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Introduction to SDC's water network

Kick-off meeting Sub-RésEAU Central Asia 2023

26.01.2023

Lisa Gampp (Focal Point Sub-RésEAU Central Asia)

Skat Consulting Ltd (backstoppers to the RésEAU)



Agenda

| Time | Topic |
|------|---|
| 12' | Welcome |
| 23' | Sub-RésEAU presentation and Q&A |
| 25' | Topics and activities: Groups discussion |
| 23' | Topics and activities: Plenary discussion |
| 7' | Closing |

Type your questions in the chat throughout the meeting

Attendance list (1/2)

| N° | Name | Organisation | country | email |
|----|---------------------------|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Elodie Feijoo organizer | Skat Consulting Ltd | CH | Elodie.fejoo@skat.ch |
| 2 | Florian Klingel organizer | Skat Consulting Ltd | CH | Florian.klingel@skat.ch |
| 3 | Samira Keller organizer | Skat Consulting Ltd | CH | Samira.keller@skat.ch |
| 4 | Joop de Schutter | Waterpartner Foundation | NL | joop.deschutter@waterpartner.org |
| 5 | Tobias Siegfried | Hydrosolutions | CH | siegfried@hydrosolutions.ch |
| 6 | Tom Battin | EPFL | CH | tom.battin@epfl.ch |
| 7 | Md. Akramul Haque | DASCOH (IWRM project funded by SDC) | BD | - |
| 8 | Gulchehra Boboeva | Equidev (Spin-off Oxfam GB) | TJ | Gulchehra.boboeva@equidev.info |
| 9 | Dumitru Mamaliga | ISW COWAS | TJ | - |
| 10 | Yodalieva, Marhabo | USAID Reg. Water and Vulnerable Env. Activity | KZ | - |
| 11 | Temur Sodikzoda | ISW | TJ | sodikzoda.temur@gmail.com |
| 12 | Shakhnoza Umarova | Caritas | CH | sumarova@caritas.ch |
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| 14 | Shohida Tulieva | Helvetas (NWRM project) | TJ | shohida4993@gmail.com |
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| 19 | Bakhtiyor Yusupov | Helvetas (NWRM project) | TJ | - |
| 20 | Milow, Caroline | GIZ | UZ | caroline.milow@giz.de |
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| 25 | Bühler, Reto | EBP | CH | rb@ebp.ch |

Attendance list (2/2)

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| 26 | Bruce Campbell | SDC (A+FS Network) | CH | bruce.campbell@eda.admin.ch |
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| 40 | Birodar Burhonjonov | NWRM project | UZ | - |
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Expectations & knowledge of RésEAU

The participants expectations for the kick-off event circled around getting to know the RésEAU as a network, shape the activities to be taken up by the Sub-RésEAU CA with own ideas and last but not least to network and exchange on relevant water topics for the region. There were participants who have already been RésEAU members for years and who know it well, but also many who are not yet familiar with the RésEAU.

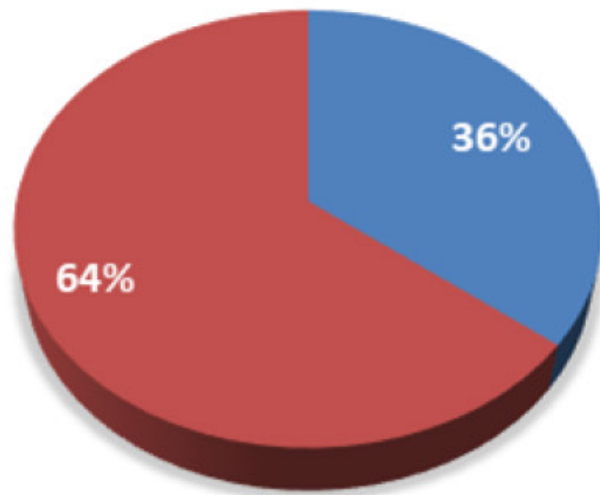
OBJECTIVES

RésEAU aims at assuring the sector knowledge management within SDC and with its partners. Its main objectives are:

- SDC and partner staff apply up-to-date knowledge in their water-related work, are connected and exchange among each other
- SDC's water profile is strengthened, coherent and trend-setting



MEMBERS



- SDC members SDC
(secondée, SECO, FDFA)
- non-SDC members Partners

RésEAU members are staff of SDC, all divisions included (thematic cooperation, humanitarian aid, regional), and other Federal Institutions active in water-related projects, as well as their implementing partners.

To request membership:
<https://dgroups.org/sdc/reseau/join>

TOOLS & ACTIVITIES

- Regional face-to-face events
- Bi-monthly updates
- Webinars and e-discussions
- Brief Series
- Thematic learning journeys
- Capitalization support



SUB-RÉSEAUS



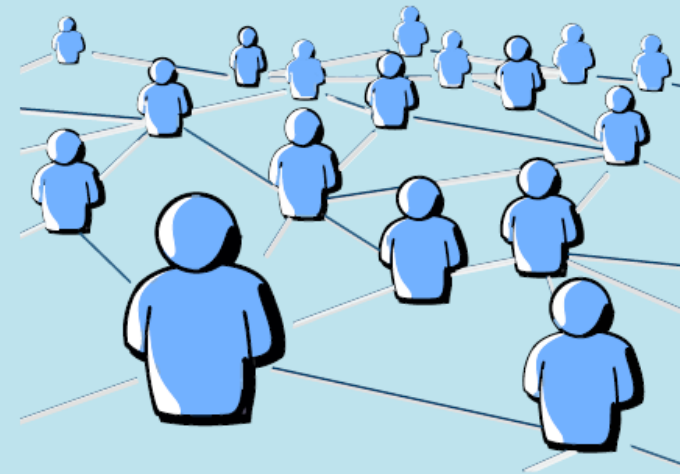
The Sub-RésEAUs are regional sub-networks under the global RésEAU that foster exchange and learning at the regional level.

Current ones are: Africa (Anglophone and Francophone), Central Asia (CA), Eastern Europe (EE), Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

GOVERNANCE

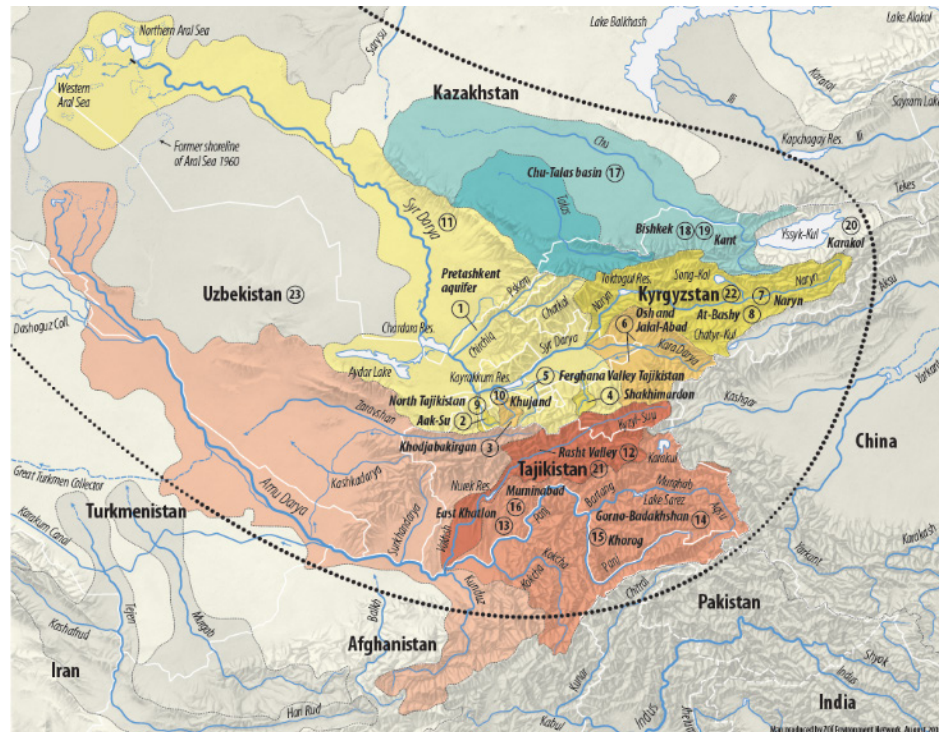
RésEAU is anchored in the Section Water of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through its Focal Point.

A core group is formed by SDC staff in Bern and in partner countries, who act as link to the regions and participate in decision making and planning of activities.



Sub-RésEAU Central Asia

- Focal Point Central Asia: Lisa Gampp
- Members: SDC staff and partner staff in SDC funded water projects



Projects

■ SDC △ SECO

- ① Pretashkent aquifer
 - Groundwater resources governance in transboundary aquifers
 - ② Aak-Su
 - National Water Resources Management Project in Tajikistan (NWRM – Tajikistan)
 - ③ Khodjabakirgan
 - National Water Resources Management Project in Tajikistan
 - ④ Shakhimardonsai
 - Regional Rural Water Supply Project Uzbekistan (RRWSP)
 - ⑤ Fergana Valley Tajikistan
 - Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Tajikistan Fergana Valley
 - ⑥ Osh and Jalal-Abad
 - △ Osh and Jalal-Abad Water Rehabilitation project
 - ⑦ Naryn
 - △ Naryn water and wastewater project
 - ⑧ At-Bashy
 - △ At-Bashy Haydro Power Plant Rehabilitation Project
 - ⑨ North Tajikistan
 - △ North Tajik Water Rehabilitation Project
 - ⑩ Khujand
 - △ Khujand wastewater rehabilitation project III
 - ⑪ Syr Darya
 - △ Syr Darya water supply project
 - ⑫ Rasht Valley
 - Integrated Health and Habitat Improvement (IHII) Rasht Valley II
 - △ Faizabad Water and Wastewater project
 - ⑬ East Khatlon
 - Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation (TajWSS) III
 - Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Management in Tajikistan Project (SWSMT)
 - ⑭ Gorno-Badakhshan
 - Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Management in Tajikistan Project (SWSMT)
 - ⑮ Khorog
 - △ Pipeline: Khorog Urban Resilience
 - △ North Tajik Water Rehabilitation Project
 - △ Tajik Water Phase II (Water Supply and Sanitation in Khorog)
 - ⑯ Muminabad
 - HA Natural disaster DRR and IWSM Muminabad
 - ⑰ Chu-Talas basin
 - Water Accountability in Transboundary Chu and Talas River Basins
 - ⑱ Bishkek
 - △ Bishkek water and waste water rehabilitation project
 - ⑲ Kant
 - △ Kant Water and Wastewater Project
 - ⑳ Karakol
 - △ Karakol Water supply Project
 - ㉑ Tajikistan
 - △ Tajik (national level) Water Phase II
 - Focus Remote geohazards capacity building
 - Improved DRR Policy making
 - National Water Resources Management Project in Tajikistan (NWRM – Tajikistan)
 - ㉒ Kyrgyzstan
 - National Water Resources Management Project in Kyrgyzstan (NWRM – Kyrgyzstan)
 - ㉓ Uzbekistan
 - National Water Resources Management Uzbekistan
- Central Asia
 Blue Peace Central Asia
 △ Central Asia Energy and Water Dev. CAEWDP

How to participate in the RésEAU and Sub-RésEAU

- Register as member: <https://dgroups.org/sdc/reseau>
- Receive news: RésEAU brief, news&events, etc.
- Share your News, announce your Event, inform on your project, discuss with other network members
- Participate in specific RésEAU and Sub-RésEAU online and face-to-face activities

More information: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Water/about-the-reseau/your-input>

Activities in the Sub-RésEAU in the past

SDC internal:

- Ongoing: “Virtual Regional Office” Meetings (3 NPOs, Lisa)
- 2022: Learning Journey on Political Economy Analysis in the Water Sector (RésEAU Brief planned for February 2023)

As part of Sub-RésEAU Eastern Europe and Central Asia (selection):

- 2019: Regional Water Team Days Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2017: Regional Water Team Days Macedonia
- 2015: Regional Water Team Days Moldova
- 2015: Workshop on standards and norms Central Asia
- 2014: Staff exchange on ecological sanitation, Uzb/Taj to Moldova

Activities 2023

- Exchange on a focus topic throughout the year (“Learning Journey”)
 - Virtual exchanges
 - Meeting back to back of other regional events
 - e.g. the Central Asia Climate Conference in Dushanbe in May, IFAS High Level conference
 - Regional Face-to-face Meeting in October 2023 (to be confirmed)

Potential focus topics

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Groundwater management and governance</p> | <p>Situation of aquifers and monitoring systems; relevance of GW use of domestic water supply and irrigation; regulation of GW abstraction; protection of GW from pollution</p> |
| <p>2. Water governance system and financing of IWRM and basin plans</p> | <p>Institutional and financing arrangements for IWRM; best practices from the region and Europe</p> |
| <p>3. Gender and Leave no one behind in IWRM</p> | <p>Targeting of investments in water management; awareness among decision makers</p> |
| <p>4. Water pollution from domestic wastewater and from agriculture</p> | <p>Decentralised (domestic) wastewater treatment; techniques to manage agricultural pollution</p> |
| <p>5. Water data management</p> | <p>Water information systems; data sharing between sectors and between countries</p> |

Poll: Which of these do you find most relevant for the focus topic 2023?

Group discussion on focus topics

- You will be placed in the group on your preferred topic (poll)
- Each group selects a person for taking notes and reporting back
- Group discussion (20 min)
 - How is this topic relevant for you and your work/project?
 - Where specifically is there a knowledge gap?
 - Do you (already) have something to share/show on this topic?
- Return to the plenary and reporting back (3 min per group).
 - Take your notes in [the google slides](#) (link shared in the chat)

Group 1 - Groundwater management and governance

- Large agreement on the high relevance of the topic, yet it is perceived that groundwater is not a focus or that it is even forgotten about by practitioners and donors. Also, there is weak inter-sectoral cooperation on groundwater, weak capacities and scattered responsibilities.
 - Groundwater is absent from learning and education, and impact of human activity and climate change on groundwater is unknown. Some groundwater monitoring and up-to-date information is available on the status and trends of major aquifers. But most data is outdated. Groundwater offers an interesting entry-point for DRR.
 - Yet, there is some experience on the topic: AKF project in Tajikistan on groundwater, GGRETA a new project on groundwater being elaborated by SDC Tajikistan, new regional/transboundary groundwater governance project planned by SDC.
- > More should be invested to bring attention to groundwater as a resource and foster knowledge about it in CA.

Group 2 - Water governance system, financing of IWRM and basin plans

- Knowledge gap exists on institutional level – could be addressed through trainings & webinars or platforms.
 - Existing [Community of Practice](#) (USAID WAVE activity).
 - There is a need to modernize water management and basin models in CA, cost benefit analysis should be included.
 - Water diplomacy should be treated as an integral part of water governance.
- > Some experiences and best practices on water governance exist, yet in the group topic, priorities are quite unclear.

Group 3 - Gender and Leave no one behind in IWRM

- Experience to share:
 - NWRM Tajikistan AND Basin Women Forum at the Tajik part of Syrdarya basin level.
 - NWRM Uzbekistan undertook gender assessment of the water sector in 2021; training in 2022 on the economic empowerment of women in the water sector. Climate change and gender training in 2023
 - Sub-RésEAU could replicate existing and past events, contests and trainings on and for women in the water sector (i.e. platform Basin Women Forum, practice-oriented trainings on water efficiency for women, economic empowerment of women in water sector).
 - What is needed? Specific courses on climate change and its impact on gender at the local level, more practice-oriented trainings on water efficiency as well as female-oriented income generating activities are needed. Actions at the institutional level are needed to guarantee women inclusion and participation.
- > Some initiatives exist in the region on a national level that the RésEAU could scale up / bring to other national contexts

Group 4 - Water pollution from domestic wastewater and agriculture

- Wastewater treatment (WWT) in CA is challenging, low-tech approaches are preferable.
 - Relevant experiences on the topic: EBP has relevant experience from North Macedonia and Egypt to share; ISW pilot experience in Sughd on WWT alternative technologies.
 - Suggestion of activities: promote the use of organic fertilizer instead of mineral fertilizer that might even be produced from composting sewage sludge.; waste derived fertilizer; wastewater treatment options including alternative technologies; effluent standards for wastewater treatment
- > Some experiences existing, but challenging context to convince decision-makers in CA, so involvement of academia is important.

Group 5 - Water data management

- Knowledge gaps exist on the level of historical monitoring data – this data is either not easy to find or non-existent, or when existing quality of data unsure
 - Observational networks on groundwater are quite scarce in the CA context.
- > An overview of the archive data would be useful.

Additional ideas for other relevant topics by the attendees

- Water and Heritage
- Advocacy on Water

How to register as a RésEAU member

- Interested in becoming a Sub-RésEAU Central Asia member?
- **Register here:** <https://dgroups.org/sdc/reseau/central-asia>

Thank you for joining the kick-off event!