the decisions, the recent series of international forums and the results of bilateral and multilateral meetings of managers and delegations of Central Asian countries.

It was specially noted, that the international conference gave a new impetus to attracting investments and strengthening of regional cooperation in the implementation of projects, aimed at improving the state of the environment and living conditions of the population of the Aral Sea region.

The objectives of the international conference were: coordination within the framework of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, the practical orientation and coordination of actions of the countries of the region, carried out to address the problems of the Aral Sea region; analysis and evaluation of implemented programs to mitigate the consequences of the Aral catastrophe; determination of ways of cooperation in the implementation of projects, aimed at improving the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea region, and also attraction of investments for their realization.

In accordance with the program of the conference, its participants on June 7 made a trip to the zone of the Aral Sea region: in the city of Nukus, in the town of Muynak, on the "Cemetery of Ships" on the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea, where they got acquainted with the ecological situation in this region, held meetings with local residents and representatives of state bodies and public organizations.

On June 8, plenary and sectional meetings of the conference took place, at which the activities of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the new Program of Action on Aral Sea Basin Problems - ASBP-4, issues of deepening cooperation of the countries of the region on joint use of water resources of transboundary rivers in Central Asia, economic and social development of the Aral Sea zone and the creation under the auspices of the United Nations of the Multi-partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea Region, creation and development of protected natural areas in the Aral Sea area, activation of forest reclamation works on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea, as well as attracting young specialists to discuss ecological problems of the Aral Sea and the development of new approaches and innovative solutions in the use of the region's water resources.

The participants of the conference had an opportunity to visit the Central Asian International Specialized Exhibition of Environmentally Clean Technologies «Green & Ecological Technologies Central Asia – GETCA 2018» and an exhibition of projects of national and international organizations implemented in the Aral Sea region, take part in a business forum and meetings of employees of relevant ministries and departments, local government bodies with representatives of international financial institutions and organizations.

The forum approved a package of project proposals, aimed at improving the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea region, for realization of which foreign investments and representatives of local business are involved.

Adopted by the results of the conference "The Tashkent resolution on the ecological problems of the Aral Sea, as well as a collection of conference materials sent to parliaments and the governments of the republics of Central Asia and foreign countries, international and public organizations.

During the forum, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan, The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Forestry, Agency GEF IFAS and the Executive Directorate of EC IFAS in Kazakhstan on coordination of forest plantations on the drained bottom of the Aral Sea, as well as the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and General Secretariat Standing Committee on Scientific and technological cooperation of the OIS (COMSTECH) and others.

Source: <http://eco.uz/en/?start=48>

23. GWP CACENA Regional Secretariat working meeting

Date: 6 June 2018

Place: Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Participants: Francois Brikke, Vadim Sokolov, Ilhom Babaev, Valentina Khaydarova, Guljamal Nurmuhamedova, Abdybai Djailoobaev, Mansur Abduraimov

Issues discussed:

1. Results of the meeting with donors on June 4, 2018 at the Hyatt Hotel.
2. Results of the Donors' Coordination Meeting in Ashgabat.
3. Consideration of the draft MoU with EC IFAS.
4. Discussion of the issue on the Host Institute.
5. The dates of the next RC meeting.
6. Status of the contract for the Consultant
7. Interaction between the new Regional Coordinator and the Consultant for the transition period.
8. Development strategy of GWP CACCENA.
9. Issues of financing activities in Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.
10. Issues of future cooperation with the Center for the 10th Anniversary of the UN Water in Dushanbe.
11. Possible ways to improve the status of GWP in the region.
12. Consideration of GWP CACENA budget for 2018.
13. Interaction with the partner regional organizations and agencies

Decisions were taken and approved for each issue.

Statement for plenary session
by GWP CACENA Chair – Mrs. Nurmuhammedova G.

Honourable Ambassadors! Distinguished delegates! Ladies and gentlemen!

It has been stressed by virtually all speakers in their interventions the exceptional importance of water as a natural resource, which largely determines the economy of our countries, public health and environmental well-being.

From the hands of our ancestors, we inherited not only natural resources, but also the traditions of rational use/prudent management. Traditions that we are practicing and developing while supporting the existing institutions authorized for interstate interaction, supporting new agreed formats and initiatives aimed at improving the principles and techniques on water resources management.

GWP CACENA, being an action network that unites the water expert communities of our region, is always ready to support initiatives that are significant for the region of the Aral Sea Basin.

During the High Level Conference, we highlighted the importance of both integrated water resources management and multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are key for implementation of both the International Decade for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Accentuating the importance of the announced initiative for the establishment of the International Center for the Water Action Decade for Action, hereby the Global Water Partnership Regional Office for CACENA expresses its readiness for cooperation and support of the activities of the Center.

Such support could take the form of the development of knowledge products, advisory and technical guidance and implementation of capacity building programs.

In conclusion, allow me to express my gratitude to the organizers of this international forum, wish you further prosperity to hospitable Tajikistan, as well as fruitful cooperation for the benefit of our peoples.

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The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.