

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

THE COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH BILATERAL MEETING ON HYDROLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN***

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 24-25 November 2014

* This report has been issued without official editing by the Environment Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The fourth bilateral meeting between Afghanistan and Tajikistan senior officials and experts on hydrology and environment took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 24-25 November 2014. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office in Dushanbe and close cooperation with the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with logistical and substantive support from Zoï Environment Network (Geneva, Switzerland). The agenda of the meeting can be found in *Annex 1*.

2. The meeting was held within the framework of the project “Strengthening cooperation on transboundary watershed management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin” implemented by UNECE with financial support provided by the Government of the Russian Federation and additional support by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. The project is aimed at improving the bilateral cooperation in the field of mountain ecosystem management, hydrology, natural disasters, climate change and other priority issues, and at enhancing institutional and technical cooperation.

1. Objectives of the Meeting

3. The objectives of the meetings were to:

- Review the implementation of outcomes of the previous meetings and the ongoing reform processes of the government structures in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, including the Terms of Reference and membership of the technical working groups
- Present results from the technical visits/expeditions to the upper basin of the Amu Darya River in summer-autumn 2014
- Jointly plan activities in the upper part of the river basin of Amu Darya River in hydrology and environment for 2015-2017 and prospectively to 2020
- Discuss the basis for exchange of hydrological data and the coordination of the development of hydrological monitoring
- Discuss opportunities for joint assessment of the environment on the basis of indicators and measures to improve the environmental situation
- Discuss mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration

2. Attendance

4. Six participants from Afghanistan and over 40 participants from Tajikistan and other Central Asian states took part in the meeting. About 15 participants from international organizations and institutions such as the Tajik office of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), UNECE, OSCE, GIZ, Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), UNDP, USAID and DKU participated in the meeting. Overall, more than 45 participants took part in the meeting. The list of participants can be found in *Annex 2*.

B. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. Day 1 of the meeting (24 November 2014) was opened by Mr. Khairullo IBODZODA, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. He welcomed the delegation of Afghanistan, recalled the intergovernmental agreement signed by both countries in 2010 and highlighted the good progress achieved in the establishment of contacts, technical workgroups and institutional MoUs to implement this agreement. He recalled the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 and its relevance to the Panj/Amu Darya cooperation. Ms. Oikhon SHARIPOVA, Deputy Chairman, greeted participants and took the position of meeting chairperson and facilitator.

6. OSCE Ambassador in Tajikistan, Mr. Markus MUELLER, noted the importance of the meeting and the bilateral cooperation process in the context of water and security. Not only hydrological monitoring cooperation and environmental protection, but also research and education efforts are essential to better understand the current situation and trends. Climate change is a major long-term concern for both countries and the intensified cooperation is essential to address it.

7. Mr. Batyr HAJIYEV, UNECE, noted that the cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan towards sustainable water resource management, hydrology and environment, is a very positive development. It is encouraging that both countries have established technical working groups and are initiating practical steps – information exchange, training for young professionals, experience sharing. Next steps will help to build confidence and political will to cooperate in a broader context using the existing platforms – such as RECCA and UN SPECA – which offer important cooperation platforms. Integrated water resources management and the water-energy-agriculture nexus need to be addressed in a systematic manner. Technical solutions need a political will and institutional backing. Solutions need to be based on international water law, and the UNECE Water Convention offers various tools and experience that could be studied and applied by both countries.

8. Mr. Sergey KOLOTINSKIY, Embassy of the Russian Federation, greeted all participants, expressed satisfaction with the bilateral collaboration process and wished success to the participants.

9. Mr. Sulton Mahmoud MAHMOUDI, Ministry of Energy and Water of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, recalled the scope of the current and previous meetings and expressed confidence that this cooperation process provides the platform to discuss and find solutions to environmental and water problems in a timely and comprehensive manner for the prosperity and well-being of both nations. Afghanistan and Tajikistan are sharing the Panj/Amu Darya River, which is fed primarily by rains, snowmelt and glaciers. Both upstream countries produce a lot of water, but use relatively small amounts and benefit the least from the existing opportunities. Droughts and other impacts of climate change along with deforestation are negatively affecting the stability of water resources. This process aims to develop a joint system for the monitoring of water resources and for information exchange so that current and future generations can use this cooperation platform. We hope that other countries of the river basin will also benefit from such cooperation.

C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10. The following agenda of the meeting was approved:

A. Opening statements and introduction of participants

B. Session # 1: Hydrological monitoring and environment protection: recent developments, practical implementation and prospects in Afghanistan and Tajikistan

C. Session # 2: The underlying documents for further development of cooperation

D. Session # 3: Information from international partners, implementation mechanisms and synergies

E. Closing session: Discussion and endorsement of the key documents

The effective meeting agenda is attached in *Annex I*.

D. PROCEEDINGS

11. Mr. Daler KHOLMATOV, Tajik Ministry of Energy and Water, welcomed the Afghan delegation, and noted the current lack of bilateral institutional mechanisms to coordinate activities on hydropower and water use, and stated that it is encouraging that the environment and hydrology collaboration is gaining momentum. The Ministry encourages the development of the potential of this shared river, and hopes to find common positions on the water and energy challenges ahead. Mr. Kholmatov noted that lion's share of the Panj/Amu Darya water is formed in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and spoke of the relationship between river flow and glaciers.

12. Mr. Mostainbillah BALAGH of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan suggested that political and security concerns were receding while economic transformation was taking centre stage. Extractive industries and agriculture are key economic sectors for future development and prosperity of Afghanistan, and water is a crucial resource. In addition to the political will, Afghanistan needs support from donors and international agencies. One programme where Afghanistan participates is the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UN SPECA), which includes provisions on energy, water and environmental cooperation.

13. Mr. Anvar KHOMIDOV, Tajikistan's Committee on Environmental Protection, noted that the countries were taking concrete steps toward hydrometeorological cooperation, and summarized the findings of two recent expeditions to five hydrological stations and other sites. ADB helped finance the construction of the new Ayvaj station on the Amu Darya River, now operated by Tajikistan in a testing mode. Afghanistan also provided support and goodwill for the construction of infrastructure for a station on the left bank. New bridges at Khirmanjo, Khorog, Ishashim and in the Vanch district are creating new economic zones resulting in decreasing food costs in remote provinces of Afghanistan.

14. Mr. Sulton MAHMOUDI on behalf of the Afghan delegation thanked Tajikistan for its hospitality and underlined the good neighbourly relations between the countries. He recalled that the meeting touched upon key problems and challenges of the twenty-first century; countries share these problems and also share cultural and natural wealth that needs to be preserved for present and future generations. He expressed gratitude to UNECE, OSCE and Zoï for contributions to the cooperation process. Mr. Mahmoudi spoke of the national council for water management and integrated water management among five river basin councils in Afghanistan, and noted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' important role in international water relations. He reported that six authorities are involved on the Panj/Amu Darya, and advocated for automated stations and joint observations of snow and ice. Mr. Mahmoudi also suggested that the countries need to intensify cooperation on climate change, energy, deforestation and flooding. On a more technical matter, he raised the issue of suspended sediments, the measurements of which may be crucial to the proper maintenance of infrastructure.

15. Mr. Ezatullah SEDIQI of the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan identified continuing priorities in the areas of climate change and forestry, and spoke of the current attention paid to the Wakhan Corridor with its specific culture and such environmental challenges as melting glaciers and threatened biodiversity. The snow leopard is a species of particular importance in the area. Afghan authorities have recently decided to declare the entire area as a National Park and the work on drafting management plans, sublaws and regulations is ongoing.

16. Mr. Hamid RASULOV of Tajikistan's hydrometeorological service, Permanent Representative with the WMO, summed up three main goals of the ongoing hydromet modernization project in Tajikistan: 1) capacity-building for staff, improving technical infrastructure and assuring that methods are compliant with WMO guidance and standards; 2) the improvement of climate and hydrological services and forecasts; and 3) the improvement of weather services and outreach to the general population and to other users. He expects the results to include improved forecasting of disasters. Mr. Rasulov also provided highlights of the Third National Communication under the UNFCCC, which reports increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns, changes in country's glacier cover, including its largest Fedchenko glacier, and projections to 2100.

17. Mr. Neimatullo SAFAROV of the Tajik National Centre on Biodiversity and Biosafety, acknowledged and thanked those organizers and donors who have been supporting the bilateral cooperation process for long time, and mentioned the environment and security consultations in 2006-2007 in Dushanbe and Kabul as well as the study of the upper Amu Darya region issues under the ENVSEC Initiative. He recalled several practices that participants observed during that study, including the creation of forest belts along rice fields in Afghanistan, and mentioned several recent publications – the Cooperation Atlas and the Afghanistan field guide on biodiversity in particular. In discussing strategic biodiversity goals for 2020, Mr. Safarov focused on the unregulated use of natural resources as a common issue for both countries. Tajikistan is home to over 300 wild species, relatives of domestic plants, and maintains part of its genetic resources in the country, and another part in the global centre in Norway. Agro-biodiversity research is underway to find genotypes and varieties that have a broad tolerance to climate extremes, and Tajikistan looks forward to sharing the findings with

Afghanistan. The countries could cooperate more substantially on the snow leopard, afforestation and other issues of common interest.

18. Mr. Balagh of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that MFA has two departments involved in water affairs, and that current institutional reforms aim to minimize duplication of efforts and to reduce dependency on aid. A water law adopted in 2009 regulates ownership, fees, rights, permits and usage with respect to water, and paved the way for the formulation of a comprehensive transboundary water policy drafted in 2013 that is expected to be finalized in 2015, taking into account national interests of Afghanistan and internationally agreed principles. MFA Afghanistan maintains relationships under SPECA, RECCA, UNECE-UNESCAP and ECO. Authorities in Afghanistan continue to regard economic assistance as potential support for environmental concerns, and to focus on the role of water in economic development.

19. Mr. Sediqi of the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan noted that NEPA was established in 2005, and that the environmental act of 2007 is an important framework. New draft legislation covers wildlife management, waste and water quality. Afghanistan is a Party to 14 international conventions and protocols, and produced national state-of-the-environment (SoE) reports in 2003, 2008 and recently in 2013. The country's new protected species list includes 138 species. The second national communication on climate change, climate change adaptation strategy and national protected areas system management plan are under development. Mr. Sediqi closed his remarks with a comment on the need to plan and conduct joint expeditions and practical activities.

20. Mr. Fahimullah ZIAEE of the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock spoke of taking a wider view of water resources and of having greater ambitions for integrated water resource management. He suggested that a joint committee/commission could be an authoritative body for river management. In speaking of the terms of reference for the working groups, Mr. Ziaee suggested that the countries may wish to add other working groups in the future.

21. Mr. Mahmoudi urged delegates to consider hydropower development prospects. Noting that Afghanistan cannot fully use its hydropower potential, Mr. Mahmoudi reported that the country intends to pursue water development plans that ensure fair and just use of cross-border water resources to reduce the country's dependency on food aid and to improve its energy security. Afghanistan is rich in energy resources and can also serve as transit country.

22. Mr. Karimjon ABDUALIMOV of the Tajik hydrometeorological services presented the draft MoU on hydrology data exchange and spoke about his service's cooperation with their Uzbek and Kyrgyz partners. Following this presentation, participants discussed MoU details and specificities.

23. Mr. Viktor NOVIKOV of Zoï Environment Network provided an overview of concept for the pilot introduction and use of common environmental indicators in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Hydrology data and environmental information need to be compatible and presented in formats suitable for policymakers and the general public. Datasets and indicators need to show the environment situation, challenges and trends, and help in identifying response strategies and measures at local, river basin and national levels. Through the collaborative process both countries are likely to enhance the capacities of their environmental authorities and experts in preparing modern indicator-based environmental assessments, State of the Environment reports and plans of actions to address the key issues in the Panj/Amu Darya River basin.

24. On Day 2 (25 November 2014), after a summary by Ms. Oikhon Sharipova, Mr. Begmurod MAHMADALIEV, Director of the Tajik branch of the IFAS, recalled the management structure and priorities of work of IFAS and elaborated on the importance of environmental protection and water resource planning and monitoring in the upper part of the Amu Darya River basin.

25. Dr. Martin ROSSMANN of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan briefed participants on OSCE activities in the area of water management, energy and environmental security. One of the key activities is facilitation of transboundary cooperation between Tajikistan and neighbouring countries on water resources, including steps towards the establishment of a river basin commission/committee between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In the course of 2014, OSCE Tajikistan provided inputs and support to the environmental and hydrology bilateral cooperation process, including expeditions to the lower, middle and upper parts of the Amu Darya River and several technical working group meetings.

In 2015, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan will continue supporting cooperation on the environment and hydrology between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in collaboration with UNECE. Additionally, OSCE will conduct training for officials of the Ministry of Energy and Water of Tajikistan on integrated water resources management (IWRM) and international water law and contribute to education and awareness activities for schools and youth in near-border regions and through the network of the Aarhus environmental information centres. Starting from 2015 OSCE jointly with UNECE intends to support dam safety activities. In the energy sector OSCE will support establishment of the Regional Energy Diplomacy Centre in Dushanbe, which will serve as a virtual institution promoting energy diplomacy principles and encouraging dialogue on energy security matters in Central Asia plus Afghanistan and Mongolia.

26. Mr. Hajiyev, UNECE, informed participants about UNECE environmental activities and UNECE Conventions. In the water sector UNECE is facilitating regional cooperation and national policy dialogues, and contributes to improvements of institutional framework for regional cooperation, water quality and dam safety. In 2015 and beyond UNECE will continue to support annual bilateral cooperation meetings of Afghanistan and Tajikistan and preparation of related policy-relevant and information materials, and will contribute to hydrology data exchange, joint environmental monitoring and indicators, and other priority areas.

27. Ms. Gulzada AZHETOVA of USAID Central Asia office in Almaty informed participants on several new small river basin projects under development. The projects will focus on water users' awareness, and will build on the CAREC experience on the Aspara and Isfara Rivers (Ferghana Valley). She noted that Afghanistan has several projects underway and a new watershed management project on domestic rivers in the planning stages, and she invited the participants to make suggestions.

28. Mr. Said SHARIPOV of the German-Kazakh University (DKU) informed participants on the master programmes, summer schools, e-learning opportunities and other training offered by the university. He encouraged students from both countries to apply for the courses, especially on water.

29. Dr. Stephan WEISE of the German research centre of environmental research (UFZ) recalled the results of recent study of glaciers and hydrology dynamics in the Tajik Pamirs, the Gunt River catchment area. He explained some details of the hydrology, water balance and climate models used in the study and called attention to the high altitude areas in the Panj/Amu Darya River basin where only a few hydrological posts operate and very limited snow and glacier monitoring is conducted.

30. Mr. Anvar HOMIDOV provided an overview of ongoing projects in Tajikistan relevant to the Afghan-Tajik cooperation. He highlighted the Panj River climate resiliency and flood management projects, Tajik hydromet modernization project and a number of smaller projects.

31. Mr. Sulton MAHMOUDI recalled Afghanistan's current national water institutional and legal management frameworks, recently accomplished and ongoing projects in the area of water management, irrigation and hydrometeorological monitoring. Among bilateral cooperation activities he underlined the following priorities for 2015-2016:

- Beginning of data exchange on hydrology between the countries and collaborative efforts on water forecasting and flood-drought condition warnings plus joint survey of glaciers and snow conditions at high elevations (2 500-3 500 meters and more)
- Design and implementation of training programmes on hydrology and environmental monitoring and matters related to field measurements, data collection data and analysis
- Joint research and assessment on climate change impacts on water resources
- Implementation of the joint programs and coordination for riverbank protection of the Panj River with the aim of reducing the negative impact of floods
- Intensified collaboration on the feasibility study of the hydropower potential of the Panj River, especially at the Dashti-Jum site, and joint planning for the development of water resources
- Improved collaboration along the border

32. Mr. Vohid HAMIDOV of Tajikistan's hydrometeorological service, Hydrology department, discussed logistical matters related to routine hydrological observations – border areas along the river that require entry permission, the timing of observations and local weather constraints such as strong winds and dust storms at the newly build Ayvaj station. In the area between Hamadoni and Ayvaj, water vegetation and unstable riverbanks complicate the observations. Mr. Hamidov mentioned the need for modern equipment for testing water quality.

33. Participants worked in country groups and then collaboratively to discuss and agree upon the elements of the Memorandum of Understanding on hydrology data exchange, and other decisions and outcomes of the meeting. After group discussions and editing, the MoU on hydrology data exchange and meeting conclusions were endorsed (**Annex 3a, 3b** and **Annex 4**).

34. Programmes of cooperation during 2015-2017 and prospectively to 2020 on hydrology and monitoring of the upstream water formation zone and conservation of water resources in the Amu Darya/Panj river basin (**Annex 5**) and on the environment (**Annex 6**) were also reviewed and agreed by the participants. These programmes are indicative of the current priorities for actions and coordination efforts in one or in both countries and will be updated in line with new developments.

35. Draft document of the concept for the gradual introduction and use of common environmental indicators in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, provisional elements of the agreement on environmental cooperation and Terms of Reference of the Working Group on the Environment were presented to the participants, while discussions and decisions on these drafts will follow in the upcoming meetings.

MEETING CLOSURE

36. Mr. Rasulov offered thanks to the Russian Federation, to UNECE, OSCE Office in Tajikistan and Zoï Environment Network for the support and inputs to the bilateral cooperation process and highlighted the importance of the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on hydrology data and information exchange. He thanked all participants for active contribution to the discussions and expressed special gratitude to the delegation of Afghanistan.

37. Mr. Mahmoudi expressed his hope that results of this meeting will contribute to improved hydrology monitoring and environmental protection that are closely connected with human security and prosperity, and that the cooperative efforts would grow and continue. He thanked the Tajik colleagues, especially Ms. Oikhon Sharipova, for very good organization and facilitation of the meeting, Mr. Anvar Homidov, Mr. Hamid Rasulov, Ms. Firuza Illarionova, Mr. Viktor Novikov, OSCE Office in Tajikistan and UNECE in Almaty and Geneva for support to the bilateral cooperation process and to the Russian embassy. He offered his hope that donors will support the next steps and thanked all his colleagues from other ministries of Afghanistan.

38. Mr. Homidov on behalf of Tajikistan thanked the Afghan delegation for coming to Dushanbe, for very good preparations for the meeting and expressed hope for the continuous engagement of UNECE and OSCE in the process.

39. At the conclusion of Day 2, Ms. Oikhon Sharipova, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, expressed satisfaction with productive and useful results of the meeting. She thanked all delegates for the active participation and wished everyone safe travel.

Committee on Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Fourth bilateral meeting of senior officials and experts

"Cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the field of hydrology and the environment in the Amu Darya river basin"

Dushanbe, November 24-25, 2014

Goals and objectives:

- Review the implementation of outcomes of the previous meetings and the ongoing reform processes of the government structures in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, including the composition and members of the working groups
- Present results from the expeditions to the upper basin of the Amu Darya River in summer-autumn 2014
- Jointly plan activities in the upper part of the river basin of the Amu Darya River in hydrology and environment for 2015-2017 and prospectively to 2020
- Discuss the exchange of hydrological data and the coordination of the development of hydrological monitoring
- Discuss opportunities for joint assessment of the environment on the basis of indicators and measures to improve the environmental situation
- Discuss mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration

Expected results:

- Consultation (and endorsement) of the documents on the technical working group/task force, framework policy on the exchange of hydrological data and coordination of hydrological monitoring, draft agreement on environmental cooperation
- Consultation (and endorsement) of the activities plan for 2015-2017, supporting documentation and the implementation mechanisms

A report on the meeting will be prepared and provided to the participants and relevant stakeholders.

Working languages: Dari, Tajik, English and Russian (simultaneous interpretation)

Abbreviations: RT - Republic of Tajikistan; IRA - The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

November 23, 2014 (Sunday): arrival of the delegation of Afghanistan (Kabul-Dubai-Dushanbe)

November 26, 2014 (Wednesday): departure of the delegation of Afghanistan (Dushanbe-Kabul) and international participants

AGENDA

Day 1, November 24, 2014 (Monday), Mercury Hotel

09.00-09.30 Registration of participants

09.30-10.30 **Opening of the meeting:**

- Committee on Environment Protection under the Government of RT: *H.E. Khajrullo Ibodzoda*
- UNECE: *Batyr Hajiye*v
- Head of OSCE Office in Dushanbe: *Ambassador Markus Mueller*

Presentation of the agenda and participants

10.30-11.00 **Statements by senior officials and guests of the meeting:**

- Executive Office of the President, RT
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RT and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of IRA
- Ministry of Energy and Water Resources RT and Ministry of Energy and Water IRA
- National Environment Protection Agency, IRA (NEPA)
- Russian Embassy

11.00-11.30 *Coffee break and joint photo*

11.30-12.30 **Session No.1: Hydrological monitoring and environment protection: the recent developments, practical implementation and prospects in RT and IRA**

- Presentation of the results of expeditions to the upstream and downstream parts of the Panj River, on new and existing hydrological stations and developments in environmental management: RT. *Anvar Homidov, a member of the WG*
- Overview of the progress in modernization of the hydrometeorological service of Tajikistan and the main findings of the Third National Communication on climate change. *Khomidjon Rasulov*
- Presentation on the new national biodiversity strategy elements and links to the Afghan-Tajik environmental cooperation process. *Nejmatullo Safarov, NBBC*
- Presentation, MFA IRA. *Mostainbillah Balagh, Deputy Director General for Development Partnership Directorate General for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- Presentation on the new and existing hydrological stations and data, current management structure and evolution in the last year (water issues, hydrological stations etc.) in IRA. *Representative of the Ministry of Energy and Water, Mr. Farhad Noorzai,*
- Presentation on environmental strategies, plans for protected areas, institutions and legislation update in the IRA. *NEPA representative, Eng. Ezatullah Sediqi, Chief of Staff*

Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 **Session No. 2: The underlying documents for development of specific areas of cooperation: review and discussion.**

- Tentative plan of activities and cooperation programme 2015 (and prospectively to 2020), H.E. *Ms. Oikhon Tairovana Sharipova*
- Draft agreement on cooperation in hydrological data and information exchange. *Karimjon Abdualimov, Member of the WG, Hydromet*
- Draft concept for joint environmental assessment and indicators. *Viktor Novikov, Zoï*

Discussion

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 Discussions and summary of the Day 1.

18.00-19.30 Reception

Day 2, November 25, 2014 (Tuesday), Mercury Hotel

09.00-09.30 Summary of the first day of the meeting

09.30-12.30 **Session No.3:** Mechanisms for implementation and synergies

Information from international development partners:

- IFAS Tajik branch
- OSCE Office in Tajikistan
- UNECE
- USAID
- UFZ
- DKU

- Governmental programmes, strategies, action plans, budget-funded activities and the international development projects: their possible contributions to the development of cross-border cooperation – view from Tajikistan, *Mr. Anvar Homidov, RT*
- Governmental programmes, strategies, action plans, budget-funded activities and the international development projects: their possible contributions to the development of cross-border cooperation – view from Afghanistan, *Eng. Sultan Mahmoud Mahmoudi, IRA*
- Questions for operational and technical decisions and solutions by competent agencies and services, *Mr. Bozor Rahmonov, a member of the WG, RT*
- Specificities of the hydrological monitoring and environment protection activities in the border zone along the Panj River, *Vohid Khamidov, Hydromet*

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 **Preparation and discussion of the final documents**

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.00 **Endorsement and signing of the documents. Closure of the meeting.**

Afghanistan-Tajikistan environment and hydrology bilateral cooperation meeting

Dushanbe, November 24-25, 2014

List of Participants

	Organizations	Participants	Contact details
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan			
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Other national ministries and agencies			
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24	Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI), Head of International Affairs Department	Subhonqul Davlatov	Dushanbe, Shamsi str. 5/1, Phone: +992 934888815 e-mail: tag_subhon@mail.ru
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26	Committee for Emergency and Civil Defense	Faridun Juraev	Dushanbe Phone: +992 934 24 3006
27	Ministry of Justice	Rukhshona Ruzieva	Dushanbe, Rudaki Ave. 25 Phone: +992 2211609
28	Academy of Sciences of RT, Institute for Water Problems, Hydro-energy and Ecology	Alijon Fazilov	Dushanbe, Mirshkakar str. 12 Phone: +992 918 56 50 70 Email: alijon53@rambler.ru
29	State Agency of Specially Protected Environmental Territory, Agency of Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	Safar Ibronov	Dushanbe, Dustii Khalqho str. 62
30	Agency for Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	Jumakhon Safarov	Dushanbe, Buston Str. 3 Phone: +992 93 593 81 81
31	Agency for Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	Toikhon Qukbonov	Dushanbe, Buston Str. 3 Phone: +992 918 61 63 16
32	Branch of Executive Committee for the International Fund of Saving Aral Sea (IFAS) in Tajikistan, Director	Begmurod Mahmadaliev	Dushanbe, Shevchenko str. 47, Phone: +992 44 625-52-52/53/54, Fax: (+992 44) 625-52-52 Email: tfec-ifas@mail.ru
33	Branch of Executive Committee for the International Fund of Saving Aral Sea (IFAS) in Tajikistan, Technical Director	Qodir Baturov	Dushanbe, Shevchenko str. 47, Phone: +992 44 625-52-52/53/54, Fax: (+992 44) 625-52-52 Email: boturov.kodir@mail.ru
34	National Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, Head	Neimatullo Safarov	Dushanbe, Shevchenko str. 47, Phone: +992 37 2215351
35	Tajik branch of CAREC, Director	Abdukhamid Kaumov	Dushanbe, Shamsi str. 5/1, Phone: +992 917096822 e-mail: abdkaumov@mail.ru
36	Aarhus Centre in the Committee on Environmental Protection, Manager	Sulhiya Sadikova	Dushanbe, Shamsi str. 5/1, Phone: +992 934630080 Email: sulhiya777@mail.ru
37	Newspaper of the Committee on Environmental Protection "Navruzgoh", Editor	Jamoliddin Yakubov	Dushanbe, Shamsi str. 5/1, Phone: +992 918 179886 Email: ajammehr@mail.ru

International organizations, projects and programmes			
38	Embassy of the Russian Federation, First Secretary	Sergey Kolotinskiy	Dushanbe skol58@mail.ru
39	PPCR: Project on Ecologically Sustainable Land use, Specialist	Abdualim Sharifi	Dushanbe, Shevchenko str. 47, Phone: +992 915 11 46 46 Email: loiha@inbox.ru
40	UNDP, Consultant on Water Issues	Kholmatov Anatoliy	Dushanbe Phone: +992 93 9999 071 anatoliy.kholmatov@undp.org
41	OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Ambassador	Markus Mueller	Dushanbe, Akhmadi Donish str. 18A, Phone: +992 37 2255015
42	OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Head of Economic and Environmental Department	Martin Rossmann	Dushanbe, Akhmadi Donish str. 18A, Phone: +992 37 2255015 Martin.Rossmann@osce.org
43	OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Water Management Program Assistant	Tahmina Jumaboeva	Dushanbe, Akhmadi Donish str. 18A, Tel: 2255015, 987220084, Tahmina.Jumaboeva@osce.org
44	UNECE, Economic Affairs Officer, Deputy Head ESCAP/UNECE SPECA Office Almaty, Kazakhstan	Batyr Hajiyev	Almaty, Kazakhstan Phone: + 7 727 338 4402 Batyr.Hajiyev@unece.org
45	Zoi Environment Network	Viktor Novikov	Geneva, CH Phone: +41 22 917 82 78 viktor.novikov@zoinet.org
46	Zoi Environment Network / Group for Environmental Protection	Firuzilla Illarionova	Dushanbe, Phone: +992 935052564 abdurahimova@mail.ru
47	GIZ in Tajikistan, FLERMONECA	Umed Vahobov	Dushanbe, Phone: +992 935601416 umed.vahobov@giz.de
48	GIZ in Tajikistan, Transboundary Water Management, Advisor	Umed Komilov	Dushanbe, Phone: +992 985268943 umed.komilov@giz.de
49	Department Catchment Hydrology, Head of Radioactive Environmental Isotopes Group, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)	Prof. Stephan Weise	Th.-Lieser-Str 4, Halle, Germany Phone: +49 345-558-5435 Email: stephan.weise@ufz.de
50	ADB project Water Resources Management in Panj River, Consultant	Anatoly Pichugin	Dushanbe
51	German-Kazakh University, alumni	Said Sharipov	Email: saidf9@mail.ru
52	Project Management Specialist, Water and Climate Change, USAID	Gulzada Azhetova	Almaty, Kazakhstan Tel: +772 725 07 612 Email: gazhetova@usaid.gov
53	Nature Protection Team, Member	Sipar Yuldashev	Dushanbe, Phone: +992 918787442

Memorandum of Understanding
on
Exchange of hydrological data and information relating to the Panj-Amu Darya river
basin between the state authorities of
the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan

for the period of 2015-2017 and prospectively until 2020

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding,

Referring to Article 1 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (RT) and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRA) on cooperation in the development and management of water sources of the Panj-Amu Darya River basin dated 25 October 2010,

Recognizing the key role of cooperation in the exchange of hydrological data and information for sustainable, secure development and prosperity of the countries and subregions of the Panj-Amu Darya River basin,

Taking into account Resolution 25, of the XIII Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, the exchange of hydrological data and products as well as national legislation in the relevant field,

Considering the decisions and the results of bilateral meetings on environment and hydrological monitoring cooperation between the IRA and the RT (2006-2007, 2012-2013),

Endorsing the Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group on hydrological monitoring,

Acknowledging the Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group on hydrological monitoring, and the need to establish the technical and conceptual principles required to promote the exchange of hydrological data and information in the Panj-Amu Darya River basin,

Agree as follows:

1. The State Administration for Hydrometeorology of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the **Department of Hydrology** of the Ministry of Energy and Water of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter referred to as the “authorized state bodies”), interact and cooperate in the exchange of hydrological data and information on a regular, mutually beneficial and free-of-charge basis for the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding, and are the main data providers and receivers.

2. Hydrological data and information covered in the Memorandum of Understanding are defined in **Annex I**. In cases where the data or hydrological monitoring stations cannot be used for exchange purposes, the Parties shall inform each other about possible solutions. In cases of opening new hydrological stations and stations that are important in the cross-border river basin context, the Parties shall inform each other about the hydrological monitoring programmes and consult about the data exchange options.

3. Scope of notifications on hazardous and extreme hydrometeorological events covered in the Memorandum of Understanding is defined in **Annex II**. Further use and distribution of notifications and response measures are at the discretion of the responsible organizations

4. Format and channels. Data and information outlined in Annexes I and II will be made available electronically in a format to be agreed by the Technical Working Group on hydrology, considering the

existing technical and institutional capacities. The countries will exchange data by email and make the data and information available online as agreed by the Technical Working Group on hydrology. All necessary efforts shall be taken to ensure data control, verification and accuracy.

5. Based on mutual agreement, the authorized state bodies may:

- Request, provide and exchange current and historical data and reference information on the hydrometeorological situation in the basin (precipitation, snow cover in the mountains, state of the reference and surging glaciers, average annual water discharge) needed for disaster risk assessment, responding to natural disasters and planning economic activities.
- Assist in the data and information analysis, share experiences and nominate experts to participate in expeditions, aero-visual observations, glacier surveys and other activities.
- Share regionally important forecasts and related products, including short-term and long-term water outlooks and assessments of climate change impacts on glaciers and water resources.

6. Coordination of hydrological data and information exchange, communication channels and processing queries on specific topics shall be carried out by responsible officers in the authorized state bodies (usually hydrology specialists) designated as members of the Technical Working Group.

7. Practical implementation of data and information exchange within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be carried out without charge. In cases that require resource-intensive data processing, optimization and cost sharing of communication costs, fieldwork and participation in meetings, the Parties shall agree on the costs and expenses separately.

8. The Parties shall seek to increase the harmonization of data and information in accordance with the recommendations of the World Meteorological Organization and national practices, to ensure uniformity and comparability of data collection, processing and transmission of hydrological information, including, as appropriate: coordinates of stations, measurement units, observation types and parameters, formats. The Parties shall locate new or modernize (or relocate) existing hydrological stations of international importance with a view to optimizing and harmonizing the current hydrological monitoring network.

9. Further use of the data covered in the Memorandum of Understanding, including its transfer to third parties, shall require approval or consent of the original source (i.e., the data provider). Authorized state bodies may make joint decisions about the publication and distribution of certain types of data and information in the public domain: for example, on the Internet, in the form of hydrological monthly and yearly data compilations, water management plans, or special reports covering hydrological exchange issues. When using the data, reference to the source is mandatory.

10. General provisions:

- The Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain valid for **three years** (2015-2017).
- The Memorandum of Understanding shall be extended for a further period of three years (2018-2020) unless one Party notifies the other about the need to revise the Memorandum of Understanding 90 days prior to the expiration.
- The Memorandum of Understanding Parties may decide on **changes and amendments** to the parameters of cooperation and applications, subject to the decisions of bilateral meetings, meetings of the Technical working group and instructions of the heads of the authorized state bodies. Under certain circumstances, the Memorandum of Understanding may be **suspended or terminated** by mutual notification by the Parties within 90 days.

- Mutual claims and disputes that may arise in connection with non-fulfilment of obligations by the Parties under this Memorandum of Understanding can be resolved through negotiations between the Parties who have signed this Memorandum of Understanding or higher ranking representatives.
- Changes and amendments to the text of this Memorandum of Understanding during the period of its validity may be effected by a written exchange certifying mutual consent.

11. Contact details for the purposes of communication

Afghanistan

Mailing address: Department of Hydrology, Ministry of Energy and Water, Kabul, Afghanistan.
Phone: + 93 799 69 50 11 E-mail: sul.mahmood@gmail.com

Tajikistan

Mailing address: State Agency on Hydrometeorology, Shevchenko 47, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 734025.
Phone: +992 37 221 51 91, E-mail: office@meteo.tj

Signatures of the Parties:

State Agency on Hydrometeorology, Committee
on Environmental Protection under the
Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

_____ Homidjon RASULOV
Director

«___»_____ 2014

Department of Water Management,
Ministry of Energy and Water of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan

_____ Sul-ton Mahmood MAHMOODI
General Director

«___»_____ 2014

LIST OF HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL DATA AND INFORMATION PRODUCTS PROVIDED TO BOTH PARTIES WITHIN THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Table 1: Hydrological parameters and units

Parameter	Time interval	Measurement unit
Water level	Average daily/time-bound	Cm
Water discharge	Average daily/time-bound	m ³ /sec
Water temperature	Average daily	C
Turbidity / suspended solids	Average daily	kg/ m ³
Air temperature	Average daily/time-bound	C
Precipitation	Average daily/time-bound	Mm
Depth of snow cover	Average daily/ten-day period	Cm
Other (<i>to be specified</i>)		

Table 2: List of stations and hydrological data provided by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H 8 h. and Q 8 h. – level and flow during 8 hours of the current day;

H average and Q average – level, average flow over the past day;

Q measurement – measured flow

SN	River	Station (Name and coordinates)	Type of information					Frequency	Exchange channel
			H 8 h.	Q 8 h.	H Average	Q average	Q measurement	Daily	
	Amudarya	Khosh Tapa						I-XII	
	Panj	Ishkashim						I-XII	
	Panj	Sheghnan						I-XII	
	Panj	Nosai						I-XII	
	Panj	Ay-khanom						I-XII	

Table 3: List of stations and hydrological data provided by the Republic of Tajikistan

SN	River	Station (Name and coordinates)	Type of information (link with the table above, or as it is now)					Frequency	Exchange channel
			H 8 h.	Q 8 h.	H average	Q average	Q measurement	Daily / Annually	
	Amudarya	Aivaj						I-XII	
	Panj	Ishkashim						I-XII	
	Panj	Shidz						I-XII	
	Panj	Khirmanjo						I-XII	
	Panj	Nijny Panj						I-XII	

Table 4: Other information, forecasts and notifications

	Item	Frequency	Delivery channel
1	Precipitation in the mountains (results of aerial survey, satellite observations)		
2	Short-range and long-range water forecasts		
3	Warnings/notifications of floods and other extreme events		

Annex II**EXTREME HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL EVENTS****Definitions:**

- **Intense rain** is precipitation of 30 mm or more within 12 hours or less.
- **Intense snowfall** is snow precipitation of 20 mm or more in 12 hours.
- **Severe frost/cold wave** when air temperature is -20° C and below.
- **Severe dust storms** with wind speed of 15 m/s or more for 12 hours or more.
- **Severe heat/heat wave** is when the temperature is 45° and above.
- **High water levels** are those during which the flooding of the lower parts of cities and towns, agricultural crops, roads, or the destruction of large industrial and transport facilities is likely.

Scope of dangerous hydrological phenomena subject to notifications and data exchange:

- Floods
- Mudslides / flash-floods
- Glacier-related hazards
- Avalanches

Terms of Reference

The Afghan-Tajik Technical Working Group on hydrological monitoring

1. General provisions

The Afghan-Tajik Technical Working Group on Hydrological Monitoring in the upper reaches of the Amu Darya River shall be established on the basis of the Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on cooperation in the field of development and management of water resources of the Panj-Amu Darya River basin of October 25, 2010¹ and shall be referred to as the Technical Working Group on Hydrological Monitoring (TWG HM) and shall be the working body.

The State Administration for Hydrometeorology of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (RT) and the Department of Hydrology of the Ministry of Energy and Water of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRA) shall be the “authorized state bodies”.

The authorized state bodies shall appoint and change the TWG HM personnel on the nominations of relevant ministries and agencies in the countries. Each country shall appoint three professionals working in the field of hydrology.

TWG HM shall be headed by the TWG HM Chairperson approved at the first meeting of the TWG HM members. The chairmanship shall rotate between the RT and the IRA upon consultation of the Parties.

2. Scope of activities

TWG HM activities shall be guided by existing agreements, decisions of the relevant meetings and these regulations. The TWG HM activities shall be coordinated by the authorized state bodies in the RT and the IRA. International organizations with a relevant mandate may provide, as necessary and possible, scientific, technical and other support to the TWG HM activities.

The TWG HM activities shall aim at strengthening cooperation and assistance in conducting a coherent regional policy in the area of hydrological monitoring in the RT and the IRA. TWG HM shall carry out its activities in close cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and other international organizations.

TWG HM shall coordinate the work in the area of hydrology in order to meet the needs of governmental institutions and different sectors of the economy with respect to information about the current state of water resources and the expected changes in hydrological conditions.

Any changes in the listed activities based on emerging needs shall be agreed by the authorized authorities in both countries.

3. Goals and objectives

¹ See Instruction № 60936 (18-10) of 27.07.2011 of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and note № 657 of 08.05.1391 (29.07.2012) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on main areas of activity of the authorized state body in the area of hydrological monitoring in the Republic of Tajikistan and the authorized state body in the area of hydrological monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The main goals of the TWG HM shall be to facilitate the organization and implementation of hydrological monitoring, research and assessment, and to provide for the projection of water resources in the upper reaches of the Panj-Amu Darya River basin of common interest to both countries, including the following:

- Participation in implementation of the programme of hydrology cooperation 2015-2017 and prospectively until 2020
- Preparation and implementation of the program of joint research activities, summary reports, newsletters and other informational messages, as well as proposals for the introduction and utilization of results
- Coordination of research in hydrological monitoring, assessment and projection of the state water resources, including snow and ice reserves
- Exchange of experience, knowledge and information on the expected impact of climate change and natural hydrometeorological phenomena on the water resources of the region
- Coordination and improvement of the work of the hydrological monitoring network, methods, approaches and projects in hydrological monitoring, transmission and processing of data, and preparation of relevant data sheets
- Planning and organization of workshops and scientific conferences, training for young professionals and advanced training for experts in the monitoring of water resources, hydrology and related science disciplines
- Setting up of a scientific and technical information exchange between the two countries
- Conducting joint expeditions on hydrology and hydrological monitoring
- Exploring and recommending options for further cooperation between the two countries

TWG HM shall provide documentary information support of the activities of relevant ministries and agencies, and especially the institutions for the prevention and relief of emergency situations and natural disasters related to water, as well as those working in hydrological monitoring and utilization of water resources.

TWG HM shall prepare draft decisions, recommendations and other related working documents for its working meetings.

4. Functions

TWG HM within its competence shall:

- Communicate with all ministries and agencies concerned, and members of other working groups
- Request information on the direction of its activities from all ministries and agencies working in hydrological monitoring and related areas
- Support the operational contacts with international organizations and projects
- Make proposals to the Governments of the countries
- Carry out and implement capacity-building activities for the rehabilitation and construction of stations and level gauges
- Develop methods of monitoring and analysis of data and information products
- Prepare and hold TWG HM meetings

5. Management

The TWG HM Chairperson shall manage the TWG HM. He/she shall be responsible for TWG HM work before the authorized bodies in both countries. The active direct participation of all its members in setting and implementing of objectives of the group shall form the basis of the TWG HM activities. The work of TWG HM shall be carried out at the meetings and through correspondence. The Governments of the RT and the IRA shall determine the venue and the time of the TWG HM meetings. Meetings shall be held not less than once a year.

The TWG HM decisions shall be adopted by consensus. If it is not possible to reach consensus all alternative approaches shall be reflected in the report.

The TWG HM decisions can be adopted in absentia through correspondence. In this case, the Chairperson shall inform in advance the TWG HM members about issues under consideration and proposals received and set the deadline for submissions of opinions. The Chairperson shall inform the TWG HM members and higher bodies and authorities in home countries about the results.

The main languages of TWG HM shall be Tajik and Dari. English and Russian may also be used, if necessary, including for international negotiations, correspondence, publications or the use of special terminology.

All costs associated with the TWG HM activities (business trips, communication costs, etc.) shall be covered by the budgets of the authorized state bodies, as well as funding from international programmes, projects, organizations and donor agencies.

6. Working group lifetime and plan of activities

TWG HM initially shall be elected for three years with possible subsequent extensions by the decision of the Parties. TWG HM shall phase down by the decision of the authorized state bodies.

Plan of activities of the Working group will be finalized after six months from the signature of the cooperation framework memorandum by both countries.

Conclusions and recommendations of the Fourth Bilateral Meeting

“Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Hydrological Monitoring between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the Panj-Amu Darya River basin”

Dushanbe, 24-25 November 2014

Having met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 24-25 November 2014 at the invitation of the Committee for Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Tajikistan Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),

Having analyzed materials, reports, findings and recommendations on the two expeditions along the Panj-Amu Darya River within the territory of Tajikistan;

Having discussed environmental and hydrology issues of common interest;

Having recalled the provisions of the intergovernmental agreement on water resources cooperation signed by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan on 25 October 2010 in Kabul; and the conclusions and recommendations of previous meetings between Afghanistan and Tajikistan:

We, the participants of the meeting,

1. Reviewed, discussed and signed/endorsed the following documents:

- “Memorandum of Understanding on exchange of hydrological data and information relating to the Panj-Amu Darya river basin between the state authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2015-2017 and prospectively until 2020”
- “Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group on hydrological monitoring”

2. Decided to:

- Initiate implementation of the document “Programme of cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, 2015-2017 (and prospectively to 2020), on hydrology, monitoring of the upstream water formation zone and conservation of water resources in the Amu Darya/Panj river basin”
- Take into consideration the scope of the document “Programme of cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, 2015-2017 (and prospectively to 2020), on the environment in the Amu Darya/Panj river basin” and implement it in the future in parallel with formalization of environmental cooperation
- Call upon the international development partners, international projects and programmes to consider the activities suggested by both programmes in their ongoing activities in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and in the bilateral and cross-border programmes and future projects

3. Reviewed, emphasized the importance and expressed the intent to elaborate in 2015 and agree on the following documents:

- Draft “Agreement on environmental cooperation between the IRA and RT authorities, responsible for environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management”
- Draft “Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group on environmental protection”

- Draft “Concept for the introduction and use of common environmental indicators in Afghanistan and Tajikistan and joint environmental assessments and reporting”
- Draft agreement to be consulted between the countries with involvement of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other interested stakeholders

4. For the purpose of expanding the level and scope of cooperation in the Panj-Amu Darya basin between the IRA and the RT, **participants recommended exploring** the options for a **joint basin commission (committee)** to coordinate, manage and rationally use water resources in the Panj-Amu Darya basin and **to discuss** further at the next meetings

5. Welcome the proposal of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host one of the next bilateral meetings in Kabul

6. Express appreciation to:

- The Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting and facilitating this bilateral meeting, meetings of the working group members, expeditions and for the willingness to cooperate with all stakeholders
- The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for useful reports and proposals during the meeting and proactive contribution to the discussion
- The Russian Federation for its support of bilateral cooperation and for commitment to continue its contribution in collaboration with other donors and partners
- UNECE for technical and advisory support for the organization of bilateral meetings and contribution to the preparation of key documents
- OSCE Office in Tajikistan for the support of bilateral meetings, workshops and expeditions
- Zoï Environment Network for contribution to the preparation of the meeting documentation and development of a cartoon summary

**PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN, 2015-2017 (AND PROSPECTIVELY TO 2020), ON HYDROLOGY,
MONITORING OF THE UPSTREAM WATER FORMATION ZONE AND CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE AMU DARYA/PANJ RIVER BASIN**

Activity	Timing	Lead responsible	Need for external support / int. partners
1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES			
The list of projects in each country that have cross-border and near-border value and can help in the development of cooperation on hydrology and the environment	Jan-Jun 2015 (for discussion)	WG	***
Addressing procedural issues for the members and observers of the Working Group (access to the border areas, visas, credentials, etc.)	2015	WG	***
Popular information and education materials (brochures, manuals) on the Afghan-Tajik cooperation on hydrology and the environment	2015	NEPA, MEW, CEP, Zoï Environment Network	UNECE, OSCE
Atlas of the Environment and Hydrology (edition of 2013): updating, translation to local languages (Tajik/Dari), printing and dissemination	2015	NEPA, MEW, CEP, Zoï Environment Network	UNECE, OSCE
Bilateral cooperation meetings	In line with decisions	WG	UNECE, OSCE
2. HYDROLOGY, MONITORING OF THE UPSTREAM WATER FORMATION ZONE AND CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES			
Memorandum of Understanding on the exchange of hydrological data and information. Identification of mechanisms, parameters, conditions and procedures for data exchange. Harmonization of river gauging stations for bilateral/international exchange. Discussion and piloting the system of early warnings/data exchange during floods.	Nov 2014 (discussion and signature) Jan-Jun 2015 (pilot implem.)	WG	UNECE, OSCE, WMO
Additional support to the operation of the new Ayvaj hydrological station on the Amu Darya, TJK (construction and operation is carried out by TJK, in agreement with AFG) <u>Current priorities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional training of the hydrology observers/station personnel • Provision of independent energy source (solar panels or other type) • A sensor for automated measuring of water level 	2015-2017	MFAs, National security and border services, MEW, CEP, Hydromet	t.b.d.

Consideration of the question of installation of a new automated hydrological station on Sherkhan-Bandar bridge, the Panj River (operation planned by Afghanistan)	2015	WG	t.b.d.
Consideration of an option for the relocation of Khirmanjo station on the Panj, TJK , 8 km upstream of the existing location, and the installation of a contactless flow meter and level sensor under the road bridge on the Panj River	2015	WG	***
Supply Khirmanjo station on the Panj with GR-70 or SEBA device to measure water flow from the riverbank (in order to fulfill the hydrology monitoring programme and ensure better level of security for the observers). Carry out bank protection works and repair of the cradle crossing. Provide the hydrological station with independent power source (solar panels).	2015-2017	CEP, Hydromet	t.b.d.
Equip Panji Poyon station on the Panj River, TJK with instruments for chemical analysis of water quality and a boat with instruments to measure water flow. Provide the hydrological station with independent power source (solar panels).	2015-2017	CEP, Hydromet	t.b.d.
Equip Shidz and Ishkoshim hydrological stations on the Panj River, TJK with instruments for chemical analysis of water quality and an instrument for measuring the weighted flow rates, and automatic sensors of level and water flow. Carry out preventive maintenance of the cradle crossing and install independent power sources.	2015-2017	CEP, Hydromet	t.b.d.
Creation of the data sharing platform and piloting the exchange of hydrological data	2015-2017	Hydromet, MEW	UNECE, OSCE, WMO
Monitoring of snow cover in the basin of the river of Panj/Amu Darya: collection and exchange of data, especially for mountain areas 2000-4500 meters above sea level	2015-2020	CEP, Hydromet, MEW	***
Joint studies of glaciers , collection and exchange of data on the state and dynamics of glaciers, formulation of the common positions on the prospective International Glacier Fund	In line with decisions	MFAs, CEP, Hydromet, MEW, NEPA	t.b.d.
Training and exchange of experience using WMO & national guidelines for planning and carrying out hydrological monitoring, including transboundary context Staff training and capacity building of the personnel/observers at hydrological stations	2015-2020	WG	UNECE, OSCE, WMO
Preparation and publication of the hydrological bulletin/yearbook on the rivers of Badakhshan (joint edition and individual for each country: GBAO TJ and AFG Badakhshan)	2015-20120	WG	t.b.d.

Joint activities and coordination on the system of natural disasters prevention	2015-2020	CES, MWE	t.b.d.
Cooperation in planning of river bank strengthening and river channel regulation on the Panj River to reduce the impact of flooding and increase the efficiency of river bank protection on both sides	2015-2020	MEWR, AMI, MWE	t.b.d.
Improving the methods and tools for sediment management in the flow formation zone, including experience exchange and joint technical measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of excessive sediment load at the water intakes, in irrigation canals and water pumping stations • Construction of sediment catchments/tanks • Afforestation and creation of the green belts along the river banks 	2015-2020	Agency for Melioration and Irrigation RT and MEW and MAIL IRA	t.b.d.
Exchange of data, early warnings and joint mitigation of extreme weather impacts and climate-related phenomena , including droughts, locusts and others.	2015-2020	CEP, MAIL	t.b.d.

NOTE:

*** use local resources of the countries and procedural issues

**PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN, 2015-2017 (AND PROSPECTIVELY TO 2020), ON THE ENVIRONMENT
IN THE AMU DARYA/PANJ RIVER BASIN**

Activity	Timing	Lead responsible	Need for external support and potential partners
1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES			
The list of projects in each country that have cross-border and near-border value and can help in the development of cooperation on hydrology and the environment	Jan-Jun 2015 (for discussion)	WG	***
Addressing procedural issues for the members and observers of the Working Group (access to the border areas, visas, credentials, etc.)	2015	WG	***
Popular information and education materials (brochures, manuals) on the Afghan-Tajik cooperation on hydrology and the environment	2015	NEPA, MEW, CEP, Zoï Environment Network	UNECE, OSCE
Atlas of the Environment and Hydrology (edition of 2013). Updating, translation (Tajik language and Dari/Farsi), printing and dissemination	2015	NEPA, MEW, CEP, Zoï Environment Network	UNECE, OSCE
Bilateral cooperation meetings	In line with decisions	WG	UNECE, OSCE
2. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES			
Discussion and formalization of the bilateral cooperation (agreement or other form of document) on the environment and implementation mechanisms (working groups, etc)	2015	WG, Governmental authorities of RT and IRA	UNECE, OSCE, t.b.d.
Training, exchange of experience and knowledge on climate change (vulnerability assessment, long-term scenarios, preparation of UNFCCC National Communications)	2015-2020	CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Exchange of experience in planning and implementation of projects and adaptation measures on climate change , especially in water management, hydropower and at the community and household level with the active participation of women	2015-2020	CEP, PPCR, NEPA	t.b.d.

Joint work on the protection and monitoring of biodiversity in the near-border areas, wetlands, habitats and corridors of migratory species (coordination of management plans for protected areas, exchange of experience in biodiversity strategies, interaction between near-border protected areas, joint monitoring and protection efforts for flagship species: e.g., Snow Leopard, Red Urial, Bukhara Deer)	2015-2020	CEP, NBBC, NEPA	t.b.d.
Coordination of management plans for the protected areas between the two countries within the Wakhan Corridor , considering plans of creation of the national park in the IRA "Wakhan Valley" and future peace park between 4 countries (AF-TJ-CH-PK)	2015-2020	State authority on forests Tjk, CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Mapping of local genetic resources and ecosystem services in the Upper Amu Darya. Exchange of local varieties/seeds (pea, wheat, etc.) between communities and countries	2015-2017	CEP, NBBC, NEPA	t.b.d.
Implementation of joint programmes on afforestation and reforestation , community-based forest management and sustainable land-use practices (including practical assistance in afforestation programmes, tree nurseries, etc.)	2015-2020	State authority on forests and Pas Tjk, CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Joint environmental assessment in the Amu Darya/Panj basin and the development of common/compatible environmental indicators in both countries	2015-2017	CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Capacity-building and training in reporting on the state of the environment and development of shared environmental information systems , and preparing a joint environmental report and popular versions	2015-2017	CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Public awareness activities on environmental issues in the Amu Darya/Panj river basin, especially for students, young professionals in central and local authorities, and border guards in collaboration with government and non-governmental organizations	2015-2020	CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Cooperation between staff of protected areas and border guards and coordination between the countries (joint training, seminars, joint patrols and raids against poachers) in prevention of illegal activities and environmental crimes in the near-border area	2015-2017	CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Rehabilitation of irrigation systems and pumping stations to improve water supply. To prevent siltation of pumping stations, it is necessary to install sediment settling boxes	2015-2017		t.b.d.

Cooperation and awareness campaign to improve solid waste management practices in the border regions (collection, disposal, etc.)	2015-2017	CEP, NEPA	t.b.d.
Exchange of experience and knowledge based on the MSDSP practices in the border areas related to the use of traditional agriculture methods in Badakhshan. Such practices help to reduce the pressures on the local environment and to improve the situation.	2015-2017		t.b.d.
Joint activities on planning and planting the fruit gardens and greenhouses, training in planting, pruning, and horticultural methods, and greenhouse maintenance	2015-2017		t.b.d.

NOTE:

*** Use local resources of the countries and procedural issues