



SUB-REGION SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Session Title: Synthesis of Paths towards Water Security in Central Asia

22 May 2024 16:40 – 18:10 (Room 5)

Sub-Region (**Central Asia**) Synthesis Session

Sub-region Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

1. Mr.Serik Bekmaganbetov, Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Deputy Chairman of EC IFAS, serik.ifas@gmail.com
2. Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Chair of TAC GWP CACENA, Vice-President of ICID, Head of Agency of IFAS in Uzbekistan e-mail : vadim_sokol@mail.ru; info@aral.uz
3. Ms. Zhanar Mautanova, Director of the International Water Assessment Center, zh.mautanova@iwac.kz

Session Description (300 words):

Countries of Central Asia are facing increasing water deficit, which is due to the impact of climate change, aging water infrastructure, application of low-efficiency water use technologies and weak organizational capacity of existing regional water authorities.

Region observes increased demand for water because of population growth, as well as increasing needs of the economic sectors of the countries, including Afghanistan, which still is not directly covered by regional cooperation frameworks.

Central Asian countries must think about development of the integrated basin-wide strategy to optimize water use efficiency and maximize efforts to resist to the climate challenges. It is necessary to combine efforts to improve IFAS, implement ASBP-4 and try to find the new models for interaction and adopt principled decisions on the emerging new risks. Transboundary water cooperation in the Aral Sea basin is crucial for developing the economic potential of countries and ensuring security and stability in the region, as well as for rehabilitating the environmental situation.

This session aims at bringing together high-level water related officials and stakeholders from Central Asia countries, key development partners and international organizations, as well as other parties to find mutual consensus on how to move towards water security under stress from climate change impacts.

Water availability in a semi-arid region like Central Asia is a key to generate sustainable economic development for all regional countries. This can, however, only be reached through joint actions on ensuring effective cooperation between the regional countries and their development partners with main focus on the effective use of limited available water resources.

The session outcomes are planned to be discussed at the global event “One Water Summit” in September 2024 in New York, USA.

The session outcomes also would be useful for Central Asian countries to be better prepared for next COP-29 which will be held in November 2024 in Azerbaijan.

Key messages from your Sub-region (2 maximum)

1. Together, the key stakeholders in the region aim to gather consensus and initiatives to scale up their efforts and best water practices to overcome water security challenges
2. Also the session aims to shed light on sources of financing, both domestic and international, for countries in the sub-region to elevate capability and scaling of climate finance to deliver water security goals and targets.

Concrete outcomes (eg. Initiatives, practices, dialogue, commitment, etc.) (5 maximum)

1. Water availability is a key factor for improving the well-being of the regional population and a key parameter for sustainable development, which can, however, only be reached through systemic transboundary cooperation.
2. There are needed urgent actions as well as region faces severe and intensifying water security challenges, which are aggravated by climate change.
3. While continuing to strengthen domestic climate policy incentives, Central Asian countries are expected to embed goals and targets in National climate change adaptation plans and enhance accountability and transparency to not only attract finance but also assure outcomes and impacts.
4. Regional countries and their development partners are committed for increasing of capacity and capability of water project development and mobilization of capital from domestic and international donors and funders.

Detailed Session plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
2,5 min	Opening - session brief description (Moderator)	Session moderator Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Chair of TAC GWP CACENA	OK
15 min	Welcome address and outcomes from Regional session RP8, Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Aral Sea basin for a better Future	Chair of Executive Committee of IFAS, Mr. Askhat Orazbay	OK
10 min	Outcomes from Regional session RP7 “Mobilizing Water Finance for Climate Resilience in Central Asia and Caucasus”	Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Chair of TAC GWP CACENA	OK
10 min	Contribution from Project “Green Central Asia: Transboundary dialogue on climate, environment and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan”	Dr. Mrs. Caroline Milow, Project Coordinator (GIZ, Germany)	TBC
15 min	Contribution from National Water Resources	Dr., Ms. Omina islamova, International Project manager	OK



	Management Project in Uzbekistan, Phase III (NWRM)	SDC, Switzerland	
15 min	The CAREC Water Pillar- a vehicle for long term cooperation in Central Asia	Mrs. Yasmin Siddiqi, Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office of ADB	OK
17,5 min	Agreement to converging vision, strategy and partnerships (three to five synergy priorities) as a solid foundation for the pathway forward, to get all partners and countries in the region to act together by pulling resources, expertise and projects together	Session moderators Ms. Zhanar Mautanova, Director of the International Water Assessment Center and Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Chair of TAC GWP CACENA	OK
5 min (Totally = 90 min)	Finalization and session closing	Chair of Executive Committee of IFAS, Mr. Askhat Orazbay	OK