



# **INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT IN UZBEKISTAN: DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

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# Problems of the Aral Sea and its surrounding area



**"Today, the difficulty and complexity of the Aral Sea problem has not only environmental, but also social, economic and demographic impacts of planetary consequences"**

From the speech of the President of Uzbekistan at UN Session (New York, September 20, 2010)

# Problems of the Aral Sea and its surrounding area

Over the past 50 years:

- the Aral Sea has shrunk by almost **8 times**;
- volume of water decreased by **13 times**;
- the level of salinity of sea water has grown more than **12 times**;
- dry seabed area reached over **6 mln hestares**, including **4 mln hestares** in Uzbekistan.



- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009** 

# Water Infrastructure of Uzbekistan

- 180 000 km of the canal network
- 140 000 km of drainage system
- 160 000 facilities, of which more than 800 are major
- More than 1,500 large pumping stations with an annual energy consumption of 8.2 billion kWh
- more than 4,100 wells for irrigation
- more than 4,300 wells for drainage
- more than 41.5 thousand qualified specialists



- Since 2003, in order to improve the water resources management in the Republic of Uzbekistan and to provide a transition from administrative-territorial to basin principle of irrigation systems management, **10 Basin Management Boards of Irrigation Systems** have been established instead of 230 hydro-economic operating organizations.

# Measures Taken

- Within relatively short period of time Uzbekistan has been recognized by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other international organizations as a leader in Central Asia in the field of introduction of the principles of river basin management. Currently around **1 mln hectares or 23%** of the overall irrigated land in Uzbekistan is already **under integrated water resources management.**



# Measures Taken

- To ensure effective domestic water management and water supply to farmers, some 1,500 water consumer associations representing more than 80,000 water consumers and covering around 4 million hectares of land have been established and are operating successfully.
- Within relatively short period of time Uzbekistan has been recognized by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other international organizations as a leader in Central Asia in the field of introduction of the principles of river basin management. Currently around 1 mln hectares or 23% of the overall irrigated land in Uzbekistan is already under integrated water resources management.



# Measures Taken

- Every year, the Government provides funds for the **cleaning and repair** of more than 5,000 km of trunk canals and 16,000 km of irrigation and flume systems in areas managed by water consumer associations and farmers, as well as **more than 10,000 hydraulic facilities and gauging stations**.

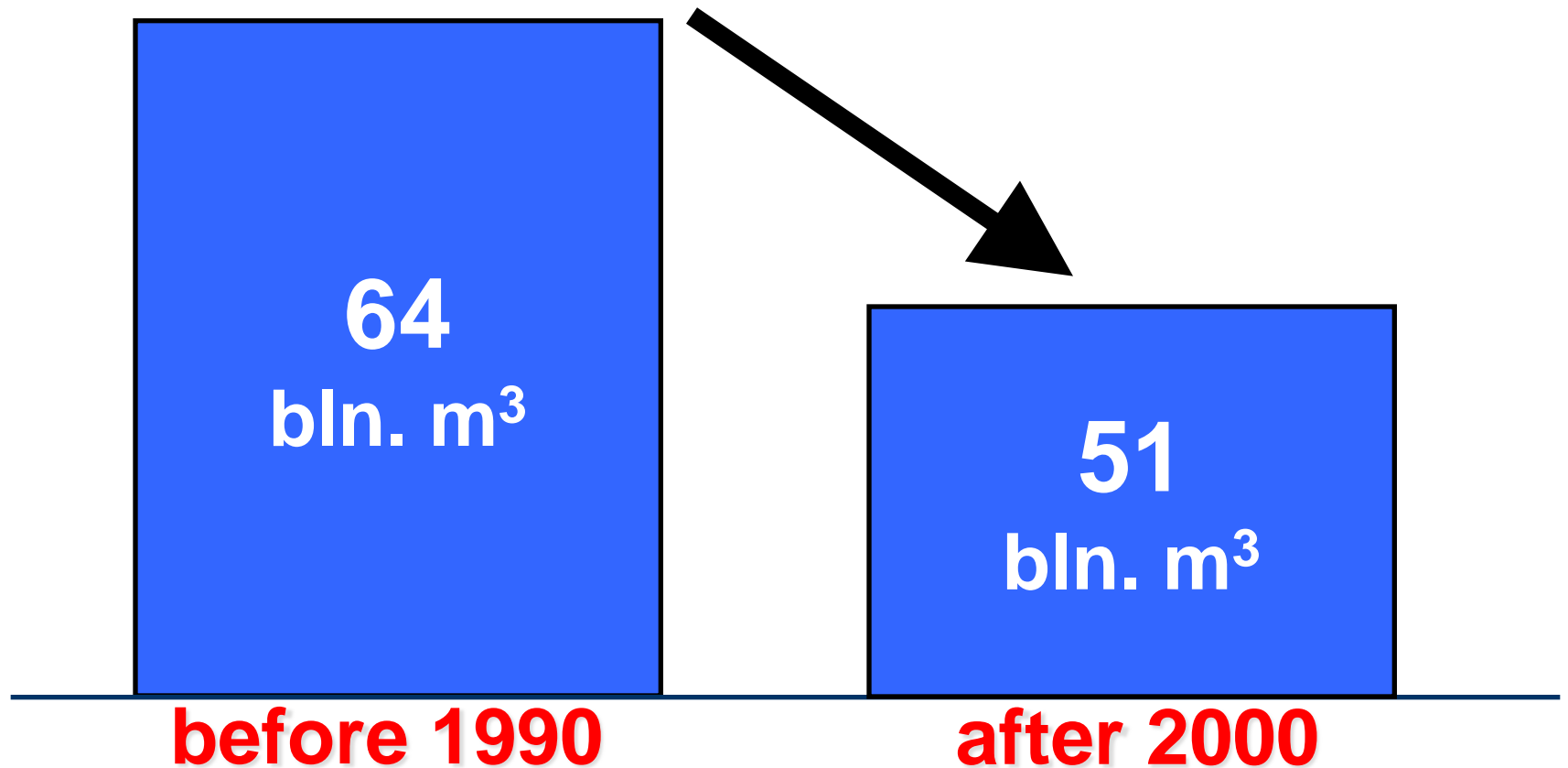


# Measures Taken

- In just the past few years, drip irrigation systems have been built and put into operation **on more than 10,000 ha**. The Government fully supports this area of development. There are plans to build a drip irrigation system on more **25,000 ha of land by 2018**.



## Changes in Water Intake (Uzbekistan)



# International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)



**IFAS** was established by Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan **on March 23, 1993** to raise funds for the projects under Aral Sea Basin programs.

- This institution is **the only political mechanism in Central Asia that involves all five countries of the region.**
- In August 2013 Uzbekistan assumed its presidency at the IFAS for the period of 2013-2016 and elaborated the **“Program of measures on eliminating the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and averting the catastrophe of the ecological systems in the Aral Sea region.** The Program is recognized as an **official document of the 68th General Assembly of the UN** and has been supported by the General Secretary of the UN Mr. Ban-Ki Moon.

# MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY OF UZBEKISTAN AT IFAS

- Creation of conditions for life, reproduction and preservation of the gene pool in the Aral Sea region.
- Improved measures to manage and save water.
- Implementation of large-scale measures to plant forests on the dessicated area of the Aral Sea and prevent desertification in the region.
- Preservation of biodiversity, restoration of biological resources and protection of flora and fauna.
- Further institutional reinforcement and strengthening of cooperation between countries in the region, in the framework of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, and stepped-up efforts to alert the international community to the Aral Sea catastrophe.



**Thank you**