



ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2017

The project “Strengthening cooperation on water quality management in Central Asia”

BACKGROUND

This Annual Work Plan (AWP) is designed to support regional cooperation, the development of efficient national policies, and build capacity on water quality issues in the context of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Central Asia.

The activities included in this AWP were prioritized and selected by the Interim Expert Group that met back to back with the First meeting of the Regional Working Group on November 25, 2016 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

One of the major actions included in the AWP is to request the official nomination of the Regional Working Group members from the respective agencies in the Central Asian countries.

The AWP will seek to deliver outputs in the following blocks:

- Support of capacity building activities for water quality specialists;
- Development of a knowledge product on water quality at the regional level;
- Joint monitoring/sampling in a specific pilot river basin.

Block 1 seeks to continue the capacity building for selected groups of experts, by carrying out one practically oriented training on water quality management issues.

The Expert Group during the Meeting in November 2016 didn't give any specific suggestions on the subject of the training. However, the preliminary thematic directions for the training, proposed by Mr. Ruslan Melian, international expert from Moldova, are:

- «Sanitary-epidemiological» monitoring – a regional capacity building workshop for environmental health officers of CA countries on the problems of microbial, bacterial, viral and helminth contamination and their relevancy in a transboundary context;
- «Basin planning principles and water-quality classification» – a regional training on developing harmonized / unified classification systems on water quality in a transboundary context, which can help to promote basin cooperation instead of borderline approach in transboundary water quality management; target group – specialists (environmental, water managers, hydromet experts, academia, etc.) as well as representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of CA countries.

One of these themes will be further developed and implemented in 2017.

Block 2 concentrates on determining and addressing the "gaps" between current and desired conditions of water quality management and cooperation in Central Asia in order to create a relevant knowledge product, which will include valuable information and data with regard to a needs assessment.

The focus of the needs assessment will be on the national Hydromet services of the CA countries, since these agencies are centrally involved in the evaluation of the quality of surface water resources in the respective countries and have a mandate to conduct operational transboundary monitoring (of both the quantity and quality of water). The focus will be to develop a wider understanding of water quality monitoring on the basin level beyond the focus on laboratory methods, equipment and reagents.

Monitoring is *the system of control, evaluation and forecast of environmental quality*. The general objective in Block 2 is *to describe and carry out an assessment of needs of national water quality monitoring systems with elements of transboundary cooperation within the five CA countries and further consolidation of data into a regional/basin-wide context*.

The structure of the national (and later regional) reports may include the following sections:

- National demand for monitoring data;
- National surveillance networks, density of monitoring sites (stations) along the river basins;
- Frequency of sampling, methods and equipment for sampling, preservation and transportation of samples;
- Parameters of water quality monitored:
 - Physicochemical properties of natural waters;
 - Hazardous compounds (heavy metals, pesticides, radioactivity, etc.);
 - Hydro-biological parameters;
 - Hydro-morphological parameters of watercourses;
 - Mist and quality of bottom sediments;
- Evaluation methods of the water quality status;
- Laboratory capacity:
 - Methods and techniques;
 - Equipment, reagents, consumables;
 - Personnel;
- Control of the accuracy of the data, Certification and Accreditation;
- System of data storage, processing and dissemination;
- Use of information on the quality of surface waters in decision-making for water resource management at the national level;
- Transboundary cooperation on water quality (cooperation mechanisms, monitoring, information exchange, etc.).
- Proposal on developments needed for a coherent transboundary water quality monitoring system.

All the data in the needs assessment will be collected and included into each national report by a selected national expert. The five national experts along with one regional expert, who will coordinate their work, will be selected in accordance with CAREC internal procedures. The selected national and the international consulted experts will be part of the Regional Expert Group (REG) of the project. The REG will not only be responsible for drafting the reports on needs assessment, but will also have coordination / organizational responsibilities for activities in Blocks 1.

The results of these activities will be presented during the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Working Group planned for October 2017.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

2017

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>(Indicators)</i>	2017											
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Block 1. Support activities for water quality specialists in CA countries													
One training on a specific topic for narrow groups of experts, which include a practical orientation in studying water quality issues.	1.1 Establishment of a permanent Regional Working Group (RWG) on the project in accordance with the list of participants of the 1 st RWG meeting <i>(official nominations from the necessary authorities)</i> ;	X	X	X	X	X							
	1.2 Development of a concept for the training <i>(target group of the participants, agenda and thematic content of the training)</i> ;							X	X				
	1.3 Conduct the training <i>(report on training activities and results)</i> ;										X		
	1.4 Hold the 2 nd RWG meeting <i>(protocol of the Meeting)</i> .										X		

Block 2. Development of a knowledge product on water quality at the regional level													
The development of 5 national reports on needs assessment in CA countries and 1 regional report, aimed at national / regional Hydromet laboratories to determine the measures needed for accurate water sampling, as well as the effective water quality management and cooperation.	2.1 Selection of experts for the Regional Expert Group (REG) to make the needs assessments in countries (<i>the list of REG members with allocation of roles in the project activities</i>);			X	X	X							
	2.2 Carry out the 1 st REG meeting in order for experts to get acquainted and discuss the main issues before starting the 5 national needs assessments (<i>minutes of the Meeting</i>);					X							
	2.3 Undertake 5 national needs assessments in CA countries (<i>5 reports on needs assessment</i>);					X	X	X	X	X	X		
	2.4 Carry out the 2 nd REG meeting in order to discuss the consolidation of the 5 national needs assessment reports into one (<i>minutes of the Meeting</i>);										X		
	2.5 Consolidation of the 5 national needs assessment reports into one (<i>the regional report on needs assessment</i>);										X	X	X