

## IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin / E220
<b>Project duration</b>	1 July 2014 - 31 December 2017
<b>Reporting period covered</b>	1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015
<b>Financial implementation rate (in % of 2014-2017 budget)</b>	66%
<b>Summary of impact/outcomes</b>	<i>The annual meeting in 2015 contributed to practical steps in the hydrological cooperation and exchange of information. Hydrology information on the Pyanj river is now regularly provided by Tajikistan to Afghanistan. A draft bilateral agreement on environmental cooperation has been developed.</i>
REVIEW OF EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES AS PER PROJECT DOCUMENT	
<i>(Please make sure the review (i) includes all EAs and activities as per the project document implemented during the review period, (ii) provide information on the venue of workshops/seminars, their dates and the number of participants, including gender-disaggregated, and (iii) state if the activities have been completed or are still incomplete)</i>	
<b>Expected Accomplishment 1 (EA1)</b>	<i>EA1 Improved framework for bilateral cooperation on hydrology and environment</i>
Main Activity A.1 <i>Annual bilateral meetings for exchange of information and development of hydrology and environment cooperation</i>	<b>A bilateral high-level meeting was held on 22-23 October 2015 in Dushanbe with participation of 7 officials from Afghanistan, 30 officials from Tajikistan as well as representatives from NGOs and international organizations such as the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, UNECE, WMO, OSCE, UNDP, FinWater, FOCUS and others. Overall, almost 60 participants attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed five years progress, events and achievements, and discussed cooperation priorities to 2020. The meeting report can be found at <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/water/centralasia.html">http://www.unece.org/env/water/centralasia.html</a>. A High-level round table at the Dushanbe International Water for Life Conference (June 2015) was organized and attended by both countries and international partners.</b>
<b>Expected Accomplishment 2 (EA2)</b>	<i>EA2 Improved practical bilateral cooperation on hydrology including first steps in the exchange of data</i>
Main Activity A.2 <i>Hydrology meetings and a mechanism for data exchange</i>	<b>In spring 2015 the hydrology data exchange was initiated in line with the scope of an MoU on hydrology. The Tajik side started reporting on 4 hydrology stations along the Panj River, while the Afghan side still needed to solve some data transfer issues. Countries have nominated points of contacts and members for the hydrology working groups. WMO (World Meteorological Organization) expressed its readiness to facilitate hydrology data exchange and trainings. Cooperation with World Bank- and JICA-funded projects in both countries on hydrological monitoring was established. See also below on the expedition in the Pyanj River Basin.</b>
<b>Expected Accomplishment 3 (EA3)</b>	<i>EA3 Improved practical bilateral cooperation on environment</i>
Main Activity A.3 <i>Joint expeditions and</i>	<b>Training on modern approaches to the State of the Environment reporting and environmental indicators was organized for both countries in July 2015.</b>

<p>training, afforestation support</p>	<p>A draft concept of common (shared) environmental indicators was reviewed by national experts and distributed for comments and further endorsement.</p> <p>A joint expedition to the upper reaches of Panj River basin was organized in August 2015 visiting all hydrological stations on the Tajik side (right bank) of the Panj River and an automated station on the Afghan side. The expedition further observed good practices of soil and water conservation, climate change and biodiversity adaptation sites, and visited near-border nature reserves, botanical gardens, tree nurseries and sites of great potential for eco-tourism development.</p> <p>Findings of the joint expedition, training and expert meetings were reflected in the revised Programme of cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan on the environment and will serve as a basis for future cooperation. In 2015 negotiations started on a separate bilateral environmental agreement.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMENTS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Please indicate if there were any problems with the execution of the project, changes to the implementation plan, or any other relevant information)</i></p>	
<p>The political and security situation in Afghanistan is a bottleneck for a sustained active dialogue and cooperation between institutions in the countries. The political culture in Afghanistan also makes decision-making difficult – for example on implementation of items in an agreed work programme and the MoU on hydrology. Further efforts will be undertaken cooperatively with WMO to advance the progress on hydrology data exchange, and UNEP and UNDP offices to advance environmental cooperation.</p> <p>The activities in 2015 were co-funded by OSCE Dushanbe.</p>	