

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**Project to strengthen the safety
of mining operations, in particular
tailings management facilities (TMFs),
in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia**



Introduction and Background

Target Groups and Beneficiaries

This project aims to strengthen the safety of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) in Kazakhstan.

Central Asian countries rely heavily on economic activities that produce, process or use hazardous substances in large quantities. Such activities encompass the extraction and processing of minerals and metals, such as gold, mercury and uranium.

Improperly handled or orphaned TMFs represent a threat that could trigger industrial accidents with transboundary effects and result in soil and water contamination. Moreover, extreme weather events and natural disasters exacerbate this threat.

The pilot project will be a means for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries to ensure the safe management of TMFs at the national level and to enhance regional and institutional coordination.

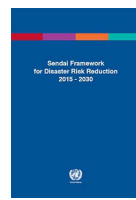
The project will also take advantage of Kazakhstan's green economy initiatives. Synergies with other international organizations will be explored in the project implementation.

The main beneficiary of the project will be Kazakhstan and its competent authorities and operators.



The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the national competent authorities under the Convention, appointed by the Government of Kazakhstan, and other relevant national and local authorities, industry, academia, civil society and communities.

The other Central Asian countries, i.e. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, will also benefit from the project and be invited to specific activities, notably the subregional workshop.



The project will support the beneficiaries in their implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 6 and

target 6.3: to improve water quality by 2030, by minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials.



Key Activities

Outcomes of the Project

The two-year project will be implemented in 2018-2019 and its key activities are:

- Organization of a one-day national inception workshop
- Preparation of a hazard rating list and map for TMFs in Kazakhstan
- Organization of a TMF site visit in Kazakhstan, combined with a practical training session (2 days)
- Subregional workshop for all Central Asian countries to present and disseminate the project results and share lessons learned.

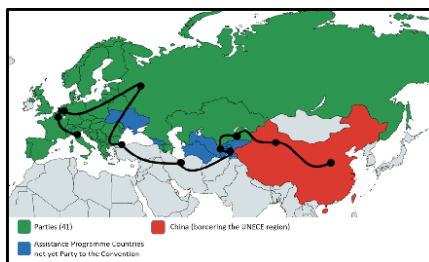
The project activities will be implemented with the support of the UNECE Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG).



JEG will assist the Central Asian countries in the application of the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs which were previously developed by the Group.

The expected project outcomes are:

- Improved institutional and administrative structures and established/enhanced cooperation mechanisms between authorities at the national and local levels, and between authorities, industry and the public in Kazakhstan.
- Enhanced levels of TMF safety and the sound management of chemicals in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.
- Increased awareness and level of implementation of international legal instruments, notably of the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- Reduced risks of TMF failures for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.



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