

# PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID) CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: PIDC22840

<b>Project Name</b>	Central Asia Water Resources Management (CA-WARM) Phase-I Project (P152346)
<b>Region</b>	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
<b>Country</b>	Central Asia
<b>Sector(s)</b>	Irrigation and drainage (10%), Public administration- Water, sanitation and flood protection (10%), Hydropower (10%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (70%)
<b>Theme(s)</b>	Water resource management (85%), Climate change (15%)
<b>Lending Instrument</b>	Investment Project Financing
<b>Project ID</b>	P152346
<b>Borrower(s)</b>	Government of Uzbekistan, Government of Kyrgyz Republic, Government of Turkmenistan, Government of the Tajikistan, EC-IFAS, Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Regional Center for Hydrology, Interstate Commission on Water Coordination (ICWC)
<b>Environmental Category</b>	B-Partial Assessment
<b>Date PID Prepared/ Updated</b>	12-Feb-2016
<b>Date PID Approved/ Disclosed</b>	12-Feb-2016
<b>Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion</b>	
<b>Estimated Date of Board Approval</b>	13-Dec-2016
<b>Concept Review Decision</b>	Track II - The review did authorize the preparation to continue

## I. Introduction and Context

### Country Context

The Central Asia region includes two IDA-only recipients (Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan), one blend lower middle-income country (Uzbekistan) and two upper middle-income countries (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan), representing a total population of 64.5 million. The region is geographically isolated with all five republics landlocked, but is also located at the crossroads of the large economic areas of Europe/Russia, China, South Asia, and the Middle East.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, cooperation across the countries of the Central Asia

region has gradually waned with impacts on their relationship in a number of areas including water resources, energy, trade, tourism, etc. Some of the Central Asian economies have grown significantly in the past two decades, primarily driven by energy resources. However, achieving its full potential is challenged by a fragmented regional vision, as well as governance issues at national levels (e.g., inefficient pricing) and difficult environment for the private sector. Recent economic challenges for the region include Russia's falling economy that threatens remittances to families in Central Asia (that account for half of Tajikistan's GDP and a third of Kyrgyz Republic's GDP) and fuels inflation. Economic diversification is critical for these upstream countries, while even the relatively wealthier downstream countries of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan must manage their single energy resource driven economies.

The region has a rich endowment of natural resources (including water resources, hydropower potential and deposits of natural gas, oil, and minerals) and relatively sparse population, but their distribution necessitates improved regional perspectives and coordination for their optimal and sustainable development and management. Economic, environmental, and social issues are interwoven into productivity, sustainability, and climate concerns. For example, generating hydropower in upstream countries addresses energy deficits in the winter but could compromise water available for pumped irrigation in the summer growing months even while almost 50 percent of irrigated lands are affected by salinization, waterlogging, and high losses. Climate change is also a looming threat to the region - especially as related to its impacts on the overall hydrologic cycle - especially snow, glaciers, system losses and crop water demand that would require improved attention to working together across borders.

The consequences of doing nothing are considerable: 2 million households experience winter heat and power shortages; some \$1.5 billion in cost savings are lost to a 90 percent reduction in energy trade within Central Asia since 1990; and 1 percent in GDP is lost per year from weather-related disasters (floods, droughts) in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

## **Sectoral and Institutional Context**

### **SECTORAL CONTEXT**

The water management picture in Central Asia is dominated by the Aral Sea Basin, an area fed by two large rivers that flow through all five countries (and Afghanistan). The Amu Darya has its headwaters in the Kyrgyz Republic, flowing south through Tajikistan fueling the dominant hydropower facilities before joining the Pyanj River on the border with Afghanistan to the Amu Darya River and supplying water to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The Syr Darya flows from the Kyrgyz Republic through Uzbekistan and Tajikistan before turning north again through Uzbekistan on its way to Kazakhstan. Both rivers feed into the Aral Sea, which, due to increasing upstream flow abstractions, is suffering significant drying with environmental consequences. The abundance in upstream countries (Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan) turns to water scarcity and dependence as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan rely on these rivers for their agricultural and domestic water needs. The Aral Sea itself has been partitioned with the northern part being "saved" and the large southern part virtually disappearing.

The distribution and use of the region's water resources are very uneven, further shaped by the Soviet times. Most of the water infrastructure has been built since the early 1900s and, despite fixes, remains in need of significant modernization with hydraulic safety concerns in the system. The large dams built in the Soviet era (e.g. Toktogul on the Syr Darya system and Nurek on the Amu Darya system) are now being supplemented or proposed to be supplemented by additional

dams - often also conceived in the Soviet era but now a source of discord in riparian relations.

## INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

### REGIONAL-LEVEL:

There are a number of institutions at the regional level relating to water resources planning and management. The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), formed in the 1990s, is empowered by the Heads of States of the five Central Asia Countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to achieve sustainable environment and economic development in the Aral Sea Basin. As of today, IFAS consists of an Executive Committee and two technical bodies; the Interstate Commission on Water Coordination (ICWC), and the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD), with a broader mandate focused on environment. These entities were created as independent legal entities, and with specific purposes. Although IFAS still faces considerable challenges, it is considered an asset in the region as the single institution with political empowerment and mandate to address transboundary water management.

The Executive Committee of IFAS (EC-IFAS) is a permanent working body and secretariat of the IFAS Management Board (composed of First Deputy Prime Ministers) which also includes branches in all Central Asia countries and the Regional Center of Hydrology (RCH) that convenes all the hydro-meteorological agencies in Central Asia. EC-IFAS is responsible for developing a comprehensive set of programs and activities to help manage water in the Basin (the Third Aral Sea Basin Program), and for facilitating its implementation.

The Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) was the first body established in the framework of the IFAS umbrella, convening the five Ministries in charge of water resources and tasked with most regional level water management issues (including annual allocations). ICWC is supplied with the information from the Basin Water Organizations (BVO's) on the Syr Darya and Amu Darya Rivers and the Scientific information Center (SIC-ICWC).

The Regional Center of Hydrology (RCH) has been created under the EC-IFAS following a Board decision in 2002 and located in Kazakhstan. Counting the five hydro-meteorological agencies of Central Asia as signatories, the RCH aims at improving the system of hydro-meteorological forecasting, environmental monitoring and data exchange between the National Hydromet agencies and their modernization.

### NATIONAL-LEVEL

At the national-level, relevant institutions for water resources management vary by country and involve institutions involved with water resources management (usually under a Water Resources or Agriculture ministry) and hydro-meteorological services, as well as service delivery agencies, academia, and academies of sciences. All countries include water in their governmental structure but in different combinations, reflecting the role of water in the economy. For example, in Uzbekistan, water is embedded in the Ministry of Agriculture; in Tajikistan water and energy have recently been combined into a single ministry, with irrigation embedded in a separate Amelioration and Irrigation agency. In some countries such as Kazakhstan, the institutional environment for water is in a state of flux; although there is a Committee on Water Resources, the lead ministry has shifted between agriculture and environment.

Each country has – and continues to – strengthen the legislative environment for water management.

A Water Code was introduced in Turkmenistan in 2001 and in 2012 the country signed the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Water Management. In 2014, Kazakhstan prepared a comprehensive and ambitious strategy under the Green Economy initiative, with attention to water efficiency, transboundary water management and capacity strengthening. The ministerial shift in Tajikistan is stimulating a refinement of roles and responsibilities, to be embedded in policies and procedures and in Kyrgyz Republic, a second National Water Resource Improvement Project has the objective to build capacity for water information management and water use associations. In Uzbekistan, the focus of water management is at the farm level, including efforts to transition away from water-intensive crops (such as cotton) while managing one of the world's most intensive – but aging -- irrigation systems.

Core knowledge centers exist in each country, with an important role for national hydrometeorology institutes as well as ministries or committees on water resources. However, commensurate with the failure to keep updated on technology and modern systems noted above, human resources technical and policy capacity is limited. All ministries, institutes, academies, government units and universities have suffered from fragmentation, the outflow of Soviet specialists and limited public funding. The region faces an additional challenge as the senior generation with strong Soviet training “ages out” of the sector, leaving a dearth of young professionals trained in either traditional or modern water management techniques. From a transboundary perspective, the capacity element is exacerbated by its unevenness across countries, compromising the ability and confidence individual countries to engage in transboundary dialogue.

## OVERALL CHALLENGES

Overall, there is a desire at both national and regional levels to operationalize the concept of integrated water resources management (IWRM). Key challenges that the region faces include poor access to relevant data and information, poor forecasting (short-term, seasonal - weather, hydrologic, and flood) and early warning (a problem given the high hydro-climatological variability, disaster, and climate change risks), high water losses and poor water productivity (especially in agriculture), and environmental and natural resources problems (e.g. watershed degradation, salinization, water quality). On the institutional front, there is lack of sufficient technical capacity for water resources planning, management & operations, poor knowledge networks (national, regional, global) and links with academia, and inadequate spatial and sectoral synergy (energy-irrigation, institutional arrangements).

These challenges to the knowledge platform and technical capacity manifest themselves in the form of information, institutions, and investment needs. These include:

- **Information:** Aging monitoring systems, information services and knowledge platforms are resulting in institutions and decision makers relying on fragmented, ad hoc, and sub-optimal data and knowledge products to support their decisions. Real-time information collection (e.g. on glaciers, snow, permafrost, meteorology, flows/water levels, groundwater, sediment, water quality, major uses, etc.) and analysis is fragmented. There is little information useful for water resources planning and management in the public domain in the entire region. There is a strong desire in the region to utilize modernize water resources information systems, and analytical tools used for water resources management to improve confidence in the monitoring, forecasting, investment planning and operations.
- **Institutions:** Inadequate modern institutional capacity, systems, and professional networking is

resulting in regional imbalances in the ability to process and analyze data, increase forecasting accuracy, and make informed real-time and medium-term decisions. Weak linkages and trust among water-related institutions within and across countries (e.g. involved with irrigation, power, hydromet, disaster/climate risk management, water supply, trans-boundary coordination on operation of shared water systems, and environmental/sustainability considerations) increase the risk of a “siloe” sub-optimal approach to water resources investments and operations. There is a perceived need to immediately strengthen technical capacity both at regional and national levels.

- **Investments:** Inadequate use of modern, innovative technologies and approaches in water management to reduce system losses, improve efficiency, and promote sustainability – continuing with maintaining assets with incremental, patchy efforts at modernization. Growing concerns about age, performance and safety of critical hydraulic infrastructure (e.g. dams, barrages, conveyance channels, canal systems) that all the countries of the region depend upon to benefit from the region’s water resources and reduce disaster risk. There is a perceived need for holistic preparation and implementation of investments related to monitoring systems, office infrastructure, and to address the significant investment gap in modernizing existing water infrastructure and new infrastructure deficits.

Given the sheer scale of the challenges and the state of current regional cooperation, there is a need to address these problems in a long-term framework.

### **Relationship to CAS**

Activities under the proposed Project will contribute to the World Bank Group (WBG) twin objectives of reduced poverty and shared prosperity. Cooperative management and development of water resources infrastructure in the Basin can: (i) reduce poverty by transforming the livelihoods of its people, including vulnerable and poor communities reliant on agriculture for food security and livelihoods, and (ii) serve as a catalyst for boosting shared prosperity. In terms of transforming livelihoods, the proposed Project supports improved river basin management, resulting in improved flow forecast systems that mitigate loss of life and property of people vulnerable to floods and droughts – often the poorest.

This project contributes to fostering regional cooperation in Central Asia for water resources management, and national capabilities that have been highlighted in several Central Asia CASs, the ECA regional strategy, and the Global strategies relating to water, energy, and ICT.

The proposed project is consistent with past and ongoing projects and analytical work in the region, and also builds upon the regional perspective being built under the Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program (CAEWDP) Trust Fund. CAEWDP initiates a long-term effort to build energy and water security for the region by establishing sound energy-water diagnostics and analytical tools, by strengthening regional institutions and dialogue, and identifying high priority infrastructure investments. CAEWDP completed a series of national and regional consultations on the existing energy-water knowledge platform. The diagnostic provides a strong background assessment of the needs and priorities for water resources management in Central Asia, identifying the existing gaps and the necessity to strengthen capacities of institutions and professionals. A six-country workshop confirmed the need for a shared modern information management system accessible across all national institutions as well as the relevant regional agencies and established eight principles to shape future efforts. The diagnostic and recommendations were documented in a Roadmap for Strengthening Analysis of Water Resources Management. The proposed recipient-executed project is expected to complement Bank-executed activities implementing this roadmap -

including the Energy-Water Knowledge Network (P147959); Strengthening of Modeling Capacity for IWRM and Global Experience with IWRM decision support (P148326), the Central Asia Water and Energy Data Portal (P147696), institutional needs assessment, Professional development System (P152685). The project is also designed to complement and build on the Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization Program (CAHMP) and the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for Central Asia (CAMP4ASB) Project.

CAEWDP has also supported the preparation of the Third Aral Sea Basin Management Plan (ASBP3). In September 2014, the Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the EC-IFAS to support implementation of ASBP-3. EC-IFAS prepared an initial list of possible topics (budgeted at US\$34 million) that includes expanding and strengthening water information management and monitoring systems, strengthening disaster risk management, increasing the safety of hydraulic infrastructure, increasing the capacity of water management institutions, enhancing efficiency of water use in agriculture, and strengthened instruments for trans-boundary water management. CAWaRM, while narrowing and focusing deliverables, will meet the obligations under the MOU and provide a concrete platform to support EC-IFAS.

Kazakhstan: The country has been significantly impacted by the global economic crisis, encouraging diversification to “non-oil” sources of growth. As a result, the Government acknowledges the need of effective use of water resources considering the limited availability of water and the impact linked to significant environmental issues. Improved water resources management is an increasing priority to reach the objective of environmental security (Water quantity & quality, risks management) and diversify incomes areas in rural livelihoods (agriculture, fisheries). In particular, the Partnership Framework Agreement includes as an activity in the Joint Economic Research Program the “development of a Road Map for Strengthening water management for improved water efficiency and security” that will be used for realizing the assessment of needs in terms of information gaps, monitoring tools and capacities as well as analytical instruments.

Kyrgyz Republic: Similar to Tajikistan, the country is well endowed with water resources that need to be effectively managed and further developed for its water, energy, food, and climate security. The Country Partnership Strategy in Kyrgyz Republic emphasizes that one of the main area of engagement relates to a “better management of scarce natural resources and physical infrastructure” (p. 2) and including “regional considerations”. The National Water Resources Management Project Phase I (NWRMP), with the objective to develop a water information system covering all the levels of data production and use and build capacity for water information management, is expected to be the national “anchor” for CAWaRM.

Tajikistan: Given its high poverty levels and critical issues relating to food security, energy security, and climate security, there is recognition of the need to improve the monitoring, and effective development, use, and management of its abundant water resources. While not mentioning CAWaRM specifically, the CPS in Tajikistan does mention the “Need to improve the relationship with neighboring countries especially in the areas of education, energy (...) and water resources” and, at the national scale, acknowledges growing risks of availability and predictability of water for power production, agriculture and disaster risk management, which in turn could threaten achievement of the country’s development priorities, food and energy security. The Tajikistan Second Public Employment for Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resources Management (PAMP-2) contains a component for improved water resources monitoring and accounting from the WUAs to the national

level, and a needs assessment for development of a National Water Information System (funded under CAEWDP) which has been designed to inform on both PAMPII and CAWaRM, as well as the synergies between the two.

**Turkmenistan:** The Bank has started supporting the country with its first Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) operation and the Government has expressed interest in seeking assistance on water issues as part of the Country Engagement note stemming from meetings in November and December 2014 and February 2015. Currently three areas are proposed in water: water efficiency, knowledge platform, and transboundary management.

**Uzbekistan:** Agriculture plays an important role in Uzbekistan's economy with a significant impact on rural livelihoods, jobs (25 % of the total employment in Uzbekistan), and food security. Given its high dependency on Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic for the water resources that underpin its agriculture, there is great interest in improving monitoring and forecasting systems, water efficiency, and hydraulic safety. The CPS in Uzbekistan recognizes that "Given upstream and downstream countries' differing interests as far as energy and water are concerned, regional cooperation in these two crucial areas is a challenge" increasing the efficiency of infrastructure for irrigation, and energy are considered as middle term priorities for growth.

Given the scale of the investments required, time for preparation of physical investments and the need for confidence-building steps to scale-up cooperation, the programmatic Bank instrument of "Series of Projects" or SOP is proposed. This program can evolve in a flexible manner depending on progress on regional cooperation, needs identified, financing, and implementation readiness. The proposed objective of the overall CA-WaRM program would be to improve the information, institutional, and infrastructure foundation for water resources planning and management in the Central Asia Region. This first project is expected to focus on the critical elements to establish a regional information and institutional platform and support investment preparation.

## **II. Proposed Development Objective(s)**

### **Proposed Development Objective(s) (From PCN)**

The proposed Project Development Objective of the Phase-I CA-WaRM project is to increase accessibility, reliability and analytical capacity to use water resources information for improved water resources planning, monitoring, and management in selected Central Asia water institutions.

### **Key Results (From PCN)**

Proposed Key Results include:

- Access to reliable water resources monitoring data and forecasts improved (e.g. number of WRM agencies accessing/using improved water resources data)
- Institutional roadmap for water resources management at the regional level developed
- Use of strengthened information and technical capacity to address key water resources issues in the Central Asia region demonstrated (e.g. accuracy and timeliness of forecasts for disaster management and system management, safety of hydraulic structures, operational coordination, investment planning)
- Priority investments to modernize water resources management prepared and implemented (e.g. monitoring and institutional modernization, investment preparation studies)

## **III. Preliminary Description**

## Concept Description

The project will be structured with four components, as described below. This structure will be customized (i.e., specific activities identified within each pillar) during preparation for each of the five countries and at regional-level based on country priorities, needs assessments, contribution to a regional system, synergy with other ongoing and proposed activities, as well as financing and implementation readiness. The project will pay attention to national-level engagement, working with regional institutions, and creating strong linkages between the two.

Activities that require additional preparation time and resources can be further prepared during the implementation of this first project for possible implementation in future phases of this or other programs. The initial focus will be on activities that are ready or can be quickly prepared in the coming months in order to ensure early implementation of the program. Detailed cost tables, fund flow, activity scheduling, capacity-building plans, and procurement readiness (e.g. Procurement Plans, Terms of Reference, and Specifications) will be prepared along with relevant documentation on environmental and social safeguard aspects.

## PROPOSED COMPONENTS:

**COMPONENT A. INFORMATION & ANALYSIS:** This first component would seek to address the development of modern, shared data and information platforms at regional and national levels. This includes technical assistance and other support to:

- o Improve water resources monitoring (including use of available appropriate satellite data products and services);
- o Modernize forecasting services (short-term and seasonal; weather, hydrological, flood, drought);
- o Improve use of data analysis, modeling and decision support systems for integrated planning and operational decisions;
- o Develop multi-media water resources knowledge products;
- o Support in developing Basin and Sub-basin Plans;
- o Improve the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) backbone;
- o Undertake special studies and surveys to address critical knowledge gaps; and
- o Improve access to data and knowledge products (using portals, mobile Apps, data rescue, open data access and online services protocols, social media) and develop a regional information system on water resources.

Regional investments will include support for ICT investments, monitoring surveys/studies (e.g. groundwater, water quality, sediment, glacier, permafrost, detailed topographic surveys, rating curves), development of analytical tools (e.g. for hydrologic forecasting, investment planning), creation of knowledge products, basin planning, and support to national investments relating to monitoring systems, earth observation data acquisition (e.g. via GEONETCAST or equivalent), analysis, and knowledge product development.

**COMPONENT B. INSTITUTIONS & POLICY:** This component would seek to improve technical capacity and strengthen the enabling institutional and policy framework for water resources management at regional and national levels. This includes technical assistance, training, and other support to:

- o Modernize relevant water-related institutions, harmonize standards and protocols with appropriate institutional arrangements to take advantage of new technologies, address emerging challenges and opportunities, and strengthen institutional effectiveness;



- o Provide training and capacity development activities to modernize skills in water resources planning and management in relevant water-related institutions;
- o Strengthen professional networking, internship programs, and public outreach (including gender-balanced youth capacity-building); and
- o A special focus will be placed on regional institutions responsible for water management, in particular, the ICWC and its agencies (SIC-ICWC and BVOs), also linking the RCH. Key issues to be addressed are: responsibility for data consolidation, warehousing and sharing; data sharing protocols; financial sustainability and member contributions; regularity of meetings, chairship and decision protocols of the Committee; flow of decision authority and management information; and relationship to EC-IFAS and IFAS Management Board.

Investments will include support for key regional-level consultancies (institutional roadmap, institutional strengthening and capacity-building services) as well as activities at both regional and national levels including training programs (including sending young professionals for further study) and internships/visiting experts programs.

**COMPONENT C. INVESTMENT PREPARATION & IMPLEMENTATION:** This component would seek to implement critical investments that are ready or can be quickly prepared and also prepare a pipeline of investments that can support improved water resources management. This includes civil works, equipment, technical assistance and other support to:

- o Modernize the water resources monitoring network (e.g. to monitor weather, flow, levels, water quality, sediment, groundwater, etc.);
- o Modernize office infrastructure where required (e.g. civil works, hardware, and software to improve water information centers at regional and national levels, networking, computer-based training, digital libraries, improved access to satellite data, etc.); and
- o Undertake preparation studies for investments of regional or national significance (e.g. related to hydraulic safety, system modernization and monitoring systems, water savings).

This project is expected to finance investments at both regional and national levels such as modern monitoring equipment (including automated systems) and Water Centers that seek to create a modern setting for inter-agency cooperation and cutting-edge information management and analysis. It will also explore investments pilot sites of best practices on reconstruction and modernization of hydrotechnical structures and water saving technologies. In particular, this component is also expected to finance expensive preparation studies (e.g. surveys, scoping, pre-feasibility, environmental and social/gender assessments) for rehabilitation of the entire shared physical water infrastructure especially from a performance and hydraulic safety point of view, although these investments will not be financed in this project.

**COMPONENT D. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT:** This component would seek to provide adequate management support for the regional and national facilitation of these activities (e.g. coordination, interaction, procurement, financial management, safeguards, documentation and reporting, communications, monitoring & evaluation - including citizen feedback surveys, etc.).

Project financing is expected to reflect the national and regional nature of CA-WaRM – Phase I's proposed activities. The Bank team will explore various options for financing - combining credit, grant and other World Bank funds at regional and country levels - based on the types of activities proposed. The exact packaging and financing will evolve based on discussions with the appropriate national and regional institutions of Central Asia, Bank management, and other potential financiers. Possible co-financing or parallel financing sources include IDA, IBRD, GEF, CAEWDP, and other

bilateral and multi-lateral sources in addition to national contributions.

The rationale for incremental financing for GEF and such sources is that this project seeks to go beyond activities currently underway at national and regional levels in Central Asia. It seeks to build the technical and facilitation capacity to improve the consideration of a regional perspective on transboundary waters with improved collaboration within and across regional and national levels. There is a need to build on regional approaches and economies of scale in monitoring, information systems and access, analytical tools, synoptic studies, training, knowledge networks, institutional arrangements and synoptic investment preparation that promote integrated basin planning and management in the region. This could help provide a historic opportunity to support the countries in the region to work together in facing their development challenges and improve regional water security and productivity, and learn from each other and global good practices in this regard.

The project will seek to address gender issues and will meet Bank requirements for projects to be gender informed, as well as GEF's policy on gender mainstreaming; all three gender dimensions (analysis, actions and M&E) will be present. Under GEF financing, IWLEARN knowledge management and experience sharing activities that will be funded with 1% of the GEF project grant. A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis will be undertaken as part of the project to (i) identify investment, capacity and institutional barriers to an effective regional water information management system; and (ii) relate the role of such an information (knowledge) platform to both economic prosperity and management of environmental pressures. The project will target a Ministerial Endorsed Strategic Action Program for (i) strengthening regional institutions for an effective regional water information system; and (ii) facilitating the sharing of water information across countries.

#### IV. Safeguard Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	x		
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11			x
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	x		
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

#### V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	90.00	Total Bank Financing:	75.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>		<b>Amount</b>	
BORROWER/RECIPIENT		5.00	

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	15.00
International Development Association (IDA)	50.00
IDA Grant	10.00
Global Environment Facility - Cofinancing Trust Funds	10.00
Total	90.00

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