

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

**Ashgabat 7-8 June 2011**

<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening cooperation on transboundary watershed management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin	
<b>Outcome</b>	<p>The overall objective of the proposed UNECE project is to improve cross-border environmental and water resource management in the upper Amu Darya basin between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Tajikistan.</p> <p>It is expected that this project will show the feasibility of using the Tajik-Afghan cooperation to improve information availability on the upper Amu Darya. If this is so a full-scale follow-up project will be designed.</p>	
<b>Indicative Funding Requirements</b>	Total estimated budget:	150,000 \$
<b>Potential Sources of Funding</b>	[Donor(s)]: Russian Federation [Development Bank(s)]: Other Resources:	150,000 \$
<b>Expected start date</b>	1 August 2011	
<b>Expected Duration</b>	1 year	
<b>Implementing Organisation(s)</b>	UNECE	
<b>Country/Countries</b>	Afghanistan, Tajikistan	
<b>Submitted by</b>	UNECE	
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### 1 Background

Amu Darya is the largest river of Central Asia with the total length of nearly 2500 km and the drainage basin covering 0.5 million sq.km. Average main river flow is 62 cub.km per year, while the total annual Amu Darya basin's water resource availability is 78 cub.km, most of which comes from the mountains of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Roughly, about 3/4 of Tajikistan's and 1/3 of Afghanistan's territories lie within the Amu Darya basin.

Environmental conditions of the Amu Darya upstream watershed, including state of glaciers and snow, vegetation, soil cover and human activities are important determinants of water flow and its quality. Growing population, agricultural, infrastructural and industrial development

projects as well as global environmental challenges - such as climate change - are among the key factors influencing environmental sustainability and security of the Amu Darya basin.

Effective decision-making in the region is hampered by the lack of inclusive transboundary cooperation and information exchange. Specifically, in the case of Amu Darya:

- Information on ongoing/planned water sector developments and projects (hydrometeorology, flood control, irrigated agriculture and integrated water resource management) in the upper Amu Darya basin is fragmented.
- As a consequence water management policies have to be made in a context of incomplete information and without sufficient knowledge of the state, availability and quality of water resources, including flow forecast and flood control

## **2 Justification**

Security, economic development and natural resource management are among the top priorities for cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. In this regard, the adequate knowledge and sharing of information about natural resources and hazards - especially water, climate extremes and floods - are important for the sustainable development of agriculture and other key economic sectors such as energy, industry, civil protection and the environment. In short, the information is crucial for the development of integrated water resources management in these countries as well as in countries downstream.

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

- 1) Exchange of national experiences and developing cross-border practices on water assessment, monitoring, forecasting and information exchange
- 2) Strengthening institutional cooperation and knowledge in the field of hydrometeorology, climate change and disaster
- 3) Capacity building to implement the existing cooperation protocols on transboundary water resources and environmental management, monitoring and safeguarding the mountain ecosystems
- 4) Improving access to information about the upper Amu Darya basin for the public, water users, and decision-makers

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

The project will focus on the Panj-Amu sub-basin. Considering major international investments into hydrometeorological infrastructure in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, the project will concentrate efforts in the field of cross-border data and information exchange, experts/institutions networking and practical cooperation through pilot exercises and activities. Since the project is mainly funded through UNECE, Tajikistan as a member of the UNECE region, will take the lead in local project activities. The existing formal framework for cooperation between the two countries - between Hydromets as well as environmental agencies - will be used in the project implementation.

## 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>						