

**Executive Committee  
of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea  
(EC IFAS)**

**Rebuilding Regional Water Cooperation**

**Dr. Saghit Ibatullin  
Chairman of the EC IFAS**

**Stockholm 2009**

## Area of the Aral Sea Basin



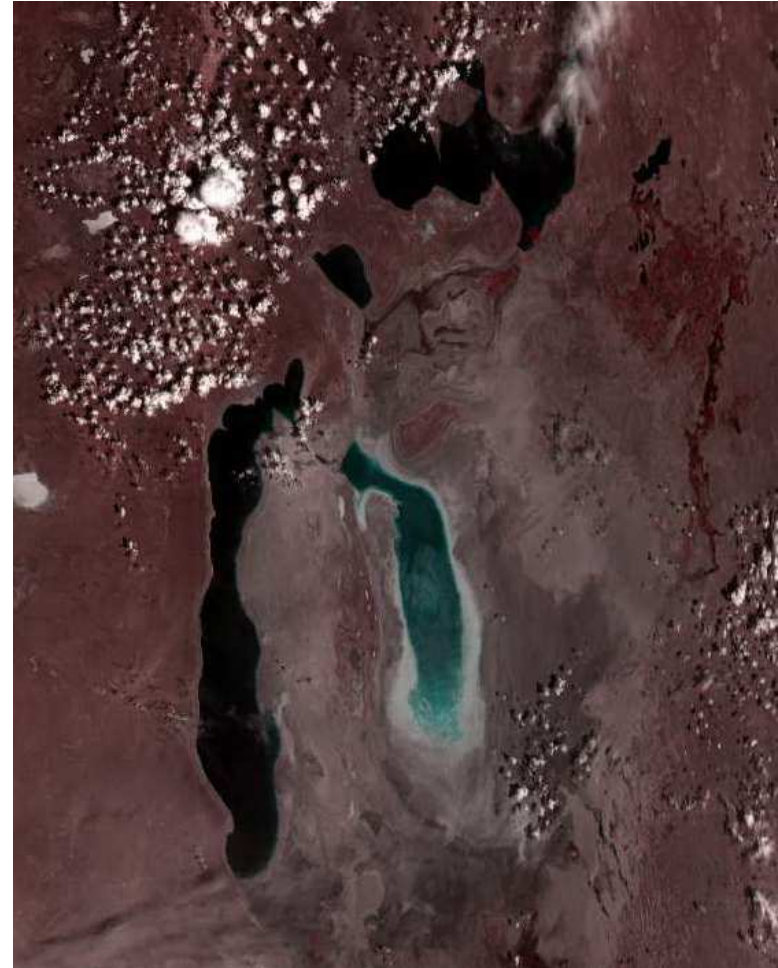
# Satellite picture of the Aral Sea

for the year of 2008

(red line border of the Sea before 1965)



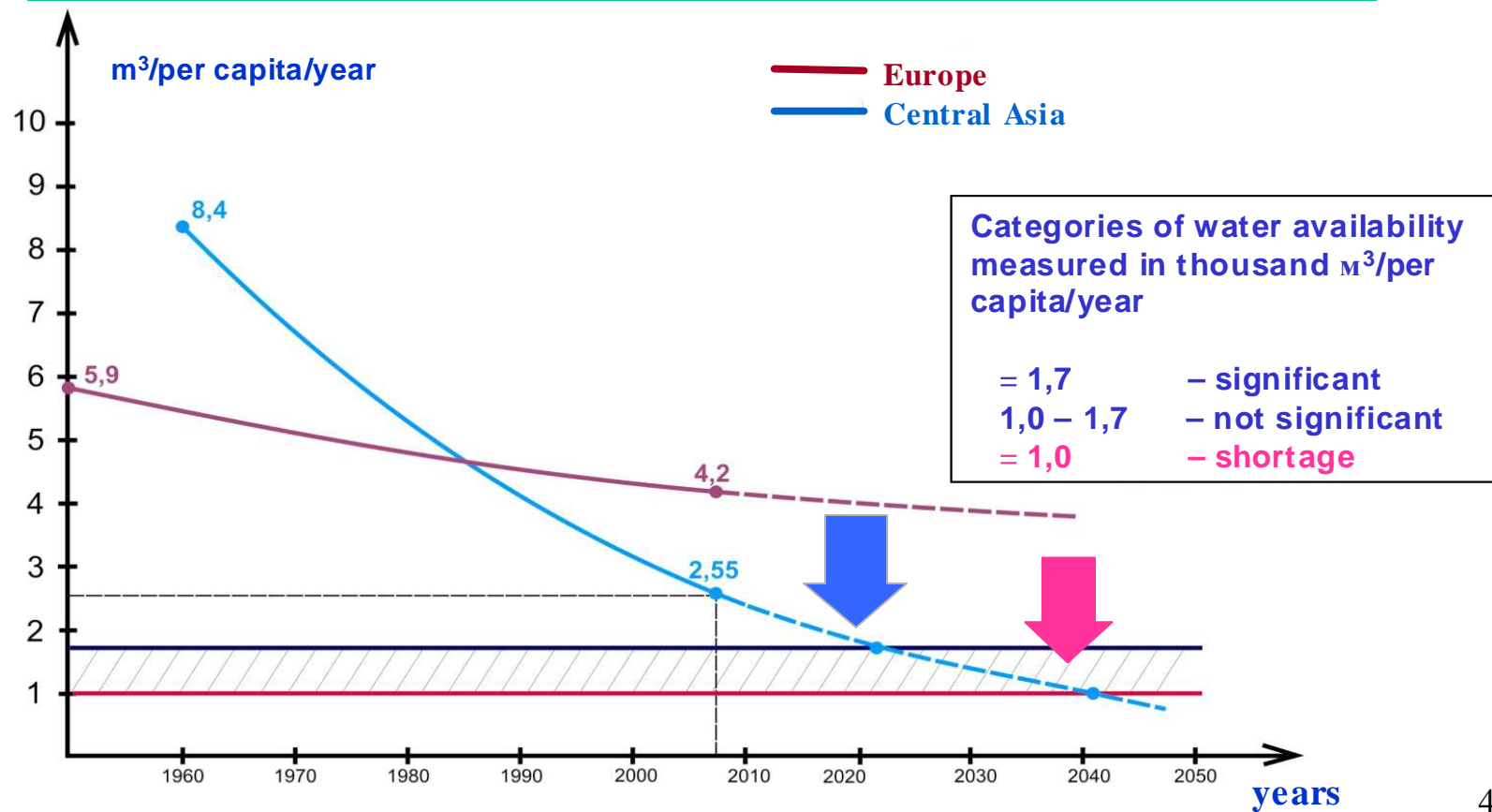
for June 2009



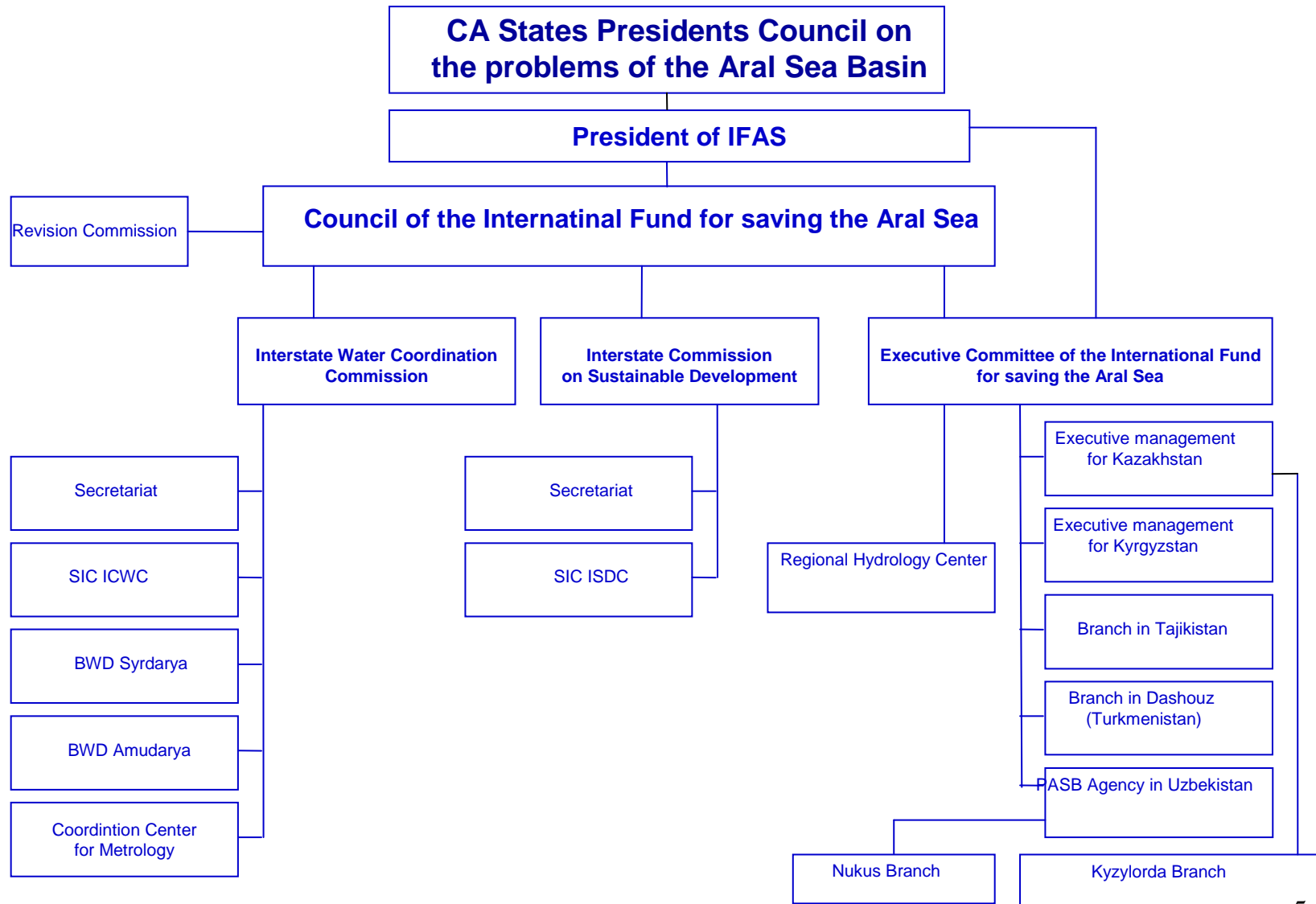
# Water availability for population in Central Asia (Aral Sea Basin)

Population growth in Central Asia from 1960 to 2009 made about 30 million people.  
Water availability per capita from 1960 to 2005 in Central Asia declined from  
**8.2 to 2.55 thousand m<sup>3</sup>/year**

## Dynamics of water availability change in the countries of Central Asia



# Organizational Structure of IFAS



# SWOT analysis

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strengths</b></p> <p><b>Political base:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Statements of the Heads of the IFAS member-countries from April 28, 2009</li><li>2. UN Millennium Development Goals from September 8, 2000</li><li>3. UN International Decade for Action Water for Life from March 22, 2005 (announced by UN GA on December 23, 2003)</li></ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <p><b>Legislative base:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Inadequate organizational structure</li><li>2. Inadequate regional legislative base in the area of energy-water resources use and protection of the environment</li><li>3. Weak coordination of organizing and implementing projects and programs in the Region (regional, national, donors projects and programs)</li><li>4. Inefficient scheme of the IFAS resolutions implementation</li></ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Organizational base:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. High administrative resource of the EC IFAS (ability to attract for the work any organization in the Region)</li><li>2. High potential of the research capacity of the organizations in the Region: RC ICCWM, RHC EC (including hydro meteorological centers of the countries), RC ICSD, branches of the EC in the region, Research Institutes, Universities, and others.</li></ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Existing and newly emerging problems in the Region advance preventive measures being undertaken</p>

# Strategy of the EC IFAS

## Major mission of the EC IFAS up to the year of 2011:

- Preparation, development, and ensuring successful implementation of the PASB -3 for the period of 2011-2015

## Objective:

- Ensuring sustainable development of the Region in the real life conditions of the Aral Sea basin.

## Political base:

- Joint statement of the Heads of the member-countries of the IFAS from April 23, 2009
- Millennium Development Goals of the UN from September 8, 2000
- International Decade for Action "Water for Life" from March 22, 2005 (on December 23, 2003 GA of the UN announced the years of 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action Water for life).

## Organization base:

- High administrative resource of the EC IFAS (ability to attract for the work any organization in the Region)
- High potential of the research capacity of the organizations in the Region: RC ICCWM, RHC EC (including hydro meteorological centers of the countries), RC ICSD, branches of the EC in the region, Research Institutes, Universities, and others.

## Legislative base:

- Optimal organizational structure of the IFAS
- Adequate regional legislative base in the area of energy-water resources and protection of the environment

## Strategy:

- Detailed plan of activities on implementation of Joint statement of the Heads of the IFAS member-countries from April 28, 2009.

# Tasks on increasing efficiency of regional cooperation

1. **Necessity of joining to international conventions or development of regional set of documents on transboundary water agreements.**
2. **Necessity of improving IFAS structure, strengthening its mandate, and approval of new Agreement relating to IFAS and Legislative documents of its structural branches according to the UN GA Resolution on "About giving to IFAS UN observer status".**
3. **Development of unified and recognized by all the countries of the region information data base (meteorological, hydrological, ecological, and others).**
4. **Increasing public awareness and interest relating to water issues.**
5. **Strengthening coordination activities of the structural bodies of the IFAS and donor organizations as well.**
6. **Implementation of projects unanimously supported by all the countries of the Basin because issues of joint use and management of transboundary waters require continuous and discussion and considering interests of all parties on the political level:**
  - *Safety of dams,*
  - *Quality of transboundary waters,*
  - *Strengthening monitoring and public awareness on water resources,*
  - *Lowering water consumption*
  - *and others.*



## Tasks on increasing efficiency of regional cooperation

### 7. Improving of energy and water resources management in Central Asia and achievement of sustainable development through application unified system of management based on three levels:

#### – **1 level: Interstate management**

development of following interstate documents:

- Strategy of energy-water resources use in Central Asia;
- Program of energy security in the countries of Central Asia;
- Water Convention of Central Asia;

agreement and joining to existing legislative documents:

- Framework convention on environmental protection for sustainable development in Central Asia (2006).
- Sub regional strategy of sustainable development of Central Asia.

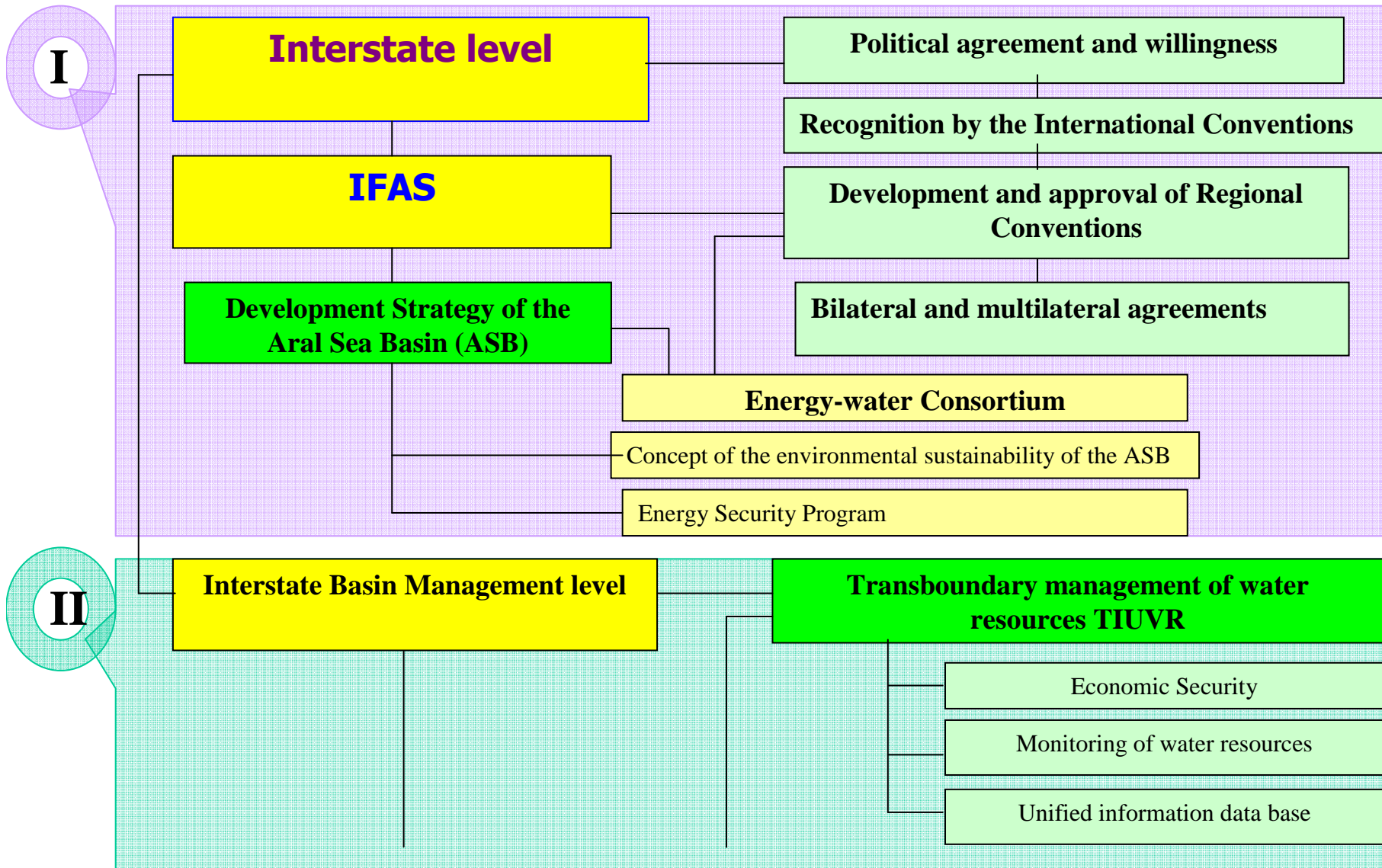
#### – **2 level: Interstate basin level management**

- Development and adoption of Interstate integrated water resources management of the Amudarya and Syrdarya basins,
- Adoption of transboundary water resources monitoring system,
- Development of unified information data base based on well developed hydro meteorological services networks, hydro stations providing required observation of mountain glaciers and rivers.

#### – **3 level: National Basin Councils**

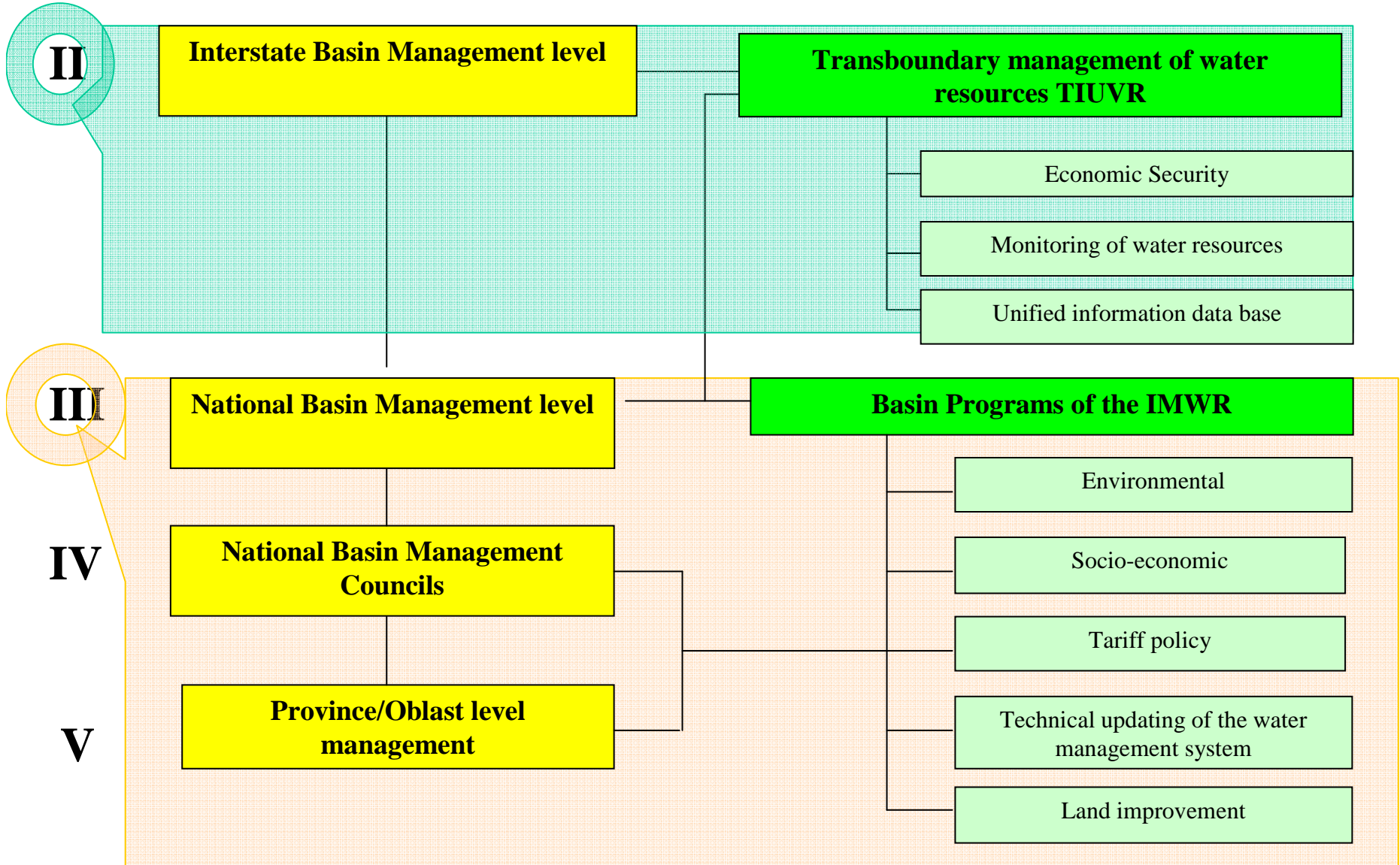
- Development of IWRM in the national borders of the rivers,
- Fundamental improvement of technical conditions of water management systems,
- Development of land improvement programs and preventing soil salinity in the irrigated areas,
- Development of appropriate for each country tariff based policy for water consumption,
- Working out socio-economic development program and environmental safety of river basins.

# Scheme of the organization of the Aral Sea Basin Management



Continued on the next slide

# Continuation of the Scheme



# Tasks on increasing efficiency of regional cooperation

8. Development of regional guidance on water monitoring and data exchange:
  - development and acceptance of unified method of data collection and data exchange;
  - enlarging and updating monitoring stations, meteorological stations and hydro stations;
  - development of regional program on "Impact of climate change on water resources in Central Asia".
  
9. Preparation and development of the PASB-3:
  - analysis of world trends, regional situations, and analysis of indicative data for development of PASB-3 Program;
  - providing information base for implementing objectives and tasks of the PASB-3 and involvement of national experts, public community and NGOs for this work;
  - conducting donors' conference (2010):
    - Objectives of the Conference:
      - discussion, agreement, and getting approval from donors on major content of the PASB-3 Program and comprehensive regional Projects within PASB-3;
      - involvement of national and international experts and public community and NGOs for the development of regional projects.
  
10. Targeted actions on rehabilitation and successful completion of the PASB-2. Taking into consideration results of the PASB-2 implementation while developing PASB-3 Program.

**Project of major areas of activities on providing assistance  
for the countries of the Aral Sea Basin for the period of 2011-  
2015 (PASB-3)**

**I Water-Energy issues**

**II Environmental and economic issues**

**III Socio-economic issues**

**IV Monitoring of the environment and  
approval of resolutions**

## What we are expecting from UN and OSCE

1. Development of wider political and investment arena for the IFAS activities through:
  - a) within the interests of the IFAS from one hand and possibilities of the financial institutes (donors) from the other;
  - b) excluding parallels and duplication better coordination of donors' activities while investing for programs and projects in the region on the base of "Equator Principle"
  - c) development motivation system and priorities for financing regional projects including PASB-3.
2. Development of mutually exchangeable mechanisms of conflict resolution and compensating economic losses resulted from violation of agreements on joint use of water resources.
3. Development of cooperation mechanism with the specialized UN organizations as UNEP, UNICEF, WHO (signing Memorandums, agreements, development of joint programs).

Thank you for attention!