



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

23rd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

**“Water governance in the OSCE area –
increasing security and stability through cooperation”**

CONCLUDING MEETING

SESSION III:
**Water governance and cooperation at transboundary level:
lessons learnt for water diplomacy**
Good practice in information and data sharing

Prague, Tuesday 15th of September 2015



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Session III topic:
Good practices in Information and data sharing

***Lessons learned from the iMoMo Pilot project
within the Chu-Talas river basins***



- Context
- Data & Water governance
- The Chu-Talas basins
- The iMoMo project
- Current achievements
- Lessons learnt and recommendations

The water management context (1)

In Central Asia

During Soviet Union:

- **Heavily structured top-down approach to water resources management**

At the fall of the USSR:

- **Transboundary cooperation became difficult or impossible**
- **Increase water losses and land degradation**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The water management context (2)

In Central Asia - Today

- Population growth → increase in water demand
- No timeliness and reliability of water delivery +
- Slow data exchange / not real time data → poor water management at all levels
- Supply not matching Demand Lack/absence of access to accurate data +

➤ **Growing conflicts between water users**



In Kyrgyzstan

- **Fragmented agricultural economy**
→ difficult water management

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Data and Water Governance



For effective governance

- Investments in information, institutions and infrastructure, and
- Investments balanced between its four dimensions: social, environmental, economic and political

For a proper management of water resources

- strengthening of institutions, and
- sustainable infrastructure measures
- Real data and information

- **Access to enough reliable data and information is a precondition to good water governance.**
- **Essential to build confidence between transboundary water management organizations**

The Chu-Talas transboundary river basins



Chu basin: 62'500 Km²
Water Resources: 6.64 Km³
Irrigated area: 465 ths. Ha
of which: KG 63%, KZ 37%

Talas basin: 52'700 Km²
Water Resources: 1.62 Km³
Irrigation area: 160 ths. Ha,
of which: KG 75%, KZ 25%

- River basins across two countries : Kyrgyzstan (upstream) and Kazakhstan (downstream)

- **Competing water demands for agriculture**

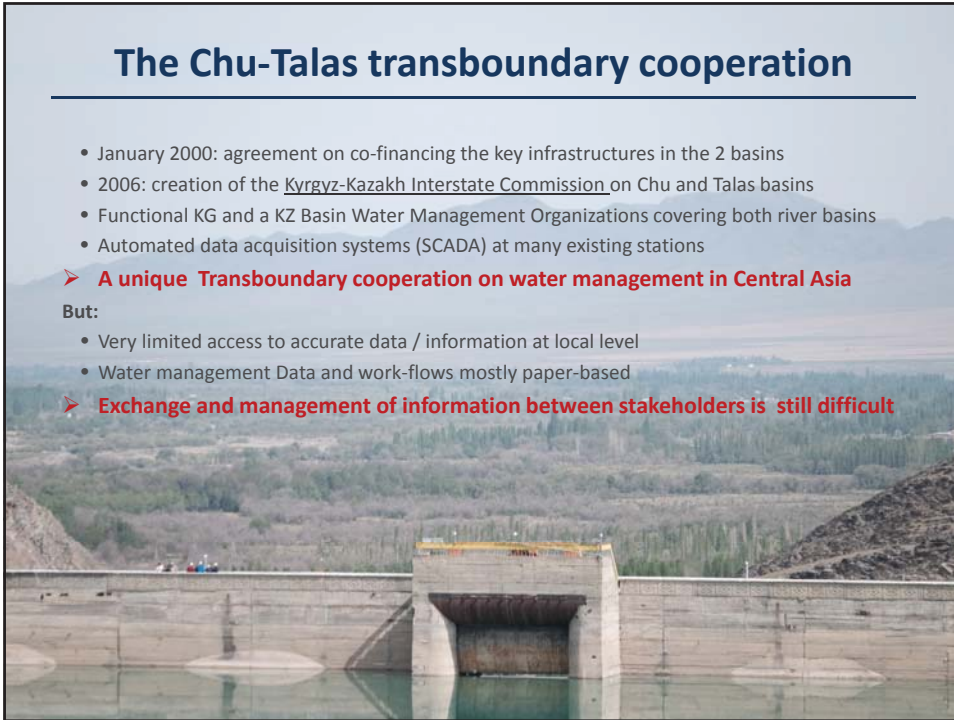
The Chu-Talas transboundary cooperation

- January 2000: agreement on co-financing the key infrastructures in the 2 basins
- 2006: creation of the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Interstate Commission on Chu and Talas basins
- Functional KG and a KZ Basin Water Management Organizations covering both river basins
- Automated data acquisition systems (SCADA) at many existing stations

➤ **A unique Transboundary cooperation on water management in Central Asia**

But:

- Very limited access to accurate data / information at local level
 - Water management Data and work-flows mostly paper-based
- **Exchange and management of information between stakeholders is still difficult**



The iMoMo project in the Chu-Talas basins

- **The Chu-Talas basins : a fertile context to pilot the innovative iMoMo project**
- **There is a need and a demand to :**
- Increase data collection and exchange,
 - Help decision making based on solid data and analysis

An innovative approach

- Demand-driven approach
- Crowdsourcing method for wide and cost-effective data collection
- Online water information system based on voluntary upload, and sharing of data

Project launch in January 2014 of :



iMoMo - Innovative Technologies for Monitoring, Modeling and Managing Water

Collaboration between more than 10 partners from CH, FR and KG

The iMoMo technology

- Low cost high tech devices (stick, mobile video) — to collect data (water discharge)
- Mobile phone (SMS) — to send it to data bases in almost real time
- Web-based system — for data archiving and water accounting

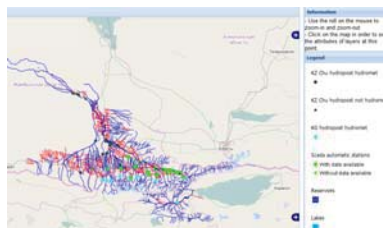


Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Current achievements

Current and main achievements, after 1 ½ year of implementation

- Regular data exchange between producers and users at national and transboundary level
- Web mapping tool for information sharing
- Automatically generated Hydrological Bulletin for the Chu river,
- Local capacity to manufacture the iMoMo technologies (KG)
- Willingness of the water users and managers (at all level) to work with this system



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Lessons learned and Recommendations

Lessons learned:

- **2 important factor of success**
 - Demand driven approach and voluntary upload and sharing of data
 - Early demonstration of the technology and system to get the buy in
- **Access to reliable and accurate data:**
 - key to start any negotiation on transboundary water management
 - Indirectly: A driver for cooperation and development

Recommendation

- To complete and make this pilot project sustainable
- **To replicate this experience in many other transboundary basins allowing negotiation based on real data**

Thank you!

