

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TAJIKISTAN

**PROJECT: «PROMOTING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND
FOSTERING TRANSBOUNDARY DIALOG IN CENTRAL ASIA»**

01 JANUARY 2009 – 30 JUNE 2013

NUMBER OF THE PROJECT: 00069219
DURATION: 2009- THE I HALF-YEAR 2013
COMPONENT (CPAP): 06
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2012: 241235 USD
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2012: 241235 USD
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS/RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:
EU, UNDP, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TAJIKISTAN

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Tajikistan is supporting and participating in the process of implementation principles of the integrated water resources management (IWRM) proceeding from the "Millennium Development Goals" up to 2015 that were set on the Summit on sustainable development.

The project "Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia" has been supported by the EU and UNDP as well as by Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The project is aimed to facilitate the cross-border dialogue and the integrated water resources management in Central Asia through parallel interventions at the national and transboundary levels.

The main objective of the project in Tajikistan is development of a unified statutory and regulatory, organizational and technical, financial and economic approach to the IWRM, together with development and introduction of the national plan on the IWRM and strategies on improvement of the irrigation system, rural water supply and waste water disposal systems, development of mini hydropower engineering on irrigation systems and implementation of the institutional reform; improved coordination of activities of structures on transition to the IWRM on the national and regional level; capacity building on the IWRM; improved access to the information and improvement of its exchange between the parties involved.

The approaches on reforming of the water sector are being improved, the regional cooperation on the rational and efficient utilization of water resources is being developed through new integrated approaches and interaction principles in transboundary basins, with the support of the project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» and in coordination with other water projects as well as with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the Coordination Council on water-energy issues, with the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, other agencies of the water sector, local executive State government bodies, local public authorities, with the civil community and with the private sector.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Implementation of the project has to be started on 1 January 2009 and finished on 31 December 2012. The Project Manager was employed on the contractual basis since 10 September 2009. By the Order of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan from

16 November 2009, under the No. 25418(13-4) the Project document and the Project Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan were discussed and agreed by relevant authorities and on 5 March 2010 these documents were signed by parties. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan from 15 September 2008 under the No. 541 and with the support of the EU and FAO, the activities were started on reforming of the irrigation sector. Relevant draft documents were submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, but till now no political decision has been made on starting (launching) practical deeds because of the ambiguity in issues of water users' and accordingly of water suppliers' debts, of dimensions of the state support to the irrigation system, of the management scheme of basin and sub-basin organizations. After continuous consultations with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with international and other organizations, the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan decided that 5 basin organizations will be established: Syr-daryinskaya; Kafirniganskaya; Pyandjskaya (GBAO); Vakhshskaya and Hissarskaya. For the project activities the Ministry has agreed upon the sub-basin of the transboundary river Isfara and signed the Project specification by the letter from 14 September 2010 under the No.1-1278. Relevant activities within the frames of the project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» fitted (well) into the process of the irrigation sector reform really taking place. In view of this project plans for 2010, 2011 and 2012 were duly corrected and discussed on meetings of the National steering Committee of the Project.

II. REVIEW OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. General progress as regards to objectives and results of the Country Programme Plan of Activities

The project "Promotion to the integrated water resources management and transboundary dialog" is in full compliance with a number of points in the Country Programme Action Plan developed between the Government of the RT and UNDP. These points include: poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; proper management; crisis prevention and rehabilitation; partnership; environment protection. Within the frames of the project provisions were made for activities to be implemented in the sphere of supporting the development of the IWRM strategy and promotion of the management reform, facilitation (assistance) in reconstruction of basic assets of the water sector through development of the inventory methodology and making inventory in the sub-basin of the river Isfara, strengthening of the transboundary monitoring through development of the feasibility

study and rehabilitation of gauging stations «Matpari» and «Tangivorukh» on the river Isfara, development of the draft Agreement on management of water resources of international rivers together with the GIZ, Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and Committee of the water economy and land reclamation of the Kyrgyz republic.

2. Capacity building

The Project has all necessary conditions for the efficient work. The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources has appointed the First deputy Minister Sulton Rakhimov as the Project Curator. In 2009 the Regional Committee was established on the regional level and has been successfully functioning till now. 6 meetings of this Committee were held, 2 of these meetings were held in 2012. Simultaneously within the frames of the Regional Committee trainings on the IWRM were conducted, the network of organizations-partners on IWRM promotion entitled CAR@WAN was established. In 2010 on the national level the National Steering Committee of the Project was established. 4 meetings of this Committee were held, one of them was held in 2012. On meetings of the Committee plans and the progress of their implementation were discussed as well as the most important documents developed within the frames of the Project. These documents include: the Methodology for Irrigation systems Inventory, Analytical review «Status and perspectives of the IWRM in the Republic of Tajikistan", Review of water resources management in the basin of the river Isfara (this Review was distributed among participants of the Round table on 9 October 2012), Training modules on drinking water supply and water disposal. These modules further were shared with the Project TajWSS for training of stakeholders (concerned parties). Here also the process and results of establishment of 6 WUAs (Water Users Associations) and of the Water Users Federation were discussed as well as the progress of the irrigation system inventory in the sub-basin of the river Isfara. This Methodology in the amount of 600 copies was distributed among water users and also on the training on IWRM and application of the Inventory Methodology, conducted in Kayrakkum on 21-22 February 2012. In the course of establishment of 6 WUAs and of the Water Users Federation 321 persons were trained. The furniture and office equipment was provided to two WUAs «Ob Hayot» of Kanibadam district and «Mehnatobod» of Isfara district. The process of rehabilitation of some of their constructions started.

The analytical review «Status and perspectives of the integrated water resources management in the Republic of Tajikistan" and also the resume of this review in English and Russian were submitted to the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water

Resources and were distributed to participants of the 4th meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Project on 5 December 2012 in Dushanbe.

Based on the prepared Feasibility study in November 2012 rehabilitation of the gauging station «Matpari» on the river Isfara was started.

In December 2012 a section of the book “Application of the IWRM concept in Central Asia: dissemination of the available practice” on Tajikistan was prepared and submitted for generalization on the regional level.

In 2012 the agreement was reached with the Eurasian Bank of Development on financing the development of the Feasibility study for mini hydropower engineering on the irrigation systems of the Republic of Tajikistan. It will further promote attraction of investments into this sphere of activities and solution of energy problems in the rural area.

3. Impact on the direct and indirect beneficiaries

Activities and results achieved within the frames of the project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» had a certain impact on the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources Republic of Tajikistan, its oblast and district vodkhozes (waterworks departments), the Ministry of agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan, farmers, local communities (Jamoats), on the population. The impact of the Project includes conducting of trainings and workshops on the IWRM and making inventory of irrigation system, of water supply and water disposal systems, promotion to the development of drinking water supply and sanitary systems in the rural area, establishment of steadily functioning WUAs, of the Water Users Federation in the sub-basin of the river Isfara, supporting of establishment of basin organizations and realization of reforms in the irrigation sector in the whole, promotion of the development of mini hydropower engineering on irrigation systems, development of the basin plan of transition to the IWRM, strengthening of the partnership on water issues and activities on promotion to making agreement with the Kyrgyz side about water resources management in the sub-basin of the river Isfara.

The indirect beneficiaries are the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, local executive authorities (Hukumats), the Ministry of energy and industry of the Republic of Tajikistan, Committee on the environment protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Head office on geology at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, State Unitary Enterprise «Housing maintenance and utilities board», Agro-industrial Association of the Republic of Tajikistan, Association of dehkan farms and agricultural cooperatives, other non-governmental organizations with the water and ecological orientation, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and its Inter-

state Commission for Water Management and Inter-state Commission for sustainable development, other international organizations.

REVIEW OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Participation/Consultative process

Principles of the consultative process and of the information exchange have been laid in the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan (article III). Whenever necessary the parties inform each other and have relevant meetings and consultations on the level of the Steering Committee of the Project, Round tables, meetings and workshops.

The most important meetings and consultations:

- By results of meetings of the Regional Manager Natalya Alekseeva and the Project Manager Anatoliy Kholmatov with the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Rahmat Bobokalonov and his First deputy, as well as with the Head of the department of ecology and emergency of the Executive office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Khairullo Ibodzoda, on 12 January 2012 the Standard Agreement was concluded between the UNDP in Tajikistan and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan about realization of the sub-project on supporting the Working group of the Coordination Council at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on water-energy issues;

- During the monitoring mission in the period of 17-20 May 2012 there were organized meetings of Mr. Gai Legger with the First deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Sulton Rakhimov, with Mr. Khairullo Ibodzoda, the Head of the department of ecology and emergency of the Executive office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, with Mr. Suhrob Hushmuhamedov, Nargiza Usmanova and Mirzohaydar Isoev (UNDP in Tajikistan), with Mr. Ben Hill – Attaché of the European Union Representation office in Tajikistan. In the whole the realization process of the Project was assessed positively;

- On 6 November 2012 in Almaty with participation of Suhrob Khoshmukhamedov (UNDP in Tajikistan), Alexander Mironenkov (Eurasian Bank of Development), Tulegen Sarsembekov (Eurasian Bank of Development) the meeting was held on the issue of concluding agreement between the UNDP and the Eurasian Bank of Development about financing the development of the Feasibility Study for the mini hydropower engineering on the irrigation systems of the Republic of Tajikistan. Consequently in December 2012 the Executive Board of the Eurasian Bank of Development approved this proposal. Starting of financing is expected in 2013.

- For discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan on rehabilitation of the gauging station of the interstate importance «Matpari» the meeting was held with the First deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water

Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Sulton Rakhimov. Consequently an official letter was received from the Ministry from 17 May 2012, under the No. 15-648 about essential approval of the draft of this Memorandum and about equity participation in financing of rehabilitation of the gauging station «Matpari» in the volume of 2,5 thousand US dollars (in-kind contribution). The similar meeting was also held with Tajikhydromet that also approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP and equity participation (in-kind contribution) in rehabilitation of the gauging station «Tangivorukh» in the volume of 10 thousand US dollars. In November 2012 the contract about rehabilitation of the gauging station «Matpari» was signed and its rehabilitation was started. Completion of works is expected in the first half-year 2013.

- With the purpose to improve acts of normative legal regulation in the sphere of utilization and protection of water resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and elimination of existing contradictions, on 6 April 2012 the first deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Sulton Rakhimov held a working meeting where Anatoliy Kholmatov (UNDP), Gazi Kelyani (OXFAM), Shuhrat Egamberdiev (TajWSS) and others participated. The Ministry submitted developed draft resolutions to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;

- In April, May and June 2012 a number of meetings were held with participation of employees of the UNDP office in Tajikistan (Nargiza Usmanova, Mirzokhaidar Isoev, Ahad Mahmoudov, Kibryo Jumaeva, Alisher Karimov, Anatoliy Kholmatov, Shuhrat Egamberdiev and others) on the issue of preparing the concept of the Project document on development of the IWRM elements in the basin of the river Isfara. Consequently this document was submitted to the SDC where it was approved. Now Terms of reference are being prepared.

- In the period of 19-21 June the Ambassador of Norway visited the project zone of the basin of the river Isfara. Consequently the Ambassador suggested to prepare the concept on the further promotion of the IWRM elements for further discussion. The concept was prepared and handed over to the Ambassador.

- On 8 May and 11 May 2012 meetings of experts of different ministries and agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan, of international and non-government organizations were held on preparing the National survey: «On the way to the green economy in Tajikistan» within the frames of preparing to the World Summit on sustainable development RIO+20. Consequently with the support of UNDP in Tajikistan and UNDESA the survey was issued in English and Russian and presented by the Tajik official delegation in Rio-de-Janeiro in the period of 18-20 June 2012.

- On 15 May 2012 the meeting was held with participation of Khairullo Ibodzoda - the Head of the department of ecology and emergency of the Executive office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Secretary of the Water-energy Council; Suhrob Khushmuhamedov, Nargiza Usmanova, Ahad Mahmoudov and Anatoliy Kholmatov (UNDP in Tajikistan). It was considered reasonable to coordinate the list of national and international organizations with the Governing Board of the Water-energy Council for simplification of the procedure of inviting them to meetings of the Council. With the purpose to raise effectiveness of the work of the Council's working group it would be reasonable to conduct meetings of the working group under the chairmanship of the supervising Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. For giving coverage to the work of the Council and its workgroup in press it is

necessary to invite press representatives to its meetings and release information bulletins;

- On 20 July 2012 by invitation of GIZ the project manager Anatoliy Kholmatov participated in coordination meeting in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) on water projects realized in the basin of the river Isfara by different international organizations. Anatoliy Kholmatov made a presentation about the progress of realization of the Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia». On this meeting it was agreed to meet regularly from now onwards by mutual agreement and inform each other about implemented project activities, in order to avoid duplication and provide the effective application of funds.

- Also on 20 July 2012 Anatoliy Kholmatov participated in the Tajik-Kyrgyz inter-ministerial meeting supported by the GIZ, where the latest variant of the draft Agreement on management of water resources in basins of international rivers was discussed. Here also operational issues of interstate water resources management, conducting of the Year of international cooperation and organization of the relevant international conference in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) were discussed. By results of the meeting the protocol was adopted regarding the draft Agreement where it was mentioned about extension of works on its coordination and submission for consideration and approval by parties. It was also underlined that it is necessary to register the Agreement in the UN Secretariat;

- On 5 August 2012 a meeting was held with Mr. Pol Einer – representative of the International office on water resources (France). Participants shared the information about the projects being realized. In particular they are realizing project «Building the capacity in management of the data on water resources for strengthening cooperation on transboundary rivers (EECCA)». They render assistance to states on strengthening interaction and cooperation, develop the concept on database management.

- On 10 August 2012 under the chairmanship of the Head of ecology and emergency department of the executive office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan – Secretary of the Coordination Council at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on water-energy issues, the extended meeting of the workgroup of this Council was conducted with participation of experts of ministries and agencies – members of the Council.

The following issues were discussed (considered) on the meeting:

- about implementation of the workplan of the Coordination Council at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on water-energy issues.

- about the mechanism of interaction of structures of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, located on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, about preparing reports and about the order of reporting, participation in meetings of those organizations and submitting reports on regional projects.

- about design and application of the web-site of the Council and providing information for it.

- about preparing and conducting of the International Conference «International Year of water cooperation - 2013».

On 13 September 2012 in the Ministry of economy and trade of the Republic of Tajikistan the meeting was held for discussion of the draft Programme on the social welfare of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2013-2015. Development of this Programme is supported by the UNDP in Tajikistan. In view of Project achievements some comments were done to the Programme to the section of water resources, hydropower engineering and agriculture in terms of IWRM introduction, establishment of WUAs and of their Associations, promotion of water reforms, inventory of water funds, management scheme, addressing problems of accumulated debts, combatting corruption, establishment of trust funds, organization of the system of monitoring over the genetically modified products coming to Tajikistan and others. Proposals were passed to the Programme developers in the written form.

On 28 September 2012 the meeting of the workgroup was held on development of the concept on the basin planning in pilot river basins. This meeting was organized by the GIZ and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. Participants of the meeting agreed that the work with GIZ will be implemented taking into consideration available best practice of UNDP in the basin of the river Isfara.

On 13 December 2012 in the UNDP office the meeting of donors with representatives of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources was held. On this meeting the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Rahmat Bobokalonov made a presentation about the water resources of the country. The most important moment in this meeting was the appeal to transfer the water relations from the sphere of politics to the area of practical implementation.

The quality of partner relations

The strategic partner in realization of the Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» is the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. Partner relations and spheres of cooperation with this Ministry and UNDP have been regularized in the Memorandum of Understanding and in the Project document. In the process of realization of Project activities relevant national and international organizations showed high interest and activity on workshops (seminars), meetings of regional and national Steering Committees, in other conducted events. It can be explained by that reforms are taking place in the irrigation sector, agriculture, housing and utilities infrastructure and other sectors and the Project being realized is directly aimed to the Integrated Water Resources Management, i.e. to reforming of the Water sector. The lack of the political decision on transition to the basin management strategy, that is the central core of the IWRM, to a large extend affects the quality of partner relations and on the operational efficiency of activities. The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan relevant proposals on making political decision that will allow to take to the

totally new level all the system of partner relations on the Project realization and in the whole on the IWRM promotion.

Sustainability of interventions

Sustainability of Project interventions and their impact on the further promotion of the IWRM process are of great importance. Therefore activities and interventions were planned with the view to the future. In the analytical reviews on the state and perspectives of the IWRM in the basin of the river Isfara and in Tajikistan in the whole recommendations for the future are given. These recommendations serve as a basis for preparing plans for the IWRM promotion, supporting of the basin organization in Isfara, establishment of steadily functioning WUAs, of the Water Users Federation, rehabilitation of gauging station of the interstate importance «Tangivorukh» and «Matpari» for improvement of the monitoring of water resources and others. Training modules on the drinking water supply and sanitation developed from the point of view of normative-legal, organizational and technical, financial and economical regulation are used at training of the personnel (manpower) and population within the frames of the TajWSS Project.

Monitoring over the Project activities

Monitoring over the Project activities is realized as follows:

- By the Coordinator of the Water programme for Central Asia from the Regional centre for countries of Europe and CIS (Almaty, UNDP), Natalya Alexeeva;
- By the Attaché of the European Union representation office in the Republic of Tajikistan;
- By the EU Monitor Gey Legger who visited the project site on 17-20 May 2012;
- By the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and by the Central office of UNDP in Tajikistan in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between them. Meetings are regularly held and relevant letters are sent;
- By Programme of UNDP in Tajikistan on energetics and environment, which realizes the direct supervision over the Project;
- By the National Steering Committee of the Project, established in accordance with the Project document and Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and UNDP in Tajikistan. The fourth meeting of this Steering Committee was held on 5 December 2012 in the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- By the First deputy of the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Mr. Sulton Rakhimov, who is the Head of the National Steering Committee of the Project;
- By the regional Steering Committee of the Project. The sixth meeting of this Steering Committee was held on 6-7 November 2012 in Almaty.

In the whole monitoring of Project activities is done thoroughly, far and wide (in details) and on different levels. The course of implementation of project activities was regulated by the workplan for 2012, by contracts with concrete organizations and experts on certain subjects and kinds of works. The interim and final reports were submitted to UNDP in timeframes set in contracts.

III. DETAILED REVIEW OF THE PROJECT RESULTS

As a result of Project activities in 2012 the following work was performed:

The Analytical review «Status and perspectives of the IWRM in the Republic of Tajikistan", as well as its resume in English and Russian was issued and disseminated among concerned parties;

The draft of the joint with Kyrgyzstan review of the current water resources management in the basin of the river Isfara was issued. It was discussed on the national seminar on 9 October 2012 in Isfara and approved by participants of the Round table. After discussion on the similar Round table in Kyrgyzstan it was refined and finalized by experts of the Republic of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. In this review recommendations are given on establishment of the joint Basin Water Commission, development of financially attractive for donors rehabilitation Projects, aimed to improvement of the water supply situation in agriculture, water saving, development of water supply and water disposal systems, prevention of floods' risks. Also recommendations are given on making inventory of irrigation systems and of water supply and water disposal systems, on conducting trainings. Within the frames of the project the inventory of the irrigation system in the sub-basin of the river Isfara was supported. Also the work of the Coordination Council at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the water-energy issues on the IWRM promotion was supported. The working group of this Council was formed. For the work of this work group the office premise was face-lifted (repaired), computer equipment and the furniture was provided. One meeting of the Coordination Council and three meetings of the workgroup were conducted. Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan were adopted in accordance with the Law on drinking water supply, about safety of hydraulic facilities, about the organization committee on preparing and conducting of the International Conference on Water Cooperation, 2013;, the National review "On the way to the green economy in Tajikistan (RIO+20) was developed, participation of representatives of the Republic of Tajikistan in the 6th World water forum , Marcel 2012 and in the UN Conference on sustainable development (RIO+20) was provided;

Since November 2012 the rehabilitation of the gauging station of the interstate importance «Matpari» on the river Isfara was started. The computer and office equipment was delivered to the WUA «Mehnatobod» in Isfara district and to the WUA «Ob Hayot» in Kanibadam district and in December 2012 the contract was concluded

for rehabilitation of their offices, of 7 outlet works, for installation of 10 water-meters and construction of two pipe bridges-passages. The Federation of water users in the sub-basin of the river Isfara was established and the project for establishment of the Supporting Fund for the IWRM promotion in this sub-basin was developed. Assistance was rendered in making inventory of the irrigation systems in the sub-basin of the river Isfara on the area of 20 thousand hectares covering Isfara and Kanibadam districts of the Soghd oblast of the Republic of Tajikistan. 600 copies of the Methodology for the irrigation systems inventory were distributed. Trainings on IWRM and the irrigation systems inventory were conducted for 100 specialists. For 321 participants from Water users Associations trainings were conducted on making plans on water management, business-planning, office administration, water metering, making contracts for water consumption, tariffication, accounting membership fees and others. Achievements of the project were covered in the local and republican press. The section on Tajikistan was prepared for the book «Application of the IWRM concept in Central Asia - available practice and further development» and was submitted to the Regional manager for generalization. Experts from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan also participated in writing of this book.

In the whole in the basin of the river Isfara the model has been formed for the possible use in other transboundary basins of rivers.

On 6-7 November 2012 in Almaty the final and conclusive conference on the IWRM and the sixth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Project took place. Here the following issues were considered and discussed:

- Reports of the Regional manager and of National Project managers of the Republic of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan about results of the Project activities for the period of 2009-2012;
- Issues of sustainability and priority directions of the further activities on IWRM in Central Asia;
- Project completion strategy.

Consequently the decision was made about extension of the period of the Project realization till 20 June 2013, and also about starting of the second phase of the Project for the further promotion of the IWRM.

In accordance with the workplan on 5 December 2012 the fourth meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Project was held. Here the following issues were discussed:

- Report about activities on the Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» for the period of December 2009 till December 2012 and plans for the first half-year 2013. Report of

the Project manager was taken into consideration. The plan of Project works for 2013 by taking into consideration the received proposals was approved;

- About activities of the workgroup of the Advisory Board at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on water-energy issues supported within the frames of the Project. The Information of the Secretary of the Council– the Head of the workgroup was taken into consideration;

- Information of the National expert Bahrom Gafarov about review of the state of water resources management in the sub-basin of the river Isfara that was taken into consideration;

- Information of National experts Kodir Aliev and Husniddin Sharofiddinov about results of making inventory of the irrigation system in the sub-basin of the river Isfara. The information was taken into consideration;

- Presentation of the LLC «Irrigation Agrarian Consulting» Saifullo Isomutdinov and of the expert Abdulatif Homidi about the issue of sustainability of 6 WUAs established in the sub-basin of the river Isfara, about strengthening the potential capacity of pilot WUAs «Ob Hayot» in Kanibadam district and «Mehnatobod» in Isfara district and about perspectives of functioning of the Water Users Federation in this sub-basin. The information was taken into consideration.

- Information of Igamberdiev, the specialist on the Project «Water supply and sanitation system in Tajikistan» (TajWSS) about activities of the Interagency Coordination Council on the drinking water supply and sanitation. The information was taken into consideration.

- The general review of achievements of the Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» on the regional level and plans for the first half-year 2013, presented by Natalya Alexeeva (BRC/Almaty) was taken into consideration.

IV. DIFFICULTIES AT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Risks and Activities

Lack of political decision on implementation of the irrigation reform hindered the wide realization of the Project both in 2012, 2010 and in 2011. Consequently the development of the plan of transition to the Integrated Water Resources Management in the sub-basin of the river Isfara was slowed down. There is still a risk that in 2013 the political decision will not be made, because still the problem of accumulated debts of water users and of water supply organizations has not been settled yet; the inventory of irrigation systems, that is the most important step in rehabilitation and reforming of their management, is not done. Within the frames of the project the Methodology on irrigation system inventory has been developed and the inventory of irrigation system in the sub-basin of the river Isfara was supported. The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources made inventory in 5 districts of Khatlon oblast.

Making of the general and conjoined inventory is hindered by the shortage of funds for supporting of stocktaking teams (inventory groups) on the local level.

Since October 2012 in cooperation with GIZ on a pilot basis, realization of the Project on development of a Plan on management of the basin of the river Isfara has started.

Falling of the euro rate to US dollar caused reducing of the Project budget by 101740 US dollars. In view of this the rehabilitation of the gauging station «Tangivorukh» was frozen. On the 6th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» the decision was made and proposals were collected for initiating the second phase of the Project for preparing the plan of transition to the Integrated water resources management, development of investment plans, development of the system of the IWRM support and of reforms in the whole. Also the decision was made about finalization of the Project activities in the first hal-year of 2013 within the scope of available funds, completion of rehabilitation works in 2 WUAs and on the gauging station «Matpari» in the sub-basin of the river Isfara, continuing the support to the workgroup of the Water-Energy Council, co-financing of the inventory of water supply and water disposal systems in the sub-basin of the river Isfara together with the TajWSS Project.

On the issue of preparing the Feasibility Study for development of mini hydropower engineering on the irrigation systems negotiations were held with the Eurasian Bank of development. Approval of the Board of the Bank has been received, but the financing is not opened yet.

V. LESSONS LEARNED AND FURTHER STEPS

Lessons learned

The essential learned lesson was insufficient coordination between different organizations and Projects that are realizing similar tasks in the water sector. For improving the current situation, the Interagency Coordination Council on the drinking water supply and sanitation was established, as well as the workgroup of the Water-energy Board. The interaction is taking place within the frames of the UN EVSEC Project «National political dialogue on the IWRM». The Project TajWSS from the UNDP Communities programme was transferred to the UNDP Programme on Energetics and Environment in order to provide the integrated approach in its realization.

Another important learned lesson was that even without the political decision about transition to the basin principle of water resources management, it is possible to introduce some elements and take some measures that bring closer transition to the

IWRM within the scope of certain basins of rivers (establishment of WUAs and their Federations, organization of water metering, inventory and rehabilitation of basic assets, passing them to relevant operators for management, preparing of lacking normative-legal acts, methodologies, economic mechanisms etc.) In this regard the Isfara basin is exemplary for introducing the IWRM elements in other basins.

Further steps

It is necessary to further support the process of transition to the IWRM within the scope of certain basins of rivers. For this purpose it would be reasonable to open the second phase of the Project making provisions for:

- development and adoption of documents of the republican, local, basin, institutional and local levels;
- extension of the IWRM introduction to other branches – water users and elements of water resources utilization system not covered by these activities (multi-purpose water reservoirs, fish-farms, recreation and flooding of pastures, etc.);
- establishment of training centers within the bounds of the basin of the river Isfara on the basis of established WUA with application of a new irrigation technique for the IWRM promotion;
- establishment of WUAs in other locations;
- support in rehabilitation and transfer of basic assets intrafarm irrigation systems to the WUA's balance;
- strengthening of the potential of established WUAs and of water users' Federation;
- supporting of the dialogue in the basin of the river Isfara and its development in other transboundary basins;
- studying and establishment of interaction models between different levels of the water resources management from the IWRM perspective;
- support in the process of regulation of debts problem in the water sector and development of relevant proposals for making decision;
- completion of rehabilitation of gauging stations «Tangivorukh» and «Matpari» on the river Isfara.

VI. Financial status and application of funds

Financial status

Table 1: Inputs (2009 - 2012)

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
European Union	EUR 1,500,000	USD 536 809	USD 55 568

Application of funds

ANNEX:

PRESS RELEASE

Irrigation systems inventory – an important step in reforming their management

Tajikistan is supporting and participating in the process of implementing principles of the integrated water resources management proceeding from the "Millennium Development Goals". The complete transition to the IWRM is a part of the Johannesburg Plan supported by the Republic of Tajikistan. This plan promotes the effective water resources management, its stable delivery to water users, the actual equality of all water users and the sustainable development in the country. The IWRM process includes the following principles:



- Water resources management within the hydrographical bounds;
- Metering and using of all kinds of water resources (surface, underground, regeneration waters) taking into consideration climatic patterns;
- Coordination of the water resources management between the water users and different levels of water resources management;
- Public participation in management, financing, planning and development;
- Information support, openness and transparency of the management system;
- Taking into consideration requirements of the natural environment in activities on water resources utilization;
- availability of incentives for the water saving and fighting against non-productive consumption of water.



In Tajikistan there are more than 743 thousand hectares of irrigated lands that make up the basis for the food security of the country. These lands are distributed among agricultural producers. Difficulties of transition to the market economy, liquidation of

kolkhozes and sovkhoses and emergence of farm and other market forms of economic management resulted in that basic (property) assets of intrafarm irrigation system remained abandoned. There are only some odd bits of information about their availability and technical state. It should be noted that it is necessary to specify (update) the real technical state of both interfarm irrigation system being on the balance of state water management operating entities and the inventory of which was not done since 1990, and also of intrafarm irrigation systems. Financial capacity of the state and of isolated dehqan farms do not allow to provide the required maintenance of irrigation systems. Instability of the organizational structure of the management system and lack of proper regulation of financial interrelations between water supplies and water users have aggravated in the whole already poor technical state of irrigation systems. In accordance with the Concept on improvement of the state management structure of the Republic of Tajikistan, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan from 16 September 2008, under the No. 541, and also in accordance with the Address of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan from 15 April 2009, in accordance with relevant instructions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Order of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, the European Union, FAO, UNDP and other international organizations together with concerned ministries and agencies have performed a large analytical work on finding the most optimum alternative for transition of the irrigation sector to the hydrographical principle of management. In the course of this work it became necessary to clarify such important issues as availability of constructions of irrigation systems, their belonging (affiliation) and technical conditions, volume of funds required for their rehabilitation.

The clear vision of these issues is important not only for the Republic of Tajikistan, but also for the donor community in order to find the position with the further investment policy in the sphere of irrigation systems, the estimated cost of which as per 1990 made up \$1,517 billion. Only making up inventory of basic assets of all irrigation system by the uniform methodology will help to promote reforming of the irrigation sector through establishment of basin organizations and steadily functioning WUAs in relevant hydrographical units with further transition of them to the integrated water resources management. The most important moment for providing the sustainable functioning of WUAs is placing of intrafarm irrigation system under their management without right to convey. Otherwise they will further remain abandoned. The Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia» is being realized since 2009 up to 2012 with the support of the European Union, UN Development Programme, the Government of Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Tajikistan for rendering assistance in solution of the stated above objectives. The transboundary basin of the river Isfara was selected as a pilot region for realization of the Project in Tj. This basin includes Isfara district and a part of Kanibadam district of Soghd oblast of the Republic of

Tajikistan and also Batken oblast of Kyrgyzstan. Within the frames of this Project the «Methodology of irrigation system inventory» was developed specially for conditions of Tajikistan. Its most important advantage is the basin approach at making up inventory. Such approach will serve not only for determining the technical state and belonging (affiliation) of basic assets, but will also facilitate assigning them to Water users associations and also the establishment of basin organizations on water resources management in the nearest future. This methodology was preliminarily approved by the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan in summer 2011 in 5 districts of Khatlon oblast and only after being improved by representatives of state, private and non-governmental organizations this methodology was approved by the Order of this Ministry from 26 October 2011 under the No. 164 and recommended for using by subordinate organizations and by other juridical and physical persons at making inventory of irrigation systems. In 2012 within the frames of the Project “Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia” the assistance was rendered in making up real inventory of the irrigation system in the sub-basin of the river Isfara on the territory of Isfara and Kanibadam districts covering about 20 thousand hectares of irrigated lands. This event was preceded by conducting of a number of trainings on studying of the IWRM principles and of the methodology on irrigation systems inventory, publication of this Methodology and distribution among concerned organizations, including WUAs. Within the frames of the Project in mentioned districts establishment of standing Inventory commissions and stock-taking workgroups was initiated. These commissions and workgroup were established from amongst the employees of state water management organizations of these districts, representatives of WUAs and of other water users. With the support of UNDP two experienced National consultants were involved. These are Kodir Aliev who has worked for many years in the irrigation system of the Republic of Tajikistan (Coordinator of the inventory process) and Husniddin Sharofiddinov (responsible for pumping irrigation and mapping).

Support of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, of the State Administration of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of Soghd oblast, of the State Administrations of Water Resources of Kanibadam and Isfara districts, of local executive authorities of Isfara and Kanibadam, of relevant Jamoats with whom partner relations have been formed, allow to hope for the success of this initiative. It is necessary to underline that in the transboundary aspect the partners are relevant organizations in Kyrgyzstan with whom the implemented works are coordinated. In 2011 in the sub-basin of the river Isfara within the frames of the Project 6 WUAs were established and in July 2012 in the settlement Ravot in Kanibadam district the meeting of founders of the Water Users Federation took place. This Federation can in future enter the Basin Water Management organization and

present their interests of water users and also have partnership interaction with water suppliers. In the whole, the Isfara sub-basin exemplifies a small model of introduction of the IWRM elements and it is possible to apply this experience in basins of other rivers.

Anatoliy Kholmatov, Manager of the Project «Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialog in Central Asia», UNDP in Tajikistan.