

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

40, Orbita-1, 480043, Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan
Tel: +7(3272) 785110, 785022, 296646, 292619
Fax: +7(3272) 705337
e-mail: carec@carec.kz
www.carec.kz



Project proposal

Background information

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) is one of the new type organizations established under the Pan-European Programme “Environment for Europe”. In 1999 the governments of Central Asian countries decided to locate CAREC in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In 2000 the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan ratified the agreement on CAREC working conditions, signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, European Commission and UNDP. According to its charter CAREC is an independent, non-profit and non-political international organisation. The CAREC mission is to assist in addressing environmental and development issues in Central Asia through promotion of cooperation at the local, national and regional levels. CAREC has been established as a long-term organization and its activities are continuous and sustainable. One of the main CAREC priority areas is water, including transboundary cooperation and drinking water.

CAREC took part in the UNDP and GWP projects to develop IWRM plan in Kazakhstan. Upon the invitation of the Committee of Water Resources of Kazakhstan, CAREC has become a partner of the national drinking water programme and a member of the 1st River Basin Council of the Ili-Balkhash basin, established under the IWRM Project support of. In 2004-2005, a sustainable water supply model in the Ili-Balkhash river basin has been developed and introduced by CAREC in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Under the support of the government and local authorities, pilot projects were implemented in a number of villages of rural area (in Almaty oblast). This experience revealed that the local community, local authorities and donors are willing to cooperate and establish partnership. Today clean water is flowing in each of such villages; the villagers are paying into their self-governing water committees at nearly full-cost-recovery rates, and water-borne disease rates decreased. USEPA continues supporting the project, but for the future financial and technical sustainability CAREC in cooperation with Water Resources Committee of Kazakhstan and other partners should establish a network of villages and a number of new villages should become partners to the network.

The Project proposal is aimed to practically address the issue of access to drinking water by local population. The Project will be implemented to support MDGs and commitments of Central Asia in terms of implementation of IWRM principles and IWRM National Action Plan. The Project implementation will be based upon social mobilization of population, local communities and local authorities to address the issue of:

- 1) low-quality drinking water,
- 2) water supply,
- 3) establishment of sustainable water supply management systems.

The main idea of the Project is to involve local population and local administration to resolution of its own problems, meaning the problem of supply with pure drinking water. It provides for financial participation of the population in the Project such as participation in repair of the water supply network and its subsequent maintenance. The Project provided that inhabitants of a village would contribute 10% of the total cost of the Project. In addition to local population, the local government also takes part in the Project allocating 20% of the Project cost. Accordingly, local population and local government are directly involved in the Project and interested in its successful implementation.

The Project objectives include development of water committees at the level of local (village) communities that will identify priorities, develop objectives and goals of the local action plan for water supply, coordinate and run activities related to the implementation and development of technical projects, aimed at improved access to the quality drinking water.

As an implementing agency CAREC will provide organizational, informational, technical and financial support to the local village communities in the development of water supply projects, including trainings, consulting, target technical grants for purchase and installation of the equipment required. The Project will apply the LEAP (Local Environmental Action Plan) methodology, tested by CAREC in Central Asian countries in 2003-2004. The Project will establish a sustainable water consumption model developed at the level of local communities in Central Asia.

CAREC intends to have this model applied in 5 more villages.

Project Goal:

The community is mobilized and public involvement activated in decision-making at the local level to ensure access of the population to quality drinking water. A potential of local communities is built in terms of development of local drinking water supply systems in Central Asian countries.

Project Objectives:

- 1) Capacity of local village communities strengthened to implement projects in the field of establishment and/or improvement of sustainable water supply systems
 - a) local communities selected
 - b) water committees established and registered as a local authorities.
- 2) Water committees' representatives trained (in organizational development, financial management).
- 3) Action plans for water supply developed for each local water committee, including selected technical water supply projects.
- 4) Technical grant water supply projects (pumps and pipes) implemented.
- 5) Guidelines on the development of Local Water Supply Action Plans for village communities developed.

The Project consists of 4 phases:

1. Preparatory. Includes selection of village communities (assessment of the overall interest, ensuring of local contribution to the project development and support of local authorities) and the establishment (registration) of Water Committees to deal with drinking water issues.

2. *Planning*. Development of Local Action Plans for drinking water supply at the level of village communities. Includes identification of organizational, technical and financial steps and development of technical water supply projects.

3. *Implementation*. Implementation of technical water supply projects (rehabilitation and reconstruction of outmoded water supply networks, construction, installation of local water processing systems, etc.). Establishment of maintenance mechanisms for local drinking water supply systems.

4. *Assessment*. Independent project assessment and proceeding with the water programme.

Project outputs:

- 1) A local sustainable water supply system established at the level of 5 more local village communities.
- 2) Local Action Plans for drinking water supply developed.
- 3) 4 workshops in analysis, project development, financial management and public involvement delivered.
- 4) 5 technical projects in water supply implemented, links set with other local water committees, established earlier in the framework of other projects and programmes.
- 5) Local Action Plans for water supply to be replicated in frame of the national drinking water programme of Central Asian countries.

Project outcomes:

The water supply systems improved and can be further developed. The local community health improved. Poverty, social conflicts and migration reduced. Partnership with national programme and projects, supported by ADB, USEPA and other donors can be developed and improved. Strengthening of civil society in Central Asia.

Project period: 12 months

Project budget: 200 000,00 USD

#	Budget lines	Budget (USD)
Total, including:		200 000,00
Total direct charges		188 000,00
1.	Personnel	24 000,00
2.	Travel	4 000,00
3.	Equipment	3 000,00
4.	Supplies	2000,00
5.	Contractual	140 000,00
6.	Other (publication, translation, financial services, local office, seminars)	15 000,00
Indirect costs		12 000, 00
7.	Administrative costs	12 000,00