



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

Project Name	Preparing the Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin Sector Project		
Project Number	53120-002		
Country	Uzbekistan		
Project Status	Proposed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin Program		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 1.20 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change			
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	<p>The transaction TA will support the government to prepare subproject feasibility studies of representative irrigation and drainage subprojects to be developed under the ensuing loan. This will increase agricultural water use productivity through a threefold approach: (i) climate resilient and modernized I&D infrastructure to improve measurement, control and conveyance within existing systems; (ii) enhanced and reliable on-farm water management including capacity building of water users, physical improvements for land and water management at the farm level and application of high level technologies for increased water productivity; and (iii) policy and institutional strengthening for sustainable water resources management. The feasibility studies will identify proposed interventions and include technical (modernized engineering designs) and environmental, social and economic and financial assessments. It will identify suitable actions for gender inclusiveness in water resources management, decision making and income generation. The TA will identify requirements for strategy and policy, legal and institutional road development for improved water resources management (from the river basin to on-farm) including opportunities for introducing technologies. It will also highlight areas for capacity building support in technical, procurement, financial management etc. for relevant project agencies.</p>		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Transboundary water resources are an overarching challenge for the Central Asia region, particularly for Uzbekistan. Of the total 123 cubic kilometer of water resources of the Aral Sea Basin (ASB), only 9% originates within Uzbekistan highlighting its high 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 their water resources for hydropower, the importance of transboundary water cooperation for sustainable development, food security and livelihoods in Uzbekistan becomes increasingly critical.</p> <p>Uzbekistan has the largest irrigated land 4,233,000 hectares (ha) out of a total of 7,699,500 ha. Irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of water resources accounting for 93% of all water utilized; and 96% of the total cropped land is irrigated (from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and their tributaries). Currently, 68% of irrigated land produces cotton and wheat which have historically been given strategic priority by the Government of Uzbekistan. Yet, these crops are highly water consumptive compared to other crops and have low productivity (averaging 2.25 tons/ha for cotton and 4.2 tons/ha for wheat). Currently, 68% of irrigated land produces cotton and 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. The TA will prepare feasibility studies to support increased water productivity particularly with high value cropping.</p> <p>Supporting the rural economy. Uzbekistan has the largest population of the ASB countries 29 million of a total population of 49 million. In 2015, about 12.8% of people in Uzbekistan lived below the national poverty line of which 75% live in rural areas. The rural population contributes significantly in agriculture, which employs 40% of the total workforce and represents 17% of gross domestic product. Although agricultural gross domestic product grew at an annual average rate of 9.8% from 2010 to 2015, agricultural growth slowed to 2.7% in the first half of 2018. This is compared to 5.8% in the first half of 2017 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.</p>		
Impact			
Outcome			
Outputs			
Geographical Location	Nation-wide		
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects			
Environmental Aspects			
Involuntary Resettlement			
Indigenous Peoples			
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation			
During Project Design			
During Project Implementation			

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services ADB will engage consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions. Consulting services will include a suitable consulting firm to prepare feasibility studies for at least two representative subprojects. Individual consultants will be directly engaged.

Responsible ADB Officer	Siddiqi, Yasmin S.
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	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	17 Jun 2019

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/53120-002/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53120-002
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