



**UNRCCA**  
The United Nations Regional Centre  
for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

**OSCE**

# 2019 WATER YEARBOOK: CENTRAL ASIA AND AROUND THE GLOBE

Tashkent 2020



# WATER YEARBOOK:

CENTRAL ASIA AND  
AROUND THE GLOBE

2019

Tashkent 2019

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## List of Abbreviations

ACN	Academic Community Network
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ALRI	Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (Tajikistan)
ASB	Aral Sea Basin
ASBmm	Aral Sea Basin model
ASBP	Aral Sea Basin Program
AWC	Asia Water Council
BISA	Basin Irrigation System Administration
BWA	Basin Water Authority
BWO	Basin Water Organization
CA	Central Asia
CALPESD	Central Asian Leadership Program of Education for Sustainable Development
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CDW	Collector-drainage water
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMC ICWC	Coordination Metrological Center of ICWC
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
CTWC	Chu-Talas Water Commission
DWRLR	Department for Water Resources and Land Reclamation at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation (Kyrgyzstan)
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC IFAS	Executive Committee of IFAS
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
ED IFAS	Executive Directorate of IFAS
EECCA NWO	Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia Network of Water Management Organizations
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
ICSD	Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development of Central Asia
ICWC	Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
IFCA	Investment Fund for Central Asia
INBO	International Network of Basin Organizations
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWAC	International Water Assessment Center
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRA	International Water Resources Association
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KR	Kyrgyz Republic
MAEP	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (Turkmenistan)
MEGNR	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (Kazakhstan)
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MPHSTF	UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan
MWM	Ministry of Water Management (Uzbekistan)
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NHMS	National Hydrometeorological Services
NGO	Non-governmental organization

OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RCH	Regional Center of Hydrology
REAP	Regional Environmental Action Plan for Central Asia
REP4SD-CA	Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
RK	Republic of Kazakhstan
RMCCA	Regional Mountain Centre of CA
RT	Republic of Tajikistan
Ruz	Republic of Uzbekistan
RWG	Regional Working Group
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIC ICSD	Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development
SIC ICWC	Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SPECA	Special Program for the Central Asian countries
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-IHP	UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSC	UN Security Council
UN SPAS	UN Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
VNR	Voluntary national review
WB	World Bank
WCA	Water Consumer Association
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WUA	Water User Association
WWC	World Water Council

## Preface

The 2019 edition of the Water Yearbook: Central Asia and around the Globe was prepared during the pandemic and the lockdown period. Within weeks humanity found itself in a deep isolation and even more felt the fragility and interdependence of this world. We have yet to assess the effects of COVID-19 on the environment. But it is already clear that, on the one side, the nature takes some break from anthropogenic activities but, on the other side, the pandemic-induced economic recession most likely slow down the development of green technologies, renewable energy as well as systemic (rather than ad hoc) lowering of environmental load. All-round isolation elucidates the paramount importance of online information flows that can partially fill the gap in face-to-face contacts and spur new creative ideas and accomplishments. We hope that the Water Yearbook will have its contribution too.



Let's go back to the past, in 2019, to those key developments and events that are highlighted in this Yearbook.

Regional cooperation has continued to intensify in Central Asia. The President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev paid the state visit to Uzbekistan on 14-15 April, whereas on 26-27 July, for the first time in history of Kyrgyz-Tajik relations, the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan met at the borderline between the two states. The authorized agencies of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan negotiated about joint construction of HPP on the Zeravshan River ("[Bilateral Water Cooperation between the States in Central Asia](#)").

In late 2019, the results of Turkmenistan's three-year chairmanship in the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea were summarized and the chairmanship has been passed to Tajikistan. ICWC held two meetings: 76<sup>th</sup> (April 19) in Tashkent and 77<sup>th</sup> (November 5) in Almaty. As a result of re-organization, S.N. Gromov, Vice-minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources was assigned as the new ICWC member from Kazakhstan. Tajikistan was represented by U.Yu. Usmonzoda, Minister of Energy and Water Resources instead of the First Deputy Minister S.N. Rakhimzoda, who was assigned the Ambassador of Tajikistan in India. As a result of reformation of the Turkmenistan's Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management, A. Yazmyradov, the Chairman of the State Committee of Water Management has become an ICWC member at the beginning of the year ("[IFAS and Other Regional Organizations in Central Asia](#)"). ICWC members and bodies strengthened their efforts for better coordination of regional and national bodies but this has not yet been mirrored in formal protocols of the Commission's meetings.

From September 20 to October 20, SIC ICWC together with the International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Region undertook the first field expedition from two planned ones (for 2019-2020) to the exposed bed of the Aral Sea. This expedition was a result of a whole host of expectations and governmental decisions on continuation of the exposed seabed monitoring conducted by SIC ICWC during 2005-2011 with the German government's support. The current expedition was supported as part of a UNDP project through the funds of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region. First results of the monitoring are described in "[Water Management Situation in the Aral Sea Basin](#)".

The information on topical water-related events all over the continents is collected in "[Key Water Developments in the World](#)".

"[Thematic Reviews](#)" present the information on climate change, mountains (new subsection) and the detailed overview of biodiversity in the world based on the most recent assessments. Subsection on SDGs illustrates science's contribution to achieving sustainable development. Scientists believe that despite considerable efforts, we are not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

As a regional thematic review, the Yearbook presents the key messages and findings of the "[Diagnostic Report on Rational Use of Water Resources in Central Asia as of 2019](#)". The Report was commissioned by OECD and prepared by SIC ICWC, with contributions from leading experts from the CA countries and the financial support from Germany. This Diagnostic Report has got positive feedback from national and international institutions.

Section "[Science and Innovations](#)" was considerably extended by new information on the Central Asia Expert Platform on Water Security, Sustainable Development, and Future Studies, the leading research institutions in EECCA countries, as well as on international research institutes working on water issues in Central Asia. The establishment of the Expert Platform seeks to put into practice a proposal of the President of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev voiced at the IFAS summit in Turkmenbashi in 2018.

In its final sections, the Yearbook contains information about key publications, Central Asia water awards, risks in 2020 and the calendar of events for 2020.

The last but not the least the authors appreciate all contributions made to this edition of the Yearbook in response to our request for information. Special thanks are due to the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia as well as to Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan for their financial support.

Professor Viktor A. Dukhovniy

