

Status of implementation status of the recommendations

Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin (Pyanj River) (Dec 2018)

Final Progress report - 30 June 2020

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	Future UNECE projects on strengthening cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan on hydrology and environment, if any, should address further development of political dialogue (by means of supporting high-level and expert meetings, capacity building events, joint expeditions along the Pyanj River) and technical dialogue. This can include transboundary climate change adaptation strategy which however requires more funding.	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>The Environment Division of ECE will hold discussions with the governments to identify if these recommendations are of interest for the countries. Based on the outcomes the recommended areas will be discussed with the donor to seek its consent to implement them.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>Environment Division Director met with the donor and agreed to discontinue the project. The recommendation is marked as closed as at December 2019.</p>
3	The UNECE should give preference to local sub-contractors over the international ones, where possible and appropriate, to potentially enhance the efficiency. The Investments (furniture & equipment) budget line can be regarded as not appropriate for similar projects.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>Efforts will be made to involve local organizations and consultants as much as possible in all similar projects in the future. The recommendation on furniture and equipment is also accepted.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>Director of the Division will ensure that this recommendation is considered before next XB projects are signed. The recommendation is marked as closed as at December 2019.</p>

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4	The UNECE should continue supporting the political and technical dialogue between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, with regular financial and organizational assistance to arrange meetings, capacity building events and expeditions on Pyanj which have become a good practice.	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>The Environment Division of ECE will hold discussions with the governments to identify if these recommendations are of interest for the countries. Based on the outcomes the recommended areas will be discussed with the donor to seek its consent to implement them</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>As per recommendation 1, Environment Division Director met with the donor and agreed to discontinue this project. On the other hand, UNECE continues to support the National Policy Dialogues (NPD) in Tajikistan to promote the integrated water resources management under the ongoing reform of the national water sector. While the initiative is mainly focused on domestic issues the transboundary cooperation opportunities with neighbouring countries, including Afghanistan, will also be considered.</p> <p>The recommendation is marked as closed as at December 2019.</p>
5	Approval of the environmental MoU may significantly increase the impact of the Project, though this factor is currently beyond the direct control of the UNECE and can be subject to monitoring only.	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>Approval of the MoU by countries is beyond UNECE control. However, the Environment Division of ECE will follow up with the governments on the status of MoU clearance and signing.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>The Director of the Environment Division sent a follow-up letter to the Chairman Committee on Environmental Protection of Tajikistan on February 2019 to inquire about the status of the MoU. No response was received as of July 2020. The recommendation is marked closed as at June 2020</p>
6	It is recommended to the UNECE to continue exploring cooperation opportunities with the WB, USAID and other international development banks, agencies and governments for increased synergetic impact.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will hold discussions with the WB and ADB and other organizations to explore collaboration opportunities for an increased synergy.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>Tajikistan did not include any bilateral cooperation on transboundary rivers as the area for discussion under the NPD processes.</p> <p>The recommendation is marked as closed as at June 2020 but UNECE will continue to explore collaboration opportunities under the framework of the NPD process.</p>
7	For future projects, the UNECE may consider adding to the meeting invitations a specific call to the participating organisations to include female experts in the Project.	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE has no control over meeting participants' nominations. However, UNECE will encourage participating organizations to include more female participants in the project's activities.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>Director of the Division will ensure that this recommendation is considered before next XB projects are signed. The recommendation is marked as closed as at December 2019.</p>

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	<p>Additional focus on involving groups of female students, educated women, e.g. from the University of Central Asia, and activists from women empowerment organisations in Tajikistan and Afghanistan would be a positive addition. These groups can be invited to attend Project events and expeditions (there is interest to this in Dushanbe).</p>			
8	<p>Further advancement could include meetings with local women in villages, encouraging them to discuss problems and assisting development of women-led community projects on the Pyanj River.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will give a due consideration of this recommendation during the development of future projects on strengthening local communities on the Pyanj River. Project Manager will follow up in 2020 with potential donors.</p>	<p>Environment Division</p> <p>Batyr Hajjiyev, Economic Affairs Officer</p>	<p>Closed and not implemented</p> <p>Director of the Division will ensure that this recommendation is considered before next XB projects are signed. The recommendation is marked as closed as at December 2019.</p>