

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

Title	Harmonization and approximation of water standards and normatives in Central Asian and Caucasus countries		
Total cost	1990 000 USD		
	Project approach – centralised/decentralised management		
DAC-code		Sector	

### 1. RATIONALE (as far as not yet addressed in introductory part)

#### 1.1. Strategic framework

Countries of Central Asia and Caucasus are currently undergoing reforming of water quality management systems and implementation of integrated water resources management principles.

On the WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) and the Pan-European Ministerial Conference (Kiev, 2003) governments of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus adopted regional and sub-regional goals including sustainable functioning of water ecosystems important for human vital activity, access to water and water management. In addition, countries of Central Asia decided to prepare Partnership Agreement, which covers harmonization of legislation and normative base in the area of water and environment protection.

#### 1.2. Lessons learnt

In May-July 2004 CAREC has initiated the dialog on water standards on the national level with government, private sector and NGOs in Kazakhstan resulted by establishment of multisectoral Working Group on reforming of water sector legislation by the Committee of Water Resources (Ministry of Agriculture) and Ministry of Environment of Kazakhstan. WG developed a 3-year program (2005-2007) on adaptation of new schemes to water management based on water basin management and European Water Framework Directive approach and application of BAT (best available technology) philosophy in water sector. The programme was approved by the Committee for Water Resources and the Ministry of Environment Protection.

The activities of the CAREC in year 2004 described above can serve as a guarantee of cooperation potential and interest and support from national bodies responsible for water management in the country.

One of the most important lessons learnt by CAREC from the experience of cooperation with national and local authorities is the evidence of poor management capacities of them and lack of intersectoral and intergovernmental coordination in sustainable way. At the same time CAREC has strong conviction that having the necessity of long-term sustainable development of the countries as a leading argument will be possible to help governments to better understand and integration.

#### 1.3. Complementary actions

In April 2005 CAREC in cooperation with REC Caucasus and REC Russia was organized consultations and regional workshop on water standards with support of UNECE, GWP, UNDP and OECD Task Force. Workshop participants recommended:

1. CAREC and REC Caucasus to continue supporting cooperation among countries, water and environment sectors on improvement of management systems and normative base in the area of water quality.
2. To summarize submitted reports, materials and workshop recommendations and publish them in the form of separate brochure and on a website for all stakeholders.
3. To create working groups out of representatives of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Annex 2) for development of project proposals on further practical steps on improvement of management systems and normative base in the area of water quality taking into account workshop recommendations (Annex 3).

4. Workshop participants address EC, other international organizations and donor countries to support countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus in their further efforts on improvement of normative base, coming together and harmonization of legislation taking into account EU WFD and international experience.

#### **1.4. Donor coordination**

This project will be implemented with cooperation with UNDP/Norway project on IWRM in Kazakhstan and GWP programme for Central Asia and Caucasus. These projects have supported (see pls 1.3) regional workshop on standards and normative already. CAREC is planning also to start in 2006 new programme on water standards.

- 2. COUNTRY (OR REGIONAL) CONTEXT** Central Asia and Caucasus countries (including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan)

#### **2.1. Cooperation related policy of beneficiary country**

EUWI, Environmental Strategy for EECCA region, EAP Task Force programme, GWP, Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development.

#### **2.2. Sector context**

The problem of water resources management in Central Asian and Caucasus region is a critical area of concern for sustainable development. Inefficient legislation and existing practices of water consumption (especially by agricultural sector) lead to known degradation and catastrophes (as Aral Sea tragedy). In spite of the existing situation and very small progress made in the region the core problems related to balanced and integrated. The water issues have been considered as the most tensed area that might follow by water conflicts in the regions.

The project proposes to contribute to the solving of this problem focusing on most effective tools – revision of existing standards of water sector and management and by implementation of river basin approach and Best Practices of water management and water consumption. The experience of countries of the European Union (EUWD) will taken as a methodological basis for this activity.

Thus, the project will be focused on areas related to legislation and capacity building on national and local level in beneficiary countries of Central Asia. Water standards and Best Practices and models of water management and conflict resolution. Capacity building for adoption of EU norms and standards on water management in water policy and legislation in CA and Caucasus countries. On local level the attention will be given to development and application of best available techniques on water resource management.

### **3. DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1. Objectives**

The overall goal of the project is the Strengthening of capacities in CA and C countries to adopt best practices of water management and to improve legislation in Water sector. The goal will be reached by the accomplishment of specific objectives divided into 2 sub-components: Policy and Legislation, Capacity Building.

##### A. Policy and Legislation

- 3.1.1. Analysis of water policy and legislation in CA and C countries.
- 3.1.2. Stock-taking of the current status of water generation and consumption in Central Asia and Caucasus.
- 3.1.3. Analysis of standards for integrated water resources management in EU. Development of recommendations on adoption of EU WFD on Water and Energy (where applicable) into national legislation systems of CA and C countries.

- 3.1.4. Development of recommendations of legislations on Water and Energy sector.
- 3.1.5. Development and implementation of plan and normative documents on transfer to the present basin water management. These documents should include the proposal for adoption and application of specific regulating normatives of water consumption (i.e. amount of water for production unit, etc.) to be used by organizations on design and implementation of activities, facilities, etc.

#### B. Capacity Building

- 3.1.6. Development and launching of the workshops and training program for water stakeholders and local authorities.
- 3.1.7. Development of the data base of BAT on water management for Central Asia and Caucasus.
- 3.1.8. Establishment of the network of experts, specialists and organizations working in the field of water normatives. Support of the established Working Group of Central Asia (and future Caucasus) on normatives and standards.

#### **3.2. The following practical steps**

- 3.2.1 To determine the responsibility among government bodies for water quality, including trans-boundary aspects.
- 3.2.2 To carry out analyses of all stakeholders on water quality issues with determination of roles, responsibilities and authority. To carry out analysis of correlation of permissible diversification and unification of certain institutes of water resources quality management.
- 3.2.3 To create a model conception of water quality management. To develop organizational schemes of water quality management in the countries.
- 3.2.4 To study the experience of implementation of EU FWD. To carry out a comparative analysis of validity and real attainability of existing goals of water quality (fishery MPC (maximum permissible concentration), MPC of EU, conformity of normative and background MPC and etc.). To assess risks of implementation of new water quality management systems.
- 3.2.5 To determine priority goals (MPC) as applied to concrete basins.
- 3.2.6 To develop a combined approach to the water quality standardization following EC example. To develop (determine) the list of the best available technologies (BAT).
- 3.2.7 To carry out harmonization of the national normative documents, including existing methods (calculation of MPB (maximum permissible water burial), MPC, issuing permissions and others). To use guidelines and other methodical documents, developed by EU, GWP, WHO, UNECE and other international organizations.
- 3.2.8 To develop mechanisms for solving of trans-boundary pollution problems. To carry out analysis of MEA and Conventions on providing quality of the trans-boundary waters.
- 3.2.9 To create Databases (based on GIS technology) unified for basins and countries and mechanisms of information exchange (to develop cadastres). To develop format for information exchange on water quality issues between the EECCA countries.
- 3.2.10 To use ISO 14000 systems for water quality management. To welcome the proposal of the Institute for Water Problems of Russian Academy of Science and SwedEnviro for development and implementation of such systems in CA and Caucasus.

- 3.2.11 To develop and implement programmes for education, professional skills development in the field of water quality management.
- 3.2.12 To promote public participation and involving into the reformation process of water quality management.
- 3.2.13 To develop and implement system of incentives for water objects pollutions decrease.
- 3.2.14 To take into account a priority importance of biological factors, bio testing and bio indication (for sewage), hydrobiota testing (for surface water objects).
- 3.2.15 To take into account the present recommendations for development of programmes of water quality monitoring. To develop monitoring systems of trans-boundary rivers water quality.

### **3.3. Expected results and main activities**

Expected results of the project activities will be as follows:

- 3.3.1. New model normative for integrated water management
- 3.3.2. Analytical Publication of Water Generation and Consumption in Central Asia and Caucasus Working Plan, adopted by officials and governments.
- 3.3.3. Number of trained decision makers, specialists on water and energy issues in Central Asia and Caucasus.
- 3.3.4. Specific regulating normatives of water consumption in Central Asia and Caucasus.
- 3.3.5. Data bases on Best Available Techniques for Water in Central Asia and Caucasus.
- 3.3.6. Network on Sustainable Water Generation and Consumption

### **3.4. Stakeholders**

- Water and Environmental management bodies in CA and Caucasus
- Local authorities
- Non-governmental organizations (including associations of water users and farmers)
- Private sector, especially small communities in rural area
- International organizations

### **3.5. Risks and assumptions**

- Common basic legislation of the countries
- Transboundary water resources and ecosystems
- Real needs of reforming and harmonisation

### **3.6. Conditionalities**

Conditions to be met prior to and during implementation

### **3.7. Crosscutting issues**

Environmental sustainability of the Central Asia and Caucasus sub-regions.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Implementation method**

Choose the relevant option and delete the other:

Option 1:

Centralised management

Option 2 (in case of partly centralised implementation and partly decentralised implementation, option 2 should be used):

#### Decentralised management

Indicate the tasks (procurement and grant award procedures /payments), which are centralised or decentralised and the authority (ies) of the beneficiary country concerned.

a) In case of decentralisation of procurement and award procedures:

Delete the option that does not apply:

Option 1: The Commission controls ex ante the contracting procedures for contracts >50.000 euros and ex post for contracts  $\leq$  50.000 euros.

or

Option 2: The Commission controls ex post the contracting procedures

b) In case of decentralisation of payments (only possible where the award procedures for the relevant contracts have been decentralised):

Delete the options that does not apply

Option 1: Through the programme estimates, payments are decentralised for operating costs and small scale contracts up to the following ceilings:

Works	Supplies	Services	Grants

or

Option 2: The payments are fully decentralised.

#### 4.2. Budget and calendar

Budget –1990 000. USD

Duration – 2 years

- Where possible, proportions of financing reserved for grants and for contracts; adding for contracts, type of procurement (services, supply, works), and for grants, main category of intended beneficiary (notably for de jure or de facto monopoly, justify the choice of the contractor).

- Operational duration indicated in months as from signature of Financing Agreement.

#### 4.3. Procurement and award of grants procedures

To be inserted without modification:

All contracts implementing the financing agreement must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

All programme estimates must respect the procedures and standard documents laid down by the Commission, in force at the time of the adoption of the programme estimates in question.

#### 4.4. Performance monitoring

Description of performance monitoring arrangements; overview of key indicators for measuring progress

#### 4.5. Evaluation and audit

Evaluations (mid-term, final, ex post) and audit arrangements

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### Annexes

Materials of the regional workshop