



COUNTRY: TAJIKISTAN

INITIATION PLAN

Project Title: Support to Water Initiatives of Tajikistan

Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s): UNDAF Outcome 6: People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and human-disasters benefiting from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources

Expected CPD Output(s): Output 6.1: Effective legislative, policy and institutional frameworks in place for conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing of natural resources management, biodiversity, ecosystems

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: 20 February 2020-30 October 2020

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan

Brief Description

The overall *Objective* of the project is two-fold: a) to provide support in organization of the second International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, to be held on 20-22 June 2020 in Dushanbe; and b) to develop a project proposal in support of the implementation of IWRM-based water sector policy reforms.

The expected *Impact* of the project is the contribution to: a) maintaining the leadership of the country on the water agenda and to encourage the stewardship of Tajikistan on water and on other relevant development issues; and b) mobilization of resources in support of strengthening water resources management, and thereby in support of increasing water, food security and improved livelihoods in rural areas of Tajikistan.

Programme Period: 2016-2020

Award ID: 00126008

Atlas Output ID: 00120183

Gender Marker: GEN 1

Total resources required US\$ 120,000

Total allocated resources: US\$ 120,000

- Regular US\$ 120,000

Unfunded budget: _____

In-kind Contributions: _____

Agreed by UNDP:


 Mr. Christophoros Politis, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan



24.02.2020

I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

For the past few decades, water issues have been on top of Tajikistan's development agenda. The initiative to proclaim the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015 was launched by H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, in early 2003. Subsequently, on 23 December 2003 the UNGA at its 58th session adopted the resolution A/RES/58/217 initiated by the Republic of Tajikistan. In accordance with the resolution the period 2005 – 2015 was declared as the "International Decade for Action, "Water for Life". The main goal of the Decade was to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by the year 2015. The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan being the initiator of the Decade has taken a number of measures at national, regional and global levels for its successful implementation. With this view the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the UN and other international organizations organized the following important international water events:

- 2003 International Fresh Water Forum;
- 2005: International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Trans-Boundary River Basins;
- 2008: International Conference on Water Related Disasters;
- 2010: High-Level International Conference on midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015;
- 2011: Towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water Cooperation Issues
- 2013: High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation;
- 2015: High-level International Conference on implementation of "Water for Life" Decade;
- 2016: High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that No One Is Left Behind in Access to Water and Sanitation;

On 21 December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution A/RES/71/222 entitled "International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028", supported by 177 United Nations Member States. The initiative to proclaim the International Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development" was also launched for the first time by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan during the 7th World Water Forum in the Republic of Korea. This new international decade commenced on 22 March 2018 and will terminate on 22 March 2028 (World Water Day).

In accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution, the objectives of the new Decade will be mainly focused on sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental goals, implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the resolution highlights the importance of promoting efficient water usage at all levels, taking into account the water, food, energy and environment nexus.

Moreover, the resolution identifies the following objectives to be pursued: improving knowledge generation and dissemination, facilitating access to knowledge and exchange of good practices, generating new information relevant to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnership and action by different actors to implement the water-related goals and targets, strengthening communication actions at various levels for the implementation of water-related goals. As a first step towards the implementation of the Decade, the United Nations Secretary-General prepared an Action Plan for the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028. To celebrate the commencement of this Decade, the Government of Tajikistan hosted the "First International Conference to launch the International for Decade Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028".

Within the framework of the Water for Sustainable Development Decade, Tajikistan plans to implement several activities, starting from the establishment of a Coordination Center and an Organizing Committee and the creation of a single website for all the activities under the Decade. An Action Plan for the preparation and implementation of the Water for Sustainable Development Decade was approved by resolution of the Government of Tajikistan in 2018. Special events dedicated to the Decade will be held every year at the occasion of the World Water Day and the World Water Week. Moreover, Tajikistan plans to continue hosting a number of conferences related to water.

The water initiatives of Tajikistan are instrumental for the achievement of water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the country. At the same time, while the relations with neighboring countries are improving, there is still much to do to ensure that transboundary water resources are managed sustainably, and water cooperation always prevails at all levels, especially as the situation of the Aral Sea keeps worsening and as the construction of the Roghun hydropower plant proceeds. The water initiatives of Tajikistan put the country in front of the moral imperative to maintain good relations with its neighbors and to achieve all water-related Sustainable Development Goals.

The overall *Objective* of the project is two-fold: a) to provide support with organization of the second International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, to be held on 20-22 June 2020 in Dushanbe; and b) to develop a project proposal in support of the implementation of IWRM-based water sector policy reforms. The expected *Impact* of the project is the contribution to: a) maintaining the leadership of the country on the water agenda and to encourage the stewardship of Tajikistan on water and on other relevant development issues; and b) mobilization of resources in support of strengthening water resources management, and thereby in support of increasing water, food security and improved livelihoods in rural areas of Tajikistan.

Below are the major ***Project OUTPUTS***:

Output 1. International Conference within the framework of the International for Decade Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized.

Under this output, technical assistance for program development, negotiation facilitation, capacity building and hands-on training of the Conference Secretariat and of the institutions involved in the initiatives of Tajikistan, including support to the International Steering Committee, the Conference Secretariat and its staff members is envisaged. This will also entail visibility to UNDP’s national, regional and global activities that are to be highlighted in the plenary sessions, thematic sessions and side events where UNDP acts as co-organizer, UNDP staff participates as chairs, co-chairs, keynote speakers, moderators or rapporteurs.

Output 2. UNDP support strategy and one full fledge project proposal in support of water sector reform agenda of the Government of Tajikistan is developed.

It is expected that the project proposal will be also presented to at least three potential funding institutions. The project proposal will support the water sector reform agenda, in particular (but not limited to):

- Facilitate a sector wide **policy dialogue** towards coordinated implementation of the reform principles;
- Strengthen systems and mechanisms to adopt **river basin management** approaches to water management;
- Institutionalize mechanisms to ensure **irrigation water management** is based on hydrological, not administrative, boundaries.

The project proposal is expected to utilize an evidence-based policy reform based on pilot interventions as a core principle. Such critical issues as decentralization and subsidiary management of water systems cannot be addressed adequately without impartial information and empirical evidence proving the actual situation. Thus, the proposed project will have to attempt to contribute in undertaking needed assessments and support information management that is foremost accessible to policy makers and consumers.

There is also a need for development of comprehensive capacity building programme to support the water sector reform implementation as part of the project proposal, and to contribute to the empowerment of related water institutions in promotion and realization of good governance guided by the principles of HBRA to water management. The interventions will focus explicitly on principles of *transparency, accountability and citizen participation* at the core of governance initiatives.

To contribute in achieving those objectives, the proposed interventions will focus on activities at policy level (policy guidance and institutional development) with oversight and coordination of on-going projects by relevant implementing agencies, i.e. Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, as well as the main beneficiary, Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The intervention will be directly implemented in accordance with DIM guidelines in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

From UNDP perspective, the following officers/structures will be directly involved in the implementation and monitoring of this particular project:

Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova, Team Leader, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, Energy and Environment;

Ms. Malika Khakimova, Programme Associate, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, Energy and Environment;

The following individuals will work as a team to implement the planned activities in the Initiation Plan under the supervision of Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova and Ms. Malika Khakimova.

Mr. Khurshed Kholov, Energy and Environment Programme Manager

Mr. Mustakim Akhmedov, Project Analyst/Water

The International Consultant will be hired to contribute to the achievement of major project outputs. The detailed terms of reference of the International Consultant is attached to this Project Implementation Plan as Annex I.

III. MONITORING

The Initiation Phase Report will be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan, using the standard format available in the Executive Snapshot.

IV. WORK PLAN

Period¹: February – October 2020

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, associated indicators and annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Funding Source	PLANNED BUDGET	
		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4			Budget Description	Amount
<p>Output 1. International Conference within the framework of the International for Decade Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized.</p> <p>Baseline: UNDP support extended to at least 9 international water conference hosted by the Government of Tajikistan since 2003.</p> <p>Indicators: International Conference within the framework of the International for Decade Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized;</p> <p>Outcome document(s) of International Conference within the framework of the International for Decade Action</p>	<p>Activity result 1. International Conference within the framework of the International for Decade Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i></p> <p>1.1 Establishment of the Secretariat of the International Conference;</p> <p>1.2 Technical assistance for program development, negotiation facilitation, capacity building and hands-on training of the Conference Secretariat;</p> <p>1.3 Organization of two International Steering Committee meetings in preparation of the International Conference;</p> <p>1.4 Support to visibility to the plenary sessions, thematic sessions and side events where UNDP acts as co-organizer, UNDP staff participates as chairs, co-chairs, keynote speakers, moderators or rapporteurs.</p>					<p>UNDP</p>	<p>Sub-total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 71200: Int. Consultants ▪ 71300: Local Consultants ▪ 72500: Publication & Print Media ▪ 72800: IT Equipment ▪ 72100 Communication ▪ 72505: Stationery 	<p>USD 100,000</p> <p>USD 30,000</p> <p>USD 55,800</p> <p>USD 8,500</p> <p>USD 470</p> <p>USD 4,160</p> <p>USD 1,070</p>	

¹ Maximum 18 months

<p>“Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, are publicly available.</p>						
<p>Output 2. UNDP support strategy and one full fledge project proposal in support of water sector reform agenda of the Government of Tajikistan is developed.</p> <p>Baseline: UNDP’s support to the water sector reform agenda is limited to policy advice on rural drinking water supply.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>UNDP support strategy for water sector reform implementation designed;</p> <p>One full fledge project proposal in support of water sector reform agenda developed.</p>	<p>Activity result 2. UNDP support strategy and one full fledge project proposal in support of water sector reform agenda of the Government of Tajikistan is developed.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i></p> <p>2.1 Elaboration of UNDP support strategy and a plan of action agreed with main partners (<i>GoT/Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, donor community, etc.</i>) on implementation of the water sector reform strategy and plan;</p> <p>2.2 Development of intervention strategy and a project proposal in support of implementation of the water sector reform strategy and plan;</p> <p>2.3 Capacity building to UNDP’s water cluster team on analysis of past interventions in the water sector reform and current developments, and relevant global/regional best practices to-date.</p>		<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Energy and Water Resources</p>	<p>UNDP</p>	<p>Sub-total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 71300: Int. Consultants 	<p>USD 20,000</p>
<p>TOTAL for 2020</p>						<p>USD 120,000</p>

Annex 1. Terms of Reference for International Consultant

Post Title:	International Consultant for organization and facilitation of activities related to the <i>Second High-Level International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028</i>
Duty station:	Dushanbe
Type of contract:	Individual Contract (IC)
Duration:	2 months, based in Dushanbe (during the period of March to June 2020)

I. Context:

The overall objective of this assignment is to support organization and facilitate activities related to the Second High-Level International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, that will take place in Dushanbe on 20-22 June 2020. The primary goal of the Conference is a comprehensive discussion of the issues of implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, with bringing its activities to the notice of wider international community. This conference also provides a platform to discuss the opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the International Decade and elaboration of recommendations for further action, including contribution to the achievement of water-related Sustainable Development Goals.

In achieving the project objectives, the underlying strategic implementation approach is to ensure that the country follows up towards the water-related initiatives in the framework of the "*International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028*" as declared in the Resolution A/RES/71/222 of the UN General Assembly (GA). To fully benefit from the momentum built by the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" and represent its national vision at the adequate level, Tajikistan as the initiator of the UN GA resolution and in cooperation with the UN institutions, particularly the UN-Water and other partners and UN Member States, has developed a comprehensive plan of activities. As part of planned activities, Tajikistan is expected to hold the Second High-Level International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, on 20-22 June 2020, in Dushanbe.

The United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan, based on the request of the Government of Tajikistan, agreed to provide assistance in preparation to and conducting of the International Conference, in particular, development of the agenda, preparation of the list of participants, invitations and discussion papers, organization of the International Steering Committee and interaction with global networks, like UN-Water, as well as bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

II. Scope of work

The scope of work is two-folded. Under the overall guidance of UNDP Senior Management in Tajikistan, in coordination with relevant CO Team Leader and ARR/Programme, and in partnership with UN contributing agencies, the International Consultant is expected to work closely with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, in order:

1. To facilitate and support the organization of the Second International Conference within the framework of the "*International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028*";
2. To lead on conceptualization and development of the project proposal on integrated water resources management in Tajikistan.

Under Task 1 above, the Consultant is expected to facilitate and support the organization of the Second International Conference within the framework of the “*International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”*, 2018-2028”. More specifically, the incumbent is expected to:

- Provide assistance in Tajikistan’s follow-up towards the water-related initiatives in the framework of the “*International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”*, 2018-2028” that was declared in accordance with the Resolution A/RES/71/222 of the UN General Assembly (GA);
- Assist and facilitate the Government of Tajikistan, the initiator of the UN GA resolution, in implementing a comprehensive plan of activities towards holding the *Second High-Level International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”*, planned to be held on 20-22 June 2020 in Dushanbe. This is to be performed in cooperation with UNDP and other contributing UN institutions, other development community partners and UN Member States. In particular:
 - Preparation of the draft background document for the conference by March 2020, its subsequent posting on the Conference Website, further improvement as a result of e-consultations, the International Steering Committee as well as the conference proceedings;
 - Development of the agenda, preparation of the list of participants, invitations and discussion papers, organization of sub-groups and sessions, and interaction with global networks, like UN-Water and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, including within three meetings of International Steering Committee;
 - Preparation of background (analysis) reports on the global affairs with consideration of international best experience around water cooperation issues;
 - Development of the agenda, structure of the conference programs, order of conducting opening and closing ceremonies of the conference, pre-conference events, exhibition, etc.;
 - Preparation of Terms of Reference for each plenary and thematic sessions and organization of support towards their convening;
 - Support to invitation of highly qualified professionals, chairmen and moderators, as well as speakers for respective sessions, events, as well as the plenary;
 - Support to inviting of competent representatives of international and non-government organizations to the work of the Conference;
 - Development of concept notes and programs for all events and interventions under UNDP’s leadership or participation that are planned to be held in the framework of the International Conference, including on different aspects of the water issues relevant to UNDP activities in Tajikistan and support to organization of such events, including to development related speeches, interventions, publications, brochures and other materials, as necessary;
 - Development and publication of handouts and preparatory materials for the events and the Conference, which will ensure the informational coverage of the participants and improved access of general public to reference and resource materials.

Under Task 2 above, the Consultant is expected to work on conceptualization and development of UNDP support strategy and one full fledged project proposal in support of water sector reform agenda of the Government of Tajikistan. The Consultant is expected to carry out consultations with key national stakeholders and other relevant counterparts to support proposal development process. It is expected that the project proposal will be also presented at least three potential funding institutions.

The project proposal will support the water sector reform agenda, in particular (but not limited to):

- Facilitate a sector wide **policy dialogue** towards coordinated implementation of the reform principles;
- Strengthen systems and mechanisms to adopt **river basin management** approaches to water management;
- Institutionalize mechanisms to ensure **irrigation water management** is based on hydrological, not administrative, boundaries.

The expected project proposal will utilize an evidence based policy reform based on pilot interventions as a core principle. Such critical issues as decentralization and subsidiary management of water systems cannot be addressed adequately without impartial information and empirical evidence proving the actual situation. Thus, the proposed

project will have to attempt to contribute in undertaking needed assessments and support information management that is foremost accessible to policy makers and consumers.

There is also a need for development of comprehensive capacity building programme to support the water sector reform implementation as part of the project proposal, and to contribute to the empowerment of related water institutions in promotion and realization of good governance guided by the principles of HBRA to water management. The interventions must focus explicitly on principles of *transparency, accountability and citizen participation* at the core of governance initiatives.

To contribute in achieving those objectives, the proposed intervention will focus on activities at policy level (policy guidance and institutional development) with oversight and coordination of on-going projects by relevant implementing agencies, i.e. Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, as well as the main beneficiary, Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation.

II. Deliverables and timelines

The following deliverables and indicative schedule are expected from the consultancy contract. The final schedule will be agreed upon in the beginning of consultancy assignment.

DELIVERABLE / MILESTONE	TIME-FRAME
Deliverable #1: The Conference background documents, including, but not limited to, conference agenda, concept notes for major plenary sessions, etc. prepared and agreed with the respective government counterpart and UNDP Tajikistan.	March 2020
Deliverable #2: The UNDP support strategy and one full fledge project proposal in support of water sector reform agenda of the Government of Tajikistan developed and presented to at least three potential funding institutions.	May 2020
Deliverable #3: The Conference Outcome Document, and final report on the assignment, including the lessons learned, prepared and cleared by UNDP Tajikistan.	June 2020

IV. ASSIGNMENT DURATION AND LOCATION

The assignment will be for a period of four months (from March to June 2018) and the International Consultant will be based in Dushanbe.

V. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A. Academic Qualifications:

- Postgraduate or other advanced university degree related to water management or any development related field;

B. Years of experience:

- At least 7 years of relevant work experience in organization and facilitation of international water cooperation events at regional and global levels;
- Experience with organization and delivery of high level thematic conferences on water or other related themes;
- Previous experience with UNDP and familiarity with UNDP community development programs is an asset;
- Demonstrated experience in capacity development initiatives, notably at the systemic and institutional levels, preferably at the global and international levels;
- Previous work experience in Central Asia and especially in Tajikistan is an important asset.

C. Language:

- Fluent in English language and ability to work in a multi-cultural, mixed nationality environment regardless of personal feelings or political ideology. Working knowledge of Tajik and/or Russian is a significant asset.

Corporate Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standard;
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the UN;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality, and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Treats all people fairly without favoritism.

Functional Competencies:

- Knowledge and experience of the political, socio-economic and environmental trends related to water cooperation issues and water resources management approaches at global, regional and national (Tajikistan) levels;
- Skills in organization and facilitation of international conferences, events, workshops and broad-based consultative processes/programmes/project documents on water cooperation issues and water sector development;
- An independent, reliable, responsible self-motivator able work under pressure;
- Excellent communication, team-building and diplomatic skills to develop partnerships;
- Familiarity with UNDP, multilateral and bilateral partners' programming policies, templates and requirements.

Development and Operational Effectiveness

- Proven problem-solving skills creative thinking to organize and facilitate water cooperation policy consultation platforms, conferences, and other related events on issues related to water cooperation initiatives and water resources development at regional and global levels;
- Familiarity with global water agenda, SDG context; and with Demand Responsive Approach;
- Proven ability to develop high level policy briefs, strategies, and outcome documents.

VI. Payments and reporting

- This is a lump-sum contract that should include costs of consultancy and travel costs required to produce the above deliverables.
- Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR that contributed to the overall project deliverables as stated above under "Expected Deliverables and Timelines".