

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

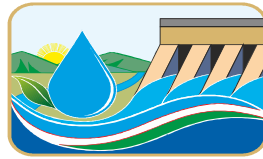
Stage 1

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

Republic of UZBEKISTAN

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Background Information

Uzbekistan endorsed the Post-2015 Development Goals during the UN General Assembly held in New York on September 25, 2015 by signing a Resolution "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" - the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

On 20.10.2018 there was released a special **Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (RCM) No. 841 "On measures to implement the National goals and targets in the field of sustainable development for the period up to 2030"**.

This Resolution approved 16 national goals in the field of sustainable development for the period up to 2030 (including SDGs on water management and environmental protection).

In accordance with RCM # 841 there was established the Coordinating Council (inter-sectoral) for the implementation of the National Goals and Objectives in the field of sustainable development for the period up to 2030. By minutes of the meeting of this Coordinating Council No. 02-02 / 1-1841 dated December 27, 2018 **Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan is responsible for the following Goals/Targets:**

Goal 6. Conservation and rational use of water resources for sustainable development, ensuring their availability and developing sanitation for all

Target 6.4. By 2030, substantially increase the efficiency of water use in all sectors of the economy:

- Indicator 6.4.1. Water consumption for the production of a unit of GDP, cubic meters. / Thousand \$ GDP (at PPP).
- Indicator 6.4.2. Level of pressure on water resources: freshwater withdrawal as a percentage of available fresh water supplies.

Target 6.5. By 2030, ensure integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation where necessary:

- Indicator 6.5.1. Area covered by the integrated water resources management system (IWRM) (hectares).

Target 6.6. By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes:

- Indicator 6.6.1. Change in the area of water bodies (together with State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection)

Target 6.b. Support and strengthen the participation of citizens' self-government bodies in improving water management and sanitation:

- Indicator 6.b.1. Percentage of local administrative units that have a legal and institutional framework for citizen participation in water and sanitation management (together with Ministry of Housing and Communal Services)

However, the international agencies (UNEP and GWP), which are responsible for systematizing the global status of SDG 6.5.1 indicator (by countries of the world), have a concern about Uzbekistan's approach to assessing the degree of implementation of IWRM (the area covered by IWRM in hectares) - how to determine which hectare is covered by IWRM, and which one is not? Therefore, the Ministry of Water Resources requested support from these international organizations to provide proper Survey Instrument.

Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1 in Uzbekistan

Executive Summary

The consultation process 2020 in Uzbekistan was started only in August (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.

The national focal point – Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan – appointed Agency of IFAS (which is host institution for CWP-Uzbekistan) to conduct all necessary steps for monitoring the progress towards SDG 6.5.1.

In the first phase the survey instrument/questionnaire was filled by invited national expert under the coordination from Agency of IFAS.

In the second phase, the completed draft questionnaire was sent on 16th of September 2020 to all interested parties (stakeholders - see Annex E in file “Uzbekistan_6_5_1_IWRM_Survey_2020 Rus Final 10 Oct 2020.doc”) for additions and comments.

The third phase was the discussion at the Stakeholders’ Roundtable on 5th of October for development of consensus on 2020 assessment of the progress towards IWRM implementation in Uzbekistan. The roundtable was held at the hotel Qushbegi Plaza in Tashkent on October 5, 2020 (the roundtable agenda and a list of participants are attached in annexes 1 and 2).

It is important to note that Uzbekistan officially reported to the UN Environment in 2017 to set the baseline for SDG 6.5.1. The 2017 baseline survey was used to compare data and to see progress. The main outcome from the survey 2020 showed that there is some progress in three of four components of IWRM, and total score changed from 45 in 2017 to 49 in 2020 (see Table 2 below).

Some progress was observed in component “Enabling environment for IWRM” as well as the Ministry of Water Resources officially presented the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030. The concept was approved by Presidential Decree in July 2020. However, the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in this document are presented very indefinitely - the main components of IWRM are not indicated properly. But this document opens way for progress in coming future.

In spite of great institutional changes in the water sector - the Ministry of Water Resources has been created, huge reforms of the internal structure of the Ministry of Water Management - BAISes and other grassroot organizations have experienced many changes in forms and functional responsibilities. But our observation shows that there is still no clear understanding of IWRM by majority of decision makers in Uzbekistan. Thus, no any progress in component “Institutions and participation”.

Some progress was observed in component “Management Instruments” due to the constant attention of the Ministry of Water Resources to monitoring water resources and their use, water conservation, improving the technical level of management and operation and other tools.

Some progress was observed in component “Financing”, but system of financing the water sector in Uzbekistan still lacks a proper mechanism to support IWRM components as it is demanded.

Table 1. Summary of the Survey Instrument for Uzbekistan on SDG indicator 6.5.1
 “Degree of implementation of integrated water resources management” 2020

No№	Questions of the Survey Instrument	2017	2020	Changes
Part 1	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT			
1.1	Status of policies, laws and plans to support IWRM at the national level:			
1.1a	National water resources policy, or similar	40	60	+20
1.1b	National water resources law(s)	30	30	
1.1.c	National integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans, or similar	30	30	
1.2	Status of policies, laws and plans to support IWRM at other levels:			
1.2a	Sub-national water resources policies or similar	30	40	+10
1.2b	Basin/aquifer management plans or similar, based on IWRM	30	30	
1.2c	Arrangements for transboundary water management	70	70	
1.2.d	Sub-national water resources regulations (laws, decrees, ordinances or similar)	Was not assessed	30	
Part 2	INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION			
2.1	Status of institutions for IWRM implementation at the national level:			
2.1a	National government authorities for leading IWRM implementation	60	60	
2.1b	Coordination between national government authorities representing different sectors	60	60	
2.1c	Public participation in water resources, policy, planning and management at national level	50	50	
2.1d	Private sector participation in water resources development, management and use	40	40	
2.1e	Developing IWRM capacity	60	60	
2.1f	National gender-related water management objectives	40	Assessment excluded	
2.2	Status of institutions for IWRM implementation at other levels:			
2.2a	Basin/aquifer level organizations for leading implementation of IWRM	60	60	
2.2b	Public participation in water resources, policy, planning and management at the local level	60	60	
2.2c	Participation of vulnerable groups in water resources planning and management	40	40	
2.2d	Gender included in laws/plans or similar within water resources management	40	40	
2.2e	Organizational framework for transboundary water management	70	70	
2.2f	Sub-national authorities for leading IWRM implementation	Was not assessed	40	
Part 3	MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS			
3.1	Status of management instruments to support IWRM implementation at the national level:			
3.1a	National monitoring of water availability (incl. surface and/or groundwater)	70	70	
3.1b	Sustainable and efficient water use management at the national level (incl. surface and/or groundwater)	60	60	
3.1c	Pollution control from the national level	50	50	
3.1d	Management of water-related ecosystems from the	50	60	+10

No№	Questions of the Survey Instrument	2017	2020	Changes
	national level			
3.1e	Management instruments to reduce impacts of water-related disasters - national level	60	70	+10
3.2	Status of management instruments to support IWRM implementation at other levels:			
3.2a	Basin management instruments	50	60	+10
3.2b	Aquifer management instruments	60	60	
3.2c	Data and information sharing within countries at all levels	50	60	+10
3.2d	Transboundary data and information sharing between countries	50	50	
Part 4	FINANCING			
4.1	Status of financing for water resources development and management at the national level:			
4.1a	National budget for water resources infrastructure (investment and recurrent costs)	50	50	
4.1b	National budget for IWRM elements (investments and recurrent costs)	30	30	
4.2	Status of financing for water resources development and management at other levels:			
4.2a	Sub-national or basin budgets for water resources infrastructure (investment and recurrent costs)	30	40	+10
4.2b	Revenues raised for IWRM elements	20	30	+10
4.2c	Financing for transboundary cooperation	40	50	+10
4.2d	Sub-national or basin budgets for IWRM elements (investment and recurrent costs)	Was not assessed	n/a	Similar to 4.1b and 4.2a

Table 2. Final score of the SDG indicator 6.5.1
“degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan” 2020

Section	Average Scores	
	2017	2020
Section 1 Enabling environment	38,3	41
Section 2 Institutions and participation	52,7	53
Section 3 Management instruments	55,6	60
Section 4 Financing	34,0	40
Indicator 6.5.1 Score	45,15	49

The full completed survey instrument can be found in a separate document (e.g. filename: “Uzbekistan_6_5_1_IWRM_Survey_2020 Rus Final 10 Oct 2020.doc”).

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

a) Main problems on the way to progress on IWRM implementation in Uzbekistan

At present there is no clearly formulated water management policy based on IWRM principles. In July 2020, the Ministry of Water Resources officially presented the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030. The concept was approved by Presidential Decree No. UP-6024 dated July 10, 2020. However, the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in this document are presented very indefinitely - the main components of IWRM are not indicated, there is no specification for the implementation of IWRM at the subnational level - within the basins and within the regions.

The legislative base regulating water management issues was adopted in 1993, which is constantly being supplemented, but it still lacks a clear understanding and regulation of IWRM principles.

In the transboundary river basins, there is a strong infrastructural interdependence between the countries, which is put on top the factor of inconsistency of national priorities at the regional level. The existing agreements and arrangements are not always implemented by the parties or are partially observed, damaging the credibility of regional organizations created by the countries in this area.

b) How can the main problems be solved?

Presidential Decree No. UP-6024 of July 10, 2020 approved the Roadmap for the implementation in 2020-2022 of the tasks defined in the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030. By the end of 2020, it provides for the development of a three-year Strategy for water resources management and the development of the irrigation sector, for its submission to the Cabinet of Ministers in accordance with the established procedure. When developing the Strategy, it is necessary to clearly identify the key directions of the national policy in the field of water resources for the near future, including the principles of IWRM, which are already recognized as a priority, but are not spelled out for individual 4 components.

Taking into account modern realities and ongoing reforms in the country, it is very important to improve the current legislation and codify existing legal norms related to water and water use, ensuring consistency with legislation in the fields of agriculture, environmental protection, drinking water and the industrial sector. In particular, it suggested for:

by the end of 2021, make amendments and additions to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On water and water use";

in 2022, preparation of the draft "Water Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan", which will codify all the norms of the current legislation concerning the sphere of water supply, water use and water consumption? protection;

in the period up to 2030, further improvement of the regulatory and legal framework aimed at reforming and implementing the goals and objectives of the water sector development in accordance with the IWRM principles.

The draft "Water Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan" scheduled for preparation in 2022, will take into account specific aspects of the subnational level as well.

When developing the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, the action program in terms of the implementation of IWRM (national IWRM plan) should include four sections, each of which is devoted to one key component of IWRM:

1. Favourable conditions: political documents, laws and plans underlying the implementation of IWRM.

2. Institutions and stakeholder participation contributing to the maintenance of IWRM implementation.
3. Management tools.
4. Financing.

Unfortunately, the Roadmap for the implementation in 2020-2022 of the tasks defined in the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030 did not include measures for the development of regional / sub-basin IWRM plans. When developing a three-year Strategy for water resources management and irrigation sector development, these measures should be foreseen and taken into account.

At the transboundary level, further improvement of the regional legal framework for the use of water resources in the Aral Sea basin is required and the creation of a stable and effective mechanism for regional water and energy cooperation. Positive experience has been recorded in the last two years at the level of two-sided commissions: Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan on Kasansay river in the Fergana Valley and Uzbekistan-Tajikistan on the Farkhad hydroelectric power station on the Syrdarya river.

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030?

National water policy, etc.

Compared to the 2017 assessment (40), the 2020 estimate level increased by 20 points (60). Taking into account the development by 2023 of the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, in which the IWRM components will be properly reflected, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in terms of the national policy on IWRM will be at a high level.

National Water Law

Compared to the 2017 assessment (30), the 2020 estimate level has not changed. Taking into account the development of the Water Code by 2022 and the introduction of relevant amendments and additions to the Law on Water and Water Use, where the IWRM components will be properly reflected, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in terms of legislation on IWRM issues will be at a high level.

National plans for ensuring integrated water resources management (IWRM), etc.

Compared to the 2017 assessment (30), the 2020 estimate level has not changed. It is assumed that the Strategy 2030 will include measures for the development of IWRM components. Thus, there will be no need to develop a separate National IWRM Plan. It can be assumed that by 2030 progress in national planning for the implementation of IWRM will be at a high level.

Subnational policy documents in the field of water resources management, etc.

Compared to the 2017 assessment (30), the 2020 estimate level has increased by 10 points (40). Taking into account the development by 2023 of the Strategy for the Development of the Water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, in which the IWRM components at the sub-national level (the level of regions and basins within the country) will be properly reflected, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in terms of local IWRM policy will be at a high level.

Management plans at basin / aquifer level, etc. based on IWRM

Compared to the 2017 assessment (30), the 2020 estimate level has not changed. It is assumed that the Strategy 2030, which will be developed by 2023, will include measures for the development of IWRM components at the local level. It can be assumed that by 2030 progress in IWRM planning in the regions of the country will be at a high level.

Agreements on transboundary water management

Compared to the 2017 assessment (70), the 2020 estimate level has not changed (70). At the transboundary level, further improvement of the regional institutional and legal framework in the field of water resources management is required. It depends not only on Uzbekistan, but also on the active participation of other countries. There is a risk here that progress in transboundary water management will not be at a high level by 2030.

Subnational regulations in the field of water resources (laws, decrees, regulations, etc.)

There was no assessment on this aspect in 2017. Assessment in 2020 - 30 points (low level of progress). Is there a question here about the need for subnational regulations or is it enough for the regulatory issues to be spelled out in the National Law and Water Code? Therefore, it is difficult to judge whether progress on this issue will be at a high level by 2030.

The overall score for this component (Section 1) is 41

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

One of the principal stakeholders - SIC ICWC assesses this component at level 36. SIC ICWC verifies this assessment with the arguments that Uzbekistan has moved away from the implementation of the principles that were presented in the National IWRM Vision in 2012 - based on the generalization of the experience and achievement during 2002-2011 within the framework of the IWRM-Fergana project (Swiss supported). Also, Uzbekistan turn out from the hydrographic principle which was adopted in 2003 - all BAISes (Basin Administration of Irrigation Systems) returned in 2017 to the administrative principle of their responsibility and functions. Work has not yet begun to improve the 1993 Law on Water and Water Use.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

The representative of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan noted that work has begun on the Ecological Code of Uzbekistan under the auspices of the Ecological Party. Based on this, it will be necessary to harmonize the Ecological Code with the future Water Code. Such harmonization of the two legislative sets of laws will make it possible to more effectively implement the IWRM principles.

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

a) What are the main challenges to progress in Uzbekistan?

In recent years (2017-2020), there have been great institutional changes in the water sector - the Ministry of Water Resources has been created, huge reforms of the internal structure of the Ministry of Water Management - BAISes and other grassroots organizations have experienced many changes in forms and functional responsibilities. The inter-sectoral structure and the procedures for interaction have changed – monitoring of water and its use is assigned to the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As noted above, there is still no clear understanding of IWRM by decision makers in Uzbekistan, which confirms the shift from the steps started in 2003 on the hydrographic principle and the loss of experience in the implementation of IWRM in the Fergana Valley (SDC / SIC ICWC / IWMI project in 2001-2012). Institutional reforms in the water sector are still fragmented.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

Within the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, an action program should be developed and expanded in terms of institutional reforms to support the main components of IWRM. Unfortunately, the Roadmap for the implementation in 2020-2022 of the tasks defined in the Concept-2030 provides for fragmentary actions - only strengthening research activities, improving the skills of personnel, developing scientific and innovative potential and improving potential of design organizations in water management.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-5883 dated November 26, 2019 "On measures to improve the management of water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan to increase the level of drinking water supply to the population and improve its quality", only directions have been given so far for coordinating water management issues, taking into account appointment of the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services of the Republic of Uzbekistan as an authorized state body in the field of coordination of accounting, monitoring, ensuring the safety and quality of waters within the Unified State Water Fund, as well as the formation of a unified national water balance. It is urgently necessary to put into practice all the instructions of this Decree.

It is necessary to implement and develop in 2020-2022 the tasks of the Roadmap of the Concept-2030 in terms of involving the public and taking into account the views of NGOs in the formation of policy, planning and management of water resources.

There is an urgent need to develop principles and mechanisms of public-private partnerships and conditions for outsourcing for the water sector.

It is necessary to clearly implement all measures outlined by the Concept - 2030 to increase the potential of the water resources sector, taking into account the IWRM components

At the subnational level, implement all the measures provided for by the Concept for the Development of the Water Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020 - 2030 for further institutional and technical improvement of water management bodies at the level of basins, provinces, districts in order to more effectively introduce IWRM components into their practice.

Similarly, take measures for public participation in the formation of water policy at the grassroots level.

Unfortunately, the Concept - 2030 did not reflect specific aspect - the participation of vulnerable groups in the regulation of water management issues. Therefore, it is necessary to take this aspect into account

when developing the "Water Code" and when developing the Strategy for the Development of the Water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030

Similarly, it is necessary to take gender issues into account when developing the "Water Code" (alignment of water law and acts with the law "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men") and when developing the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030

In the period 2018-2019, the Executive Committee of IFAS began work to improve the organizational structure and legal framework for regional cooperation under the auspices of IFAS. Proposals on these issues were sent to the Executive Committee of IFAS from Uzbekistan through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which are in principle consistent with similar proposals from Kazakhstan. It is necessary to intensify the promotion of these proposals for agreement with all countries of the region and their practical implementation.

It is necessary in the development of the "Water Code" and in the development of the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 to define in more detail the powers of the lower structures of the Ministry of Water Management and other involved authorities in the management and regulation of the implementation of IWRM components in Uzbekistan

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030?

Practically on all issues in section 2.1 The status of institutions for the implementation of IWRM at the national level - compared to the 2017 assessment, the estimate level in 2020 has not changed. The same goes for section 2.2. The status of IWRM implementation institutions at other levels - the assessments have not changed. That is, there has not been much progress in these aspects over the past three years.

National Designated Government Bodies to Lead IWRM Implementation

Subject to the practical implementation of the measures provided for in the Strategy for the Development of the Water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, in which the IWRM components are properly reflected, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in terms of the ability of the authorized government bodies to lead the implementation of IWRM will be at a high level.

Coordination on water resources, policy formulation, planning and management among national designated government bodies representing different sectors

The Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, developed and adopted for implementation in 2022, will ensure coordination on water resources issues, policy formation, planning and management between national authorized bodies at a high level already at the level of 2025-2027.

Public participation in policy-making, planning and management of water resources at the national and local levels

Given the tradition in water management, public participation in policy, planning and water management will remain at a moderately high level by 2030.

Private Sector Participation in Water Development, Management and Use

Based on the measures initiated by the Ministry of Water Resources, the participation of the private sector in the form of a public-private partnership for the development of water resources by 2030 is expected to be at a high level.

Capacity building for IWRM

Due to the proper implementation of the measures which already begun to increase the potential of the water sector, taking into account the IWRM components, it is expected that this direction will reach a very high level by 2030.

Basin / aquifer organizations that lead the implementation of IWRM

We can expect progress in terms of the ability of grass-roots organizations (basins, groundwater deposits) to lead IWRM implementation by 2030 will be high

Participation of vulnerable groups in water resources planning and management

The participation of vulnerable groups in the regulation of water management issues is expected to be at a moderately high level by 2030.

Gender aspects are reflected in laws / plans, etc. on water resources management

Provided that water laws and acts are aligned with the law “On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men” and the implementation of these regulations in practice, it can be expected that progress in gender aspects by 2030 will be at a moderately high level.

Organizational structure of transboundary water management

If the initiated measures to improve the organizational structure and regulatory framework for regional cooperation under the auspices of IFAS will be practically implemented, then progress in the efficiency of transboundary institutions can be expected at a high level by 2030.

Subnational Designated Bodies to Lead IWRM Implementation

Provided that the IWRM components are properly reflected in the implementation of the Water Management Strategy, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in terms of the ability of grassroots authorities to lead the implementation of IWRM will be at a high level.

The overall score for this component (Section2) is 53

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

SIC ICWC scored this component at level 41. SIC ICWC proves this assessment with arguments that BAISes have lost their basin character. Also, in 2019 WUAs were reorganized within the boundaries of administrative districts. IWRM principles are not mentioned in the functions of these grassroots organizations. Work on IWRM capacity development is still weak.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion

The representative of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan noted that this new political party (the fifth in Uzbekistan) was created in 2018, and today plays an important role in drawing public attention to water management issues - as the basis for environmental stability. This new player should be accounted for benefit of IWRM implementation.

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

a) What are the main challenges to progress in Uzbekistan?

This IWRM component (among the four) is the most advanced in Uzbekistan and is at a moderately high level due to the constant attention of the Ministry of Water Resources to monitoring water resources and their use, water conservation, improving the technical level of management and operation and other tools. On the part of the State Committee for Ecology, due attention is paid to the control of pollution of water sources and the protection of ecosystems. A certain shift has taken place in recent years in the management of natural disasters related to water (floods, floods and droughts), but the water sector has to adapt to constant conditions of water deficit (mainly for irrigation).

In terms of monitoring water resources and their use, problems are still associated with insufficient technical equipment of water consumers with water metering devices.

In terms of water use management, there are insufficient rates of water conservation implementation and a lack of tools to increase water productivity.

All of the above problems are especially acute at the grassroots level - at the level of WUAs and water consumers.

There are also special problems in terms of groundwater management and their use.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

In connection with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No UP-5883 dated November 26, 2019 "On measures to improve the management of water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan to increase the level of provision of the population with drinking water and improve its quality", the work to improve the monitoring system of water resources will be radically revised and include a greater focus on IWRM principles. It is necessary in the development of the "Water Code" and in the development of the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 to take into account in more detail the issues of data and information exchange within Uzbekistan. To intensify the linkage of these issues with the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is responsible for the unified water balance in Uzbekistan.

On September 16, 2020, chaired by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a video conference was held on measures for the introduction of conservation technologies and the implementation of public-private partnership projects in the water sector, where insufficient pace of practical measures was noted. Over the past two years, the President and the government have adopted 11 resolutions in this area, all conditions have been created. Specific instructions were given to ensure sustainable water management in Uzbekistan at all levels and to accelerate the process.

While development of the "Water Code" and in the development of the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, it is necessary to take into account more detail the issues of regulation of water pollution and water sources in Uzbekistan. Clearly identify the linkage of these issues fixed in Water Law with environmental legislation.

Likewise, there is a need to consider in more detail the management of water-related ecosystems in Uzbekistan. Also indicate the linkage of these issues fixed in water law with environmental legislation.

The Ministry of Water Resources, in cooperation with other authorized agencies and organizations, should ensure implementation of the main activities foreseen by the "Strategy for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030 in the Republic of Uzbekistan" and the "National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2030 ", which were approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 299" On measures to implement the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030" in the Republic of Uzbekistan "dated April 12, 2019.

Of great importance is the implementation of the Program of Measures to streamline control and accounting for the rational use of groundwater reserves for 2017-2021, approved by Resolution No. PP-2954 of May 4, 2017, including:

- a set of measures to streamline control and accounting for the rational use of groundwater resources;
- target parameters for the increase in the approved reserves of fresh groundwater;

- parameters for expanding the network of observation points for groundwater monitoring;
- measures to strengthen the material and technical base of hydrogeological enterprises of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Geology and Mineral Resources, construction and arrangement of production bases of territorial hydrogeological stations;
- parameters of construction and overhaul of drainage and observation wells and reservoirs in cities and regional centers.

The work of the Coordination Group for the Regional Information Space on Water Resources and Environment in Central Asia, which started activity with the assistance of the UNECE and IFAS in 2015-2017, but stopped its activities due to lack of funding, should be revitalized in coming years.

More details: <http://www.cawater-info.net/information-exchange/meetings.htm>

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030?

National monitoring of water availability (includes surface and groundwater)

Compared to the 2017 score (70), in 2020 estimate level has not changed (70). At the national level, further improvement of tools for monitoring water availability is required, especially in terms of groundwater. Based on the measures taken by the Ministry of Water Resources, it is expected to bring this instrument to a high level by 2030.

Sustainable and efficient management of water use at the national level (includes surface and groundwater)

Compared to the 2017 score (60), in 2020 the estimate level has not changed (60). It is necessary to take into account the insufficiency of the material and technical base in Uzbekistan, ensuring the desired rates of implementation of water conservation and increasing the productivity of water use. Therefore, even with the implementation of all measures outlined in the Strategy for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 in this direction, it will be difficult to achieve a high level of sustainability and efficiency of water use.

National pollution regulation

Compared to the 2017 score (50), the 2020 estimate level has not changed (50). However, given the significant institutional changes in the structure of the State Committee for Ecology and a number of decisions made at the government level in recent years, the effectiveness of instruments for regulating water pollution in the period up to 2030 will increase to a high level.

Management of water-related ecosystems at the national level

Compared to the 2017 score (50), the 2020 estimate level increased by 10 points (60). Given the dramatic change in environmental policy in recent years, the effectiveness of ecosystem management tools can be expected to reach high levels by 2030.

Governance tools for water-related disaster mitigation at the national level

Compared to the 2017 score (60), the 2020 estimate level has increased by 10 points (70). As a result of the implementation of the measures of the Strategy for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030 in the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2030, the effectiveness of the relevant instruments will be at a high level.

Basin level management tools

Compared to the 2017 score (50), the 2020 estimate level increased by 10 points (60). Provided that the IWRM components are properly reflected in the implementation of the Water Management Strategy, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in terms of the effectiveness of the instruments used in BAISes will be at a high level.

Aquifer-level management tools

Compared to the 2017 score (60), the 2020 estimate level has not changed (60). With the implementation of all the planned measures to strengthen the material and technical base of hydrogeological enterprises of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Geology and Mineral Resources by 2030, the effectiveness of the relevant tools will be at a high level.

Data and information exchange within the country at all levels

Compared to the 2017 score (50), the 2020 estimate level increased by 10 points (60). Initiated projects for the development of information systems of the Ministry of Water Resources with the assistance of international agencies, as well as strengthening the interaction of all authorities and ministries with the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, authorized to coordinate the Unified State Water Fund - the exchange of data within Uzbekistan will be at a high level.

Transboundary exchange of data and information between countries

Compared to the 2017 score (50), the 2020 estimate level has not changed (50). In fact, the regular exchange of information between the countries is not well organized, and is periodically (fragmentary) carried out within the framework of ICWC meetings (once a quarter)

The overall score for this component (Section 3) is 60

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

SIC ICWC assesses this component at level 52. SIC ICWC verifies this assessment with the arguments that water use is regulated only at the level of main irrigation systems; Information on the use of groundwater is generally closed for public. Newly formed WUAs within the administrative boundaries of districts are outside the influence of the BAISes. According to SIC ICWC scores, the highest indicators of water use efficiency in Uzbekistan were recorded in 2017, and in recent years these indicators have been decreasing.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

The representative of UzHydromet informed the participants that in recent years a large project has been implemented with the support of the European Union and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ), thanks to which many gauging stations for monitoring water resources have been modernized. Also, this project helped Uzbekistan to improve the unified inter-sectoral platform of the National Water Cadaster. All this is evidence of progress in the creation of IWRM instruments.

Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

a) What are the main challenges to progress in Uzbekistan?

The system of financing the water sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan still lacks a mechanism for economic relations between water management organizations and water users, there is no national "water market" as the main lever for the redistribution of water resources from low-efficient water users to highly efficient ones. There is no mechanism of general and personal interest in water saving among water consumers and water workers. The main expenses for the delivery of water for agricultural producers are covered from the state budget. Payments by agricultural producers for water delivery services are not directly linked to the volume of water consumption. Their size is insufficient to stimulate productive and rational water use.

At present, the share of electricity costs and salary in a budget for the maintenance and operation of state water facilities is 70-80%, and for repairs - only 20-30%. And such financing structure is taking place against the background of the modern technical state of water facilities, when 70% of hydraulic structures (especially pumping stations) have worked out their operational life 1.5-2 times longer than envisaged by the design standards.

Many facilities require reconstruction, which is a very capital-intensive activity and, therefore, significant funds are needed to implement these activities.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

The Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020 - 2030 proposes a transition towards financial sustainability and improvement of the system of financial support for the water sector, which will be based on the following elements:

- Development of the State Investment Plan for attraction investments in top-priority projects for the modernization of irrigation infrastructure facilities in order to ensure their operability, reduce water losses and costs for its delivery;
- Expansion of the scale and share of non-state financing to the sector through a gradual transition to payment for services related to the delivery of water in agriculture; transfer of economic functions for managing inter-farm infrastructure to outsourcing by non-governmental entities, including through public-private partnership mechanisms and other mechanisms;
- Increasing the size of investments to the sector by attracting private investments, including foreign ones, as well as loans and grants from international financial institutions and foreign countries;
- An increase in the size of expenses for the capital construction of water facilities and their modernization, research, development and implementation of advanced technologies;
- Increasing the competitiveness of salary level for employees in governmental water management organizations by bringing it to the average republican level;
- Ensuring that salaries are linked to the performance by employees, which will increase the effectiveness of their work, and will also help attract and retain qualified specialists into the sector;
- Improvement of mechanisms for financing and self-financing of water management organizations, effective use of material property (fixed assets) and lands linked to the water fund, which are on the balance of the Ministry of Water Resources;
- Improvement of the budget planning system, use and monitoring of financial flows in governmental water management organizations using modern information and communication technologies;
- Improving the system of financing for applied research and development work in the water sector.

The Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020 - 2030 provides for a step-by-step increase the budget and its items for the operation and development of infrastructure, as well as for the implementation of IWRM components - these aspects should be described in detail in the future Strategy -2030, especially for the lower levels of the water management hierarchy.

Likewise, proper directions have been proposed for introducing the principles of a market economy into the water sector, including a system of phased reimbursement by water consumers of part of the costs for water delivery, directing the funds received for timely high-quality repair and restoration of water facilities, the introduction of IT tools and effective management. Among those suggestions are as following:

- Covering the costs of water delivery by water users via gradually adding tax rates for the use of water resources (in accordance with taken amount of water);
 - Ensuring transparency of tariffs for reimbursement of costs for water supply;
 - Development a methodology for calculating differentiated water tax rates based on the volume of water consumption and the cost of water supply, with additional costs for water supply included in the water use tax;
 - Gradual transition to paid services for the supply of water in agriculture;
 - Improving the system of taxation and creating opportunities for further rational use of water and improving its quality;
 - Improvement of methods for calculating tax rates and penalties for various categories of water consumers in the future, taking into account their sectoral and technological characteristics and the quality of return water, including the level of mineralization and other pollutants.

Also, there were proposed directions for implementation of public-private partnerships and outsourcing in the water sector, the transfer of individual water facilities for use by farms, clusters and other organizations, the direction of saved funds for the modernization of water facilities, remuneration and staff incentives - as following:

- Determination the principles and directions for the implementation of projects in the water sector on the basis of public-private partnership mechanisms and outsourcing conditions with the study of international best practices and the formation on this basis the list of water facilities and services to be transferred to the hands of private sector;
 - Formation of projects in the water sector based on the principles of public-private partnership and outsourcing conditions, as well as to group a potential private partners, including foreign investors for their implementation;
 - Formation of projects in the water sector based on the principles of public-private partnership and outsourcing conditions for attraction of foreign investments and grant funds to their implementation;
 - Formation in the Ministry of Water Resources portfolio of projects in the direction of irrigation and land reclamation based on the principles of public-private partnership and outsourcing conditions; attracting private partners to projects implementation, as well as organizing an effective system for monitoring the implementation of these projects;
 - Transferring to water consumers (farmers, clusters and others) part of the responsibilities for managing water facilities in accordance with clearly defined criteria and principles based on ensuring specific obligations, economic efficiency, social justice and environmental stability;
 - Allocation of budgetary funds saved as a result of the implementation of projects based on the principles of public-private partnership and the conditions of outsourcing in the water sector to the modernization of water facilities, remuneration and incentives for water sector workers.

At the transboundary level, in order for IFAS to actually perform its basic functions, it is necessary to create a regional financial structure of the Fund (a special Investment Bank for the Aral Sea Basin). IFAS member

countries must strictly define their contributions, which will receive approval from the Board of the Fund. The spending of those funds will be carried out directly by the countries with the informing the EC IFAS. The Executive Committee of IFAS should, under the control of the IFAS Board, undertake the "information" and organizational coordination of all donor and national programs, organize their joint examination and approval, as well as further monitoring results of the implemented projects.

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030?

National budget allocated for the development of water infrastructure (investments and recurring costs)

Compared to the 2017 score (50), the 2020 estimate level has not changed (50). If all the planned measures are taken to improve the financing mechanisms for the water sector by 2030, the sufficiency of the state budget will be at a high level.

Funds from the national budget allocated to finance IWRM components (investments and regular expenses)

Compared to the 2017 score (30), the 2020 estimate level has not changed. Provided that the IWRM components are properly reflected in the implementation of the Water Management Strategy, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in the sufficiency of the state budget for the implementation of IWRM principles will be at a high level.

Funds from the budgets of the subnational or basin level allocated for the development of water infrastructure (investments and recurrent costs)

Compared to the 2017 score (30), the 2020 estimate level has increased by 10 points (40). With the implementation of all the planned measures to improve the mechanisms for financing the lower levels of the water management hierarchy by 2030, the sufficiency of the state budget for them can be at a high level.

Mobilizing revenues to finance IWRM components

Compared to the 2017 score (20), the 2020 estimate level has increased by 10 points (30). Provided that the IWRM components are properly reflected in the implementation of the Water Management Strategy - 2030 and mechanisms for attracting finance are introduced for them, it can be assumed that by 2030 progress in financing the IWRM components can be at a high level.

Financing transboundary cooperation

Compared to the 2017 score (40), the 2020 estimate level increased by 10 points (50). Progress will depend on the success of agreements between states in establishing agreed funding mechanisms. Based on current trends, financing at the transboundary level is expected to remain at a moderately high level by 2030.

The overall score for this component (Section 4) is 40

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

SIC ICWC believes that the allocated funding in water sector of Uzbekistan is not targeted properly to the IWRM components

Next steps

Based on the results of stakeholders' (inter-sectoral) consultations during roundtable, it was agreed all joint efforts to focus on the strict understanding of the basic IWRM principles (properly fixed in policy/strategy, plans and legislation) and their practical implementation in Uzbekistan.

It is necessary to continue deepening the institutional structure of the water sector in Uzbekistan in order to separate functions - some bodies should be responsible for water supply services (ministry and BAISes), others should be responsible for water use (Rayon Irrigation Departments and WUAs). Combining these functions in the one hand is ineffective in terms of economic mechanisms and incentives to minimize unproductive water losses.

Subnational structures (Basin Administrations of Irrigation Systems - BAISes) responsible for water delivery to end users should operate on a hydrographic basis to avoid administrative pressure from local authorities.

Institutional structures responsible for water use (Rayon irrigation departments, WUAs, clusters) are created on the basis of a territorial-administrative principle, since economic and social-social activities are structured in Uzbekistan within administrative boundaries and should coordinate their activities with local authorities (Khokimiyats).

The decision-making system for water governance (as opposed to the water management process) should be organized according to the "bottom-up" principle from the WUA / water consumer level to the Ministry of Water resources level. This will minimize professional / sectoral hydro-egoism and put the whole process on a democratic track and involve key stakeholders.

Investment in infrastructure not enough without adequate (above) institutional reforms. Therefore, part of the funds should be used to strengthen institutional capacity and increase IWRM capacity as well.

Institutional changes are ineffective without improving IWRM instruments, in particular, without developing financial mechanisms to ensure the financial viability of institutional structures (especially at the grassroots levels, where water-based products are produced).

During reforms, as well as in everyday activities in the water sector of Uzbekistan, the orientation should be not on the actions themselves, but on the results to which these actions will lead. Any institutional changes should improve the water management process and, therefore, be measured by appropriate water indicators - for example, more water saved at each activity.

Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

As the analysis of the 2020 assessment of progress on the implementation of IWRM in Uzbekistan shows, all stakeholders (and most importantly, the Ministry of Water Resources as the national coordinator of the process) need to rethink their policies, plans and regulations (legal and financial) in relation to the IWRM components implementation. All those should be correctly reflected in the development of the Strategy for the Development of Water Management until 2030, which should be completed by 2023. Therefore, it is advisable to set intermediate goals at the level of 2025 - 2027 at Stage 2 of the IWRM Support Program, so that by 2030 we can confidently reach a high level of implementation in all indicators.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Annex 4: Photos

Annex 1: List of participants

The Roundtable participants

No№	Name	Organization	Position	Email address
1	Vokhidjon Akmadjonov	Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Deputy Minister	gabulxona3@minwater.uz +998 91 1371633
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15	Ravshan Momutov	Committee on Agrarian	Chair of the	inform@parliament.gov.uz

		and Water Management Issues of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Committee	(+998) 97 2637606
16	Saidarasul Sanginov	Ecological Party of Uzbekistan	Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Council for increasing public participation in environmental protection and public health	green@parliament.gov.uz saidrasul2011@mail.ru (+998) 71 209-85-60
17	Nozimjon Ernazarov	State Inspection for Control and Supervision over the Technical Condition and Operation Safety of Large and Especially Important Water Facilities under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoz nadzor)	Director	v-nadzor@sks.uz (+998) 71 226-71-66
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Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs (e.g. question number(s), or full survey)
Anastasiya Degtyareva	Consultant	nastya_sicicwc@yahoo.com	Draft of full Survey
Ibragim Domuladjanov	NGO Clean Fergana	+998 97 2142497	Section 2, Public participation
Yusup Kamalov	Academy of Science of Karakalpakstan	yusupkamalov@yahoo.com	Section 3, Tools for ecosystems

Please note that this Annex is supplemented by information in Annex E of the SDG 6.5.1 survey instrument, which reflects on the level of engagement from different stakeholder groups.

Annex 2: Agenda

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

October 5, 2020

Hotel "Golden Hill", Tashkent

9:00-9:30	Registration of participants
9:30-9:40	Greetings from the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Deputy Minister V. Akhmadzhonov
9:40 – 10:00	Introduction to the goals and objectives of the data collection and reporting process for SDG indicator 6.5.1 Round table moderator, A. Tulyaganov
Session 1. Enabling Environment for IWRM	
10:00 -10:30	Presentation of the prepared questionnaire - questionnaire on the indicator 6.5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): "the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management in Uzbekistan" at the level of 2020 ¹ Methodical consultant, Head of the IFAS Agency, V. Sokolov
10:30-11:30	Stakeholder Discussion: "State of the policy, legislation and plans for IWRM at the national and other levels in Uzbekistan". Round table moderator, A. Tulyaganov
11:30-11:50	Tea and coffee break
Session 2. Institutions and Participation	
11:50-13:00	Discussion by stakeholders: "State of institutions for IWRM implementation. Key players in Uzbekistan". Round table moderator, A. Tulyaganov
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 Uzbekistan." Round table moderator, A. Tulyaganov
15:30-15:50	Tea and coffee break
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 Uzbekistan." Round table moderator, A. Tulyaganov
16:50-17:30	Next Steps for IWRM and Monitoring Goal 6.5.1 Methodical consultant, Head of the IFAS Agency, V. Sokolov Summing up and closing the seminar, Round table moderator, A. Tulyaganov

¹ The draft completed Survey Instrument "Progress on SDG 6.5.1 - IWRM in Uzbekistan in 2020" was sent by the Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan to all stakeholders 14 days before the round table for the preparation of comments, remarks and considerations.

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

[Please add any comments here, including aspects of the workshop which worked well, and those which may require more attention, or amending, in the future. Include personal thoughts, or input received from participants/stakeholders, on the survey instrument itself (e.g. usefulness, clarity), and the process of running the workshop(s). This annex should only contain information that is not confidential. If the SDG 6.5.1 focal point wishes to add any confidential information, it should be in a separate annex, indicated as such]

Annex 4: Photos



SDG 6.5.1 National Focal point: Vokhidjon Akhmadjonov, Deputy Minister of Water Resources of Uzbekistan



Some working moments of the Stakeholders Round table on 5th October 2020 (in spite of COVID-19 pandemic we gathered people to discuss issues face-to- face)



Moderators of the roundtable discussions - Zokir Ishpulatov (Ministry of water resources) and Vadim Sokolov (Agency of IFAS)



Mr. Saidrasul Chairman of Committee of the Ecological delivered increasing water protection

Sanginov - Deputy the Executive the Central Council of Party of Uzbekistan - suggestions for public participation in management, environmental and public health



Some working moments of the Stakeholders Round table on 5th October 2020

Some
working
moments
of the



Stakeholders Round table on 5th October 2020