SYR DARIA BASIN

WATER

- Very high dependence on hydropower to meet electricity and heating demand upstream (low resilience in dry years)
- Hydropower allows for extension of power generation through integration of other renewable energy sources
- Wastewater treatment commonly lacking or inadequate
- Soil degradation causes water quality degradation, erosion and sedimentation
- Diffuse pollution from irrigated agriculture
- Water reservoirs can balance water needs between seasons and years

ENERGY

- Hydropower (upstream) and agriculture (downstream) conflicting water needs
- High energy-intensity irrigation schemes

FOOD & LAND

- Highly agricultural basin (wheat, cotton, cattle breeding, aquaculture)
- Traditionally grown cotton is highly water intensive but diversification is reducing its share of agricultural output
- Soil salinization due in particular to poor drainage and waterlogging
- Fuelwood used in rural households causing deforestation (mountain areas, riparian forests)

ECOSYSTEMS

Water storage and buffer (wetlands, artificial lakes); Fishing; Water treatment