

THE UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

THE COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN and THE HYDROMETEOROLOGY AGENCY

REPORT ABOUT THE TECHNICAL MEETING AND TRAINING ON HYDROLOGY AND ECOLOGY
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PANJ / AMU RIVER BASIN BETWEEN TAJIKISTAN
AND AFGHANISTAN*

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, May 10-12, 2018

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I. ORGANIZATION, AGENDA AND PARTICIPANTS OF MEETINGS

1. Technical meeting of specialists and experts from the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan “Cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on Hydrology and Ecology for Sustainable Development of the Panj/Amudarya River Basin” was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on May 10, 2018, which was followed by a training on hydrology and environmental monitoring of catchment area of the Panj/Amudarya River basin on May 11-12 within the framework of Tajik-Afghan cooperation. The meeting was organized by the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Hydrometeorology Agency owing to the financial support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the technical support from the environmental NGO “Nature Protection Guards” (Tajikistan) and the Zoï Environment Network (Switzerland). The Technical Meeting’s agenda, the Training Program and the lists of participants are presented in *Annexes 1-4*.

2. The technical meeting and training were held thanks the support received from the project “Strengthening the Tajik-Afghan Cooperation alongside the Panj/Amudarya Rivers”, implemented by UNECE from the financial resources generously provided by Finland and the Russian Federation.

3. Objectives of the technical meeting and training:

- To review some aspects of implementing the “Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the Development and Management of Water Resources of the Panj and Amudarya Rivers” (October 25, 2010) for 2010-2017;
- To review the implementation of “Memorandum for the Exchange of Hydrological Data and Information Concerning the Upper Part of the Amudarya River between the Authorized State Bodies of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan – Hydrometeorological Services for 2015-2017 and for the Perspective until 2020” (signed by the parties on November 25, 2014);
- To discuss problems and solutions for the hydrological data exchange. To update the cooperation program on hydrology for 2018-2020;
- To inform about a joint seminar and expedition to the Pamirs in 2017;
- To inform about the new environmental report of Tajikistan (2018) and current environmental problems as well as overall indicators in the Panj/Amudarya River basin;
- To ensure information exchange with international partners and processes, including following the results of the WMO Global Meeting on Innovation in Hydrology (2017) and the WMO Hydrological Conference in 2018;
- To exchange views about the development of cooperation and interaction taking into account the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” under the auspices of the United Nations.

4. Seven representatives from Afghanistan and up to 50 participants from Tajikistan attended the meeting and training. 11 representatives of international organizations were also present, including the Tajik branch of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), UNECE, OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE), Finnish Cooperation Program (WEI)) and others.

The meeting was covered by the national press and environmental newspaper (<http://environment.tj/obshinosi-va-jekologija-baroi-rushdi-ustuvor-dar-havzai-darjoi-panj-omu/>)

II. TECHNICAL MEETING

5. While delivering the opening remarks, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mrs. Zarina Nazarzod, noted the importance of conservation and protection of water resources and fresh water sources in the Panj River basin. She especially welcomed the guests from Afghanistan and wished all participants a productive work and fruitful outcomes, and expressed thanks to the donors and international partners for supporting bilateral cooperation. Mr.

Homidjon Rasulzoda, Director of the Hydrometeorology Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan, welcomed the participants and noted the new technical capacities of Tajikistan's hydrometeorological service for implementing the interstate agreement on water resources of the Panj/Amudarya Rivers (2010) and the Memorandum between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan and in respect to data exchange and cooperation on hydrology (2014).

6. Representative of the UNECE Secretariat, Mr. Batyr Khadjiev, noted the contribution of donors – Finland and the Russian Federation – and the UNECE's long-term commitment to support both countries in holding bilateral meetings and implementing practical cooperation measures in the Panj/Amudarya River basin.

7. Representatives of the foreign ministries of both countries confirmed the importance of technical and political dialogue, and informed that in addition to hydrology and ecology, consultations are held between the countries concerning the riverbank protection, emergency response and water use planning. The continuing insecurity in the border provinces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and alongside the border with the Republic of Tajikistan impedes revitalization of activities. Dushanbe International Conference, on the occasion of beginning the decade "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028", is a good platform for discussing the regional cooperation issues.

8. Water resources of the Panj River are of key importance for the region and have a high potential for energy development and irrigation. However, the glaciers of the Pamir and the Hindu Kush melt alongside the other consequences of climate change, leading to flooding and increasing the environmental risk. In the summer of 2017, a powerful mudflow descending from the Afghan side blocked the Panj River, thus creating a threat of flooding and erosion of strategically important road and villages. Considering the potential danger factor of the mountain lake Sarez in Tajik-side Badakhshan, the Afghan side expressed its desire to have more scientific and operational information on this issue. In February 2018, in Dushanbe, both countries held consultations around early warning and response to emergencies in the Panj River basin and it is planned to develop and sign a memorandum.

9. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan should assist in obtaining visas for nominated hydrological observers from Afghanistan and Tajikistan, who often need coordination meetings, as well as support in calibrating/repairing/operating hydrological equipment in one of the Panj River banks, and thus require crossing the borders.

10. Representatives from the authorized state bodies of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – the National Environmental Agency (Mr. Zulfiqar Balosh) and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (Mr. Fazulhaq Bokhtari) – noted donor contributions, especially through USAID, JICA, EU, World Bank and World Meteorological Organization in the development of hydrological monitoring, assessment of glaciers and prediction of hazardous phenomena. Afghanistan has ratified 15 international agreements in the field of environmental protection and confirms its commitment to sign a bilateral agreement/memorandum with Tajikistan. Additionally, Afghanistan is interested in developing cooperation and sharing experience with Tajikistan as it concerns conservation of wildlife and biodiversity (CITES, CMS, CBD), climate change (UNFCCC, Paris Agreement), hazardous waste and chemicals (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm – BRS).

11. Deputy Director of the Hydrometeorology Agency, Mr. Karimjon Abdualimov, noted that recently there were interruptions in the hydrological data exchange from the Afghan side (the second half of 2017 and the first half of 2018). He stressed the importance of maintaining good discipline and observing data exchange procedures and suggested increasing the data exchange frequency – at least once a month. At the same time, he expressed gratitude to the Afghan side for providing assistance in installing equipment in the Panj River as part of the process to modernize the hydrometeorological network of Tajikistan under the World Bank project. As an outcome of modernization, it was possible to increase the accuracy of forecasts to 85% and to automate the majority of meteorological stations and hydrological posts. New equipment was installed in the Panj River and hydrological stations were repaired in Ishkashim, Shidz, Khirmanjo and Lower Panj. Mr. Abdualimov noted that the hydrology-related meetings in 2015-2016 were backed up by joint visits, field missions and expeditions to the Panj River.

12. Director of the Water Department of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Fazulhaq Bokhtari, noted that on the Afghan-side Panj River bank there are five automatic

gauging stations and a few more hydrological posts operate on the Amudarya River's downstream (*for detailed information refer to the presentations of participants*). The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan requested the Republic of Tajikistan to assist in the installation of equipment for gauging stations (cable crossing) in Ishkashim and Shughnan as well as requested access permission and visas for six Afghan observers.

13. Representative of the Hydrological Service of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan noted that the hydrology data covering the period of 1950-1980s are the most complete and digitized in Afghanistan, but they are followed by a long period of incomplete data due to the impact of war and conflict. Afghanistan extremely needs historical (archived) data of Tajikistan from gauging stations on the Panj River for restoring the missing series of observations. Modern automatic measuring equipment makes it possible to measure the water level of many rivers in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the Panj River, every 10-15 minutes, and field laboratories make measurements of silting, bottom sediments and suspended particles – i.e., solid flow. The plans include installation of automated cable systems for measuring water speed along the river profile and calculating the water runoff, and installing satellite and other telecommunications to transfer data from remote gauging stations in real time mode. Both countries should further more close coordination and information exchange on the types of already installed and planned hydrological equipment, observation program and data transmission systems. It is necessary to bring closer the measurement intervals, methods of data generalization and approaches to their dissemination. After the exchange of data on the Panj River becomes regular, it becomes possible to proceed with the exchange of data on inflows and estimates of snow cover (data from satellite and full-scale measurements). For a more rapid reaction to flooding, joint or connected sensors must be introduced.

14. The UNDP Tajikistan's representative, Mr. Khurshed Kholov, asked about how the hydrological information in Afghanistan is distributed at the local level. The data dissemination policy in Afghanistan has already been well developed and users at the basin level, including farmers, have access to hydrological information. Seminars are held with users on the ground to get acquainted with products of the hydrological service and areas of its application.

15. Representative of Inter-Milal / Khorog Aarhus Center, Mr. B. Alibakhshev, gave a brief overview about the results of the joint expedition on September 20-27, 2017 to the upper reaches of the Panj River (Khorog-Ishkashim-Vakhan) and a seminar in Khorog on September 28-29, 2017. The expedition paid visits to the settlements and studied how changes in the environment, including the effects of global warming, affect the local population's lives and provided relevant recommendations. The expedition's results are published in the form of a report (*refer to the meeting materials*).

16. The IT specialist, Mr. Behrouz Isoyev, presented an online version of Tajikistan's environmental report (2018), prepared jointly by the working group of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and experts from the Zoï Environment Network (Switzerland), under the overall guidance and support from UNEP. The report is posted in the Committee's official website (<http://envreport.hifztabiat.tj>). It is based on the Third UNECE Environmental Performance Review (2017) containing illustrations and additional inputs. The main topics of the report are: "Air and climate", "Water and land", "Vegetation and animal life" and "Waste", as well as links between ecology and population's health and emergency situations and information on conservation measures, references to national and international data sources. The Internet version is easily updatable and designed following the principle of one webpage with sections. It is adapted for monitors of various sizes, including mobile devices. The text and illustrations are prepared in two languages (Tajik and Russian), the number of illustrations reaches 100 units, including maps, infographics and labyrinths for the young audience. PDF version is made for the convenience of users and printouts.

17. Participants from both countries indicated their interest to further work on improving public access and sharing environmental information concerning common (joint) indicators. Both countries have a good IT-base and have environmental statistics. It is necessary to further work on filling the databases, to make them collaborative, open and useful for a wide range of users and for the purpose of cooperation and joint environmental assessment of the Panj River basin.

18. Representative of UNEP in Kabul, Mr. Haris Sherzad, informed the participants about specific features of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, valuable and unique natural resources, and referred to such factors of increasing burden as the predicted climate warming by 2 degrees by 2050 and population growth by 2 times

to 60 million people. The share of the low-income population of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the rural population's share, the proportion of forests and the number of endemic plants are similar to those of Tajikistan. It was proposed to develop cooperation and exchange of experience on management of pastures and forests in Badakhshan and biodiversity within the framework of "Larger than tigers" initiative, environmental data and climate change.

19. Representative of the National Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety of the Republic of Tajikistan (NCBB RT), Mr. Khisrav Shermatov, made a presentation about the results of applying the Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). At least 25 KBAs have been identified in Tajikistan, whereas the regional picture of the Central Asian mountain ecosystems is shown in the regional profile in the CEPF website www.cepf.net. KBA is important to consider when planning and implementing economic activities and conservation measures. The possibilities of a new system for collecting and exchanging environmental information in Tajikistan were demonstrated.

20. Head of the National Center for Persistent Organic Pollutants (NCPOP), Mr. Rahmatullo Khairulloyev, demonstrated Tajikistan's achievements in the field of assessing and cleaning up areas from toxic pollution. The work to localize and eliminate pollution in Tajikistan will be continued and the experience of Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries is in demand in Afghanistan.

21. Representative of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan – Head of the Department for Water and Energy Policy, Science and Technology Development, Mr. Daler Abdurazoqzoda, delivered a detailed presentation describing the new basin divide in Tajikistan and the current progress in the development of Panj River basin management plan in the Tajik side. With the support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2017-2021, Panj River basin management project is being implemented in Tajikistan upon coordination with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Expected results include the development of proposals to establish an interstate basin commission of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan concerning the joint management of Panj River, management of the Tajik-side river basin by creating councils, organizations, legislative and legal framework and a decision-making system. In parallel, owing to the support from the World Bank in Tajikistan, a water information system (WIS) is being established to manage the state water cadastre and to register water use permissions. Now, the process of expert discussions is underway to ensure best options for zoning the basin management (expert group suggests to single out Zeravshan River basin as a separate entity, but not as a sub-basin).

22. UNECE Representatives, Mr. Bu Libert and Mr. Talaibek Makeyev noted that the Panj River is not only a basin of two countries, but in fact, is the main source and the upper reaches of the Amudarya River, therefore, multilateral aspects of the basin planning should also be taken into account. Experience of managing and coordinating the Chu and Talas River basin (trans-boundary basin of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) is accumulated in Central Asia, and a strategic action plan will be approved in summer 2018, taking into account the findings and recommendations of trans-boundary diagnostic analysis (TDA). Upon expressed interest of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan, a joint diagnostic analysis, involving GEF (Global Environmental Fund) funds, can be developed for the Panj River. For practical implementation of joint planning and management of the Panj River, it is possible to create working groups on various priority issues – for example, on channel processes, water quality and hydrology, water structures, bank protection works, etc.

23. In their comments, participants expressed desire to continue cooperation at the local and regional level for prompt response to emerging problems. It is difficult for remote regions of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (for example, the Vakhsh Valley) to attend the events in the capitals, therefore, it is necessary to continue meetings of specialists from the regional and provincial divisions of state organizations, expeditions, visits of specialists from the center to the field.

24. At the final session of the technical meeting, the participants got acquainted with the programs of work and opportunities in the field of hydrology and environment and discussed the prospects until 2020. The need to continue close integration of the cooperation process with new (ongoing) plans for a joint basin commission and water information system in the Panj River, use of modern achievements to modernize hydrometeorology services in both countries for more efficient user service, including the natural disasters risk reduction and mitigation of coastal erosion, and implementation of wildlife conservation measures were noted among the

key suggestions. Participants agreed on the meeting results and additional internal consultations to update the list (agendas) of current and prospective engagement areas and exchange information using official channels through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan.

25. At the end of the meeting, participants expressed their gratitude to the organizers and guests of the meeting, wished successes and new cooperation stages for the sake of prosperity and development of fraternal peoples.

III. TRAINING AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

26. Given the complex hydrology of the Panj River, natural processes and factors influencing the state of the river basin, as well as its boundary features, concerned representatives of departments, as well as hydrologists from the regions of the Republic of Tajikistan took an active part in training and exchange of experience in the field of hydrology and ecology. Unlike the more general program of the technical meeting, the training program deepened into applied and practical aspects of hydrology and user management, as well as issues of water quality monitoring, glaciers, and climate change assessment.

27. Concerning the water quality, wishes (needs) were voiced to introduce similar techniques and inexpensive, but sufficient and reliable equipment base in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. It could be feasible to provide individual gauging stations in the Panj River with portable equipment for local analysis (without the need to send samples to the capital), which is relevant for the measurement of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and other pollutants. Finnish experts added that steps should be taken to strengthen internal coordination and support local experienced experts and young specialists with a result-oriented approach. UNECE has been working in the Central Asia for about 10 years to harmonize parameters and approaches to monitoring the water quality. The training participants were invited to familiarize themselves with the results of the UNECE's work and publications on this topic.

28. In order to design hydrological products, it is necessary to develop policies (regulations, procedures, practices) for data dissemination to the main users and consumers of information. The water cadastre and hydrological yearbooks in the Republic of Tajikistan have not been developed for more than 10 years, and thanks to the modernization project, it has been possible to resume the development of yearbooks, starting in 2016 (published in 2018). While the hydrological yearbooks in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are provided to users on a free basis, in Tajikistan access is still limited / access conditions is in the discussion process. To the question asked by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan about what is the maximum and minimum runoff in the Lower Panj hydrological post: 5400 m³/sec and 250 m³/sec respectively. Climate change affects the melting of glaciers and increases the water content of rivers in the Panj River basin, however, at the same time, the inter-annual distribution of runoff changes.

29. In the water information system WIS (under the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan) being currently established, emphasis is placed on databases of basin planning, water accounting and irrigation management. It is planned to use some of the indicators from the UNECE list and implement the principles of a joint information system when water data stored by interested agencies will be linked through a distributed database system, table data sets are associated with spatial layers, and a codification system has been created to ensure compatibility where each water body will be assigned a unique code.

30. In terms of innovation and international trends in hydrology, participants briefly reviewed modern WMO publications and outcomes of global conferences on hydrology and innovation. Examples of accounting water resources using mobile phones and intelligent shelves were mentioned. In Tajikistan, hydrometeorology specialists are now testing cheap, but reliable sensors, convenient for farmers to use. The mudflow prediction system is being introduced for 6-12 hours in advance.

31. As part of the environmental assessment, a new legislative framework has been created in Tajikistan, and extensive experience in conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and ecological expertise has been accumulated. For the purposes of exchange and comparability of environmental information, a concept of joint (common) indicators was developed and the first Cooperation Atlas was published using comparable data in 2013. Taking into account that about half of the population of both countries represent children and

young people, it is important that information concerning the nature protection and relevant environmental topics be presented in a simple and attractive way.

32. Forming compact groups, participants discussed the basic needs for the development and coordination of hydrological observation networks, level of work with users and the product/service catalogue. It was recommended to increase the number of meteorological stations and hydrological posts in the future, add weather data from the Afghan side, expand the program of observations over channel processes in the Panj River, cooperate with other observation networks (Aga-Khan), foresee a more flexible framework for commercial services, and conduct seminars for users. Local training centers could be set up at key hydrological posts, for example, Lower Panj.

33. At the training's conclusion, participants expressed thanks to the organizers and gave the following suggestions and recommendations for consideration and implementation:

- Hydrological data from the Panj River should be exchanged (in English), according to the Memorandum between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, at least once a month or more frequently, taking into account the new hydrological data formats recommended by WMO;
- Exchange of operational data between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (without quality control/with minimal control) in the long term should be rationally organized based on the modernized equipment and communication systems;
- Access of hydrological observers to the Panj River, including the possibility to work and arrange service meetings in the opposite river shore (crossing the border), should be resolved through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan;
- It is necessary to make the list of hydrological equipment used at the posts, observation plan/program for the posts and data transmission systems for coordination purposes to be used for 2018 (and planned for the next 3 years);
- A joint webpage/portal should be organized to ensure interested users have access to information materials about cooperation in hydrology and ecology;
- Local hydrological cooperation should be activated through the establishment of a joint center at the Lower Panj hydrological post (and with a prospect in Sherkhan Bandar bridge) and resolve the issue of reliable functioning of Ayvoj/Khushtepa hydrological post (500 meters wide, difficult conditions);
- Develop work with users of hydrological information, improve the quality and accessibility of products and services to consumers, bring the dissemination policy closer together;
- Attention should be paid to forecasting, response and coordination of natural disasters and to facilitating the development of an appropriate Memorandum (the process has already begun);
- Consider the possibility of joint research and expeditions to study the risk of emergencies, erosion and channel processes, melting of glaciers, and development of a joint Atlas on this topic;
- Request Finland and UNECE to provide further support for the monitoring of water quality in the Panj River, joint approaches and similar equipment and methodological base;
- In the long-term perspective, it is advisable to expand the list of hydrological posts for the exchange of data from the Panj River's tributaries;
- Jointly explore opportunities and approaches for monitoring snow cover and glaciers using remote (satellite and aerial) observations;

- Joint climate change impact assessments should be developed and adaptation measures and plans towards the climate change consequences should be coordinated, including riverbank protection and floods mitigation;
- Opportunities should be found to increase the participation of international partners, especially from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, into the process of cooperation on the Panj River, including current projects and initiatives.

34. As an outcome of meetings in Dushanbe, an information summary document was prepared that will be distributed to all meeting and training participants, all authorized government organizations and agencies, as well as interested international organizations and programs in the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the partners of the Tajik-Afghan program (*Annex 5*).

List of Participants

Technical meeting of specialists and experts from the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
“Cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on hydrology and ecology for sustainable development in the Panj / Amu Darya river basin”

May 10, 2018, Dushanbe, Sheraton Hotel

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Training on issues of hydrology and environmental monitoring in the catchment area of the Panj / Amu Darya river basin within the framework of Tajik-Afghan cooperation

May 11-12, 2018, Hotel Atlas

Agenda

Day 1 – May 11 (Friday)

SUBJECT: Applied issues of hydrological and environmental monitoring

09.00-09.15 Opening and introduction – **Karimjon Abdualimov**, the Hydrometeorology Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan

09.15-11.00 Thematic speeches/Presentations:

- Monitoring of water quality and other parameters of environmental monitoring (air, soil) – **Sangin Samiev** (emphasis on achievements and opportunities with the help of Finnish and other projects, problems and needs)
- Creation of an information system: the needs of local users and authorities in the hydrometeorological data. **Yuldoshev Abdurauf**, The National Coordinator for the National Information System on Water Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Prospects of maintaining the water cadastre / hydrological yearbook (based on hydrological monitoring data) – **Vohid Hamidov**, the Hydrometeorological Agency
- Hydrology sector's achievements in Afghanistan – Ministry of Energy and Water of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - **Eng. Fazulhaq Bakhtari**, Director Water Resource Ministry of Water and Energy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- New horizons in hydrology sector (using themes and materials from the scientific and global conference of the World Meteorological Organization – WMO) and environmental indicators **Victor Novikov**, Zoi
- Use of water and environmental information in the UNECE water assessments and the Environment for Europe process. Integrated planning and use of water resources in the basin, **Boo Libert**, UNECE

Discussion

11.00-11.30 Coffee-break

11.30-12.00 Vision of hydrometeorology problems and perspectives (observers, hydrologists, etc.). **Abduvali Homitov**, Head of the Regional Hydrometeorology Office, Kairakkum, Sughd Province

- Presentation of new legislation and regulations in the field of environmental impact assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - **Jalil Khalilov**, Head of the State Ecological Expertise Department, / Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-15.00 Work in mini groups. Presenters: **Viktor Novikov and Firuza Illarionova**

Mapping of “information gaps” in hydrology and environmental monitoring – geographical (by basin/site) and thematic (by types of observations). Data requirements from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (for the Panj River basin) and regional/international sources.

- Use of the WMO self-assessment tool for the development of hydro(meteo)logical services

15.00-15.30 Coffee-break

15.30-16.00 Discussion and summing up the preliminary results of the day

Day 2 – May 12 (Saturday)

SUBJECT: Use of hydrological and environmental monitoring data for information and activity planning – extended participation of specialists from interested ministries and agencies

09.00-09.15 Opening and information about the outcomes of the first day – **Karimjon Abdualimov**

09.15-09.30 Rapidly developing floods, the possibility of their forecasting and the need for interaction with Afghanistan in the Panj River basin – **Jamila Baydialieva**, the Hydrometeorology Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan

09.30-09.45 Response to emergencies in the Panj River basin: modern opportunities and needs (and briefly about the “Sarez” system) CoES / UNDP project / MEWR of the Republic of Tajikistan / ADB project

09.45-10.00 Exchange of environmental monitoring data – using the example of the water sector, **Victor Novikov**

10.00-10.30 Coffee-break

10.30-11.00 The consequences of melting glaciers on the hydrology and water content of rivers, with an emphasis on the Panj River basin – **Vohid Hamidov / Abdurashid Tagoybekov**, the Hydrometeorology Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan

11.00-11.30 Use of data and forecasts for hydrological monitoring, assessments and services for planning and considering the climate change consequences on the water sector – **Anvar Homidov**, PPCR

11.30-12.00 Discussion and presentations by other interested participants

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.30 Work in mini groups (led by V. Novikov and F. Illarionova)

Mapping and considering different needs and interests of users of hydrological and environmental information – in what kinds of data, what kinds of users are experiencing sufficiency and shortage of information, what data formats, what transmission and distribution channels and etc.

15.00-15.00 Coffee-break

15.30 Discussion, wrap-up and completion of training

List of Participants

Training on issues of hydrology and environmental monitoring in the catchment area of the Panj / Amu Darya river basin within the framework of Tajik-Afghan cooperation

May 11-12, 2018, Hotel Atlas

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