

**International project  
(Russia - Kazakhstan)  
Transboundary Water Resources  
Management in the Irtysh River  
Basin with the support of the  
French Fund for the World  
Environment (FFEM).**

International Office for Water

# Legal and financial basis of the project

- The project is carried out in accordance with a Memorandum on co-operation between Russia and Kazakhstan, which was signed in Paris in May 2000 by the Government representatives.
- Project financing (technical support) for an amount of 1 000 000 Euro is coming from the FFEM (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)-The International Office for Water is in charge of the management of the project.



*Irtysch river, from the Upper Irtysch on the border between China and Kazakhstan (Buran) to the first station downstream Omsk (Krasnoyarka), which is approximately 1300 km.*



# ***Project description***

- *The project includes:*
  - .3 year long technical support to Russia and Kazakhstan from the Consortium experts.
  - .Financing measurement in defined locations and small equipment purchases.
  - .Organizing and supporting the international meetings.
  - .Training of Russian and Kazakh representatives.
- *Actions being taken*
  - *Expert missions, working group sessions and Irtysh river Sub-Committee meetings*
- *The meetings are organized within an existing organization, which is the Russia-Kazakhstan Commission, by creating in Pavlodar in April 2001, a special Irtysh basin Sub- Commission.*
- *The Sub-Commission meetings and working group sessions are organized two times a year.*
- *Three meetings have been organized so far:*
  - October 2001 (Omsk),
  - April 2002 (Ust-Kamenogorsk),
  - October 2002 (Pavlodar)
- *Two more meetings have been planned:*
  - April 2003 (Omsk),
  - September 2003 (Pavlodar)



## *Creating the working groups*

- To carry out the works in between the meetings, four working groups have been created:
  - Creating the basin database (IRBIS).
  - Developing the monitoring network
  - Creating the hydrological model of Irtysh river.
  - Writing a number of legal texts on co-operation and data exchange between Russia and Kazakhstan regarding the Irtysh basin.
- Each working group comprises 5 to 7 people, which are working in the organizations included in the Sub-Committee list. The groups meet on a regular basis to resolve current issues. As for the meetings between the groups, they take place twice a year, to raise and solve those issues and make those decisions, which require the joint Sub-Committee approval.

# ***Results of the working group activities:***

## **Working group 1 – Implementation of the Basin Information System**

- A data list of the superficial waters within the area of study has been made, as well as the IRBIS database structure.**
- The data to be used by IRBIS, has been collected.**
- A basis of the geo-information system of basin (electronic map).**
- A first version of web-site has been made.**
- The necessary hardware and software has been purchased to create the IRBIS database server.**

## Working group 2 – Control and approval of monitoring procedures and standards

- A list has been drawn of the organizations involved in hydroclimatological, hydrological and quality monitoring of studied area surface waters.
- A list has been drawn of the procedures and standards used by the organizations for collecting, estimating, processing and interpreting the data.
- The monitoring equipment has been purchased (for Kazakhstan only).



# ***Working group 3 – Design of the Irtish river hydrological model***

- The methodology of hydrological simulation has been designed.
- The data required for building up the model has been collected.

## ***Working group 4 – Legal and institutional basis***

- The Russian and Kazakh water laws have been analyzed in order to find out the common clauses and check if they comply with the international legislation.
- A number of proposals have been defined for a special Irtysh Committee, which acts within Russian and Kazak Committee for cross-border waters.

# *Long-term results*

- *Institutional socio-economic aspects*
  - The information and organizational basis for the cross-border management of Irtysh river waters between Russia and Kazakhstan has been created.
  - involving China in the Irtysh water management could be a next step.
- *Ecological aspects*
- The works on developing the Irtysh river water resources management are continuously under way. A most important issue is creating a hydro-chemical model of the river (water quality). An appropriate solution would be to attract financial means from international funds.

# Expected benefits

- \* **Socioeconomic:** at the national level: improvement of knowledge OF the national capabilities for designing and implementing resource management tools ; at the local level: improvement of drinking water quality and optimization of fishing, agricultural and industrial activities.
- \* **Ecological :** at the regional level: improvement of joint management of polluted water ; at the local level : a more regular flow and better water quality will have positive impacts on fauna and flora.
- \* **Institutional:** at binational level: regular dialogue between the two countries on Irtysh water management ; at the national level : implementation of the Irtysh river basin management in each country.