

Projects on the ground

Sonja Koeppel

Progress and activities in this area of work in 2017-2018

- * Chu-Talas GEF project: Development of the SAP
- * Drin GEF project: Work on the TDA, information exchange, nexus
- * Dniester: GEF project started
- * Afghan-Tajik cooperation on hydrology and environment: expedition in October 2017, meeting in May 2018
- * Water quality cooperation in Central Asia
- * Dam safety cooperation in Central Asia: very positive project evaluation

Main achievements of the work in this area since 2016

- * Ratification of the Dniester treaty by Ukraine and setting up of the Dniester Commission in 2018
- * New GEF project started on the Dniester
- * New GEF project was approved on the Neman- Bug basins: PPG phase started (UNDP, UNESCO, UNECE)
- * Dam safety: Building legislation and institutions at the national level that contributes to a better and safer management of dams, training on the safe operation of hydrotechnical installations, Developing regional cooperation on dam safety, Safer operations of dams

Lessons learned and challenges in the work since 2016

- * Political processes take time: e.g. Signing of Kura agreement (Azerbaijan and Georgia)- importance of Convention as long-term framework beyond single projects*
- * Technical cooperation can facilitate more political cooperation*
- * Cooperation with other organizations/partners is invaluable*
- * Cooperation with GEF works well on projects*

Suggested future work for the next workplan 2019-2021

- * Global workshop on developing and revising agreements in 2020
- * Two regional or basin workshops to strengthen negotiation skills
- * Projects on the ground