

Setting the Scene: UNECE Pilot Project and Workshop Objectives

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UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects
of Industrial Accidents
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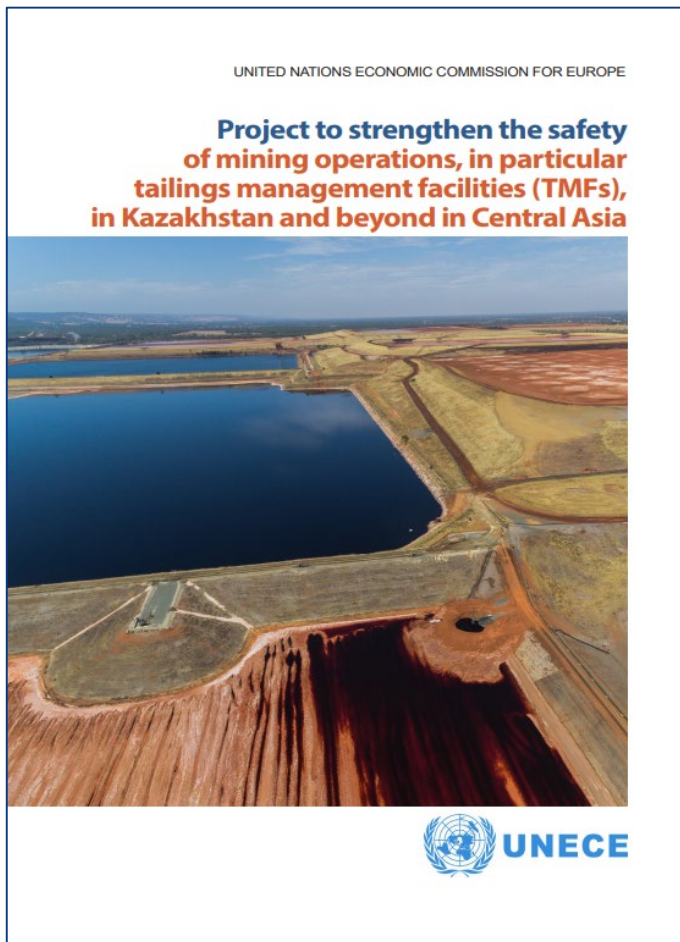


UNECE

1. UNECE pilot project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia

UNECE pilot project on improving tailings safety in Kazakhstan and beyond

Objective: Strengthen the management and safety of tailings facilities



Main project beneficiary is Kazakhstan and its competent authorities and operators.

Other Central Asian countries will also benefit by participating in specific activities, e.g. the subregional workshop.

The project is being implemented with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (2018-2019).

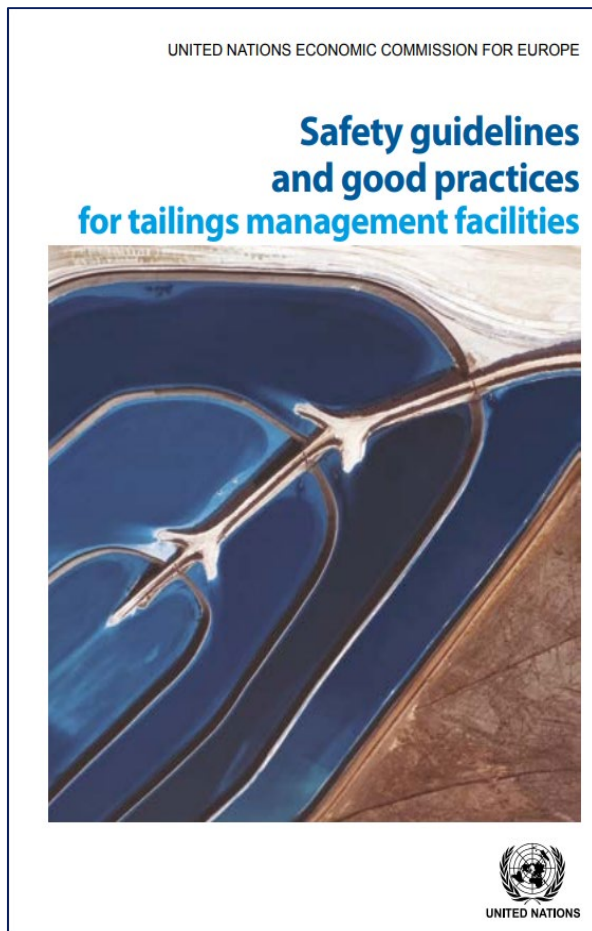
Specific project objectives

- Enhance the expert and administrative capacity of Kazakhstan to reduce water-related risks and pollution by improving the management of TMFs
- Improve the institutional cooperation mechanisms in Kazakhstan, incl. by establishing a working group on tailings safety and water management
- Strengthen subregional cooperation among Central Asian countries on reducing risks and preventing accidental water pollution from TMFs, incl. by sharing experiences and lessons learned in this regard
- Support Kazakh competent authorities in identifying and rating TMFs with regard to the hazard they pose for human health and the environment, and map those activities, including those with potential transboundary effects
- Support Kazakh authorities and operators in using a methodology to improve the management and safety of TMFs, incl. to identify short-, medium- and long-term safety measures
- Strengthen Kazakhstan's implementation of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and its knowledge about other relevant Conventions and guidance materials in the field of chemicals and waste management

Project timeline and activities

Dates	Activities
7-8 Nov 2018 (Astana)	Project inception workshop Establishment of inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and water management
Winter 2018	Preparation of a hazard rating list and map for TMFs in Kazakhstan, incl. those causing transb. water pollution Initiation of work of the inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and water management
Spring 2019 (venue tbd)	TMF site visit in Kazakhstan, combined with practical training session, resulting in the development of specific short-, medium- and long-term safety measures
Autumn 2019 (venue tbd)	Subregional workshop to present the project results, share lessons learned / experiences with Central Asian countries

Expected Results



- Enhanced levels of TMFs safety and the sound management of chemicals in Kazakhstan
- Improved institutional and administrative structures and established / enhanced cooperation mechanisms among authorities and between authorities and the TMF operators in Kazakhstan
- Improved implementation of relevant international conventions, in particular the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions
- Improved knowledge about other international Conventions in the field of chemicals / waste management and facilitation of their ratification, notably of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Improved transboundary cooperation between the countries in Central Asia related to TMF safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution

Key benefits for Kazakhstan in implementing the project (1 / 2)



- Improved knowledge and implementation of the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Convention, to which Kazakhstan is a Party since 2001 => share knowledge with other Central Asian countries
- Enhanced fulfilment of obligations and commitments under existing agreements, national action plans and accepted legislative frameworks:
 - 2018, National Action Plan under the UNECE Project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia – Improved identification of hazardous activities (notably of TMFs)
 - 2016-17, National Plan of Kazakhstan on reducing of mercury use and collection – Accession to Minamata Convention on Mercury by 2020
 - 2015, National plan “100 precise steps” of the President Nazarbayev
 - 2013, Concept for transition of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy
 - 2007, Environmental Code of Kazakhstan
 - 1996, Agreement between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan on joint activities for rehabilitation of the areas of tailing facilities and dumps of rocks that have transboundary effects, etc.

Key benefits for Kazakhstan in implementing the project (2 / 2)



- Improved implementation of the recommendations arising from the UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) for Kazakhstan
 - Develop a programme for the management of existing mining tailings (recommendation 9.4, 1st EPR, 2000, and 2nd EPR, 2008).
- Benefits for operators:
 - Increased safety of the TMF and implemented compliance with international safety standards, such as with the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs
 - Trained staff in applying international safety standards for TMFs during the project onsite training in spring 2019
 - Positive spill-over effects on the operations of the company through the application of international standards --> enhanced reputation and increase the possibility of attracting foreign investments
 - Establishing contacts at the local and subregional levels with other Central Asia countries, including operators

Benefits for Central Asian countries

- Reduced risks of transboundary water pollution caused by TMFs failures, affecting drinking water quality and quantity
- Improved subregional cooperation and safety of TMFs in Central Asia, leading to enhanced economic prosperity, stability and (water) security in the region
- Enhanced exchange of information and cooperation between Central Asian countries on tailings safety and water management
- Reduced risks posed by TMFs and strengthened prevention of water pollution are crucial for Central Asian countries, in the light of major infrastructure initiatives such as the **Belt and Road Initiative** and future envisaged developments, including in the mining sector

2. Introduction to the workshop objectives and agenda

Objectives of the inception workshop

- Initiate the project implementation and agree on priorities and next steps
- Enhance the expert knowledge and administrative capacity of participants to reduce water-related risks and pollution by improving TMF management
- Provide a forum for discussion for representatives from national authorities to improve institutional coordination on tailings management and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response
- Establish a working group on water management and TMF safety
- Support Kazakh competent authorities in identifying and rating TMFs with regard to their hazard for human health and the environment
- Strengthen knowledge about relevant Conventions and relevant guidance materials in the field of chemicals and waste management
- Strengthen participants' knowledge about the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and support them in the implementation of the recommendations arising from the UNECE EPRs

Agenda for the inception workshop

- 1.5 days, 4 sessions (2 per day), start at 9:30 am
- **7 Nov (today):**
 - Session I (am): International instruments and guidance materials
 - Session II (pm): Past TMF accidents and lessons learned
- **8 Nov (tomorrow):**
 - Session III (am): Application of TMF methodology
 - Session IV (am): Next steps and way forward

14:30 – 16:00 – Project Coordination meeting

(TMF operator, project coordinator and focal point from Kazakhstan, contact points from the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Agriculture, international experts, UNECE secretariat)

Things to remember

- Ask questions
- Exchange experiences
- Share your thoughts and ideas
- Be active
- Acquire new knowledge and share existing knowledge

Let us have a successful workshop!

Questions & comments ?



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