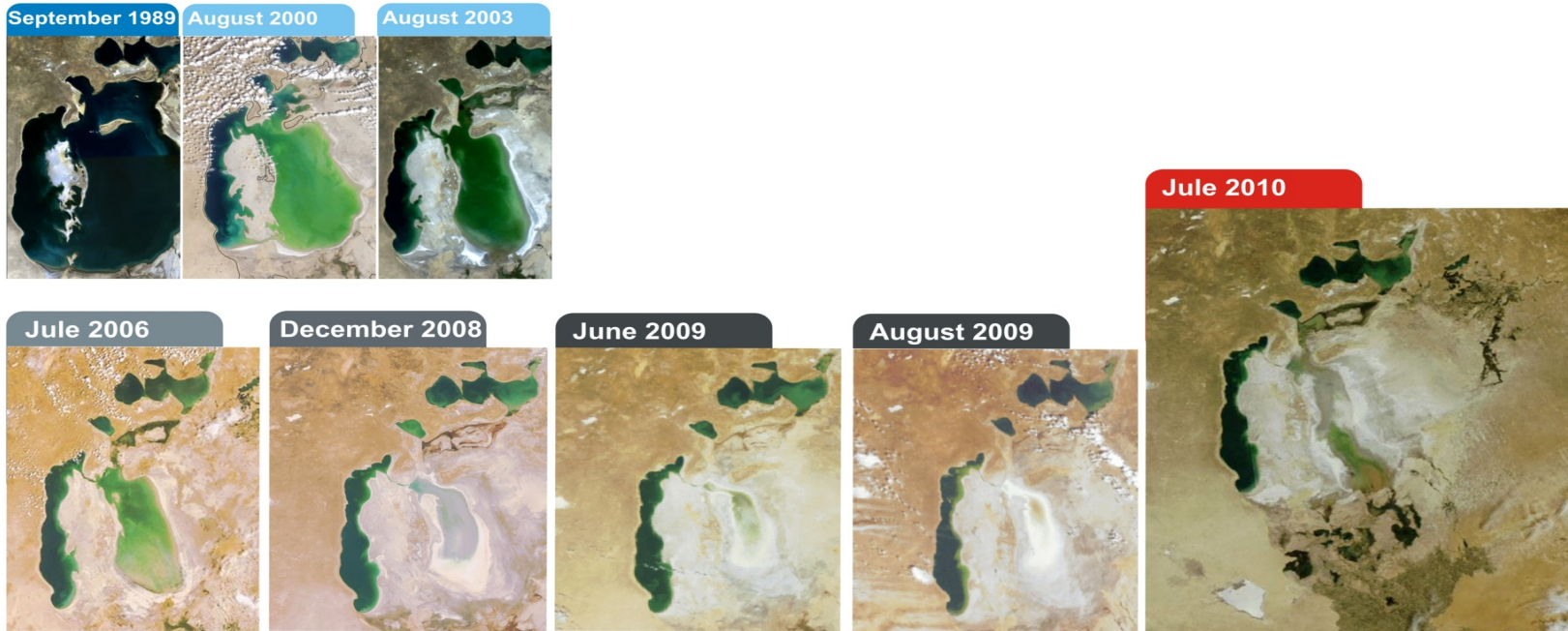


“TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN THE ARAL SEA BASIN”

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Executive Committee of International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS)

Satellite monitoring of the Aral Sea



The region of the Aral Sea Basin



The sea dynamics

| Aral Sea | 1960 | End of 2009 |
|------------------|--|--|
| Surface Area | 67,500 km ² (4 th in the world) | 8,409 km ² (88% loss) |
| Level | 53.4 m | Large Aral = 26.5 m; Small Aral = 42 m |
| Volume | 1090 km ³ | 84.5 km ³ (92% loss) |
| Average salinity | 10 g/l (brackish) | Large Aral > 100 g/l, In Western part is probably > 200 g/l, In Eastern part (hyper saline); Small Aral = 10-14 g/l |



Key indicators of water and land resources use in the Aral Sea Basin

| Indicators | Measurement unit | 1960 | 2007-2012 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Population | mln | 14,1 | 60,4 |
| Irrigated agricultural lands | thousand hectares | 4510 | 8043,2 |
| Irrigated land per capita | hectares/per capita | 0,32 | 0,131 |
| Total water withdrawal | km³/year | 60,61 | 105,0 |
| Total runoff to the Aral Sea | km³/year | 54,99 | 10,6 |

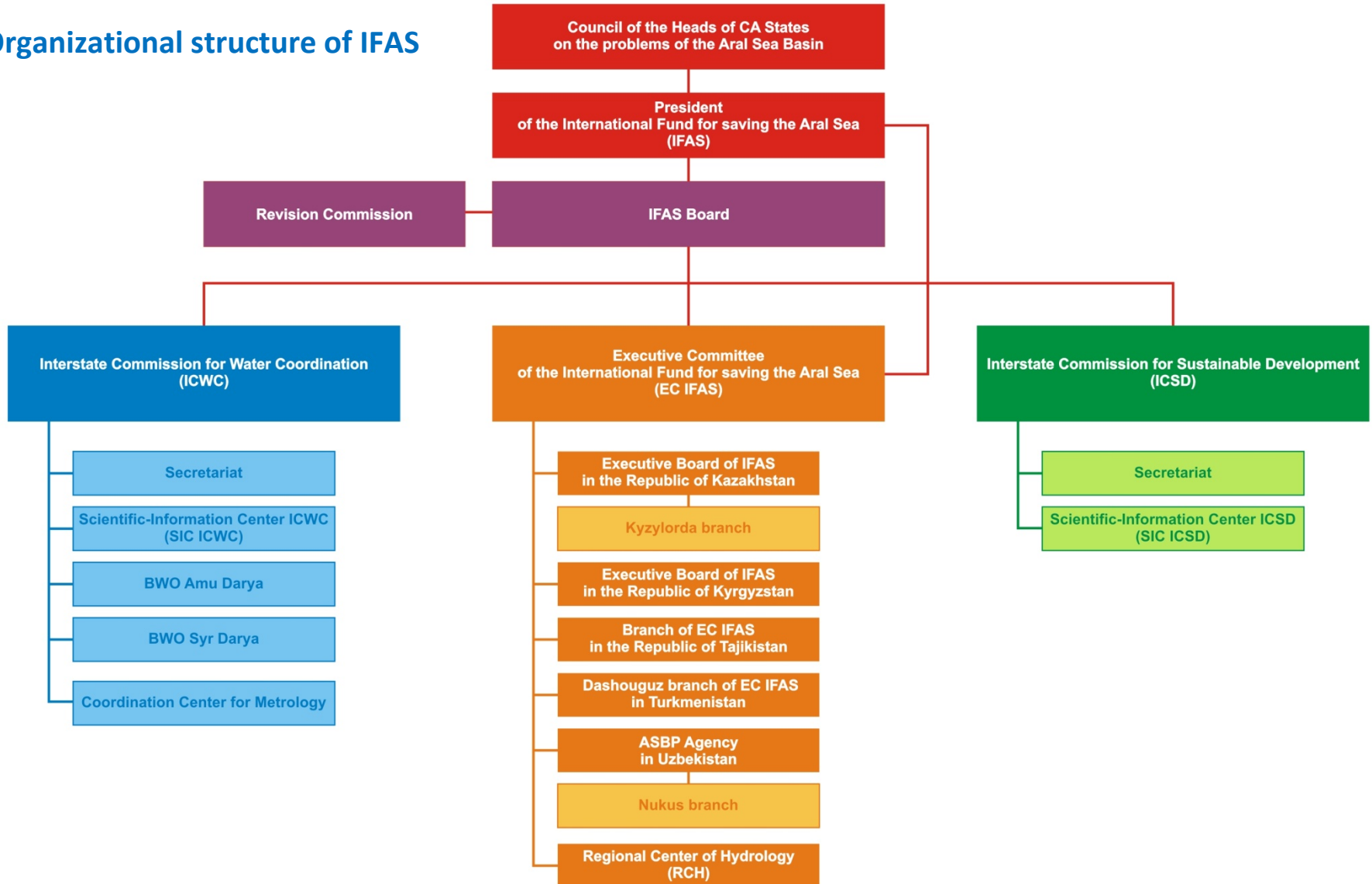


Major factors affecting transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia:

- **Population growth:** increasing deficiency of water resources, reduction of specific water availability 3,5 times, requiring additional annual 700-800 mln m³ of water.
- **Climate change:** loss of glacier reserves, expected reduce of water flow by 10-15%, growing frequency of floods and droughts.
- **Consequences of the Aral Sea shrinkage** resulted in the degradation of natural resources and ecosystems destruction: desertification, pollution and loss of biodiversity, water quality deterioration etc.
- **Conflict of interests** in the use of transboundary water resources between the upstream and downstream countries of the Aral Sea basin.
- **The principles of Integrated Water Resources Management** are not fully applied in the countries of Central Asia.
- **The need in the development of effective early warning systems and preventive measures** to prevent and reduce risks and consequences of natural disasters.
- **The outdated water saving technologies:** lack of modern irrigation techniques, advanced methods of recycling etc.



Organizational structure of IFAS



20 years of IFAS – an unique example of international cooperation

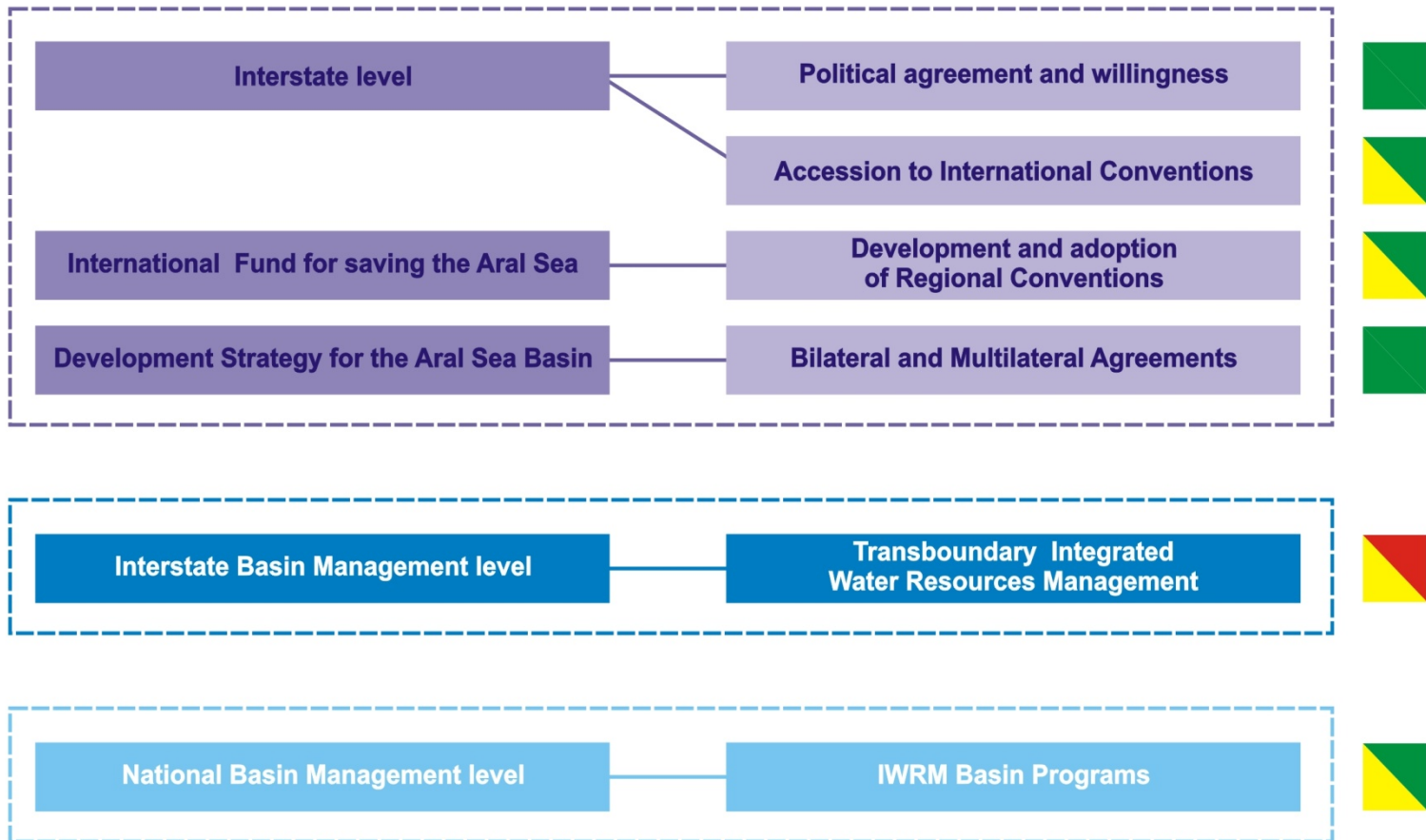
- **Institutional framework of water management in Central Asia**
 - The Ministries of Water Resources of the former Central Asian Republics signed a Statement in September 12, 1991 in which they declared the need in joint management of water resources of the Aral Sea basin. **An Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) was established.**
 - On 26 March 1993, the five Central Asian countries have founded **the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)**. Owing to joint intention of Heads of five CA states, IFAS has managed to consolidate at the interstate level actions to protect population from the consequences of the Aral Sea shrinkage and improve socio-ecological situation in the region.
- **Policy framework (regional and sub-regional instruments)**
 - **1992** Agreement on cooperation in joint management, use and protection of water resources of interstate sources (all CA states are Parties).
 - **1993** Agreement on joint actions to address the problem of the Aral Sea and surroundings, environmental improvement and ensuring socio-economic development of Aral Sea region (all CA states are Parties).
 - **1998** Agreement on use of water and energy resources in the Syrdarya river basin (four countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are Parties).
 - **1999** Agreement on the status of International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and its organizations (all CA states are Parties).
 - **“Soft Law” instruments** composed of **Declarations and Statements of IFAS Heads of States**. (“1995 Nukus Declaration of Central Asian States and International Organizations on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Basin”, “1999 Ashgabat Declaration”, “2001 Tashkent declaration”, “2002 Dushanbe Declaration”, “2009 Joint Statement of the Heads of States - Founders of IFAS”).

20 years of IFAS – an unique example of international cooperation



- **Joint Statement of Heads of states-founders IFAS (28th April 2009) – IFAS is the central institution for coordinating and addressing the fundamental aspects of cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin.**
- **IFAS has contributed to:**
 - development of new quality interstate relations in the region;
 - strengthening regional cooperation;
 - no conflict mechanism for resolving complex issues in water use.
 - interaction between donors and international organizations.
- **A platform of dialogue among countries for development and implementation of bilateral, multilateral and international agreements.**
- **Assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea basin by developing Action Programmes (ASBP-1-2-3).**

Desired organizational scheme of the Aral Sea Basin Management



Global Conventions

The main documents regulating water relations on a global scale:

- The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992);
- The UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (New-York, 1997);
- The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)

In the region, Kazakhstan (in 2001), Uzbekistan (in 2007) and Turkmenistan (2012) have joined the UNECE Water Convention.



1992 UNECE Water Convention: Central Asia and Afghanistan

Parties: KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN and TURKMENISTAN

Status of ratification: Kazakhstan - 11 Jan 2001a

Uzbekistan - 4 Sep 2007a

Turkmenistan* - 4 Aug 2012a

The support of the Convention from its CA participants is expressed in the following:

Kazakhstan – Development of the National Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Uzbekistan – Considerable works towards modernization of irrigation infrastructure and monitoring systems, which led to significant reduction in water consumption.

Turkmenistan – National Policy Dialogues on IWRM, water supply and sanitation. Revision of the national legal frameworks for water management and protection.

Who is next ?

Afghanistan

Kyrgyzstan

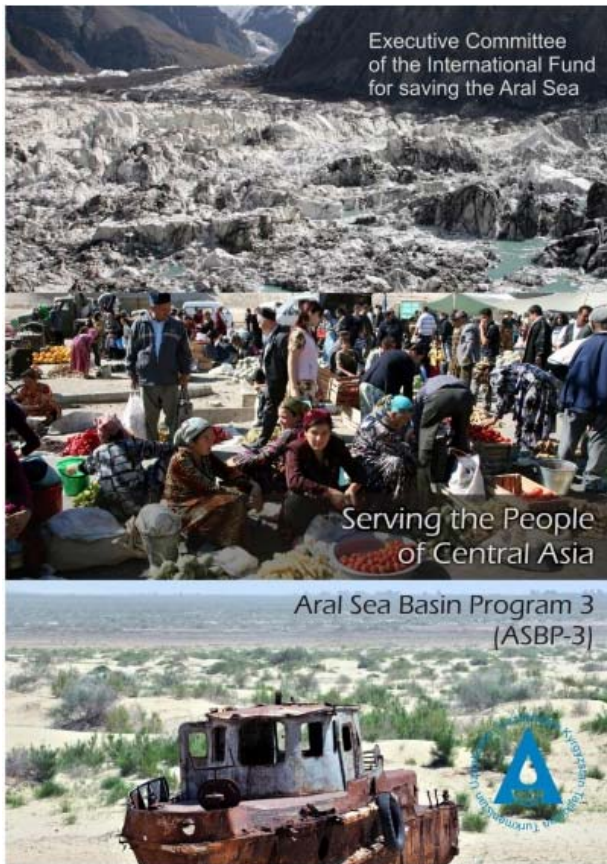
Tajikistan

UNECE Water Convention

Some constraints to application of the UNECE environmental instruments:

- The knowledge of UNECE environmental instruments and opportunities they provide is often limited in Central Asia.
- Insufficient understanding of the obligations sometimes results in misinterpretation of their key provisions and their inappropriate use in the regional political debates over the use of water resources (i.e. Part I of the Water Convention: the equitable and reasonable utilization principle (article 2)).
- Today's highest concern is linked to the need in the establishment of favourable economic and technical conditions in some CA states to advance the acceptance of the Convention. To achieve this, the developed countries are requested to provide assistance through modernisation of industrial water treatment systems.

ASBP - 3 as the basis of the current International cooperation



- Development of **Action Program on providing assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin for the period of 2011-2015 (ASBP-3)** in consultations with national experts and donor community.
- December 9th, 2010 – International organizations and the donor community made **Statement about their full support to the Program and their close partnership with EC-IFAS.**
- **Main directions of ASBP-3:**
 - **Integrated use of water resources**
 - **Environmental Protection**
 - **Socio-economic development**
 - **Improving the institutional and legal mechanisms**

Cooperation with international organizations and donor community





Prospects for strengthening transboundary water cooperation in CA

- To develop and implement jointly IWRM plan in transboundary basins.
- To improve the institutional structure of regional and basin organizations.
- To implement the long-term regional Program ASBP-3.
- To strengthen and enlarge collaboration with international organizations and donor community.
- To ratify previously prepared bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary cooperation , in particular those that have been negotiated for a long time and are ready to be signed (agreements stipulated in the 2009 Statement of Heads of IFAS state-founders).
- To develop the interstate relations on the basis of international law and best practices in the management and protection of transboundary water resources.

Thank you for your attention!