



PROGRESS IN IMPROVING IFAS

Chronology of IFAS improvement

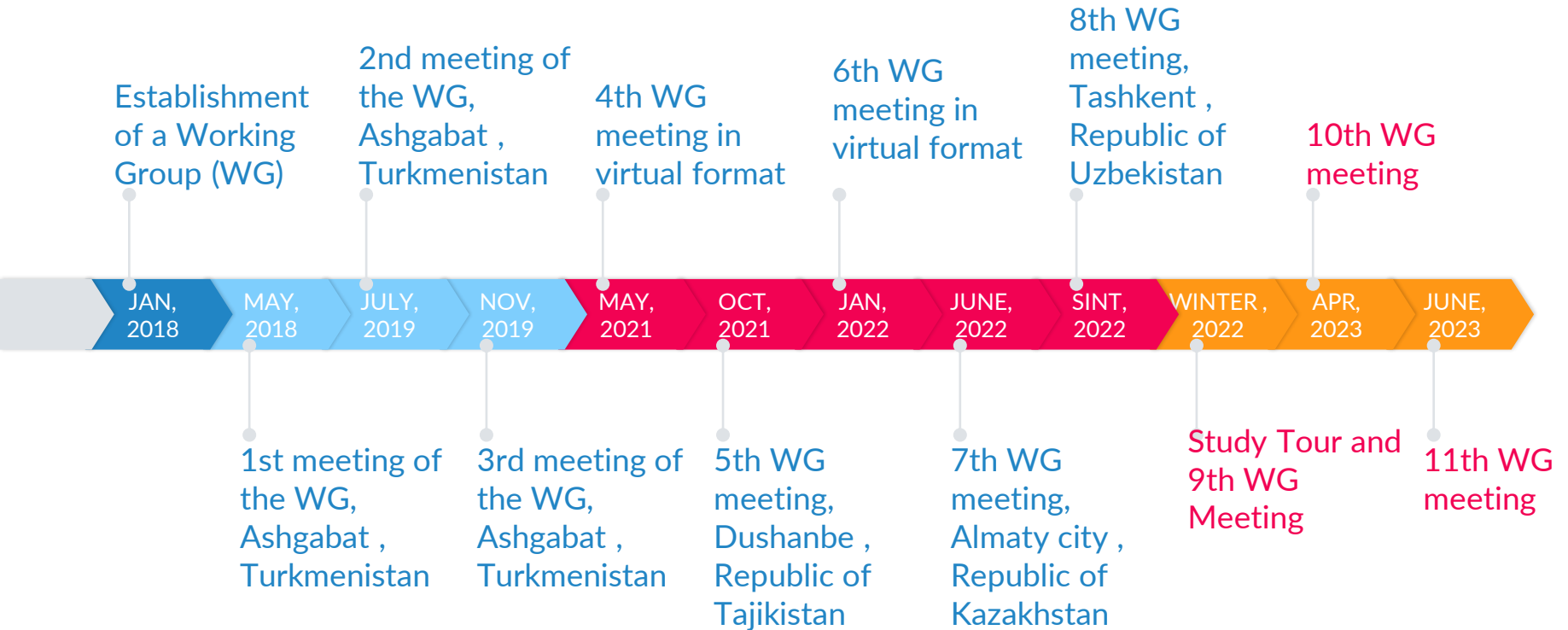
January 30, 2018

By the decision of the Board of IFAS, under the Executive Committee of IFAS, a Working Group (WG) was created to improve the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS from among the representatives of the relevant ministries and departments of the founding states of IFAS and structural divisions of the Fund.

August 24, 2018

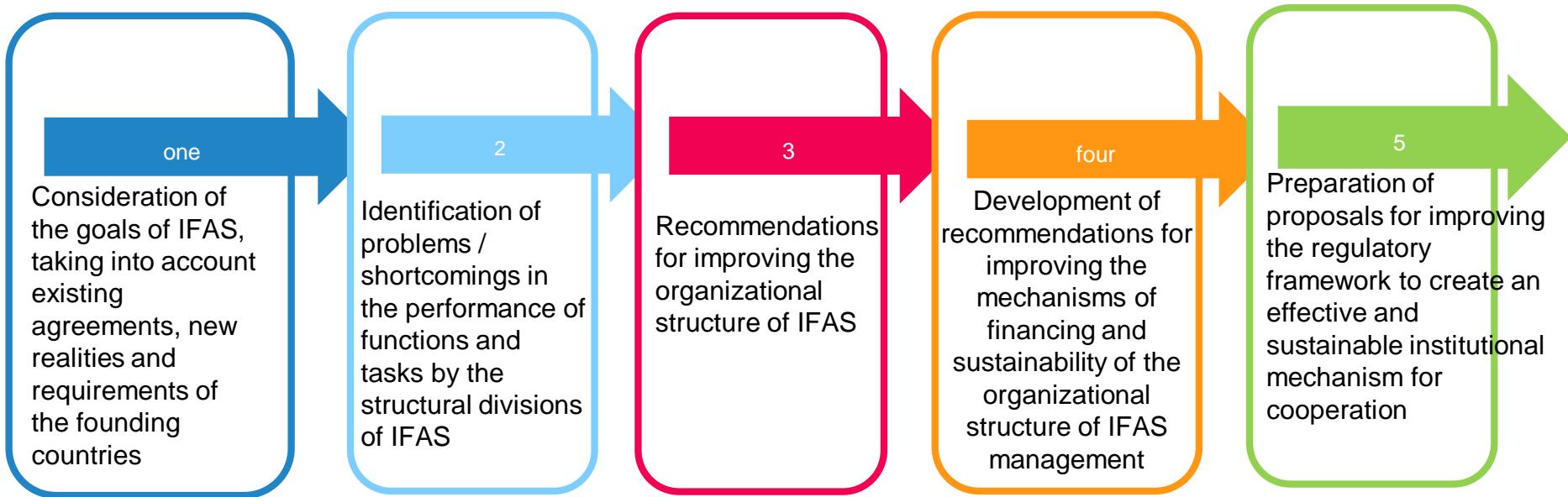
At the Summit of the Heads of the IFAS Founding States in Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan), the Presidents expressed their readiness to further improve the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS in order to create an effective and sustainable institutional mechanism capable of responding to new challenges and addressing existing environmental and socio-economic problems and issues of integrated use and protection of water resources in the region.

Chronology of the work of the WG



5 stages of IFAS improvement

At the 2nd meeting of the Working Group (July 31, 2019, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan), 5 stages of preparation of proposals for improving the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS were agreed



1st stage

Energy

Coordination and promotion of joint actions of the Member States in the field of energy to ensure sustainable and reliable energy supply to the economy and population of the states – members, including through renewable energy sources
5 subtasks

Environment

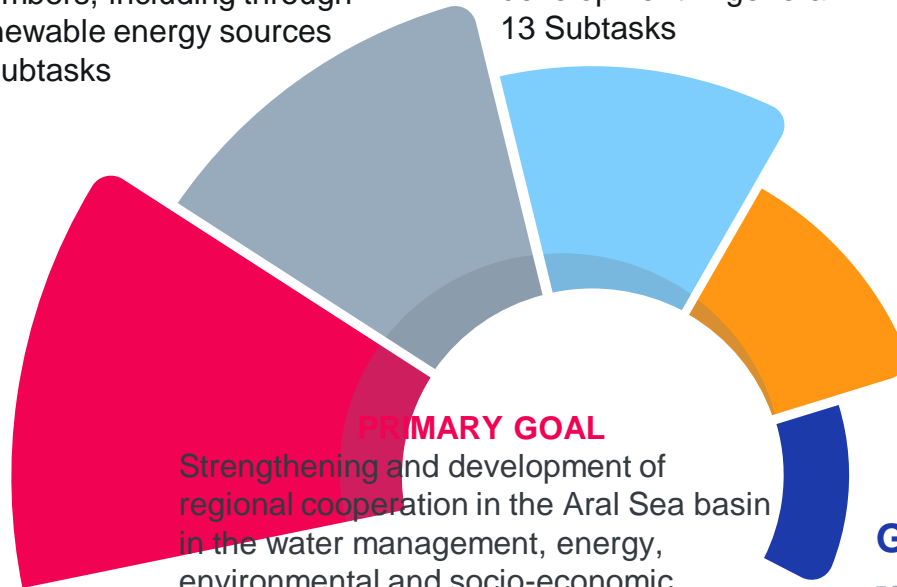
Development and implementation of a regional environmental policy agreed upon by the founding states and intensification of joint actions in the field of environmental protection, climate change and sustainable development in general
13 Subtasks

Socio-economic issues

Coordination of joint actions of the Member States aimed at improving the socio-economic living conditions of the population of the Aral Sea basin
5 subtasks

Water

Ensuring the integrated and rational use and protection of water resources of interstate sources
10 subtasks



PRIMARY GOAL

Strengthening and development of regional cooperation in the Aral Sea basin in the water management, energy, environmental and socio-economic spheres for the sustainable development of the basin countries

General Tasks

7 Tasks

Geographic coverage - Aral Sea basin

* Were agreed during the 5th and 6th WG Meetings

2nd stage

Institutional gaps were identified for each focus area:

- Water;
- Water and Energy;
- Energy;
- Environment;
- Socio-economic issues.

Many functions are already included in the existing mandate of IFAS and its substructures. However, their effective implementation faces challenges, so clarifying roles and aligning mandates with adequate budgeting, staffing and capacity development is key.

Other issues identified and to be addressed:

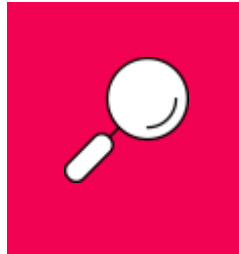
- ▷ Independent budget; financial solutions for the establishment of IFAS
- ▷ Location of divisions; international staff; rotation of senior positions in substructures
- ▷ Coordination with and/or integration with Afghanistan in the future
- ▷ An updated and clear legal framework that eliminates duplication of mandates by eliminating any duplication, for example through clear coordinating mandates.

3rd stage



SUGGESTIONS

5 suggestions for improving the institutional structure of IFAS



INTERVIEW

Assessment of financial flows in sub-structural divisions of IFAS

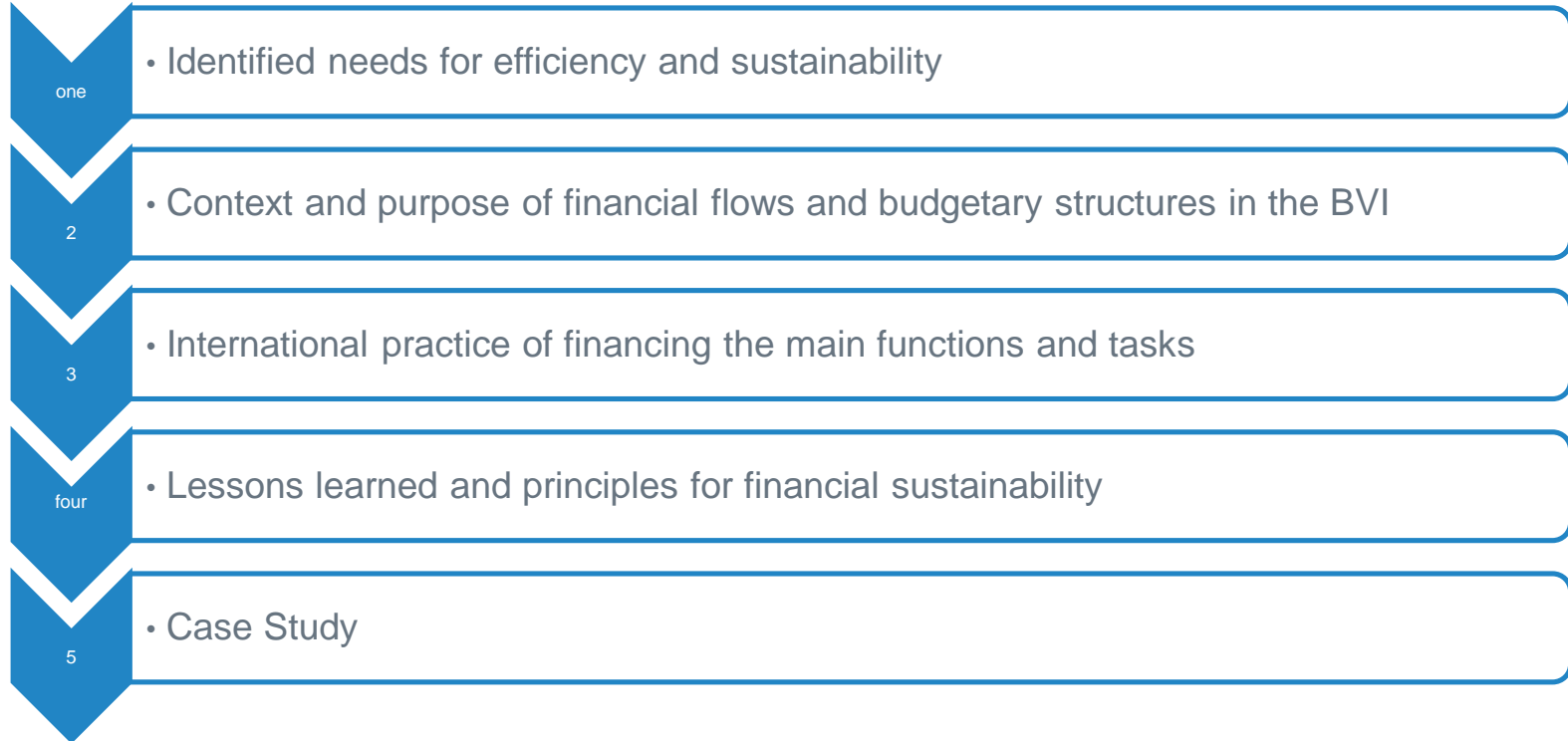


UNIFIED STRUCTURE

Agreeing on a unified institutional structure acceptable to all countries

4th stage

Preliminary Report on the 4th stage of IFAS improvement has been prepared



Next steps:

- ▷ Agreeing on a unified institutional structure acceptable to all countries;
- ▷ Coordination of the financial model for the sustainable functioning of the new institutional structure;
- ▷ Organization of a study tour (presumably the Mekong River Commission) and holding the 9th WG Meeting - winter 2022;
- ▷ Preparation of proposals for improving the legal framework to create an effective and sustainable institutional mechanism for cooperation, according to the 5th Stage;
- ▷ Discussion of draft regulatory documents for the new institutional structure during the 10th and 11th WG Meeting - April and June 2022;

Key Findings and Recommendations

It is advisable to coordinate the actions taken by IFAS and the SPECA Program to implement the interconnection of energy, water and land in Central Asia

Improving the IFAS involves the inclusion of the energy issues of Central Asia in the scope of its activities, which will require additional efforts and closer interconnection with other processes in Central Asia on water, energy, environmental, socio-economic relations

Recommend the establishment of an expert link between the Working Group on Improving the Organizational Structure and Legal Framework of IFAS and the SPECA Working Group on Water and Energy Resources and the Environment

Thank you for your attention