



USAID

REGIONAL WATER

AND VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY

5th REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Organizers: USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity

Date: September 26, 2023

Venue: “Summit” conference hall, Farovon hotel, Khiva, Uzbekistan

Event format: Hybrid mode: in-person and online using ‘Zoom’ platform with simultaneous translation in Russian and English

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwuduGorzouHNBXTvByKLx5JEdLLc6n1tL->

The goal of the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity is to **strengthen technical capacity and regional cooperation on the management of water resources across Central Asia for improved stability, economic prosperity, and healthy ecosystems**. The Activity takes a multi-level governance approach to tackling complex regional water challenges by strengthening collaboration through stakeholder dialogue; developing a shared vision for integrated and sustainable Syr Darya and Amu Darya basins management; and fostering collaborative action across sectors and governance levels by introducing the water-energy-food-ecosystem (WEFE) nexus approach to planning and decision-making.

The Activity’s regional framework is operationalized through the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC), which convenes twice a year. This RCC meeting will be organized in conjunction with the Robust Decision Support (RDS) meeting for Amu Darya River (Sept 25) and the Regional Amu Darya River Day celebration (Sept 27).

The main goal of the 5th RCC meeting is to report on the achievements of Activity implementation at the country and regional levels during Year 3 and to discuss planned activities for Year 4.

Participants: USAID Mission in Central Asia, RCC members (including governmental officials from water, environment, agriculture ministries/agencies, foreign affairs ministries, and scientific-research institutions).



DRAFT AGENDA

Moderator: Ekaterina Strikeleva, Chief of Party, USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity

09:30 – 09:45

Opening remarks by host country and organizers

- *Azimzhon Nazarov, First Deputy Minister of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan*
- *Kail Padgitt, Director, Economic Growth and Environment Office, USAID Mission in Uzbekistan*

09:45 – 10:00

Introduction of the new members of the Regional Coordination Committee, presentation of the agenda

Ekaterina Strikeleva, Chief of Party

Regional and international activities for promoting regional cooperation and the WEFE Nexus approach:

- *Achievements at the regional level during Y3* (results of the New York Conference, Conference of the scientific institutes of Central Asia, IFAS conference in Dushanbe, Amu Darya River basin Expedition) – *Ekaterina Strikeleva, Chief of Party*

Q&A session, comments

10:00 – 10:15

Main achievements during Y3 of Activity implementation (1)

- **Kazakhstan** (PSAs, results of the Technical Audit of information system, SCUPWR, Ugam-Keless SBC) – *RCC member from Kazakhstan*
- **Kyrgyz Republic**
 - o Progress of work on development of rules for the Orto-Tokoi (Kasansay) reservoir and results of the 3rd bilateral working group meeting between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan - *Ulan Samanchiev, Head of Water Resources Management Department, Water Resources Service*
 - o Implementation of the Education Development Program and Road Map - *Zhyldyz Sadabaeva, Chief Specialist of WUA Support Department, Water Resources Service*
 - o Results of expert work on development of agricultural clusters - *Uran Chekirbaev, expert, Deputy Director, Department of Organic Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture*

Q&A session

10:45 – 11:15

Group photo and coffee-break



11:15 – 12:00

Main achievements during Y3 of Activity implementation (2)

- **Tajikistan**
 - Development of rules for establishing water protection zones and strips - *Isfandiyor Shukurov, Head of Water Resources Control and Protection Department, Committee for Environmental Protection*
 - Work at basin level - MBS of Isfara, Pyandj and lower Kofarnigan, Technical Operation Rules of the Bahri Tojik Reservoir - *Gul Sharipov, Deputy Head of the Water Resources Division, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources*
- **Turkmenistan**
 - Afforestation efforts in Dashoguz region, cooperation with Academy of Civil Service and Turkmen Agricultural University and Institute, Grant project at Karakum River – *Jumamyrat Annagurdov, Director of "Turkmensuvlymyntaslama" Design Institute*
- **Uzbekistan**
 - Trainings for hydrometers, Assessment of the Talimarjan reservoir, development of the curricula for technical collages, Padshaata SBC) – *RCC member from Uzbekistan*

Q&A session

12:00 – 13:00

Results of the Grants Program

General overview of the Grant program, *Janyl Mukashova, Contract, Grants and Procurement Manager*

“Contribution to the creation of a regional center in Central Asia for advanced trainings of water sector specialists on economic and financial aspects of IWRM”, *Kassiet Mussabayeva, Chair of the Public Union “Water Partnership in the Conservation of the Ecosystems of the Water Basins”, Kyrgyz Republic (online)*

“Activating the role of women and youth in water management of the Kofarnihon river basin”, *Muyasara Bobokhonova, Chair of the Public Organization “Woman and Society”, Tajikistan (online)*

“Promotion of the conservation of water resources and innovative solutions on the rational use of water in the Ferghana Valley”, *Rano Nuritdinova, Head of the Namangan branch of the Republican Socio-Information Center “Istiqbolli Avlod”, Uzbekistan*

“Water topic in the modern media space of Uzbekistan”, *Dilfuza Mirzakhmedova, Executive Director of the Public Organization “Media research and educational development center”, Uzbekistan*



13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:30

Results of the Objective 2 implementation:

- Short overview of the capacity building programs for the targeted SBCs,
- Syr Darya modeling results and further commitments of the tools' application
- Current progress on RDS for Amu Darya basin
- Overview of the national Amu Darya River Day celebration events
- 2nd Regional Forum of Basin Organizations

Anna Inozemtseva, IWRM Lead

Q&A session

14:30 – 15:00

Regional cooperation on education and science: research competition enhancement of the Community-of-Practice platform, meetings of the Network of Academic Societies, series of online WEFE lectures, guest-lectures

Marhabo Yodalieva, Capacity and education development Lead

Q&A session

15:00 – 15:30

General discussion, closing remarks, and comments from the delegations

Representative of the Ministry of Water Resources, Uzbekistan

Kail Padgitt, Director, Economic Growth and Environment Office, USAID Mission in Uzbekistan

15³⁰ – 16⁰⁰

Coffee-break