



25 years of water cooperation within
the ICWC in Central Asia:
Achievements and tasks for the future

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Main messages

Central Asia demonstrated to the world the **unique** example of 25 years cooperation under Interstate Commission for Water Coordination

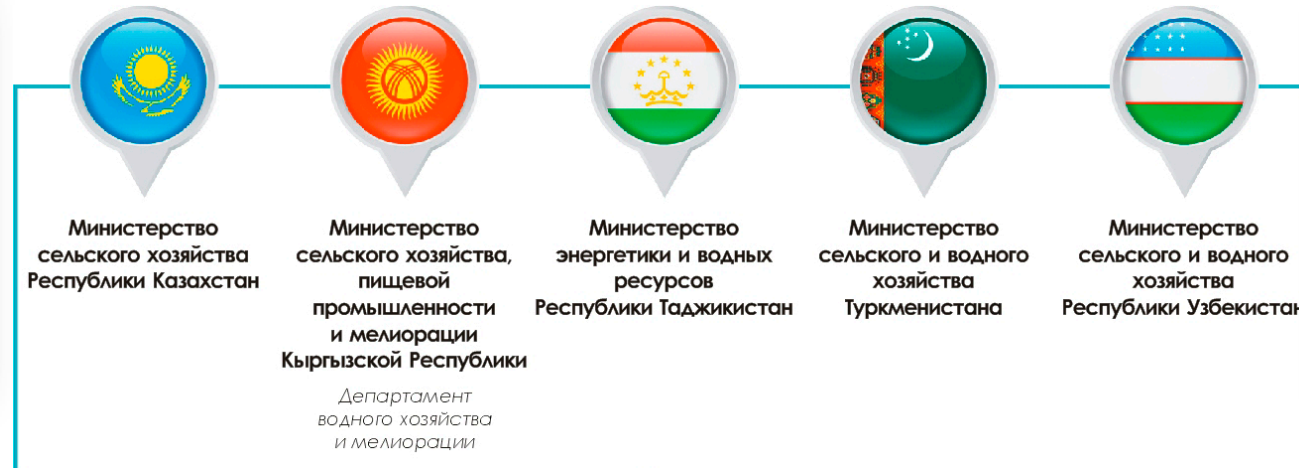
Central Asia possesses **enormous but not fully used yet potential** for mutually beneficial water cooperation

ICWC in Central Asia

Established at the initiative of the heads of national water authorities
and through the support from the heads of CA countries



1st meeting
Almaty, Feb 1992



72nd meeting
Tashkent, Nov 2017

The main goal of establishing ICWC is to confirm the principles of joint decision making on common water management issues as well as measures to implement jointly planned programs on the basis of mutual respects of interests.

ICWCC



Common hydrology and history

- ✓ Community of water resources
- ✓ Historical ties and interconnected interests
- ✓ Understanding the need to coordinate

Infrastructure and management system

- ✓ A single water management complex
- ✓ Sophisticated network of hydro structures
- ✓ Strictly coordinated management system

Institutions and people

- ✓ BWO Amudarya & Syrdarya - 1987
- ✓ SANIIRI - 1925
- ✓ Highly qualified staff
- ✓ professional and personal contacts

Common practices and vision

- ✓ Schemes for Amudarya and Syrdarya
- ✓ Common vision and practices

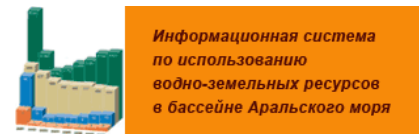
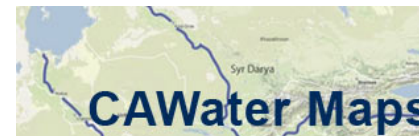
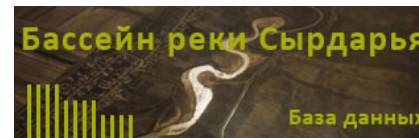
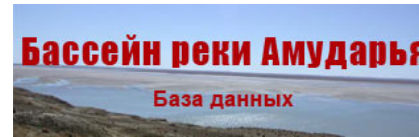


1. Joint **institutions** help to overcome even dramatic political changes in a peaceful and practical way (*25 years of cooperation*)
2. Everyday **technical interactions** between riparians
3. More than **1500 persons** in ICWC system



System of interactions and decision support

- Annual planning , monitoring and **operational** water management
- Data and **information** exchange
- Main provisions of regional water **strategy** and drafting new **agreements**
- Joint regional **projects** and **research**
- Joint **professional development**
- Interactions in **low & high water** years



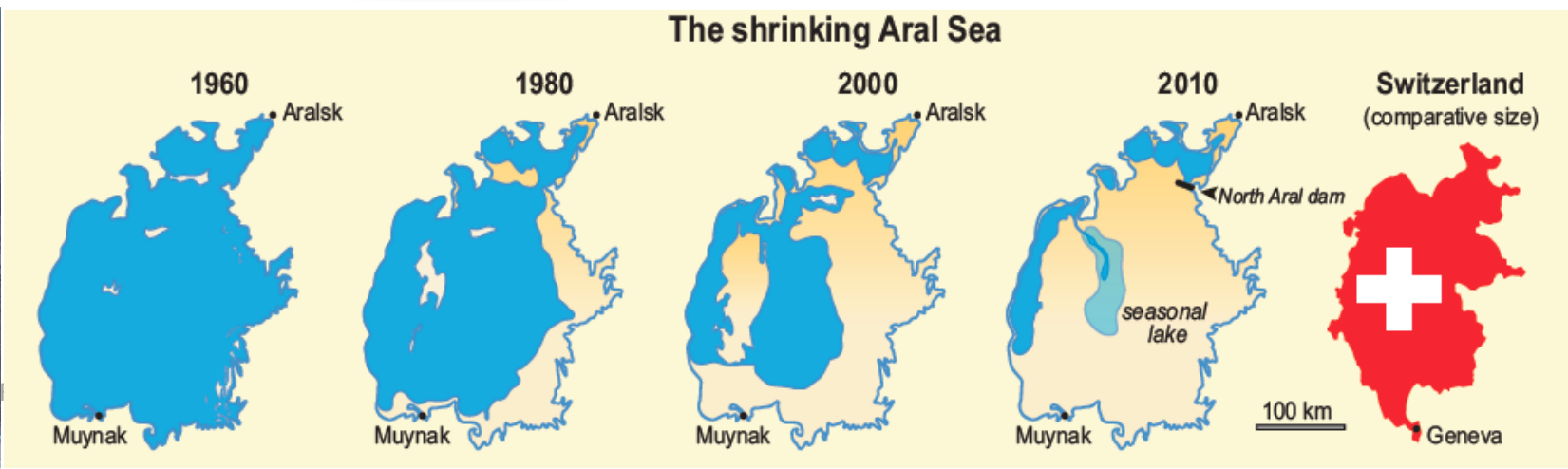
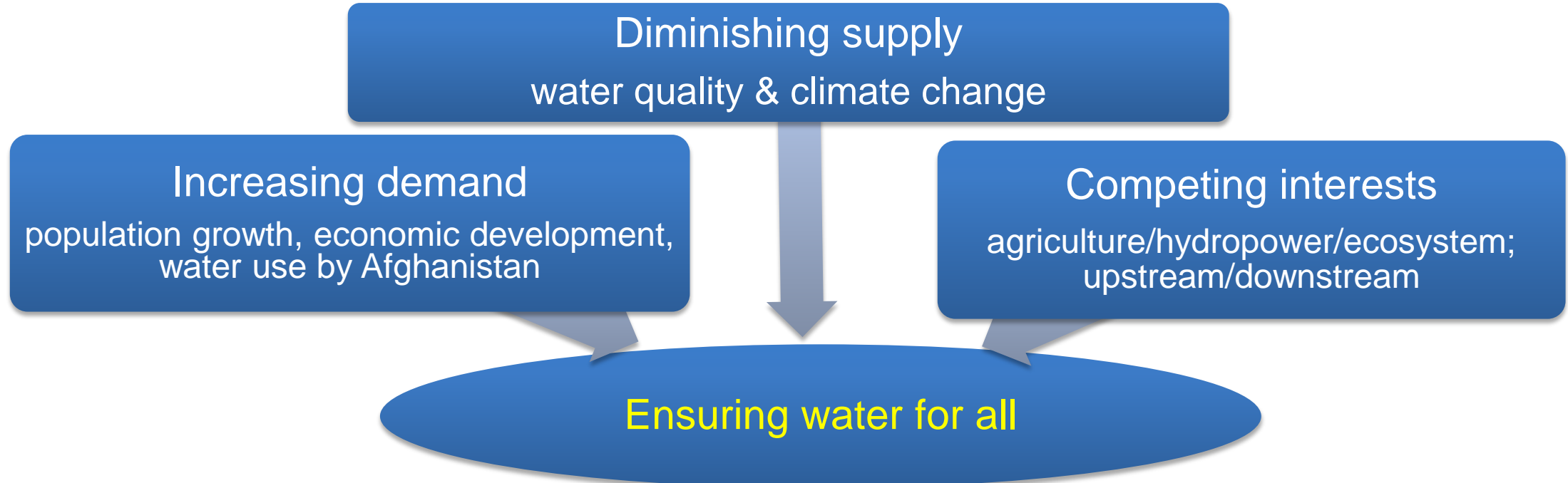
CAWATERinfo

Portal on Water and Environment in
Central Asia

More than **45 GB** information
More than **8 000 visitors** per day

- Knowledge base and glossaries
- Regional information system on water and land resources in the ASB – more than 150 parameters from 1980
- Analytics
- Databases on water withdrawals
- ASBmm models

Challenges to be addressed



Changes in river flows in the Amudarya basin

OVER LAST 15 YEARS

- Runoff of rivers in the Amudarya basin **declined** by 2% from average annual flow observed
 - Pyandzh runoff decreased by **7%**
 - Vaksh runoff increased by **5%**.
- Decrease in **frequency** of
 - low water years (об. 75% & higher) **1,3** times
 - high water years (об. 25 % & lower) **1,2** times
 - extreme high water years (об.10 % & lower) **2,5**.
- **Severity** of extreme dry years increased by 1.5 times (deviation of the average flow in dry years from the average flow for the given period)

TREND TILL 2050

- Decrease of water availability in **growing** season (*average warming scenario*) :
 - Vaksh – by 5%,
 - Surkhandarya – by 6%,
 - Kafirnigan – by 8%
 - Zarafshan – by 11%
- Decrease in water availability in **summer** months up to **15..35%**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PEER Research project :
Transboundary water
management adaptation in the
Amudarya basin to climate
change uncertainties

ICWC in Central Asia is

- **The only** interstate platform to take joint and binding decisions on interstate water allocation and use
- The telling example of **willingness** to cooperate

But surely ICWC is not an ideal

The need to increase the efficiency of IFAS and its organs has been raised by the presidents of CA countries in 2009

What could we do better?

1. More reliable **forecasts**, better **data** and **information** exchange
2. More attention to basin-wide (long-term) **planning** and **stakeholder engagement**
3. Revitalize and cultivate the **value of water** (spiritual, culture of water saving)
4. Look **together into the future** – scenario, modeling, research, action plans
 - *ICWC's action plan: 1) Water saving, 2) IWRM, 3) Water measurement, 4) Capacity development*
5. Introduce a **renewed approach to intersectoral** coordination (agriculture, hydropower, ecosystems, drinking water supply)
6. Strengthen **scientific and analytical basis** for water governance (regional think tank)
7. Renovate **institutions** (basin councils, etc) and **laws** (new basin agreements, procedures)
8. Increase **partnerships**: interstate, inter-sectoral, vertical, private, academia, NGOs, IFIs
9. Mould public opinion into **public conscience** (social activism, intellectuals)
10. Be ready to go **beyond water and traditional** approaches ...



25 лет водному сотрудничеству
государств Центральной Азии:
опыт пройденного,
задачи будущего

RESOLUTION

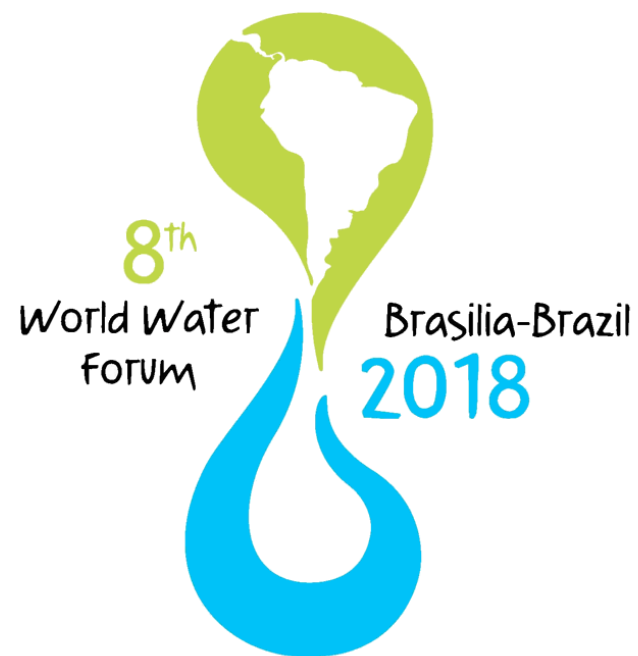
CA international conference The 25 years of Water Cooperation in Central Asia:
Lessons learned and Future Outlook
23-24 November 2017 | Tashkent

We, the representatives of ministries, departments, academia and the public of the CA countries, and of regional and international organizations, having discussed the priority issues of cooperation related to commitments made in the context of SDG, themes of the 8th World Water Forum and of ICWC Plan, express our readiness to **further steps**... In particular,

- Strengthen the **capacity** and operations of the ICWC...
- Intensify the work to improve **legal and institutional** mechanisms ...
- Recognize the importance of strengthening bilateral and regional **cooperation** ...
- Invite development partners to pay **special attention** to joint solution of water problems in CA countries caused by drying up of the **Aral Sea, climate change, ecosystem degradation** and increased frequency of water-related **disasters**;
- Carry out all appropriate measures to improve **water use efficiency** in all sectors ...
- Improve the efficacy of institutional mechanisms for involving **all stakeholders** in water governance

- More actively involve at all levels of water use the **public**, including the young and women ...
- Introduce the principles of IWRM at all levels ...
- Take all possible measures to improve the quality and accuracy of **water accounting**
- Improve the **adaptation capacity** of the countries' water sector to climate change impacts;
- Exchange, wherever possible, **data, information and knowledge** ...
- Assist relevant services in improving the reliability of water resources-related **forecasts** ...
- Encourage the development and mutual exchange of **scientific knowledge, forecasts and innovative technologies** ...
- Ensure inclusive and quality lifelong **learning/education** ...
- Make use of the advantages and the platform of the International Decade of Actions "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, and other platforms acceptable to countries to strengthen cooperation

The participants consider the results of this anniversary Conference as **a contribution to the consolidated vision** of the CA region on the priority themes of the 8th World Water Forum.



Sharing Water

Organization



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Support

