



The Project is funded by the European Union, implemented by CAREC in cooperation with IUCN, supported by EC IFAS

The first Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee

13 March 2018, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan

The event was conducted under the project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project “Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in Central Asia” (the “NEXUS Project”), funded by the European Union.

Participants

The First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was attended by 20 participants (45% women), including:

- Nine representatives of key project partners from national governments involved in water, energy and food security management in Republic Kazakhstan, Republic Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. Most of them are heads of departments. Two representatives of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS in Turkmenistan and IFAS Executive Board of the Republic Kazakhstan);
- Two participants from the Delegations of the European Union to Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Uzbekistan;
- One international expert on river basin management and water diplomacy, Senior advisor to the European Commission;
- Eight Nexus project team members from the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Meeting’s objectives

The meeting main goal was to discuss opportunities provided by intersectoral approach to planning investment projects for ensuring water, energy and food security in Central Asia, and have this approach validated by the countries of Central Asia. The meeting objective was also to establish a Regional Working Group (RWG) to support further implementation of the Nexus Project (*Annexes 1 and 2*).

Achieved results

All main goals and objectives of the meeting were achieved as follows:

- The participants validated the proposed approach to implementation of the Nexus Project in Central Asia. In particular, its close cooperation with EC IFAS, merging processes of developing Nexus-based investment projects with development of ASBP-4 Programme, consideration of pending projects from ASBP-3 (of regional interest) for inclusion into the Nexus Project's pipeline;
- The participants expressed their readiness to contribute to building the working relationship between the Nexus Project and the ASBP-4 development teams in their respective countries;
- The Nexus Project Regional Working Group (RWG) was established, the Terms of Reference and working p for 2018 has been approved (*Annex 3*).

- Participants were informed about the global Nexus Programme, which is being implementing in five regions and covers more than 55 countries, the experience and lessons learned from other regions on application of the Nexus approach in basin investment planning;
- The opportunities offered by the European Union Investment Fund for Central Asia (IFCA), which currently has EUR 122 billion available for CA states, presented and discussed, have been discussed.

Received recommendations

- To develop Web-GIS based platform of proposed investment projects in Central Asia with main rivers, land and infrastructure related to water, energy and agriculture management layers for development of ASBP-4 investment projects;
- To use the tools which are currently being developed by the EU-funded Project "WECOOP2", such as the Investor Guide and the web-based Regional Knowledge Centre with an interactive platform for communication with banks by Nexus partners and other stakeholders;
- WEF Nexus based investment projects for Central Asia can include: 1) creation of Central Asia water-energy management holding, 2) consulting company to support development of project proposals, 3) water quality of Kyzylorda river, 4) green belt of the Aral Sea;
- The capacity building program can include: development of a training module or even the course (10-15 hours) on WEF Nexus approach for strategic planning. Existing national centers for advanced training of civil servants, which exist in all CA countries, can be engaged as partners;
- Study-tour to the basin, in which Nexus approach has been successfully applied for basin planning, can be quite useful for project partners. Senegal or Columbia basin management can be considered as the best practice for studying;
- Because of very intensive work plan for 2018, study tour needs to be postponed to 2019;
- To invite representatives of international financial institutions (development banks, funds) to the meetings of Nexus working groups (upon request from members);
- Institutional gap analysis, including the stakeholder analysis, and capacity needs assessment should be focused on regional processes (e.g. IFAS activities, implementation of previous ASBPs, ASBP-4 planning);
- To formalize the membership of RWG through organization of official nomination process;
- To invite representatives of the Water Basin Organizations "Syrdarya" and "Amudarya" to the RWG meetings;
- To revise the Project Communications Strategy to focus it on regional processes (e.g. IFAS activities and ASBP-4 planning).
- The next meeting of the RWG is planned to be held on 7 June 2018 back-to-back to the Central Asian International Environmental Forum (CAIEF) on June 5-7 in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Annex 1: Meeting agenda



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First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee 13 March 2018, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan Meeting agenda

Meeting objectives:

1. Inform about Global Nexus Programme and Nexus project in Central Asia, nexus approach and possibilities to use it in the region;
2. Present best international practices, lessons and recommendations for more effective use of nexus approach in Central Asia;
3. Discuss the concept and tasks of the regional working group (RWG);
4. Start capacity needs assessments for improved nexus dialogue in Central Asia.

09:00 - 09:30	Registration/ coffee	
09:30 – 09:45	Opening	(Moderator: Shakhnoza Umarova)
	- Sharifzhan Kuchkarov, Head of Water Use, Management and Development Department, Ministry of Water Resources in Uzbekistan	5'
	- Snejana Popova, Project Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan	5'
	- Shakhnoza Umarova, Director of CAREC country office in Uzbekistan	5'
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction of participants	
10.00 – 10.15	Presentation of Central Asian International Environmental Forum (CAIEF)	
	- Nodir Yunusov, Head of International Relations Department, State Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan - Presentation of CAIEF	15'
10:15 – 12:00	Global issues of NEXUS	(Moderator: Lyudmila Kiktenko)
	- Oliver Cogels, International River Basin Management and Water Diplomacy Expert and Senior Advisor to the European Commission – Global Nexus Programme. Recommended approach.	30'
	- Boris Erg, Director of the IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia – Lessons learnt from best NEXUS practices.	15'
	- Saltanat Zhakenova, CAREC, Chief Specialist of Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project – Preconditions and opportunities for Nexus approach in Central Asia.	10'
	- Snejana Popova, Project Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan – EU Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA)	15'
	Discussion	
12:00 – 12:30	Coffee-break	
12:30 – 13:45	Opportunities of implementation of NEXUS approach in the region	(Moderator: Saltanat Zhakenova)
	Ongoing practices of intersectoral planning of national and sectoral investment programmes in Central Asian countries	
	- Kazakhstan , Bolat Bekniyaz, Director of Executive Boar of IFAS in Kazakhstan	10'

	<p>Zeinulla Kaztoganov, Head of the Department of State Control and Protection of Water Resources, Aral-Syrdarya basin inspection</p> <p>- Tajikistan, Zukhro Mukhtarova, Head of the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>- Turkmenistan, Igor Naumov, Chief specialist of EC IFAS, Coordinator of Nexus Project in Turkmenistan</p> <p>- Uzbekistan, Zokir Ischpulatov, Deputy Head of Water Resources Use, Management and Development Department, Ministry of Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>15'</p> <p>15'</p> <p>15'</p> <p>10'</p>
13:45– 14:45	Lunch	
14:45 – 17:15	NEXUS project in Central Asia (Moderator: Snejana Popova)	
	<p>- Lyudmila Kiktenko, CAREC, Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project Manager – NEXUS project: goals and activities, cooperation and deliverables</p> <p>- Saltanat Zhakenova, CAREC, Chief Specialist of Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project – Methodology for selection of multisectoral investment projects</p> <p>- Lyudmila Kiktenko, CAREC, Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project Manager – Tasks of Regional Working Group and work plan for 2018</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>20'</p> <p>20'</p> <p>15'</p> <p>35'</p>
17:15– 17:45	Coffee-break	
17:45– 18:15	Capacity needs assessment building for NEXUS approach application in CA (Moderator: Lyudmila Kiktenko)	
	<p>- Kristin Meyer, Nexus Central Asia Coordinator; Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, IUCN – Methodologies for institutional gap analysis and capacity needs assessment</p> <p>Brainstorming on capacity building needs</p>	<p>15'</p> <p>15'</p>
18:15– 18:30	Summary and wrap up	
	<p>- Summary and feedback from Nexus team (EU, CAREC, IUCN)</p> <p>- Final comments from participants</p> <p>- Closing remarks from hosting partner</p>	15'
18:30-20:30	Reception	

Annex 2: List of participants



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List of participants

№	Name	Position	Contact details
KAZAKHSTAN			
1.	Bolat Bekniyaz	IFAS Executive Board in Kazakhstan, Director	bbolat@mail.ru
2.	Zeinulla Kaztoganov	Aral-Syrdarya Basin Inspection, Department of State Control and Protection of Water Resources, Head of Department	Zake.72@mail.ru
TAJIKISTAN			
3.	Barotov Rustam	Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Tajikistan, Department of Pumping Stations and Electrical Substations, Head of department	rbaratov@bk.ru
4.	Zukhro Mukhtarova	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Republic of Tajikistan, Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Head of Department	Zuhro.64@mail.ru
TURKMENISTAN			
5.	Igor Naumov	Executive Committee of Interstate Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Chief specialist, Coordinator of Nexus Project in Turkmenistan	igornaumov1955@mail.ru
6.	Tirkesh Annaguliyev	Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, Department of Finance Analysis of Agro-Industrial Complex, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Chief Specialist	
UZBEKISTAN			

7.	Nodir Yunusov	State Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, International Relations Department, Head of Department	forum@uznature.uz
8.	Sharifzhan Kuchkarov	Ministry of Water Resources in Uzbekistan, Department of Water Use and Water Saving Technologies, Head of Department	z.ishpulatov@mail.ru
9.	Ischpulatov Zokir	Ministry of Water Resources in Uzbekistan, Department of Water Use and Water Saving Technologies	z.ishpulatov@mail.ru
EUROPEAN UNION			
10.	Snejana Popova	EC Delegation to Kazakhstan, Project Officer	Snejana.POPOVA@eeas.europa.eu
11.	Doniyor Kuchkarov	EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, Project Manager	Doniyor.kuchkarov@ec.europa.eu
12.	Oliver Cogels	International River Basin Management and Water Diplomacy Expert, Senior Advisor to the European Commission	oliviercogels@hotmail.com
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE			
13.	Boris ERG	IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Director	Boris.Erg@iucn.org
14.	Kristin Meyer	IUCN ECARO, Nexus Central Asia Coordinator	Kristin.Meyer@iucn.org
THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA			
15.	Ludmila Kiktenko	CAREC Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project Manager	lkiktenko@carececo.org
16.	Saltanat Zhakenova	CAREC Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project Chief Specialist	szhakenova@carececo.org
17.	Balzhan Zhumagazina	CAREC Environmental Management Programme and Nexus Project Info and PR Specialist	bzhumagazina@carececo.org
18.	Shakhnoza Umarova	CAREC Country Office in Uzbekistan, Country Director, Nexus Project in Uzbekistan, Coordinator	shumarova@carececo.org
19.	Liliana Dashkova	CAREC, Expert of Country office in Uzbekistan	ldashkova.uzaware@gmail.com
20.	Anastasia Tsoy	CAREC, Accountant of Country office in Uzbekistan	atsoy@carececo.org
INTERPRETERS			

21.	Simultaneous interpreter	Alisher Khoshimov	
22.	Simultaneous interpreter	Askar Abzalovich	

CA Regional Working Group

RWG consists of representatives appointed by national government agencies involved in ensuring water, energy and food security in the Central Asian countries, as well as by the Executive Committee (EC) and national branches of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

The main objective of the RWG is to contribute to the effective implementation of the Nexus project, which started in December 2016 and will continue until December 2019.

Main goals of RWG

- 1.1. To identify investment projects of transnational or regional significance that will contribute to WEF Nexus security, from the list of investment projects proposed to ASBP-4;
- 1.2. To support the development of WEF Nexus based investment projects of transboundary and regional interest;
- 1.3. To bring investment projects to the attention of investors and donors;
- 1.4. To participate in regional project events: seminars, study tours, conferences.

1. Rights and obligations of RWG members

2.1. Rights

- 2.1.1. To be informed about the global Nexus initiative and opportunities it creates for CA region; about ongoing and planned activities, achieved progress in Central Asia; opportunities to fund implementation of investment projects developed within the Nexus Project;
- 2.1.2. To initiate requests for expert support and training seminars.

2.2. Obligations

- 2.2.1. To provide all possible support to project implementation, including promotion of intersectoral approach to achieve WEF security;
- 2.2.2. To take an active part in the work of the RWG.

2. RWG meetings

- 2.3. It is planned to hold two meetings of RWG per year;
- 2.4. RWG meetings will be conducted back-to-back with other relevant events of CAREC, EC IFAS or other partners to save time of RWG's members and resources of the Project.

