

## PROJECT INFORMATION

As in September 2011

# Monitoring the performance of water utilities in Uzbekistan: data collection and capacity building



Charvak water reservoir (Uzbekistan) Photo: OECD/EAP

## Background

In Uzbekistan, water comes from transboundary and internal water resources of the Aral Sea basin. Drinking and municipal water supply and irrigation are priority water uses, among the various sectors of the poor environmental performance of water users has resulted in water quality deterioration and a tense situation concerning drinking water supply. Despite a quite advanced monitoring and reporting system in Uzbekistan, a number of important issues remain. Information on national water use is quite systematically collected and analyzed by the state environmental authorities.

However, some linkages with the status of water supply and sanitation infrastructure are missing. This makes monitoring of annual developments in the country difficult. So far, there is no regulation in Uzbekistan to benchmark the performance of water utilities and little or no data is being channeled up to the central government. Reliable data is needed on the technical status of the infrastructure, the quality of the service delivered to municipal users, the financial status of the utilities and the level of cost recovery. This information is ne-

cessary for decision making to prioritise investment, adjust tariff policies and the business models for water utilities with the final goal to improve the water infrastructure.

Some data had been collected by the World Bank and published on the IB-Net website, but this covered a small number of utilities and was four years old. None of the existing data are used to take action by actors in the Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) sector.

## Project

The goal of the project was to develop capacity for water utility benchmarking in Uzbekistan, and to provide a firm empirical basis for water resources management at the national level. Data on the performance of water utilities were collected, compiled and analysed in a country report prepared in cooperation with Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), the State Committee for Nature Protection and Uzkomkhizmat. Sources of data included WSS companies and regulatory authorities (databases of the State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan and Uzkomkhizmat).

The Uzbek authorities consider improving the monitoring practices in the water sector as a building block in the reform of water policies.

- Target country/region: Uzbekistan
- Duration: 10/2010 – 06/2011
- Implementing organisation: OECD/EAP Task Force
- Beneficiary: State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan and Uzkomkhizmat
- Project identification: FKZ 380 01 246