



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

## Management Response

<b>Evaluation Title:</b>	Evaluation of the capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia Phase 2 (E240)		
<b>Period of Review:</b>	2014-2017		
<b>Date of Evaluation Report:</b>	May 2017		
<b>Approved by:</b>	Acting Director, Programme Management Unit, Catherine Haswell	Date	Signature
<b>Cleared by:</b>	Director of Division, Marco Keiner	29/11/17	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Manager of the evaluation, Batyr Hajiyev	29/11/17	

**Recommendation 1:** The upcoming projects related to dam safety in Central Asia, if any, should address cooperation and capacity-building in dam safety in Central Asia, especially the focus on transboundary rivers.

**Management Response:**

The recommendation is fully accepted.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

In the new project, "Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)" to be implemented September 2017 to June 2020, the further support to cooperation and capacity-building in dam safety in Central Asia including a focus on transboundary issues is fully addressed.

The expected accomplishments of the new project are:

- EA1. Improved inter-state cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia
- EA2. Improved national capacities in development and implementation of legal, regulatory and technical frameworks on dam safety in Central Asia
- EA3. Improved safety and transboundary cooperation on individual dams

The activities of the new project are:

- A1.1. Organisation of 3 annual regional meeting for exchange of information and development of interstate cooperation;
- A2.1. Support to drafting by consultants of national legislation and organization of two roundtables/seminars to discuss draft legislation;
- A2.2. Organisation of two regional capacity building events to "train the trainers" on dam safety;
- A3.1. Development and showcasing of the dam technical solutions for transboundary safety monitoring.

The implementation of the actions will be ensured by Mr. Batyr Hajiyev, Project Manager.

**Recommendation 2:** The UNECE should continue addressing concerns of the Central Asia countries on dam safety issues. Some of the countries may wish to avoid changing representatives attending the Project events and work on the developments at a national level. Should this be impossible, it may be reasonable to establish a strong succession of equally qualified representatives up-to-date with the most recent developments of the Project. This may allow faster progressing towards the expected accomplishments.

**Management Response:**

The recommendation is fully accepted.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

The new project "Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)" to be implemented 2017-2020 will continue the cooperation with nominated institutions and focal points as during the previous project. A message has already been sent to the established national focal points informing about the new phase of the project. Invitations to the first regional meeting planned for the first part of 2018 were to the same institutions as during previous project phases and previous participants will be informed about the planned meeting.

The implementation of the actions will be ensured by Mr. Batyr Hajiyev, Project Manager.

**Recommendation 3:** Since qualified and dedicated staff is one of the key success factors for any project, continue with the people who manage and execute the Project at the UNECE, if possible

**Management Response:**

Recommendation is partially accepted, due primarily to the fact that the project manager retired from June 2017.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

The new project manager in charge of the project will work with the previous consultant for coordination in Central Asia that contributes to the planning and implementation of the project. There will also be efforts to involve the previous project manager as a consultant to make sure the experiences from previous phases are transferred to the new management set-up.

The implementation of the actions will be ensured by Mr. Batyr Hajiyev, Project Manager.

**Recommendation 4:** The UNECE should continue its efforts and enhance cooperation with the donors/international development organizations. The governments of Central Asia countries should consider increasing funding for dam safety issues. The Central Asia countries may wish to set up a permanent Dam Safety Working Group to operate at the regular forum that the EB IFAS in Kazakhstan has suggested should be established. The officially nominated Project focal points could serve as a core of such a Group. This will steer the future sustainability of work.

**Management Response:**

The recommendation is fully accepted.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

The new project "Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)" funded by the Russian Federation 2017-2020 is set up with these intentions. As before, donors and international donor organizations will be invited to the regional meetings for discussions on cooperation and co-funding. Presently discussions on cooperation and co-funding from a Slovak initiative is underway. During the regional meetings regular discussions will be organised to discuss increased funding from the Central Asian countries. The first regional meeting will be organised by EB IFAS in Kazakhstan in March 2018 to demonstrate the establishment of the regular forum. During the first meeting, a separate discussion will be organised with Project focal points on the possibility that these may form a permanent Dam Safety Working Group.

The implementation of the actions will be ensured by Mr. Batyr Hajiyev, Project Manager.

**Recommendation 5:** Continuation of the Project beyond 2017 would be highly desirable. Implementing pilot activities on specific dams demonstrating technical solutions for transboundary safety monitoring on a dam in each country may significantly increase the impact of the Project. The Russian Federation may wish to continue supporting the efforts of UNECE, and fund the fourth phase of the Project. The Central Asia countries will benefit from further support by the experts from the Russian Federation, who have expressed their interest in providing further advice and training on dam safety to the experts and officials from Central Asia. Experience from other countries and regions are also of value in future efforts.

**Management Response:**

The recommendation is partially accepted.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

The Russian Federation has made US \$302,840 available for implementation of the project "Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)" for the period 2017 – 2020. In the new project work on specific dams and efforts to demonstrate safety monitoring in several countries is included. The funding from the Russian Federation for the next phase of the project will be considered in 2019. Funding from other sources are also sought (see management response to Recommendation 4 above). The use of Russian expertise and experts from other countries is planned.

The implementation of the actions will be ensured by Mr. Batyr Hajiyev, Project Manager.