

International and Regional Cooperation in The Field of Environmental Protection, Sustainable Development and The State of Water Supply in The Republic of Uzbekistan

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Abstract

The article describes the state of water supply in the Republic of Uzbekistan and international and regional cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Keywords: Science, technology, nature, water, resources, Aral Sea, hydraulic engineering, construction, Central Asia, region, reserve, ecology, energy, development, environment, strategy, cooperation, democracy.

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1. Introduction

As a result of the active global development of international cooperation on environmental protection, the international community and heads of State have realized the need to adopt principles and strategies for measures to improve and protect the environment, and public administration policies aimed at ensuring decent conditions for the sustainable development of society. In 1992, the Rio Summit adopted the Agenda for the 21st Century. Although it enshrined the principles of achieving conditions for sustainable development by all

States and peoples, the goals and objectives set at the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York in 2000 became the basis for strengthening and intensifying cooperation between states and public organizations.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov noted at the UN summit dedicated to the Millennium Development Goals: “Uzbekistan supports and actively participates in the implementation of the global action plan to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals proposed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon”¹.

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan embarked on a comprehensive program aimed at reforming and improving legislation, policies and institutions for environmental protection, as well as creating conditions for achieving sustainable development. In accordance with the Provision "Agenda of the XXI Century" in 1995 and 1996, Uzbekistan developed the "Concept of Sustainable Development" and the "Strategy of Sustainable Development", in which to achieve sustainable development in Uzbekistan:

- Development of ecological democracy;
- Ensuring the equitable distribution and safe use of natural resources;
- Improving regional and global cooperation;
- To bring laws on environmental protection and the use of natural resources in line with international law;
- Development directions were identified, such as the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements and participation in regional programs.

Uzbekistan actively cooperates within the framework of the agreement with the European Union (EU). In order to improve and further develop cooperation with the European Union and its member States, on March 1, 2008, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-18 "On measures to develop cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Union and its member States" was adopted.

Uzbekistan is a member of the Global Partnership on Water Resources, as the problems of the use and distribution of water resources and their solutions are of paramount importance for the republic. The Regional Office of Global Water Cooperation -the Organization for Global Water Cooperation of the Central Asian Caucasus (CFCENA) intends to introduce approaches to global water cooperation so that regional organizations have mutually beneficial experience, exchange information and develop their potential by encouraging organizations involved in the management and use of water resources (government departments, local and regional organizations, professional associations, scientific and- research institutes, as well as the private sector and NGOs) voluntarily unite.

Uzbekistan provides support to a number of international financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), the European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development (darb), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and on such important issues as foreign investment, global experience and security access to clean technologies.

In conclusion, it should be noted that Uzbekistan's interests and activity are more evident in cooperation with the countries of Central Asia. This cooperation is carried out within the framework of the current International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, whose members are the Central Asian states — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The main task of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea is to coordinate actions to address issues of socio-economic development of the population, environmental protection and environmental improvement in order to achieve sustainable development in the Central Asian region.

The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea is carrying out the next stage of its activities under the leadership of the former President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, A.N. Nazarbayev, who has been President of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea since August 25, 2008. The Executive Committee, which is a permanent body of the Foundation, is located in Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan).

In 2008-2010, with the financial support of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, in accordance with the action plan, the project "Improving the organizational structure and legal framework of the International Island Rescue Fund and developing a Program for Socio-economic development and Environmental Improvement in the Aral Sea Basin (ODHD-3)" was implemented. The 3-ODH program defines the following main areas:

1. Integrated use of water resources, taking into account the interests of all countries in the region – integrated management of water, land and energy resources, safety of hydraulic structures and natural water bodies, construction of hydrological stations on transboundary rivers.
2. Environmental – improvement of the environmental monitoring system, protection of natural ecosystems, construction of local reservoirs, creation of protective forests on the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea.
3. Socio-economic is a program to help solve socio-economic problems in the Aral Sea region, provide clean drinking water to the population of the Aral Sea basin, expand the implementation of social projects, and

provide preferential loans to islanders.

4. Improvement of institutional and legal mechanisms - improvement of the regional regulatory and legal framework.

The National Working Group of Uzbekistan has prepared more than 110 project proposals in all areas of SDG-3, based on national interests, on the following issues:

- improvement of the hydro-reclamation monitoring system;
- Development of national and regional perspectives for the use of water resources;
- Restoration and creation of forests on the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea;
- Integrated management of the Amu Darya River Delta for the conservation of biodiversity;
- Improve the condition of the pastures of the Aral Sea region.

Also, based on the results of the reports, a single computerized database has been created:

Vostok was preparing for the operation of waste management systems in other leading countries in Europe, America, the CIS, Asia and the Pacific. Based on the results of the study of the East, recommendations were prepared for use in the republic. These recommendations were used as resource documents for the development of a Waste Management Strategy and a National Program. Shark's reports were published and distributed to specialists.

The Agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was signed on December 24, 1996. Permanent working groups of specialists from the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on remediation of tailings dumps and landfills have been established to solve problems related to tailings dumps and landfills.

In accordance with the protocol of the sixth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, work continues on obtaining initial data for the development of projects for the remediation and rehabilitation of tailings dams in the Mailuu-Suu River area, the organization of facilities and the study of

the ecological status of man-made objects of transboundary impact. As part of the World Bank's Rehabilitation of Mailuu-Suu Tailings Dams project in the Kyrgyz Republic, further developments were carried out to determine the list of primary and prospective tailings dams, rock dumps and sludge collectors for consolidation and loss, as well as within the framework of the Emergency Prevention program implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic (under international grants) as part of the project "production at the facility of JSC Noringidroenergostroy", the main work was carried out to reduce part of the Tectoni rolling stock, A rehabilitation strategy has been developed for 23 tailings dumps and 13 rock dumps. Currently, it is planned to develop a single unified international system of requirements for the management of residual warehouses, as well as control systems taking into account the geological features of the territory and the composition of waste.

The AGREEMENT between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources was signed on 06.02.1997. In May 2006, within the framework of the Convention on the Protection of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of cooperation on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of Saiga (range countries: Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia). Since 2007, on the initiative of the Kazakh side and in coordination with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has been developed.

The Agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the People's Republic of China was signed on 11.12.1997. Within the framework of this Agreement, from August 24 to 27, 2004, a delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan consisting of 3 people (2 specialists from the State Committee for Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan and 1 employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) visited Beijing. The visit was organized on the initiative and with the assistance of the State Administration of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (GUEP) with the support of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the People's Republic of China. This visit was the first in the framework of the implementation of the Agreement and was aimed at establishing mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the field of nature protection.

On August 4-8, 2006, at the invitation of the People's Republic of China, an Uzbek delegation headed by the Chairman of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan went to China. The main objective of the meeting is to hold negotiations at the level of heads of state, exchange experience in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources.

On November 3, 2007, during the official visit of the Prime Minister of the State Council of the People's Republic of China to Tashkent, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection and the State Administration of Nature Protection of the People's Republic of China.

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on cooperation in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, signed on 02/19/1998 in Kiev, measures are currently being implemented to implement the Program of Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine for 1990-2008. Resolution No. 151 of the Cabinet of Ministers dated April 19, 2000 "On the regulation of the import and export of environmentally hazardous products" was developed and adopted. A draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On technical regulation of standardization and rationing" has been prepared and is being implemented. Resolution No. 151 of the Cabinet of Ministers dated April 19, 2000 "On the regulation of the import and export of environmentally hazardous products" was developed and adopted. The countries continue to coordinate their activities within the framework of international export control regimes in accordance with their international obligations and improve the regulatory framework in the field of environmental certification, standardization and rationing. A draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On technical regulation" has been prepared and is being implemented.

The concept of cooperation of the SCO member states in

the field of environmental protection (under development) In 2005, the SCO member states began to develop a Concept for cooperation between the SCO member States in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources. Additional proposals were made by representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan based on the latest results of the work of experts from the environmental authorities of the SCO member states on the development of a common draft of this Concept.

In order to implement this agreement, the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection developed and in November 2003 sent to the Slovak side a draft Slovak-Uzbek cooperation program for 2004-2007. It was signed on May 11, 1998 in Braslav. In order to implement this agreement, the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection developed and in November 2003 sent to the Slovak side a draft Slovak-Uzbek cooperation program for 2004-2007. The main directions for the development of cooperation in the field of environmental protection and the intensification of bilateral relations between the environmental authorities of the two countries are:

- exchange of experience and implementation of technologies for the rational use of water resources;
- exchange of experience and practice in the field of renewable energy sources;
- Exchange of experience and information on the use of GIS technologies;
- Exchange of experience and information on waste management and implementation of the Basel Convention.

The Memorandum of Understanding in the field of nature protection and environmental cooperation between the State Administration of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China and the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was signed on 03.11.2007 in Tashkent. The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection has developed an action plan for the implementation of this Memorandum. In order to implement the measures included in this plan, the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan held a meeting with a representative of TVEA, one of China's leading electric conductor and transformation companies. During the meeting, possible areas of further cooperation were discussed.

Representatives of China's Eximbank took part in an international conference on the island's problems, their impact on the gene pool of the population, flora and fauna, and international cooperation measures to mitigate their consequences, organized by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on March 11-12, 2008 in Tashkent.

It is also planned that representatives of the Chinese Embassy in the Republic of Uzbekistan will participate in press conferences and other events in the field of environmental protection organized by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection. The issue of organizing the visit of the delegation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Uzbekistan has been worked out.

As you know, water is the source of life. After all, not a single herb on earth can do without it, nor a person can live. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of relevant organizations around the world aimed at meeting the needs of the population in water, this problem remains urgent.

According to available data, 1.1 billion people in the world need clean drinking water. On the other hand, 2.4 billion people consume insufficiently purified water. Fortunately, the water supply in our country is well established.: As in some foreign countries, it is not bought or given away for a certain period of time. However, this does not give a reason to use this gift of nature as a demon, but, on the contrary, encourages its value. Because the demand for water is growing every year. For example, if in 1990 there were 3,043 cubic meters of water per person, today this figure averages 2,600 cubic meters per year. According to experts, if water consumption continues in the same spirit, this volume may decrease to 1,200 cubic meters by 2030.1 What should be done to prevent this?

Let's make a reflection here. If each of us saves from one liter of water used for our daily needs, that leaves 30 million liters of water per day. In a week-2982 million liters! This means 200 thousand cubic meters. And with so much water, a person's need for this blessing will be satisfied within 70 years.

We are not focusing on this for nothing. Studies show that a very large part of the water — 30-40 percent — is wasted, seeping through open faucets and tiny holes in pipes².

There are other factors as well. "One of the most important problems facing Uzbekistan today is water scarcity, environmental and atmospheric pollution, soil degradation and desertification"³.

It is known that the worsening effects of global climate change have led to a reduction in the average annual water supply per capita in the countries of the world. Therefore, consistent measures are being taken to radically reform the mechanisms for using the water resources of life itself, ensure their rational use, support and stimulate the introduction of water-saving technologies in economic sectors, as well as improve the conservation of irrigated land.

According to the analysis of the hydrometeorological situation and a preliminary assessment, the expected amount of water in the basins of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers during the irrigation season this year may be 15-20 percent less on average than over a multi-year period. In addition, a total of 13 billion cubic meters of water have been collected in our country's reservoirs to date. This figure is 2.9 billion cubic meters more than in the corresponding period last year.

It has been estimated that a total of 38.2 billion cubic meters will be needed to grow agricultural products in the irrigated territories of our country during the irrigation season this year, including 30.2 billion cubic meters for basic crops and 8 billion cubic meters for harvesting and re-sowing. In accordance with this, appropriate measures are being taken to create water reserves, as well as to save it.

As we mentioned above, precipitation helps a lot to maintain moisture in the soil. However, such constant precipitation is not always observed. For example, an average of 10 millimeters of precipitation per 1 hectare can produce 100 cubic meters of water in the area, and 1,000 cubic meters of water if 100 millimeters of precipitation fall. And the rate of one-time irrigation of agricultural crops in our country is 1000-1300 cubic meters. This means that it does not fully cover the water needs of crops, even in the event of 100 millimeters of precipitation. Therefore, even during the period of constant precipitation, it is recommended to use water efficiently, saving it. However, the excess of spring precipitation over the norm has a beneficial effect on the care of crops on tulips and irrigated areas, contributing to increased yields³.

Naturally, the question arises: how much water is needed

to cultivate 4.3 million hectares of irrigated land in our republic? 70-71 billion cubic meters. 60 billion cubic meters of water comes from rivers, and the rest comes from groundwater and wastewater.

Therefore, since the first years of independence, the state has been paying special attention to the development of water management.

Currently, water resources are managed through 800 large hydraulic structures and 54 reservoirs with a total capacity of 19.4 billion cubic kilometers. All this is the result of consistent reforms carried out under the leadership of the head of our state in the field of reforming the water sector, which is the basis of the economy, and increasing its potential. The result of consistent reforms carried out under the leadership of the head of our state in the field of reforming the water sector, which is the basis of the economy, and increasing its potential.

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