

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
'WATER INITIATIVE CENTER' PUBLIC FUND

**REPORT
ON KICK-OFF TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE
TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS STUDY IN KAZAKHSTAN: THE URAL RIVER AND
THE KIGACH DISTRIBUTARY**

**Uralsk, Kazakhstan, February 17, 2016
Atyrau, Kazakhstan, February 24, 2016**

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GENERAL MEETING BRIEF

The kick-off technical meeting on the transboundary rivers study in Kazakhstan: the Ural River and the Kigach distributary, was organized as part of EC/UNDP/UNECE Project 'Supporting Kazakhstan's Transition to a Green Economy Model' under the 'Kazakhstan's Transboundary Cooperation Development' component.

The aim of the transboundary rivers study in Kazakhstan is to assess the situation in the Kigach basin, the Volga River basin and the Ural River basin as a basis for further development of transboundary cooperation. This work is performed by UNECE in cooperation with the 'Water Initiatives Center' Public Fund with the official support of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As part of this study, it is planned to assess the current state of the water content in the Ural River factored in the impact of economic activity on the water flow and the condition of the Kigach canal. The activities include collection of the existing data from different sources, the study of hydrological, economic, social and legal issues of the basin, preparation of report on the natural, economic, legal, demographic and other conditions in the Ural River basin, etc. The Project work involves national experts from Kazakhstan and the Russian experts from Astrakhan and Orenburg cities.

The kick-off technical meeting was organized to discuss the planned activities, the details of the work plan and agree upon joint actions under the study.

Due to technical reasons related to the lack of available direct transportation from Astrakhan to Uralsk and the need for a more detailed discussion of the work plan for each river, the technical meeting was held in two stages: stage 1 – the Ural River (Uralsk, February 17, 2016) and stage 2 – the Kigach distributary (Atyrau, February 24, 2016).

TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE URAL RIVER

The meeting was held in Uralsk on February 17, 2016, with participation of national experts from Kazakhstan, the Russian experts from Orenburg, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, relevant local government bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan and a UNECE representative.

The meeting participants familiarized themselves with presentations on the current state of the Kazakh and the Russian part of the Ural River basin and discussed the basin issues. Also, the participants thoroughly reviewed and discussed the work plan for the Ural River, which includes measures to review the methods for calculating environmental river flow adopted in Kazakhstan, Russia and other non-CIS countries; to collect data and information on the physical and geographical, economic, demographic, legal, hydrological, hydro-chemical, hydrobiological, ichthyologic and water conditions and the state of the Ural River on the Kazakh and the Russian territories.

Following the meeting, they agreed on joint actions and the deadline for preparation of the draft report on the natural, economic, legal, demographic and other conditions in the Ural River basin. In particular, it was decided to organize a study in the following areas:

- 1) brief physical and geographic and socio-economic characteristics of the Ural River basin;
- 2) general description of hydrological, hydro-chemical and hydro-biological conditions of the Ural River basin;
- 3) water management characteristics of the Ural River basin;
- 4) assessment of anthropogenic impact on the Ural River flow;
- 5) a program for the protection and rational use of water resources of the Ural River basin;
- 6) public participation in addressing environmental problems of the Ural River basin;
- 7) assessment of environmental flow of the Ural River.

TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE KIGACH DISTRIBUTARY

A technical meeting to discuss the work plan for the Kigach distributary was held in Atyrau on February 24, 2016, with participation of experts from the Russian city of Astrakhan, experts from Atyrau branch of 'KazHydroMet' RSE, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and specialists from the concerned local government bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The participants reviewed and discussed the activities related to desk studies to collect data and information on the Kigach distributary in the Kazakh and the Russian territory, as well as a plan for field works in the basin. In particular, the participants agreed on the schedule of the field survey of the coastal zone and measurement of water consumption and discussed the methodology for calculating the water flow in the distributary and agreed on the deadline for preparation of reports on desk and field studies.

The outcomes of expert team work will be presented at the second expanded technical meeting scheduled for the second half of June 2016.

PROGRAM

The Kick-off Technical Meeting to Discuss the Ural River Work Plan

February 17, 2016, Rakhat Hotel, Uralsk

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome Speech <i>Gulmira Imshaeva, the Head of Water Use and Protection Department, Deputy for Committee for Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> <i>Peep Mardiste, Regional Coordinator of NPD, Economic Commission for Europe</i>
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Presentation of the UNECE Project ‘Transboundary Rivers Study in Kazakhstan: the Ural River and the Kigach’, S. Akhmetov, Ph.D. in Geology, Chairman of ‘Water Initiatives Center’ Public Fund
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.	On the Water Situation in the Kazakh Part of the Ural River, Amirkhan Kenshimov, Ph.D. in Technical Sciences, Project National Expert
10:50 – 11:10 a.m.	On the Water Situation in the Russian Part of the Ural River, Yury Nesterenko, D.Sc. in Geology, Russian Expert for the Project, Sergei Levykin, Russian Expert of the Project
11:10 – 11:30 a.m.	Questions – Answers
11:30 – 12:00 a.m.	Coffee break
12:00 – 12:15 p.m.	Presentation of Draft Work Plan for UNECE ‘Transboundary Rivers Study in Kazakhstan: the Ural River and the Kigach’, S. Akhmetov, Ph.D. in Geology, Chairman of ‘Water Initiatives Center’ Public Fund
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	Draft Work Plan Discussion
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch time
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Draft Work Plan Discussion Continued
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee break
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Summarizing, Closure

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Kick-off Technical Meeting to Discuss the Ural River Work Plan

February 17, 2016, Rakhat Hotel, Uralsk

No	Full Name	Position	Contacts
1.	Imasheva Gulmira Sagynbayevna	Head of Water Resources Protection and Use Control Department under the Committee for Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan	+7 (7172) 74-98-71 g.imasheva@msh.gov.kz
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PROGRAM

The Kick-off Technical Meeting to Discuss the Kigach Distributary Work Plan

February 24, 2016, Victoria Palace Hotel, Atyrau

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome Speech <i>Karlygash Taishiyeva, Chief Expert at Water and Biological Resources Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> <i>Serik Akhmetov, Chairman of the 'Water Initiatives Center' Public Fund</i>
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Presentation of the UNECE Project 'Transboundary Rivers Study in Kazakhstan: the Ural River and the Kigach', S. Akhmetov, Chairman of 'Water Initiatives Center' Public Fund
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Presentation of the Draft Work Plan for the Kigach Distributary, S. Akhmetov, Chairman of 'Water Initiatives Center' Public Fund
11:15 – 1:00 p.m.	Draft Work Plan Discussion
1:00 PM – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Draft Work Plan Discussion Continued
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Summarizing, Closure
4:00 p.m.	Coffee break

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Kick-off Technical Meeting to Discuss the Kigach Distributary Work Plan

February 24, 2016, Victoria Palace Hotel, Atyrau

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