

Will the environment become an important element in
water cooperation in Central Asia?



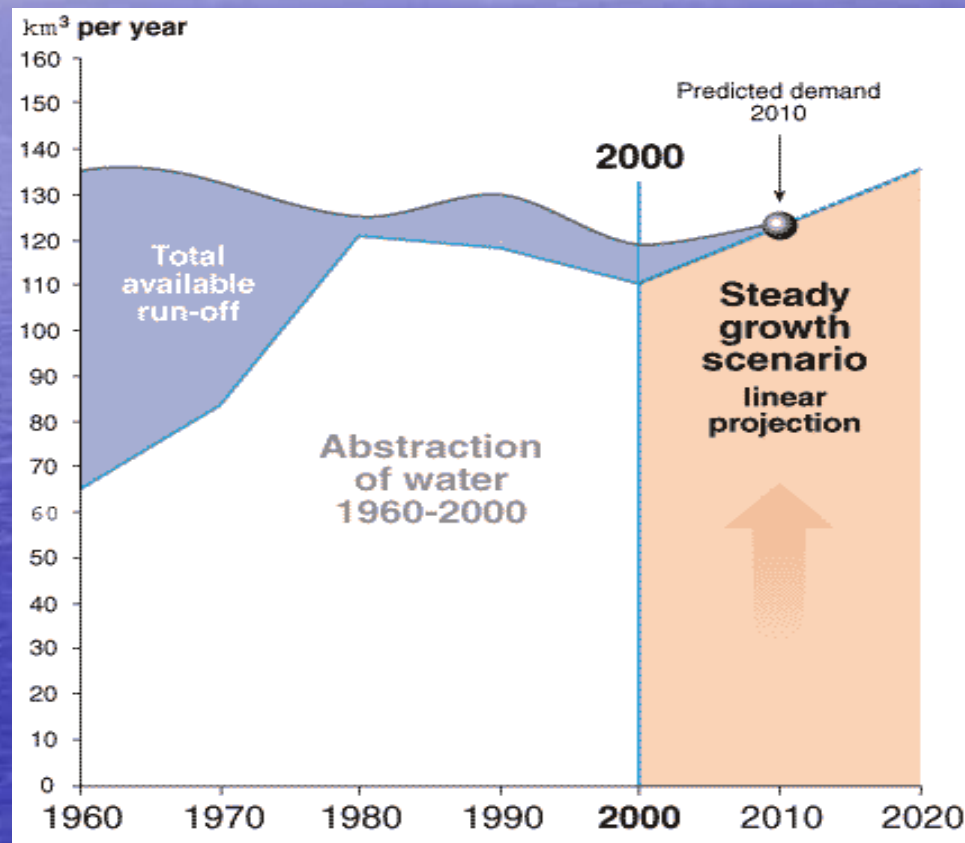
Dr. Bulat Yessekin,
consultant

The Aral Sea degradation- biggest ecological disaster in the modern history of the Earth, but...

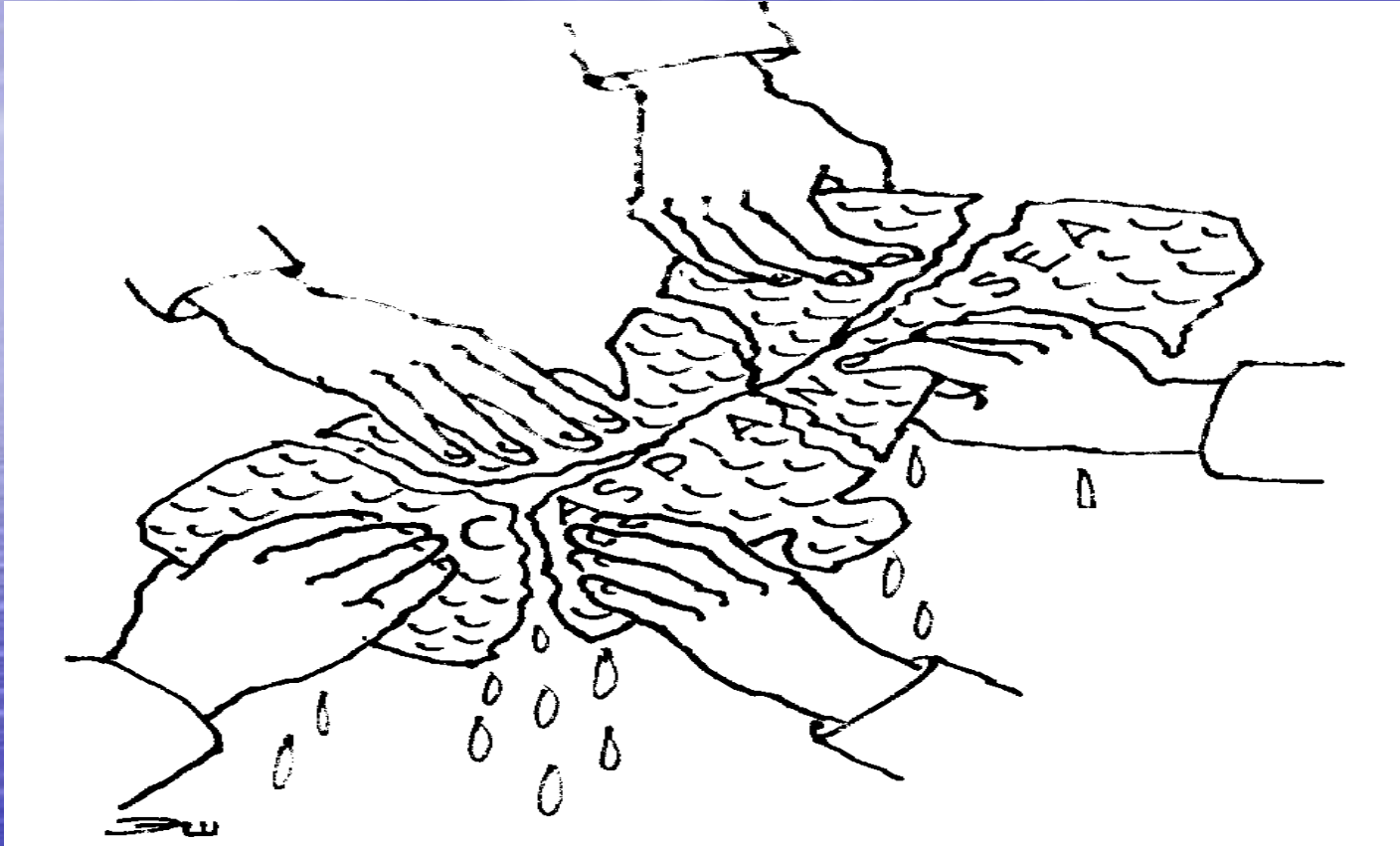


...does not serve as a lesson for improvement of the water policy in Central Asia

Pessimistic Scenario of water flow for the Aral Sea made by the World Bank in 2000 is near to fact now



Economic approach in the Caspian Sea



needs to be turn to Ecosystem approach

Tree of challenges in CA



Why environment is a reason for cooperation ?

- Death of Aral Sea, disappearing glaciers- risk for HPP in upstream and agriculture in downstream
- Caspian Sea Environment- main limiting factor for oil extraction
- River Basin ecosystems health- an important basis for environmental sustainability and economic development in Central Asia, Russia and China
- Transboundary issues cannot be solved by efforts of an individual country

CA sub-regional goals, adopted by the UNECE ministerial conference (Kiev, 2003)

Goal 1. Preservation of water basins ecosystems

Goal 2. Rational water use and access to drinking water

Goal 3. Cross-sectoral partnership and capacity building

What could be done for environment in water sector in Central Asia?

- IFAS needs reforms to become more independent and professional base organization
- ICWC may include environmental authorities and water users - for transparency and ecological flows
- International organization and donors may provide more solid and long-term support for neutral platform for cooperation
- IFIs may provide guarantee for private sector investments
- UNECE may support new level of sub-regional agreements based on UN conventions and international experience

Lack of sub-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation in Central Asia is a main barrier for sustainable development

- Required new culture- but this is long term process
- Capacity building- is not short term process as well
- International support and facilitation- real needs for trust and cooperation, but better coordination among donors and long-term approach are required



Thank you for your attention!