
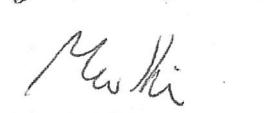
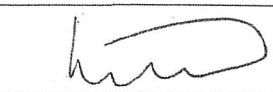


Management Response

Evaluation Title:	Strengthening Cooperation on Water Quality Management in Central Asia		
Period of Review:	Sep 2015 – December 2018		
Date of Evaluation Report:	27 December, 2018		
Approved by:	Chief, Programme Management Unit Ms. Catherine Haswell	Date 18.04.2019	Signature 
Cleared by:	Director of Division Marco Keiner, Director of Environment Division	18.4.2019	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Batyr Hajiyev, Economic Affairs Officer	18/04/2019	

Recommendation 1: It is recommended that the UNECE continues efforts in improving transboundary water quality cooperation in Central Asia, capacity building of relevant authorities, and supporting the RWG as one of the most successful platforms for regional cooperation.

Management Response: UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: A project document to further support Central Asia water quality cooperation is developed and funding opportunities are explored. Project Manager, 2019

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the UNECE ensures that the Mandate for the RWG is approved by all five Central Asia countries as soon as possible by the means of both working on the policy level and supporting local experts involved in coordination with authorities. The UNECE should put further efforts into the "incorporation" of the RWG into an officially existing and reputable interstate structure. The UNECE could also consider re-assessing the needs for establishing a separate database for water quality issues and, if the result is positive, identify a politically acceptable and technically feasible solution.

Management Response: UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: Should UNECE be successful in mobilizing resources for the future project a follow up discussion with the RWG will continue to ensure the Mandate is approved. Discussions will also be held with the RWG on allocating appropriate regional platform. Project Manager, July 2019.

Recommendation 3: For similar projects of the UNECE, the furniture and equipment class of expenditure ("Investments" budget component) can be regarded as not appropriate. It is recommended to the UNECE to ensure that the project starts without delay or, should it be impossible, that the Project term is extended proportionally.

Management Response: UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: Better situation analysis will be conducted at the project design stage to ensure the project starts without delay. The recommendation on furniture and equipment is also accepted Project Manager, 2019.

Recommendation 4: The UNECE is recommended to explore the possibility of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) support for meetings of the RWG in the future via its Blue Peace initiative. The UNECE could also approach other donors to request funding for more specific activities, including joint monitoring of water.

Management Response: UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: The SDC supported the meeting of the RWG in February 2019. Funding opportunities will be explored in 2019. Project Manager, 2019

Recommendation 5: The UNECE should continue working with the Governments of the five Central Asia countries on the problem of quality of water. Provided the donor funding is secured, the UNECE could design similar projects not to lose the momentum and to have a long-lasting impact.

Management Response: UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: Draft project document is developed, and funding is sought. The draft project among others include: improvement of transboundary monitoring systems and establishing a mechanism for data and information exchange, of Project Manager, 2019.

Recommendation 6: If the UNECE secures funding and decides to continue supporting the RWG and the "quality of water" theme in Central Asia in general, it could consider doing this in close cooperation with other development partners.

Management Response: UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: Discussions are ongoing with the SDC, EU (under the NPD process) and other UN organizations active in Central Asia to establish cooperation on water quality issues in Central Asia. Project Manager, 2019.

Recommendation 7: The practice of involvement of women in the project activities, especially participation in the capacity building, expert and Regional Work Group, should be continued. Giving a special notice on equal participation of women to respective ministries should be continued as a good practice for similar projects. It is recommended to explore opportunities to cooperate with the UCA or with UN Women on gender aspects in Tajikistan within similar kind of projects in the future.

Management Response: UNECE accepts this recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: UNECE has no control over nominations of participants in the project activities. However, in future projects UNECE will encourage governments to include more female participants in the project activities particular in Tajikistan, including those from UCA and UN Women, Project Manager will follow up in 2019 with potential donors.