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The United Nations Regional Centre
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2018 WATER YEARBOOK: CENTRAL ASIA AND AROUND THE GLOBE

Tashkent 2019

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CENTRAL ASIA AND
AROUND THE GLOBE

2018

Tashkent 2019

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Acknowledgements

This Yearbook was published thanks to contributions from numerous agencies, organizations and individuals. Special thanks are due to:

Ministries and agencies: Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (M.Zhienbaev), Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Sh.Kuchkarov, Z.Ishpulatov).

Regional organizations of Central Asia: BWO Amudarya (M.Makhramov, G.Tilyavova), BWO Syrdarya (O.Kholkhudjaev, F.Irmatov), ICWC Secretariat (U.Nazarov), EC-IFAS (I.Djuraev), ICSD Secretariat (B.Mamedov), Executive Directorate of IFAS in Kazakhstan (M.Narbaev), GEF Agency of IFAS in Uzbekistan (V.I.Sokolov), CAREC (A.Inozemtseva).

Joint Commissions: CTWC Secretariat at the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan (I.Akbozova), International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (A.Schmid-Breton, A. Schulte-Wuelwer-Leidig, L.Gangji), Mekong River Commission Secretariat (Le Thi Huong Lien).

Higher Education Institutions and Research Institutes: Kazakh-German University (B.Janusz-Pawletta, A.Azekenova), National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek (G.Umurzakov), TIAME (T.Sultonov), Federal State Budgetary Institution "Russian Research Institute of Integrated Water Management and Protection" (N.Prokhorova), Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower Engineering and Ecology at the Academy of Sciences of RT (Ya.Pulatov), Nazarbaev University (S.Xenarios).

International partners: OSCE (R. Ernst), EBRD (N.Esenamanova), UNECE (S.Radnaaragchaa), IWAC (S.Akhmedov), Rivers without Boundaries Coalition (E.Simonov), UNRCCA (N.Khudayberganov), GIZ (K.Milow), SDC (A.Wehrli), ADB (Ya.Siddiqi), World Bank (Ch.Leb, M.Cassara), Geneva Water Hub and University of Geneva (M.Tignino), GWP CACENA (A.Sh.Dzhaloobaev, V.A.Khaydarova), ICID (I.Bondarik), SIWI (M.Klimes, E.Yaari), UNESCO (A.Aureli, T.C.Resende, N.Kim), IWRA (I.Deregibus), UNDP in Uzbekistan (Kh.Rustamov), EU-CA Platform (A.Krutov).

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Prepared with support of United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Published with support of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (OSCE PCUz)

Content

List of Abbreviations	8
Preface	10
Section 1. 2018 Calendar of Events	13
Section 2. Water Management Situation in the Aral Sea Basin	29
2.1. Water Management Situation in the Basins of the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya ...	30
2.2. Monitoring of Changes in the Water Surface Area of the Large Aral Sea and the Amu Darya Delta	32
2.2.1. Water Supply to the Aral Sea and the Amu Darya Delta	32
2.2.2. Dynamics of Changes in the Water Surface and Wetland Area of Eastern and Western Parts of the Large Aral Sea.	33
2.2.3. Lake Systems of the Amu Darya Delta	34
2.3. Dust and Salt Storm	38
Section 3. IFAS and Other Regional Organizations in Central Asia	41
3.1. IFAS: UN Resolution, Summit of the Heads of State, Meeting of the Board	42
3.1.1. UN-IFAS Cooperation	42
3.1.2. XII Summit of the Heads of IFAS Founder-State	43
3.1.3. Meetings of the IFAS Board	46
3.2. Executive Committee of IFAS and its National Branches	48
3.2.1. Executive Committee of IFAS	48
3.2.2. Regional Center of Hydrology	50
3.2.3. Executive Directorate of IFAS in Kazakhstan	50
3.2.4. IFAS Agency for Implementation of the Aral Sea Basin and GEF Projects.	51
3.3. ICWC of Central Asia	53
3.3.1. ICWC Meetings	54
3.3.2. ICWC Working Groups	54
3.3.3. Activities of ICWC Executive Bodies in 2018	55
3.3.4. Visit of ICWC Delegation to Rogun HPP	61
3.4. ICSD of Central Asia	63

3.5. Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC)	65
Section 4. Bilateral Water Cooperation Between the Countries of Central Asia	69
4.1. Kazakhstan – Kyrgyzstan	70
4.2. Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan	71
4.3. Kazakhstan – Tajikistan	71
4.4. Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan	71
4.5. Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan	72
4.6. Kyrgyzstan – Turkmenistan	72
4.7. Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan	72
4.8. Tajikistan – Turkmenistan	73
4.9. Tajikistan – Uzbekistan	73
4.10. Turkmenistan – Uzbekistan	75
Section 5. Key Water Developments in the Countries of Central Asia	77
5.1. Kazakhstan	78
5.2. Kyrgyzstan	83
5.3. Tajikistan	92
5.4. Turkmenistan	99
5.5. Uzbekistan	107
Section 6. United Nations and its Specialized Agencies	119
6.1. General Assembly	120
6.2. Security Council	127
6.3. Secretariat	130
6.4. United Nations Development Program	131
6.5. UN Water	133
6.6. UN Economic Commission for Europe	135
6.7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	138
6.8. United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	140
6.9. World Meteorological Organization	142

6.10. International Fund for Agricultural Development	143
6.11. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	144
6.12. Food and Agriculture Organization	145
6.13. International Law Commission	145
6.14. International Court of Justice	146
Section 7. International Water Organizations and Initiatives	149
7.1. Geneva Water Hub	150
7.2. Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace	151
7.3. Global Water Partnership	152
7.4. High-Level Panel on Water	154
7.5. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage	154
7.6. International Network of Basin Organizations	156
7.7. International Water Resources Association and World Water Congress	158
7.8. OECD Initiative on Water Governance	158
7.9. Stockholm International Water institute and World Water Week	159
7.10. World Water Council	160
Section 8. Activities of International Partners in Central Asia	165
8.1. Asian Development Bank	166
8.2. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	167
8.3. German Society for International Cooperation	168
8.4. European Union – Central Asia: Environment and Water Cooperation Platform ..	168
8.5. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	169
8.6. Switzerland (SDC and SECO)	171
8.7. United States Agency for International Development	171
8.8. World Bank	172
Section 9. Water Education	175
9.1. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Professional Development Centers	176
9.1.1. Kazakhstan	176

9.1.2. Kyrgyz Republic	180
9.1.3. Tajikistan	183
9.1.4. Turkmenistan	184
9.1.5. Uzbekistan	185
9.2. Regional HEIs and Professional Development Centers	187
9.2.1. Regional Training Center at SIC ICWC	187
9.2.2. University of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan)	187
9.3. Professional Development Courses and Trainings	188
9.3.1. Professional Development Courses and Trainings in 2018	188
9.3.2. Professional Development Courses and Trainings in 2019	190
Section 10. Science and Innovations	193
10.1. Innovations in 2018	194
10.2. Online Information Products and Services	201
10.2.1. An Interactive Map of Best Practices on Water, Land and Energy Use and Environmental Protection in Central Asia	201
10.2.2. New Databases and Portals	201
Section 11. Key Water Developments	205
11.1. Africa	206
11.2. America	208
11.3. Asia	209
11.4. Australia	216
11.5. Europe	216
11.5.1. Western Europe and Large European Transboundary Basins	217
11.5.2. South Europe	218
11.5.3. Eastern Europe and Caucasus	218
11.6. Middle East	225
Section 12. Thematic Reviews	227
12.1. Climate Change	228
12.2. Caspian Sea: Special Legal Status	235

12.3. Sustainable Development Goals: Tracking the Progress	239
12.3.1. High-Level Political Forum 2018	239
12.3.2. Progress Towards SDG 6 on Water	239
12.3.3. Focus on SDG 15: Forest Restoring and Desertification Combating	243
12.3.4. Selected Indicators and Results of other SDGs	252
12.4. Earth Overshoot Day 2018	254
Section 13. Publications in 2018	257
Section 14. Central Asia Water Awards	271
Section 15. Global Risks 2019	277
Section 16. 2019 Calendar of Events	283

List of Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ALRI	Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation at the Government of Tajikistan
ASBmm	Aral Sea Basin model
ASBP	Action Program to assist the countries of the Aral Sea Basin
BISA	Basin Irrigation System Administration
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BWO	Basin Water Organization
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CDW	Collector-drainage water
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMC ICWC	Coordination Metrology Center of ICWC
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC IFAS	Executive Committee of IFAS
ECOSOC UN	Economic and Social Council
ED IFAS	Executive Directorate of IFAS
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia
EECCA NWO	Network of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia Water Management Organizations
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
ICSD	Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development of Central Asia
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
INBO	International Network of Basin Organizations
ISA	Irrigation System Administration
IWAC	International Water Assessment Center
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
IWRA	International Water Resources Association

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAWR	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan)
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NHMS	National Hydrometeorological Services
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RCH	Regional Center of Hydrology at EC IFAS
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (agency for international cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIC ICWC	Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SPECA	Special Program for the Central Asian countries
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSC	UN Security Council
UPRADIK	Amu Darya Inter-Republican Canals Division
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WCA	Water Consumer Association
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWC	World Water Council

Preface

The 2018 edition of the Water Yearbook: Central Asia and Around the Globe continues providing a summary of key developments and events of the year. The structure of the second edition has remained the same but some of 16 sections have been changed based on the feedback received. There are hopes to include more pieces of analytics in future editions. We counts on our international partners and regional experts to help with this.



The year 2018 was full of events in the region and all over the world. After a nearly ten-year break, the Summit of the Heads of IFAS Founder-State was held on the 24th of August in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. The Presidents have addressed important environmental, water and socio-economic issues in the Aral Sea Basin ("[XII Summit of the Heads of IFAS Founder-State](#)").

The May's dust and salt storm, one of the worst in the region's history, has taken a huge amount of dust and salt from the dried ground, including from the dried bed of the Aral Sea, to the air and once again reminded us on a need for increased efforts to mitigate the Aral Sea catastrophe ("[Dust and Salt Storm](#)"). The information about quite complicated water management situation due to low-water conditions in 2018 and the country actions in response, as well as other key developments can be found in "[Water Management Situation in the Aral Sea Basin](#)" and "[Key Water Developments in the Countries of Central Asia](#)". One may note here the formation of the Ministry of Water Management in Uzbekistan in 2018 as renewed recognition of the importance of sustainable water resources management in the country (see "[Uzbekistan](#)"). The activity of regional organizations in 2018 is presented in "[IFAS and other regional organizations in Central Asia](#)".

As part of bilateral cooperation between the states in the region (see "[Bilateral Water Cooperation between the States in Central Asia](#)"), particular attention can be paid to the state visits of the President of Uzbekistan to Tajikistan (March 9-10), the President of Tajikistan to Uzbekistan (17-18 August) and the President of Kyrgyzstan to Turkmenistan (August 23). Those high-level visits have got many urgent matters and specifically that related to better water use off the ground.

Cooperation of the CA countries with the United Nations was also intensive and fruitful in 2018. The countries initiated four UN General Assembly resolutions on regional cooperation, water and environment (see "[General Assembly](#)"). The International Decade for Action "[Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028](#)" as initiated by Tajikistan was started in March 22, 2018. Kazakhstan successfully completed its presidency in the UN Security Council ("[Security Council](#)") and held the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention on 10-12 October in Astana (see "[Economic Commission for Europe](#)"). Uzbekistan launched the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region on the 27th of November ("[UN Development Program](#)").

The Yearbook also covers activities of international water organizations and initiatives (in similarly-named section) and of development partners in Central Asia ("[Activity of International Partners in Central Asia](#)").

Section "[Water Education](#)" provides a summary of activities undertaken by higher education institutions, professional development centers and trainings over 2018. Here, fragmentation of the organized trainings and lack of structured information and access to learning materials are still very topical.

Section "[Science and Innovations](#)" was updated with a new subsection - "Online Information Products and Services" – about new databases, knowledge bases and information portals.

The information on all continents and major river basins can be found in "[Key Water Developments in the World](#)".

"[Thematic Reviews](#)" summarize major facts, events and reports on climate change ("[Climate Change](#)") and sustainable development goals ("[Sustainable Development Goals: Tracking the](#)").

[Progress](#)"). The progress towards SDG 6 ("[Progress towards SDG 6 on Water](#)") and SDG 15 in part of restoration of forests and combatting desertification ("[Focus on SDG 15: Restoring Forests and Combating Desertification](#)") were brought into focus. In 2018, the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus joined the global initiative on restoration of degraded and deforested land (the Bonn Challenge) and Uzbekistan increased its afforestation efforts on the dried bed of the Aral Sea. Particular attention is paid to one of major events of the past year – the signature of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea during the Fifth Caspian Summit, which was held on the 12th of August in Aktau ("[Caspian Sea: Special Legal Status](#)").

As in the previous edition, the 2018 Water Yearbook is finalized by the list of key publications, risks 2019 and the calendar of events for 2019.

In concluding, the authors would like to thank all individuals and organizations that contributed to this second edition in response to our request for information.

Professor Viktor A. Dukhovniy

May 2019

