



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Minutes of Local Project Appraisal Committee
Project “Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the
Chu and Talas River Basins” (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan)

Date: 10 November 2014; 09:00-11:00

Venue: Conference-hall “Plaza” hotel, (52 Togolok-Moldo st., Bishkek city)

List of participants:

Government

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

1. Mukhtar Jakenov, Acting Director of the Department of Water and biological resources under the Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Kazakhstan
2. Darkhan Nursadykov, Advisor to the Office of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Department of Pan-Asian Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Zhumabek Mukhatov, Head of the Chu-Talas Basin Authority, Ministry of Agriculture
4. Mukhtar Konysbekov, Head of the Department of Environment on Zhambyl area of the Committee of environmental regulation, control and inspection of oil and gas complex of the Ministry of Energy
5. Talgat Torebekov, Head of State Environmental Control Committee of ecological regulation, control and inspection in the oil and gas sector of the Ministry of Energy
6. Jaksylyk Sarsenbaev, Expert of the water supply and sanitation Department, Ministry of national economy
7. Konirbay Shatanov, Director of Jambyl branch RGP “Kazvodkhoz”
8. Lidiya Nikiforova, Head of Section hydrological forecasts of Department hydrology RGP “Kazgidromet”
9. Indira Akbozova, Head of Kazakhstan part of the Chu-Talas Commission’s Secretary
10. Anuar Alimzhanov, Head Zhambyl branch RGP “Kazhydromet”
11. Raisa Bepalova, Head of laboratory Zhambyl branch RGP “Kazhydromet”, Ministry of E W
12. Nurlan Tuashbaev, Chief Specialist of the monitoring of Agribusiness Akimat of Zhambyl region
13. Zharas Uanassov, First secretary of the Embassy of the RK in the KR
14. Kaysar Karbozin, Specialist of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

15. Sabir Atadjanov, Director State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), GEF FP in KR
16. Kokumbek Tashtanaliev, Director General of the Water Management and Melioration Department
17. Tilek Isabekov, First deputy of general director of the Water Management and Melioration Department
18. Gulmira Satymkulova, Head of Kyrgyzstan part of the Chu-Talas Commission’s Secretariat
19. Ulanbek Urustomov, Deputy Head of Kyrgyzstan part of the Chu-Talas Commission’s Secretariat
20. Ruslan Devyatkulov, Head of the Chu Basin Authority
21. Akylbek Sulaimanov, Head of water resources, water management and interstate water

- allocation Unite, Department of Water Management and Melioration Department
22. Bolot Batirkulov, Head Talas Basin Authority
 23. Ainura Toktonalieva, Main specialist of water resources, water management and interstate water allocation Unite, Water Management and Melioration Department
 24. Baygabyl Tolongutov, Head of the Environmental Safety and regulation Center, SAEPF
 25. Baglan Salykmambetova, Head on the International cooperation Unite, SAEPF
 26. Tatyana Suchkova, Leading specialist of the Environmental monitoring Department, SAEPF
 27. Nyshanbaeva Ludmila Japashevna, Head of the environmental pollution monitoring department, Hydrometeorology under the MES KR
 28. Jarkyn Abdykerimova, Chief Specialist of the forecasts Agency for Hydrometeorology under the MES KR
 29. Anvar Anarbaev, First secretary of department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs KR
 30. Aigerim Omurzakova, Specialist of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs KR

International organizations

UNECE

31. Bo Libert, UN ECE Regional Adviser, Environment Division

UNDP

32. Erkinbek Kasybekov, Assistant Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan
33. Yerlan Zhumabayev, National Coordinator, Sustainable Land Management projects, UNDP Kazakhstan (via Skype)
34. Aiday Bedelbaeva, Gender Mainstreaming Specialist
35. Daniar Ibragimov, Programme and Policy Analyst Environment and Disaster Risk Management
36. Vladimir Grebnev, "Environment Protection for Sustainable Development" Programme Coordinator
37. Aigul Bolotova, Environment and Socio-Economic PR Specialist

OSCE

38. Jenniver Sehring, Environment Adviser, OSCE Secretariat
39. Madina Ibrasheva, OSCE Center in Astana

SDC

40. Rene Holenstein, Ambassador of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic
41. Bakyt Makhmutov, Swiss Cooperation Office in Kyrgyz Republic

GIZ

42. Ryspec Apasov, Expert on Water Resources Management

IFAS

43. Medet Ospanov, Director, Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan
 44. Amirkhan Kenshimov, Deputy Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan
- Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia**
45. Yekaterina Strikeleva, Water Management Programme Manager

Experts

46. Paul Haener, Head Water Information System Unit, Department of International Cooperation, International Office for Water, France
47. Erkin Orolbaev, National consultant on water issues in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Kasybekov, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative opened the meeting and welcomed the participants and informed them on the main objectives of the meeting of the Committee i.e. to discuss the project document and approve it. He also said that before the commencement of the project the participants would have another opportunity – i.e. during the inception period when we

may discuss and introduce clarifications, if a need be. “To that end we shall arrange an inception workshop and afterwards the inception phase will follow. Therefore, today I hope that we shall discuss only the matters of principle and I hope that this Project proposal will be approved”.

Then Mr. Kasybekov gave the floor for the welcoming speeches to the representatives of major national stakeholders from the two countries as well as project partners:

Mr. Rustamov, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF) welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the SAEPP and in the capacity of the Focal point for the GEF projects in the Kyrgyz Republic. He reflected the following contribution:

- integration of environmental issues in the process of trans boundary water cooperation;
- functioning structures for interaction of both countries to monitor the quality of water resources as well as the laboratory base for the analytical assessment of river ecosystems.

Mr. Tashtanaliev, General Director Water Management and Melioration Department under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic welcomed the participants of the meeting, he stressed that the project document has been drafted in close cooperation with the relevant Department, he also expressed his hope that in the planned project Chu - Talas Water Commission would have a relevant instrument facilitating its effective and efficient performance.

Mr. Mukhatov, Head of Chu-Talas Basin authority under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan stressed that the territory of Kazakhstan was located in the mid and downstream sections of transboundary Chu and Talas rivers, therefore it was the most prone to negative impact caused by water floods as well as any other man-made or natural disasters.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Economic Commission for Europe of the UN, UNDP as well as other international organizations for their long – standing support ensuring regular and fruitful dialogue; as such dialogue was the most relevant and timely exercise contributing to fostering cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser Environment Division welcomed the participants of the meeting and stressed the unique features of the project since it combines both water and environmental protection components. He noted that this was something new for the Central Asia and starting something new was definitely a challenge.

He also thanked environmental and water resources organizations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan for the opportunity to continue the activities; he also expressed his gratitude to UNDP for excellent joint work in the drafting of the project document in question.

Mr. Kasybekov thanked all the speakers and gave the floor to Mr. Ibragimov, Head of the UNDP environment and disaster risk management portfolio in the Kyrgyz Republic for the presentation of the project document:

- Project document development process;
- Goals and objectives;
- Main components of the project and distribution of the GEF resources;
- Activities and indicators;
- Overall budget including co-funding from partners and Governments of both countries;
- Main stakeholders and implementation timeframe;
- Project management structure.

The floor was opened for questions and discussions:

Mr. Tolongutov, SAEPF KR noticed that the Swiss actors offer quite substantial funding and inquired the following:

- Whether it is separate and parallel project to support?
- Does this project in no way relate to our project, or not?
- Briefly specify the details of the project;
- Does it envisage USD two million?

Mr. Libert, UNECE

- Responded that the GEF project was parallel to others and which facilitated the achievement of determined goals. These projects were fully parallel. The million envisaged in the project would be directly used for the implementation of the issues presented by Daniir.

Mr. Grebnev, UNDP

Added that during consultations with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation UNDP in Kyrgyzstan agreed that several projects funded by Swiss counterparts would be a parallel contribution for the support and implementation of the project – He meant the infrastructural projects aimed at implementing real activities in the basins of Chu and Talas rivers. The project was the one targeted towards institutional and political development with capacity building, while infrastructural component was not that large. The activities of the Swiss project were aimed at implementation of SCADA systems and automated hydro posts in pilot river basins.

Mr. Ibragimov, UNDP

In reply to Mr. Tolongutov's question regarding the project implemented by the Swiss Agency he responded that they had a letter of co-financing on this project. He reflected that SAEPF could set-up network with the Agency to have a closer exchange of information as joint efforts would contribute to the fulfillment of the final objective. According to information he had, this project envisages quite a substantial amount of money and was operational in the Kyrgyz Republic at the inception phase. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Bo Libert for assisting UNDP in coordination.

Mr. Tolongutov, SAEPF KR

He noted that this question was asked just to avoid duplication. It seemed that this project was aimed at the support of this water basin and there might be some duplication in its components.

Mr. Libert, UNECE

Added that this would be primarily the forecast of the volume of water resources in the water reservoir and said that by the end of the day they expect the presentation of this project.

Mr. Kasybekov, UNDP

He made an addition that the fact of joint cooperation within the framework of this project contributes to the elimination of duplication, due to the fact that the both parties were aware at this stage who did what and how – further joint work would facilitate coordination complementary. He appealed all participants to ask any other questions and comments on the subject matter.

Mr. Nursadykov, MFA RK

- Asked had the project been agreed with Kazakh counterparts? Had it been communicated earlier? He noted he could not remember such a project.

- The second question related to the territorial representation. Jumabek Sadvakasovich, had there been any discussion of the launching and implementation of this project in the Jambyl province?
- Who deals with it in Kazakhstan? The issue was that if Kazakhstan had the Chu – Talas Commission, this was the commission where Kazakhstan would work with as this is an intergovernmental structure. He noted that Kazakhstan would be informed officially as a party.

Mr. Ibragimov, UNDP

- Thanked Mr. Nursadykov for this important question and apologized for failing to highlight the procedural aspects in his presentation.
- Responded that the project was supported by local focal point with the Global Environment Fund, it would be definitely noted that this process was supported by the Kazakh counterparts. If there were no official support from the Kazakh party, the project would be never approved.
- Added that the country endorsement for development of the Concept Note was a fundamental factor prior to drafting and approval of the project document. Only after receiving of such formal agreements both countries started to elaborate the Concept Note, launch the consultation process and draft the project document.
- Stressed that GEF was a unique donor – it meant that without agreement, without the endorsement letter received from relevant national authorities no project would be ever discussed. This was even more relevant for the regional projects. This meant that if the Kyrgyz Republic decides to start this project individually, it would be impossible to launch it as it primarily envisages trans-boundary cooperation.
- He proposed to provide him with our respective colleagues of UNDP in Astana, such that they could provide more information about the Kazakh component of this project to all interested parties in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Muhatov, Chu-Talas Basin Authority RK

Noted that the official decisions of the 16th and 17th sessions of the Chu – Talas Commission approved the main directions of the GEF project proposal “Assistance to trans – boundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in Chu and Talas river basins”. The activities of the project were discussed and in principle would be supported and assisted by them within the framework of the project.

Mr. Nursadykov, MFA RK

- Agreed with that all these issues were approved at the last session and inquired whether the project had been approved?
- He also noted about his unaware on who approved it from Kazakhstan and there was no official agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Asked to tell colleagues from UNDP Kazakhstan that they would agree these issues with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Kasybekov, UNDP

- Noted that in the Kyrgyz Republic before undertaking certain actions, activities or projects, UNDP get an approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this was a mandatory procedure.

- Proposed to include in the minutes that according to recommendations the project document would be sent to the MFAs of the relevant countries. Expressed his confidence that such consultations were conducted.
- Asked Mr. Ibragimov to provide with this information.

Mr. Ibragimov, UNDP

Agreed to provide with information; if it were another donor, he would be lost in answering. But expressed his confidence – they had correspondence and they could provide it just to present the chronology of events, i.e. what and when was presented on the side.

Mr. Kasybekov, UNDP

Thanked Mr. Ibragimov and noted that in this issue the focus would be made on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Tolongutov, SAEPF KR

- Noted that colleague from Kazakhstan was right in raising this issue as this was a multi-country project. The project was a very sensitive one and there were a lot of political and economic aspects in it.
- Added that the majority of work would be conducted on the Kyrgyz side to research the quality of water as Mr. Rustamov said.
- Added that the issue of coordination between state agencies, data, participation and results were of the great importance. When the results were discussed, they were understandable, logical and agreed with all state agencies. Two components of this project were directly linked to the SAEPF KR mandate. This was the quality of water, monitoring, climate change and forecasts. Expressed his mind that a lot would depend on UNDP and experts who would be engaged to make sure that all these activities would be agreed beforehand, eventually it may be agreed with individual agencies that possess such information.

Ms. Salykmambetova, SAEPF KR

Noted that when GEF focal point signed the Endorsement letter it meant that after the elaboration and drafting of this PPG, it was expected to provide it to the SAEPF as well as the Ministry of Ecology. Inquired were these documents presented?

Mr. Ibragimov, UNDP

- Noted once again that information on this issue would be provided.
- Responded that the document in Russian was recently sent to SAEPF and attached to the invitation letter to this meeting. In accordance with the GEF procedures the document executed in English language. Also he expressed his confidence that the UNDP office in Kazakhstan worked in the same manner as the UNDP office in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Ms. Salykmambetova, SAEPF KR

- Said that the document had several points which could still be discussed.
- Inquired that they would discuss them during the inception workshop.

Mr. Ibragimov, UNDP

Agreed with Ms. Salykmambetova and added that all additional comments of all stakeholders would be discussed during the Inception workshop and incorporated into the Inception report if necessary.

Mr. Grebnev, UNDP

Asked Mr. Zhumabayev, UNDP Kazakhstan, observing the meeting via Skype, to comment the issue on the endorsement process of the project in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Zhumabayev, UNDP

Responded that the project was agreed in Kazakhstan with the Committee on water resources under Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan which previously was part of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Added that there was no official endorsement of the project with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Zhumabaev proposed that they could initiate such procedure.

Mr. Tolongutov, SAEPF KR

Noted that this was a mandatory procedure for an interstate project.

Mr. Ibragimov, UNDP asked Mr. Zhumabaev the following questions:

- Had the Concept been discussed with the stakeholder agencies in the Republic of Kazakhstan?
- Was it only the Committee on water resources or were there any other state agencies?

Mr. Zhumabayev, UNDP

Responded that the Concept was offered to discussion and all activities were agreed with the Ministry of Environmental Protection the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Kasybekov, UNDP

Proposed to include this in the minutes to start the procedure of agreement with the MFA.

Mr. Nursadykov, MFA RK

- Stressed that the Committee on water resources was not the final approving agency.
- Added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the last instance which could endorse such programs and projects.

Mr. Kasybekov, UNDP

- Proposed to adopt this project document and start the implementation of the project with the condition that this project document would be sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of countries involved before approval.
- Thanked and congratulated all participants with the completion of the session of the Committee on approval of the project document.
- Expressed his sincere gratitude for participation, constructive debates and cooperation.
- Noted that the project was very interesting and it would contribute to friendship among two neighboring countries.
- Thanked Ambassador of Switzerland for his personal attendance in reviewing of this very important project.
- Thanked also the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

Participants have jointly agreed to endorse the Project document.

Signature:



Erkinbek Kasybekov,
Deputy Chairman of the Committee
UNDP Assistant Resident Representative

