

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Project title	Strengthening cooperation on transboundary watershed management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin / E220
Project duration	1 July 2014 - 31 December 2017
Reporting period covered	1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014
Financial implementation rate (in % of 2011-2012 budget)	33%
Summary of impact/outcomes	<i>The annual meeting in 2014 contributed to practical steps in the hydrological cooperation and exchange of information. Discussions have been initiated to establish formal environmental cooperation under a separate agreement to be 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>	
Expected Accomplishment 1 (EA1)	<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>	A bilateral meeting was held 24-25 November 2014 with participation from Tajikistan, Afghanistan as well as international organizations. In total more than 50 representatives participated in the meeting, including 6 high-level participants from Afghanistan. The meeting report will be uploaded to http://www.unece.org/env/water/centralasia.html.
Expected Accomplishment 2 (EA2)	<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>	<p>The annual meeting endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a “Memorandum of Understanding on exchange of hydrological data and information relating to the Panj-Amu Darya river basin between the state authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2015-2017 and prospectively until 2020”, and • “Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group on hydrological monitoring”. <p>For the preparation of these documents as well as the annual meeting two expeditions were organized during autumn 2014.</p>
Expected Accomplishment 3 (EA3)	<i>EA3 Improved practical bilateral cooperation on environment</i>
Main Activity A.3 <i>Joint expeditions and training, afforestation</i>	During the annual meeting the document “Programme of cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, 2015-2017 (and prospectively to 2020), on the environment in the Amu Darya/Panj river basin” was discussed as a

support

basis for future cooperation. The possibility to establish a separate bilateral environmental agreement was also discussed.

For the preparation of the environmental bilateral cooperation two expeditions were organized during autumn 2014.

COMMENTS

(Please indicate if there were any problems with the execution of the project, changes to the implementation plan, or any other relevant information)

The main problems in the execution of the project are the political and security situation in Afghanistan is a bottleneck for a sustained active dialogue 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.

The activities in 2014 were co-funded by OSCE Dushanbe.