

As part of the Project, much attention is paid to supporting national water sector reforms in CA and Afghanistan. One of the components of such support is providing assistance to countries in purchasing required handing over state-of-the-art technical equipment and software for authorized water resources management bodies. It is expected that the purchased equipment will complement the ongoing country reforms by modernizing a range of technical practices such as water accounting etc.

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAHSTAN

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Project supported the purchase of MIKE 11 (MIKE Hydro River) software for the Kazhydromet to enhanse local river run-off modeling practices.

Currently, this is done using the outdated flow forecasting methods developed back in 70s and 80s. These are based on interactions of a whole range of runoff statistics involving various hydrometeorological parameters. As a result, unjustified and unreliable forecasts are commonplace. Hence, there is the need for modern methods and practices in hydrological forecasting.

MIKE 11 software is a specialized software that allows modeling and forecasting the river runoff. The software performs complex hydraulic and hydrological calculations. MIKE 11 can be used for both lowland and mountain rivers. It allows forecasting the volume of runoff, and visualizing the of flood zones, including those that might result from reservoir failures.

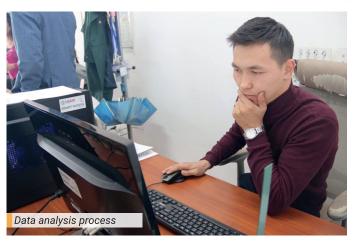
Basically, with the help of MIKE 11, it will be possible to make a real assessment of annual water resources for each transboundary basin, which is necessary when planning the run-off volume for water distribution between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the neighboring countries.

Considering that computer modeling and forecasting of river flows is a more accurate and reliable source of information, and not subject to a large numbers of errors in the computations, it is expected that this software will also help to reduce potential disputes related to the distribution of water between countries.

In addition to the procurement of the specialized software, the employees of "Kazhydromet" will be also provided with a dedicated training course on its use. This will serve as an additional contribution of the Project to the enhancement of skills and potential of civil servants.



THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



At present, timely information exchange and regular communication play a very important role in the decision-making process, including in water management. This is equally relevant for both interstate cooperation and daily communication of the central offices of authorized bodies with their territorial subdivisions.

At the request of the Department of Water Management and Land Reclamation and the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, the project "Smart Waters" supported the purchase of modern office equipment. The equipment of public authorities operating in the field of water resources management and environmental protection contributes to the implementation of the state program for monitoring water bodies in the Kyrgyz Republic, to the achievement of the objectives of the state program for irrigation development in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2017 - 2026.

It is expected that through the purchased equipment, the capacity of employees of water and environmental departments, and in particular, those in the territorial subdivisions, will be increased, and they will be provided the opportunity to take part in webinars and online trainings. In addition, exchange of information between territorial units and central offices of the two agencies will be established on a regular basis, which is hoped to greatly facilitate the decision-making process, as well as in the event of emergencies in particular.

THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Based on the needs assessment carried out at the initial stage of the Project, the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was identified as the main partner for the implementation of the Project in the Republic of Tajikistan.

By now the project has been addressing a number of key water sector reform needs identified for strengthening in this country including: drafting the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Land Reclamation and Irrigation"; creating and facilitating the National Commission for Irrigation and Drainage (NCID); assisting the newly established ALRI in a number of ways. Particularly, the project has supported the Agency in purchasing a modern multifunctional measuring GIS equipment along with a high-precision satellite receiver Zenith35 Pro Tilt & Go from GeoMax. The equipment was supplied to ALRI's "Tajikgiprovodkhoz" Water System Design Institute to

help it remain competitive in the labor market, retain professional designers, keep designing high quality hydraulic structures and deliver other tasks as assigned to the Institute by the ALRI.

Besides, the handed over equipment will also address one of the Project's objectives - increasing the capacity of the Institute's staff.



All purchased equipment and software are handed over for further operation to public water management and environmental authorities. By doing so the public authorities in CA and Afghanistan are enabled to use modern approaches in water resources management, as well as to adopt best global experiences aimed at ensuring sustainable development.