

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

Dushanbe – 2021

The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was established in 1993 by the Heads of Central Asian states. The main purpose of the Fund is to overcome the ecological 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



Republic
of Tajikistan



Republic
of Uzbekistan



Kyrgyz
Republic



Turkmenistan





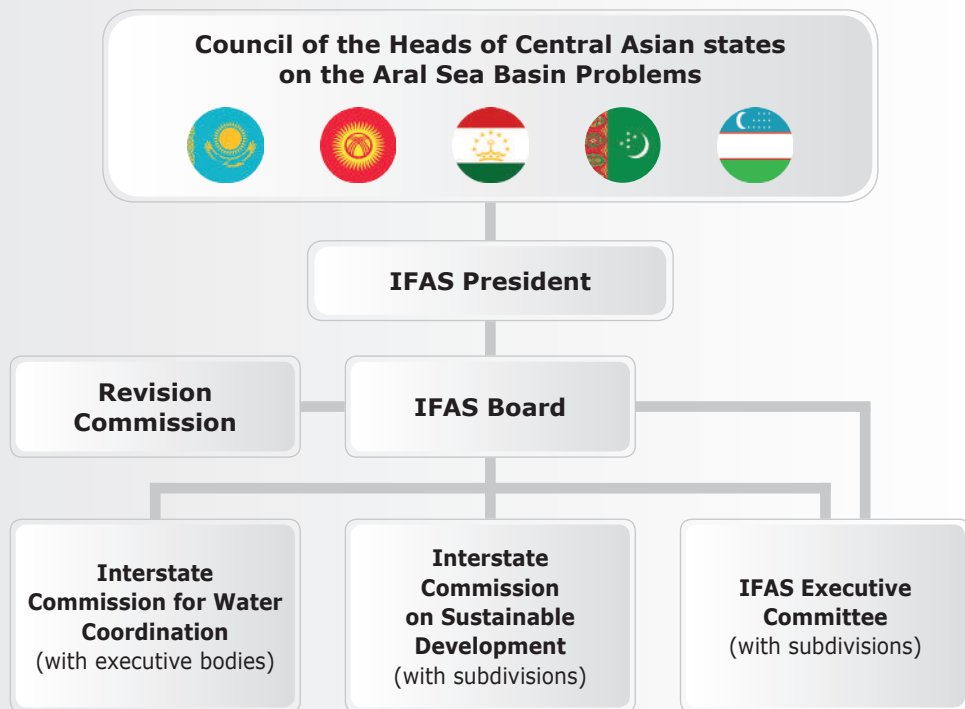
IFAS MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ✓ financing and crediting of joint interstate ecological and scientific-practical programs and projects aimed at saving the Aral Sea and improving the environmental situation in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster, as well as solving common socio-environmental problems of the region;
- ✓ financing of joint fundamental and applied research, scientific and technical engineering to restore ecological balance, rational use of natural resources and protection of environment;
- ✓ creation and maintenance of the interstate environmental monitoring system, data bank and other systems on the state of environment in the Aral Basin;
- ✓ mobilization of funds for joint activities to protect the air, water and land resources, flora and fauna;
- ✓ financing of joint scientific and technical projects and engineering on the management of transboundary and non-transboundary waters;
- ✓ participation in the implementation of international programs and projects for saving the Aral Sea and ecological improvement of the Aral Sea basin.

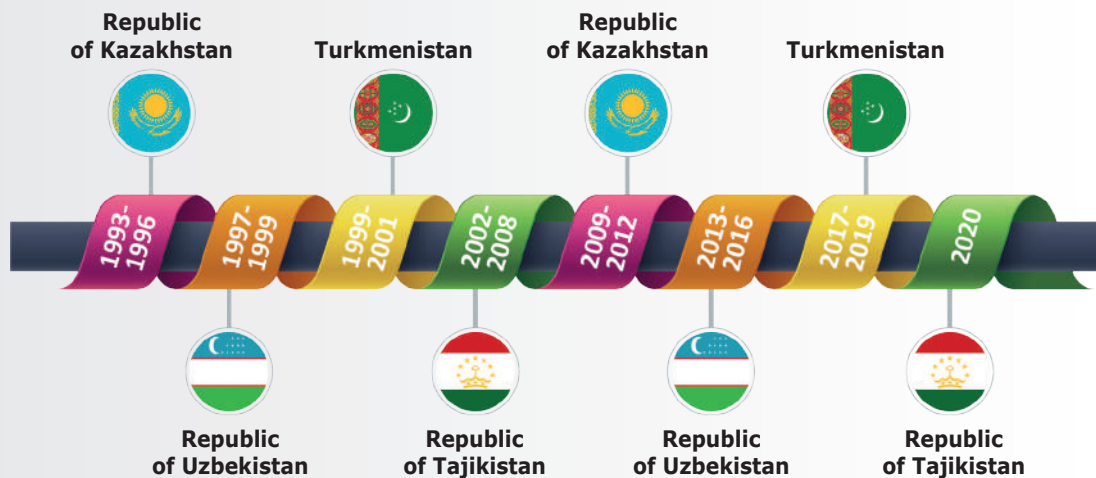




IFAS STRUCTURE



IFAS PRESIDENCY





IFAS PRESIDENT



IFAS is headed by the President, elected alternately from among the Presidents of the Central Asian states for a period of 3 years.

Since the beginning of 2020, the President of IFAS is the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon.

PRESIDENCY IN IFAS

For almost 30 years of IFAS history the following Presidents have been elected as President of the Fund:

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev (1993-1996)

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov (1997-1999)

President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov (1999-2001)

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon (2002-2008)

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev (2009-2013)

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov (2014-2016)

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov (2017-2019)

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon (2020-2022)



IFAS BOARD

The IFAS Board created and operates based on the principle management scheme of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, approved by the Heads of IFAS member States on 28 February 1997 in Almaty, and the Regulation of the Board of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and the Revision Commission.

The IFAS Board is being formed by the decision of the IFAS President based on the proposal of the Governments of the Central Asian states. The Board consists of one representative from each state with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister.

IFAS Board meetings are held at least 2 times a year. The place and date of the events are determined by the President of IFAS.

IFAS Board main tasks

- ✓ launching and coordination of the implementation of all regional projects and programs related to the problems of sustainable development in the countries of the Aral Sea basin;
- ✓ providing assistance and government support to donor countries, international organizations, legal entities and individuals who have expressed a desire to participate in solving the problems of the Aral Sea in the IFAS founding states;
- ✓ identification and consideration of short-and long-term priority tasks for improving the environmental and epidemiological situation in the countries of Central Asia and emergency care for the population of the Aral Sea region.

REVISION COMMISSION

The Revision Commission was established and operates based on the principle management scheme of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, approved by the Heads of IFAS member States on 28 February 1997 in Almaty.

The Revision Commission consists of one representative of the member states proposed by their Governments. The composition of the Revision Commission is being approved by the decision of the President of IFAS.

The Revision Commission reviews the financial activities of IFAS with the involvement of specialists and independent auditors at least once a year or by the decision of the IFAS President. The audit results is being submitted to the IFAS Board.



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR WATER COORDINATION (ICWC)

The Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) was established in 1992 following the Agreement between the Central Asian states "On cooperation in the field of joint management of the use and protection of water resources of interstate sources". By the decision of the Heads of Central Asian states dated 28.02.1997 «On the reorganization of the IFAS structure», ICWC was included in the IFAS structure. ICWC is a regional body of IFAS for joint solution of issues of management, rational use and protection of water resources of interstate sources in the Aral Sea

basin. The ICWC consists of heads of water management ministries and agencies of the IFAS member states.

The executive bodies of the ICWC are:

- ✓ Basin Water Management Organization "Amudarya";
- ✓ Basin Water Management Organization "Syrdarya";
- ✓ Secretariat;
- ✓ Scientific – Information Center;
- ✓ Coordination and Metrology Center.

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ICSD)

The ICSD was established in accordance with the "Agreement on joint actions to resolve the problems of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region, ecological improvement and ensuring the socio-economic development of the Aral region" of March 26, 1993 in Kyzylorda.

The main goal of the Commission is to develop proposals for the improvement and socio-economic development of the Aral Sea region, social protection of

the population living in it, the organization of research works, environmental cooperation of the Central Asian states. The Commission consists of 15 members – 3 from each Central Asia states, appointed by the Governments of the countries.

The executive bodies of the ICSD are:

- ✓ Secretariat;
- ✓ Scientific Information Center.



IFAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of IFAS is a permanent body of the Fund coordinating interaction at the regional and international levels in order to resolve the water, environmental and socio-economic problems and to overcome the regional challenges and threats.

The IFAS Executive Committee is headed by the Chairman appointed by the IFAS President in agreement with the other Heads of IFAS member states. It includes two representatives from each of the IFAS member states.

The main tasks of the IFAS Executive Committee are:

- ✓ ensuring the implementation of decisions of Council of Heads of member states, the President and the IFAS Board on the Aral Sea basin problems;
- ✓ implementation of programs and projects aimed at solving problems in the Aral Sea basin;
- ✓ coordination of the activities of branches of the Executive Committee, special agencies and assistance funds for improving the socio-ecological situation in the Aral Sea basin;
- ✓ assistance to the activities of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) and the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD);
- ✓ expansion of interaction with international organizations, donor countries, environmental and other funds to intensify activities on environmental protection and rehabilitation of environmentally unfavorable areas.





IFAS DECLARATIONS

During the IFAS activity the Heads of the Central Asian states adopted declarations, statements, decisions and other documents aimed at overcoming the Aral Sea crisis and improving the socio-economic and environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin.

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 Communiqué
(Turkmenbashi,
August 2018)

THE ARAL SEA BASIN PROGRAMS (ASBPs)

The Aral Sea Basin Programs (ASBPs) are an integral part of the IFAS activity to improve the socio-economic and environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin.

They are being developed in order to present a common vision of the countries of the region on the development and implementation of projects and programs of a regional and national character to prevent the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis and solve the problems of the Aral Sea basin.

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 2011-2015 (ASBP-3);
- ✓ Action Program for assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin, 2021-2030 (ASBP-4).



ACTION PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE COUNTRIES OF THE ARAL SEA BASIN (ASBP-4)

ASBP-4 was approved by the decision of the IFAS Board of June 29, 2021 in order to implement joint actions and perspective programs to overcome the Aral Sea crisis and strengthen cooperation through targeted actions at the national, regional and international levels to improve the water management, environmental and socio-economic situation, sustainable development and increase the well-being of people in the Aral Sea basin.

ASBP-4 serves as an important basis for the governments of Central Asian countries, structural divisions of IFAS and development partners to unite efforts to solve the problems of the Aral Sea basin and achieve sustainable development in the region.

ASBP-4 was developed by the Executive Committee of IFAS together with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) and the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) with the involvement of national experts and international partners in the following areas:

- ✓ Integrated use of water resources;
- ✓ Environmental;
- ✓ Socio-economic;
- ✓ Improving institutional and legal mechanisms.

The program includes 34 investment projects that will contribute to the achievement of water, environmental, food and energy security in Central Asia.





RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE ARAL SEA BASIN

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/133 of December 11, 2008 "Granting observer status for the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the General Assembly";

UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/72/273) dated April 12, 2018 "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea";

UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/73/297) of May 28, 2019 "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea";

UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/75/266) of March 3, 2021 "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea";

UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/75/278) of May 18, 2021 "Declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies".

Global water initiatives of the President of IFAS, President of the Republic of Tajikistan



Declaration of 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater (Resolution of the UN General Assembly of December 20, 2000, 55/196, 55th session);



Announcement of 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action «Water for Life» (Resolution of the UN General Assembly of December 23, 2003, 58/217, 58th session);



Declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation (Resolution of the UN General Assembly of December 20, 2010, 65/154, 65th session);



Announcement of 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action «Water for Sustainable Development» (Resolution of the UN General Assembly of December 21, 2016, A/RES/71/222, 71st session).

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