



Minutes of SDC RésEau CA meeting

Date:	22 nd August 2013
Place:	SCO Dushanbe
Time:	09:00 – 12:00
Chair:	Thierry Umbehr (UMBTH)
Minutes:	Thierry Umbehr
Present:	See attached participants' list
Excused:	
For information:	Manuel Thurnhofer

Reference: SDC RésEau Central Asia

Items of business

1. Welcoming

UMBTH addressed a welcoming to the 10 participants from 4 organisations (SDC, ISW, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and ACTED), who have all attended the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation, held in Dushanbe during the last two days.

2. Members' presentation and their activities

A short presentation of the participants and their activities in the respective fields and regions is following:

SDC KG

The Kyrgyz portfolio is rather wide and includes many different projects, such as transboundary cooperation (KG-TJ and KG-KZ) for establishment of water basin organisation and data management systems, up-scaling projects with IFIs, implementation of the water code and SECO financed water supply and sanitation in urban and rural areas.

SDC TJ

Similar to its neighbouring countries, the Swiss projects are dealing with water resource management, water supply and sanitation projects and DRR in small transboundary tributaries between TJ and KG, as well as in the Central part of the countries. A strong component is the Policy dialogue, where SDC is active in the different platforms (TajWSS, National Policy Dialogue, etc).

SDC UZ

Besides the two scaling-up projects with IFIs, SDC is starting a new National water resources management project active in four domains: implementation of the water code, establishment and running of resources centres for the Ministry of Water Resources and basin organisations, set-up of data management systems and a DRR component in small transboundary tributaries in the Fergana Valley. Water is also a central topic in the Skills development project, improving the curricula of technical colleges.

ISW TJ

Currently in the Tajik and Uzbek parts of the Fergana Valley, ISW is implementing rural water supply and sanitation projects (financed by SDC) with a focus on decentralized community based management approach. A special focus is put on the governance of the drinking water organizations,

including adequate full cost recovery tariffs. Secondly, permanent improved health promotions are undertaken and adapted sanitation solutions are being conceived for future projects.

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

In the two countries of KG and TJ, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation is active in the agricultural sector, mainly by providing assistance for markets' development, vocational training and irrigation.

ACTED

All projects are mainly run on community based approaches in the sectors of water supply, health promotion for schools and medical points, DRR, IWRM and more. In KG, ACTED is implementing projects in irrigation and water efficiency at Water Consumers Associations' (WCA) level. The REACH initiative for development and humanitarian aid partners in decision making processes is also being implemented by ACTED in KG.

3. RésEau CA operation modalities

UMBTH presented the idea of attaching RésEau CA meetings to existing events (e.g. conferences, water weeks, workshops), where already RésEau members are attending. This would increase their interest in participating, meeting and exchanging of information. During these "moments forts", on-field activities could then be planned, including field visits, participation at inaugurations, etc. More emphasis will be given to practical meetings in the field, including a wide range of stakeholders.

Secondly, on water supply and sanitation issues, the SCO and project partners in MD and UA will systematically be included in the Sub RésEau CA. Since, from a technical and institutional point of view, the project context, the legal framework (norms and standards) and moreover, the challenges are identical to the Central Asian countries.

4. RésEau CA members' proposals

Comments and proposals from the RésEau CA members are presented in two dimensions:

Vertical dimension

SDC RésEau CA shall be a platform to promote and facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge sharing and possibly some lobbying mechanisms in order to introduce the field experiences and results at the highest National level. Though, National donors and coordination platforms do exist, the NGO's participation is not acknowledged enough and the urgent increase of the capacities of the governmental institutions is not taking place. It would contribute to link the Policies to the field, to build ownership, improve dialogue and share the best practices.

Horizontal exchanges

Often implementing partners are active in the same sectors, facing almost similar challenges, either of technical or institutional kind. SDC RésEau CA shall strongly facilitate the exchange of technical solutions, best practices and be a platform of information sharing about current events in the region. Therefore, the website shall be structured to allow frequent announcements of events organized by the members, field missions and other "moments forts". New challenges, e.g. sanitation, could be followed and suggestions made to find the specific know how in the region. Publications, manuals and important reports shall also be exchanged through the platform (website).

UMBTH noted all suggestions and will update the RésEau CA website to make it more interactive and user friendly.

5. RésEau CA upcoming events

- 2nd – 6th September 2013: Stockholm Water Week (participation of Global Programme-Water Initiatives and representatives of SCO Tashkent and Despro (UA))
- 31st March – 6th April 2014: Field visit of SDC partners from MD and UA in the Fergana Valley for water supply and sanitation.

6. Miscellaneous

ACTED announced the holding of a conference related to water in UZ in Oct/Nov. 2013.



List of participants

Date: 22nd August 2013

Meeting:	SDC RésEau CA meeting
Place, time:	SCO Dushanbe, 09:00 – 12:00

Name	Position	Organisation	Contact
Umbehr Thierry		SDC Uzbekistan	thierry.umbehr@eda.admin.ch
Makhmutov Bakyt		SDC Kyrgyzstan	bakyt.makhmutov@eda.admin.ch
Sadykov Ruslan		SDC Tajikistan	ruslan.sadykov@eda.admin.ch
Homidova Rahbar		ISW Khujand	rahbarhomidova@gmail.com
Mansurova Rano		ACTED	rano.mansurova@acted.org
Gulomjanov Ilhom		ACTED	ilhom.gulomjanov@acted.org
Franco Marianna		ACTED Central Asia	marianna.franco@acted.org
Füeg Karin		Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Tajikistan	karin.fueg@helvetas.org
Abdullaeva Makhfirat		ISW Khujand	iswkhujand@gmail.com
Akramov Sohob		SDC Uzbekistan	sohib.akramov@eda.admin.ch