



# **National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Tajikistan under the EU Water Initiative**

## **Roadmap of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in the Republic Tajikistan (Updated as of April, 2012)**

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **PAGE**

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>POLICY PACKAGES REVIEWED AT MEETINGS OF THE IWRM STEERING COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING GROUPS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>ANNEX 1. WATER SECTOR REFORM IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR 2012-2015</b>	<b>16</b>

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Purpose of the Roadmap**

The Roadmap of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Tajikistan contains information on the contents, key areas and schedule of the NPD on IWRM for 2011-2016 (updated schedule), including the so-called “policy packages” of activities to transit towards IWRM.

Policy packages are orderly interrelated (coherent) step-by-step activities to achieve IWRM policy goals and establish an appropriate environment through cost efficiency and prevention of conflicts between stakeholders. Policy packages may be represented by new legislative proposals, regulatory norms, strategies, water quality standards, tariff rating systems, etc.

### **1.2. National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan**

The National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) are the key operational tools of the European Union Water Initiative, Component for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

The NPDs/IWRM provide practical assistance in strengthening IWRM in the EECCA countries. They are based on consultations with ministries, agencies and other institutions (including scientific and academic ones), non-governmental and other international organizations.

The UNECE-supported NPD/IWRM in Tajikistan was launched on March 16, 2011, at the meeting of the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat jointly with the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, other ministries and agencies, NGOs, international organizations active in Tajikistan. The Dialogue is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources.

The National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan is focused on three key points; these are to prepare the Water Sector Reform Concept based on IWRM principles, identify objectives for introduction of the Protocol on Water and Health under the UNECE Water Convention and to establish transboundary water cooperation with the neighboring states.

The NPD/IWRM Roadmap will be reviewed at the meeting/meetings of the Steering Committee, and once adopted it would be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Because of the complexity of the water sector reforming and anticipated need to make changes to the reform process, the Roadmap may be periodically amended based on the current needs. Once approved, the NPD/IWRM Roadmap would get the status of the official Plan for Transition towards IWRM.

## **2. Summary**

The Roadmap of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan would identify the ways of transition towards integrated water resources management for the period of 2012-2015. Although the process of transition towards IWRM implies complicated institutional and economic reforms in the water sector, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is committed to their step-by-step implementation. The first stage would imply transition from water resources management within administrative boundaries towards water resources management within river basins. Yet, this first step would require a great scope of work in terms of adjusting management structures, planning methods, financing schemes for water supply organizations and improving the water legislation.

Indeed, the first stage of the water resources management system reforming is a key one and it would become a basis for success of the whole reform process aimed at transition towards full-fledged IWRM.

Recognizing the complexity of the task, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan agreed to involve and, with the support of the donor community represented in Tajikistan, has involved international experts in the development of the water sector reform strategy. The water sector reform would be implemented among the agriculture reform.

The Tajik Water Sector Reform Strategy to be developed in 2010-2012 is being reviewed by the concerned ministries and agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan. Lack of funds for supporting the existing and strengthening new management institutions, inventorying water economy fixed assets, lack of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan's decision on the issue related to water-consuming entities' debts to the MLRWR and MLRWR's debt to the national energy company, i.e. *Barki Tojik* OJSHC, are the key reasons of delay in the start of the reform implementation process. Before reorganization of water economy organizations, the issue of their multi-million debts should be resolved.

The Roadmap implies consistent steps to implement activities on transition from water resources management within administrative boundaries towards water resources management within boundaries of river basins. This is a key condition to form the basis for IWRM introduction. It would be difficult to undertake all the other steps related to IWRM activities, including public participation in water resources management, without this step. It would be required to clearly allocate responsibilities between Water Users Associations and state water resources management organizations.

In Tajikistan, transition towards IWRM is seen as a long process, and the Roadmap therefore includes policy packages, i.e. activities to be implemented during the first reform stage in 2012-2015. The first stage includes mainly institutional development and improvement of the water law and legislation. The next stage will be apparently related to the further development of the established IWRM system in Tajikistan. It is to be stressed that for the reform period, water infrastructure rehabilitation and modernization projects should be implemented continuously, and investments in the sector should not decrease or stopped at all. This is due to that the current technical condition of the basic water infrastructure is obsolete to such an extent that it should be rehabilitated with no delay.

### **3. Policy Packages Reviewed at Meetings of the IWRM Steering Committee and Its Working Groups**

#### **Policy Package 1: Development of the Water Sector Reform Strategy**

##### **1.1. Rationale for the Policy Package**

The Water Sector Reform Strategy developed<sup>1</sup> clearly defines objectives of the water sector reform which is to create the basis for introduction of integrated water resources management (IWRM) through transition towards water resources management within boundaries of river basins and transfer of water resources management at the farm level to Water Users Associations as civil society representatives. State water resources management would be restricted to maintenance and operation, as well as to management of water resources at the level of large hydro technical facilities of irrigation systems within the agreed boundaries of the Syrdarya, Hissar, Vakhsh, Pyanj and Badakhshan basins<sup>2</sup>, Figure 1.

The key reform tasks therefore would be *“enhancement of planning efficiency; water sector development and management based on sustainable policy, joint analysis and management of surface and underground water quality and quantity; balanced approach to different water consumption sectors; use of basins as a management unit, and orientation towards economic benefits for the Republic of Tajikistan on the basis of principles of justice and equity, while causing no damage to the environmental integrity and respecting water needs of the downstream states”*<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Water Sector Reform Strategy. Draft Report of the Donor Coordination Council/UN FAO, April 6, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Given hydrological boundaries, economic and communications aspects of the systems of river basins in Tajikistan, five management zones, or river basins, were agreed upon with the MLRWR on March 29, 2011. This decision was officially documented.

<sup>3</sup> Water Sector Reform Strategy. Draft Report of the Donor Coordination Council/UN FAO, April 6, 2011.

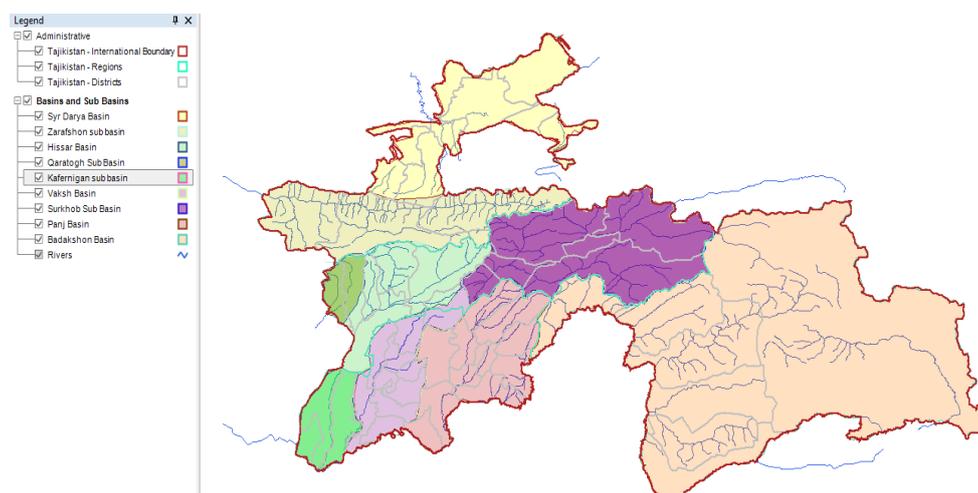


Figure 1. Hydrological Basins in Tajikistan<sup>4</sup>

Water resources planning and management would be performed within the boundaries of river basins, and in these basins relevant institutional reforms would be implemented accordingly.

Division of the tasks related to policy making, regulatory and operating aspects of the water economy would include main changes in management principles within the current institutional structures. Institutional changes at the above three levels would be as follows:

- **Political and legal changes:** establishment of the National Water Council and its Secretariat along with special Technical Advisory Councils and Integrated Water Resources Management Organization;
- **Regulatory and organizational changes:** integration of regulatory, managerial and water resources planning functions, and consolidation of all water monitoring issues (including licensing and obtaining of clearances) through establishment of an Integrated Water Resources Organization (IWRO), including River Basins Organizations;
- **Operating changes:** attraction of primarily non-governmental funds for management of various water resources from a range of agencies based on state and private partnership in the field of irrigation, water supply and sanitation, hydro power engineering, industry, tourism and recreational water consumption, fishery, environmental protection and other types of water consumption. For instance, for irrigation management, the system operation would be handed over to the MIROB Agency and affiliated state unitary enterprises, as well as to additional basin departments and local operation units in close cooperation with consumers and their representatives.

The current legislation does not provide the basis for the reform implementation; and the Water Code and other related legislative framework documents should be therefore revised to include relevant amendments. Currently, the Majlisi Namoyandagon (the Parliament) is reviewing legislative proposals on amendments to create a legislative basis for transition towards basin-based water resources management.

Public participation would be secured through involvement of water users in Water Councils to be established under Basin MIROB Agencies and under WUA Federations or Councils.

As a first approximation, the draft Water Sector Reform Strategy was developed by the interagency working group established in 2009 by instruction of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in

<sup>4</sup> Source: Water Sector Reform Strategy. Draft Report of the Donor Coordination Council/UN FAO, April 6, 2011.

close collaboration with the Donor Coordination Council composed of representatives of the international organizations active in Tajikistan. UN FAO coordinated the international organizations' efforts in the elaboration of the document in question. Yet, the Strategy developed needs clarification and detailed description of institutional relations, economic mechanism of interaction of newly established water resources management institutions.

## **1.2. Tasks to be Implemented**

To develop the Water Sector Reform Strategy, the following activities should be implemented:

1. Finalize the Water Sector Reform Strategy with broad involvement of the state ministries and agencies concerned.
2. Final discussion of the developed Strategy with participation of the relevant ministries and agencies, representatives of water users and general public.
3. Submit the Water Sector Reform Strategy developed to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for approval.
4. Develop the water sector reform implementation schedule.

## **1.3. Leading Agency**

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. The MLRWR would cooperate with the Donor Coordination Council represented by UN FAO.

## **1.4. Time-frame**

The development of the Water Sector Reform Strategy and its implementation schedule is supposed to be completed in 2012. The starting date of the reform implementation would be established by the special Decree of the Government of the RT.

## **1.5. Contact Person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## **Policy Package 2: Establishment of the MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies (MIROB: reclamation, irrigation, reconstruction, watering, and basin)**

### **2.1. Rationale for the Policy Package**

State oblast and rayon water management departments (*oblvodkhoz*, *rayvodkhoz* departments) perform their activities at oblast and rayon levels accordingly; however, there is no clear split of functions between these organizations which are partially duplicated. In fact, *oblvodkhoz* departments manage financial issues related to maintenance and operation of irrigation systems, partially run works on repairing of pump and power equipments, capital repairing, procurement of equipments and construction materials. Jointly with oblast governments, they administer water policies within oblast.

Although *rayvodkhoz* departments are competent to and must bear primary responsibility for water resources management within rayons, including planning of water resources use and protection, maintenance and operation of the irrigation and drainage network, solution of many other tasks to ensure sustainable water supply to local consumers, *oblvodkhoz* departments are in parallel involved in their activities due to their poor capacity and inefficient management structure.

At the same time, *rayvodkhoz* departments are officially not responsible for water resources management at the levels below tertiary canals, i.e. at the level of former *kolkhoz* and *sovkhos* farms currently reorganized into hundreds and even thousands of minor farms. On the other hand,

sometimes local authorities make *rayvodkhoz* departments participate in maintenance and operation of intrafarm irrigation and drainage systems.

Currently, interference of local authorities in water management authorities' activities, administrative approach to making of technical and economic decisions, lack of coordination of planning of water resources use by different water consumers, insufficient attention paid to environmental aspects of water resources use, lack of a clear mechanism to take into account water consumers' opinions and needs cannot secure introduction of the IWRM principles.

To ensure sustainable water supply to all consumers and enhance water use efficiency, the key objective of the water sector reform's first stage would be transition from the administrative principle of water resources management to river basin-based management.

## **2.2. Tasks to be Implemented**

Transition from one management system to another is a difficult task. This task becomes particularly difficult due to the economic weakness of irrigated agriculture and weakness of the current water resources management systems as such. To transit to river basin-based management, the following tasks should be implemented:

1. Establish an expert group on water sector reforming composed of the Steering Committee for NPD/IWRM in Tajikistan. Ensure cooperation of the group established with the existing groups involved in the water sector reform.
2. Based on the Water Sector Reform Strategy developed, elaborate a Programme for establishment of the MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies and agree the Programme with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
3. Develop Regulations on MIROB Agencies.
4. Define geographical boundaries of Basin MIROB Agencies.
5. Define geographical boundaries of MIROB Agencies and existing and newly established WUAs, their Federations or Councils.
6. Identify functional interaction of the MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies, as well as economic mechanisms of cooperation of Basin MIROB Agencies and WUAs, their Federations and Councils in terms of maintenance and operation of water infrastructure in the areas assigned.
7. Carry out inventory of the existing irrigation and drainage infrastructure at the level of secondary canals and lower<sup>5</sup>.
8. Develop mechanisms for coordination of MIROB and WUAs' activities with central water resources management authorities.

## **2.3. Leading Agency**

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources

## **2.4. Time-frame**

Activities would be implemented in 2012-2013.

## **2.5. Contact Person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

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<sup>5</sup> This activity is implemented in parallel with the establishment of WUAs with transferring the intrafarm irrigation and drainage infrastructure to WUAs. This activity is a part of the process of demarcation of zones of WUAs and Basin MIROB Agencies' responsibility for maintenance and operation.

## **Policy Package 3: Establishment of Water Users Associations, Their Federations and Councils**

### **3.1. Rationale for the Policy Package**

As a result of the land reform initiated in 1996, former large *kolkhoz* and *sovkhos* farms with an area from 500 to 4,000 – 6,000 hectares have been privatized and split into hundreds and thousands of minor *dekhkan* farms. However, in the soviet period most *kolkhoz* and *sovkhos* farms were designed as a single farming system. The commonly shared irrigation and drainage infrastructure was also operated based on a single water use plan, and every collective or soviet farm had a special service responsible for maintenance and operation of that system.

As early as during the land reform process, it became clear that the single intrafarm irrigation and drainage network cannot be split, and an institutional structure is needed to unify farmers, organize and perform works related to irrigation and drainage infrastructure maintenance and to manage water use at the intrafarm level. Based on the experience of most countries, Tajikistan began establishing WUAs. Over 220 WUAs have been established by the start of 2012.

Key obstacles for the WUAs' successful activities are as follows:

1. Inadequate tax system;
2. Inadequate economic mechanism for payment for WUAs' services by farmers;
3. Inadequate economic mechanism for payment for *rayvodkhoz* departments' water supply services by farmers;
4. WUAs do not have property rights to the intrafarm irrigation and drainage infrastructure;
5. Huge debts of cotton farms to providers of agro services;
6. Lack of farmers' high economic interest in organization of WUAs;
7. Other conditions having negative impact on WUAs development in rural areas.

These conditions became the key reason of low achievements in establishment and development of WUAs in Tajikistan. Most established WUAs exist formally but do not perform obligations imposed on them. As one of the obligatory conditions of water sector reforming, WUAs should be established in all areas with irrigated agriculture. However, while establishing new WUAs, principles of voluntariness (i.e. "bottom-up") and hydrographical demarcation of WUAs should be observed. If no above principles were followed in the establishment of the existing WUAs, the latter should be reformed based on these principles.

Development of an efficient economic mechanism of WUAs' activities, solution of double taxation issues (VAT for electrical power + VAT for water supply services), place/organization of VAT payment (basin organizations or WUAs), simplification of the tax reporting scheme and solution of many other economic issues should be an essential condition for WUAs development.

### **3.2. Tasks to be Implemented**

In Tajikistan, establishment and development of WUAs is a difficult task; and combined with activities under the other packages, the list of measures to be undertaken would include:

1. Develop a long-term Programme for establishment and development of WUAs in Tajikistan;
2. Based on the principles of integrity of the hydrographical boundaries, reform the existing and establish new WUAs in those areas where they have not yet been established<sup>6</sup>;

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<sup>6</sup> The global experience shows that establishment of WUAs within the hydrographical boundaries would improve management of water resources and metering of water used by consumers, ensure equitable water distribution among consumers and would create better conditions for water use planning. In mountainous areas, however, it would be difficult to observe this principle, and the economic feasibility should become a basis there.

3. Develop and introduce an economic model of sustainable WUAs within the Tajikistan's context;
4. Elaborate proposals on water legislation development to introduce the economically sustainable WUA model, and submit these proposals to the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan for review;
5. Clarify boundaries between WUAs and MIROB Agencies;
6. Carry out inventory of the irrigation and drainage infrastructure and transfer the ownership of the intrafarm irrigation and drainage infrastructure to WUAs<sup>7</sup>;
7. Finance the process of WUAs establishment and development from the budget of the Republic of Tajikistan and international donor organizations;

### **3.3. Leading Agency**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Rahbar Kosimov, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **3.4. Time-frame**

Duration of the activities is 2011-2016.

### **3.5. Contact Person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## **Policy Package 4: Establishment of River Basin Organizations as MRLWR's Subdivisions for the Transition Period (to become subdivisions of the IWRM Agency in future)**

### **Rationale for the Policy Package**

Under the market economy, maintenance and operation are economic functions and economic transactions of entrepreneurship. Such functions should not be performed through the country's state budget. Under the market economy, only countries with sufficient budgets afford to subsidize maintenance and operation of irrigation and drainage systems. At this stage of economy development, Tajikistan can provide only tax concessions to support maintenance and operation of irrigation and drainage systems.

In accordance with the Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government has a number of regulatory functions whose performance at all levels should be financed through the state budget. Under the water sector reform, these functions should be laid on the IWRM Agency. In the transition period, these functions would be still implemented by the MLRWR. At the basin level, basin organizations are supposed to be established (e.g., Syrdarya River Basin Organization).

### **Tasks to be Implemented**

At the first stage, River Basin Organizations (RBOs) would be established within the basins of the Syrdarya, Hissar, Vakhsh, Pyanj and Badakhshan Rivers. Although boundaries of these RBOs do not quite comply with the hydrographical principles, they consider roads, economic communications, which makes organization of management, interaction and coordination with other state authorities on the ground easier. The following activities should be implemented:

1. Develop a Programme for Establishment of RBOs;
2. Given specific local conditions, clarify split of functions of each RBO and Basin MIROB Agencies;

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<sup>7</sup> This activity is being implemented in parallel with establishment of MIROB Agencies.

3. Develop and agree Regulations on RBOs;
4. Appoint heads of RBOs, their deputies and key specialists;
5. Strengthen RBOs' capacity, including technical equipping and relevant trainings.

It is to be noted that depending on infrastructure opportunities, RBOs and Basin MIROB Agencies can be located in one building.

#### **Leading Agency**

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

#### **Time-frame**

Duration of works would be 2012-2013.

#### **Contact person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **Policy Package 5: Establishment of the IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council**

#### **Rationale for the Policy Package**

Currently, the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources performs regulatory and economic activities related to water resources management in the country. Key Ministry's activities are associated with water supply for agriculture, water supply to rural areas and watering of pastures. In accordance with the Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, while being a key ministry responsible for water resources management the MLRWR is also a key state authority making national internal and external water policy.

The water sector reform implies split of regulatory and economic functions related to maintenance and operation of irrigation and drainage systems and water supply systems in rural areas. It should be stressed that within the system of water supply to the population such a split took place much earlier than in irrigated agriculture. Once MIROB Agencies are established, regulatory aspects of water resources management activities would remain with the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources. However, in addition to the current responsibilities, the Ministry would be responsible for management and coordination of activities on regulation of water relations in all the sectors of economy: drinking water supply, industry, hydro power engineering, fishery, etc. This doesn't mean the Ministry would manage water relations in all these sectors. The Ministry would be a regulatory state authority in terms of coordinating management, sustainable use, protection and development of water resources. Such a function completely complies with the IWRM principles, and after the transition period ends the MLRWR would be reformed into the National IWRM Agency.

The National IWRM Agency would execute state policy and regulate interagency relations in terms of water resources management. A National Water Council (NWC) would have to be established at the national level to identify key areas of the national water policy, priority areas of water sector development and other issues. The NWC would be composed of senior executives involved in water policy, economy and protection; ministries and agencies; representatives of public water organizations, including WUAs, their Federations and Councils. When necessary, the NWC can unlimitedly invite national and international experts, scientists and public figures to solve specific issues of national interest.

#### **Tasks to be Implemented**

1. Develop Regulations on the National IWRM Agency and National Water Council and their approval by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
2. Appoint a head and deputy heads of the National IWRM Agency;
3. Identify the composition of the National Water Council;

4. Strengthen capacities of the National IWRM Agency and National Water Council;
5. Establish a database and management information system of the National IWRM Agency<sup>8</sup>.

#### **Leading Agency**

Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

#### **Time-frame**

Duration of works would be 2014-2016.

#### **Contact person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **Policy Package 6: Improvement of the Water Legislation to Transit towards IWRM**

#### **6.1. Rationale for the Policy Package**

The water sector reform and transition towards integrated water resources management would require substantial improvement of the country's water legislation. Amendments would cover the Water Code and Law "On WUAs". Amendments might be made to the Law "On Dekhkan Farms", Land Code of the Republic of Tajikistan and Tax Code of the Republic of Tajikistan. However, the practice shows that making amendments to the tax and land legislation takes long time, if any. Nevertheless, to secure sustainability of reforming of the agriculture and water sectors which are of strategic importance for food, social and economic security of the Republic of Tajikistan, it would be, perhaps, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan itself to initiate making such amendments to the required legislative sources.

#### **6.2. Tasks to be Implemented**

In connection with the water sector reform, improvements in the water legislation would cover the following areas:

1. Establish an intersectoral group on water legislation improvement composed of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Tajikistan.
2. Develop proposals on improvement of the water legislation to secure sustainable water resources management in the context of transition towards IWRM. Submit proposals to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.
3. Develop proposals for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on improvement of the land legislation and tax policies in agriculture to improve efficiency of irrigated agriculture, increase food security, enhance efficiency of water resources use and to improve environmental situation in rural areas.
4. Search financing sources and finance activities on legislation improvements associated with the water sector reform through the state budget and donor assistance of international organizations.

#### **6.3. Leading Agency**

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan;

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<sup>8</sup> The database and management information system of the National IWRM Agency in Tajikistan would be established under a separate project.

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan;

Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan.

#### **6.4. Time-frame**

Duration of works would be 2012-2016.

#### **6.5. Contact person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## **Policy Package 7: Assessment of Opportunities to Introduce IWRM in Basins of International Rivers**

### **Rationale for the Policy Package**

In Central Asian states, water cooperation is undergoing crisis. Cooperation mechanisms elaborated in the first years following the collapse of the Soviet Union have petered out, and a need to reform regional institutions became evident many years ago. However, any reforming of joint organizations affects the interests of each member. Similar situation has been observed in the process of reforming of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and its affiliated ICWC and ICSD. It's fair to think that with the Aral Sea dried, the IFAS has completed its mission with Central Asian states having become completely independent of each other. Now, it's required to improve the IFAS's legal and institutional framework based on principles recognized by all country members of the international law, i.e. based on justice, equality, mutual benefits with no serious damage caused to riparian states in the basins of international rivers. While improving relations between states along minor rivers, the same approach should be applied.

### **Tasks to be Implemented**

Assessment of opportunities to introduce IWRM in the basins of international rivers would be performed in the following order:

1. Assess applicability of the international experience of cooperation between countries in the basins of international rivers in terms of introduction of the IWRM principles;
2. Assess progress of refinement of the IFAS's legal and institutional framework;
3. With the support of the GIZ's TWMP in CA, assess the process of establishing a mechanism of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan's cooperation in the basins of the Isfara and Khojabakirgan Rivers;
5. Develop recommendations for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on improvement of the mechanisms of cooperation and IWRM introduction in the basins of the Central Asian international rivers.

### **Leading Agency**

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan;

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **Time-frame**

Duration of works would be 2012-2016.

### **Contact person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## **Policy Package 8: Establishment of the Database and Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan**

### **8.1. Rationale for the Policy Package**

In Tajikistan, the current system of collection and processing of data on water resources use management is out of date and cannot ensure efficient management of the existing water infrastructure. Separate organizations are involved in water information collection, processing and dissemination, and it's difficult to yield an overall picture of water resources use and protection and to perform planning at different levels: at the river basin, oblast or national levels.

To collect reliable information, it is necessary, first of all, to restore the water quantity and quality monitoring system, i.e. to restore a network of level gauges on the irrigation and drainage infrastructure using up-to-date high-performance and radio equipments.

The information collected should be accessible through Internet channels in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations. To this end, an information network should be established at the level of river sub-basins and basins and at the national level in the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **8.2. Tasks to be Implemented**

To establish the management information system, it is required to:

1. Develop a Strategy of the National Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan;
2. Modernize existing and construct, where necessary, new level gauges to improve the water quantity and quality monitoring system;
3. Develop software for the Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan;
4. Equip all the necessary points of the information network with computer equipment and provide access to Internet;
5. Train relevant staff in efficient use and administration of the National Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan.

### **8.3. Leading Agency**

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan;

Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **8.4. Time-frame**

Duration of works would be 2012-2016;

### **8.5. Contact person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## **Policy Package 9: Meetings of the Steering Committee of the NPD on IWRM in Tajikistan**

### **9.1. Rationale for the Policy Package**

Transition towards IWRM in Tajikistan is seen as a long process of water management improvement. It is known that IWRM is a result of coordination of the integrated economy sectors in terms of optimization of water resources use to obtain greatest benefits for the national economy. Tajikistan is at the initial stage of this process, and at this stage it is only market economy relations that represent driving forces for introduction of the IWRM first elements in the country. With development and integration of other sectors of economy, need for introduction of full-fledged IWRM in the country would increase.

The National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan was launched in March 2011, and is supported by the EU Water Initiative under the Component for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The NPD assists in IWRM strengthening in the EECCA countries. Dialogues are based on consultations with ministries, agencies, institutions, including scientific ones, non-governmental and other national and international organizations.

Usually NPD implies establishment of an IWRM Steering Committee (IWRM SC) to coordinate and manage the IWRM activities. The first meeting of the IWRM Steering Committee took place on March 16, 2011 in Dushanbe.

A number of meetings of the Steering Committee of the NPD on IWRM in Tajikistan are needed to coordinate a range of the IWRM processes, including review of the above policy packages. Perhaps, after 2015 the NPD on IWRM would still be needed as some tasks set have a nature of a constantly developing and improving process.

### **9.2. Tasks to be Implemented**

Activation of the IWRM Steering Committee is envisaged, including:

1. Establish the IWRM SC Secretariat to provide technical support; organize meetings; ensure liaison of SC members; prepare, replicate and disseminate materials and to perform other tasks to ensure efficiency of the SC's activities;
2. With the support of the MLRWR and international organizations, conduct thematic, special and general meetings of the SC;
3. Organize national and regional Water Conferences;
4. Publish brochures and other printed materials;
5. Provide necessary technical assistance in IWRM target surveys conducted by donors and ministries concerned.

Without its own budget, the IWRM SC cannot independently perform all of the tasks listed; however, it can provide political support to the interested national and international organizations in joint implementation of relevant activities.

### **9.3. Leading Agency**

IWRM Steering Committee.

### **9.4. Time-frame**

Activities are to be implemented in 2011-2016.

### **9.5. Contact person**

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Chair of the IWRM SC, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

#### 4. Action Plan

NPD or related activities	Date of activities or meetings	Responsibility of: (1) Chair of the Steering Committee (SC) or (2) UNECE	Responsibility of: (1) EU countries (2) partners under the EU Water Initiative	Outcomes
Interagency agreement of the Water Sector Reform Strategy.	2012 (in progress – to be clarified)	(1) Organize the review of the Water Sector Reform Strategy at the meeting of the legal WG.	(2) Support for holding the interagency meeting.	Water Sector Reform Strategy agreed by the SC.
Establishment of the National MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies.	December	a. Assess ways of MIROB adaptation to the real context of irrigated agriculture.	2) Support for holding the interagency meeting.	Recommendations.
Establishment of Water Users Associations, their Federations and Unions.	2012-2016 (to be clarified)	(1) Review the progress of activities on establishment of WUAs throughout the country; recommendations on troubleshooting; (2) Technical support for establishment of RBOs.	(1) Donor support for establishment of RBAs; (2) Support the RBAs established.	Intrafarm irrigation and drainage assets transferred to WUAs. WUAs developing throughout the country.
Establishment of River Basin Organizations as MRLWR's subdivisions for the transition period with the MRLWR to become the IWRM Agency in future.	2012 -2013	(1) Review the progress of activities on establishment of RBOs and recommendations on troubleshooting; (2) Technical support for establishment of RBOs.	(1) Donor support for establishment of RBOs; (2) Support the RBOs established.	RBOs established.
Establishment of the IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council.	2012-2013	(1) Review the progress of activities on establishment of the IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council and recommendations on troubleshooting; (2) Technical support for the process.	1) Donor support for establishment of the IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council; (2) Support the IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council established.	IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council established.

<b>NPD or related activities</b>	<b>Date of activities or meetings</b>	<b>Responsibility of: (1) Chair of the Steering Committee (SC) or (2) UNECE</b>	<b>Responsibility of: (1) EU countries (2) partners under the EU Water Initiative</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Improvement of the water legislation required to transit towards IWRM.	2012	Familiarize the SC's legal WG with contents of amendments to the Water Code, their status; review by ministries and agencies.	Receive draft developments.	Brief note on the development progress prepared. Recommendations for the SC's 1 <sup>st</sup> WG on assisting in further development of amendments to the Water Code.
Capability assessment of IWRM introduction in the basins of international rivers.	2012-2016	Familiarize the SC's legal WG with materials on Tajikistan's cooperation with countries located in the basins of the Central Asian international rivers.	Submit information.	Assess and develop recommendations for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on improvement of the IFAS's legal and institutional framework and on introduction of the IWRM principles.
Establishment of the national database and management information system of IWRM in Tajikistan.	2012-2016	(1) Review the Strategy of the National Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan.	Submit information.	Brief progress reports.
Meetings of the NPD/IWRM Steering Committee.	2011-2016 (at least twice per year)	Prepare and hold meetings.	Submit information on meetings held.	Brief reports on meetings.

## 5. Annex 1. Water Sector Reform Implementation Schedule for 2012-2015

Activities	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2												
<b>1. Finalization of the Water Sector Reform Strategy</b>																		
1.1. Finalize the Water Sector Reform Strategy.																		
1.2. Submit the final Water Sector Reform Strategy to the Government of the RT for approval.																		
1.3. Develop the water sector reform implementation schedule.																		
<b>2. Establishment of the National MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies</b>																		
2.1. Establish an expert group on water sector reforming composed of the NPD Steering Committee.																		
2.2 Develop the Programme for establishment of the MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies																		
2.3. Develop Regulations on MIROB Agencies.																		
2.4. Identify geographical boundaries of Basin MIROB Agencies.																		
2.5. Identify geographical boundaries between MIROB Agencies and WUAs.																		
2.6. Identify functional interaction of the MIROB Agency and Basin MIROB Agencies.																		
2.7. Improve economic mechanisms of MIROB Agencies and WUAs' cooperation.																		

Activities	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2												
2.8. Carry out inventory of the existing irrigation and drainage infrastructure at the level of secondary canals and lower.																		
2.9. Develop mechanisms of coordination of MIROB Agencies and WUAs' activities with the central water management authorities.																		
2.10. Improve the water legislation to transit towards IWRM.																		
<b>3. Establishment of Water Users Associations, their Federations and Unions</b>																		
3.1. Develop a long-term Programme for establishment and development of WUAs in Tajikistan.																		
Based on the principles of integrity of the hydrographical boundaries, reform the existing and establish new WUAs in those areas where they have not yet been established.																		
Finance the process of WUAs establishment and development from the budget of the Republic of Tajikistan, international donor organizations.																		
Develop and introduce an economic model of sustainable WUAs within the Tajikistan's context.																		
Elaborate proposals on water legislation development to introduce the economically sustainable WUA model.																		
Clarify boundaries between WUAs and MIROB Agencies.																		

Activities	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2												
Carry out inventory of the irrigation and drainage infrastructure.					■	■												
Transfer the ownership of intrafarm irrigation and drainage infrastructure to WUAs.					■	■	■	■	■	■								
<b>4. Establishment of River Basin Organizations as MRLWR's subdivisions for the transition period with the MRLWR to become the IWRM Agency in future.</b>					■	■	■	■										
Develop a Programme for Establishment of RBOs.					■	■												
Given specific local conditions, clarify split of functions of each RBO and Basin MIROB agencies.						■	■											
Develop and agree Regulations on RBOs.						■												
Appoint heads of RBOs, their deputies and key specialists.						■	■											
Strengthen RBOs' capacity, including technical equipping and relevant trainings.						■	■	■										
<b>5. Establishment of the IWRM Agency and National IWRM Council</b>								■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Develop regulations on the National IWRM Agency and National Water Council and their approval by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.								■										

Activities	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2												
Appoint a head and deputy heads of the National IWRM Agency.																		
Identify the composition of the National Water Council.																		
Strengthen capacities of the National IWRM Agency and National Water Council.																		
Establish the database and management information system of the National IWRM Agency.																		
<b>6. Improvement of the water legislation required to transit towards IWRM</b>																		
Establish an intersectoral group on water legislation improvement composed of the NPD Steering Committee.																		
Develop proposals on improvement of the water legislation to secure sustainable water resources management in the context of transition towards IWRM.																		
Search financing sources and secure financing of activities on water legislation improvements.																		
Develop proposals for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on improvement of the land legislation and tax policies in agriculture to improve efficiency of irrigated agriculture.																		
<b>7. Development of recommendations for the Government of the Republic of</b>																		

Activities	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2												
<b>Tajikistan on mainstreaming of the IWRM principles in the water cooperation of the countries located in the basins of the Central Asian international rivers</b>																		
Familiarize members of the SC and special Legal Working Group with the status of water cooperation in the Central Asian states;																		
Develop brief recommendations for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on mainstreaming of the IWRM principles in the water cooperation of the countries located in the basins of the Central Asian international rivers.																		
<b>8. Establishment of the database and management information system of IWRM in Tajikistan</b>																		
Develop the Strategy of the National Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan.																		
Modernize the existing and construct, where necessary, new level gauges to improve the water quantity and quality monitoring system.																		
Train relevant staff in efficient use and administration of the National Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan.																		
Develop software for the Management Information System of IWRM in Tajikistan.																		
Equip all the necessary points of the information network with computer equipment and provide access to																		

Activities	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2												
Internet.																		
<b>9. Meetings of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Tajikistan</b>																		
Establish the IWRM SC Secretariat to provide technical support; organize meetings; ensure liaison of SC members; prepare, replicate and disseminate materials and to perform other tasks to ensure efficiency of the SC's activities.																		
With the support of the MLRWR and international organizations, conduct thematic, special and general meetings of the SC.																		
Organize national and regional Water Conferences.																		
Publish brochures and other printed materials.																		
Provide assistance in conducting IWRM target surveys.																		