**Terms of Reference for Development of Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Program**

**Tajikistan**

**Position:** Development of Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water

Resources Management Program for 2026-2030

**Duration**: 2024

**Base station:** Sughd (Khujand, Khojabakirgan watershed (Tajik part))

**Reporting to**: Project Manager

**I. Background on Acted**

Since 1993, as an international non-governmental organization, Acted has been committed to immediate humanitarian relief to support those in urgent need and protect people’s dignity, while co-creating longer term opportunities for sustainable growth and fulfilling people’s potential. Acted endeavors to respond to humanitarian crises and build resilience; promote inclusive and sustainable growth; co-construct effective governance and support the building of civil society worldwide by investing in people and their potential.

We go the last mile: Acted’s mission is to save lives and support people in meeting their needs in hard-to-reach areas. Acted develops and implements programmes that target the most vulnerable amongst populations that have suffered from conflict, natural disaster, or socio-economic hardship. Acted’s approach looks beyond the immediate emergency towards opportunities for longer term livelihoods reconstruction and sustainable development.

Present in the country for nearly 20 years, Acted Tajikistan’s interventions have evolved from early stages of recovery- anti-malaria campaigns, school feedings- to today’s development-oriented approach. Within this context, Acted has worked to satisfactorily implement over 200 donor-funded interventions designed to build community capacities in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, improve local governance, and support sustainable rural development.

**II. Project Background**

The SDC funded NWRM Project Phase 3 aims at improving rural population livelihoods from irrigated agriculture as a result of enhanced irrigation under the reform of the water sector in Tajikistan in line with the basin and integrated water resources management. The primary stakeholders are the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation, the Committee of Emergency Situations, the Committee of Environment Protection, the Sughd Oblast and District Local Governments, District Irrigation Agencies, and the Water User Associations. The project’s Impact Hypothesis is based on the assumption that the integrated water resources management in the Tajik Syr Darya Basin will lead to more efficient and sustainable use, protection and development of basin water resources w which will result in improved irrigation efficiency and decreased risks of water-related disasters, and finally improved rural livelihoods, especially the vulnerable groups, including the women and men.

The project will work along three outcomes, which are closely interlinked:

Outcome 1: The Parliament adopts the IWRM relevant elements of legislation and ensures the coherence of the legislative framework, and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources coordinates and monitors the enforcement of this legislation;

Outcome 2 The Tajik Syr Darya (TSD) River Basin Organization (RBO), River Basin Council (RBC), and basin local authorities apply IWRM principles at the basin, sub-basin, and watershed levels;

Outcome 3: Farmers use irrigation water effectively, and WUAs and irrigation agencies manage the systems efficiently and sustainably in a long-term perspective.

This assignment falls under the following project’s output:

* Output 5**: The Khojabakirgan (KB) Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWSMP) is developed and the Aksu, Isfana, Isfara and KB IWSMPs are integrated with the sub-basin and basin planning.**

This assignment should contribute to the development of Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Programs as per one of the Output 5 objectives.

**III. Position Objective**

One of the goals of the NWRM Phase 3 Project is to replicate the approach, piloted and successfully implemented in the Aksu and Isfana watersheds, in the Khojabakirgan watershed also. This is a holistic approach that envisages participatory and inclusive assessment and planning process with the ultimate goal of adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management at a watershed level. The methodology of Integrated Watershed Management is fully in line with the one of the Syrdarya river basin management planning methodology which makes it easier for integration. The development of the Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Program in the Syrdarya basin zone for 2026-2030 will be based on the results and recommendations of the conducted Khojabakirgan Watershed assessment.

The selected company/organization will have an important facilitating role in development of Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Program in the Syrdarya basin zone for 2026-2030 considering the key norms of the Methodology for the development of basin water resources management plans #53, approved by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Republic of Tajikistan of September 30th, 2021.

The incumbent will work under the supervision of the project manager to support Acted team in delivering the following professional services under the scope of the project.

*Please see IV. Tasks*

*Please see VI. Expected Deliverables*

**IV. Tasks**

1. Develop Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Program in the Syrdarya basin zone for 2026-2030 with inclusion of next information and data:
2. Physical and geographic characteristics of the Khojabakirgan watershed;

* Location;
* Climate;
* Soil cover;
* Flora and fauna

1. Socio-economic characteristics of the Khojabakirgan watershed:

* Administrative-territorial division of the watershed area;
* Population;
* Land resources;
* Economic objects;
* Characterization of socio-economic development directions in the watershed territory.

1. Hydrological characteristics of the Khojabakirgan watershed:

* Hydrological characterization of the Khojabakirgan River;
* Water quality characteristics of the Khojabakirgan River;
* Impact of climatic changes on the flow of the Khojabakirgan River.

1. Hydro-geological characteristics of the Khojabakirgan watershed:

* Main water-bearing horizons;
* Groundwater deposits and reserves.

1. Characterization of hydroeconomic development of the Khojabakirgan River and existing water infrastructure:

* Scheme of water intakes from the Khojabakirgan River and irrigation system located in the Tajik part of the watershed. Current state and perspective.
* Characterization of the Khojabakirgan River use:
  + - * Drinking water supply;
      * Irrigation;
      * Industry and hydropower;
      * Fishery and recreation;
      * Quantitative characteristics of water resources use by economic sectors in the Tajik part of the Khojabakirgan watershed.

1. Assessment of exposure of the watershed population and economic infrastructure to negative water impacts and key watershed problems:

* Assessment of exposure of the watershed population and economic infrastructure to negative water impacts;
* Key watershed problems.

1. Target indicators:

* Main target indicators on modernization of water infrastructure to ensure sustainable and rational use of water resources;
* Main target indicators on reducing the consequences of negative water impact;
* Main target indicators on creation of a reliable system for monitoring the use and protection of water objects.

1. Action plan to achieve the main target indicators:

* Action plan to achieve the main target indicators;
* Monitoring of the action plan implementation to achieve the target indicators.

1. Next maps are to be annexed to the Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Program in the Syrdarya basin zone for 2026-2030:

* Administrative map;
* Physical map;
* Topographic map;
* Water resources map;
* Groundwater map;
* Soil map;
* Map of irrigated lands.

**V. Required qualifications and experience:**

* Sound experience more than 3 years in developing Watershed/River basin Integrated Water Resources Management Programs/Plans;
* Experience in conducting watershed characterization, with the emphasis on integrated water resources management at regional and national levels, focusing on climate change adaptation;
* Capacity and ability to gather accurate information in the field;
* Experience and expertise in preparation of thematic maps using up-to-date mapping tools;
* Knowledge of international practice in advanced water and land resources management;
* Excellent ability to produce and develop clear, structured and persuasive concepts notes, reports, etc.;
* Established good relations with the representatives of government agencies and community organizations in the target project area;
* Good knowledge of context in the target project area is preferable;
* Ability to meet deadlines.

**VI. Expected Deliverables**

*Deliverable A*: Khojabakirgan Watershed Integrated Water Resources Management Program in the Syrdarya basin zone for 2026-2030.

**VII. Expected timeline**

The activity is expected to take place indicatively starting in March till December 2024:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deliverables** | **2024** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Jan** | **Febr** | **Mar** | **April** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| *Deliverable A* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**VIII. Application**

In order to apply to the presented position, participant will need to submit **a preliminary methodology** for the conduction of his duties and related financial proposal.

**IX. Specific conditions**

Acted security guidelines will have to be strictly followed during the whole consultancy.

**X. Submission of application:**

Qualified persons with the required skills are invited to submit their applications to [tajikistan.tender@acted.org](mailto:tajikistan.tender@acted.org) **before the 6.00 PM of March, 11th, 2024** with the subject line clearly indicating the position you are applying for.

Please note that only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted.