

Implementing the Water Convention: Advantages to become a Party



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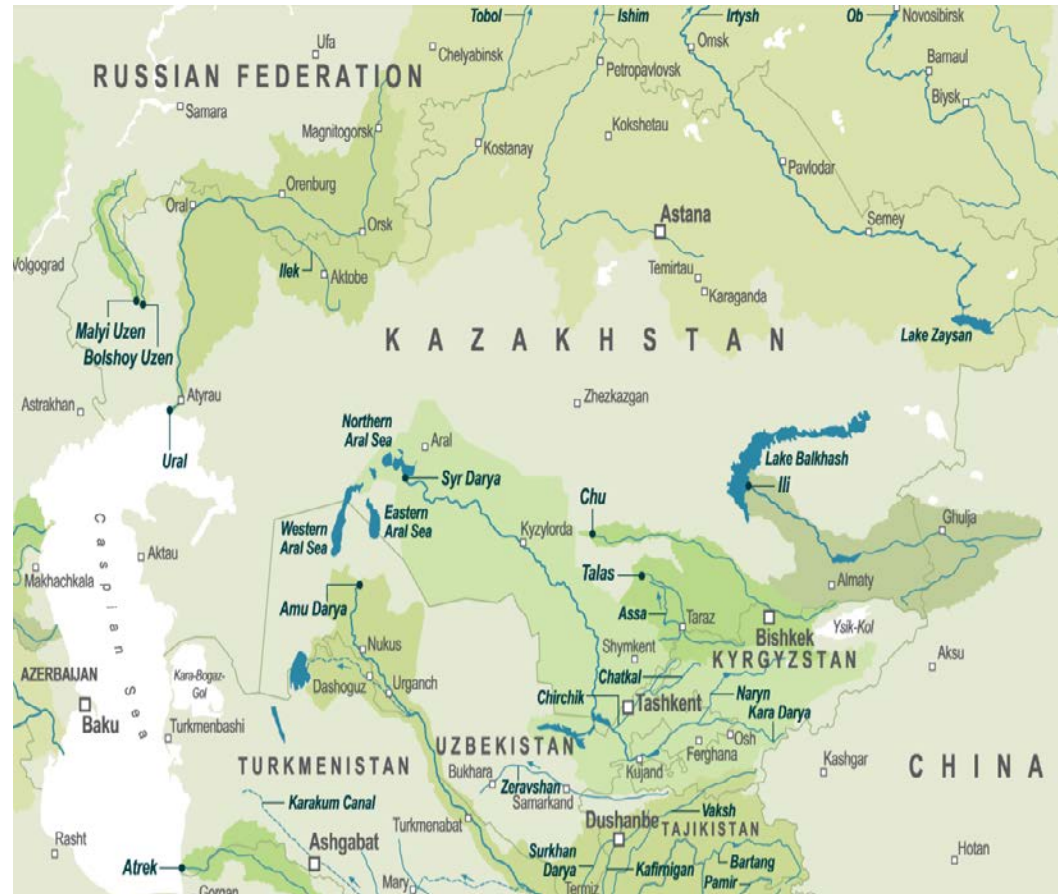
Figure 2. Map of Main River Basins in Kazakhstan



Source: Water Resource Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Central Asian countries and the UNECE Water Convention

- Kazakhstan acceded to the UNECE Water Convention in October 2000
- A few years ago also Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan acceded to the Convention



Why Kazakhstan has decided to accede to the Water Convention

- To adhere to international legislation
- To adhere to the principle of integrated water resources management not only at national, but also at international level
- To strengthen the existing trust between countries on the use of transboundary water resources
- To develop cooperation with neighboring countries on the use of water resources of transboundary rivers based on provisions of international legislation

Advantages of being a Party to the Convention (at the national level)

- It helps to improve the national legislation with introduction into it the recognized international legal principles and definitions (such as “Precautionary principle”, “Polluter pays”, "Best available technology", "Environment quality objectives” and etc.
- It helps to strengthen the inter-sectoral collaboration in our country
- It promotes us to allocate domestic financial resources for the purposes of the protection of water resources

Benefits of implementing the UNECE Water Convention *(at bilateral and multilateral)*



- Agreement concerning the joint use and protection of transboundary waters (Kazakhstan, Russia, 1992)
- Agreement on the use of water and energy resources of the Syr Darya Basin (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, 1998)
- Agreement on the status of the International Aral Sea Fund and its organizations (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, 1999)

Benefits of implementing the UNECE Water Convention *(at bilateral and multilateral)*



- Agreement on management and protection of transboundary rivers (China, Kazakhstan, 2001)
- Agreement on Utilization of the Water Facilities Use on the Chu and Talas Rivers (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, 2002)

Cooperative institutions:
International Fund for Saving
the Aral Sea + bilateral
commissions

The Water Convention: Not only rights and obligations

- Forum for bilateral and multilateral cooperation
- Sharing of experience and good practices through the intergovernmental framework
- Access to financial assistance
- Projects on the ground



Benefits of transboundary cooperation

- joining forces to protect the water resources
- exchanging knowledge and experience
- comparability of methods, analyses
- enhancing mutual understanding and etc.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY UNECE

Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia

Objectives:

- Prompt countries concerned to set up or revise national dam safety regulatory frameworks to achieve their harmonization
- Promote subregional cooperation for information exchange and notification in case of accidents or emergency situations with dams

Priorities:

1. Legislations and institutions at the national level
2. Training on the safe operation of hydrotechnical installations
3. Regional cooperation:
4. Safer operations of individual dams



National Policy Dialogue (NPD)

Creation of platform of water policy discussions

- EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue started in 2013
- Establishment of high-level national Steering Committee
- Regular platform for exchange between ministries and other stakeholders
- Involvement of UNECE, OECD and UNDP to facilitate policy advise on water issues

Preparation for ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health

- 2-day national workshop for stakeholders with UNECE and international experts
- Feasibility study on rationale of joining the Protocol
- Background documentation necessary for ratification process
- Successful fundraising to start the process of national target setting under the Protocol in 2015

Thank you for your attention!