



Uzbekistan: Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin Sector Project

Project Name	Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin Sector Project	
Project Number	53120-001	
Country	Uzbekistan	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan	
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan: Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin Program concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund US\$ 150.00 million	
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Irrigation - Rural water policy, institutional and capacity development - Water-based natural resources management	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	The proposed project will build on lessons learned from past and ongoing projects of ADB in water resources in Uzbekistan. It will undertake a long-term, strategic and knowledge-based approach. The project will deliver climate adaptive solutions to water resources management by modernizing irrigation and drainage in selected subprojects within the Amu Darya and (selective reaches of the) Zarafshan River Basins in Uzbekistan.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Uzbekistan has the largest population of the Aral Sea Basin (ASB) countries. In 2015, about 12.8% of people in Uzbekistan lived below the national poverty line of which 75% live in rural areas. Agriculture employs 40% of the total workforce and represents 17% of gross domestic product. In 2018, growth in agriculture slowed to 2.7% from 5.8% as crop diversification and a water deficit held growth in crop output to 1.1%. Improved water resources management is critical for sustained agricultural development and economic growth. Transboundary water resources are an overarching challenge for Uzbekistan. Of the total 123 cubic kilometer of water resources of the ASB, only 9% originates within Uzbekistan highlighting its water dependency. The country relies on the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and their tributaries which emanate in upstream riparian countries (Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan). As these countries continue to develop water resources for hydropower, transboundary water cooperation becomes increasingly relevant. Irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of water resources accounting for 93% of all water utilized with 96% of the total cropped land irrigated (from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and their tributaries). About 68% of irrigated land produces cotton and wheat. These are highly water consumptive and have low productivity (averaging 2.25 tons/ha for cotton and 4.2 tons/ha for wheat). The government has committed to converting 170,000 ha of cotton and 50,000 ha of wheat to horticulture and livestock from 2016 to 2020. Major river diversion for intensive agriculture, over-irrigation and poor drainage have resulted in serious environmental degradation. Reduced river flows into the Aral Sea has resulted in irreversible desiccation and major impacts. High seepage losses in the irrigation system, over-application of irrigation water and deteriorated drainage networks have caused soil salinization and land degradation. In Uzbekistan, 51% of irrigated land is affected by salinity resulting in 20,000 ha of land lost annually due to saline soils. The Government of Uzbekistan has initiated actions on policy and legal frameworks for the water sector; progress is slow, and approvals protracted. There is no medium or long-term vision for the water sector and no roadmap to create an enabling environment for modernization of water resources management.	
Impact	Improved food and water security in the Aral Sea Basin in Uzbekistan	
Outcome	Improved performance of selected I&D subprojects in the Amu Darya and Zarafshan River Basins, Uzbekistan.	
Outputs	Climate resilient and modernized I&D subprojects established Enhanced and reliable on-farm water management Policy and institutions strengthened for sustainable water resources management	
Geographical Location	Fergana, Jizzakh, Namangan, Samarkand, Tashkent	
Safeguard Categories		
Environment		B
Involuntary Resettlement		B
Indigenous Peoples		C
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation		
During Project Design		
During Project Implementation		

Responsible ADB Officer	Yasmin Sadia Siddiqi
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Water Resources 4, Navoi Street Tashkent, 100004 Republic of Uzbekistan

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	07 Aug 2019
Fact Finding	08 Jun 2020 to 12 Jun 2020
MRM	20 Jul 2020
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	09 Aug 2019

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/53120-001/main
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