Progress in implementation of IWAC PoW for 2019-2021 and future activities

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Programme of Work for 2019-2021

• **Area 1:** Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

• **Area 2:** Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

• **Area 3:** Adapting to climate change in a transboundary basins
Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

- **Project “Sustainable Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context”**
- **Project “Environmental Flow - the Basis for the Conservation of the Ecosystems”**
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, China, Mongolia, Afghanistan and Iran.

Projects’ tasks:
- to study the existing practice of water allocation and environmental flow assessment in the transboundary basins in the Eurasian region
- to review scientific and methodological approaches in this area,
- to review the existing institutional structures,
- to identify the main approaches to water allocation on the transboundary rivers in the Region
Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

- Technical Meeting of Experts on Water Allocation and Environmental Flow Assessment in a Transboundary Context (15 May 2020, virtual)
- Regional Meeting on Water Allocation Handbook (22-23 September 2020, virtual)

Projects’ input to the WA Handbook:
- descriptive part of the WA Handbook in the form of analysis of water allocation practices
- case studies to the WA Handbook on the various aspects of water allocation
- recommendations to the WA Handbook
- main approaches and visions of countries in solving the problems of protection and use of transboundary water resources at the national and international levels

Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

Training on Dam Safety in Central Asia, 7-11 October 2019, Bratislava, Slovakia

- At the support of Vodohospodarka Vystavba and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) under the UNECE Regional Project on Dam Safety in Central Asia

- **Beneficiaries:** Specialists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Russia, Uzbekistan

- **Training covered:**
  - Regulatory and legal management of hydraulic structures,
  - Technical supervision and safety control at dams,
  - Automation of data collection and evaluation,
  - Support of an early warning system,
  - Flood protection,
  - Supervision of protective dams and tailing dumps,
  - Special measurements and analyzes at hydraulic structures,
  - Special tests of technological parts of water structures, etc.
Cooperation in joint use of the water and energy resources of Central Asia

- At the support of the Government of Switzerland and Government of Kazakhstan
- Participants - ministers of economy, finance, environment and water resources, heads of strategic development institutions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Results:
- Helped to define the main approaches of the countries to the joint use of water and energy resources and joint mechanisms of cooperation
- It was a first step to development of a common vision on water security in Central Asia
Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syrdarya river in emergency situations

Objectives:

• To assess potential sources of pollution and identification of accidental pollution risks;
• To analyze the existing mechanisms for information exchange, early warning and interaction of riparian countries in case of accidental pollution;
• To develop joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution in emergency situations;
• To develop a Joint Contingency Plan for the Syrdarya River Basin.

The project was approved at the Meeting of the Joint Kazakh-Uzbek Working Group on Environment and Water Quality of the Syrdarya river and supported by the European Union.
Transboundary cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia in Ural r. basin

- **Workshop on Preservation of the Ural River Ecosystem** (25-26 July, 2019), at the financial support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Outcomes: Joint recommendations on institutional and economic mechanisms for preservation of the Ural river ecosystem, which were submitted to the Joint Kazakh-Russian Commission for the Conservation of the Zhayik (Ural) River Basin Ecosystem.

- Development of proposals for a **Joint Action Plan for the Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources of Ural River**;

- **Fund-raising for the implementation of joint activities on the Ural River**: the study of the hydrological regime of the Ural River and the creation of the information monitoring database for the Ural River.
Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Training on hydrometeorological services, 10-11 November 2021

• In cooperation with the Slovak national and private organizations
• Objective - to assist Central Asian countries in studying European experience in hydrometeorological services, including:
  - mechanisms for collecting, processing and transmitting data and information on monitoring the quality of transboundary water resources,
  - technology for making hydrological forecasts,
  - the use of regional numerical models and automated hydrological systems.
• Participants: specialists from national hydrometeorological services, the representatives of government agencies involved in the hydrological services, experts in the field of protection and use of water resources
Lessons Learned

- Due to the difficulties and limitations associated with the coronavirus pandemic, some of the projects included to the IWAC PoW began to be implemented much later. The work on the development of measures to mitigate the droughts consequences in Central Asia could not be implemented.

- At the same time, the IWAC was able to implement the most part of planned activities, as well as to carry out a number of additional activities in support of cooperation in the transboundary basins of the Eurasian region.

- IWAC played a key role in organizing the Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties in Nur-Sultan on 10-12 October 2018. It served as the main working body for the organization of MOP8. It provided assistance in conducting Presidency of Kazakhstan in the Bureau of the Convention.
Main areas of work for 2022-2024

• **Area 1:** Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

• **Area 2:** Promoting an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to water resources management at all levels

• **Area 3:** Reporting on SDG 6.5.2 and implementation of the Convention
Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

**Objective:** to assist countries in developing coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and data exchange

**Planned activities:**
- Assistance in updating the Convention's guidelines on monitoring, assessment and data exchange
- Assistance in developing joint actions to prevent water pollution in transboundary basins
Objective: to assist in implementing integrated water resources management in the transboundary basins of the Eurasian region

Planned activities:
- Promoting intersectoral solutions based on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus
- Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins
- Assistance in the safe management of hydraulic structures
Objective: to assist countries in developing road maps on indicator 6.5.2 and taking concrete steps to facilitate the achievement of target 6.5.

Planned activities:
• Facilitating the use of reports to improve transboundary water cooperation:
  - Regional workshop on sharing experiences in using reports as a tool for developing transboundary cooperation and developing road maps on indicator 6.5.2.
Programme of Work for 2022-2024

The Draft Programme of Work has been developed in consultation with the Bureau and the Secretariat.

The development of the Programme of work benefitted from discussions at:
- the Regional Workshop on Green Recovery and Technologies in Central Asia, organized by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, 28 April 2021
- the Regional Meeting on Dam Safety in Central Asia, 23 June 2021
Thank you!

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