

COOPERATION ON WATER QUALITY IN CENTRAL ASIA 2008-2019

CENTRAL ASIA KEY FEATURES

- Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - mostly mountains - “the water towers of Central Asia”, hydropower generation, agriculture
- Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – steppe and deserts, intensive agriculture, wide-spread and diverse industry



REGIONAL COOPERATION ON WQ: STAGES

In 2009-2012 UNECE and CAREC started the “Water Quality in Central Asia” project – to support the development of the effective and coordinated national policies on WQ in the context of IWRM in the countries;



In 2016-2018, UNECE and CAREC started the new phase– «Strengthening cooperation on water quality management in Central Asia»



In 2018 – the Swiss-funded Blue Peace Central Asia initiative supports the Regional Working Group on WG.

COMPONENTS OF COOPERATION

2008-2019

Pilot activities

- Testing the joint monitoring methodology on the Talas River in 2012 (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)

Knowledge and information sharing, best practices

- Water quality monitoring systems management needs assessment
- Joint planning of transboundary monitoring network and visualization of data on WQ

Institutional framework for WQ cooperation in CA

- Regional Working Group on WQ (Hydromet, sanitary and epidemiological, ecological and water agencies, agreed mandate)
- Capacity building, training

Publications

- Standards and norms of water quality in all CA countries (2009-2011)
- Diagnostic report and development plan for cooperation in Central Asia (2012)

Research

- Needs assessment of the Surface waters quality monitoring systems in Central Asia



CA REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WATER QUALITY

- Platform for the exchange of the information, ideas and experience to harmonize approaches to WQ management in CA countries;
- Support to transboundary bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan: the platform for dissemination of the successful practices and approaches in countries, negotiations on potential joint monitoring missions; sharing the results of the bilateral meetings WQ specialists in the region;
- Last meeting on November 11-12, 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Spotlight - Kazakhstan sharing the experience of the latest transition to the **Unified System of Classification of Water Quality** in water bodies based on EU Water Framework Directive with other countries;
- RWG-WQ agreed on updates in the Work Plan for 2020-2021 and the topics of common interest for the next meeting, in June 2020.



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Standards and norms of water quality in Kazakhstan

Standards and norms of water quality in Kyrgyz Republic

Standards and norms of water quality in Tajikistan

Standards and norms of water quality in Turkmenistan

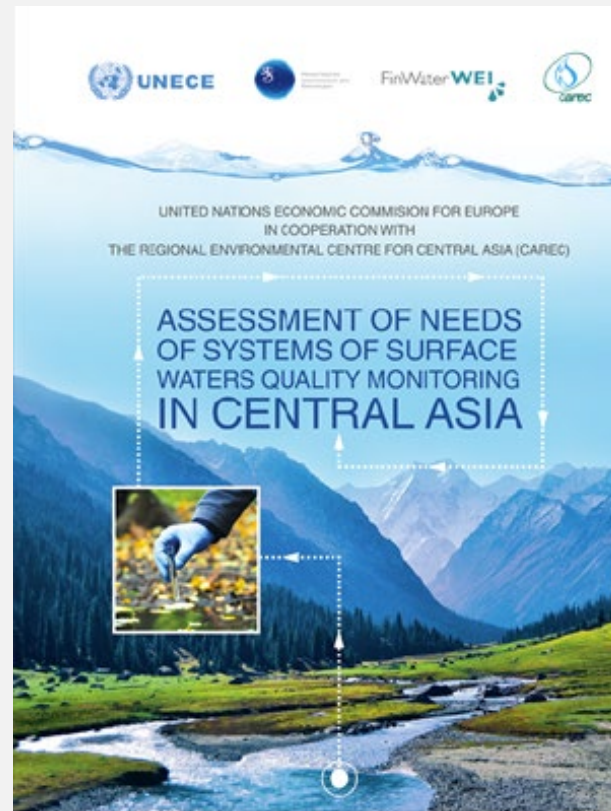
Standards and norms of water quality in Uzbekistan

Prospects for the harmonization of water quality standards and norms in Central Asia and the European Union Water Framework Directive

Legal and institutional framework for water quality management in Central Asia

Diagnostic report and development plan for cooperation in Central Asia

Assessment of needs of surface waters quality monitoring systems in Central Asia



The latest publication is “Surface waters quality monitoring systems in Central Asia: needs assessment”

- Provides assessment of needs of national systems on provision of water resources quality with elements of transboundary cooperation in five states of Central Asia.
- Developed by the members of RWG on WQ.

WORK PLAN FOR 2020-2021

Planned activities of the Regional Working Group:

- Database of experts on water quality
- Joint expedition to the Syr Darya river basin to map the quality of surface waters and pollution sources;
- Research on climate change impact on water ecosystems;
- Capacity Building: conduct further trainings to introduce a new classification for representatives of hydromets in Central Asian countries (financial support required);

EXAMPLES OF TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION ON WQ IN CA:

Expert working group on environmental protection under the Secretariat of Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan joint commission on transboundary Chu and Talas rivers management

- established in 2016;
- working meetings on WQ issues in transboundary rivers;
- joint expert assessment of the WQ of surface water in the basin ;
- coordination of the list of parameters for further assessments of WQ in transboundary rivers.

Joint Working Group of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on environmental protection and water quality in Syrdarya river

- negotiations since 2016, started joint work in 2018;
- meetings, exchange visits to the laboratories;
- coordinated regular monitoring on agreed water sampling points (2 on KZ part, 2 on UZ part);
- last meeting on 7-8 November in Nur-Sultan (1st was in Tashkent). Members of the WG agreed on methodology (parameters and methods) of assessment of the samples.

FUTURE AREAS

Development of a unified and streamlined approach to cooperation on water quality management in Central Asian states through piloting joint monitoring of water quality and use of joint analysis, data and information sharing



Strengthening transboundary cooperation on water quality through the joint monitoring



Improving transboundary water quality information sharing among Central Asian countries