

Evaluation of the capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia Phase 2 (E240)

Final Progress report - 30 June 2020

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	The upcoming projects related to dam safety in Central Asia, if any, should address cooperation and capacity-building in dam safety in Central Asia, especially the focus on transboundary rivers.	<p>In the new project, “Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)” to be implemented September 2017 to June 2020, the further support to cooperation and capacity-building in dam safety in Central Asia including a focus on transboundary issues is fully addressed.</p> <p>The expected accomplishments of the new project are: EA1. Improved inter-state cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia EA2. Improved national capacities in development and implementation of legal, regulatory and technical frameworks on dam safety in Central Asia EA3. Improved safety and transboundary cooperation on individual dams</p> <p>The activities of the new project are: A1.1. Organisation of 3 annual regional meeting for exchange of</p>	<p>Environment Division, Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Implemented in May 2019.</p> <p>The project, “Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)” is aimed at improving cooperation, building capacity and improving the management of dams on transboundary rivers. The regional meeting on Cooperation on Dams Safety in Central Asia, May 2019, supported a bilateral meeting to discuss cooperation between the countries on dams safety issues, capacity building and management of dams located on transboundary rivers between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (https://www.unece.org/env/water/damsafety_third_phase.html).</p>

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		<p>information and development of interstate cooperation;</p> <p>A2.1. Support to drafting by consultants of national legislation and organization of two roundtables/seminars to discuss draft legislation;</p> <p>A2.2. Organisation of two regional capacity building events to “train the trainers” on dam safety;</p> <p>A3.1. Development and showcasing of the dam technical solutions for transboundary safety monitoring.</p>		
2	<p>The UNECE should continue addressing concerns of the Central Asia countries on dam safety issues. Some of the countries may wish to avoid changing representatives attending the Project events and work on the developments at a national level. Should this be impossible, it may be reasonable to establish a strong succession of equally qualified representatives up-to-date with the most recent developments of the Project. This may allow faster progressing towards the expected accomplishments</p>	<p>The new project “Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)” to be implemented 2017-2020 will continue the cooperation with nominated institutions and focal points as during the previous project. A message has already been sent to the established national focal points informing about the new phase of the project. Invitations to the first regional meeting planned for the first part of 2018 were to the same institutions as during previous project phases and previous participants will be informed about the planned meeting.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p>	<p>Implemented in June 2018.</p> <p>The project established a network of dam safety national coordinators in each of the countries thereby ensuring effective implementation of the project activities, greater ownership and continuity. In addition, previously involved national experts and institutions are also involved in the new project to the extent possible</p>

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3	<p>Since qualified and dedicated staff is one of the key success factors for any project, continue with the people who manage and execute the Project at the UNECE, if possible</p>	<p>Recommendation is partially accepted, due primarily to the fact that the project manager retired from June 2017.</p> <p>The new project manager in charge of the project will work with the previous consultant for coordination in Central Asia that contributes to the planning and implementation of the project. There will also be efforts to involve the previous project manager as a consultant to make sure the experiences from previous phases are transferred to the new management set-up.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p>	<p>Implemented in May 2018</p> <p>Qualified regional and international consultants are involved in supporting project implementation</p>
4	<p>The UNECE should continue its efforts and enhance cooperation with the donors/international development organizations. The governments of Central Asia countries should consider increasing funding for dam safety issues. The Central Asia countries may wish to set up a permanent Dam Safety Working Group to operate at the regular forum that the EB IFAS in Kazakhstan has suggested should be established. The officially nominated Project focal points could serve as a core of such a Group. This will steer the future sustainability of work.</p>	<p>The new project “Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)” funded by the Russian Federation 2017-2020 is set up with these intentions. As before, donors and international donor organizations will be invited to the regional meetings for discussions on cooperation and co-funding. Presently discussions on cooperation and co-funding from a Slovak initiative is underway. During the regional meetings regular discussions will be organised to discuss increased funding from the Central Asian countries. The first regional meeting will be organised by EB IFAS in Kazakhstan in March 2018</p>	<p>Environment Division, Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Implemented in May 2019</p> <p>The regional meeting conducted in May 2019 in Tashkent involved several donor and development organizations such as, GIZ, OSCE, EBRD, CAREC, French Development Agency. The event aimed to raise awareness on the problems of safe management of dams among donor and development organizations, deepen and expand cooperation in the area and mobilize additional support. This resulted in an agreement with the Slovak Agency on Dams Management to host a training-workshop for CA experts in October 2019 with travel support by GIZ and OSCE.</p> <p>In addition, the OSCE Center in Dushanbe agreed to support bilateral cooperation on dam safety between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Informal discussion to include the dam safety as a component of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment was initiated at the regional meeting in May 2019. The issue will be discussed during the regional meeting on dam safety in 2020. The Project focal points are nominated</p>

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		to demonstrate the establishment of the regular forum. During the first meeting, a separate discussion will be organised with Project focal points on the possibility that these may form a permanent Dam Safety Working Group.		
5	<p>Continuation of the Project beyond 2017 would be highly desirable. Implementing pilot activities on specific dams demonstrating technical solutions for transboundary safety monitoring on a dam in each country may significantly increase the impact of the Project. The Russian Federation may wish to continue supporting the efforts of UNECE, and fund the fourth phase of the Project. The Central Asia countries will benefit from further support by the experts from the Russian Federation, who have expressed their interest in providing further advice and training on dam safety to the experts and officials from Central Asia. Experience from other countries and regions are also of value in future efforts.</p>	<p>The Russian Federation has made US \$302,840 available for implementation of the project “Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)” for the period 2017 – 2020. In the new project work on specific dams and efforts to demonstrate safety monitoring in several countries is included. The funding from the Russian Federation for the next phase of the project will be considered in 2019. Funding from other sources are also sought (see management response to Recommendation 4 above). The use of Russian expertise and experts from other countries is planned.</p>	<p>Environment Division, Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>The project with the recommended activities launched in 2017. Pilot initiatives on the management of dams located on transboundary rivers between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are under consideration that will include: capacity building activities, joint declaration of the selected site; support in revision of national legislation on dam safety.</p> <p>A meeting between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to discuss the bilateral cooperation took place on 9 June 2020.</p> <p>The expert from the Hydroporject Agency, RF, presented experience of RF in introducing the safety monitoring system at the Sangduda power plant in Tajikistan.</p> <p>20 Central Asian officials representing the state agencies on dam management, water management authorities and foreign ministries attended a week-long study tour and a workshop held 7-11 October 2019, Slovakia. The study tour demonstrated the participants practical experience in the safe management of dams in Slovakia, transboundary dams conflict resolution and discussed cooperation opportunities with the Slovak Dam Management Agency.</p>