

DIEBOLD Alfred
Executive Committee, International Fund for saving the
Aral Sea
(EC IFAS)

**The political equations of
today cannot be assumed to
remain constant during the next
decade and beyond.**

**In the future,
the key geopolitical resource in
Central Asia will be water,
much more so than oil.**

The costs of failing to manage water are counted in terms of poverty, conflict, impaired growth and lost biodiversity.

**Water will become a
new common challenge, which will
bring people and
governments together to find
innovative solutions to this life-
threatening situation.**

**The challenge is to rethink water in
Central Asia to treat it as an
opportunity for development and
improving living standards for all.**

While peace is needed for cooperation in water, a collaborative and sustainable approach to water management can guarantee peace.

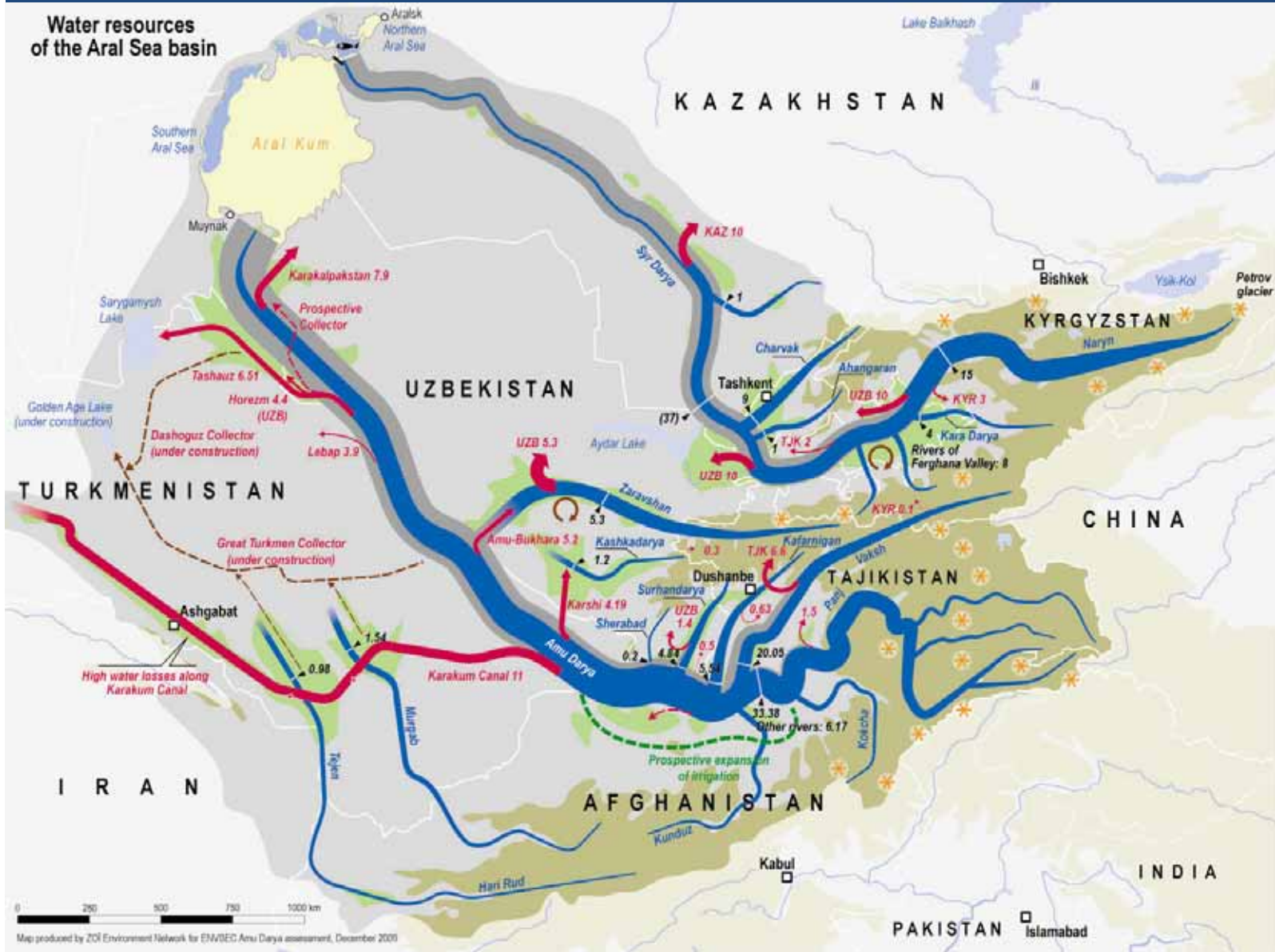
Any effort to rethink water in any region must begin with an understanding of the current realities.



“Window of Opportunity”

-from Mission to Vision to Strategy

Water resources of the Aral Sea basin



water diversion (red arrow)

river flow (blue line)

Average flow and intake (km³/year):

- 70
- 30
- 10
- 5

The width of the line reflects the volume of the flow but is not directly proportional to it

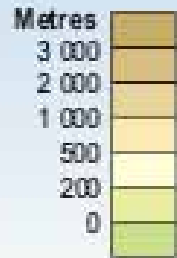
- Mountain regions above 2 000 metres
- Irrigated lands
- Drainage
- Re-use of drainage
- Main glacier areas

Source: www.cawater-info.net

Map produced by ZOI Environment Network for ENVDEC Amu Darya assessment, December 2000

Water withdrawal and availability in the Aral Sea basin

- Flow generation: water available in the country from rainfall and glacier melt
- Water abstraction: withdrawal from surface water sources (rivers, canals and lakes)



Source: Diagnostic Report on Water Resources in Central Asia, ICWC 2000.

THE MAP DOES NOT IMPLY THE EXPRESSION OF ANY OPINION ON THE PART OF THE AGENCIES CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF ANY COUNTRY, TERRITORY, CITY OR AREA OF ITS AUTHORITY, OR DELINEATION OF ITS FRONTIERS AND BOUNDARIES.

MAP BY VIKTOR NOVIKOV AND PHILIPPE REKACEWICZ - UNEP/GRID-ARENAL - APRIL 2005

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'Serving the people of Central Asia'

International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)

Mission

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL ASIA

- to work towards integration and cooperation in order to use existing water resources more effectively and efficiently,
- to ensure sustainable development, and
- to adapt to climate change in the region

Platform for a dialogue among the countries of Central Asia, as well as the international community

Vision

Improved living conditions for the people of Central Asia through better water use

Strategy

Strengthen IFAS, EC IFAS to successfully implement ASBP-3

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Direction 1 - Integrated Water Resources Management – 12 projects proposed

- Cluster 1.1 - Information system improvement – 6 projects proposed
- Cluster 1.2 - Application of IWRM principles – 4 projects proposed
- Cluster 1.3 - Dam (water works) safety – 1 project proposed
- Cluster 1.4 - Natural disaster risk management – 1 project proposed

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Direction 1 - Integrated Water Resources Management

Expected outputs are:

- Management of transboundary water resources improved
- Countries prepared to address challenges related to climate change
- Quality of hydrometeorological services improved
- Databases and computer models for the management of transboundary water resources established

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Direction 2 - Environmental Protection – 12 projects proposed

- Cluster 2.1 - Environmental protection, including assistance in implementation of Kyoto Protocol – 9 projects proposed
- Cluster 2.2 - Biodiversity management – 3 projects proposed

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Direction 2 - Environmental Protection

Expected outputs are:

- Mountainous environments improved
- The environment and productivity of pastures improved
- The environment in the deltas of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya improved
- A regional environment information system established

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Direction 3 - Socio-economic Development – 6 project proposed

- Cluster 3.1 - Sustainable development – 3 projects proposed
- Cluster 3.2 - Water supply, sanitation, and health – 2 projects proposed
- Cluster 3.3 - Assistance in the improvement of education system – 1 project proposed

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Direction 3 - Socio-economic Development

Expected outputs are:

- Small private enterprises established and developed in rural areas,
- New jobs created,
- Labor efficiency increased,
- The quality of medical services improved,
- The effectiveness and quality of education in schools and pre-school facilities in rural areas improved

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Direction 4 - Improving the Institutional and Legal Instruments – 14 projects proposed

- Cluster 4.1 - Institutional development – 6 projects proposed
- Cluster 4.2. - Strengthening of regional cooperation – 3 projects proposed
- Cluster 4.3. - Policies and strategies for sustainable development- 1 project proposed
- Cluster 4.4. - Training and capacity building – 4 projects proposed
- Cluster 4.5 - Public awareness 1 project proposed

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Direction 4 - Improving the Institutional and Legal Instruments

Expected outputs are:

- Conditions for a transparent and mutually beneficial regional dialogue and cooperation established
- Institutional mechanisms and contractual and legal frameworks of regional cooperation in water resource management improved
- Proposals to improve national legislative acts and regulatory documents developed
- The capacity of EC IFAS strengthened
- A Communication Strategy for stakeholders and the public established
- Training systems for the water sector and the hydrometeorological services in Central Asia improved