



Executive Board of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea
in the Republic of Kazakhstan

EUROPEAN UNION-CENTRAL ASIA: STRATEGY OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES ISSUES

7th meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

Session 5: Key areas for further development of EU-CA regional cooperation in the field of environment and climate change

Bolat Bekniyaz

Director of IFAS Executive Directorate in the RK

February 6-7 2018, Brussels

Key area of the EU-CA regional cooperation is the Aral Sea Basin

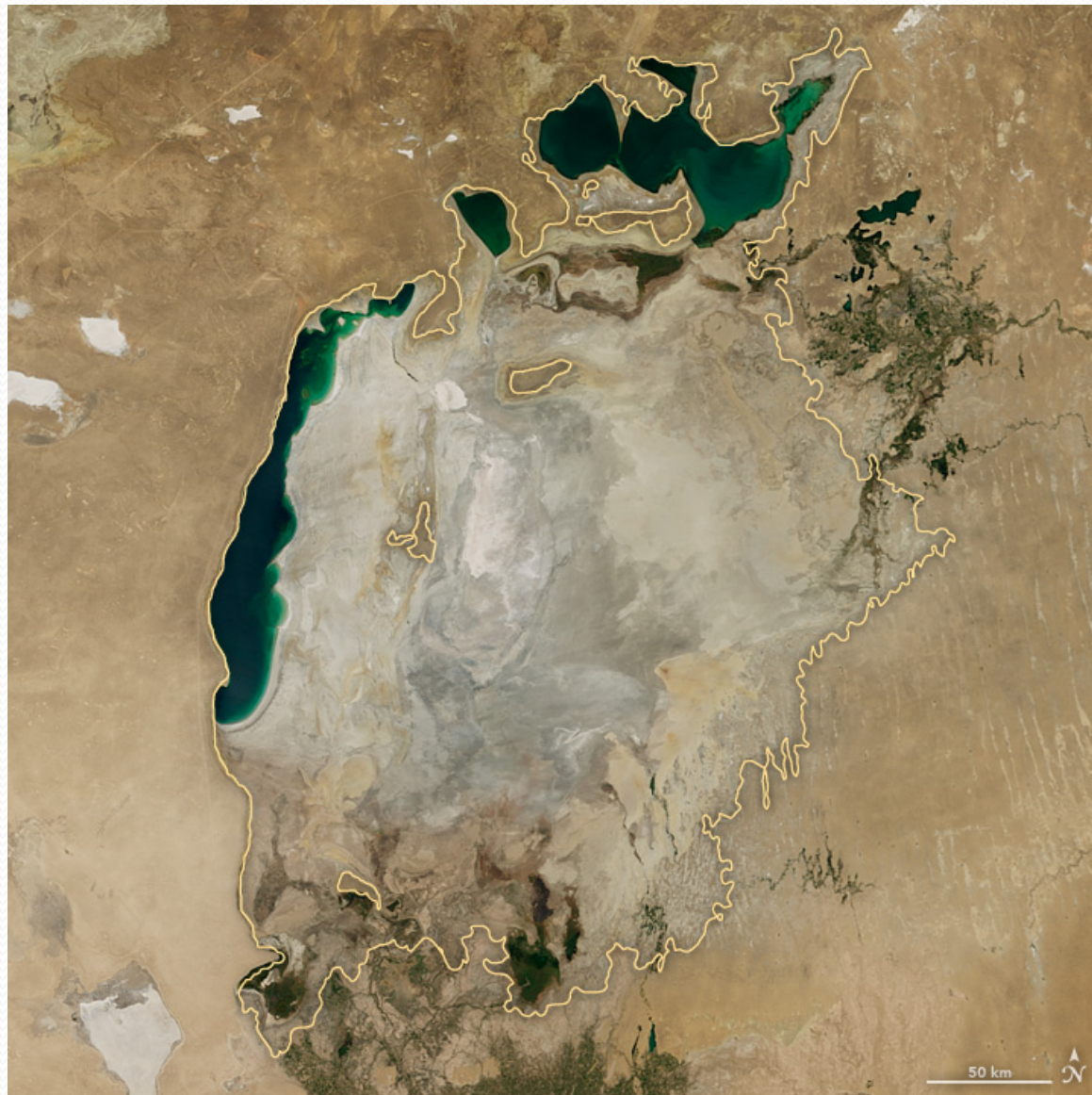
- The Aral Sea basin is **shared by all Central Asian countries**;
- A common cooperation platform has been created and is operating - the **International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFSA)** with all its structures and organizations: IFAS Board, Executive Committee of IFSA, ICWC, ICSD, IFAS branches in countries, Syrdarya BWMA and Amudarya BWMA;
- IFAS was established by the **Presidents** of 5 Central Asian countries; IFSA has **observer status** in the United Nations General Assembly (2008);
- The main **objective of IFSA** is to attract funds from five Central Asian states and the international donor community to finance projects and programs aimed at improving the ecological and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin.

Key area of the EU-CA regional cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin

What has been done over the period of 1993 – 2017?

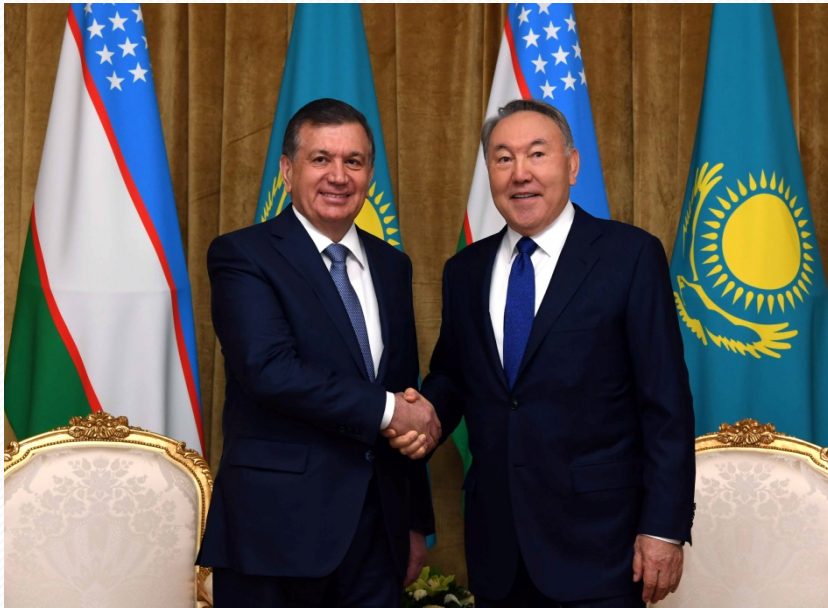
- **Three programs** on the Aral Sea Basin have been implemented with the involvement of international donors:
 1. Program of specific actions to improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea Basin, ASBP-1 (1994-2002)
 2. Programs of specific actions to improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the period, ASBP-2 (2003-2010)
 3. Action Program to assist the Aral Sea Basin countries for the period, ASBP-3 (2011-2015)
- **The Regional Environmental Protection Plan for Central Asian countries** has been developed and is being implemented;
- **Framework Convention for the Protection of the Environment for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (Ashgabat Convention)** has been developed and signed by three countries (Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan);
- A **major infrastructure project** on regulating the riverbed of the Syr Darya and the Northern Aral Sea (Kazakhstan) **and much more** has been implemented;

The Aral Sea - 2017



Meeting of IFSA founders

(Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan)



The parties regard the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea **as a universal platform** for interaction between the countries of the region in the implementation of environmental and scientific and practical projects and programs aimed at the environmental rehabilitation of areas affected by the Aral catastrophe, as well as solution of socio-economic problems. ...»

Astana, March 23rd 2017.

Meeting of IFSA founders (Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan)



"A special place in the negotiations was given to environmental issues, in particular, **further enhancement and improvement of the activities of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea**, which is an important regional structure aimed at ensuring cooperation in improving the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea area. An agreement has been reached to cooperate closely in order to ensure more efficient and specific operation of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea"

Astana, April 18th 2017

IFSA Board Meeting

Ashgabat, January 30th, 2018.



Decisions made:

- 1. On the Work Plan of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea for the period of Turkmenistan's chairmanship**
- 2. On the preparation for the meeting of the Council of Heads of Central Asian States**
- 3. On the development of the Program of Action for Assistance to the Countries of the Aral Sea Basin (ASBP-4)**

Approve the following key areas of ASBP-4:

- Comprehensive use of water resources;
- ecological;
- socio-economic;
- Improvement of institutional and legal mechanisms.

- 4. On the agenda of regular meeting of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.**

Executive Directorate of IFSA in the Republic of Kazakhstan



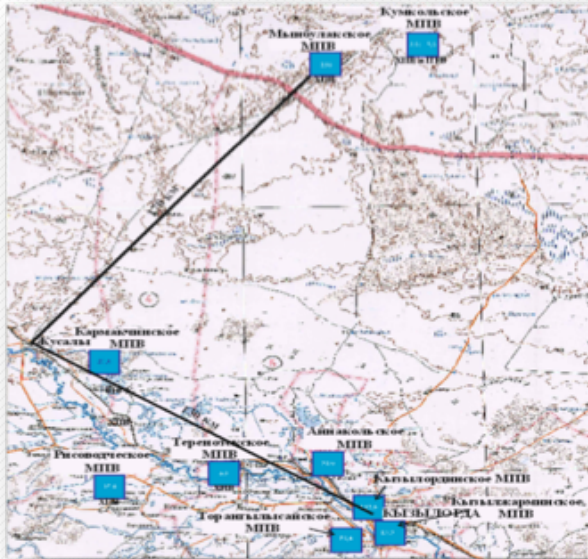
Portfolio of National projects of the IFSA ED in the RoK and partners' for the Kazakhstani part of the Aral Sea Basin



Ideas of infrastructure projects in the Kazakhstan part of the Aral Sea basin

- ***In the field of water supply:*** Use of the Mynbulak Groundwater Deposits for Water Supply to the Population of Karmakchin, Jalagash, Syrdarya raions of the Kyzylorda oblast and the cities of Kyzylorda and Baikonur project";
- ***In the field of environmental protection:*** Reconstruction and Construction of Small reservoirs and Drilling of Wells for Watering Wildlife on the territory of Barsakelmes State Nature Reserve project;
- ***In the sphere of climate change:*** Creation of the Priaral Center for Adaptation of Wildlife to Climate Change project;
- ***In the sphere of ecological tourism:*** Creation of *Aral* Scientific and Tourist Center at the Lake Kamystybas project

**USE OF THE MUNBULAK DEPOSIT OF
UNDERGROUND WATER FOR WATER SUPPLY OF
THE POPULATION OF KARMAKCHINSKY,
JALAGASH, SYRDARYAN RAIONS AND KYZYLORDA
AND BAIKONUR CITIES**



Estimated cost: 23,6 bln. tenge (75 mln.\$)

**Implementation timeframe:
2018 –2025**

**Payback period:
18-20 years**

Project objective:

Water supply with high-quality drinking water of the population of the cities of Kyzylorda, Baikonur and 83 rural settlements.

Expected project outcomes:

- ❖ Design estimate documentation for the transfer of underground waters of the Mynbulak deposit has been developed;
- ❖ A technical report on the results of field work and laboratory research has been prepared;
- ❖ A contract for the extraction of Mynbulak groundwater deposit has been concluded;
- ❖ Qualitative drinking water provided to the population of Kyzylorda, Baikonur and rural settlements and favorable conditions for economic activities created.

RECONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL RESERVOIRS, DRILLING OF WELLS FOR WATERING PLACES OF WILD-LIFE ON THE TERRITORY OF BARSAKELMES STATE NATURAL RESERVE



Estimated cost:
165 mln tenge (485 ths. \$)
Implementation timeframe:
2018 – 2019

Project objectives:

- ❖ Conservation and increase in the number of wildlife (Persian gazelles, saigas and kulans, etc.) in Barsakelmes state nature reserve;
- ❖ Creation of watering points on the island - well drilling and repair of existing artificial ponds;
- ❖ Conservation of the ecosystem of the northern and middle deserts of the temperate zone, soil and vegetation, species of flora and fauna.

Expected project outcomes:

- ❖ The flora and fauna of Barsakelmes Reserve has been preserved and expanded;
- ❖ Animal migration has been prevented;
- ❖ The ecosystem is rehabilitated.

CREATION OF THE ARAL SEA REGION CENTER FOR ADAPTATION OF WILD ANIMALS TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Estimated cost:

945 mln tenge (3 mln \$)

Implementation timeframe:

First stage 2018 – 2020

Second stage 2021 – 2025

Project objectives: Preservation and restoration of populations of rare wild ungulates and animals listed in the Red Data Book of Kazakhstan (saiga, Persian gazelle, kulan, Przewalsky horse) by breeding in semi-free conditions followed by reintroduction into the wild.

Expected project outcomes:

- ❖ A reserve saiga livestock was created for:
 - preservation of the gene pool of the species in a critical situation;
 - reintroduction to other areas to restore the populations that are becoming extinct;
 - transfer to other nurseries, zoos, etc.
- ❖ Biotechnical measures were taken to improve the habitat of animals (creation of watering points, sowing of forage grasses, planting shrubs, etc.);
- ❖ An assessment is made of the possibility of saiga's coexistence with other rare animals (kulan, Persian gazelle, Przewalski horse), taking into account the forage capacity of the land;
- ❖ The possibilities of restoring the historic range of endangered species and subspecies of ungulates have been evaluated

CREATION OF ARAL SCIENTIFIC AND TOURIST CENTER ON THE SHORE OF KAMYSTYBAS LAKE

Estimated cost: 2,835 bln tenge
(9 mln \$)

Implementation timeframe:
2018 – 2020



Project objectives: Creation of Aral scientific and tourist center with material and technical base for coordination of scientific research work on the territory of the Kazakhstani part of the Aral Sea and infrastructure for the development of scientific and educational tourism.

Expected project outcomes:

Analytical Center of the Unified System of Regional Monitoring of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Aral Sea Basin is established;

The following have been created:

- Visiting Center and Museum of the Aral Sea;
- Conference Hall and office facilities;
- Laboratories;
- Winter garden;
- Hotel facilities;
- Expeditionary base.
- Improvement of infrastructure of the projected area and surrounding territories;
- ❖ Creation of jobs;
- ❖ Coordination of all types of studies of the Kazakhstani part of the Aral Sea Basin.

Aral International Forum of Sustainable Development

May 30-31st 2017, Kyzylorda



Signing of protocols – intentions on cooperation



- on the project Creation of a "Green Belt" along the Eastern Coast of the Aral Sea;
- on the project Creation of the Aral Sea Region Center for Adaptation of Wild Animals to Climate Change;
- on the creation of Aral scientific and tourist center on the shore of Kamystybas lake;
- on the creation of the Atlas of Kyzylorda Oblast and interactive electronic maps of Kazakhstan's Aral Sea Region based on GIS technologies, and others.

Flyover by forum participants of the lower reaches of the Syr Darya and the Northern Aral Sea with visits to hydraulic structures



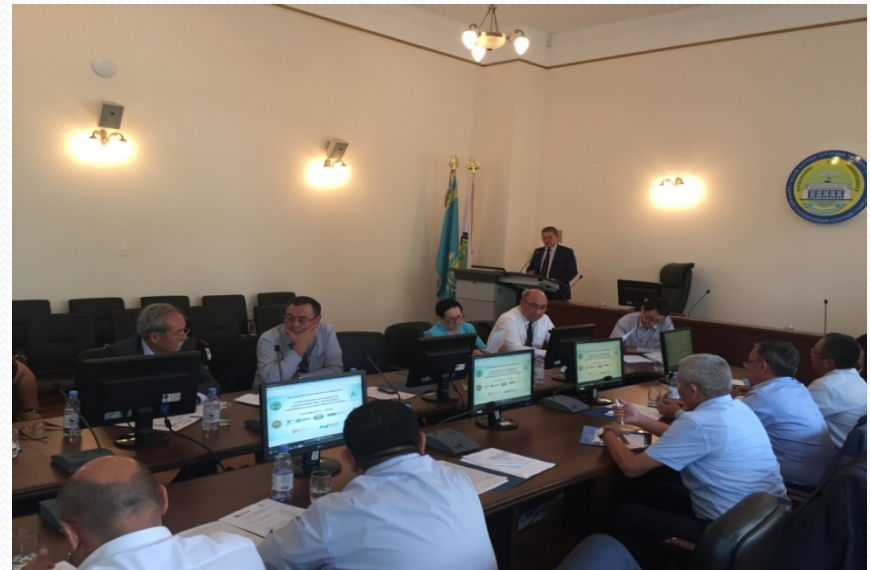
Joint activities of IFSA ED in the RoK with UNECE within the framework of the project Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation

- **Development of the draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of HS in Central Asia.**
- **Joint measures on the development of Kazakhstani legislation on HS safety.**
- **Capacity building of human resource in the water sector.**

Regional meeting on cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia 1-2 March 2017, Almaty



Workshop on the discussion of the results of the expert assessment and recommendations for the development of the Kazakhstani legislation on the safety of HS, September 7, 2017, Almaty



**International scientific-practical conference
*Transboundary Cooperation in Central Asia - Security,
Stability and Well-being of the Entire Region*, September
7-8, 2017, Almaty**



Complex scientific research expedition to the Aral Sea, September 26-28, 2016



The lower reaches of the Kokaral dam



Visitation by cars



Examination of the drained bottom of the Aral Sea with a drone

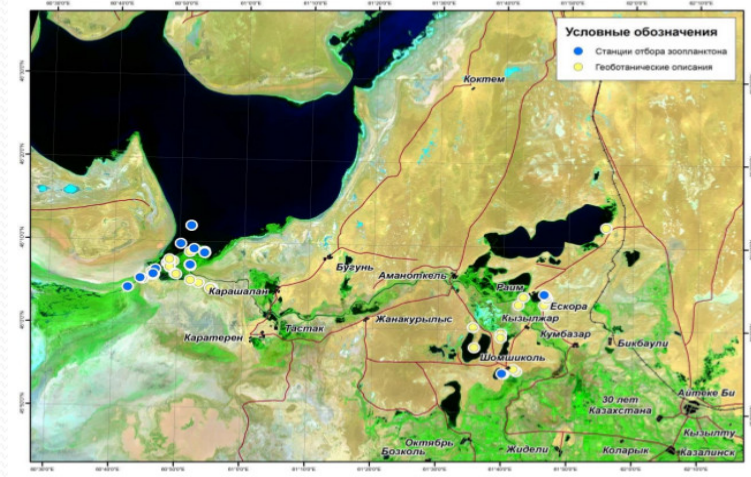


The ruins of Kerdery-1 ancient settlement discovered
on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea

Environmental Monitoring of Ramsar Sites



Examination of waterflow and land



Research objects



New population of *Nymphoides Peltatum*



Expert studies

Elaboration of scientific rationale on the establishment of Center for Wildlife Adaptation



Kulans of Barsakelmes reserve



Saiga



Planned area of the Center, Shubar Tarauz Bay on the Aral Sea



Przewalski's horse

Establishment of *Aral* Scientific Tourist Center



Draft project of Aral Scientific Tourist Center



Organization of watering in Aral STC



Yurtas on the territory of Aral STC



Planting of vegetation on the territory of Aral STC

Socio-economic area

Automatization of the monitoring system of water inventory



Modern appliances for automated water inventory at training ground



At the presentation of Baikadam training ground



Practical lesson in ASBS training Center



Grand opening of the training ground at Baikadam STS

Artisan capacity building in Kazakhstani Aral Sea Region



The process of wool carding



Ready tekemet (special type of woolen carpet)



Elaboration of ornament design



Wool dyeing

Capacity building of the Aral Syr Darya Basin



Auto water hauler for Bogen village



Meeting of the Aral –Syr Dara Basin Council



Ambulance for Atanshi village



Meeting of the Small Basin Council

Improving education in the area of water industry



Commemorative picture



Work process at the Forum



During the Forum meeting



On the sidelines of the Forum

Thank you for your attention!

Executive Directorate of the International Fund for
Saving the Aral Sea in the Republic of Kazakhstan

[www. kazaral.org](http://www.kazaral.org)

