

# Project Concept Note Template for the follow-up meeting of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum

Ashgabat 7-8 June 2011

<b>Project Title</b>	“Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia”, phase 3	
<b>Outcome</b>	<p>To build trust between participating countries and promote economic, social and physical security by regional cooperation on dam safety. Project directions include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Legislations and institutions at the national level:</b> Improvement, implementation and enforcement of national legislation, institutional strengthening</li> <li><b>2. Training on the safe operation of hydrotechnical installations:</b> Capacity building of officials and experts as well as of support to development of national training programmes.</li> <li><b>3. Regional cooperation:</b> Support to development of harmonised technical documentation, exchange of relevant data and information, early warning systems to ensure preparedness in the case of increased risks for accidents and others.</li> <li><b>4. Safer operations of individual dams:</b> Support to bilateral cooperation to ensure the safety of individual dams or dam systems on transboundary rivers.</li> </ol>	
<b>Indicative Funding Requirements</b>	Total estimated budget:	850,000 \$
<b>Potential Sources of Funding</b>	[Donor(s)]: [Development Bank(s)]: Other Resources:	\$ \$
<b>Expected start date</b>	1 June 2011	
<b>Expected Duration</b>	3.5 years	
<b>Implementing Organisation(s)</b>	UNECE, UNDP, OSCE	
<b>Country/Countries</b>	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	
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## 1 Background

In Central Asia, ageing dams and lack of funding for their adequate maintenance represent a risk to economic, social and physical security by posing a threat to lives, health, property and environment. In March 2010, the failure of the Kyzyl-Agash Dam in Kazakhstan caused the flooding of the nearby village, killing at least 43 and leaving some 300 people injured.

The safe exploitation of the ageing water infrastructure in Central Asia, in particular the hundreds of dams and reservoirs built 40 to 50 years ago, is crucial for the future of these countries. Dams and reservoirs are of major importance for the economy and future development of the subregion – they ensure drinking water supply by contributing to seasonal and long-term regulation of river flows; and they provide a reliable source of water for irrigation, industrial water uses, and hydropower.

In a UNECE project funded by Finland (not including Afghanistan) that concludes in June 2011 considerable progress has been achieved. Examples are a draft subregional agreement; the development of relevant national legislation or its further enhancement in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; the drafting of model technical regulations adapted to all the countries in the subregion; the initiation of inter-State cooperation to increase safety on individual dams; improved cooperation at the national level between agencies with responsibilities for dam safety; and an increased capacity to deal with and awareness about dam safety issues among the relevant actors in the subregion owing to a number of UNECE-organized trainings. Moreover, it can be noted that other international organizations and donors had increased their efforts to ensure dam safety in Central Asia, as a result of the ENVSEC project attracting the attention to this issue. In the ENVSEC evaluation made by Finland in 2010, the project was highly rated but a need for continued support in this area to make progress sustainable was also noted.

## **2 Justification**

In the conclusion of the above project as well as in the development of the Aral Sea Basin Programme 3 (ASBP 3), the need for continued work in this area is also stressed by all countries in the region. As identified by Central Asian representatives important directions for future work include development and implementation of national legislation and training of experts, as well as finalization and signing of the cooperation agreement. An important emerging area identified is the establishment of bilateral cooperation to ensure the safety of individual dams or dam systems on transboundary rivers.

The proposed project is of great value to foster cooperation between all countries in the water sector in spite of the very difficult political relations between some of the countries. All five countries are actively seeking to develop cooperation on dam safety as can be seen in the inclusion of dam safety as a prominent component of the Aral Sea Basin Programme 3, recently approved by the countries in the region. The project is also crucial to increase the safety of the population of the transboundary basins.

## **3 Expected Output(s)**

1. Improved national legislation and strengthened institutions responsible for the safety of hydro technical installations.
2. Improved capacity of national experts and officials on the safety of hydrotechnical installations that would contribute to:
  - i. High quality of national training programmes
  - ii. The further development and implementation of national legislation and technical norms
  - iii. The safe operation of individual dams
3. Improved regional cooperation.
4. Increased safety of individual dams and development of confidence for active cooperation on such dams between neighbouring countries in transboundary river basins.

## **4 Proposed Approach & Strategy, including Capacity Development Response**

The project lead organization is UNECE that will work in close cooperation with OSCE and UNDP. Close contacts are maintained with other international actors active in this field such as USAID, GIZ and the Eurasian Development Bank. These and other actors have been regularly invited

to project meetings. In addition, the overall framework of ASBP 3 contributes to a good coordination. Authorities in all Central Asian countries are directly involved in the project activities.

## 5 Annual Work Plan

Year:

<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>		TIMEFRAME				PLANNED BUDGET
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Amount
1. Activity					In US\$ and national currency	
2. Activity						
3. Activity						
4. Activity						
1. Activity						
2. Activity						
<b>TOTAL</b>						