

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

**Ashgabat 7-8 June 2011**

<b>Project Title</b>	Water quality in the AmuDarya basin	
<b>Outcome</b>	Build national capacity on water quality management, monitoring and transboundary cooperation on water quality issues - of surface as well as groundwater - in riparian states in the Amu Darya basin.	
<b>Indicative Funding Requirements</b>	Total estimated budget:	1.2 Million \$
<b>Potential Sources of Funding</b>	[Donor(s): [Development Bank(s): Other Resources:	No funding pledged so far
<b>Expected start date</b>	1 January 2012	
<b>Expected Duration</b>	3 years	
<b>Implementing Organisation(s)</b>	UNECE, UNEP, UNDP	
<b>Country/Countries</b>	Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	
<b>Submitted by</b>	UNECE	
<b>Contact information</b>	Name Bo Libert Tel 0041-22-917 23 96 Fax 0041-22-917 06 21  Email: bo.libert@unece.org Mailing Address: UN Economic Commission for Europe Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10	

### 1 Background

The countries in the Amu Darya basin (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) depend on each other for the water resources in the basin. Water quality is an important aspect of integrated water resources management that has not been seriously addressed neither at the national nor regional levels. Diffuse sources of pollution - mainly from agriculture - as well as untreated point sources of pollution contribute to the deterioration of water quality. As a result in the lower reaches of Amu Darya, poor quality of water has serious negative effects on human health as well as on water ecosystems. Saline water has negative effects on the efficiency of irrigation as well as the soil structure. This situation is described in some detail in the recent ENVSEC Assessment: "Environment and Security in the Amu Darya River Basin (2011)".

### 2 Justification

The management of water quality - which is the focus of this project - is inefficient and insufficient and a largely neglected issue, as water quantity and its allocation, mainly for irrigation and hydropower production, is in the centre of the attention. There is a need to improve national policies and regional cooperation with the ultimate aim to improve water quality as demonstrated in a recent assessment under the UNECE Water Convention. Basic causes for inefficient water

management policies are: insufficient regional cooperation, limited administrative capacity and insufficient interagency cooperation on the national level.

### 3 Expected Output(s)

- Development of coordinated monitoring on water quality.
- Improved capacity for water quality monitoring.
- Better information available on water quality in the AmuDarya basin.
- Regular cooperation between riparians on water quality issues in the AmuDarya basin established.

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

The intervention builds on the assessment made by the partners and involves agencies with different comparative advantages with regard to the theme addressed. The coordinated regional approach of the partners is combined with an extensive portfolio of lessons learned in environment and security risks with regard to transboundary water management in Central Asia.

One of the main achievements of the ongoing project “Water Quality in Central Asia” is the establishment of a regional working group involving the national agencies responsible for various aspects of water quality management are involved: water, environmental, hydro meteorological and health authorities (this working group so far does not include Afghanistan). This working group will be used in the implementation of the project.

### 5 Annual Work Plan

Year:

PLANNED ACTIVITIES <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>						