



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For October 2018

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1. The first "Follow The Sun" GWP Network Meeting



GWP CACENA participated in the first "Follow The Sun" GWP Network Meeting on 28 September 2018.

4 CWPs (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia) took part at the videoconference.

In total **44 people** from **30 partner-organizations** attended the meeting.

| | Country Site | Partner-organizations attended the meeting | Number of representatives | |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Georgia | CWP-Georgia | 1 | |
| | | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia | 2 | |
| | | REC Caucasus | 1 | |
| | | Greens Movement of Georgia /FoE | 2 | |
| | | Union "Environmental League " | 1 | |
| | | Amelioration of Georgia | 1 | |
| 2 | Kazakhstan | Balkash-Alakol Basin Inspection | 1 | |
| | | Executive Direction of IFAS in the Republic of Kazakhstan | 1 | |
| | | Institute of Geography | 1 | |
| | | Institute "Kazgiprovodkhoz" | 1 | |
| | | Kazakh National Agrarian University | 2 | |
| | | Kazakh-German University | 3 | |
| | | SCE "Almaty Su" | 1 | |
| | | PF "Center for Sustainable Development" | 2 | |
| | | Kazakh National Technical University | 1 | |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--|------------------|--|
| | | LLP Center for Remote Sensing and GIS "Terra" | 1 | |
| | | "Agromeliostroy" LLP | 1 | |
| | | Kazakh branch of SIC ICWC | 1 | |
| | | Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi | 1 | |
| | | CWP-Kazakhstan | 2 | |
| | | | | |
| 3 | Mongolia | CWP-Mongolia | 1 | |
| | | | | |
| 4 | Uzbekistan | CWP-Uzbekistan | 1 | |
| | | Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan | 3 | |
| | | Agency GEF IFAS | 4 | |
| | | Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of the Central Asia (SIC ICWC) | 1 | |
| | | Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers | 3 | |
| | | IWMI | 2 | |
| | | SREDA.UZ (Environmental website) | 1 | |
| | | Research Institute of Irrigation and Water Problems | 1 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | Total: 30 partner-organizations | 44 people | |
| | | | | |

One of Uzbek journalists, who attended the Network Meeting (Ms. Natalia Shulepina), has published the **article** in Russian ("Follow the Sun, Think about Water"): <http://sreda.uz/rubriki/voda/sleduya-za-solntsem-dumaj-o-vode/>

After the meeting GWP CACENA partners were asked to fill in **the NM Feedback Survey** which was translated into Russian language.

2. SIXTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN WATER SECTOR OF GEORGIA

The meeting was held on 2 October 2018 in the framework of EC EUWI+

Participants were welcomed by the leadership of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, representatives of the UNECE, OECD, EU. The meeting discussed issues of water policy: the status of the new water bill law, as well as the EU EUWI progress in Georgia. Representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture informed the participants that at the autumn sessions of the Parliament of Georgia, a new water law will be considered.

Information on the ratification of the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health, as well as on the progress of agreement with Azerbaijan on the protection and use of water resources of Kura river was provided .

The detailed information on the implementation of the EUWI + regional project, which provides for the development of another two basin plans for the Alazani river and the Khrum-Deved river was presented. The reports on implementation of international projects (USAID, UNDP, EMBLAS, UNDP-GEF) were considered.

The meeting was attended by representatives of government agencies, private sector, non-governmental sector (including CWP-Georgia), science, donors (Total: up to 40 people).



3. GEORGIAN GOVERNMENT NEW INITIATIVE ON GREEN POLICY

On 22 October the Government of Georgia, led by the Prime Minister of Georgia, invited the Ministers, the Tbilisi City Government, the Donors and NGOs to report on a new initiative of the Government of Georgia related to the Green Policy.

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze held a presentation of the first phase implementation of the "Green



Policy" Action Plan together with the Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze.

CWP-Georgia attended this event.

More information:

http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=497&info_id=68354

<http://www.tbilisi.gov.ge/news/6259?lang=en#>

4. THE JOB TRAINING ON WATER EVALUATION AND PLANNING THE WEAP SYSTEM

Date: 12 October 2018

Place: Tbilisi

Organizer: USAID project "Governing for Growth in Georgia"

Participants: government agencies, the private and non-governmental sectors (incl. CWP-Georgia), independent experts (Total: 22 people).



The participants were acquainted with the WEAP baseline model of the Tedzami River.

The WEAP program, which was created by the Stockholm Environmental Institute is used in more than 100 countries.

This program was used to develop a scenario of water use in the Tedzami river basin. Participants were informed in detail about the identification process and the collection of baseline data and the selection of the WEAP baseline model methodology.

Date: 15 October 2018

Place: Tbilisi

Participants: 30 members of the third group on the environment

The participants discussed the plan for fulfilling the obligations under the association agreement of Georgia with the European Union.

The water issues proposed by CWP-Georgia were as follows:

- New water law;
- Ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health;
- SDG6 (basin plans; potable water for population).

The results of the meeting will be included in a letter to the Government of Georgia.



6. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION FOR 2019-2023



The draft National Plan for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention for 2019-2023 was prepared by OSCE international experts. This document follows the previous strategic plan for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention for 2015-2018 and will already have the status of National Document.

Date: 16 October 2018

Place: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Organizers: State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Participants: state structures, public organizations, civil society, universities, media and independent experts, as well as CWP-Kyrgyzstan.

Purpose: to discuss the draft National Plan for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention for 2019-2023 prepared by OSCE international experts.

7. STUDENTS MEETING WITHIN THE WETSKILLS PROGRAMME

CWP-Kyrgyzstan was invited by the Wetskills Programme (Holland) to participate as an expert on gender issues in the practical work with program participants.

The meeting was held in the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K.I. Scriabin in the framework of two-week exchange of students between national and international universities. The event was attended by students from Holland, Germany, China and Kyrgyzstan universities (Total: 25 students).

Date: 17 October 2018

Place: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Organizers: Wetskills Programme (Holland), "National Water Resources Management Phase 1", component 2 "Improving the efficiency of irrigation services to water user associations", KNAU

Participants: students from Holland, Germany, China and Kyrgyzstan universities, Wetskills program managers - Mahtelyan Brummel, Frank Tyben, and others.

Purpose: to study the practices of water management, maintenance of hydraulic structures, operation of inter-farm and on-farm irrigation and drainage systems in Kyrgyzstan and abroad. During communication and knowledge sharing, as well as when visiting water facilities of the Chui region, students from different countries should recommend measures to improve the country's water sector.



CWP-Kyrgyzstan made a presentation "Gender and Water".



8. TRAINING "REVIEW OF THE REGULATORY LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES USE"

Date: 27 October 2018

Place: Bishkek

Organizers: CWP-Kyrgyzstan, the Aarhus Center in Bishkek.

Participants: the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, civil society (Total: 25 people, including 20 women).

Purpose: giving theoretical and practical fundamentals of legislation in the field of water resources and ecology of Kyrgyzstan.

At the end of the training the participants got certificates with the CWP-Kyrgyzstan logo.



9. MEETING "TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA"

Date: 21st of October 2018

Place: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Organizer: Ministry of Environment of Mongolia

Number of participants: 10

Purpose: Sharing experience on transboundary cooperation and solution of water problems.



Chair of Transboundary water cooperation of the Ministry of Environment Mr. Myagmar made presentation "Implementation of transboundary agreement with Russia and China".

Mongolia has boundary 3543km with Russia, including 680km is water boundary, and the boundary with China is 4710km of which 175km is water boundary with China. 204 rivers and 10 lakes are the transboundary water bodies with Russia, and 40 rivers and 22 lakes are the transboundary water bodies with China. Since 1974 Mongolia established the transboundary agreement with Russia and since 1994 with China. Every year Mongolian transboundary commission hold a meeting with 2 neighbors and Mongolia has no water problems with neighbors. The book about transboundary water cooperation history was distributed among participants.

10. TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON PROJECT PREPARATION FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE WATER PROJECTS IN ASIA

Organizer: Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, ADB

Date: 15 – 16 October 2018

Workshop Venue: Asian Development Bank, Manila, the Philippines



Across Asia and the Caucasus, countries are taking action to implement their NDCs, NAPs and to deliver on their SDGs; achieving targets however will require transformative action at national and regional levels that goes beyond business as usual. This includes accelerating the pace of investments in water resources information systems, infrastructure, and supporting institutions – for countries to continue harnessing the potential of water as a platform for growth amidst a changing and more uncertain climate, mitigate water related disaster risks, and ensure sustainability of the natural resource base. Accelerating the pace of water investment implementation requires high quality

project proposals, appropriate structuring of project finance, and accessing the diverse set of available financing sources.

Through Water and Climate Development Programme (WACDEP), GWP has been working with countries across Asia and Caucasus to help strengthen their capacity on these fronts. GWP facilitated partnerships across key stakeholders within countries in the region, and with global entities, in order to advance implementation of climate resilience investments on the ground, foster exchange of lessons learned, and promote best practices across the region. The **Pan-Asian** Project Preparation Workshop responds to this common continental need and expressed demand.

CWP-Mongolia Chair Prof. Basandorj delivered the project proposal "Sustainable adaptation strategy and social implementation for climate disasters and urbanization in Mongolia". This project was approved by Mongolian side to Japanese Science fund.



ASTANA EVENTS:

11. THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES (MOP8)

Date: 10-12 October 2018

Place: Astana, Kazakhstan

Organizer: UNECE, UNECE Water Convention Secretariat, Government of Kazakhstan

Participants: Around 88 countries, Parties and non-Parties to the Convention, participated along with representatives of joint bodies, International and Non-Governmental Organizations, Academia, the private sector and youth (Total: more than 600 participants).

The Meeting of the Parties reviewed progress achieved in the Convention's implementation and past activities. Delegates addressed a wide variety of topics including supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention; assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation; promoting climate change adaptation in a transboundary context; assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins or improving water governance through the National Policy Dialogues under the European Union Water Initiative.

An ambitious programme of work for 2019-2021 was adopted in Astana including a new programme area on 'facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation'. The Meeting of the Parties also adopted a new strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level that aims to strengthen cooperation and partnerships for

the management of transboundary waters worldwide in order to promote sustainable development, peace and security.

The Meeting of the Parties adopted the revised rules of procedure of the Water Convention as well as the decision on the designation and responsibilities of focal points. A decision on reporting including the adoption of the revised template for reporting under the Convention was also adopted. Finally, the Meeting of the Parties adopted the work programme for the International Water Assessment Center (IWAC) for 2019-2021.

Source: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48127>

12. A HALF-DAY HIGH-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON FINANCING TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN DEVELOPMENT was held on 9th of October, 2018, jointly organized by Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Asian Development Bank, GEF IW:LEARN, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the Water Convention secretariat

GWP CACENA participants at two events:

- CWP-Kyrgyzstan (1 person) - funded by CAAWWA "CA and Afghanistan Women & Water Association",
- CWP-Kazakhstan (2 people) - funded by Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture,
- CWP-Tajikistan (1 person) - funded by Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture,
- GWP CACENA Chair and Regional Coordinator.

Following reasons for particular interest of GWP CACENA for these events are:

- Four countries (out of nine) are Parties of this Convention and some our CWPs played the key role to bring their countries to this convention – so, to some extent it is our success as well.
- Side events organized within this Meeting are in line of our profile and mandate
- UNECE got a new staff members, so it was our interest to establish the new personal contacts
- Possibility of informal discussion of UNECE's and some donor's priorities for possible interventions/cooperation.

GWP CACENA community (in general) has been widely presented during this event: a lot of our partners including the representatives of Ministries responsible for water, foreign affairs and development cooperation - from both Parties and non-Parties to the Convention - together with representatives of joint bodies, international and non-governmental organizations and academia from all regions of the world took part in this event.

Special thanks to all those who support us making this event impactful for GWP CACENA – in particular Monika Weber-Fahr and Central Asian CWP Coordinators who luckily got the external funding for this event:



The most interesting topics covered within the 2 day event:

- Benefits of transboundary cooperation,
 - **Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus,**
- Climate change adaptation,
- Launching the first report on the implementation of the Water Convention,

- Discussion of the first reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2, jointly supported by UNECE and UNESCO (the two co-custodian agencies for indicator 6.5.2).
- Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level
- Convention's programme of work for 2019-2021.
- **National Water Policy Dialogues within the Framework of EU Water Initiative: results, benefits and lessons learnt for transboundary cooperation; SDG Agenda – 2030"**
- **Transboundary Water & Youth**



Bolded items are the subjects of interventions by GWP CACENA via refreshing for audience on GWP CACENA's experience on this activities and sharing ideas for possible cooperation

In parallel GWP CACENA had some informal meetings briefly described as following:

- A joint (short) meeting (Executive Committee of International Fund of Aral Sea, WB (Kristina and Bo Libert), GWP CACENA). Now WB is assisting to EC IFAS in writing the REGIONAL WATER (and energy?) STRATEGY. Currently EC IFAS faced problem with TJ and KG who refuse to approve this activity. We offered to provide the possible support on this issue via initiation of expert dialogue within those countries as we have the very strong partnerships in KG and TJ. Kristina said that they already implemented the project in KG and they already have some money to allocate them for dialogues in KG. GWP CACENA agreed to continue the mutual contacts on this issue.
- GWP CACENA had a working lunch with Peep Mardister (who was a head of UNECE for transboundary convention in CA). Now he is working as an expert for UNECE. GWP CACENA discussed the feasibility on getting the MoU with UNECE. He said that it could be done but nothing is guaranteed. By the way, CAREC has the MoU with UNECE. He promised to provide us with preliminary text of MoU. As it was discussed later, the MoU will be logical if we agree to implement jointly with UNECE the project on transboundary water.
- GWP CACENA had the working meeting with Dinara Ziganshina - Deputy of Scientific Information Center Interstate Coordination Water Commission. This institution still in a great capacity in development of project proposals but because of personal disputes between Hamrayev (Minister of Water Resources of Uzbekistan) and Dukhovniy (Director of SIC ISWC), their activities are blocked in the area that is under the control of Hamrayev. Now they survive making small project funded by USAID. GWP CACENA offered them the cooperation, because it is our interest to save the intellectual capacity within the region.
- GWP CACENA had a long and detailed discussion with Iskandar Abdullayev – Head of Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC). He demonstrated SIGNS(!) of his readiness to be more open for GWP CACENA (mainly driven by the upcoming elections of new Head of CAREC – this position couldn't be offered to Iskandar because he already run two periods of Chairmanship). He recommends our experts to Stefanos Xenarios, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP) of Nazarbayev University (NU) based in Astana, Kazakhstan for participation in an international workshop co-organized by Imperial College (UK) and Nazarbayev University (NU) and co-funded by British Council on the transboundary water management of river basins in Central and South Asia region. The workshop will be held 13-14 December in the premises of the GSPP in NU in Astana.



13. ROUND TABLE: “WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR RAISING AWARENESS OF WATER USERS AND ENSURING WATER SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”

Date: 1 October 2018

Place: Kurgan-Tyube, Department of Land Reclamation and Irrigation of Khatlon Region.

Purpose: Organizing a platform to discuss issues on planning, recording, use, distribution and protection of water resources, as well as raising awareness of water users on the use of the knowledge base and best practices for achieving water security.

Organizer: Department of Land Reclamation and Irrigation of Khatlon Region under support of CWP-Tajikistan.

Participants: Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation, regional and district organizations, specialists and scientists (Total: 20 people, incl. 3 women).

The main directions and issues addressed: Integrated water resources management - the basis for achieving water and food security of the country; issues related to the rational use of water resources in irrigated agriculture to ensure the food security of the country; the role of CWP-Tajikistan in the implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management in the country, capacity building and knowledge spreading.



14. PUBLICATION "INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT REFORMS IN THE WATER SECTOR OF UZBEKISTAN"

CWP-Uzbekistan in cooperation with its partners, has released the collection of articles "Innovative solutions to support reforms in the water sector of Uzbekistan" aimed at implementing the GWPO strategy. On October 2, 2018, a presentation of book was held. CWP-Uzbekistan's partners noted that in future they will carry out works related to SDGs.

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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.