



Programme funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



Federal Foreign Office



DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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 – March 2020

Summary

The EU funded programme runs from 2016 to 2020 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



MONITORING

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

! 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 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



First Hydropower station in CA, inaugurated in Tashkent 1924



Working on the basin plan in Andijan, September 2018

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 and continuously up-dated it after the beginning of the water sector reform. The recommendations derived from the analysis served as basis for formulating preliminary proposals for introducing amendments and additions to the existing Law on Water and Water Use as well as to two Cab Min decision drafts (construction permission regulations concerning water, regulations on state water cadastre), which were



Training of water practitioners in Andijan, 2018

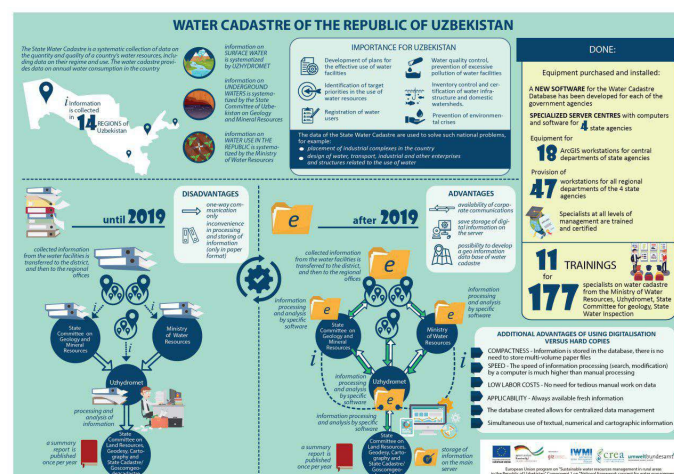
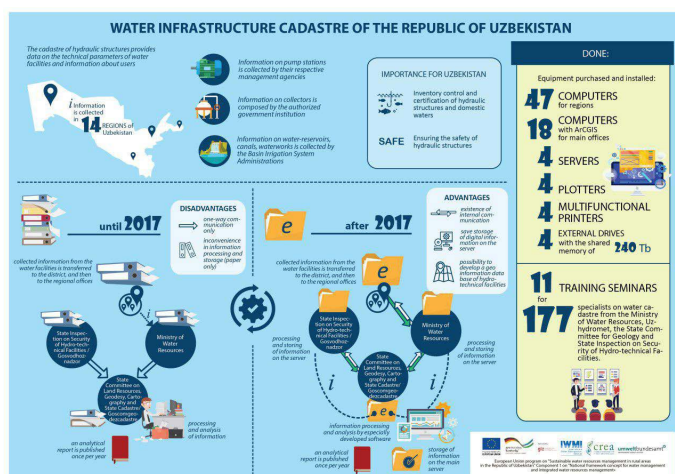
prepared by national specialist working groups.

In addition, three international experts provided recommendations and held a series of seminars and lectures for the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office and the Tashkent State University of Law. With the support of Austrian experts special attention was paid to legal aspects of risk-based groundwater management for specialists of the State Committee for Geology. Two study tours to the Netherlands, France and Spain gave valuable insights to the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Justice and Parliament Deputies on EU best practices in the field of water and agriculture related legislation and its implementation.

Data management & Water Cadastre

The State Water Cadastre (SWC) is a systematized, constantly updated and, if necessary, adjustable set of information about water bodies that includes information on a unified state water fund, water resources, regimes, quality and use of water, as well as water users. The main task of the SWC is to obtain and maintain reliable information on water resources and water bodies with minimal costs by constantly improving the technology of collecting, summarizing, storing and providing information. The cadastre of hydraulic structures provides data on the technical parameters of water facilities and users. The Cadastres in Uzbekistan will be the first fully digitalised water cadastres in Central Asia able to exchange data between all involved state institutions (Ministry of Water Resources, Uzhhydromet, State Committee for Geology, State Safety Inspection).

The programme provided all necessary hardware to these state institutions in the form of four servers, 65 computers





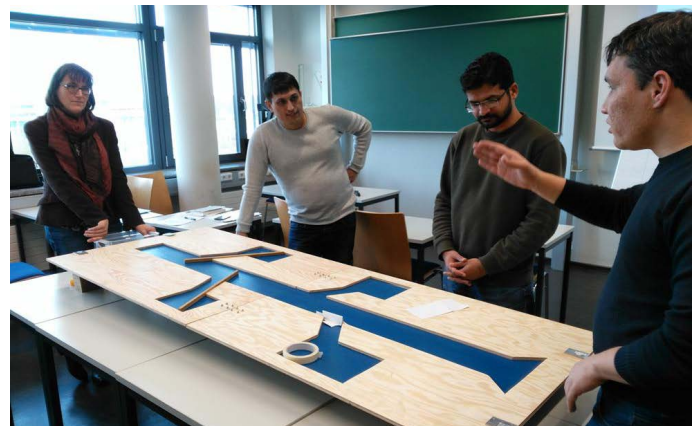
Briefing at the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, 2018

and ARCGIS workstations, 8 plotters and multi-functional units as well as all necessary software licenses. Eleven training seminars for more than 177 specialists were conducted and the prototype databases developed. The Cadastre is already working in test mode and will get fully functional in August 2019.

Basin planning & pilot sites

During the programme implementation, two river basin plans will be prepared: one for Shakhrihansay River (Andijan Region) and one for the Aksu River (Kashkadarya Region). Two working groups consisting of all stakeholders were formed in both regions and their members trained on how to do basin plans. In regular meetings and with the support of CAREC and IWMI information was gathered, processed and analysed. A basin management handbook for Uzbekistan was written, which provides the methodology for preparing the basin plans. IWMI prepared the analytical background reports on the two river basins as scientific basis for the plans.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is a comprehensive planning instrument allowing to consider environmental issues. With the support of UBA specialists the programme integrates SEA elements into the river basin management process. UBA experts trained national stakeholders and developed a road map (included in the basin planning handbook) on how to integrate SEA elements into the basin planning activities in Uzbekistan and participate in all work-



Germany: improving knowledge and teaching methodology

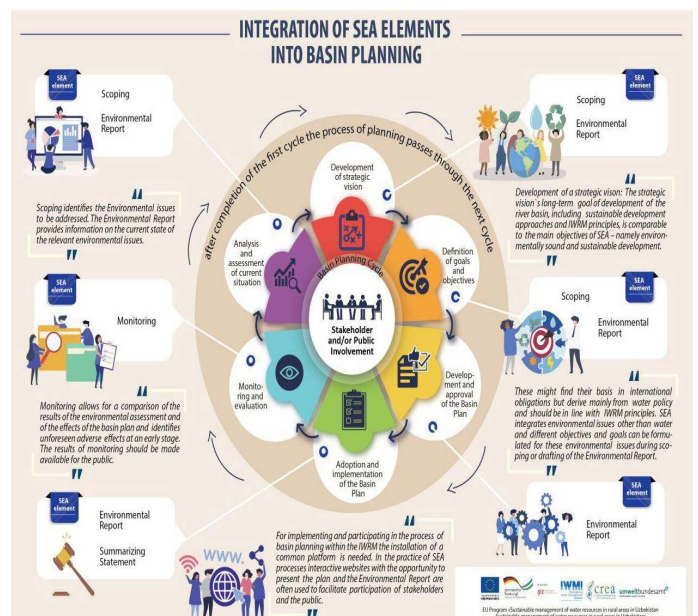
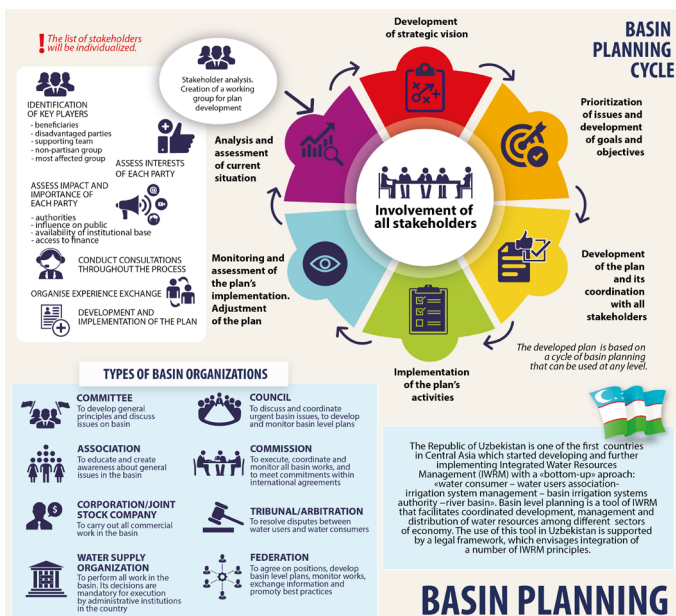
shops to integrate elements of SEA into the two river basin management plans.

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. The programme conducted a needs assessment with the BISAs and procured 18 trucks and six excavators for the BISAs of the pilot regions to support drainage water and melioration management. In 2018 and the beginning of 2019, orchards were planted at the pilot sites in the six regions and drip irrigation and other water saving equipment was installed to showcase modern techniques for farmers and water practitioners.

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 at the University for Applied Science in Koblenz/Germany. The first voluntary Master course on IWRM was taught in March/April 2018.

The programme developed with the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers and with international experts a Master studies curriculum on basin





Vienna: database prototype discussions at UBA office



TIIAME: teaching emergency repair of irrigation channels

planning including syllabi and a teaching handbook. To give students the possibility to learn also by practical means, the programme equipped two laboratories with modern technical equipment to simulate water flows and electrical wiring for pumping stations.

From 2016 to the end of 2018, the programme and its partner organisations conducted overall 28 training seminars and workshops for more than 1250 persons. Among those training events were training on IWRM, efficient use of water in agriculture, water foot print calculation, basin planning and training of trainers for teaching staff. These figures do not include the training of specialists for the water cadastre (see above).

Experience exchange

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

Study tours for different target groups are organised: water practitioners went to Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain to study dam safety issues and rational use of water in agricultural irrigation. Law makers and legal specialists went to France, Spain and the Netherlands to study water legislation and the application of sanctions in the water sector.

Specialised meetings on the organisation of the National Water Cadastre and Water Infrastructure Cadastre took place in Vienna where experts drafted the ToR for the database prototypes based on European experience with the Water Information System Europe.

Networking trips are organised on a regular basis to enable Uzbek specialists to participate in international events of importance such as the World Water Forum, meetings of ICOLD and Poland's biggest water conference and exhibition – Poland HYDRO.

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
GIZ Component 1 "National policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management"
Programme Director
Dr. Caroline Milow
Caroline.Milow@giz.de
Labzak 1 A, 4th floor, room 401
100128 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
T.+998 95 144 04 58
F.+998 71 241 48 47
www.giz.de; www.waterca.org

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107 B, Amir Temur Street, 100084 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
15th floor, International Business Centre
Delegation-Uzbekistan@eeas.europa.eu
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/usbekistan/index_en.htm

Division

404: Climate and Environmental Foreign Policy, Sustainable Economy

Federal Foreign Office
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin, Germany
404-3@diplo.de
www.diplo.de