



International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)

as a basis for regional cooperation
in Central Asia

Dr. Saghit Ibatullin
Chairman of the EC IFAS

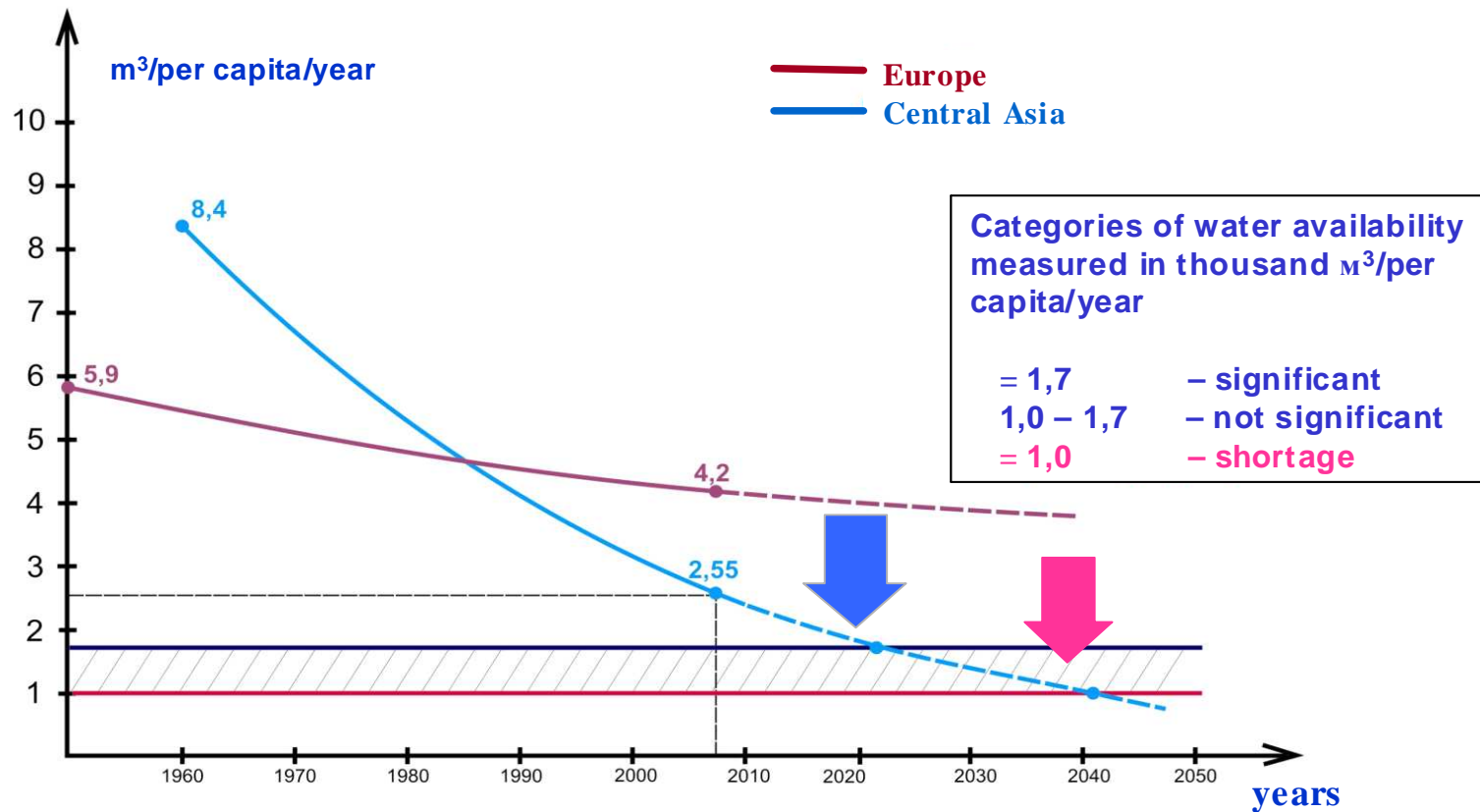
Genève, March 2010

The Aral Sea Basin



Water availability in Central Asia (The Aral Sea Basin)

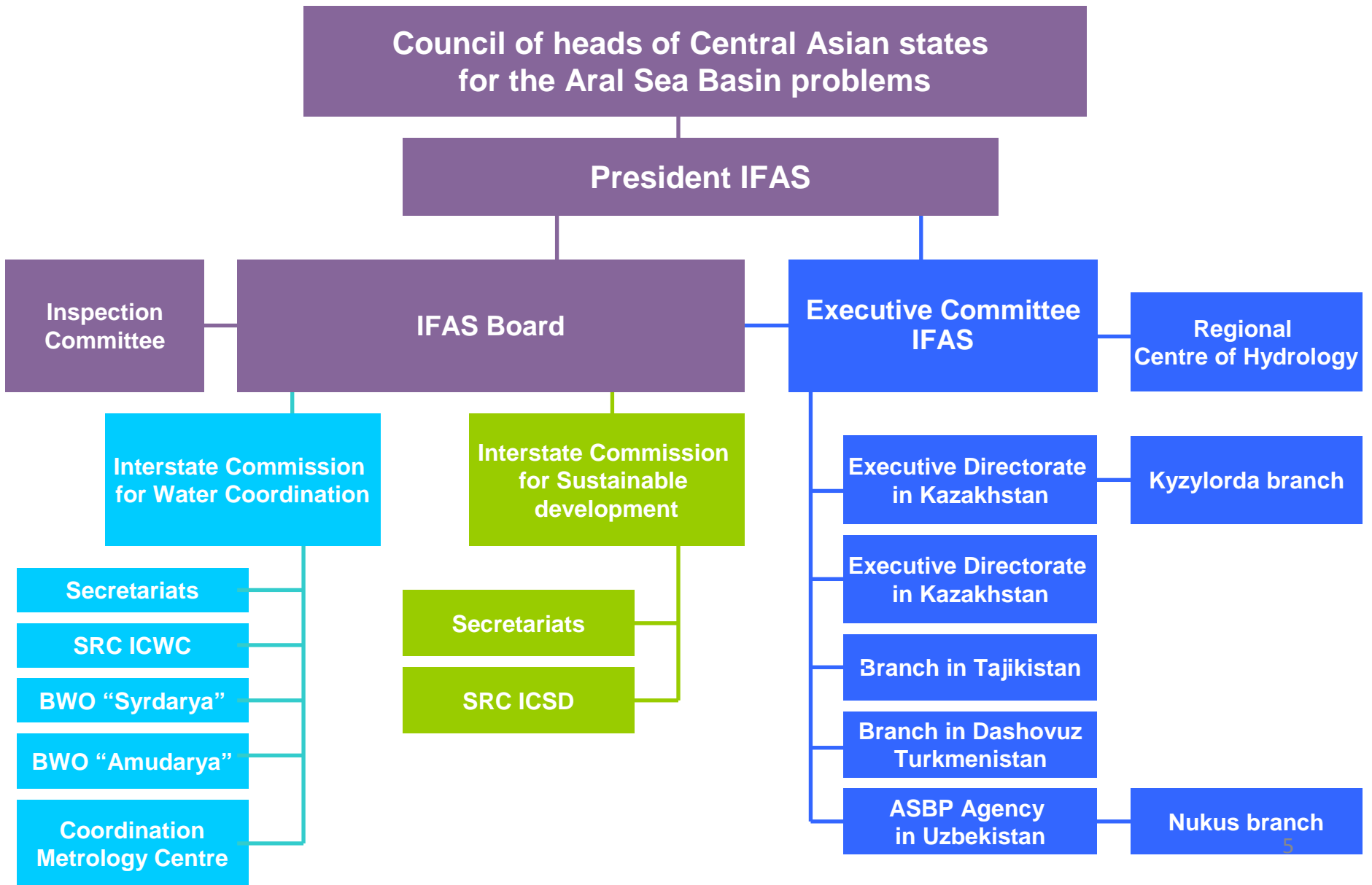
Dynamics of water availability change in the countries of Central Asia





Political and organizational basis for the IFAS activities

- **Political basis:**
 - Joint Statement adopted by the Heads of States-founders of IFAS from April 28, 2009
 - UN International Decade for Action “Water for Life” from March 22, 2005 (announced by UN General Assembly on December 23, 2003)
 - UN Millennium Development Goals from September 8, 2000
- **Organizational basis (see next slide)**





IFAS Strategy and Action Plan following the Joint Statement of the Heads of CA States from April 2009

Aim 1. Continued cooperation aiming to improve the ecological and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea Basin.

Aim 2. Development of mutually acceptable mechanisms for integrated water resources management and environmental protection in Central Asia taking into account interests of all states in the Region.



(continued)

Objective 1. Development of collaboration with UN institutions and other international organizations.

Objective 2. Further strengthening of the role and efficiency of IFAS

Objective 3. Development of the Aral Sea Basin Programme - 3 for the period of 2011-2015.



Components of the Aral Sea Basin Programme-3

- I Integrated water resources management taking into account interests of all states in the region**
- II Ecological direction**
- III Socio-economic direction**
- IV Improvement of institutional and legislative mechanisms**



Major stages and timelines in the development of ASBP-3

- **May 2009 - 2010** – development of the ASPB-3 draft and project proposals, preparation of the first variant of the ASBP-3 by the Working group of experts.
- **June-August 2010** – finalization of ASBP-3, organizational work for a donor conference and high-level meeting.
- **November 2010** – donor conference for coordination – discussion of ASBP-3 projects, including financial aspects, capacity and conditions for the ASBP-3 implementation.
- **End of 2010** – High-level meeting of the IFAS member-states–discussion and approval of the ASBP-3.
- **2011-2015** – monitoring and assessment of the projects during ASBP-3 implementation.