A Source of Cooperation - Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia

Overview of the Programme’s Activities
2009 to 2016

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Key facts

| Political context | “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia” Programme  
| Central element of a water initiative for Central Asia – the ‘Berlin Process’ (since 2008); EU-Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership |
| Donor | German Federal Foreign Office;  
Phase II - Co-funded by EU DEL to Kazakhstan (2 grants)  
Phase III – co-funded by EU DEL to Uzbekistan (delegation agreement) |
| Period | Phase I 04/2009 – 12/2011; Phase II 2012 -12/2014; Phase III 2015-12/2017 |
| Programme objective | The Central Asian states jointly develop practical approaches for sustainable regional water management and implement selected measures. |
| Regional Scope | All 5 Central Asian states |
| Political Partners | • National partners:  
Ministries / Committees responsible for Water Resources in 5 CA States  
+ Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all 5 CA States  
+ Ministry of Energy and Industry of TAJ (Phase I)  
+ Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan  
• Main regional partner:  
EC IFAS  
(Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea) |
| Implementation Partners | UNECE, CAREC; in UZB – IWMI, UBA Austria, CREA Italy (EU co-financed) |
The Aral Sea Basin
Aral Sea Basin - overview

- Transboundary river basin - total area 1.76 million km\(^2\) - around 50 million people
- Continental climate, determined by the landlocked position of Central Asia - hot summers & cold winters
- Geographically it covers an extensive area of Central Asia:
  - Tajikistan 99%
  - Turkmenistan 95%
  - Uzbekistan 95%
  - Kyrgyzstan 59% (Osh, Djalal-Abad and Naryn Provinces)
  - Kazakhstan 13% (Kyzylorda and South Kazakhstan Provinces)
  - Afghanistan 38%
- A very small part of the I.R. Iran in the Tedzhen/Murghab basin

The Aral Sea Basin includes:
- Syr Darya, Amu Darya, Teszhen (Hari Rod in AFG) and Murghab Rivers
- Kara Kum Canal linking the Amu Darya, Murghab and Teszhen Rivers
- shallow rivers flowing from Kopet Dag and western Tien Shan
- the areas with no runoff between these rivers and around the Aral Sea
Programme Phases

Phase 1
- Building trust by implementing pilot projects (13) as to national water policy priorities in all 5 Central Asian states, avoiding negative influence on / mediating between different forms of water use
- Initiation of a dialogue process to reform / strengthen regional institutions – focusing on EC IFAS

Phase 2
- Focus on creating best practice examples in four selected small trans-boundary river basins

Phase 3
Focus on Strengthening Regional Water Cooperation through:
- Improved / uninterrupted functioning of and cooperation among various regional water management institutions
- Up-scaling of experiences from small trans-boundary basins to Amu Darya / Syr Darya Basin Organisations
- Regional ownership of the initiative in order to sustain achievements; specific role of CAREC
Fostering Regional Institutional Cooperation

- Cooperation with UNECE and CAREC & Partnership with EC IFAS

- Based on the Almaty Declaration of the five Central Asian Presidents
  - to further improve organisational structure and legal framework of IFAS
  - to improve its efficiency and better interaction with financial institutions and donors to implement projects
  - to develop with national experts and donors Aral Sea Basin Programme III

- Objective: Improved capacities of regional institutions responsible for water management (IFAS and others)
Activities in Phase I

The countries of Central Asia were supported in analyzing the needs for reforms in the legal framework and overall institutional setting for trans-boundary water management, with a focus on the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS).

Support to EC IFAS and Central Asian governments in developing the ASBP-3, in particular the development of the fourth direction of ASBP-3, i.e. “institutional and legal strengthening”

Focus on strengthening cooperation of EC IFAS with international organizations and donors

Donor Coordination Conference on ASBP-3 in December 2010 organised by EC IFAS and supported by GIZ and other donors
Activities in Phase I (continued)

Support to the improvement of EC IFAS work and communication processes by

- Strengthening internal work processes
- Strengthening of public outreach

Contribution to improving the regional dialogue and strengthening legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia through capacity building activities on international water law.

Together with UNECE, numerous regional and national activities on international water law, including relevant UNECE multilateral environmental agreements, were organized.
Activities in Phase II

Continuation of cooperation with UNECE through a Grant Agreement to support the legal and institutional strengthening of IFAS. – Promotion of “Conceptual Elements” to reform and strengthen EC IFAS. The Programme together with UNECE drafted a “Protocol on the Order of Rotation of IFAS and its Officials” and engaged in discussions with the Central Asian governments on the need to regulate the rotation.

Legal and institutional strengthening of ICSD (UNECE) to better integrate ICSD into the structure of IFAS through the following strategic directions:

(i) streamlining reporting and coordination of activities by ICSD

(ii) improving regular funding, donor coordination, fundraising and management of regional projects by ICSD

(iii) strengthening the implementation of projects of the ASBP-3 under the umbrella of ICSD

(iv) considering ICSD and its institutions in a broader context of overall efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the headquarters of IFAS organisations
Activities in Phase II (continued)

Specific request by the ICSD Ministerial meeting in April 2014

UNECE and GIZ further engaged in the topic of regional cooperation on information management of water and environmental resources in CA. At a meeting in June 2014, ICSD endorsed the idea to launch a comprehensive regional programme to develop a unified regional information space on water and environment with the following main directions, thus providing for better cooperation between ICSD and ICWC (under the roof of IFAS) as well as their Scientific Information Centres:

✓ Upgrading technical equipment and introducing new technologies (e.g. use of open-source information)

✓ Capacity building through already existing expertise and knowledge hubs

✓ Confidence building

✓ Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks

✓ Developing a comprehensive regional agreement on the management of information on environment and water resources under the auspices of relevant decision making bodies of IFAS.
Activities in Phase III

Grant Agreement with EC IFAS under Uzbek chairmanship

✓ Support through CIM expert
✓ Technical support
✓ Support for outreach activities, including travel to international events
✓ Contribution to donor conference in Urgench 2015
✓ Printing of final report

Strengthening of IFAS bodies

✓ ICWC Secretariat in Dushanbe
✓ Work with BWOs Amudarya and Syrdarya and their branch offices
✓ Continuation of support to ICSD through CAREC and UNECE
Phase II: Basin Management and Planning Works

Basin Management Activities
- Basin Institutions in Isfara Basin (Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan)
- Basin Council in Aral-Syrdarya Basin (Kazakhstan)
- Basin Management and Planning in Murgab Basin (Turkmenistan)
- Basin Diagnosis and Efficiency in Padshoata Basin (Uzbekistan)

Basin Institutions: Secretariat and Council

Basin Planning Cycle
- Analysis and evaluation of the basin
- Realization and monitoring of basin plans
- Strategic goals for basin planning
- Prioritization of basin plans, basin scenarios, basin development plans, basin plans for adaptation to climate change
Selected Basins of Joint Interventions on Basin Management and Basin Planning
Capacity Building in River Basin Management and Planning

**Isfara Basin Planning Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan**
- Support to Inter-Governmental Working Group
- Preparation of Framework Agreement for Joint Basin Management
- Establishment of Basin Planning Working Groups
  - Training in Basin Planning methodology
  - Preparation of Basin Plan for both territories
- Elaboration of Basin Planning Hand Book

**Support to Basin Council Kazakhstan**
- Establishment of Aral-Syrdarya Basin Council
- Composition:
  - Aral-Syrdarya Basin Inspection
  - Various state institutions
  - Public represented by NGO
- Facilitation of meetings of Basin Council
- Discussion and adoption of Aral-Syrdarya Basin Plan
- Preparation of Plans for three Sub-basins
Capacity Building in River Basin Management and Planning

Training in Mapping and Modelling Methods on
- Land Use
- Natural Hazards
- Climate Change Forecasts

Land Use Mapping Isfara

Mudflow Risks Mapping Isfara
Study Tour to Germany, Federal State Brandenburg on

“Self-Management of Land and Water Resources on Sub-basin level”
Best Practice Object: Isfara Discharge Automation
Best Practice Object: Bat-Bat IWRM including Canal Rehabilitation and Construction of new intake
National Pilot Projects – some examples

Safe and sustainable operation of hydro-technical infrastructures
1. Safety Monitoring of dams / large infrastructure, partial rehabilitation, exchange of equipment
   ✓ Ravatkhodja Headwork (UZB)
   ✓ Tortgul water reservoir (KYR)
   ✓ Isfara headwork (Zumratsho, TAJ)
2. Automatisation of water registration
   ✓ Isfara headwork (KYR)
3. Sustainable hydropower assessment protocol
   ✓ Shardara reservoir and HPP (KAZ)
4. Water supply to remote rural areas (KAZ)
5. Community-based energy supply (miniHPP) in remote mountainous region (TAJ)
6. Integrated water allocation in rural areas (Garauti irrigation scheme, TAJ)

Efficient irrigation and drainage water management
7. Automatisation of water registration on inter-/on-farm irrigation systems of Batken (KYR)
8. Khanhowuz irrigation scheme: IWRM and re-use of drainage water (TKM)
9. Rehabilitation of Bad Bad irrigation canal and headwork, Samarkand province (UZB)
10. Rehabilitation of water infrastructure of Padsha ota irrigation system, Namangan (UZB)
Achievements

- Fostering of regional cooperation (Berlin Conferences & Declarations)
- Proposals for institutional strengthening of IFAS jointly elaborated - First Draft Protocol on the Order of Rotation of IFAS and its Officials
- Internal work and communication processes of EC IFAS strengthened
- EC IFAS in focus of donor coordination: ASBP III jointly elaborated; CIM-Expert as advisor for donor coordination integrated in EC IFAS
- River Basin Management – training manuals, capacity building, river basin management plans elaborated (www.riverbp.net) CAREC as a hub for capacity building
- Institutional strengthening of BWOs (needs assessment, equipment, training, outreach and PR, etc.)
Thank you for your attention!

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