

CONCLUSIONS

A complex cluster of local, national and regional factors influence tensions and conflicts in Central Asia.

The states of Central Asia are still engaged in an important effort to create and develop their statehood and national identity. This clearly affects the approach of the region's leaders to regional problems. The fact that perceived national interest is put before co-operation has a negative influence on regional issues such as water management. Inter-state institutions have had major difficulties in developing more than joint declarations of intents.

More generally, the needs of creating and maintaining statehood and national identity are contributing to fragmenting Central Asia into sub-regions that communicate with more and more difficulties among them. Moreover, the strengthening of the international borders between the Central Asian countries makes the solution of cross-border problems more and more an issue between states.

Political participation of local governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and institutions in the decision-making process is another key factor that has a major

impact on tensions and conflict situations.

Political Islam is another element that will structure the face of Central Asia. Governments will need to develop strategies to deal with these forces, and hopefully these strategies will be more developed than violent repression.

In the light of the events of September 11, Central Asia has been put abruptly on the agenda of the international community. At the moment, it is still unclear how these events and the situation in Afghanistan will modify the security cooperation arrangements in the region.

This situation will also influence the development of co-operation programmes by the major donor countries. So far it is clear that several governments and organisations (US, EU, Germany⁵⁴, Canada) will increase their resources for the region, however the allocation of these resources has not yet been completed. Moreover, it is not clear what will be the duration of the attention given to the region by the international organisations, the priorities set by the "war on terrorism" may change rapidly

and with that funds would be shifted to other regions.

From the discussions had while preparing the inventory, I had however the impression that the general trend will be "more of the existent", i.e. countries will tend to support their current programs⁵⁵. This means that little will be dedicated to conflict prevention /resolution issues.

If the injection of funds into the region is used as "compensation" for the support given by the Central Asian states to the US led operations in Afghanistan, then the bulk of the resources would be spent supporting government infrastructure programmes with an increased risk of limited control on the use of the funds by the recipient government. This can have a double negative impact. On one hand government would put national before regional interests, with the risk of exacerbating the existing inter-state problems. On the other hand, if local populations are brought to perceive international organisations as supporters of corrupt regimes, this may foster more anti-Western feeling. In both cases, the results would be opposite to those planned by the "conflict prevention / resolutions" programs.

⁵⁴ Germany plans to invest up to 100 million DM in Central Asia, main directions of this investment are still not known.

⁵⁵ Germany is in a way an exception since it plans to reopen the program in Tajikistan, suspended since 1997.

LIST OF ANNEXES

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<http://www.eurasia-tro.freenet.uz/eng/programs.htm>
<http://www.ef.centralasia.net/almaty/home.htm>

Centre for OSCE Research Hamburg

<http://www.core-hamburg.de>

USAID

<http://www.usaid.gov/country/ee/>

CIDA /ACDI

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/>

UNDP

UNDP Kyrgyzstan Preventive Development Project
<http://www.pdsouth.elcat.kg>

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

<http://www.iwpr.net/>

International Crisis Group

<http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/>

Fewer Central Asia

<http://www.fewer.org/casia/main.html>

Swiss Peace Foundation

FAST

http://www.swisspeace.ch/html/navigation/fr_program_fast.html

Reference Documents

UNDP Kyrgyzstan Preventive Development Project

Village Level Early Warning Report

<http://www.pdsouth.elcat.kg/vlewr/index.html>

Regional Level Early Warning Report

<http://www.pdsouth.elcat.kg/rlewr2000/index.html>

European Union

TACIS Regional Strategy Central Asia 2001 – 2003

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis/ip2003_reg_coop.pdf

Conciliation Resources

Accord 10: "Politics of Compromise: the Tajikistan Peace Process"
available on www.c-r.org/accord10.

Mercy Corps

Survey of Ferghana Valley and Mercy Corps Strategy for Ferghana
http://www.mercycorps.org/pdf/ferghanavalley_final.pdf

Inventory of Conflict Prevention / Resolution Projects in Central Asia

1. Type of Project	Brief Description
• Prejudice Reduction / Tolerance Education	
• Topic-Focused Cross-Border Cooperation Project (water, land, media, trade, or other identified as conflict issue).	
• Training on Mediation and Facilitation	
• Local Development Approach for Target Communities	
• Conflict Assessment and Analysis / Early Warning	
• Other (please specify)	

2. Main Objectives of the Project

3. Regions of Intervention / Levels of Intervention (local, country focused / two or more countries)

4. Main Beneficiaries

5. Duration of the Projects

6. Implementing Agency

7. Local Partners

8. Funding (source and extent)

9. Main Results so far

10. Main Lessons Learned

11. Gaps / Needs for Increased Cooperation Programmes

12. Contact Person(s)

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