Department of Water Resources and Land Improvement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Improvement of the Kyrgyz Republic

Operation of National Intersectoral Working Group in Kyrgyzstan

Almaty, June 16, 2016
Introduction

One of the major problems of modern era is a global climate change. Climate change has become a real threat to life and management of people, which is inevitably reflected in social sector as a reduction of life, loss of property, need to uproot their habited area, etc. Therefore, in recent decades much attention is paid to identification of problems, prevention and prediction of natural disasters. However, a solution of this problem in CA is significantly low even compared to other CIS countries. For the countries of the former Soviet Union in general and Asia in particular, emphasis has always been given to response and elimination of disaster aftermath.

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country extremely vulnerable to natural and anthropogenic influences. A mountainous terrain has a great influence to climate formation, which causing a vertical zonation of climatic zones and significant values of solar radiation. In view of its unique geographical location, the Kyrgyz Republic is a state prone to numerous natural disasters of natural origin, the bulk of them are natural disasters of natural-climatic character (75% of total number of emergencies of natural origin).

Climate change and natural disasters are trans-boundary problems and dependent on natural resources steering conditions. Hence, effective disaster prevention requires effective trans-boundary cooperation and collaboration of a number of institutions.
The Kyrgyz Republic Map

KR territory is 199,9 thous sq km
94.6% of the territory is mountains
Relief’s altitude difference is 7038 m.
It borders with China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.
Population of the country is 6,0 million people. General public lives in valleys and piedmont areas, where the most dangerous natural hazards as flooding, landslides, mudflows, floods, earthquakes are existing.
On establishment of National IWGs in the CA countries

Initiative on establishing of National intersectoral working groups for analysis and development of transboundary monitoring and early warning systems in the CA countries came up on the results of various stages of the project "Adaption to Climate Change through Sustainable Resource Management and Cross-border Cooperation for Disaster Prevention in Central Asia", implemented by German society for international cooperation (GIZ), when analysis of an actual situation in the field of prevention of natural disasters in Central Asia was being held, as well as the benefits of intersectoral and transboundary operation of institutions for prevention of natural disasters in Western Europe were also presented. Kazakhstan was chosen by GIZ as a pilot country.

The Intersectoral working group (IWG) was established in 2012 under egis of Regional Centre for Hydrology (hereafter RCH) in Kazakhstan under GIZ project. It was proposed to start the IWG’s work in Kazakhstan with further transfer of experience to other CA countries.
Establishment of National IWG in Kyrgyzstan

The World Bank accepts the RCH’s proposal in June 2015 to strengthen the IWG in Kazakhstan, giving to it a status of a Regional and create as the most prepared National IWG in Kyrgyzstan, and eventually in other Central Asian countries.

Given the positive experience of the Kazakhstan’s IWG, and the effective disaster prevention requires enhanced transboundary coordination and cooperation, the DWRLI supported the initiative of RCH on establishment of National IWG in the area of geo-hazard prevention related to water in Central Asia, including the Kyrgyz Republic.

The DWRLI of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Improvement KR undertook the coordination of the National IWG’s work in KR.

Due to limited budget of the Kyrgyzstan’s state institutions, the DWRLI is not able to support the operation of the National IWG in Kyrgyzstan. The DWRLI partial support may be provided in the form of free provision of premises for meetings of the working group and participation of the Department’s specialists in the work of the group.
For reporting period since June 2015 to June 2016, three IWG meetings have been held for 2015-2016 according to work plan.

Experience of the Kazakhstan IWG, experience of the International commission for the protection of the Rhine was used in IWG work, and we followed the concept of the "Intersectoral working groups in the area of transboundary monitoring and early warning systems for geo-hazards" and Dr. Christophe Dreiser’s overview of "Peculiarities of Cross-sectoral work".

Materials of the meetings are submitted to Regional IWG in Kazakhstan and posted at C4D platform site.

The 1st meeting of National IWG in KR was held on September 30, 2015.

Participants of the meeting were suggested to discuss the topic on "Early warning and alert of climate risks, related to water resources in Syrdarys river basin". We continued to discuss the topic suggested to us by Regional IWG in Kazakhstan.
Main objective of the 1st meeting:

- To familiarize participants with the experience of the Kazakhstan IWG and International commission for the protection of the Rhine in Germany;
- To identify the need and significance of establishing the intersectoral working group in Kyrgyzstan;
- Based on key presentations to review the challenges available in KR related to geo-risks of transboundary nature;
- To discuss the selection of one of the topics, on which the focus of our attention will be made.
- To make a Decision on the first meeting of IWG, all participants were asked to fill in the following "Questionnaire". Following the filling of the Questionnaire, decision was made on the 1st IWG meeting.
## Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Establishment of National IWG in KR is considered relevant and important for dealing with transboundary natural disasters in KR and CA.</td>
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<td>2. Experience of Kazakhstan IWG and International commission for the protection of the Rhine shall be taken as a basis of a National IWG KR.</td>
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<td>3. Group’s topic - &quot;Early warning and alert in the area of climate risks, related to water resources in Syrdarys river basin”, including the wide range of possible sub-topics (water scarcity, floods, drought, monitoring system, water resources management, education and awareness, snow-ice cover).</td>
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<td>4. Selection of one type of geo-risk relevant to KR and CA countries and having transboundary consequences.</td>
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<td>5. KR regions, where the most high-risk disasters are occurred</td>
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<td>6. Assessment of an organization of the 1st meeting of National IWG in KR</td>
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<td>Participant name</td>
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Decision on the first meeting of National IWG in KR

1. Establishment of National IWG in KR is considered timely and important for dealing with transboundary natural disasters in Kyrgyzstan and CA;
2. Status: The National IWG KR will be functioned under egis of the DWRLI;
3. Experience of Kazakhstan IWG, International commission for the Rhine protection shall be taken as a basis of a National IWG KR; Use initiatives and best practices of projects of the international cooperation and NGOs;
4. Topic: "Early warning and alert in the area of climate risks of natural disasters, related to water resources in Naryn-Syrdarya river basins”;
5. The most common and dangerous natural-climatic nature phenomenon in Kyrgyzstan are mudflows, floods, flooding, mountain lakes leakage/seepage, landslides, dam safety problems, pollution of glaciers;
6. KR regions, where the most high-risk natural disasters are occurred. These are Batken, Jalalabad, Osh, upper part of Naryn oblasts being a part of Syrdarya river basin and Chui oblast;
The IWG objective and primary focus are determined to:

- create better communication between cooperating agencies and identify monitoring and early warning systems;
- review existing and potential geo-hazard associated with climate change in Naryn – Syrdarya river basins;
- develop recommendations on early warning of natural disasters for submission of them to stakeholders and decision makers.
The second meeting of National IWG in KR

The IWG 2nd meeting was attended by the World Bank “Support to the intersectoral working group for the prevention of geo-hazard risks in CA” project manager, the WB expert – Yulia Komagaeva, the WB expert – Yuri Zaitsev, the RCH executive director, manager of the Regional IWG in Kazakhstan – Shivareva Svetlana Pavlovna, manager of KR National Platform Secretariat for disaster risk reduction of the Ministry of Emergency Situations KR and the DWRLI deputy director general – Isabekov Tilek Asanakunovich on January 14, 2016.

Topic of the meeting: “Early warning and alert in the area of climate risks of natural disasters, related to water resources in Naryn-Syrdarya river basins. Selection of one of the most significant risk”.

• Based on presentations of participants it was identified that the main risk in order of importance after earthquake are mudflows, which are widely spread in Kyrgyzstan and damage, sometimes associated with loss of life.
• In order to discuss this topic previously, all participants were sent three "Questionnaire":
  • - on transboundary natural disasters,
  • - on problem of mudflows in Kyrgyzstan,
  • - on effective protection against mudflows.
The second meeting of National IWG in KR

According to participants’ presentations submitted and in the course of discussions are identified the following:

- General characteristics of mudflow phenomena,
- Causes of mudflow occurrence in KR,
- Factors of mudflows,
- Statistics of mudflows for a certain period.

Almost the entire territory of Kyrgyzstan is under influence of mudflows.

Today, mudflows on prevalence and frequency, according to damage caused are on the 1st place among all other natural hazards in KR.

Total amount of mudflow rivers is 3103 (Atlas of Kyrgyz SSR, 1987). About 27 000 different objects (settlements, communication, individual buildings, etc.) and more than 200 000 people are under the potential threat of mudflows.

On average about 70-80 emergencies associated with mudflows and floods, which makes up 29-30% of all emergencies in the Republic occur annually in the country.
Pic.2.5. Map-scheme of forecast of mudflow hazard in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic

There are about 3103 mudflow river basins, 2000 alpine lakes, out of them 330 have high probability of leakage/seepage.

More than 300 settlements are located in the areas of possible damage from leakage/seepage lakes.

Mudflow cases led to various damages are documented in 1153 settlements.
Statistics on number of natural and climatic character emergencies occurred in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period of 1990-2012.

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It is revealed that the highest number of mudflows are observed in Jalalabad (34.8%), Osh (23.6%), Batken (22.4%) oblasts included in Syrdarya river basin. Mudflows in Talas, Chui, Issyk-Kul oblasts makes up from 5.9% to 4.3%.
Local torrential rainfalls in Kyrgyzstan in 2016, led to passage of floods and mudflows on the rivers of the country. Sharp rises in water level were observed on Naryn-Syrdarya and Talas river basins.

Only during May of 2016, the Kyrgyzhydromet made 6 storm warnings on mudflow risk and rising water levels in the mountain and foothill zone of the republic in connection with unstable weather and local torrential rains expected in the following periods: From May 1-5; May 6-11; May 12-16; May 17-20; May 23-27 and May 28-30.

During these periods, according to data of MES KR, mudflow phenomena are observed in Jalalabad, Batken, Osh, Naryn, Issyk-Kul and Chui oblasts and in Bishkek city. Aftermaths of mudflows passed off in Kyrgyzstan for the period of March-April-May 2016.
Mudflow was passed off in Ylai-Talaa village of Karakuldzha raion Osh oblast on March 31, 2016 at 21.00. Damage was 780 000 soms, flooded 26 yards and swept away 13 horses.
6 houses, 1 shed, 13 buildings, 85,55 ha irrigated lands and 3 roads were flooded on April 18, 2016 at 06:00 AM in Chui raion of Chui oblast. Damage was 1 376 000 soms.
On May 27-28, 2016, mudflows passed off in Kadamjai raion of Batken oblast. Houses and infrastructure are affected. Died 2 men, 2 women and 1 child. Damage was 74 740 620 soms (US $1 097 513).
Batken oblast, Kadamjai raion
Osh oblast
Decision on the second meeting of National IWG in KR

1. To establish a working group comprising of 4 people for a more detailed identification of main problems activating mudflow phenomena and making concrete recommendations for effective reduction (elimination) of mudflow hazards and prepare a draft letter - appeal to the KR Government to review current situation regarding the threat of activation of mudflow phenomena in Kyrgyzstan and assist in adoption of the proposed by intersectoral working group KR a complex of mudflow protection measures that can reduce the risk of mudflow activity in Kyrgyzstan for the long term.

2. To approve the National IWG KR work plan for the period from January to June 2016.

3. To approve the National IWG KR composition.

4. To continue the IWG work until next meeting as “a work between sessions” small groups according to reviewing issues.
The Working group on preparation of an Appeal to KR Government is created in composition of experts from:

- Department of emergencies monitoring and forecasting under MES KR;
- State Agency “Selvodzashita” under MES KR;
- Hydrometeorological agency under MES KR;
- Institute of water problems and hydropower KR;

The meetings with the working group on mudflow situation in KR were held on February 17 and April 12, 2016 in DWRLI.

The Working group identified the main problems of mudflow phenomena activation in KR and developed concrete and effective recommendations to reduce or eliminate mudflow hazard.

The group has prepared a draft "Appeal to the KR Government on approval of a decision on implementation of a complex of mudflow protection measures that can reduce the risk of mudflow activity in the Kyrgyz Republic", which will be presented at the 3rd meeting of the IWG KR members.
The Third meeting of National IWG in KR

The 3rd meeting of the IWG in transboundary monitoring and early geo-hazards warning systems took place on April 29, 2016. The meeting was attended by head of external relations and investment department, MALI KR - Apasov Rysbek Tunguchbaevich, first deputy director deeneral, DWRLI - Isabekov Tilek Asanakunovich, head of the Kyrgyz part of the Secretariat of the Chu-Talas Water Commission - Satymkulova Gulmira Seitkanovna.

The main issue was a discussion of the draft "Appeal to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on complicated mudflow situation in Kyrgyzstan due to activation of mudflow phenomena due to global warming“. Under conditions of global warming, a powerful mudflows of rain genesis can be formed annually, and even several times during the year. Therefore, it is necessary to create and operating of a reliable system to ensure mudflow safety in the Republic. To cope with such a mudflow activity can only be a complex of mudflow protection measures.

The IWG members, with the support of all participants of the 3rd meeting prepared the Appeal to the Kyrgyz Republic Government to review a current situation regarding the threat of activation of mudflow phenomena in Kyrgyzstan with suggestions of concrete measures to ensure mudflow safety in the country.
1. Members of the working group shall fill in “Risk register" according to attached form in accordance with a list of problems proposed by participants of the 3rd meeting and discuss it at the next meeting of National IWG in Kyrgyzstan by July 15, 2016. 

Responsible: Sarnogoev A. K, Erokhin S. A.;

2. To note a fruitful work of the working group on mudflow situation in the Kyrgyz Republic on preparation to the Kyrgyz Republic Government of the "Appeal to the KR Government on approval of a decision on implementation of a complex of mudflow protection measures that can reduce the mudflow activity risk in the Kyrgyzstan”;

3. The “Appeal to the KR Government on approval of a decision on implementation of a complex of mudflow protection measures that can reduce the mudflow activity risk in the Kyrgyzstan” edited and approved by participants of the third meeting of the IWG KR shall be send to relevant authorities. Responsible: Bulekbaeva L., Zhumaliev N. and Sarnogoev A.

4. The work of the National IWG in the KR before the next meeting to continue as the “work between sessions" by small groups according to the reviewed issues.

5. To approve the composition of National IWG in the KR. Responsible: Bulekbaeva L.,
Composition of National IWG in KR

Pursuant to RCH CA initiatives on establishment of National IWG in the Central Asian countries with assistance of the WB, the decisions of the 3rd meeting of IWG KR and in order to coordinate operation of National IWG in transboundary monitoring and early warning systems for geo-hazards in Kyrgyzstan, the DWRLI had issued the Order # 66 “On establishment of National intersectoral working group in Kyrgyzstan“ dated May 19, 2016”.

The IWG consists of the leading qualified experts – representatives of scientific, educational and government institutions working in the field of management, monitoring and prevention of emergency situations in water sector:

1. Agency for Hydrometeorology under MES KR (Kyrgyzhydromet)
2. Centre for Climate Change in the Kyrgyz Republic
4. State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources under the Kyrgyz Republic Government
5. Department of Water Resources and Land Improvement under MALI KR
6. Department of Emergencies Monitoring and forecasting under MES
7. Institute of Water Problems and Hydropower KR
8. Secretariat of Chui-Talas Water Committee, the Kyrgyz part
9. Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K. I. Scryabin
10. Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University named after B. N. Yeltsin.
Order №66 dated May 19, 2016
Submission of the Appeal to the KR Government

The Working Group on mudflows based on the comments and suggestions of participants of the 3rd meeting of the IWG KR prepared a *draft* Appeal to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to review the current situation regarding the threat of mudflows activation in Kyrgyzstan with suggestion of concrete measures to ensure mudflow safety in the republic. “Appeal on approval of a decision on implementation of a complex of mudflow protection measures that can reduce the mudflow activity risk in Kyrgyzstan” was submitted to the DWRLI Director General with a request to assist the initiative of the National IWG KR and support on transmission of this appeal to the Kyrgyz Republic Government. To the letter addressed to Tashtanaliev K. J., DWRLI Director General are attached the following:

1. Appeal to the Kyrgyz Republic Government;

2. Introductive document on IWG establishment in Central Asian countries.

3. List of participants of the 3rd Meeting of the National IWG KR.
From the draft Appeal to the Kyrgyz Republic Government

At the 3rd meeting of the IWG KR the following conclusions are made:

1. The ongoing climate warming has activated a process of glaciers melting, which led to an increase of mudflow processes and filling up of alpine leakage/seepage lakes.

   - During the last 15-20 years:
     - Researches and monitoring of the mudflow phenomena are substantially reduced. At the moment none of the organization is engaged in performing research work to identify causes of muds formation in the Republic. Despite the frequency of phenomena, due attention was not given to provision of mudflow safety. State of mudflow phenomena monitoring does not meet to requirements for mudflow situations identification and early warning;
     - There are no special methods to forecast mudflow hazard. Forecasting of mudflow phenomena mainly carries a background character, without elaboration of mudflow objects;
     - Very rare observational hydrometeorological network;
     - Unsatisfactory state of mud protection infrastructure and high risk of flooding settlements and farmlands by mudflows and floods;
     - Mountain slopes are not fully explored for their mudflow and landslide hazard in the southern regions, where high mudflow and landslide hazard is existing;
     - Patterns of mudflow conditions development are not fully explored in glacial zone during continuing degradation of mountain glaciation.
Suggestions and recommendations of the National IWG in Kyrgyzstan

- To review issue on possibility of establishment of mudflow processes monitoring service with research unit to organize scientific researches in the field of mudflow processes in the Kyrgyz Republic and develop mudflow hazard forecasting methods;
- To draft a “Concept on provision of mudflow safety of the Kyrgyz Republic” for the long term with allocation of financing for implementation of scientific and research works on mudflow issues;
- To perform an inventory, standardization and building of technological capacity of departmental network observations over mudflows and landslides processes;
- To assess a state of engineering protection against floods, avalanches and landslides and put forward a proposal for its development including global environmental changes associated with the climate change;
- To develop a project for organizing monitoring of mountain lakes leakage/seepage risks;
- To implement an automated early warning system;
- To conduct staff capacity building of the departmental network observations over mudflows and landslides processes;
- To review an issue on amendments to regulate allocation of land plots for construction of settlements in areas of dangerous natural processes and phenomena occurrence, legislatively.
1. Active cooperation with the representatives of agencies responsible for disaster prevention of all regions of Kyrgyzstan. Improvement of communication with senior staff, provide useful information to agencies involved in disaster prevention.

2. Current state of the risks associated with water. Joint work of specialists from different organizations, having different professional direction to create a "National Risk Registry" related to water resources in Kyrgyzstan. Selection of a significant risk. Active and joint development of recommendations on "Risk register".

3. Regular monitoring of flood situation.

4. Visits of the IWG KR members to the regions of Kyrgyzstan liable to risk.

5. Work with ongoing projects in the field of disaster risk reduction. Developing "Projects Registry" (a list of ministries and departments, in which there are similar projects). A systematic analysis of the approaches to prevention of natural disasters, developed in other projects.

6. Preparing specific recommendations to reduce or eliminate climate-related disasters related to water resources in Kyrgyzstan and bringing them to the decision makers.

7. Organizing and conducting the IWG KR meetings. Invitation of representatives working in institutions for management, monitoring and prevention of emergency situations in water sector in the regions of the Kyrgyz Republic to meet. Finding funds to stimulate participants of the meeting.

8. Involvement of youth and students for organizing discussions in small groups.
Conclusions and suggestions

- Establishment and work of the Intersectoral working groups in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be a useful support in preventing future disasters in Central Asia.
- Special attention should be paid to co-operation between scientists and experts from Central Asian countries, as well as to close cooperation of international research organizations and experts on-sites.
- It is necessary to take more active steps in the Central Asian countries in order to strengthen existing state support for scientific research on disaster risk reduction.
- Existing disasters research methods and actions to reduce the impact of natural disasters in the Central Asian countries have increasingly to take into account new experience and new technologies of the European countries.
- Members of the IWG in Kyrgyzstan hope that similar structures will be established in the neighboring countries of Central Asia. This will improve the professional cooperation with colleagues on other side of the border.
- The work of each national working group will focus on identifying the needs in establishing a practical monitoring and early warning systems of natural disasters at the national level.
All materials on the National IWG KR work are posted at C4D platform in the group Central Asia Knowledge Alliance for Development in Natural Resources Management.

https://collaboration.worldbank.org/

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E-mail: latbul@mail.ru
On behalf of the DWRLI and all team of the National IWG in Kyrgyzstan, as well as myself, I would like to express my gratitude to the World Bank for support of the intersectoral working group in Kyrgyzstan, for assistance in organizing of our working meetings!

We are also grateful to the program implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) for initiative to establish the National IWGs in the Central Asian countries!

And, of course, many thanks to the Regional IWG in Kazakhstan for assistance in the work of the National IWG in Kyrgyzstan.

THANK YOU!!!
Thank you for attention!