

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

11 February 2022

Zhanar Mautanova

Deputy Director, International Water Assessment Centre



Relevance of the problem

- Characteristics of the economic activities of countries (mining, processing, etc.) involving the use of hazardous substances and the risk of breakthroughs and the introduction of hazardous substances into water bodies



Basis and premise

- **Work plan** of the Joint Working Group for 2020-2021, **item 5** - To develop a mechanism for preventing and responding to pollution of the river Syrdarya in emergency situations
- **Programme of work** of the International Water Assessment Center **for 2019-2021**, adopted at the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
- **IWAC experience and participation** in projects implemented under the Water Convention and the **UNECE** Industrial Accidents Convention with the participation of riparian countries (**Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**)



Experience in the implementation of UNECE projects on the tailings management in Central Asia

- **Aims** at ensuring safe management of tailings and improving regional cooperation
- **Participants:** Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
- **Results of the project in Kazakhstan:** education and training, risk assessment scale and map of tailings in Kazakhstan, action plan for the safe management of tailings, interinstitutional Working group on water and industrial accidents
- **Exchange of experience** between the Central Asian countries on the management of tailings posing a threat of transboundary pollution



Information about the project

Purpose: reduction and prevention of pollution of water resources of the transboundary Syrdarya river by developing joint measures by countries to prevent and respond to accidental pollution of the Syrdarya river

Tasks of stage I: assessment of potential sources of industrial pollution included in the flow formation zone of the Syrdarya River and review of existing national measures of riparian countries to prevent and respond to accidental pollution of the Syrdarya River in order to develop recommendations for their improvement;

Stage II tasks: development of a draft Joint Emergency Plan for the Syrdarya Basin, testing of joint measures during a training workshop with riparian countries and during field exercises

Project implementation timeline: Stage 1: December 2021 - May 2022, Stage 2: 2023-2024. *(if funding is available)*

Participants: European Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, International Water Assessment Centre



Activities of the I stage of the project

- **Assessment of potential sources of pollution of the Syrdarya river and identification of risks of accidental pollution:** an analytical review with a general description of potential sources of technogenic pollution of the river and the main characteristics of pollutants, recommendations for reducing pollution of the water resources of the Syrdarya river, inventory and mapping of risks of tailings according to their degree of danger.
- **Analysis of existing mechanisms** for information exchange, early warning and interaction of riparian countries in case of accidental pollution of the Syrdarya River and development of recommendations for their improvement



Expected results of the project

I stage

- preparation of the basis for the **establishment of an agreed mechanism** for the prevention and response to pollution of the river Syrdarya in emergency situations;
- **improvement of transboundary cooperation** between countries to reduce the risks of accidental pollution of the Syrdarya river basin;
- **improving the exchange of information and coordination** between the national authorities of the riparian countries in order to improve safety and prevent pollution of the Syrdarya river.

II stage

- **improving the planning of joint actions** of riparian countries **in case of emergencies** in the Syrdarya river basin;
- **Joint action plan** for prevention and response to pollution of the river Syrdarya in emergency situations



Work plan

- Introductory meeting on the Project, December 21, 2021
- Preparation of analyzes for components 1, 2,3 - until April
- Expert Workshop to Discuss Preliminary Findings - in March
- Expanded meeting with the participation of experts and stakeholders to discuss the results of the project - in April
- Sub-regional meeting on improving transboundary emergency planning in the Syrdarya river basin - in May

Thank you for your attention!



info@iwac.kz



iwac.kz



@InternationalWaterAssessmentCenter



@iwackz