



World Youth  
Parliament  
for Water



# Youth participation in the river basin councils: case of the Aral Sea Basin countries

INBO Webinar “Participation of Stakeholders, Civil Society and Youth in the management of the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers”

10 December 2020

# Content

①

## Aral Sea Basin:

role of youth in promoting water  
as an instrument of peace

②

## Youth participation

in the meetings of the river  
basins councils




③

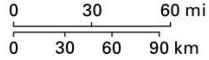
## Barriers and shortcomings

of youth participation

# THE SHRINKING ARAL SEA 1960-2014

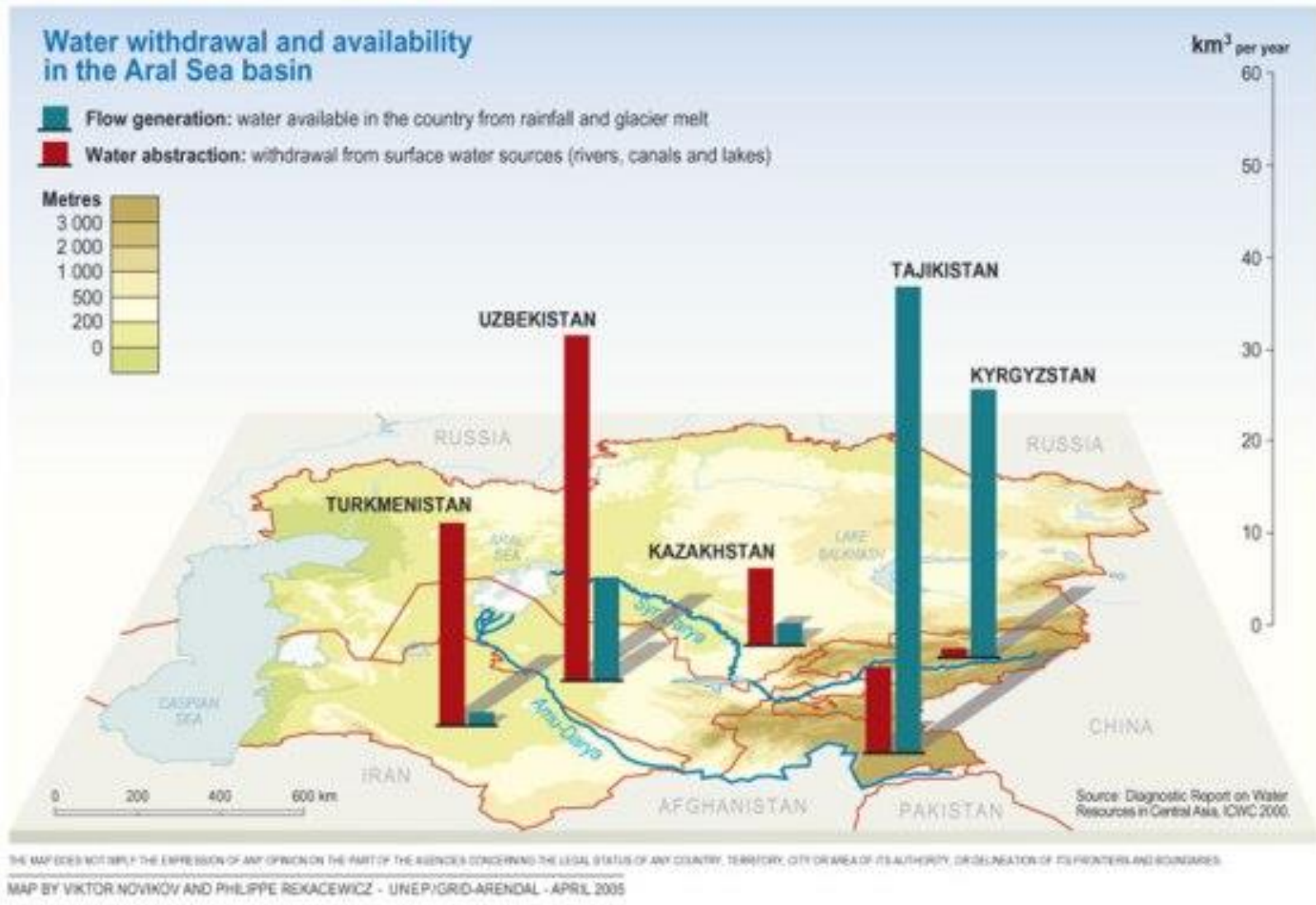
It was once the world's fourth largest body of inland water but has shrunk to a fraction of its former size because of the diversion of its inflowing rivers for agricultural irrigation.

-  Land submerged in 1960
-  1960 coastline
-  International boundary on former seabed



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## Water withdrawal and availability in the Aral Sea Basin



## IWRM in Central Asian states

- Kazakhstan: 8 river basin inspections & councils established and functional since 2008.
- Kyrgyzstan: 5 basins were identified, irregular meetings of basin councils, in the process of development
- Tajikistan: 4 basins and river basin dialogues were established, in the process of development
- Turkmenistan: National Roadmap of transition to IWRM
- Uzbekistan: 13 basin units & councils were identified



## First youth participation in Aral-Syrdarya basin council in KZ, September 2017



Picture by B. Sharipova

## Learning from the example of Artois-Picardie Water Agency, WWF 8, March 2018



Picture by N. Chemayeva

## Youth participation as one of the core activities of the Central Asian Youth for Water network (CAY4W)

CAY4WATER

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## Importance of youth participation in Basin Councils

Feb. 24, 2020

Screenshot from CAY4W website: <http://cay4water.org/news/local>

# Youth inclusion into basin councils in Central Asian states: rationale and reality



**Kazakhstan:** youth participated irregularly in 2017 and 2019, 2020



**Kyrgyzstan:** official permission from the respective state agency received in 2018

**Tajikistan:** in 2019 youth participated in 2 meetings of basin councils

## Barriers and shortcomings of youth participation in river basin councils in Central Asian states

- Authoritarian regimes -> civil society movements are perceived radically by governments
- Highly hierarchical society and culture of respect for elders -> youth in general are reluctant and non-active
- Post-Soviet countries -> low interest of youth in politico-social processes
- Although formally established, basin councils are not fully functional
- Networking is a new phenomena, connections between / among institutions and people are weak
- Low commitment of governments: basin councils meetings are to some extent dependent from funding of international development partners





# Thank you

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