Study on pollution sources and identification of accident risks in the Syr Darya River Basin: RESULTS

Study was requested by the Joint Kazakh Uzbek Working Group on Environmental Protection and Water Quality in the Syr Darya River Basin. Its main results:

1. General review of pollution sources
2. Inventory of hazardous industrial facilities, including tailings management facilities (TMsFs), and its mapping
3. Identification of accidental pollution risks, including Natech (“Natural Hazards Triggering Technological Disasters”)
4. Analysis of legislation and existing information exchange mechanisms
5. Development of recommendations for coordinated pollution prevention measures and response to accidental water pollution

Risks identified in the Syr Darya River Basin:
- Industrial facilities, including TMFs, are located near populated areas, near rivers and in mountainous areas
- Lack of coordinated measures for prevention and emergency response
- Lack of control, monitoring and remediation at closed TMFs
- Increased landslides, flooding, mudflow and erosion processes exacerbated by ongoing climate change
- High seismic activity
- Unsatisfactory water infrastructure
- Degraded national water resources monitoring systems
- Increasing water shortages
- Limited access to centralized drinking water supply and sanitation systems

Learn more: www.unesco.org/pollution-syr-darya-a-river-emergency-situations