

Results of the Meeting of the SIC ICSD and REAP Focal Points
"Outcomes of Rio+20: challenges and opportunities for the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development"
30 May 2013, Almaty

The meeting, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Scientific and Information Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (SIC ISDC), discussed the possibility of reinforcing the Commission to strengthen regional cooperation and to ensure implementation of the regional aspects identified in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference.

Outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference

Participants of the meeting discussed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20, entitled "The Future We Want", as well as its implementation in Central Asia. The document re-emphasizes the commitment of States to sustainable development and to ensuring "promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for future generations." The outcome document not only defines a set of important tasks, but also significantly expands the opportunities for access to regional, international and private funding for sustainable development. The presentation of the document focused on solving environmental issues in Central Asia (such as protection of biodiversity, water quality and ecosystem management, development of green economy, etc.) with the overall aim of achieving sustainable development in the Aral Sea basin, and emphasized the importance of strengthening the institutional frameworks. Besides, the respective commitments on the institutional and legal framework of IFAS made at the Summit of IFAS States in 2009 were stressed. In particular, participants noted the importance of enhancing the capacity of the ICSD, in particular its Scientific and Information Center (including branches in Central Asia), the importance of increasing its interaction with the Executive Committee of IFAS and ICWC by establishing a mechanism of such interaction, and by developing capacity of ICSD regional organizations such as the Regional Mountain Centre and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy.

Evaluation of the ICSD and the SIC ISDC work

The meeting aimed at further development of regional cooperation between the countries in Central Asia under the ICSD framework. The participants of the meeting were invited to submit proposals on strengthening the work of the Commission, in particular in the following areas:

- Strengthening the legal and institutional framework of the ICSD;
- Development of new strategies, such as medium-term strategy of ICSD, for implementation of Rio+20 outcomes and development of green economy;
- Evaluation of implementation of REAP and ways to improve its performance;
- Involvement of the ICSD in the implementation of the ASBP-3;

- Effectiveness of assistance to member countries in accessing international and private funds for green development (for example, carbon finance, technology transfer for green development, etc.);
- Effectiveness of the ICSD involvement in donor coordination at the regional level.

Evaluation of implementation of REAP

The participants evaluated the implementation of REAP and discussed the issues and necessity to update it in the light of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, emerging environmental issues and the impact of climate change in the region, as well as the ASBP-3.

The mandate of the Task Force

Participants noted the expediency of the Task Force, whose main task will be to research, analyze and develop recommendations for practical strengthening of the ICSD and the SIC ICSD in light of the previous experience and on the basis of findings of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference.

Further steps

Results of the meeting are expected to be presented at the upcoming meeting of the ICSD, which is scheduled for June 2013 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Following the respective decision by the ICSD, the results of the meeting will be presented at a high level meeting organized by the UN and planned for autumn 2013. This work will be done in close collaboration with other UN agencies and interested donors.

The results and outcomes of the meeting

The participants of the meeting agreed on the following:

- To approve the TOR of the Task Force for preparing recommendations for strengthening the institutional and legal framework for regional cooperation in the field of environmental protection within the mandate of the ICSD;
- To hold a meeting of the Task Force to discuss the draft outcomes of the study and to present it to the members of the ICSD in October 2013;
- The need for greater involvement of the ICSD in implementation of the ASBP-3;
- At the next meeting of the Focal points and the SIC to discuss the possibility of establishing a working group on water quality within the ICSD and bringing the matter to the ICSD;
- To review the results of the meeting at the next ICSD meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.