

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

Ashgabat, 2011

Deadline: 15 April 2011

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Project Title	Developing capacities and empowering local experts in the Amu Darya Basin	
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved connection and collaboration between local and international researchers, experts, practitioners, policymakers, and donors in the Amu Darya Basin; - Improved regional dialogue at scientific and technical levels focusing on water-energy nexus, adaptation to climate change, and innovations in the agricultural sector - Empowered experts in the Amu Darya Basin with research, networking, and policy advocacy. 	
Indicative Funding Requirements	Total estimated budget:	\$ 304,175
Potential Sources of Funding	[Donor(s): [Development Bank(s): Other Resources:	The World Bank
Expected start date	September 2011	
Expected Duration	3 years	
Implementing Organisation(s)	EastWest Institute	
Country/Countries	Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	
Submitted by	EastWest Institute	
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1 Background

One to two paragraphs

The Amu Darya Basin Network (<http://amudaryabasin.net/>) comprises local and international experts, practitioners, scientists, young professionals, researchers, policymakers, donors and implementing organizations working in or interested in development of the Amu Darya Basin. The Amu Darya Basin Network was established in 2010 as a result of series of workshops and seminars organized by the EastWest Institute (Belgium) and Wageningen University (the Netherlands) in 2009 and 2010 directed towards regional security in Afghanistan through regional cooperation on water. Adopting a basin-wide vision and highlighting the need for local ownership, the Network acts as a platform for interaction and communication among respective members with the objective to generate, spread and exchange knowledge, experiences and perspectives to empower and develop local capacities in water governance in the Amu Darya Basin.

The activities carried by the Network (the website, conference calls, research, and spreading policy material in local languages) are low cost but highly cost-effective in generating the required outputs and necessary for achieving the needed outcomes. However the reflected direct costs (USD 134,000) for the activities is relatively low, an effective implementation requires high quality and focused work by qualified staff, which reflects a relatively high degree of salary cost (USD 130,500).

2 Justification

One to two paragraphs. State the problem to be addressed, including needs for capacity development

As the riparian countries in the Amu Darya basin undergo changes in the availability and demand of their water resources, experts and officials working in various water organizations face challenges and changing water availability patterns. Different water sector organizations in the basin are in need of highly skilled professionals with necessary expertise in adaptation to climate change, transboundary water management, international water law application, data and information analysis, and new and innovative approaches to reducing dependence on agriculture.

In order to address the knowledge and capacity gap in the basin and to develop a common framework for water management in Central Asia, **linking experts and setting up a network of regional scientists open to interaction with the international community** is crucial. With this goal, the Amu Darya Basin Network was established in 2010. The Network also strives **to develop capacities and empower local experts** and works towards spreading knowledge, exchange of experiences among international and local experts and researchers, and generating best practices and lessons learned to strengthen research capacity and mobility. Among our Network members there are highly recognized specialists: Prof. Viktor Dukhovny, head of SIC-ICWC, Mr. Sayed Shobair, National Project Coordinator and Chief Engineer at the Ministry of Energy and Water in Afghanistan, Mr. Joop de Schutter, acting Deputy Director of UNESCO-IHE, Mr. Marton Krasznai, Regional Advisor, UNECE, and others. We also have young professionals in our network.

Building on its previous work, the present proposal of the Amu Darya Basin Network aims at strengthening the existing Amu Darya Basin Network and transforming it into a highly effective a regional advocacy and lobbying platform for effective regional cooperation in the Amu Darya river basin.

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3 Expected Output(s)

Outline the planned output(s) to be achieved by the project, using results-oriented statement. Please comment on the sustainability of the outputs and the likelihood of mainstreaming.

1. A Network of local and international water experts, researchers, scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and donors in the Amu Darya Basin;
2. Analytical, solution-oriented and advocacy focused policy briefs on capacity development, adaptation to climate change, water-energy nexus, and innovations in the agricultural sector, prepared collaboratively by the Network members;
3. Exchange of expertise and development of joint research among local experts from riparian countries of the Amu Darya Basin;
4. An online interactive platform for networking, dialogue, knowledge and expertise sharing.

Bringing the experts together through a network and collaboration between local, regional and international experts creates an enabling environment for the local experts to learn, develop and share their skills, knowledge, strategies, and ideas. The Network highlights the need for local ownership, thus facilitating the sustainability of the outputs.

4 Proposed Approach & Strategy, including Capacity Development Response

One to two paragraphs. This section should indicate how the project output(s) will contribute to the achievement of the outcome. In addition, for projects co-financed with other partners, the rationale for donor assistance and how they support the outcome should be described.

The Amu Darya Basin Network connects local and international water experts, researchers, scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and donors through its interactive website and regular conference calls. They discuss and analyze issues relevant to regional cooperation in the basin such as water-energy nexus, adaptation to climate change, and innovations in the agricultural sector and produce analytical research, solution-oriented and advocacy-focused policy briefs.

The Amu Darya Basin Network adopts a basin wide approach to pressing technical issues relevant to regional cooperation in the Amu Darya Basin, and highlights the need for local ownership and empowerment of local experts. The interactive and collaborative nature of its activities guarantees partnership among experts from the different riparian countries, and insures productive and solution-oriented results of their regular dialogue, interaction and joint research. Through their involvement in the network, the members will be empowered with the facility to produce policy tools that are spread at the national and regional level. The network also aims to increase ownership in the basin through translation of produced research papers and policy tools to be available in local languages.

The pressing issues and needs in the Amu Darya Basin such as climate change, high dependence on agriculture, cooperation over water resources highlighted in the outputs of the Amu Darya Basin Network complement to the World Bank's Water Resources Sector Strategy, specifically on basin wide management, adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change, long term cooperation on transboundary rivers. The Network also adopts a capacity development response through empowering of local experts in the Basin.

5 Annual Work Plan

Year: 2011-2014

PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				PLANNED BUDGET
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Amount
<p>1. Conference Calls: The conference calls provide a regular interaction and a cost effective tool for the Network, whereas discussions will generate information on discussed topics, and build connections among members. Calls are held every 6 weeks, for a total of 8 conference calls a year. Each conference call has a particular thematic topic and members with expertise and interest in the identified theme attend and discuss as a group to address practical questions and suggest concrete recommendations to be synthesized into advocacy focused policy briefs.</p> <p><i>Activity 1 relates to Output 1 and 2</i></p>	2	2	2	2	<p>USD 6,000 per year</p> <p>Total of USD 18,000 for 3 years</p>
<p>2. Website/The hub: The website is an interactive platform for members to spread knowledge and make it available to other experts, practitioners, young professionals, policymakers, and organizations. Members are invited to make their research and publications available on the web for use and dissemination to visitors. It is also a networking tool for members, and effective tool for connection with audience at local and international level, especially researchers, practitioners and students.</p> <p><i>Activity 2 relates to Output 1, 3 and 4</i></p>	X	X	X	X	Total of USD 5,000
<p>3. Research: Through its members and its website, the network will outsource research proposals from practitioners and researchers in the Amu Darya Basin. The research is expected to increase collaboration between local-local or local-international researchers or institutions. Research papers will be reviewed and edited by selected members of the Network. Two research papers will be issued by the Network per year.</p> <p><i>Activity 3 relates to output 3 and 4</i></p>		1		1	<p>USD 2,000 per year</p> <p>Total of USD 6,000 for 3 years</p>

4. Translation and dissemination: Policy and research papers will be translated into local languages to make it available to increase its effectiveness in empowering local experts. Activity 4 relates to output 2, 3 and 4	X	X	X	X	USD 5,000 per year Total of USD 15,000 for 3 years
5. Advocacy: 1 expert meeting planned in the region, with the aim to gather network members, raise awareness and advocate for their collaborative action and joint solutions. Activity 5 relates to output 1, 2 and 4				X	USD 60,000 per year Total of USD 120,000 for 3 years
TOTAL					USD 134,00*

*** Operational staff costs:**

Staff costs	Amount per year	Total for 3 years
50% Project assistant	USD 34,000	USD 102,000
1 Intern	USD 9,500	USD 28,500
Total		USD 130,500
Total direct costs		USD 264,500
Overhead of 15%		USD 39,675
Total costs		USD 304,175