



MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins		
Period of Review:	October 2018 – February 2019		
Date of Evaluation Report:	04/06/2019		
Approved by	Catherine Haswell Chief, Programme Management Unit	Date	Signature
		08/10/2019	
Cleared by:	Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Deputy Director of Environment Division	7.10.2018	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer	04/10/2019	

Recommendation 1:

The UNECE should consider continuing to pay particular attention to the interests of both countries and to the region as a whole as well as to support transboundary cooperation in the basin. It is also necessary to promote intersectoral nature of the water issues showing that working on water-related problems countries can solve other important problems in such areas as e.g. energy, security and agriculture.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The UNECE continues to support transboundary water management and intersectoral approach in integrated water resource management in Central Asia as well as in the Chu-Talas basin through providing guidance and expertise in development and financing of the river basin organisations, data sharing, climate change adaptation and water allocation through its global events, publication of the relevant guidance, EUWI+ programme as well as at the regional and bilateral events in Central Asia. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2021

Recommendation 2:

Currently, the UNECE should continue to promote and facilitate Strategic Action Programme (SAP) approval by the governments of the countries (in particular, the Kyrgyz Republic).

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The UNECE will use various opportunities to facilitate SAP approval through different channels by raising this topic at the relevant meetings in the Chu-Talas basin and at international occasions and by liaising with the representatives of the CTWC and water authorities in Kyrgyzstan who are in charge of further implementation and sustainability of the project results. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2020

Recommendation 3:

Expenditures for staff costs and consultancy should be better anticipated at the stage of the project proposal preparation.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE will better anticipate costs for staff and consultancy at the planning stage of the future projects based on the evaluated project (approximately staff should be involved at least 30% during entire project duration). Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2021

Recommendation 4:

It is important for UNECE to help to develop local human potential in the Chu-Talas basin (experts, technicians, politicians) interested in the further development of transboundary cooperation between the countries.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE is providing capacity building support and shares knowledge and expertise with representatives of the national and local authorities as well as expert community from the Chu-Talas basin through global and regional events of the Water Convention, publication of the relevant guidance and EUWI+ programme. The areas of cooperation include climate change adaptation, monitoring and data sharing, water allocation, financing transboundary cooperation and application of intersectoral approach in integrated water resource management. UNECE remains ready to provide additional support to the Chu-Talas basin community in transboundary river basin management if there is a political commitment from both countries and funding available. Intergovernmental approval of SAP is a prerequisite for further fundraising because SAP, when approved, will serve as the main document in planning and implementing transboundary river basin management in the Chu-Talas. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer 2019-2021.

Recommendation 5:

It is recommended to support further activities targeted on incorporation of project results into regular government programs in both countries to ensure sustainability of the project results, for examples, by promoting SAP indicators into National Indicators System (NIS) in Kyrgyzstan.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation

Follow up actions and responsibilities: Overall UNECE accepts this recommendation; however, UNECE considers the Chu-Talas Water Commission and the relevant national water and environment authorities as the main beneficiaries of the project results and welcomes their contribution to further

incorporation of the results into regular government programs. UNECE stands ready to consider requests for support arising from member States, Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2021.

Recommendation 6:

In order to increase the impact of future projects, the UNECE is recommended to continue support of CTWC (Chu-Talas Water Commission) in close cooperation with other donor programs. This will also improve information sharing and coordination between donors.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The answer to this recommendation is similar to the recommendation 4. UNECE is providing capacity building support and shares knowledge and expertise with representatives from the river basin organisations including the Chu-Talas Water Commission through global and regional events of the Water Convention, publication of the relevant guidance, EUWI+ programme and at the meetings of the Chu-Talas Commission. The areas of cooperation include climate change adaptation, monitoring and data sharing, water allocation, financing transboundary cooperation and application of intersectoral approach in integrated water resource management. UNECE remains ready to provide additional support to the Chu-Talas Water Commission in transboundary river basin management if there is a political commitment from both countries and funding available (including intergovernmental approval of SAP which can serve as the main document in planning and implementing transboundary river basin management as well as a prerequisite for further fundraising). Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2021

Recommendation 7:

It is crucial to promote the results of the projects among senior leadership from the countries to increase project impact and visibility.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE is promoting the project results among the senior management of the water and international affairs authorities of both countries as well as through the current Kazakh Chairmanship of the Water Convention. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2020

Recommendation 8:

For future activities, UNECE could use the gender approach used in the project as an example and basis for planning the gender aspects. The approach should include involvement of the gender expert with further development of suggestions for the project, direct involvement of women into the project as well as through civil society organizations and listening to their expertise and needs during project implementation with further incorporation into project activities.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE will involve gender experts, will cooperate with women (directly and through civil society organizations) and will take into account female knowledge and needs in the other projects focused on transboundary cooperation on waters in Central Asia and other regions of the world. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, 2019-2021.