

## INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF THE GREAT RIVERS OF THE WORLD: "TAKING ACTION FOR WATER AND CLIMATE" 23-25 October 2017 - Rome, ITALY

### "Transboundary water and climate readiness initiative"

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Climate change adaptation and flood/ drought management of the Aral Syrdarya Basin in the Republic of Kazakhstan

### **BASIN AND COUNTRIES – REGION:**

The Aral Syrdarya basin in Kazakhstan constitutes the crucial downstream part of the transboundary Syrdarya basin (Aral Sea), regulated at 93% by six large and dozens of small reservoirs. The Syrdarya river constitutes one of the main inflows into the Aral Sea, the shrinking of which has been called "one of the planet's worst environmental disasters".



### **ORGANIZATION CONCERNED:**

Main beneficiaries are

- The Aral Syrdarya basin inspectorate at basin level
- The Water Resource Committee under Ministry of Agriculture, at national level, but the project will also involve and benefit to various others sectorial organizations such as
  - "Kazhydromet" RSE
  - Committee of Emergency situation under Ministry of Interior
  - Department of Hydropower management and Environment committee under the Ministry of Energy
  - Public organizations

### **HISTORICAL AND CONTEXT:**

The country has a legal and institutional framework for water resources management. The move toward IWRM standards was operated progressively in the country through the adoption in 2003 of a water code which fits to IWRM principles and then the Environmental Code. Both codes introduce a coordinated approach dealing with water resources management activities, requiring a high level of coordination between institutions.

For its water resource management, the country was divided into 8 river basins: Irtysh, Ishim, Tobol-Turgai, Nura-Sarysu, Ural-Caspian, Aral-Syr Darya, Chu-Talas and Balkhash-Alakol. For each basin a River Basin Councils (RBC) was nominated. These councils are facing difficulties implementing efficient IWRM, among others due to the lack of suitable means, human resources, technical capacity for data management, planning, defining program of measure..., and financial means.

A first Aral Syrdarya RBMP was established in 2011. It gives a vision of the Aral-Syrdarya basin in 25 years, however its program of measure remain very general and do not insure financing of proposed actions. More others, it do not include measures allowing to insure the adaptation to climate change neither flood and drought management.

In relation with water data production and processing, water resource monitoring and water related data production in Kazakhstan is operated through a multitude of institutions which don't use a harmonized approach: each body uses its own data collection procedures, its own software and processing tools (databases, GIS, modelling.... ).The Water Resource Committee is in charge of establishing an information database of water bodies and ensuring access for all stakeholders. However, there is a lack of interinstitutional coordination related to water data production, management and exchange. Due to that, there is still no basin water information system and the data existing at the level of the various institutions is not efficiently valorized, and the production of information necessary for an efficient decision making and public information could largely be improved.

## **AIMS OF THE PROJECT (WATER & CLIMATE...)**

The global objective of the project is to improve water governance and the efficiency of water resource management in the Syrdarya river basin, with the specific goal to reinforce the Syrdarya river basin management plan on flood and drought management aspects considering the need for climate change adaptation, through development of a basin water information system providing new water data services. It will result into a revised management plan integrating drought and flood management aspects, into an updated program of measures with some selected "soft" measures, and into a basin scale water information system providing new water-related data services.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION: ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS**

Main activities:

- Legislative and institutional analysis leading to recommendations on the main measures to be envisaged in the different sectors for an efficient river basin management;
- Rationalizing the data production and management through the development of Basin master plan related to water data production and data management;
- Developing a basin information system managed by the Basin Inspection and providing information production service for IWRM, flood management, drought management and adaptation to climate change;

- Preparing a first draft revision of the RBMP taking into account the need for climate change adaptation;
- Analyzing the possibilities to develop transboundary data exchange
- Developing flood management plan taking into account climate change;
- Developing drought management plan taking into account climate change;
- Developing an economic analysis with production of proposals looking for insuring of the program of measures;
- Reinforcing the existing RBMP process and adaptation of the program of measures with integration of drought and flood management aspects, as well as the need related data production and data management reinforcement;
- Promotion of result at the level at basin level;
- Promotion of the results at regional level.

#### Deliverables:

- Flood and drought management plans for the Syrdarya river basin (KZ) are developed
- The Syrdarya KZ RBMP is revised and adopted with integration of drought and flood management aspects
- A program of measures is updated and adopted with some selected “soft” measures implemented
- A basin water information system is operational and provides new water-related data services