Environmental Remediation Programme
Central Asia

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European Commission
DG International Cooperation and Development
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• Way forward - Environmental Remediation Account
The need for efforts by the International Community

- Abandoned toxic uranium legacy sites in Central Asia pose a serious risk to the environment and public health;
- Natural hazards can trigger trans-boundary contamination and spread of toxic and radioactive materials;
- Projects in the past have been implemented with varied success and with no overall remediation plans;
- The United Nations General Assembly of 20 December 2013 called upon the International Community to assist the States of Central Asia in resolving the problems of uranium tailings ...
- Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan being developed
EC Initiatives

Implementing priority actions according to best international practices and standards. Approved funding €31.1 million

Phase 2
- Environmental Remediation Account (EBRD)

Phase 1
- EIA and FS projects at seven legacy sites
- Pilot project – Taboshar Water Treatment Plant
- Regional Projects (Stakeholder engagement; capacity building and water monitoring system)
Examples project activities
Min-Kush and Shekaftar in Kyrgyzstan

Environmental Impact Assessment and Feasibility Study

Status:
- Started March 2015
- Duration 2 years
- €2.1 Million

Key facts:
- Approx. 10,000 inhabitants
- Natural hazards (landslides; mudflows; earthquakes)
- Legacy objects (mine shafts/adits; processing plants; rock piles; tailings)
- Close to trans-boundary rivers

Landslide at Uranium Processing Plant - Minkush
Examples project activities
Min-Kush and Shekaftar (3)

Environmental Impact Assessment and Feasibility Study

Status project results:
• Detailed site characterization and risk analysis developed
• Developed detailed remediation scenarios for all legacy objects (more than 30 objects)
• Net remediation cost (engineering, works, supervision):
  • Min-Kush € 1.4 million
  • Shekaftar € 3.3 million
• Duration 2 years

Project activities coming months:
• EIA approval, IAEA Peer review, Public consultations

Sumsar river erosion at Waste rock dump #3 - Shekaftar
Examples project activities
Degmay - Tajikistan

- 35 million tons of toxic radioactive tailing waste
- 5 km Khujand centre / 1 km Charkalovsk
- 4 km to Syr Daria River
- Hazardous radioactive dust, radon, toxic pollution plume
- Close to UZ border

**Environmental Impact Assessment and Feasibility Study**

**Status:**
- Project work started October 2015
- Duration 2.5 years
- €2.4 Million
Examples project activities
Taboshar - Tajikistan

Pilot Project - Water Treatment Plant

**Status:**
- Project work started December 2016
- Duration 3 years
- €2.5 Million

**Key facts:**
- Approx. 15,000 inhabitants
- Natural hazards (landslides; mudflows; earthquakes)
- Arid area with limited water sources
- Local population using contaminated mine water discharging from mines
- Uranium concentration in mine water exceeds WHO limit by 50 times

Mine effluent water from adit no. 2- Taboshar
Pilot Project - Water Treatment Facility

Planned results:
• Establish a system adequate to clean the mine effluent water from its high pollution with uranium
• Allowing the cleaned water to be use for irrigation of crops, cattle and as drinking water by the local population

Planned project milestones:
• Design system and technical specifications – Spring 2017
• Award supply contract – Summer 2017
• Start construction – Winter 2018
• Start-up of Water Treatment Facility – Spring 2019
Phase Two
Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia

Multi-donor fund to implement remediation works

Status: Established by EBRD in May 2015
EU first contributor to make fund operational (€16.45 Million)
First Assembly meeting in July 2016
Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia (ERA)

- Comprehensive remediation of the uranium mining legacy sites in CA will require coordinated international effort;
- EC took the strategic decision to ask EBRD to create the Account to pull together enough resources to carry out the required projects;
- ERA will be governed by the Assembly of Contributors and managed by the EBRD on behalf of donors, it will operate through PMU(s) and international tender awards;
- Funding for remediation will be through grants for priority projects (hot spots) in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (in accordance with the Strategic Master Plan).
Summary

• Feasibility Studies and environmental impacts assessments are being carried out at uranium legacy hot spots in Central Asia to establish the basis for future work;

• CGULS under IAEA secretariat is preparing a Strategic Master Plan which will provide a comprehensive approach (including remediation measures, priorities, indication of cost ranges and timescales);

• The Environmental Remediation Account was established by the EBRD in 2015 to form the basis for the future environmental remediation works - EU has provided an initial contribution to the Account;

• The financial resources currently under the Account are enough to start the comprehensive environmental remediation programme, but represent only a fraction of what will be required overall;

• The Programme will need a substantial effort requiring international cooperation; the Account will need additional financial contributions from other partners and donors to tackle effectively the problems in the region.
Timeline

Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia

- **May 2015**: Environmental Remediation Account Central Asia (EBRD)
- **July 2016**: First Assembly meeting
- **2017-2018**: EIA / FS projects being finalised
- **2017-2027**: Pilot project and Remediation Works
- **2017-2018**: UN GA Resolution - High Level Donor Conference