

ATTACHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Introduction

1. To increase the efficiency of water resources use, the Government of Tajikistan is reforming water resources management (WRM).¹ The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources was abolished in 2013 and its responsibilities were reassigned to the newly formed (i) Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR), responsible for the policy and regulations on WRM; and (ii) the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI), responsible for development and operation and maintenance of WRM infrastructure. Further reforms include (i) the change in WRM areas from territorial administrative areas to hydrological areas; and (ii) the establishment of (a) river basin management (RBM) plans to clarify and monitor water allocations; and (b) water governance institutions such as river basin organizations (RBOs) to draft RBM plans, and river basin councils (RBCs), which will provide a participation mechanism for water users to approve RBM plans, in line with the principles of integrated WRM.

2. In 2014, the government requested Asian Development Bank (ADB) support to implement reforms in the Pyanj River basin (PRB), which forms the boundary of Tajikistan and Afghanistan, while the World Bank has commenced support for the reforms at a national level and in the Kafernigan River basin,² and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation started its support in the Syr Darya River basin. Given that more than 40% of the PRB comprises the territory of Afghanistan and that serious flood disasters occur frequently, in 2010 the governments of Afghanistan and Tajikistan signed a bilateral agreement for joint hydrological monitoring of the Pyanj River. A plan to establish a joint PRB commission was drafted in 2013 with ADB assistance.³ The government has also requested ADB support to establish and implement the joint commission.

3. This delegated capacity development technical assistance (TA) was designed as an integral part of the Water Resources Management in Pyanj River Basin Project,⁴ with the objective of implementing output 1 of the project (water resources in the PRB better managed). The government's concurrence with the TA outputs, activities, implementation arrangements, cost estimates, financing arrangements, and terms of reference of the consultant were obtained during ADB's fact-finding mission in December 2015. The TA will be implemented over a period of five years with estimated commencement in January 2017 and completion in December 2021.

B. Outputs and Key Activities

4. The delegated TA will provide consulting services and will assist the MEWR to achieve the following two outputs, which correspond to the two components of the project's output 1, by implementing activities indicated in each output.

5. Output 1: Improving the water resources management system in the Tajikistan portion. The consultant will help the MEWR achieve output 1 and will (i) establish and manage

¹ Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR). 2015. *Water Sector Reform Programme for 2016–2025*. Dushanbe.

² World Bank. 2012. *Tajikistan Second Public Employment for Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resources Management Project*. Washington, DC.

³ ADB. 2008. *Regional Technical Assistance for Improved Management of Water Resources in Central Asia*. Manila.

⁴ The project first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 7 April 2014. ADB provided project preparatory technical assistance for Water Resources Management in Pyanj River Basin (TA 8647-TAJ).

an RBO in Kulob and its sub-office in Gorno Badakhshan autonomous *oblast* (i.e. Province); (ii) help the RBO and its sub-office draft an RBM plan, and (iii) facilitate formation of RBCs by inviting various water use and water supply stakeholders so as to enable RBCs to review and approve the draft RBM plan. In addition, the capacity of the MEWR's local staff and RBO staff will be strengthened for accurate measurement and recording of diverted water flows at key sections along the Pyanj River (at present, the actual flow of the Chubek Irrigation System main canal is 63% of recorded flow) and for appropriate data processing with developing the system.

6. **Output 2: Effective joint Pyanj River basin management.** The consultant will help the MEWR achieve output 2 and will (i) draft the agreement to form the joint PRB commission, its institutional structure and implementation plan, and regulations on administrative and technical operations procedures; (ii) establish a working group with participation from other relevant agencies to preview the draft agreement; (iii) facilitate consultations with the Government of Afghanistan; and (iv) strengthen the commission's capacity to implement the agreement.

7. The same approach as described in Output 2 above is expected to be implemented from the Afghanistan side under the investment project currently being prepared by ADB.⁶ The potential risk is that the government does not effectively support national water sector reforms.

C. Cost and Financing

8. The capacity development delegated TA is estimated to cost \$2.12 million, of which \$2.00 million will be financed on a grant basis by Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and administered by ADB. The estimated cost and the financing plan are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Cost Estimates and Financing Plan
(\$'000)

Item	Total Cost
Asian Development Bank (Trust Fund Technical Assistance)^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants (23 person-months)	633
ii. National consultants (279 person-months)	549
b. International and local travel	45
c. Reports and communications	27
2. Equipment and supplies ^b	119
3. Studies and surveys	10
4. Workshops, training, seminars, and conferences	111
5. Miscellaneous administration, support, and vehicle rental costs	158
6. Office renovation	162
7. Contingencies	186
Total	2,000

^a Financed by Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and administered by the Asian Development Bank.

^b Equipment to be procured is limited to that required for implementing technical assistance activities, such as computers, water flow measurement and monitoring equipment, data collection and processing software, and related office equipment. All equipment purchased will be turned over to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources after completion of the technical assistance project.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

⁶ <http://www.adb.org/projects/48042-001/main#project-pds>

9. The government will provide counterpart support in the form of office accommodation, counterpart staff, and other in-kind contributions. The value of government contribution is estimated to account for 6% of the total TA cost.

D. Implementation Arrangements

10. **Executing agency.** The MEWR is the executing agency of the TA. The MEWR will assign a TA director who will supervise TA activities by providing policy and management guidance to the project implementation group within the MEWR. The TA director will also be also responsible for compliance with project covenants in relation to the TA.

11. The project implementation group within the MEWR and the project management office (PMO) established under ALRI will facilitate project steering group meetings by inviting representatives from the two executing agencies to report implementation status and seek policy and management guidance for the project.

12. The project implementation group and the PMO will also be responsible for

- (i) implementing TA and project activities in accordance with the TA and project designs;
- (ii) coordinating activities between ALRI, the MEWR, and other agencies concerned;
- (iii) ensuring compliance with environmental and social safeguard requirements;
- (iv) maintaining appropriate accounts, including reports on withdrawal applications and disbursement;
- (v) carrying out recruitment of consulting services and procurement activities;
- (vi) monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on project progress; and
- (vii) preparing quarterly progress and other reports in a format acceptable to ADB, depending on TA and project requirements.

13. **Project steering group.** The project steering group will be co-chaired by the director of ALRI and the first deputy minister of the MEWR, and will comprise senior staff of ALRI and the MEWR. Its mandate will include (i) providing the PMO and project implementation group with policy and management guidance on the implementation of the project, (ii) monitoring project impacts, (iii) reviewing and evaluating project performance, (iv) reviewing project audits, and (v) ensuring close coordination among agencies involved in the project activities. The project steering group will meet as often as necessary to discharge its functions and in any event not less than quarterly.

14. **Project steering committee.** The project steering committee will be chaired by the deputy prime minister with the following members: director of ALRI; deputy ministers of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, MEWR, and Ministry of Agriculture; and chairs of the Committee for State Investment and State Property Management, Committee for Women and Family Affairs, and Committee for Environmental Protection. Steering committee meetings will be held upon request and provide the two executing agencies with strategic and policy guidance on project implementation.

15. **Consulting services.** An overview of the required consulting services is summarized in Table 2 and described in detail in the project administration manual (PAM).⁷

⁷ Project Administration Manual (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors).

Table 2: Summary of Consulting Services and Details of Estimated Costs

Specialist	Person-months	Rate (\$)	Total (\$)
International			
1. Water resources institutional specialist	6	23,000	138,000
2. Water law specialist	3	23,000	69,000
3. Regional river basin management specialist	6	22,000	132,000
4. Hydrometeorologist/climate change specialist	6	22,000	132,000
5. Water resources economist	2	22,000	44,000
Subtotal (A)	23		515,000
National			
1. Water resources institutional specialist	24	4,000	96,000
2. Water law specialist	12	4,000	48,000
3. Regional river basin management specialist	18	4,000	72,000
4. Hydrometeorologist/climate change specialist	18	4,000	72,000
5. Water resources economist	12	4,000	48,000
6. Information technology specialist	9	4,000	36,000
7. Environment specialist	12	4,000	48,000
8. Gender and social/communication facilitation specialist	12	4,000	48,000
9. Working group experts (6 positions)	162 (27x6)	500	81,000
Subtotal (B)	279		549,000
Subtotal (A+B)			1,064,000
1. Per diem (international consultants)			118,000
2. International and local travel			45,000
3. Equipment and supplies for database development			119,000
4. Studies and surveys			10,000
5. Reports and communications			27,000
6. Workshops, trainings, conferences, and seminars			111,000
7. Miscellaneous administrative, support, vehicle rental costs			158,000
8. Office renovation			162,000
9. Contingencies			186,000
Subtotal (C)			936,000
Total			2,000,000

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

16. The delegated TA will be administered by the MEWR. The MEWR will be responsible for advertisement, selecting, supervising the consultant while ADB will retain the responsibility for negotiating and signing the contract with the consultant, and issuing the notice to proceed. The selection of consultants will be carried out in accordance with ADB Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). The consulting firm will be selected on the basis of full technical proposal in accordance with the quality- and cost based selection procedures. The detailed terms of reference for each specialist is provided in the PAM. All TA-financed goods and equipment such as computers, office equipment, and consumables will be procured in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2015, as amended from time to time). The equipment will be handed over to the MEWR upon TA completion. The delegated TA grant proceeds will be disbursed in accordance with ADB's *Loan Disbursement Handbook* (2015, as amended from time to time), and detailed arrangements agreed upon between the government and ADB. The detailed disbursement and financial reporting and auditing arrangements are provided in the PAM.