

Informal Meeting of the Task Force of the Scientific Information Center of the Inter-state Commission on Sustainable Development

Presentation of the Report on the Strengthening of the Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development

**Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 November 2013
Hotel Kazzhol, Conference room “Baiterek”**

A draft study on strengthening the institutional and legal basis of regional cooperation on the environment in Central Asia was presented at a regional meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 20 November 2013. The study was prepared by the SIC ICSD Task Force on the basis of a comprehensive report by over sixty Central Asian experts and policy-makers on the strengths and weaknesses of IFAS, published in 2010. In his opening statement Andrey Vasiliev, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary emphasized the importance and timeliness of the study that revealed a number of areas where environmental governance needed to be strengthened in Central Asia. The importance of regional cooperation has also been underlined by Jan Dusik, Acting Director of UNEP Regional Office for Europe. He confirmed the continued willingness of UNEP to provide support to strengthening cooperation under ICSD.

In his presentation, Mr. Djalil Buzrukov, the lead expert of the Task Force, highlighted that the ICSD has significant but not fully utilized potential to promote regional environmental governance. He presented the main findings of the study, focusing on areas where ICSD work could be further strengthened. Members of the Task Force identified the most crucial areas where improvements are needed, such as: more effective fundraising, better decision support through improved information management, closer coordination between the ICSD and other IFAS organizations and regional institutions and donor organizations. The report also underlined the need to better coordinate implementation of the 3rd Aral Sea Basin Programme and to revise the Regional Environmental Action Plan of Central Asia so it reflects the outcomes of such important meetings as Rio+20.

Participants of the meeting discussed the recommendations of the study, which will be finalized in light of the outcomes of the meeting and feedback from the countries and submitted for consideration by ICSD. In addition, it was proposed and agreed upon to develop a Road Map that would outline the concrete actions to be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the study.

Participants heard a presentation by Climate KIC, Europe's largest public-private innovation partnership, created in 2010 by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. It was proposed by Climate KIC to develop, together with ICSD and UNECE a project to facilitate climate change mitigation and adaptation and transition to sustainability in Central Asia by integrating education, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The meeting took place in the framework of the UNECE Programme “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia” funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Annex I

Agenda

Informal Meeting of the Task Force of the Scientific Information Center of the Inter-state Commission on Sustainable Development Presentation of the Report on the Strengthening of the Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development

**Almaty, 20 November 2013
Hotel Kazzhol, Conference room "Baiterek"
15.00 – 18.00**

15.00

Opening statements:

- By the Representative of UNECE
- By the Representative of UNEP

Presentation of the Report by the Chairperson

Comments by members of the Task Force

Discussion

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 Continuation of the meeting

- Presentation of a draft decision, submitting the Report to the next meeting of the Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development (for deliberation) and to the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (for information)

- Closing statement by the Chairperson

- Closing statement by the Representative of UNECE and UNEP

18.00 End of the meeting

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