

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA
INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR WATER COORDINATION
OF CENTRAL ASIA



BULLETIN

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of Central Asia

August 2025

№ 5 (110)

Scientific-Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
of Central Asia

Interstate Commission For Water Coordination of Central Asia	BULLETIN № 5 (110)	August 2025
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Minutes of the 90th meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan

14 August 2025

Burabay, Republic of Kazakhstan

Chairman of the meeting:

Kanat A. Bozumbaev	Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan
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ICWC members:

Nurjan M. Nurjigitov	Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Republic of Kazakhstan
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Jamshed Sh. Shoimzoda	First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan
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Durdi M. Gendjiyev (online)	Chairman of the State Committee for Water Management, Turkmenistan, Khyakim of Lebap province
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Shavkat R. Khamraev	Minister of Water Management, Republic of Uzbekistan
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ICWC Executive Bodies:

Umar A. Nazarov	Head, ICWC Secretariat
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Makhmud Ya. Makhramov	Head, BWO Amu Darya
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Odil A. Kholkhujaev	Head, BWO Syr Darya
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Uktambay Rozumov	Deputy Head, BWO Amu Darya
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Dinara R. Ziganshina	Director, Scientific-Information Center (SIC) of ICWC
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Alisher M. Nazariy	Deputy Director, SIC ICWC
Farkhodjon N. Djabborov	Senior Officer, ICWC Secretariat

Invited:**Republic of Kazakhstan**

Danyar E. Sharip	Director of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
Aset A. Beristenov	Advisor to the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation
Maksat J. Suyundikov	Deputy Director of the International Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Talgat A. Ketebaev	Head of the Transboundary Water Management Division of the International Legal Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Serik. B. Sairov	First Deputy Director General of “KazHydromet”

Kyrgyz Republic

Dastan S. Dyushekeev	Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Kazakhstan
Sabirali S. Myrzabekov	Attaché of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Republic of Kazakhstan
Azamat A. Bakasov	Assistant to the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Republic of Tajikistan

Daler A. Abdurazokzoda	Head of Central Water and Energy Policy Administration, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
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Turkmenistan

Derya Kh. Ishankulyev	Deputy Head of the State Committee for Water Management (by power of attorney)
Yanov D. Paschiev	Head of Water Use Department, State Committee for Water Management
Saparmyrat K. Chariev	Head of Digital Technology and Information Security Division, Water Use Department, State Committee for Water Management
Tirkesh Yo. Nurgildiev	Head of Water Use Division, State Committee for Water Management

Republic of Uzbekistan

Jakhongir B. Abdurazzokov	Head of Transboundary Water Use Department, Ministry of Water Management
Otabek N. Khazratov	Head of Division for International Relations and World Trade Organization, Ministry of Water Management

EC IFAS

Askhat T. Orazbay	Chairman
Serik A. Bekmaganbetov	Deputy Chairman, Representative of Kazakhstan to the Executive Committee of IFAS
Islam A. Ovezmukhammedov	Representative of Turkmenistan to the Executive Committee of IFAS

Experts

Nariman K. Kipshakbayev	Director of SIC ICWC branch in the Republic of Kazakhstan
Amirkhan K. Kenshimov	Chief expert of the Executive Directorate of IFAS in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Agenda of the 90th ICWC Meeting

1. Results of the use of water withdrawal limits/quotas and the operation regimes of reservoirs in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins during the growing season 2025.
2. Progress on implementation of tasks arising from the summits of the Heads of IFAS founder-states.
3. Additional issues.
4. Agenda and venue of the regular 91st ICWC meeting

Decision on the first item

1. Take into consideration the reports by BWO Syr Darya and BWO Amu Darya on the results of the use of water withdrawal limits and the operation regimes of reservoirs in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River basins.
2. To prevent misinterpretation and discrepancies in calculations of inflow to the Shardara reservoir, the Kazakhstani and Uzbekistani parties will organize joint work to install a joint gauging station on the state border between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan before the start of the growing season 2026.
3. To ensure proper preparation to the non-growing and growing seasons, as well as more accurate forecasting of hydrological indicators, the Kazakhstani and Uzbekistani parties will take measures to synchronize actions and improve coordination between national hydrometeorological services.

Decision on the second item

1. Recognize the effectiveness of work of water management agencies in Central Asian countries and ICWC Executive Bodies in implementing the proposals and initiatives voiced at the meetings of the Heads of IFAS founder states in Turkmenbashi (2018) and Dushanbe (2023).
2. Members of the ICWC and Executive Bodies shall present information on progress at regular meetings of the ICWC.

Decision on the third item

Take into consideration the information on the activities of the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Improvement of IFAS.

Decision on the fourth item

1. Hold the regular 91st ICWC meeting in Turkmenistan. The date of the regular ICWC meeting shall be agreed in working order.

2. Propose the following agenda for the 91st ICWC meeting:

1) Results of the use of water withdrawal limits and the operation regimes of reservoirs in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins during the growing season 2025.

2) Approval of country water withdrawals and forecast operation regimes of the reservoir cascades for the non-growing seasons 2025-2026.

3) Progress on implementation of the tasks arising from the summits of the Heads of IFAS founder-states.

4) Additional issues

5) Agenda and venue of the regular 92nd ICWC meeting.

Republic of Kazakhstan

N.M. Nurjigitov

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

J.Sh. Shoimzoda

Turkmenistan

D.Kh. Ishankulyev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Sh.R. Khamraev

Appendix 1

Operation schedule of the Naryn- Syr Darya reservoir cascade, April 1- July 31, 2025

	Unit	April		May		June		July		Total, mcm	
		forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual
Toktogul reservoir											
Inflow to reservoir	m ³ /s	373	377	540	830	1064	749	698	658	7041	6904
	mcm	967	978	1446	2222	2758	1942	1870	1762		
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	8451	8451	8537	8878	8966	10109	10531	10788	11142	11154
end of the season	mcm	8537	8878	8966	10109	10531	10788	11142	11154		
Water releases from reservoir	m ³ /s	340	216	380	370	460	471	470	519	4350	4162
	mcm	881	559	1018	991	1192	1222	1259	1390		
Bakhri Tojik reservoir											
Inflow to reservoir	m ³ /s	404	415	402	360	321	379	300	341	3761	3934
	(Akdjar gauging station) mcm	1046	1075	1078	963	833	983	804	914		
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	3497	3497	3543	3467	3543	3389	3063	2825	2244	1846
end of the season	mcm	3543	3467	3543	3389	3063	2825	2244	1846		
Water releases from reservoir	m ³ /s	392	401	380	319	440	492	530	590	4594	4748
	mcm	1015	1039	1019	855	1140	1275	1420	1579		
Shardara reservoir											
Inflow to reservoir (Ch. Syr	m ³ /s	400	410	330	73	214	149	150	113		

	Unit	April		May		June		July		Total, mcm	
		forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual
g/s +Bozsu g/s+Keles g/s)	mcm	1037	1062	884	195	555	385	402	303	2877	1946
Inflow to reservoir	m ³ /s	400	399	330	50	214	136	150	101		
(Kokbulak g/s+Keles g/s)	mcm	1037	1034	884	134	555	353	402	271	2877	1791
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	4561	4561	4696	4554	4503	3338	3513	2082		
end of the season	mcm	4696	4554	4503	3338	3513	2082	2029	485		
Water releases from reservoir	m ³ /s	250	115	330	247	500	348	550	350		
	mcm	648	298	884	661	1296	903	1473	937	4301	2799
Water release to Kyzulkum canal	m ³ /s	80	87	50	67	55	60	110	81		
	mcm	207	226	134	179	143	156	295	218	778	778
Water supply to the Aral Sea	m ³ /s	70	121	70	43	70	14	60	16		
	mcm	181	314	187	115	181	36	161	43	711	508
Charvak reservoir											
Inflow to reservoir	m ³ /s	227	235	397	371	493	280	344	189		
	mcm	588	608	1064	995	1277	726	923	507	3852	2836
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	662	662	876	1026	1419	1645	1938	1779		
end of the season	mcm	876	1026	1419	1645	1938	1779	1975	1576		
Water releases from reservoir	m ³ /s	143	132	193	204	290	269	330	270		
(Discharge from the Gazalkent HPP)	mcm	372	342	517	548	752	698	883	724	2523	2312
Andijan reservoir											
Inflow to reservoir	m ³ /s	142	149	241	205	223	180	129	92		

	Unit	April		May		June		July		Total, mcm	
		forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	367	386	645	548	577	468	346	246	1935	1649
	mcm	1198	1198	1292	1388	1507	1519	1566	1452		
	mcm	1292	1388	1507	1519	1566	1452	1340	1031		
end of the season	mcm	1292	1388	1507	1519	1566	1452	1340	1031		
Water releases from reservoir	m ³ /s	105	74	160	154	200	204	214	248		
	mcm	272	192	429	412	518	529	572	664	1792	1796

Appendix 2

Analysis of the use of water withdrawal limits/quotas in the Amu Darya River basin, growing season 2025

Item	Water withdrawal limits/quotas for the growing season 2025, mcm	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		%%
		Limit	Actual	
Upper Darya Division (UDD) (Upper reaches), including	8203.5	5488.6	4377.0	79.7
Tajikistan	7003.5	4666.1	3852.2	82.6
Uzbekistan	1200.0	822.5	524.8	63.8
Water withdrawal from the Amu Darya at nominal Kerki g/s, including:	31520.0	21808.4	18444.1	84.6
Turkmenistan	15500.0	10572.1	9415.6	89.1
Uzbekistan	16020.0	11236.3	9028.5	80.4
Middle Darya Division (MDD) (Middle reaches), including:	16207.0	11328.0	10680.7	94.3
Turkmenistan	10472.0	7303.1	7036.6	96.4
Uzbekistan	5735.0	4024.9	3644.1	90.5
Amu Darya Inter-Republican Canals Division (UPRADIK) and Lower Darya Division (LDD) (Lower reaches), including:	15313.0	10480.4	7763.40	74.1
Turkmenistan	5028.0	3269.0	2379.00	72.8
Uzbekistan	10285.0	7211.4	5384.40	74.7

Item	Water withdrawal limits/quotas for the growing season 2025, mcm	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		%%
		Limit	Actual	
Total in the basin, including	39723.5	27297.0	22821.1	83.6
Tajikistan	7003.5	4666.1	3852.2	82.6
Turkmenistan	15500.0	10572.1	9415.6	89.1
Uzbekistan	17220.0	12058.8	9553.2	79.2

Appendix 3

Water supply to states

Water-user state	Water withdrawal, mcm April 1- July 31, 2025	
	Limit	Actual
Republic of Kazakhstan (Dustlik canal)	605	435
Kyrgyz Republic	185	123
Republic of Tajikistan	1347	990
Republic of Uzbekistan	6673	5263
Total	8810	6811

Appendix 4

**Actual and forecast operation regime of Nurek and Tuyamuyun
reservoirs, April- September 2025, mcm**

	Unit	Actual				Forecast		Total
		April	May	June	July	August	September	
Nurek reservoir								
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	6178	6417	7262	8292	9986	10573	6178
Inflow to reservoir	m ³ /s	559	1002	1242	1556	1283	737	
	mcm	1448	2685	3218	4168	3435	1909	16864
Water releases from the reservoir	m ³ /s	491	765	898	950	1087	737	
	mcm	1273	2050	2328	2544	2912	1909	13016
Volume: end of the season	mcm	6417	7262	8292	9986	10573	10572	10572
Accumulation (+), drawdown (-)	mcm	239	845	1030	1694	587	-1	4394
Tuyamuyun reservoir								
Water volume: beginning of the season	mcm	3805	3161	3935	3448	3131	3126	3805
Inflow to the reservoir	m ³ /s	405	1022	970	1230	867	691	
	mcm	1050	2736	2515	3295	2323	1790	13709
Water releases from the reservoir	m ³ /s	653	733	1158	1349	869	730	
	mcm	1693	1963	3002	3612	2328	1892	14491
Volume: end of the season	mcm	3161	3935	3448	3131	3126	3023	3023
Accumulation (+), drawdown (-)	mcm	-644	773	-487	-317	-5	-102	-782





Launch of a two-volume book on the history of Kazakhstan's water sector by Nariman Kipshakbayev¹

As part of the 90th meeting of the ICWC of Central Asia, the two-volume publication authored by Nariman Kipshakbayev—a veteran of the water sector, renowned hydraulic engineer and former water minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan - was launched. The book titled "The Water Sector in Kazakhstan: Formation, Development, and Challenges" was published under support of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This comprehensive two-volume edition provides an in-depth analysis of legislative documents and materials related to water management in Kazakhstan and water use in agriculture, water scarcity, and transboundary water relations spanning from 1917 to 2024.



The publication covers important historical periods, starting with the principles of water and land use and ending with the adoption of the new Water Code in 2025. The book includes official documents, conference proceedings, scientific papers, practical recommendations, and reports from water experts.

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/water/press/news/details/1051417>



Nariman Kipshakbayev, who turned 91 this year, has been writing this work for 70 years. Currently, the veteran of the water sector is writing a book for young professionals.

Results of the use of water withdrawal limits/quotas and the operation regimes of reservoirs in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River basins during the growing season 2025²

Amu Darya River Basin

Actual water availability in the Amu Darya River basin at the nominal Kerki gauging station (upstream Garagumdarya) was 92.3 % of the norm by 1.08.2025. It was calculated with the account of non-regulated flow of the Vakhsh River and flow regulation by the Nurek reservoir. Water availability was quite uneven during the growing season 2025: it was within 95-110 % of the norm in April and May and from the second decade of June it decreased to 90-95 % of the norm.

The use of approved water withdrawal limits/quotas by states for the reporting growing season is as follows.

Under the current water-management situation, 83.6 % of the cumulative water withdrawal limit was used in the basin: with the limit of 27 297.0 mcm, 22 821.1 mcm was actually used, including:

Republic of Tajikistan: actually used 3852.2 mcm or 82.6 % of the cumulative limit;

Turkmenistan: actually used 9415.6 mcm or 89.1 % of the cumulative limit

Republic of Uzbekistan: actually used 9553.2 mcm or 79.2 % of the cumulative limit;

² Information on the first item of the 90th ICWC meeting's agenda

Water-user state	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		
	Limit	Actual	%%
Republic of Tajikistan	4666.1	3852.2	82.6
Turkmenistan	10572.1	9415.6	89.1
Republic of Uzbekistan	12058.8	9553.2	79.2
Total	27297.0	22821.1	83.6

In the growing season 2025, 84.6% of the cumulative water limit/quota was used downstream of the nominal Kerki gauging station (upstream of Garagumdarya), including

- Republic of Uzbekistan: actually used 9028.5 mcm or 80.4 % of the cumulative limit/quota.
- Turkmenistan: actually used 9415.6 mcm or 89.1% of the cumulative limit/quota.

Water-user state	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		
	Limit	Actual	%%
Downstream at nominal Kerki g/s	21808.4	18444.1	84.6
Turkmenistan	10572.1	9415.6	89.1
Republic of Uzbekistan	11236.3	9028.5	80.4

The actual use of the approved water limits was as follows by river reach:

Upper reaches – 4377.0 mcm or 79.7 % of the cumulative water limit, including Tajikistan – 3852.2 mcm, Uzbekistan – 524.8 mcm.

Middle reaches – 10 680.7 mcm or 94.3 % of the cumulative water limit, including: Turkmenistan – 7036.6 mcm or 96.4 % of the cumulative limit, Uzbekistan – 3644.1 mcm or 90.5 % of cumulative water limit.

Lower reaches – 7763.4 mcm or 74.1 % of cumulative water limit, including, Turkmenistan – 2379.0 mcm or 72.8 % of cumulative water limit, Uzbekistan – 5384.4 mcm or 74.7 % of cumulative water limit.

Water-user state	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		
	Limit	Actual	%%
Upper reaches	5488.6	4377.0	79.7
Republic of Tajikistan	4666.1	3852.2	82.6
Republic of Uzbekistan	822.5	524.8	63.8
Middle reaches	11328.0	10680.7	94.3
Turkmenistan	7303.1	7036.6	96.4
Republic of Uzbekistan	4024.9	3644.1	90.5
Lower reaches	10480.4	7763.4	74.1
Turkmenistan	3269.0	2379.0	72.8
Republic of Uzbekistan	7211.4	5384.4	74.7

It was planned to deliver 1400 mcm to the river delta and the Aral Sea in the growing season 2025. The actual water supply was 685 mcm or 48.9 % of the plan.

Forecast operation regimes of the Nurek and Tuyamuyun reservoirs were drafted based on average water availability.

The inflow to the Nurek reservoir during the growing season 2025 was expected to be 9668 mcm, while the actual inflow was 11 519 mcm or 119.1 % of the forecast. Water releases from the reservoir were planned at 6816 mcm, and the actual water releases amounted to 8319 mcm or 122.0 % of the plan.

The water volume in the reservoir was planned to be 9544 mcm by the end of the growing season 2025, and the actual volume was 9986 mcm or 104.6% of the plan.

The inflow to the Tuyamuyun reservoir was expected to be 10 970 mcm during growing season 2025, while the actual inflow was 9596 mcm or 87.5 % of the expected forecast. Water releases from the reservoir were planned at 10 149 mcm and the actual water releases amounted to 10 270 mcm or 101.2 % of the plan.

Water volume in the reservoir was planned to be 4625 mcm by the end of the growing season 2025; the actual volume amounted to 3131 mcm or 67.7 % of the plan.

Item		Unit	Nurek reservoir	Tuyamuyun reservoir
Water volume: beginning of the season		mcm	6178	3805
Inflow to the reservoir	forecast	mcm	9668	10970
	actual	mcm	11519	9596
		%%	119.1	87.5
Water releases	forecast	mcm	6816	10149
	actual	mcm	8319	10270
		%%	122.0	101.2
Water volume: end of the season	forecast	mcm	9544	4625
	actual	mcm	9986	3131
		%%	104.6	67.7

Analysis of the use of water withdrawal limits/quotas in the Amu Darya River basin, growing season 2025, mcm

Item	Water withdrawal limits/quotas for the growing season 2025	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		%%
		Limit	Actual	
Upper Darya Division (UDD) (Upper reaches), including	8203.5	5488.6	4377.0	79.7
Tajikistan	7003.5	4666.1	3852.2	82.6
Uzbekistan	1200.0	822.5	524.8	63.8
Water withdrawal from the Amu Darya at nominal Kerki g/s:	31520.0	21808.4	18444.1	84.6
Turkmenistan	15500.0	10572.1	9415.6	89.1
Uzbekistan	16020.0	11236.3	9028.5	80.4
Middle Darya Division (MDD) (Middle reaches), including:	16207.0	11328.0	10680.7	94.3
Turkmenistan	10472.0	7303.1	7036.6	96.4
Uzbekistan	5735.0	4024.9	3644.1	90.5
Amu Darya Inter-Republican Canals Division (UPRADIK) – Lower Darya Division (LDD), lower reaches, including:	15313.0	10480.4	7763.40	74.1
Turkmenistan	5028.0	3269.0	2379.00	72.8
Uzbekistan	10285.0	7211.4	5384.40	74.7

Item	Water withdrawal limits/quotas for the growing season 2025	Cumulative, mcm as of 01.08.2025		%%
		Limit	Actual	
Total in the basin: including	39723.5	27297.0	22821.1	83.6
Tajikistan	7003.5	4666.1	3852.2	82.6
Turkmenistan	15500.0	10572.1	9415.6	89.1
Uzbekistan	17220.0	12058.8	9553.2	79.2

Water supply to the river delta and the Aral Sea during the growing season 2025, mcm

	April	May	June	July	August	September	Actual water supply 01.04.25 - 31.07.25
From the Amu Darya at Samanbay g/s	31	38	94	116			279
Total water discharge from Dustlik and Suenli canal system							0
CDW	105	90	82	129			406
TOTAL:	136	128	176	245	0	0	685
Cumulative	136	264	440	685	685	685	

Syr Darya River Basin

1. Forecast of inflow

On March 5, 2025, a forecast was received from UzHydromet, according to which river water availability in the Syr Darya basin during the growing season 2025 was expected to be: 95-105% (100%) in river basins of the southern Fergana Valley, 90-100% (95%) in river basins of the Naryn, 75-85% (80%) in the rivers of the northern Fergana Valley, and 70-80% (75%) of the norm in the basins of the Karadarya, Akhangaran, and Chirchik rivers.

The information on expected operation regime of the Toktogul reservoir was provided by the Coordination Dispatch Center (CDC) “Energy” on 14 March 2025.

The forecast operation regime of the Charvak reservoir was received from the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and agreed with the Uzbek Ministry of Water Management and JSC “UzbekHydroenergy”.

The forecast operation regime of the Andijan reservoir was received from JSC “UzbekHydroenergy, and agreed with the Ministry of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The forecast operation regime of the Shardara reservoir was received from the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Based on the forecast data, inflow to the upper reservoirs was expected to be as follows:

- Toktogul reservoir – 95%;
- Andijan reservoir – 78%;
- Charvak – 83% of the norm.

The total lateral inflow was expected to be 85 % of the norm.

Overall, water availability was expected at the level of 87% of the norm in the Syr Darya River basin.

The forecast operation schedule of the Naryn-Syr Darya reservoir cascade for the growing season was taken into consideration at the 89th ICWC meeting and country water withdrawal limits/quotas for the Syr Darya River basin were approved.

The actual water-management situation from 1 April to 31 July 2025 is characterized by the following:

2. Total inflow (Table1)

The total inflow to the Syr Darya River basin for the growing season for the past growing season:

Norm - 22 753 mcm

UzHydromet's forecast - 19 751 mcm or 87% of the norm.

Actual inflow - 16 262 mcm, which is 3489 mcm less (18%) or 82% of the forecast (71% of the norm).

3. Inflow to upper reservoirs (Table 1)

The norm of inflow to upper reservoirs of the Naryn-Syr Darya cascade is 14 651 mcm.

The forecast inflow was 12 828 mcm or 88% of the norm.

The actual inflow to upper reservoirs was 11 389 mcm, which is 1439 mcm less or 89% of the forecast (78% of the norm):

- Inflow to the Toktogul reservoir:

Norm: 7411 mcm

Forecast: 741 mcm

The actual inflow was 6904 mcm, which is by 137 mcm less or 98% of the forecast (93% of the norm).

- Inflow to Andijan reservoir:

Norm: 2511 mcm

Forecast: 1935 mcm

Actual inflow was 1649 mcm, which is by 286 mcm less or 85% than the forecast (66% of the norm).

- Inflow to the Charvak reservoir:

Norm: 4729 mcm

Forecast: 3852 mcm

Actual inflow was 2836 mcm, which is by 1016 mcm less or 74% of the forecast (60% of the norm).

4. Lateral inflow (Table 1)

The lateral inflow in the Syr Darya River basin, from the Toktogul Reservoir to the Shardara Reservoir, is as follows:

Norm: 8102 mcm.

UzHydromet's forecast: 6923 mcm or 85% of the norm.

Actual inflow: 4873 mcm, which is 2050 mcm less or 70% of the forecast (60% of the norm).

5. Inflow to instream reservoirs and water supply to the Aral sea (Table 2)

According to the forecast schedule, inflow to the Bakhri Tojik reservoir was to be 3761 mcm from 1 April to 31 July 2025.

The actual inflow was 3934 mcm, which is by 173 mcm more or 105% of the forecast schedule.

According to the forecast schedule, the inflow to the Shardara reservoir was expected to be 2877 mcm (according to BWO Syrdarya's calculation, 2298 mcm or by 570 mcm less). In fact, 1946 mcm flowed into the reservoir according to UzHydromet's data (Chinaz g/s-Syr Darya + Bozsu g/s + Keles g/s), which is 931 mcm less or 68% of the forecast schedule.

According to RSE "KazHydromet" (Kokbulak + Keles gauging stations), 1791 mcm flowed into the reservoir, which is 1086 mcm less or 68% of the forecast schedule.

Inflow to the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region was expected to be 711 mcm from 1 April to 31 July 2025, while the actual inflow, as recorded at the Karateren gauging station, was 508 mcm.

Table 1

Item	Growing season, mcm 1 April – 31 July														
	2025							2024							
	Norm	forecast	foreca st/ norm (%)	actual	actual/ forecast (%)	Difference actual "-" forecast	actual / norm (%)		norm	forecast	forecast/ norm (%)	actual	actual / foreca st (%)	Difference actual "-" forecast	actual / norm (%)
Inflow to upper reservoirs															
Toktogul	7411	7041	95	6904	98	-137	93		7411	7041	95	8002	114	961	108
Andijan	2511	1935	77	1649	85	-286	66		2511	2117	84	2216	105	99	88
Charvak	4729	3852	81	2836	74	-1016	60		4729	4008	85	4201	105	193	89
Total:	14651	12828	88	11389	89	-1439	78		14651	13166	90	14419	110	1253	98
Lateral inflow															
Toktogul – Uchkurgan	1008	958	95	530	55	-428	53		1008	958	95	1060	111	102	105
Andikjan – Uchtepe	1834	1615	88	1078	67	-537	59		1834	1499	82	1540	103	41	84
Uchkurgan, - Uchtepe - Bakhri Tojik	2369	2003	85	1784	89	-219	75		2369	1899	80	2440	128	541	103
Bakhri Tojik– Shardara	2232	1771	79	950	54	-821	43		2232	2126	95	2434	114	308	109
Gazalkent- Chinaz (excluding Ugam)	659	576	88	531	92	-45	81		659	576	88	545	95	-31	83
Total:	8102	6923	85	4873	70	-2050	60		8102	7058	87	8019	114	961	99
Grand Total (total inflow):	22753	19751	87	16262	82	-3489	71		22753	20224	89	22438	111	2214	99

Table 2

Item	Growing season, mcm (1 April- 31 July)							
	2025				2024			
	forecast schedule	actual	actual/ forecast schedule (%)	difference (actual/ forecast schedule)	forecast schedule	actual	actual/ forecast schedule (%)	Difference (actual / forecast schedule)
Inflow to run-of-the-river reservoirs								
Inflow to Bakhri Tojik reservoir	3761	3934	105	173	3709	4674	126	965
Inflow to Shardara reservoir (Chinaz-Syr Darya g/s + Bozsu g/s + Keles g/s) (UzHydromet)	2877	1946	68	-931	2879	4249	148	1370
Inflow to Shardara reservoir (Kokbular g/s+ Keles g/s) (KazHydromet)	2877	1791	62	-1086	2879	4022	140	1143
Water supply to the Aral Sea								
Water supply to the Aral Sea	711	508	71	-203	683	494	72	-189

6. Water releases from reservoirs (Table 3)

According to the forecast operation schedule of the Naryn - Syr Darya reservoir cascade, it was planned to discharge 17 560 mcm of water from reservoirs during the growing season from 1 April to 31 July 2025

The actual water releases from reservoirs amounted to 15 817 mcm, which is 1743 mcm less or 90% of the forecast:

- Toktogul Reservoir: 4350 mcm - planned water releases, 4162 mcm - actual water releases;
- Andijan Reservoir: 1792 mcm - planned water releases, 1796 mcm - actual water releases;
- Charvak Reservoir: 2523 mcm - planned water releases, 2312 mcm - actual water releases;
- Bakhri Tojik Reservoir: 4594 mcm - planned water releases, 4748 mcm - actual water releases;
- Bakhri Tojik Reservoir: 4301 mcm - planned water releases, 2799 mcm - actual water releases.

7. Water storage in reservoirs (Table 4)

The actual water storage in reservoirs of the Naryn-Syr Darya reservoir cascade was 18 369 mcm at the beginning of the growing season (as of 1 April, 2025).

As of 1 August 2025, the water storage was to be 18 730 mcm according to the forecast schedule.

In fact, the water storage on that date was 16 092 mcm, which is 2638 mcm less than the forecast value.

Water storage **in the upper reservoirs** was 10 311 mcm by 1 April 2025.

According to the forecast schedule, the water storage by 1 August 2025 was expected to be 14 457 mcm. In fact, 13 761 mcm of water were accumulated, which is 696 mcm less than the forecast schedule.

The water accumulation by reservoir:

Toktogul reservoir – forecast: 11 142 mcm, actual: 11 154 mcm, i.e. close to the forecast schedule;

Andijan reservoir – forecast: 1340 mcm, actual: 1031 mcm, which is 309 mcm less than the forecast.

Charvak reservoir – forecast: 1975 mcm, actual: 1576 mcm, which is 399 mcm more than the forecast.

Water storage in **in-stream reservoirs** was 8058 mcm by 1 April.

Water storage in in-stream reservoirs was forecasted to be 4273 mcm, which actual storage was 2331 mcm, which is by 1942 mcm less than the forecast schedule.

Water volume by reservoir:

Bakhri Tojik reservoir – forecast: 2244 mcm, actual: 1846 mcm, which is 398 mcm less than the forecast schedule;

Shardara reservoir – forecast: 2029 mcm, actual: 485 mcm, which is 1544 mcm more than the forecast.

Table 3

Reservoir	Water releases, mcm April 1- July 31, 2025				Water releases, mcm April 1- July 31, 2024			
	Operatio n schedule NSRC	Actual	Differenc e (actual "-" schedule)	Actual/schedul e %	Operatio n schedule NSRC	Actual	Differenc e (actual "-" schedule)	Actual/schedul e %
Upper reservoirs								
Toktogul	4350	4162	-188	96	4103	3431	-672	84
Andijan	1792	1796	4	100	1777	1777	0	100
Charvak (discharge from Gazalkent HPP)	2523	2312	-211	92	2672	3754	1082	141
TOTAL:	8665	8270	-395	95	8552	8962	410	105
In-stream reservoirs								
Bakhri Tojik	4594	4748	154	103	4457	4802	345	108
Shardara	4301	2799	-1502	65	4614	4314	-300	93
TOTAL:	8895	7547	-1348	85	9071	9116	45	100
GRAND TOTAL:	17560	15817	-1743	90	17623	18078	455	103

Table 4

Reservoir	Water volume in reservoirs, mcm					
	Actual by April 1, 2025	Scheduled by August 1, 2025	Actual by August 1, 2025	Difference (actual / forecast)	Actual by August 1, 2025	Difference (actual by August 1, 2025/ / actual by August 1, 2024.)
Upper reservoirs						
Toktogul	8451	11142	11154	12	11905	-751
Andijan	1198	1340	1031	-309	1285	-254
Charvak	662	1975	1576	-399	1996	-420
Total:	10311	14457	13761	-696	15186	-1425
In-stream reservoirs						
Bakhri Tojik	3497	2244	1846	-398	2166	-320
Shardara	4561	2029	485	-1544	1904	-1419
TOTAL:	8058	4273	2331	-1942	4070	-1739
GRAND TOTAL:	18369	18730	16092	-2638	19256	-3164

8. Water supply to countries (Table 5)

According to the approved limits and submitted requests from water users and based on water availability, water was delivered to user countries from April 1 to July 1, 2025 in the following amounts:

- Republic of Kazakhstan: limit - 605 mcm, actual – 435 mcm
- Kyrgyz Republic: limit - 185 mcm, actual – 123 mcm
- Republic of Tajikistan: limit – 1347 mcm, actual – 5263 mcm
- Republic of Uzbekistan: limit – 6673 mcm, actual – 5263 mcm.

The actual total water withdrawal by water user countries amounted to 6811 mcm, given the water withdrawal limit of 8810 mcm.

Table 5

Water-user country	Water withdrawal, mcm April 1 – July 31, 2025	
	Limit	Actual
Republic of Kazakhstan (Dustlik canal)	605	435
Kyrgyz Republic	185	123
Republic of Tajikistan	1347	990
Republic of Uzbekistan	6673	5263
Total	8810	6811

9. Execution of the Protocol decision on electricity exchange and supplementary water releases through the Uchkurgan HPP (April 1 – July 31, 2025) (Tables 6-8)

Taking into account the expected water availability in the Syr Darya Basin during the 2025 growing season and to prevent the Toktogul Reservoir from drawing down to a critical level, ensure adequate inflow to the Bakhri Tochik Reservoir, and improve available water supply in the upper and middle reaches of the Syr Darya River, a decision was made and a protocol was signed by water and energy ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan on water-energy cooperation (Tashkent, January 27, 2025). As part of this protocol, a schedule for water releases from the Uchkurgan HPP for the period from April to September 2025 was approved.

According to the protocol, the water discharge from the Uchkurgan HPP was planned to be 340 m³/s in April. In fact, the actual discharge was 239 m³, which is 101 m³/s (or 262 mcm) less than envisaged in the protocol (see Table 6).

To monitor the implementation of the protocol and make necessary adjustments, water and energy ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan met in Tashkent on May 14, 2025 and signed a new protocol and agreed upon a schedule of water releases from Uchkurgan HPP to compensate for undersupply in April:

- In May: 395 m³/s instead of 380 m³/s (+15 m³/s),
- In June: 470 m³/s instead of 460 m³/s (+10 m³/s).

On July 10, 2025, another protocol was signed in Tashkent, under which the Kyrgyz Republic committed, subject to technical feasibility, to ensure additional water releases from the Uchkurgan HPP at an average daily flow rate of 520 m³/s from July 20 to July 31, 2025.

According to the protocols dated May 14 and July 10, 2025, a total of 118 mcm (40 + 26 + 52 mcm) was additionally released from May to July, instead of 262 mcm, that is by 144 mcm less than in the January protocol (Table 7).

According to the analysis, the total water discharge from the Uchkurgan HPP for the period from April 1 to July 31, 2025, as planned under the protocols of January 27, May 14, and July 10, was 4,350 mcm. However, according to data from CDC “Energy”, the actual discharge amounted to 4,134 mcm which is 216 mcm less than planned (144+72=216) (see Table 8).

Table 6

Water releases from Uchkurgan HPP, according to the protocol of January 27, 2025

Unit	April			May	June	July	August	September	Total
	protocol	actual	difference	protocol					
m³/s	340	239	-101	380	460	470	390	190	
mcm	881	619	-262	1018	1192	1259	1045	492	5887

Table 7

Unit	May			June			July						Differ. between the protocols of 27.01. 14.05. and 10.07. 2025
							from 1 to 19 July			from 20 to 31 July			
	Protocol 27.01.2025	Protocol 14.05.2025	Difference	Protocol 27.01.2025	Protocol 14.05.2025	Difference	Protocol 14.05.2025	Protocol 10.07.2025	Difference	Protocol 14.05.2025	Protocol 10.07.2025	Difference	
m ³ /s	380	395	15	460	470	10	470	470	0	470	520	50	

mc m	1018	1058	40	1192	1218	26	772	772	0	487	539	52	118
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Table 8

**Analysis of water discharge from the Uchkurgan HPP
May 1 – July 31, 2025
(according to the protocols of May 14 and July 10, 2025)**

Unit	May		June		July				Total	
					from 1 to 19 July as of 14.05.2025		from 20 to 31July as of 10.07.2025			
	protocol	actual	protocol	actual	protocol	actual	protocol	actual	protocol	actual
m³/s	395	392	470	457	470	466	520	498		
mcm	1058	1050	1218	1184	772	765	539	516	3587	3515
difference (mcm)	-8		-34		-7		-23		-72	

10. Implementation of the trilateral protocol on the operation regime of the Bakhri Tojik reservoir for the period from June 1 to July 31, 2025 (Table 9)

In light of the projected water situation in the Syr Darya River basin, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan signed a trilateral protocol on May 30, 2025 on additional water releases from the Bakhri Tojik reservoir.

According to the protocol, the planned inflow to the Bakhri Tojik reservoir was 1,581 mcm from June 1 to July 31, 2025. However, the actual inflow amounted to 1,896 mcm exceeding the planned inflow by 315 mcm.

To increase inflow to the Bakhri Tojik reservoir, the Ministry of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan together with BWO Syr Darya limited water diversions in the upper reaches of the Syr Darya River and bypassed water up to Akdjar gauging station. As a result of these measures, the average monthly inflow to the Bakhri Tojik reservoir was 379 m³/s in June and 341 m³/s in July, compared to 300 m³/s as stipulated in the protocol.

According to the protocol, from June 1 to July 31, water releases from the Bakhri Tojik reservoir was planned to be 2,421 mcm, while the actual water releases amounted to 2,854 mcm, which is 433 mcm more than envisaged by the protocol.

During June–July, the Republic of Tajikistan fully fulfilled its obligations under the Protocol on the agreed operation schedule of the Bakhri Tojik reservoir for the period June–August 2025.

Table 9

**Operation regime of the Bakhri Tojik reservoir
June 1- July 31, 2025**

Item	Unit	June								
		I		II		III		average monthly		
		Protocol	Actual	Protocol	Actual	Protocol	Actual	Protocol	Actual	Difference
Inflow	m ³ /s	300	411	300	389	300	337	300	379	79
	mcm	259	355	259	336	259	292	778	983	205
Water releases	m ³ /s	350	493	390	494	450	490	397	492	95
	mcm	302	426	337	426	389	423	1028	1275	247
Akdjar +	m ³ /s	50	82	90	105	150	152	97	113	16
	mcm	43	71	78	90	130	132	251	293	42

Item	Unit	July									Total, mcm		
		I		II		III		aver. month					
		Protocol	Actual	Protocol	Actual	Protocol	Actual	Protocol	Actual	Difference	Protocol	Actual	Difference
Inflow	m³/s	300	306	300	347	300	367	300	341	41			
	mcm	259	265	259	300	285	349	804	914	110	1581	1896	315
Water releases	m³/s	520	525	520	589	520	649	520	590	70			
	mcm	449	454	449	509	494	617	1393	1579	186	2421	2854	433
Akdjar +	m³/s	220	219	220	242	220	282	220	248	28			
	mcm	190	189	190	209	209	268	589	666	77	840	959	119

Table 10

**Forecast operation schedule of the Naryn – Syr Darya reservoir cascade
(April 1 – July 31, 2025)**

	Unit	April		May		June		July		Total, mcm	
		forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual
Toktogul reservoir											
Inflow to the reservoir	m ³ /s	373	377	540	830	1064	749	698	658	7041	6904
	mcm	967	978	1446	2222	2758	1942	1870	1762		
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	8451	8451	8537	8878	8966	10109	10531	10788		
end of the season	mcm	8537	8878	8966	10109	10531	10788	11142	11154		
Water releases from the reservoir	m3/s	340	216	380	370	460	471	470	519	4350	4162
	mcm	881	559	1018	991	1192	1222	1259	1390		
Bakhri Tojik reservoir											
Inflow to the reservoir	m ³ /s	404	415	402	360	321	379	300	341	3761	3934
(Akdjar g/s)	mcm	1046	1075	1078	963	833	983	804	914		
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	3497	3497	3543	3467	3543	3389	3063	2825		
end of the season	mcm	3543	3467	3543	3389	3063	2825	2244	1846		
Water releases from the reservoir	m3/s	392	401	380	319	440	492	530	590	4594	4748
	mcm	1015	1039	1019	855	1140	1275	1420	1579		
Shardara reservoir											
Inflow to the reservoir	m ³ /s	400	410	330	73	214	149	150	113		

	Unit	April		May		June		July		Total, mcm	
		forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual
(Chinaz-Syr g/s+Bozsu g/s+Keles g/s)	mcm	1037	1062	884	195	555	385	402	303	2877	1946
Inflow to the reservoir (Kokbulak g/s+Keles g/s)	m ³ /s	400	399	330	50	214	136	150	101		
	mcm	1037	1034	884	134	555	353	402	271	2877	1791
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	4561	4561	4696	4554	4503	3338	3513	2082		
end of the season	mcm	4696	4554	4503	3338	3513	2082	2029	485		
Water releases from the reservoir	m ³ /s	250	115	330	247	500	348	550	350		
	mcm	648	298	884	661	1296	903	1473	937	4301	2799
Releases to Karakum canal	m ³ /s	80	87	50	67	55	60	110	81		
	mcm	207	226	134	179	143	156	295	218	778	778
Water supply to the Aral Sea	m ³ /s	70	121	70	43	70	14	60	16		
	mcm	181	314	187	115	181	36	161	43	711	508
Charvak reservoir											
Inflow to the reservoir	m ³ /s	227	235	397	371	493	280	344	189		
	mcm	588	608	1064	995	1277	726	923	507	3852	2836
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	662	662	876	1026	1419	1645	1938	1779		
end of the season	mcm	876	1026	1419	1645	1938	1779	1975	1576		
Water releases from the reservoir	m ³ /s	143	132	193	204	290	269	330	270		
(Discharge from Gazalkent HPP)	mcm	372	342	517	548	752	698	883	724	2523	2312

	Unit	April		May		June		July		Total, mcm	
		forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual	forecast	actual
Andijan reservoir											
Inflow to the reservoir	m ³ /s	142	149	241	205	223	180	129	92	1935	1649
	mcm	367	386	645	548	577	468	346	246		
Volume: beginning of the season	mcm	1198	1198	1292	1388	1507	1519	1566	1452		
end of the season	mcm	1292	1388	1507	1519	1566	1452	1340	1031		
Water releases from the reservoir	m ³ /s	105	74	160	154	200	204	214	248	1792	1796
	mcm	272	192	429	412	518	529	572	664		

Progress on implementation of the tasks arising from the summits of the Heads of IFAS founder states³

April 7 – August 8, 2025

General Information

At the meetings of the Council of Heads of IFAS founder-states held on August 24, 2018 (Turkmenbashi) and September 15, 2023 (Dushanbe), a number of proposals and initiatives were put forward addressing water, environmental, energy, and socio-economic issues. The progress of their implementation is regularly reviewed at ICWC meetings⁴.

The protocol of the 89th ICWC meeting states:

1. Continue work on implementing the proposals and initiatives put forward at the meetings of the Heads of IFAS founder-states in Turkmenbashi (2018) and Dushanbe (2023). Special attention should be paid to activating the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Improvement of IFAS.
2. ICWC members and Executive Bodies should actively participate in the regional forum held as part of the International High-Level Conference on Glaciers' Preservation, scheduled for May 29–31 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the countries and Executive Bodies as a follow-up to summit decisions during the period from April 7 to August 8, 2025.

1. Institutional and legal improvement of IFAS, strengthening its capacity and image in the international arena

The Executive Committee in Kazakhstan continues coordinating the work on institutional and legal improvement of IFAS.

At the 14th meeting of the Working Group (held online on June 2–3, Dushanbe), proposals were discussed concerning the updating of ICWC

³ Information on the second item of the 90th ICWC meeting's agenda

⁴ Starting with the 77th session of ICWC (November 5-6, 2019)

functions, the roles of the Executive Committee/Secretariat, as well as the potential functions of the Interstate Energy Commission (IEC) and the Coordination Meeting of ICWC and IEC. Following the meeting, proposals—revised following the comments of the Working Group members—were submitted to the IFAS founder states for review and to determine each country's position on the draft provisions, regulations, and other documents on the structural bodies of the improved IFAS setup. Development partners expressed their readiness to support the countries in elaborating the updated provisions and to assist in engaging national experts for their joint preparation.

1. Projects and programs under ASBP-4 (2020-2030)

Under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan, IFAS continues coordinating the implementation and systematic monitoring of ASBP-4. The countries and executive bodies regularly provide updates on the progress of ASBP-4-related projects at the request of the IFAS Executive Committee.

Implementation of ASBP-4 Project 1.11 funded by a grant from the French Development Agency (AFD) has commenced. EC IFAS engaged SIC ICWC to implement the project “Correction of Hydromodule Zoning (Boundaries of Hydromodule Zones) and Revisit of Crop Irrigation Regimes. The Case Study of the Uzbek Territory of the Fergana Valley in the Syr Darya River Basin.” The project includes an analysis of current standards, comprehensive ground-based and remote sensing research, climate scenario modeling, updating of hydromodule zoning (HMZ) boundaries, generation of an interactive map, and adjustment of crop irrigation regimes based on the updated HMZ. As of July 2025, a kick-off meeting was held (June 13) and pilot sites were selected in the Andijan, Fergana, and Namangan provinces of Uzbekistan (June 24–27). An information and analytical review of current HMZ standards and methodologies was prepared and approved by the EC IFAS.

3. Water conservation and adaptation to climate change

Kazakhstan has adopted a new *Water Code* (Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 178-VIII of April 9, 2025), which, among other things, enshrines the principles of recognizing water as an integral part of the environment, the economic value of water resources when used, the comprehensive use of surface water and groundwater, water conservation, and public participation. The Code assigns basin inspections the supervisory functions and the right to take immediate action to prevent illegal sale and consumption of water. According to the Water Code, the following have been approved by Orders of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan: (1) Methodology for determining environmental flow

(No. 179-NQ of July 23, 2025) aimed at the sustainable functioning of ecosystems; (2) Methodology for calculating rates of payment for surface water use (No. 177-NQ of July 22, 2025); and (3) Prospective water use limits for 2027–2036.

The implementation of the *2024–2026 Water Saving Road Map* is ongoing, encompassing measures to enhance water legislation, digitize the water sector, and introduce advanced water metering and water-saving technologies. Methodological guidelines for water conservation in households have also been developed.

As part of the water sector modernization, branches of the Kazvodkhoz RSE are equipped with new machinery and equipment: as of June 27, 2025, 524 units out of the planned 757 have been delivered.

The “*Climate-Resilient Water Resources Development*” project, with a total budget of \$1.153 billion and the participation of the Islamic Development Bank, is implemented to modernize irrigation infrastructure, construct four new reservoirs, reconstruct four existing ones, and rehabilitate more than 150 canals with a combined length of 3,000 kilometers. The project spans eight regions—Akmola, Almaty, Zhambyl, Kyzylorda, Turkestan, and West Kazakhstan (including Zhetisu Province), as well as the city of Astana—and is supported by a \$3.5 million grant aimed at developing early response systems, promoting automation, and enhancing workforce training in the water sector.

The *Atlas of Hydrogeological Maps of the Republic of Kazakhstan* was developed by the U.M. Akhmedsafin Institute of Hydrogeology and Geoecology under the Committee of Geology of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Created using the ArcGIS geographic information system, the Atlas enables users to access factual data related to the graphical objects displayed on the electronic maps, providing detailed insights into the parameters of the subsurface hydrosphere and the surrounding environment.

The Republic of Tajikistan, taking into account the growing challenges associated with climate change and rational water management, is consistently implementing strategic measures aimed at water conservation and increasing the resilience of the water sector. The key document in this area is the *National Water Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan* for the period up to 2040, approved by Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 629 of November 29, 2024. The strategy defines short-, medium-, and long-term guidelines for sustainable water use adapted to the realities of climate change and serves as a tool for fulfilling international commitments, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 6. According to the Strategy’s provisions, the following targets are planned to be achieved by 2040:

- Increase the coverage by centralized water supply — from 41% (in 2024) to 90%;
- Increase the coverage by sanitation systems — from 15% to 50%;
- Reduce water losses in water supply systems — from 40–60% to 20%;
- Reduce water losses in irrigation systems — from 50% to 35%;
- Expand irrigated land area using water-saving technologies — from 2,500 ha to 100,000 ha (a 40-fold increase);
- Reduce energy consumption of irrigation pumping stations — down p to 20%;
- Achieve 100% coverage by principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) by 2030;
- Increase the level of digitalization in the water sector to 80%.

These benchmarks underscore the large-scale transformation of the water sector, particularly in enhancing climate resilience and advancing technological modernization.

To further progress toward SDG 6, a *2025–2029 State Program on Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation* was adopted (Government Resolution No. 332 of May 29, 2025). The program seeks to expand access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, with a particular focus on rural and hard-to-reach areas, thereby contributing to improved public health, sustainable development, and social stability.

In parallel, Tajikistan is implementing energy-efficient and climate-resilient solutions, including using solar energy.

Examples of successful applications:

- The Khoji Adhamkhon Farm in Zafarobod District has installed 50 solar panels with a total capacity of 30 kW to power irrigation well. This initiative serves as a pilot project for potential scaling up in other regions.
- Under the EBRD's GEF II program, demonstration sites have been established in the Vakhsh and Bokhtar districts, where solar panels supply energy for greenhouses and drip irrigation systems, achieving water savings of up to 70% (sources: asiaplustj.info, ebrdgeff.com).

Thus, the implementation of strategic and technological solutions in the area of water conservation and adaptation serves as a solid foundation for

Tajikistan's sustainable water future and contributes to the fulfillment of international climate and water commitments.

In Turkmenistan, renewable energy sources are being introduced and infrastructure is being modernized to enhance water and climate resilience. On July 3, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) allocated a \$1 million grant to Turkmenistan to conduct a feasibility study for the country's first 50–100 MW solar power plant in the Balkan velayat—a step toward achieving the target of 3% green energy by 2025 and reducing the carbon footprint of irrigated areas (source: PVKnowhow). On April 10, the results of the UNDP/GCF project on national adaptation planning were presented, resulting in the approval of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Roadmap and the Climate Finance Concept. These documents lay the foundation for cross-sectoral adaptation measures in the country (source: UNDP Turkmenistan). The project “Integrated Natural Resource Management in Drought-Prone and Saline Agricultural Production Landscapes of Central Asia and Turkey” has also been completed, which involved drilling 20 wells, setting up nurseries with drip irrigation, and purchasing resource-saving equipment for the arid regions of Karakum and the Aral Sea region. These efforts will reduce water losses and increase farmers' resilience to soil salinization (turkmenistanlive.com).

Uzbekistan has adopted the Water Code (No. 1076 ZRU of July 30, 2025), which systematizes regulations governing water relations and promotes the rational use, effective management, and protection of the country's water resources. In line with the President's directives, 12 major pumping stations—beginning with the Karshi Main Canal—are being equipped with 75–100 MW solar power plants, which are expected to reduce energy consumption by 4.5 billion kWh per year. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has provided a €240 million loan to modernize 110 irrigation pumping stations across 10 regions, including the installation of energy-efficient pumps and solar panels (source: Gazeta.uz).

Additionally, a pilot project introducing drip irrigation for rice cultivation on 37 hectares has proven successful and will be scaled up to six provinces starting in 2026, resulting in water savings of 30–50% (source: Gazeta.uz). As part of the forum in Samarkand, the Resilient Landscapes in Uzbekistan (RESILAND) project (World Bank, \$153 million) was launched and aimed at improving landscape resilience and reforestation, as well as strengthening cooperation with Central Asian states in the restoration of transboundary natural areas.

SIC ICWC (1), in cooperation with BWO Amu Darya and BWO Syr Darya⁵, conducts ten-day monitoring of water balance in the Amu Darya and

⁵ Analytical reports are published in the sections “Water Management Situation in the Amu Darya

Syr Darya River basins; (2) with the support of UNEP and funding from the EU, launched the project “Facilitating Region-Specific Approaches to Addressing Climate and Environment-Related Risks for Socio-Economic Stability in Central Asia,” aimed at strengthening the capacity of local communities in the Fergana Valley (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) and expanding regional cooperation. As of July 2025, potential project areas have been identified; a training package has been developed, and training sessions have been held for national experts in Osh (June 24-25, Kyrgyzstan), Fergana (June 26-27, Uzbekistan), and Gulistan (July 3, Tajikistan). (3) Under an agreement with GIZ⁶, conducts research to assess climate resilience of water infrastructure in the Syr Darya River basin to inform the Basin Dialogue. Preliminary results were presented at the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the development of a mutually beneficial water and energy mechanism in Central Asia (July 10, Astana).

4. Measures for integrated solution of consequences of the Aral Sea disaster

Kazakhstan. The project “Preservation of the Kokaral Dam and Restoration of the Syr Darya River Delta” is currently implemented in the Aral Sea region. The cleaning of the Tushchy, Saryteren, and Karashalan-1 canals has been completed, along with the restoration of the Tauir protective dam. Work is ongoing on the restoration and reinforcement of the Kokaral and Akshavit dams, as well as the cleaning of the Karashalan-2 canal.

The construction of headworks on the four aforementioned canals is underway, with completion scheduled by the end of 2026 (source: t.me/Nurzhan_Nurzhigitov). Preparations are also nearing completion for the feasibility study of the second phase of the project to preserve the Northern Aral Sea, which envisages the reconstruction of the Kokaral Dam and the construction of a waterworks facility near the village of Amanotkel. Upon completion, the project is expected to expand the water surface area of the Northern Aral Sea to 3,913 km², with a total water volume of 34 km³. The estimated filling period of the sea is projected at four to five years.

In Turkmenistan, the following programs are implemented: (1) the National Aral Program for 2021–2025; (2) the National Forest Program for 2021–2025; and (3) the project “Conservation and Sustainable Management of

Basin” and “Water Management Situation in the Syr Darya Basin,” as well as in the weekly newsletter “Water Management, Irrigation, and Ecology in the EECCA Countries,” which is distributed to 77 recipients.

⁶ under the project “Studies on priority issues in the field of water, energy and environment in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins” as part of the regional program “Climate-sensitive water resources management in Central Asia”.

Land Resources and Ecosystems of High Natural Value in the Aral Sea Basin for Multiple Benefits,” 2021–2027 (UNDP/GEF), which focuses on restoring forests in the Aral Sea region.

Uzbekistan has declared 2025 the Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy. The country continues its nationwide program “Yashil Makon.”⁷ The Forestry Agency was transformed into the Agency for Forestry and Green Area Expansion, Desertification Control (Decree of the Presidential Administration No. UP-90 of May 30, 2025), together with its Center for Forestry Digitalization (No. PP-197 of May 30, 2025), which will become the sole operator of the Smart Forestry information platform. A representative office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature was opened in Tashkent (June 2). An international conference “Goodwill Ambassadors of the Aral Sea Region” was held in the Republic of Karakalpakstan (April 17). The project “Building knowledge and skills of local partners and communities to address environmental insecurities through innovative air, land, and water management solutions in the Aral Sea Region”⁸ (UNDP/FAO, July 2024 – May 2025) has been successfully completed, resulting in the installation of six modern meteorological stations and related equipment.

SIC ICWC (1) continues its work on assessment of inflow from the Amu Darya River and collecting drains; RS-based assessment of water surface, wetland, and dried areas of the Large and Small/Northern Aral Sea, as well as lakes in the Aral Sea region; (2) completed the project “Adaptation of a modern system for water and land resources monitoring and water balance (water requirement) modeling in the conditions of the Aral Sea region with a view of combating salinization and increasing land productivity”. A water and land resource monitoring system to improve water management, combat salinization, and increase land productivity has been tested in pilot sites in the Ellikala and Muynak districts. (3) An expedition was conducted to the Southern Aral Sea region to study the current environmental status of water bodies, examine the hydrological regime, and analyze salinity of lake systems—Mezhdurechie, Rybachye, Sudochoye, Muynak, and Dzhylytiras (May 12–19). (4) as part of a contract with GIZ⁹, research is conducted to assess the state of key water-dependent ecosystems in the Amu Darya River basin and to develop joint measures for their sustainable functioning and conservation to inform the Basin Dialogue. Expeditions have been undertaken to the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve (Tajikistan), the Jayran Nursery, and the Badai Tugai Nature Reserve

⁷ presented at the UN High-Level Forum “Her Land Her Rights. Advancing Gender Equality and Land Restoration Goals” on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, June 17, 2023, New York. The Program’s goal is to achieve a 30% level of urban and rural greening by 2030.

⁸ as part of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea Region

⁹ Studies on priority issues in the field of water, energy and environment in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins

(Uzbekistan).

5. Automation of gauging stations and promotion of advanced information and communication technologies

In Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, with the support from a grant by the Eurasian Development Bank, is developing a national water information system (NWIS) to digitize water management processes, improve the water use efficiency, and monitor and forecast the current state of water resources. The system's key objectives include digitization and optimization of water management processes, real-time monitoring of water bodies, forecasting and analysis of water use in the short and long term, and integration with government databases to ensure a comprehensive management approach.

To date, the NWIS contains the digitized data on the Zhayik and Yesil Rivers, as well as on 500 hydraulic structures, displaying their main technical characteristics. It features filtering functions by object type, area, and basin section, provides access to multi-layered information, and enables visual analysis of water resources. The system also displays KazHydromet's data on water discharge and levels at 334 gauging stations.

A project is also implemented with the UNDP support to improve water management through digital technologies. The project involves the application of TALSIM-NG software, a hydrological model designed to simulate water systems and predict floods and droughts. It integrates with the Delft-FEWS (Flood Early Warning System) platform, an early flood warning system developed by the Dutch institute Deltares. This integration enables the development of forecasts for water levels, rivers, floods, and droughts, thereby improving the effectiveness of water disaster prevention and mitigation. TALSIM-NG simulates snow accumulation, snowmelt, and runoff generation processes, taking into account meteorological and hydrological factors. The model covers 225 sections of the Yesil River and 205 sections of the Nura River, allowing for detailed forecasts in various points of the basins. Forecasts of inflow to reservoirs and control hydrological sites are made separately. Runoff forecasts are made for short-term (15 days) and seasons (3 months) based on meteorological models' data and actual observations. This allows for the assessment of plausible available water supply scenarios, determination of peak flow values and flood onset dates, as well as calculation of plausible water volumes in reservoirs and discharge rates. It is important to note that the model is an additional source of hydrological forecasts. Its main purpose is to justify regulation regimes of hydraulic structures and increase the flexibility and

accuracy of water management decisions in the context of climate change and water scarcity.

In accordance with the Head of State's directive to digitize at least 3,500 km of irrigation canals, the Ministry is currently undertaking a large-scale project to automate 264 irrigation networks across the country. In Kyzylorda, Zhambyl, and Turkestan provinces, automation is planned with control elements. Design and estimate documentation is developed for the automation of 16 canals in Kyzylorda province, 91 canals in Turkestan province, and 78 canals in Zhambyl province, with implementation scheduled for 2026-2027.

In Uzbekistan, preliminary design work is underway in cooperation with the Hungarian company Art Work Design to implement the project "Digitalization of Water Management in Uzbekistan." As part of this project, it is planned to install in reservoirs the piezometric sensors and specialized equipment for high-precision monitoring of cracks, subsidence, and deformation of dams, developed by the Italian company SISGEO. In collaboration with the Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC), a concept for the project "Development of Water Management in Uzbekistan" for 2027–2030 has been developed, with a total cost of US\$8 million. The document has been submitted to the Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan for approval.

At a meeting on measures for digitalization and wider use of space imagery, the President of Uzbekistan set the task of revisiting irrigation depths and the hydromodule zoning system by involving research institutes from agricultural and water sectors; digitizing all stages of water use and adopting contour water metering; installing smart meters at all reservoirs; setting up online monitoring of water volumes; and taking measures to reduce siltation. The launch of a unified integrated platform called "Digital Agriculture" was scheduled for July 31.

SIC ICWC is implementing a World Bank and SEI project¹⁰ titled "Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modeling," aimed at creating a tool for comprehensive assessment of the impact of various climate change and socio-economic development scenarios on water and energy management in the region. A series of training sessions for specialists from Central Asian countries on the application of the WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning) model in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins has been completed. Training has also begun on the LEAP (Low Emission Analysis Platform) model, focused on integrated planning in the energy sector, climate change mitigation, air pollution reduction, and issues related to integrating the model with the WEAP system.

SIC ICWC is ready to support the riparian countries of the Syr Darya

¹⁰ Stockholm Environment Institute

River basin in conducting a technical survey to assess automation needs under the IKI project “Regional Mechanisms for Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transformation of the Energy, Water, and Land Nexus in Central Asia.”

6. Development of an integrated and mutually beneficial mechanism for water and energy co-operation in Central Asia

Kazakhstan continues its work on developing a mechanism for water-energy cooperation in Central Asia. On July 10, 2025, Astana hosted the *Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group¹¹ on the Development of a Mutually Beneficial Water and Energy Mechanism in Central Asia* established as part of the Green Central Asia II Program. The event was organized with the support of the OECD and SIC ICWC. During the meeting, representatives of the countries presented their initiatives and approaches to water and energy cooperation. Partners shared preliminary conclusions and approaches from regional initiatives implemented to support the countries in developing a mutually beneficial water-energy mechanism. These included modeling approaches (WB, SIC, ADB, UNECE), environmental aspects of water-energy cooperation (GIZ, SDC, SIC), and institutional and coordination improvements (EC IFAS, SIC, UNECE).

On April 26, 2025, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved and authorized the signing of an Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on cooperation in the field of power supply. The agreement provides for long-term, planned supplies of electricity generated by OJSC “Rogun HPP” to Kazakhstan via interstate transmission lines, taking into account technical conditions, carbon credits, accounting procedures, supply schedules, and indexation.

On June 30, 2025, an agreement was signed in Tashkent between the governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basic principles of cooperation in the power sector. The agreement aims to ensure regular supplies of electricity generated by the Rogun HPP to Uzbekistan during planned shortages, with consideration of water management aspects, indexation mechanisms, parallel contracts with Barki Tojik, and the provision of DAP (Delivered at Place) supplies through interstate transmission lines.

¹¹ The purpose of the Regional Working Group is to promote dialogue between representatives of the Central Asian countries on opportunities of cooperation to achieve more effective and sustainable water and energy management

7. Regional cooperation and water diplomacy

From April to July 2025, a series of events were held in Central Asian countries to coordinate climate actions and develop water diplomacy:

April 4–5: the First Samarkand Climate Forum was held and presented the Regional Green Development Concept and the Program of Sustainable Environmental Development, and the Samarkand Declaration was adopted, outlining the common course of Central Asian countries in the face of global climate challenges.

April 10: Tashkent, the international conference “Water Diplomacy in Central Asia: Trust, Dialogue and Multilateral Cooperation for Sustainable Development” was held with the participation of a delegation from Afghanistan.

May 14–16: Ashgabat, the Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC-2025) was held, focused on uniting efforts to attract climate finance.

May 15 to June 30: the Aral Sea region, Uzbekistan hosted the Global Youth Festival of Digital Green Initiatives, an international platform for dialogue between young people and governments.

April 25: Astana, an irrigation water supply schedule was agreed upon in the amount of 580 mcm at the 35th meeting of the Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan Shu-Talas Commission.

May 29–31: Dushanbe, the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers’ Preservation was held, resulting in the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration, which outlines practical commitments by countries and recommendations to the COP process.

June 8 to 19: Bishkek, a roundtable discussion on the Kambarata HPP-1 project was held with the participation of delegations from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, the World Bank, and AFRY, which presented the project’s feasibility study.

July 8: Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan signed an intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding on environmental protection and sustainable development.

August 1: a meeting of environmental ministers of the Central Asian countries was held in Aktau to prepare for the 2026 Regional Environmental Summit.

August 2: water ministers of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan discussed how to strengthen cooperation in modernizing water pumping infrastructure, attracting investment, and sharing experiences to improve water use efficiency in the region.

August 3: the UN Regional Center for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Central Asia and Afghanistan¹² was officially launched in Almaty.

August 5 to 8: the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan, Avaza Tourist Zone).

8. Capacity-building and scientific cooperation

Starting in the second half of 2025, **Kazakhstan** will launch a program to gradually raise the salaries of water workers to a level of energy sector. These changes are implemented as part of amendments to the Law “On Natural Monopolies” and apply to all personnel of water management organizations, including RSE “Kazsusha” (DKnews.kz, May 27, 2025).

As part of the reforms, 425 seasonal workers at Kazsusha have been transferred to permanent employment, helping to stabilize the workforce and reduce turnover in operations and maintenance. In addition, a new state award — “Honored Water Worker of Kazakhstan” — was established in 2025 to raise the prestige of water professions (DKnews.kz).

These measures are taken alongside the 2024–2025 Roadmap for training personnel in the water sector, which includes doubling the professional training: the annual coverage of advanced training courses has increased from 500 to 1,000 specialists, including internships abroad (gov.kz). As part of a memorandum with “Power China”¹³, 121 specialists from the water sector took advanced training courses (four groups starting April 9) at production sites and facilities in China. The courses covered topics such as water management facility planning, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, water management, and wastewater treatment. Another 60 trainees are scheduled to be sent by the end of the year, with all expenses covered by the Chinese side (inform.kz).

On June 18–19, 2025, in Astana, the Islamic Organization for Food Security, with direct assistance from the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), organized a training session featuring experts from Turkey and Uzbekistan on “Digital solutions for effective management of irrigation canals in agriculture.” The training was conducted by international experts from the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture, the Uzbekistan Hydrogeological Service, GIZ, and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). This event provided training for 30 specialists from the water sector, including employees of Kazvodkhoz, the Information and Analytical Center for Water Resources, the National Hydrogeological Service, the Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Water Management, as well as structural divisions of the Ministry of Water

¹² UN General Assembly established the Center.

¹³ as part of the Year of Vocational Professions and with a view to modernizing the water sector

Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

From June 16 to 18, a three-day training course for young water professionals was held in Khujand, **Tajikistan**. The event was organized jointly by the OSCE and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR). Thirty participants attended, covering topics such as integrated water resources management, international law, and regional cooperation on transboundary waters. Between March and June, RECCA, supported by MEWR, conducted a series of training sessions for water professionals.

From April 16 to 18, **Turkmenistan** hosted a training session on water diplomacy and a WEFE Nexus simulation game for 26 students from the International University of Humanities and Development and the Institute of International Relations (Facebook). Additionally, from January to July, a series of UNDP/GCF seminars was held for local communities to provide training on climate adaptation and integration of IWRM practices, with 85 participants from government agencies, businesses, and NGOs (gwp.org).

Water Worker Schools¹⁴ are actively operating across all regions of **Uzbekistan**. From April to July 2025, over 200 training sessions on water conservation were conducted. The 2030 Concept for Improving Environmental Culture, along with its Implementation Roadmap for 2025–2026 and target indicators, was approved (Presidential Decree No. PP RUz of May 15, 2025). Additionally, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 482 on July 31, 2025 “On measures to further improve research in the field of water management.”

On June 20, the **100th anniversary of the Research Institute of Irrigation and Water Problems** (formerly SANIIRI) was celebrated in Tashkent. An international scientific conference titled “Scientific Approaches to Solving Global Water and Environmental Problems in Central Asia” was organized, bringing together 200 specialists from leading universities, research institutions, and international organizations.

As part of the conference, a session “Scientific Foundations for the Improvement of Irrigated Lands in the Context of Climate Change” was held at the SIC ICWC Training Center, with the support from the IKI Nexus project. Two canals, Dustlik and Eski Tuyotartar, unique water management structures over 100 years old, have been recognized as the ICID World Heritage Irrigation Structures. The nomination applications were prepared by **SIC ICWC under the IKI project** “Regional Mechanisms for Low Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transformation of the Energy, Water, and Land Nexus in Central Asia” and submitted to ICID on behalf of National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage

¹⁴ established in May 2023 on the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan with the aim of improving water use practices and introducing water-saving technologies.

of Uzbekistan.

Additionally, **SIC ICWC**:

1. Participated in the conference “Bridges and Nexuses: Italy and Central Asia Cooperation Towards a Sustainable Future” (June 19, Venice), as part of the initiative by the heads of state to establish knowledge networks (referencing the Joint Statement following the Summit of Leaders of Italy and Central Asian Countries, May 30, 2025, Astana).
2. Continues implementing the CroWD project (IHE Delft) focusing on training and research in water diplomacy. SIC specialists are conducting research on climate narratives and strengthening water security in transboundary basins.

9. Progress in preparation of the Regional Forum (29 May, Dushanbe) as part of the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers’ Preservation (Dushanbe, 29-31 May)

By the decision of the 88th ICWC meeting, SIC ICWC, with the support of OECD, SDC, GIZ, UNRCCA, the World Bank, IWMI, and UNECE, organized a Regional Forum “Enhancing Transboundary Cooperation for Water Sustainability and Climate Resilience in Glacier-Dependent Basins of Central Asia” on May 29. This event was held as part of the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers’ Preservation (May 29–31, 2025, Dushanbe). The forum brought together over 120 participants, including representatives of ministries and agencies of Central Asian countries, regional organizations, UN agencies, international development partners, research institutes, and civil society.

The Forum agenda included three thematic sessions: (1) Strengthening transboundary governance and policy coordination, which highlighted the growing level of trust between the states and the potential for deeper coordination and integration; (2) Science-Policy Interface for WEF Nexus, which demonstrated the potential of using data and research to improve adaptation; (3) Climate-resilient solutions and innovative financing as part of a systems-based approach, which discussed investment and financing solutions for enhancing resilience, infrastructure development, and basin management through systems-based approaches. Partners such as GIZ, SDC, OECD, World Bank, and IWMI made concrete commitments and proposals to support monitoring, investment planning, and institutional strengthening in the region.

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