



## Concept Note of First Expert Group Meeting

### Development of decision-making tools for geo-drought monitoring and early warning in Central Asia

Venue: Issyk-Kul, Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, 4-5 July 2019

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#### **Background:**

Among natural disasters, drought gets relatively less attention from policymakers, even though it has serious long-term socioeconomic implications. Drought adversely affects sustainable development and exacerbates poverty among millions of people who depend directly on the land as a source of livelihood. Many Central Asian countries suffer from frequent droughts along with challenges in water resource management, that can lead to failures of crop production and increase in food insecurity.

Geospatial information can serve as an important tool in monitoring drought and water resource management. Despite the significant progress achieved in this sub-region regarding the use of geospatial information, these applications still seem underutilized in the drought and water resource management, primarily because of scientific, technological, organizational and institutional gaps in geospatial information systems.

In order to support member States in Central Asia region, ESCAP with the support from the Government of Russia Federation, has started a new project titled “Enhancing the capacity of the developing countries in Central Asia on effective use of space applications for drought monitoring and early warning through the Regional Drought Mechanism”. The project contributes to achievements of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land), and supports the implementation of the Asia Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030) and the ESCAP Regional Roadmap for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

As the first activity of the project, a Team Building Meeting was held at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 19 March 2019. The government officials and experts shared knowledge and practices on decision making tools and relevant models for drought monitoring and early warning, and discussed how to jointly develop a long-term sustainability plan. As advised by the advisory expert group of the project, the first expert group meeting will be organized in Kyrgyzstan in July 2019.

## **Expert Group Meeting of Project**

### **Objectives of the event**

- Present models and systems on drought monitoring and early warning as well as decision supporting tools that could be customized and implemented in Kyrgyzstan as a pilot country, to Ministers and senior officers of Kyrgyzstan to gain their feedback on customization.
- Conduct consultation and technical assessment with country experts and senior officers of Kyrgyzstan in order to identify specific demands, environmental/operational factors and limitations of the country.
- Discuss/develop a detailed implementation plan of the pilot project.
- Develop a concept note for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase project (2021-2023), which will be designed by partners

### **Date and Venue**

- Venue: Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan
- Date: 4-5 July 2019

### **Structure of Meeting**

- First day (4 July)
  - ✓ Present conceptual framework, model and methodologies of decision-making tools and applications for drought monitoring and early warning to senior government officials of Kyrgyzstan and experts;
  - ✓ Identify challenges, needs and demands in drought management of Kyrgyzstan for customization of the model and system;
- Second day (5 July)
  - ✓ Continue discussions if necessary
  - ✓ Summary of discussions on the first day
  - ✓ Finalize the implementation plan of the pilot project in Kyrgyzstan.
  - ✓ Draft the expert group meeting report focusing on key decisions.

### **Organizer and Participating Experts (around 20 people)**

- Organizer: ESCAP and Ministry of Emergency of Situations of Kyrgyzstan
- Invited participants and experts
  - ✓ Government officials and experts from Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) and Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Amelioration of Kyrgyzstan
  - ✓ Government officials and experts from Uzbekistan
  - ✓ Secretariat of UN Open GIS Initiative in NY
  - ✓ Experts from China, Korea, Mongolia, Russia and Thailand
  - ✓ Kyrgyzstan-based UN Agencies related to drought management

- ✓ Donor agencies in Kyrgyzstan such as USAID, JICA and KOICA
- ✓ Relevant stakeholders (for example, Embassy of Russian Federation to Kyrgyzstan)

**Interpretation**

- English – Russian interpretation services will be provided during the meeting

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