



Programme funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



Federal Foreign Office



Implemented by:



National policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management

Improving water supply and the efficiency of water resources management

Concept

Uzbekistan is an arid country with scant precipitation, extremely low humidity and high evaporation rates. In those places however, where even small amounts of water emerge nature blossoms out. In Uzbekistan people idolize water and glorify it in innumerable legends and stories as the basis for life. Water is identified with life and life is identified with water.

The overall objective of this programme corresponds to the key strategic priorities agreed upon between the EU and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The action is in line with the wider framework of the EU bilateral Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014 – 2020 for Uzbekistan in which rural development is the focus sector for cooperation. The rural development sector programme aims at contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth in the rural sector in Uzbekistan in the context of a changing climate and contributes to the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

The EU co-funded water governance programme cooperates with three international partners: the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Italian 'Council for Agricultural Research and Economics' (CREA), and the Austrian Environment Agency (UBA-Umweltbundesamt). They provide

Programme title	Sustainable management of water resources in rural areas in Uzbekistan
Commissioned by	European Union German Federal Foreign Office
Main partner	Ministry of Water Resources
Pilot regions	Fergana, Namangan, Andijan, Kashkadarya, Syrdarya and Surkhandarya
Duration	January 2016 – December 2019

Summary

The EU funded programme runs from 2016 to 2019 and consists of three components. GIZ implements the first component – "National policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management". The Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Programme's main partner in improving the water supply and the efficiency of water resources management at 3 levels:

- (1) on national level the programme will strengthen the legal basis for efficient water management by elaborating policy packages and providing expert recommendations;
- (2) on basin level the programme will prepare river basin management plans that will help to allocate scarce water resources between different users and purposes;
- (3) on farm level the programme will build capacities of farmers to use water efficiently by applying modern technology and new agricultural methods, thus create economic incentive for water use efficiency by demonstrating cost-effective management practices.

THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The Republic of Uzbekistan implements a number of principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The EU Water Framework Directive represents successful implementation of IWRM principles in European river basin and facilitates the development of IWRM tools based on best practices.

MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIRECTIVE

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

Establish River Basin Management Plans for each river basin (big basins can be divided into several small units)

Identify/create institutional structure for water resources management at the level of river basins

International coordination is required for river basins crossing national borders

PROGRAM OF MEASURES

Gradual introduction of national and European water related legislation

If this set of measures is insufficient for achieving good water status, then programs need to be supplemented by additional measures (rather stricter control of pollution from industrial, agricultural and urban water flows)

MONITORING

Conduct monitoring of all waters for quality and quantity, especially of surface and ground waters: observations, researches, operational control, compliance control

Monitoring data must be publicly available

COMBINED APPROACH

Establish Target Indicators for Water Quality (TIWQ) and Maximum Allowed Discharge Values (MADV)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Ensure public access to drafts of River Basin Management Plans, monitoring results, authorization requirements, as well as to environmental reports, so that civil society and NGOs can actively take part in the discussion process

PRICE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPENSATION OF WATER RELATED COSTS

Apply cost compensation principle for water supply/water purification, including environment protection and resource related costs, based on cost-benefit analysis and the "Polluter pays" principle. Cost must be estimated in view of the water users: household, industry, or agriculture. Estimates should also include costs of construction, financing and support of such measures as purification of drinking water and its supply, collection, purification and discharge of wastewater and water used in irrigation

THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

2000 Directive entered into force

2003 River basin zones and management institutions identified

2006 Monitoring network created and public survey launched

2008 First drafts of River Basin Management Plans presented

2010 Price establishment policy introduced

2012 Program of Measures finalized

2015 Environmental goals achieved
End of First Management Cycle

2021 End of Second Management Cycle

2027 End of Third Management Cycle
Final achievement of outlined goals

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS CALENDAR



Kick-off meeting on May, 2016

in-house expertise on a broad variety of water sector related areas. The GIZ implemented first component cooperates closely with the UNDP led second component on technical capacity building for water practitioners at grass-roots level and the CAREC led third component on public awareness rising. The programme also closely coordinates with other donor activities in Uzbekistan's water sector.

Highlighted results

Water Governance: Legislation

On 7 September 2016, the Cabinet of Ministries officially confirmed the creation of the National Working Group (NWG), which brings together all Uzbek governmental organisations active in the water sector. The group is chaired by the Minister for Water Resources (MoWR) and includes representatives of 19 state agencies. NWG is acting as a multi-stakeholder platform that facilitates policy dialogue, discusses and advances water policy reforms in the water sector, and guarantees sustainability by strengthening its capacities to continue its work after the end of the programme.

To be able to improve the existing legislation the programme prepared an analysis of existing water legislation in Uzbekistan which led to the preparation of recommendations by a group of national and international experts. This served as basis for formulating preliminary proposals for introducing amendments and additions to the existing Law on Water and Water Use. In addition, three international experts provided



Vienna: NWG members learning implementation of EU WFD

recommendations and held a series of four seminars and consultations with 104 specialists from Guliston, Fergana, Karshi and Termez.

The inter-ministerial working group under NWG leadership drafted the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On approval of projects for the construction of new and reconstruction of existing enterprises related to the use of water resources and the discharge of drainage and waste water".

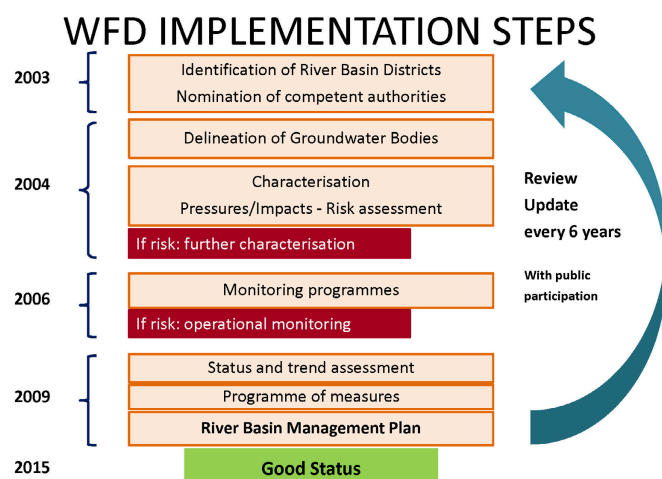
Since 2017, the programme works with the General Prosecutor's Office on the topic of sanctions in water law and provided best-practice examples through consultations with and lectures by international experts.

Data management & Water Cadastre

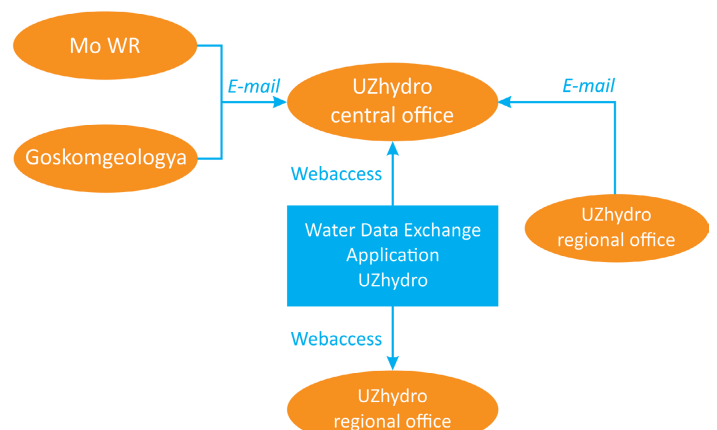
The work on the water and water infrastructure cadastre excelled by developing a prototype database, the procurement of necessary hardware (four servers, 47 ArcGIS computers with UPS, four plotters and four printer/scanner combinations) and software. Specialized training courses were held for over 70 specialists from pilot regions branches of the MoWR, Uzhydromet, the State Committees on Cadastre and Geology, and the State Inspectorate for the Safety of Water Infrastructure (Gosvodhoznadzor).

Basin planning & pilot sites

In close cooperation between the programme and MoWR, Basin Irrigation System Administrations (BISAs) and Hom-



The structure prototype databases for data exchange





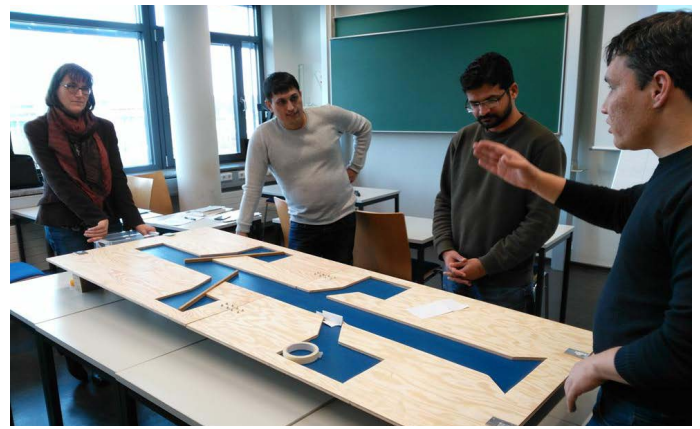
Signing MoU with APA in November, 2016.

kimyats continued working on basin planning activities and in cooperation with CAREC and UBA took place. 40 persons representing state agencies from the pilot regions and decision makers from Tashkent were trained as well as specialised ToT for 20 specialists in Andijan and Kashkadarya to learn how to create basin councils and to use basin planning tools was organized.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is a comprehensive planning instrument allowing to consider environmental issues. The programme works on integration of SEA elements into the river basin management process and therefore strengthen the basis for decision-making. UBA's experts developed a road map on how to integrate SEA elements into the basin planning activities in Uzbekistan and held a special workshop on best practices to integrate elements of SEA into the development of river basin management plans for 25 Uzbek specialists.

A Handbook on basin planning in Uzbekistan is ready and approved by MoWR. It is a unique publication that includes UBA's practical recommendations on integrating elements of SEA into the river basin planning process.

CREA and IWMI carried out a needs assessment of water and energy saving technologies for the selected demonstration sites in six pilot regions of Andijan, Namangan, Fergana, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya. Based on a needs assessment carried out for BISAs and in support of drainage water and melioration management the programme pro-



Germany: improving knowledge and teaching methodology

cured six trucks and six excavators for the BISAs of the pilot regions.

Capacity building

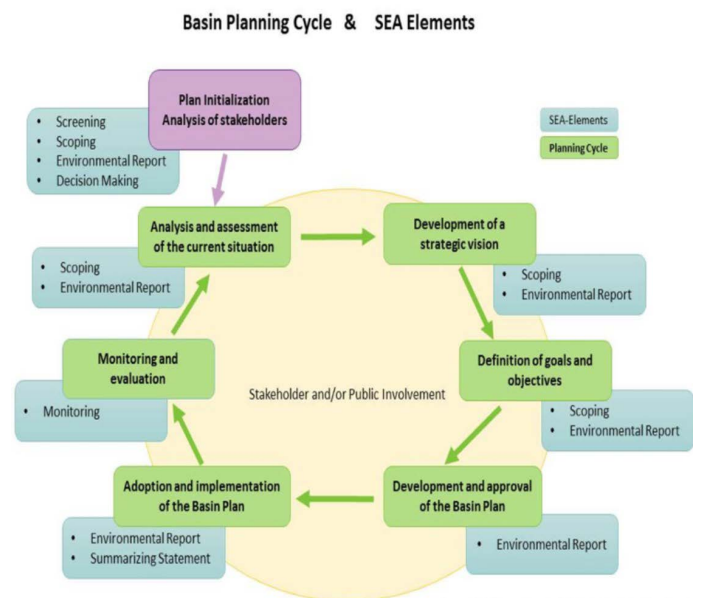
The MoU with the Public Administration Academy under the President of the Republic signed in 2016 built the basis for developing for the first time a curriculum and syllabi on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for a Master course at the Academy. Two designated teachers received ToT on improving knowledge and teaching methodology for water management modules in Germany.

The first voluntary course on IWRM was taught in March-April 2018.

The programme also works with the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (former Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration) on the development of special courses on basin planning based on an assessment done by national experts.

In cooperation with IWMI six regional seminars on water efficiency and efficient land practices for 180 farmers were carried out in Gulistan, Fergana, Namangan, Andijan, Termez and Karshi.

Activities on promoting best practice in water-saving technologies and improvement of water resources accounting in the Amudarya and Syrdarya river basins resulted in training





Vienna: database prototype discussions at UBA office



Spain: efficient use of water in agricultural irrigation

for more than 140 BISA and Irrigation System Administration (ISA) water practitioners.

Sharing is caring

In the frame of this programme international experience is shared by experts from Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Netherlands and France. The programme showed best practices in a variety of IWRM areas and in teaching.

On the implementation of EU water policies and Austrian best practice in the field of water management UBA organized a study tour to Vienna in October 2016 on EU best practice examples in the field of IWRM and the cross-sectoral approach on water as promoted by the EU Water Framework Directive.

Vienna is also the centre of Uzbek-International meetings for the water cadastre and GIS based water data management experts.

Sustainable hydropower development has gained momentum since the millennium shift and will also be an important source for reaching the UN SDG 7 aiming at affordable and clean energy for all. Three Uzbek specialists participated in the Hydropower Sustainability Forum in Oslo in September 2017. They gained knowledge on best practice and state of the art hydropower planning and practice within the context

of sound basin and water resources development.

In October 2017, an exchange visit brought 8 experts to Italy to receive information on water management practices, with specific reference to rural areas and irrigation. The tour was organised and accompanied by experts from CREA.

The **Eight World Water Forum** is the world's biggest water-related event and is organized by the World Water Council. Its mission is "to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels, to facilitate the efficient conservation, protection, development, planning, management and use of water in all its dimensions on an environmentally sustainable basis for the benefit of all life". With the programme's support 7 high-level Uzbek representatives took part in the **Brazil Forum** in March 2018. Topics of exchange and major interest for Uzbekistan were among others combating climate variability and water scarcity.

In May/June 2018 an expert group met with the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment and received information on water management in Spain based on the EU WFD (supply, drought and flood management). The group visited agricultural complexes, private enterprises and manufacturers of innovative irrigation equipment and studied in depth the efficient use of water in agricultural irrigation in Spain.

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