



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE/
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), referred to hereinafter as the Regional Commissions, on the one side, and

The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), acting on the basis of its Charter and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Government of Turkmenistan and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the status of IFAS and its organizations, affirmed by the Heads of Central Asian States on 9 April 1999, on the other side:

PREAMBLE

Recalling the Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998 on the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs), which is being jointly implemented by the Regional Commissions and States of Central Asia;

Noting the provisions of Dushanbe Declaration of the Heads of Central Asian States of 6 October 2002 regarding the need for establishing a special United Nations commission being responsible for coordination of international organizations and donor countries' activities in resolving the Aral Sea Basin problems, as well as for strengthening the role of IFAS Executive Committee in coordinating donor activities and attracting funds for the implementation of projects and programmes;

Considering the importance for the Central Asian region of "Programme of Concrete Actions to improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin for the period of 2003-2010" (ASBP-2);

Highlighting the valuable cooperation to date between the Regional Commissions and IFAS within the framework of SPECAs, particularly in the successful implementation of the project on the rational and efficient use of energy and water resources in Central Asia;

Emphasizing the importance of further strengthening the relationship and developing interaction between the Regional Commissions and IFAS and taking this Memorandum as the basis for gaining concrete results in implementing joint activities for achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment in Central Asia,

Agreed on the following:

Article 1. AREAS OF SHARED INTEREST AND COOPERATION

The Regional Commissions and IFAS will collaborate, within their mandates and areas of expertise, on targeted activities on thematic programme areas and in the field of capacity building, drawing upon the relative strengths of each organization.

1.1 Collaboration on Thematic Programme Areas:

- 1.1.1 IFAS will be involved as a strategic partner in the implementation of activities on environment protection and sustainable development, rational use of water and energy resources, dam safety, improvement of public health and resolving social issues;
- 1.1.2 IFAS will facilitate the participation of the Central Asian countries in SPECA activities under the above programme areas;
- 1.1.3 IFAS will follow up to the SPECA Cooperation Strategy to Promote the Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia;
- 1.1.4 The Regional Commissions will interact with IFAS in the preparation of relevant policy and research papers related to Central Asia;
- 1.1.5 IFAS will assist the Regional Commissions in gathering and processing information on relevant activities;
- 1.1.6 Promoting the implementation of ASBP-2 projects and programmes.

1.2 The Regional Commissions will assist IFAS in its capacity building, subject to availability of resources, by:

- 1.2.1 Advising IFAS in formulating policy and research papers mentioned above and other selected project documents;
- 1.2.2 Organizing training and IFAS institutional capacity building activities, including, where required, by providing resource persons;
- 1.2.3 Inviting IFAS representatives to participate in relevant international workshops, seminars and meetings convened either within the framework of SPECA or under relevant projects of each Regional Commission.

1.3 The Regional Commissions and IFAS may also seek to strengthen collaboration in other specific fields of mutual interest.

Article 2. MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

2.1 The Regional Commissions and IFAS represented by its Executive Committee will keep each other informed of their respective policies, programmes and activities through formal and informal staff contacts, exchange of newsletters, country-specific studies and other relevant documents and publications.

2.2 The Regional Commissions and IFAS will make appropriate arrangements to jointly undertake programme and project planning and review.

- 2.3 This joint exercise will take place at least once in two years, or as mutually agreed upon by the parties, in order to prioritize and formulate plans of specific activities to be carried out within specified time-frame. Regarding joint activities, the Regional Commissions and IFAS will play a leading role in partnership with each other on the basis of available resources, strengths and capabilities, as well as the mandates of each organization.
- 2.4 The proposed arrangements will be concretized on an annual basis by officials responsible for implementation. Joint written reports will be submitted to the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of IFAS on the progress made and recommendations for the implementation of specific agreements.
- 2.5 The Coordinators of SPECA in the Regional Commissions and Chairman of the IFAS Executive Committee will be responsible for realization of the objectives embodied in this Memorandum.

Article 3. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THIS MEMORANDUM

- 3.1 This Memorandum shall come into force on the date of signature and it will be valid for five (5) years and is subject to renewal by mutual agreement.
- 3.2 Subject to mutual agreement between parties, this Memorandum may be amended. Any such amendment will be reflected in a separate protocol which would form an integral part of this Memorandum.
- 3.3 The Memorandum may be terminated by either party giving six months written notice to the other.

Signed in Dushanbe on 3 June 2004 in three copies each in English and Russian languages, with all texts being equally authentic.


Signed on behalf of
IFAS


Emomali Rakhmonov

President of the Republic of Tajikistan,
President of IFAS

Date _____

Signed on behalf of the Regional
Commissions


Brigita Schmögnerová

UNECE Executive Secretary

Date _____


Kim Hak-Su

UNESCAP Executive Secretary

Date _____