



Public participation in water management in Uzbekistan

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FOCAL POINT

Effective management of water resources, prevention of natural disasters such as droughts and floods, is of great importance in the light of climate change and its consequences.

- Civil society participation in addressing water and environmental problems
- Population's awareness of measures to be taken on national and local levels to conserve water resources and prevent disasters related to water.
- The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On water and water use” prescribes the form of public participation in water use and management of water resources. Public hearing on the implementation of this act are conducted on a regular basis in all regions of the country with the participation of NGOs and other stakeholders.

WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

- Citizens of Uzbekistan may voluntarily form water consumers associations (WCA) designated as non-governmental non-profit organizations created by water consumers and acting as legal entities to coordinate water relations, as well as to provide representation and protection of common interests.
- The founders may be farms or cooperative farms and other water consumers.
- The members are farms, self-government bodies and others.
- Up to year of 2015, 1,502 of WCAs operate in the country.
- The area served by the WCA is 3964.16 thousand hectares.
- WCA provide services to 63,010 water users, of which 55,867 are farms.
- The number of service staff is 10,163 people, including 5,294 hydraulic engineers.

ECOMOVEMENT'S DEPUTY GROUP IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF THE OLIY MAJLIS

- Ecomovement is an environmental NGO established in 2008
- According to the Constitution, a quota for 15 seats in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan was given to ensure environmental course of decision-making process and public participation

Associations of water consumers, representatives of NGOs and mass media are considerably involved in inspections and analytical activities carried out by the members of parliament, together with specialists of environmental authorities and local authorities.



INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

Public actions, information campaigns conducted by state and private broadcasting companies and creative competitions to unite the population.

- “Water is Everywhere”, the Global Water Partnership and Ecomovement, 2013-2015
- “A drop of water brings life”, annual school competition
- “Let us save water”, National Broadcasting Company of Uzbekistan, local authorities, WCA
- Special water nominations in national contests on environmental journalism, “Best idea for adaptation to climate change”, etc.
- Special TV channel “Around the Earth”

Joint initiatives and events:

- “Every Drop Matters”, UNDP and the Coca-Cola Company, 2011.
 - “Fix the water supply in your makhalla”, Ecomovement, 2014.
 - “Replacing taps”, Ecomovement, 2014.
- etc.

Activities of NGOs:

- Target program to increase public awareness and to enhance best practices in water management, on the initiative of the Forum of environmental NGOs
 - Social projects in the Aral Sea region, Jizzakh and Tashkent regions : demonstration of drip irrigation installations (2009); training center for farmers in Farish district of Jizzakh region (2012-2013.)
- etc.



Water consumers in Ferrana

Training for farmers

Meeting in Tashkent

Workshop on water management legislation

Training for farmers in Jizzakh region

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE RISKS OF EMERGENCIES RELATED TO WATER

- Learning materials, memos and brochures for population

Early warning systems:

- Informing the population through public telecommunication networks of the possibility of emergencies related to water (sms mailing).
- Mobile applications (App Store, Google Play).
- Regular trainings for population, as well as officers and engineers on water facilities
- Rescuers' Public Clubs

Challenges and target programmes

- Water scarcity and the Aral Sea disaster
- Further decrease in river flow in the upper reaches of the Amy Darya and Syr Darya as a result of melting of glaciers in the Tien Shan
- Drinking water consumption and sanitation first and foremost
- Implementation of national projects on creation of small local reservoirs in the delta of Amu Darya river, construction of water intake facilities with desalination plants, protective forest plantations and ornithological monitoring in the southern part of the Aral Sea basin.



Thank you!

