



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Executive Committee of the International Fund
for Saving the Aral Sea
and
the International Water Management Institute**

The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (hereinafter referred to as the EC IFAS),

and the International Water Management Institute (hereinafter referred to as IWMI),

hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties,"

considering that the EC IFAS is the executive body of IFAS with the status of an international intergovernmental organization and ensures the practical implementation of the decisions of the Council of Heads of State-Founders of IFAS, the President, and the Board of IFAS on the issues related to the Aral Sea Basin,

considering that IWMI is an international, research-for-development organization, with offices in 15 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 55 countries, towards water management that contributes to social and economic development,

respecting the objectives and responsibilities outlined in the founding documents of the Parties,

expressing gratitude for previous cooperation under the Program of Specific Actions for Improving the Environmental and Socio-Economic Situation in the Aral Sea Basin for 2003-2010 (ASBP-2) and the Program of Assistance to the Aral Sea Basin Countries for 2011-2015 (ASBP-3),

based on the intentions to further develop cooperation,

considering mutual interests,

have agreed on the following:

Article 1. Objectives of Cooperation

1. The Parties intend to cooperate in order to implement the Program of Assistance to the Aral Sea Basin Countries (ASBP-4) for 2021-2030 through joint projects and programs, the organization of joint events, research, and innovation.

Article 2. Areas of Cooperation

1. For the purposes of this Memorandum, the Parties intend to cooperate in the following areas:

1.1. Integrated Water Resources Management:

1.1.1. Improving the quality of monitoring and forecasting water resources, optimizing the water use system and discipline;

1.1.2. Implementing infrastructure projects that ensure integrated water resource use;

1.1.3. Improving regional management, monitoring, and information exchange (water quality and quantity, etc.);

1.1.4. Efficient use of water resources.

1.2. Ecology:

1.2.1. Reducing and preventing pollution of surface and groundwater;

1.2.2. Reducing land degradation;

1.2.3. Reducing the risk of natural disasters, particularly floods, mudflows, and droughts;

1.2.4. Creating a flood early warning system for the population;

1.2.5. Assessing the state of glaciers in the Aral Sea Basin, the impact of climate change, and developing necessary measures.

1.3. Socio-Economic Development:

1.3.1. Ensuring access to drinking water for the population of the Aral Sea Basin according to forecasted demand up to 2030;

1.3.2. Improving the well-being of the population, particularly in terms of ensuring access to safe drinking water according to international and national standards, reducing waterborne infectious diseases, and ensuring sanitation and wastewater treatment;

1.3.3. Providing safe water supply for industrial development and minimizing the negative impact associated with water pollution from industrial discharges;

1.3.4. Water supply for irrigated land.

2. The Parties agreed to maintain high scientific quality in their joint activities, exchange research results, disseminate, and apply them to address pressing issues and problems.

3. To achieve the objectives of this Memorandum, the Parties may enter into agreements with other relevant organizations.

Article 3. Forms of Cooperation

1. Subject to resource availability, the Parties intend to cooperate as follows, but not limited to:

1.1. Initiating and implementing joint applied research projects aimed at supporting decision-making based on evidence in hydrology and water resources management, including projects promoting the use of innovative renewable and green technologies to improve sustainable water use and the ecological situation in the Aral Sea Basin;

1.2. Applying research results in practice;

1.3. Jointly seeking funding opportunities;

1.4. Providing technical assistance from IWMI;

1.5. Providing access to IWMI's research products such as databases and maps;

1.6. Facilitating activities on existing projects of the Parties, agreed upon on a case-by-case basis;

1.7. Publishing and disseminating research results together with scientists and specialists from Central Asian countries;

1.8. Organizing conferences, forums, seminars, and other events;

1.9. Promoting links between relevant institutions of Central Asian countries and similar institutions in other countries;

1.10. Conducting capacity-building activities by IWMI;

1.11. Providing opportunities for education by IWMI in Central Asian countries and beyond.

Article 4. Research Neutrality

Any data, findings, inventions, works, publications, or anything else obtained as a result of joint research under this Memorandum shall not be used for profit or material gain.

Article 5. Financial Terms

Each Party shall cover all costs associated with its own activities under this Memorandum, including, but not limited to, staff salaries, accommodation for foreign guests, transportation, fellowships for researchers, research equipment, office supplies, report publications, etc.

Article 6. Intellectual Property Rights

1. The Parties understand and agree that intellectual property created, generated, or improved during joint research may be the sole or joint property.
2. Specific provisions concerning the Parties' intellectual property rights will be included in research projects or any subsequent agreements.
3. The Parties will make every effort to ensure the widest possible access to all intellectual property and research results created during their collaboration.

Article 7. Data Protection

1. Each Party shall maintain the confidentiality of information identified as confidential provided by the other Party in connection with this Memorandum.
2. The Parties agree not to disclose personal data, protect personal data, complying with relevant regulations.
3. The Parties shall implement safeguards for personal data, ensuring equivalent protections in disclosure or transfer.

Article 8. Branding and Recognition

1. With prior consensus between the parties, the Parties may use each other's logos to inform about cooperation in relevant materials and platforms.
2. Recognition of support, expertise, development, and knowledge transfer under this Memorandum will be acknowledged by the Parties during and after the term of this Memorandum. Authorship acknowledgments will be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis.

Article 9. Miscellaneous

1. This Memorandum contains the full understanding and agreement of the Parties regarding its subject matter and supersedes all previous agreements and arrangements between them in this regard.
2. Neither Party may transfer or assign its rights and obligations under this Memorandum without prior written consent from the other Party.
3. If any provision is held to be invalid or contrary to applicable law, the validity of the remaining parts of this document shall not be affected.
4. Failure by either Party to apply or enforce any provision of this Memorandum shall not be considered a waiver of such provisions and shall not affect their subsequent application.

Article 10. Dispute Resolution

Disputes between the Parties regarding the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be resolved through consultations and negotiations.

Article 11. Amendments and Modifications

This Memorandum may be amended and supplemented, which shall be executed by separate protocols and form an integral part of it.

Article 12. Entry into Force and Duration

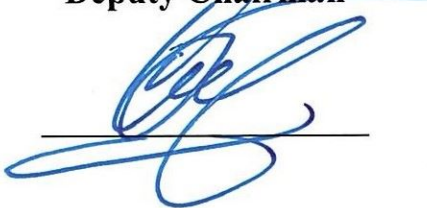
1. This Memorandum enters into force upon signature and remains in effect until the completion of ASBP-4.
2. The term of this Memorandum may be extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.
3. The validity of this Memorandum may be terminated by either Party upon three months' written notice to the other.

Executed in the city of Baku on the ___ day of November 2024 in two copies in English and Russian.

In the event of any discrepancies in the interpretation of this Memorandum, the English text shall prevail.

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for Saving the Aral Sea**
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