

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

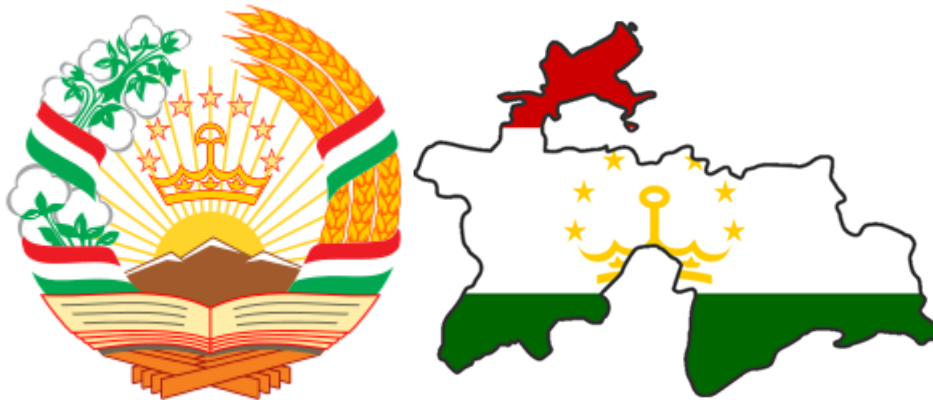
Stage 1

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

TAJIKISTAN

10 December 2020



Prepared by:

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Head of CWP Tajikistan

Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

TAJKISTAN 2020

Executive Summary

Overview of the consultation process

In Tajikistan, the Committee for Environmental Protection Committee (under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan) is an authorized agency for reporting on SDG 6.5.1. Upon receiving of formal request from UNEP-DHI and GWPO

The consultation process 2020 in Tajikistan was started only in November (due to COVID-19 pandemic). The monitoring of the progress towards SDG 6.5.1 (degree of integrated water resources management implementation) was based on a Survey Instrument, which was provided by the UN Environment Help Desk. Mr. Shukurov was appointed as National Focal Point for this particular goal. He was given a task to start discussions with leading specialists of relevant authorities to make a baseline survey and draft a responses on questionnaire. It was agreed that this work would be performed in close collaboration with CWP Tajikistan who provided expert and logistical support to National authorities to perform the baseline survey. So, this work was performed in four steps:

- 1 - Study of Methodology offered (including participation in Training for moderators of SDG 6.5.1); identification of National organizations to be involved in baseline survey, interview with key specialists of institutions identified/enrolled.
- 2 - Development of draft/discussion paper on SDG 6.5.1.(baseline survey)
- 3 - Draft paper was submitted to all institutions enrolled for comments. Analysis and execution by the Facilitator of all opinions, comments and suggestions received.
- 4 - Two day discussion¹ in a format of inter-institutional & inter-sectorial round tables was arranged to finalize the assessment. The Country Survey Instrument for SDG Indicator 6.5.1 developed by the Facilitator was submitted to the authorized body for finalization and approval.

Following institutions were involved in implementation of IWRM baseline survey in Tajikistan:

National/Governmental institutions

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Republic;
- Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan Republic;
- Ministry of Economy and Trade of Tajikistan Republic;
- Ministry of energy and water resources of Tajikistan Republic;
- Ministry of education and science of Tajikistan Republic;
- Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan Republic;
- Melioration and Irrigation Agency under the Government of Tajikistan Republic;
- Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Main Directorate of Geology under the Government of Tajikistan Republic;
- State Unitary Enterprise "KMK" (Communal services/ drinking water supply);
- Hydromet - Agency;
- Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences;
- State Institution "Scientific Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation"
- Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower Engineering and Ecology under the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan;
- Institute of Agriculture under the Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences;

¹ In 20th and 27th of November, 2020

- Irrigation and drainage faculty of the Tajik Agrarian University named after Sh, Shotimur
- Institute of Soil Science under the Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences;
- Institute of Economics and Demography, National Academy of Science and Technology.

Non-governmental organizations (CSOs and business)

Two representatives of civil society organizations took part in the meetings of the national interagency expert group with the right of an advisory vote:

- NGO "Water Partnership of Tajikistan";
- LLC "Dusti";
- PA "Research and Production Center for Clustering the Agricultural Sector"
- NGO "Cooperation for Development"

Thus, in total - 26 people, as representatives of the authorized government bodies, civil society organizations and the media, including 6 women, directly participated in the consultation process. Legal entities enrolled for baseline survey are specified by format as:

- 13 representatives of government/state bodies authorized for water resources,
- 7 specialists of research and educational institutions (research institutes and universities)
- 4 representatives of civil society organizations and the media,

Round table agenda is presented in Annex 2

During the first meeting (20th of November, 2020) members of the national interagency expert group were introduced with methodology and general approach for baseline survey as per items listed below:

- Overall approach on National reporting process for SDG indicator 6.5.1.
- Goals, objectives and structure of Country Survey Instrument for SDG Indicator 6.5.1.
- Regulations for holding meetings.
- Regulations on how group members and invited representatives interact with each other and the Facilitator between sessions.

The discussion of the Country Survey Instrument for SDG Indicator 6.5.1 itself was performed in the following format:

- The facilitator read the next paragraph of the Tool and any comments thereon.
- The facilitator provided the detailed info on the purpose and objectives of the item included in the Tool.
- The facilitator provided examples of best practices and international experience.
- The facilitator described the most common mistakes that arise when assessing progress for each item included in the Tool.
- The facilitator read out his pre-prepared comments on each item included in the Tool and a preliminary assessment of progress.
- Members of the group and invited representatives of NGOs and the media discussed the text of the commentary proposed by the Facilitator, made their proposals, additions and comments to it.
- Team members either agreed on the final text of the commentary and assessment of progress, or postponed its finalization to later clarify the facts in their offices and come up with acceptable wording and adequate assessments of progress.

After the above cycle of familiarization-discussion-formulation of one item included in the Instrument, the national interagency expert group repeated this cycle for the next item of the Instrument.

During the first meeting (20th of November, 2020) members of the national interagency expert group repeated the rules of work of the national interagency expert group described above, in a view of finalizing the scoring for baseline survey.

Also, the expert consultations were continued during the periods between the formal meetings, via telephone or email exchange. Some of the results of such intra-departmental and inter-departmental "home

works” were received by the Facilitator in MS WORD format. All received materials were used by the Facilitator for drafting the document for final meeting.

Thanks to the intensive work of key members of the national interagency expert group, consultations on all points of the Instrument were successfully completed and the developed document was submitted to the Committee for the Environmental Protection for final review/adoption and formal submission to UNEP-DHI and GWPO.

Main findings or areas of consensus.

During the meetings of the national interagency expert group, the participants repeatedly expressed their bewilderment with the wording of the questions and the proposed Country Survey Instrument for SDG Indicator 6.5.1 criteria for assessing progress. The reason for this is both insufficient knowledge and understanding of the IWRM theory by the participants, and a significant difference in the terminology adopted in Tajikistan with the professional language used in the Research Tool. Another reason for the difficulty of participants in understanding the issues of the Research Tool is that it was developed as a universal document:

- for federal and unitary states;
- for small countries with 1-2 river basins and countries with a huge territory, including hundreds of river basins;
- for tropical, arid and humid climates;
- for countries with predominantly private and countries with predominantly state ownership of land;
- for developed countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Also, the participants of the national interagency expert group experienced difficulties in determining the sufficient and necessary level of detail in the comments. Therefore, some comments may seem too long, while other comments seem too short. Nevertheless, the comments provided by the participants can be considered sufficient to understand the status of progress on a particular criterion.

Participants of the national interagency expert group came to the general conclusion that great progress has been made in Tajikistan with regard to policies, plans and financing to support Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the national level. The government's institutional structure for water resources management at all levels is also well developed. The participants recognized the status of management instruments to support IWRM implementation as satisfactory.

The rest of the IWRM components were identified by the participants as priority areas of efforts to improve the status of IWRM implementation. The participants agreed that the implementation of IWRM is an ongoing process and the management system for all natural resources will always have room for further improvement. Therefore, the established national goals 2030 on IWMR, although they are ambitious, are quite achievable, in case of duly interest & support will be continuously provided by the Government and society. Given the impacts of climate change that are already being felt, such attention will be guaranteed.

Participants assessed the general status of IWRM implementation as “Medium-high” (46 points), including in the following sections:

- Enabling environment - Medium-high (49 points).
- Institutions and participation - Medium-low (43 points).
- Management instruments - Medium-high (48 points).
- Financing - High (42 points).

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- Average score = 46 points

Taking into account the efforts made by Tajikistan by 2030, one can expect an increase in status by one notch for all criteria except “Participation”. Progress on “involving all participants in IWRM” depends on changes in social & economy pattern that usually takes 40-50 years. The measures offered by expert group are in a capacity to report on formal involvement of civil society by 2030, but self-induced engagement of civil society may take much longer period.

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

In recent years, Tajikistan has seen relative progress and improvement in the IWRM – enabling environment component:

- In accordance with the Decree of the President of RT of November 19, 2013, No.12, political and management functions in the water sector were separated from the production and economic functions. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of RT was transformed and was entrusted with the responsibility of political and management (regulation) functions in the water sector, while the Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation under the PRT was established with the authority to carry out land reclamation and irrigation responsibilities.
- By a decree of the Government of Tajikistan on December 30, 2015, No.79 adopted the "Water Sector Reform Program for the period 2016 - 2025." The implementation of the IWR principles has been adopted as a basis;
- The new Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan has been adopted";
- The Law on Reclamation and Irrigation of RT has been developed;
- All legislative and institutional reforms are based on the principles of IWR.

However, it is noted about the following:

- ❖ The feasibility of the conditions and requirements contained in the national legislation, due to undeveloped by-laws, implementation mechanisms and certain conditions is very low.
- ❖ The main obstacles on the way of progress, are also low capacity, weak mobilization and lack of an appropriate information system.
- ❖ Although the process of reforming Tajikistan's water sector is booming on the basis of the introduction of the hydrographic approach and other principles of IWRM, there are a lot of technical and financial problems
- ❖ An improvement in the national water strategy, including its financial and economic aspects, is needed; Institutional reform of the water sector from bottom to bottom and top to bottom, etc. needs to be continued.
- ❖ Due to objective and subjective reasons, the rate of progress is estimated at a "slow pace", but the probability of achieving a high or very high level of implementation by 2030 is average.
- ❖ Capacity needs to be built up in order to have a clear understanding of IWRM, especially those making these decisions in Tajikistan.
- ❖ There were no particular disagreements on many issues.
- ❖ It was interesting to discuss the development of mechanisms to work with the coordination of a single government body responsible for water resources in the country; inventory and regulatory framework; improvement of public water, institutional and personnel policies.
- ❖ At the interstate level, participants believe that the perspective requires further improvement of regional water policy and the creation of a sustainable and highly effective mechanism for regional water-energy cooperation.

1. Enabling Environment	Assessed degree of implementation 2020
1.1.a. National water resources policy, or similar	60
1.1.b. National water resources law(s)	50
1.1.c. National integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans, or similar	50
1.2.a. Sub-national water resources policies or similar	40

1.2.b. Basin/aquifer management plans or similar, based on IWRM	50
1.2.c. Arrangements for transboundary water management	60
1.2.d. Sub-national water resources regulations	30
Total	49

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

- The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources has been appointed as the coordinator of the reform program. The reform program is based on guidelines for the implementation of IWRM and includes an implementation/investment plan for the period 2016-2025, but between agencies authorized by government agencies, public services, businesses, work coordination and industry relations require improvement and;
- Due to existing gaps in water legislation, duplication and authority in industry structures dealing with water issues, the lack and sufficient funding to coordinate and manage the process of implementing integrated water management principles is very difficult;
- New mechanisms of industry, inter-industry and interstate interactions should be developed on the basis of an inventory of regulations, NEXUS (the relationship of water, energy, food and ecology) of the evaluation and principles of IWRM;
- A particular discussion was about the public's involvement in decision-making, role and gender and the private sector in the water industry.
- The skills and level of knowledge of water sector workers on Integrated Water Management and SDGs are generally relatively low, so it is necessary to build the capacity of professionals, managers and the public;
- Although there is a backlog, a groundwater management plan based on the principles of Integrated Water Management has not yet been developed;
- The organizational structure of regional organizations and the regulatory framework for regional cooperation under the auspices of IFSA need to be improved.

2. Institutions and Participation	Assessed degree of implementation 2020
2.1.a. National government authorities for leading IWRM implementation	60
2.1.b. Coordination between national government authorities representing different sectors on water resources, policy, planning and management	50
2.1.c. Public participation in water resources, policy, planning and management at national level	40
2.1.d. Private sector participation in water resources development, management and use	40
2.1.e. Developing IWRM capacity	50
2.2.a. Basin/aquifer level organizations for leading implementation of IWRM	50
2.2.b. Public participation in water resources, policy, planning and management at the local level	30
2.2.c. Participation of vulnerable groups in water resources planning and management	10
2.2.d. Gender included in laws/plans or similar within water resources management	30
2.2.e. Organizational framework for transboundary water management	60
2.2.f. Sub-national authorities for leading IWRM implementation	50
Total:	43

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

- On the "Management Tools" component in the context of IWRM, authorized public bodies (the Environmental Protection Committee at the RT, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Agency for Reclamation and Irrigation in PRT, etc.) pay constant attention to the monitoring of water resources and their use, water conservation, improving the technical level of management and operation and other instruments, and this component is moderately high;
- The Committee for the Environment at THE PRT pays due attention to controlling water pollution and protecting ecosystems;
- Due to the lack of technical equipment and water use of water metering devices, the problem of monitoring, reliable accounting, assessment of water resources and their use by sectors of the economy, river basin and administrative area is essentially a problem of monitoring, reliable accounting, assessment of water resources and their use by sectors of the economy, river basin and administrative area;
- From the point of view of water management, there is insufficient pace of water conservation and no tools to increase water productivity.
- All of the above problems are particularly acute at the grass-roots level - at the level of AVP and water users.

3. Management instruments	Assessed degree of implementation 2020
3.1.a. National monitoring of water availability	50
3.1.b. Sustainable and efficient water use management from the national level	60
3.1.c. Pollution control from the national level	40
3.1.d. Management of water-related ecosystems from the national level	40
3.1.e. Management instruments to reduce impacts of water-related disasters from the national level	50
3.2.a. Basin management instruments	50
3.2.b. Aquifer management instruments	50
3.2.c. Data and information sharing within countries at all levels	40
3.2.d. Transboundary data and information sharing between countries	50
Total:	48

4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

- The "Funding" component is considered to be the basis for the implementation of programmatic objectives and the development of The Water Sector of Tajikistan. At present, there is still no proper mechanism to support IWRR components;
- Every year, the national budget allocates financial resources for the development of water infrastructure, but they do not fully cover the planned activities;
- Insufficient budgetary resources for the water sector, which is not intended to be a separate article for the introduction of IWRM;
- The water sector, especially the "reclamation and irrigation" sector of "drinking water" and "ecosystem support" needs government support, investment, grants, raising funds from international organizations and financial institutions.
- Mechanisms for the support and development of public-private partnerships should be put in place to introduce integrated water management and create a favourable climate for investment in IWRM;

- A heated discussion took place on the proposal that the Water Fund should be established to accumulate and manage financial resources in the field of IWR.
- The probability of achieving a high or very high level of implementation by 2030 is average.

4. Management instruments	Assessed degree of implementation 2020
4.1.a. National budget for water resources infrastructure	50
4.1.b. National budget for IWRM elements	50
4.2.a. Sub-national or basin budgets for water resources infrastructure	30
4.2.b. Revenues raised for IWRM elements	40
4.2.c. Financing for transboundary cooperation	40
4.2.d. Sub-national or basin budgets for IWRM elements	40
Total:	42

Next steps

Members of the national interagency expert group reached a consensus on:

- Significant progress in developing the legal framework for IWRM.
- Continuing consideration of the issues of technological development of the water sector in the development and implementation of national strategies and programs.
- Availability of a well-developed state system of water sector management.
- The need to further improve training in IWRM in all sectors.
- The need to develop and implement mechanisms for public sector partnerships with private business and civil society organizations.
- The need to further improve cooperation mechanisms for transboundary watercourses and international lakes.
- The need to strengthen water conservation measures in agriculture.

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM	Assessed degree of implementation 2020	Expected degree of implementation 2030
1. Enabling environment	49	≥80
2. Institutions and participation	43	≥60
3. Management instruments	48	≥80
4. Financing	42	≈90
Total:	46	≈80

To achieve the set national goals for the implementation of IWRM by 2030, it is recommended to develop and adopt a “National strategy for the implementation of IWRM”.

To develop the concept “National strategy for the implementation of IWRM” and monitor SDG 6.5.1 indicator in the country, it is recommended to form a national expert group that will conduct an annual assessment of progress.

Annex 1:

List of institutions enrolled for SDG 6.5.1. baseline survey as Stakeholders in the Republic of Tajikistan

National/Governmental institutions

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Republic;
2. Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan Republic;
3. Ministry of Economy and Trade of Tajikistan Republic;
4. Ministry of energy and water resources of Tajikistan Republic;
5. Ministry of education and science of Tajikistan Republic;
6. Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan Republic;
7. Melioration and Irrigation Agency under the Government of Tajikistan Republic;
8. Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
9. Main Directorate of Geology under the Government of Tajikistan Republic;
10. State Unitary Enterprise "KMK" (Communal services/ drinking water supply);
11. Hydromet - Agency;
12. Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences;
13. State Institution "Scientific Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation"
14. Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower Engineering and Ecology under the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan;
15. Institute of Agriculture under the Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences;
16. Irrigation and drainage faculty of the Tajik Agrarian University named after Sh, Shotimur
17. Institute of Soil Science under the Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences;
18. Institute of Economics and Demography, National Academy of Science and Technology.

Non-governmental organizations (CSOs and business)

Two representatives of civil society organizations took part in the meetings of the national interagency expert group with the right of an advisory vote:

19. NGO "Water Partnership of Tajikistan";
20. LLC "Dusti";
21. PA "Research and Production Center for Clustering the Agricultural Sector"
22. NGO "Cooperation for Development"

Annex 2: Agenda

Stakeholders Roundtable Agenda Progress Assessment of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6.5.1 "Implementation of IWRM" in the Republic of Tajikistan

Date of event: November, 20, 27 2020

Venue: Conference hall of the Committee for Environmental Protection Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe

9:00-9:30	Registration of participants
9:30-9:40	Greetings from The Committee for Environmental Protection Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
9:40 – 10:00	Introduction to the goals and objectives of the data collection and reporting process for SDG indicator 6.5.1
Session 1. Enabling Environment for IWRM	
10:00 -10:30	Presentation of the draft questionnaire developed on the basis of primary interviews on the indicator 6.5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with key specialists of institutions enrolled in baseline survey. <i>Methodical consultant/Round table Facilitator: Professor Yarash Pulatov, - Institute on water problems, hydropower engineering and Ecology under the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, Head of CWP Tajikistan</i>
10:30-11:30	Stakeholder Discussion: "State of the policy, legislation and plans for IWRM at the national and other levels in Tajikistan".
11:30-11:50	Coffee-break
Session 2. Institutions and Participation	
11:50-13:00	Discussion by stakeholders: "State of institutions for IWRM implementation. Key players in Tajikistan".
13:00-14:00	Lunch
Session 3. Management tools	
14:00-15:30	Discussion by stakeholders: "Status of mechanisms for the introduction of IWRM at the national and other levels in Tajikistan."
15:30-15:50	Перерыв на чай и кофе
Session 4. Finance	
15:50-16:50	Discussion by stakeholders: "Status of funding for the development and implementation of IWRM at the national and other levels in Tajikistan."
16:50-17:30	Next Steps for IWRM and Monitoring Goal 6.5.1 <i>Methodical consultant/Round table Facilitator: Professor Yarash Pulatov, - Institute on water problems, hydropower engineering and Ecology under the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, Head of CWP Tajikistan</i>

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Both round tables organized in 20th and 27th of November, 2020 were very fruitful and constructive. All the participants representing various organizations were competent on the issues discussed and provided a valuable input in the discussion of the questionnaire on assessing the degree of IWRM implementation in Tajikistan.

All discussion papers related to the baseline survey were translated into Tajik to ensure the comfort for development of comments by participants. To moderate the workshop, the draft survey was presented in PPT format, where each slide showed each survey question and its corresponding score with explanations. In this regard, it was easier for the participants of the meeting to understand and process the information to make comments on IWRM status of implementation.

It should be noted that for the analysis and assessment of SDG indicators 6.5.1. according to the degree of implementation of IWRM principles in Tajikistan, it is necessary to create a permanent intersectoral working group. The results of the survey, the assessment, the recommendations and proposals of the round table participants contribute to adjusting the plans and making the right decisions for the further development of the water sector and accelerating the implementation of IWRM principles in Tajikistan

Annex 4: Photo



Round table (20th of November 2020)



Round table (27 November 2020)