

IFAS Executive Committee
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International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

The International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was established in 1993 by the Heads of Central Asian states to overcome the environmental crisis and improve the socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin, recognized by the world community as one of the largest disasters of the XX century.

Founder states

-  Republic of Kazakhstan
-  Kyrgyz Republic
-  Republic of Tajikistan
-  Turkmenistan
-  Republic of Uzbekistan

The Aral Sea crisis



The Aral Sea crisis is the most vivid example of an ecological problem with serious socio-economic consequences, with which all the states of Central Asia are directly or indirectly connected.

The crisis situation caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea has developed as a result of improper use of natural resources on the basis of irrigated agriculture and an increase in the volume of non-return water consumption for irrigation.

The dried bottom of the Aral Sea



IFAS Mission

The main task of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea is to finance and lend the joint practical actions and perspective programs and projects, fundamental and applied research and scientific and technical engineering on the management of waters including those transboundary ones, participation in the implementation of international programs and projects to save the Aral Sea, ecological improvement of the Aral Sea region and the Aral Sea basin as a whole, taking into account the interests of all states in the region.



Aral Sea Basin Programs (ASBPs)

During the IFAS activity four ASBPs were adopted:

- Program of concrete actions to improve the ecological situation in the Aral Sea basin for the next 3-5 years, considering the socio-economic development of the region (main directions) 1994-1999, (ASBP-1);
- Program of concrete actions to improve the ecological and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin for the period of 2003-2010 (ASBP-2);
- Action Program for assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin for the period of 2011-2015 (ASBP-3);
- Action Program for assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin, 2021-2030 (ASBP-4).

IFAS Declarations

During the IFAS activity the Heads of Central Asian states adopted the following documents:

Declarations:

- ✓ Nukus Declaration (September 1995)
- ✓ Almaty Declaration (September 1997)
- ✓ Ashgabat Declaration (April 1999)
- ✓ Dushanbe Declaration (October 2002)

Statements:

- ✓ Tashkent Statement (December 2001)
- ✓ Almaty Statement (April 2009)
- ✓ Joint communique (Turkmenbashi, August 2018)



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SALVING THE ARAL SEA

MAIN EVENTS

Dushanbe – 2021

March 26, 1993 (Kyzylorda)

The first meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia on the problems of the ASB

- The «Agreement on joint actions to resolve the problem of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region, ecological improvement and ensuring the socio-economic development in the Aral region» was signed;
- The Interstate Council on the Problems of the Aral Sea Basin (ICAS) was established;
- The Regulation on the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was approved;
- The Board of the Foundation was formed.

March 3, 1995

(Dashoguz)

The fourth meeting of the ICAS and the next meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia

- Signed a Joint Statement of the Presidents of the Central Asian States on equal and mutually beneficial cooperation on a multilateral basis.



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SALVING THE ARAL SEA MAIN EVENTS

January 15, 2009

(New York)

63rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

- Adopted the UN General Assembly Resolution on «Granting the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea the observer status to the General Assembly».

PERIODS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNTRIES IN IFAS

Kazakhstan
1993-1996
2009-2012

Turkmenistan
1999-2001
2017-2019

Uzbekistan
1997-1999
2013-2016

Tajikistan
2002-2008
2020-2022

April 12, 2018

(New York)

72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

- Adopted the UN General Assembly Resolution «Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea».

March 3, 2021

(New York)

73rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

- Adopted the UN General Assembly Resolution «Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea».

1993

1994

1995

1997

1999

2001

2002

2003

2009

2012

2014

2018

2019

2021

2022

July 13, 1993 (Tashkent)

The first meeting of the ICAS

- Approved «The main regulations of the concept of Central Asian states on solving the problems of the Aral Sea basin, taking into account the socioeconomic development of the region».

January 11, 1994

(Nukus)

The second meeting of the ICAS and the meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia

- Approved the «Program of specific actions to improve the ecological situation in the Aral Sea basin for the next 3-5 years, considering the socio-economic development of the region» (basic provisions).

September 18-20, 1995

(Nukus)

International Conference under the auspices of the United Nations on Sustainable Development of the states of the Aral Sea basin

- Adopted the Nukus Declaration.

February 27, 1997

(Almaty)

The sixth meeting of the ICAS

- Adopted the Almaty Declaration.

April 8-9, 1999

(Ashgabat)

Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia

- Adopted the Ashgabat Declaration;
- Approved the Regulation on the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea;
- Signed an Agreement on the status of IFAS and its organizations.

December 28, 2001

(Tashkent)

Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia

- Signed the Tashkent Statement of the Heads of Central Asian States on mutually beneficial cooperation in political, economic, scientific and technical, cultural and other fields.

October 5-6, 2002

(Dushanbe)

Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia

- Approved the «Main direction of the Program of concrete actions to improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the period 2003-2010» (ASBP-2);
- Adopted the Dushanbe Declaration.

August 23, 2003r.

(Dushanbe)

Anniversary meeting of the IFAS Board

- Approved the «The Program of concrete actions to improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the period 2003-2010» (ASBP-2);
- Created the Regional Center of Hydrology under the Executive Committee of IFAS.

April 28, 2009

(Almaty)

Adopted the Joint statement of the Heads of the IFAS Founding States;

- A decision was made to develop an «Action Program for Assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin for the period 2011-2015» (ASBP-3).

December 15, 2010

(Almaty)

The Action Program for Assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin for the period 2011-2015 ASBP-3 approved (decision of the IFAS Board by survey method).

October 28–29, 2014

(Urgench)

- The International Conference took place «Development of Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin to mitigate consequences of environmental catastrophe».

August 24, 2018

(Turkmenbashi)

Summit of the Heads of States-Founders of IFAS

- Adopted the Joint Communique of the Council of States-Founders of IFAS.

May 28, 2019

(New York)

73rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

- Adopted the UN General Assembly Resolution «Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea».

May 18, 2021 (New York)

75th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

- Adopted the UN General Assembly Resolution «Declaring the Aral Sea region as a zone of environmental innovations and technologies».

June 29, 2021 (Dushanbe)

- Approved the «Action Program for Assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin» (ASBP-4) (Decision of the IFAS Board).