

Central Asia**Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin****Chair Summary*****November 3, 2015**

Executive Directors approved a credit in the amount of SDR6.4 million (US\$9.0 million equivalent) to the Republic of Tajikistan, a credit in the amount of SDR10.00 million (US\$14.0 million equivalent) to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and a grant in the amount of SDR10.7 million (US\$15.0 million) to the Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS) for the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB) (IDA/R0267) on the terms and conditions set out in the President's Memorandum.

Directors noted that Central Asian countries are facing critical climate change risks that threaten the region's key economic sectors, and strongly supported the WBG's contribution to knowledge, climate adaptation, and regional cooperation through this transformational operation. They welcomed the program's potential to strengthen regional and national institutions, improve collaboration on cross-sectoral climate change issues among the countries, and support communities in piloting innovative climate resilience practices. They were encouraged that the program will develop a common understanding of challenges and continuous sharing of local lessons and experiences at a regional level to scale up good climate practices. Directors highlighted that scarcity of water and energy resources have caused tensions in the region in the past, and were encouraged that there are complementarities between national and regional climate actions given the common challenges, and these could result in enhanced mutual benefits for all the countries.

Directors welcomed the design of the program and its flexibility in accounting for the readiness of the participating countries. They also appreciated that the program design allows for other donors to partner in improving regional climate change knowledge services, such as data, knowledge exchanges, tools for climate assessment, and decision making. Directors strongly supported the program's potential to contribute to agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods by addressing climate risks such as droughts and weather extremes. It would also serve as a demonstration project in related, cross-cutting areas of water and energy. They noted that that program could serve as a model for other operations with a regional focus, offer important lessons learned, and build public awareness of an important global public good. The experience of participating institutions would be an important area of learning.

Directors emphasized the importance of the program's Regional Coordination Unit, which will oversee the program's knowledge and information base as well as monitor information exchange between program stakeholders. They felt that the program's long-term sustainability will depend on its continued financial and technical resources. In this regard, Directors underscored the importance of attracting additional donors and trust fund support to foster institutional strengthening and investments under the program.

*This summary is not an approved record.