



International Water
Management Institute

Regional Strategic Roadmap Central Asia

2024–2030

Driving Action • Propelling Change



Credits:

Photography

Front Cover: A smiling man and woman work on Dehkan farms in rural Tajikistan. (Madeline Dahm/IWMI)

Page v: A smiling farmer regulates water flow through an irrigation canal. (Neil Palmer/IWMI)

Pages 12-13: The South Ferghana main canal, Uzbekistan. (Neil Palmer/IWMI)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BPCA	Blue Peace Central Asia
CA	Central Asia
DRRA	Drought Risk and Resilience Assessment
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information System
IFI	International Financial Institution
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Foreword by the Regional Representative

Central Asia stands at a pivotal moment in its water and development trajectory. As one of the world's most water-stressed regions, its long-term prosperity, stability, and environmental sustainability are inseparable from how water resources are managed amid accelerating climate change, demographic growth, and rising economic demands. In this context, the *IWMI Regional Strategic Roadmap for Central Asia 2024–2030* provides a clear and timely framework for action—anchored in science, shaped by regional realities, and aligned with national and international development priorities.

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has been active in Central Asia since 2001, supporting countries with evidence-based solutions to complex water challenges. Over more than two decades, IWMI has built strong partnerships with national institutions, regional organizations, development partners, and research communities. This long-standing engagement has enabled IWMI to contribute not only technical expertise, but also continuity, institutional memory, and a neutral platform for dialogue in a region where water is both a critical development asset and a shared responsibility.

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IWMI's research-for-development approach—combining rigorous science with practical engagement—positions the institute to support countries in moving from diagnostics to implementation.



This strategic roadmap translates IWMI's Strategy 2024–2030 into a coherent regional agenda tailored to Central Asia's specific needs. It reflects an inclusive and consultative process involving IWMI researchers, national experts, regional stakeholders, and international partners. The roadmap identifies five interlinked strategic priority areas: climate change and water security; transboundary water cooperation; water productivity and sustainable agriculture; digitalization and data-driven water management; and ecosystems, WASH, and inclusive water services. Together, these priorities respond to the region's most pressing risks while also capturing emerging opportunities for cooperation, innovation, and reform.

At its core, this roadmap underscores the role of science as a foundation for informed decision-making and trust-building. In a region characterized by shared river basins and interconnected climate risks, credible data, transparent analysis, and evidence-based dialogue are essential to transform water from a potential source of tension into a platform for cooperation and shared benefits. IWMI's research-for-development approach—combining rigorous science with practical engagement—positions the institute to support countries in moving from diagnostics to implementation.

Looking ahead to 2030, IWMI's work in Central Asia will continue to prioritize partnerships, capacity development, and impact at scale. By working closely with governments, regional bodies, IFIs, and communities, IWMI aims to support policies and investments that strengthen resilience, improve water productivity, protect ecosystems, and ensure equitable access to water and sanitation services.

This roadmap serves as both a strategic guide and an invitation to collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment. Together with our partners, IWMI remains dedicated to advancing a water-secure, resilient, and cooperative future for Central Asia.



Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta
Regional Representative - Central Asia



1. Context

1.1 Introduction

With a vision to create a water-secure world, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) targets water and land management challenges that poor communities in developing countries face. This contributes towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of reducing poverty and hunger, and maintaining a sustainable environment.

Therefore, IWMI's presence in Central Asia, one of the world's "water hot spots," since 2001, illustrates its commitment to this vision. Central Asia's water problems have been the focus of multiple international organizations and international financing institutions since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

IWMI's role in Central Asia has been to bring science-based solutions to complex water challenges in one of the world's most water-stressed regions. Central Asia remains a global water hotspot due to arid climatic conditions, reliance on transboundary river systems, and accelerating climate change.

This roadmap aims to identify country- and regional-level priorities and intervention areas for the IWMI office in Central Asia, in line with the IWMI Strategy 2024-2030. It will be used for institutional reporting and strategic planning within IWMI, as well as in dialogues with key strategic partners, including regional and national systems, international organizations, and funding institutions.

1.2 Water management in Central Asia

Central Asia's water resources underpin food security, energy production, ecosystem health, and socio-economic development. The legacy of water-intensive development during the Soviet period, including the Aral Sea crisis, continues to shape regional challenges. Since 2016, improved political relations among Central Asian states have created renewed opportunities for regional cooperation on water. The countries of the region established institutional arrangements that retained most elements of the former Soviet water management system. The post-Soviet water arrangements were imperfect and faced serious implementation and organizational problems.

Despite these challenges, Central Asian countries have avoided serious water-related conflicts during their post-Soviet history. Since 2016, Central Asian countries have seriously improved their political engagement, regional trade, and transportation. This development provided strong political will to address the region's severe water problems.

Key challenges include declining river flows, glacier retreat, increasing frequency of droughts and floods, deteriorating water quality, and growing water demand driven by population growth and economic development. These pressures place significant strain on transboundary water governance arrangements and national water institutions.

1.3 Development challenges

Central Asia is both emerging in the international arena and a historically rich region. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, former Soviet republics began building their nationhood and claimed the region's former role as a crossroads of the Silk Road. Rich in oil, gas, and mineral resources, the area is a crossroads of interests and a geopolitical chessboard. However, despite such competition between countries, Central Asia has been relatively stable and increasingly attractive for investment and economic cooperation. The further sustainable development of the region depends on the peaceful coexistence of its countries and the ability to cooperate across boundaries with surrounding areas and the neighborhood.

One of the significant challenges the region faces is the limited availability of water resources, especially given future climate variability. Even during the Soviet period, the region's economic development, particularly its heavy reliance on water-intensive agriculture, led to an environmental crisis—the drying up of the Aral Sea. Soviet planners have developed plans to divert Siberian waters to the region to address water shortages. However, these plans stalled due to fierce resistance from the Soviet intelligentsia, the scientific community, and the broader public at the end of the 1980s, and then the eventual collapse of the Soviet system.

The intersection of resource constraints, climate stress, and unresolved transboundary governance issues fundamentally shapes Central Asia's development challenges. Water scarcity—exacerbated by climate change and historically inefficient economic models—has emerged as a binding constraint on agricultural productivity, energy security, and social stability. Without credible regional cooperation frameworks and evidence-based investment in climate-resilient water, energy, and land systems, development gains will remain fragmented and vulnerable to shocks. Conversely, transforming water from a source of competition into a platform for cooperation represents one of the region's most decisive opportunities for sustainable, inclusive, and peace-building development.

1.4 Trends and emerging opportunities

Emerging opportunities include political rapprochement, increased regional dialogue, digitalization of water management, and growing recognition of climate-resilient and nature-based solutions. Science-for-development approaches are increasingly recognized as essential for long-term water security.

Current climate change trends in the region are seriously affecting the availability of water resources, with assessments indicating that Central Asia's glaciers, the primary water sources, have lost 20–25% of their area and are expected to continue declining over the coming decades. Major rivers such as the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya are expected to lose 15% and 25% of their flow by 2030. Therefore, the supply side of water resources will be seriously affected by a changing climate. Additionally, the frequency of droughts and floods will increase, leading to a wide range of economic and humanitarian consequences for the region. These events are already costing Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan economically, affecting 25–30% of their population. Therefore, the allocation and benefit sharing of limited water resources will severely strain the region's transboundary water arrangements, testing their effectiveness.

The Environmental aspects of the supply are related to quality degradation and heavy contamination of water resources. In many parts of the region, returning drainage flows, increasing industrialization, and growing urbanization increased wastewater inflow into water systems. The resulting reduced water quality and increasing health risks will seriously challenge the region's fragile water (supply), sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems. Moreover, the reduced natural capacities of water systems, loss of biodiversity, and degradation of aquatic ecosystems could reduce the benefits of water use for fishing, recreational uses, and overall environmental value. Large-scale salinity is another serious challenge for sustainable agricultural development.

On the supply side, favorable demography, re-industrialization, economic growth, and climate impacts are projected to increase the demand for water resources by 25% in 2030. Therefore, socio-economic demand will significantly pressure the region's limited water resources. Moreover, Afghanistan's new water diversion initiatives could become crucial to the demand side of Central Asia's water problems.

In this context, science-based approaches are the precondition for developing long-term, sustainable water solutions. The research-for-development approach applied by IWMI aligns well with the knowledge needed to address Central Asia's water problems. Given IWMI's longstanding presence in the region and its global capacities, its previous and current research focuses could address many of the highlighted water issues. This strategic roadmap connects IWMI's Strategy for 2024–2030 with its activities, niche research, and intervention areas in Central Asia and beyond.

2. Achievements: Our Story of Impact

Since its establishment in Central Asia, IWMI has implemented numerous regional and national projects promoting integrated water resources management, transboundary cooperation, digital innovation, and capacity development. Flagship initiatives such as the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Ferghana Project laid the foundation for participatory, basin-level water management.

Over the past five years, IWMI has expanded its research portfolio to include drought risk and resilience, climate change adaptation, water productivity, groundwater governance, digital water accounting, and small transboundary tributaries. Strong partnerships with national governments, regional organizations, international financial institutions (IFIs), and academic partners support IWMI's work. IWMI's scientific outputs, including peer-reviewed publications and policy-oriented gray literature, have contributed to evidence-based policy dialogue and informed national and regional water reforms.

Active in Central Asia since 2001, IWMI will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year. Since its early projects, such as the IWRM Ferghana Project, IWMI has promoted sustainable, integrated water resources management in the region. Since then, IWMI has implemented numerous donor-funded projects across Central Asia (Figure 1).

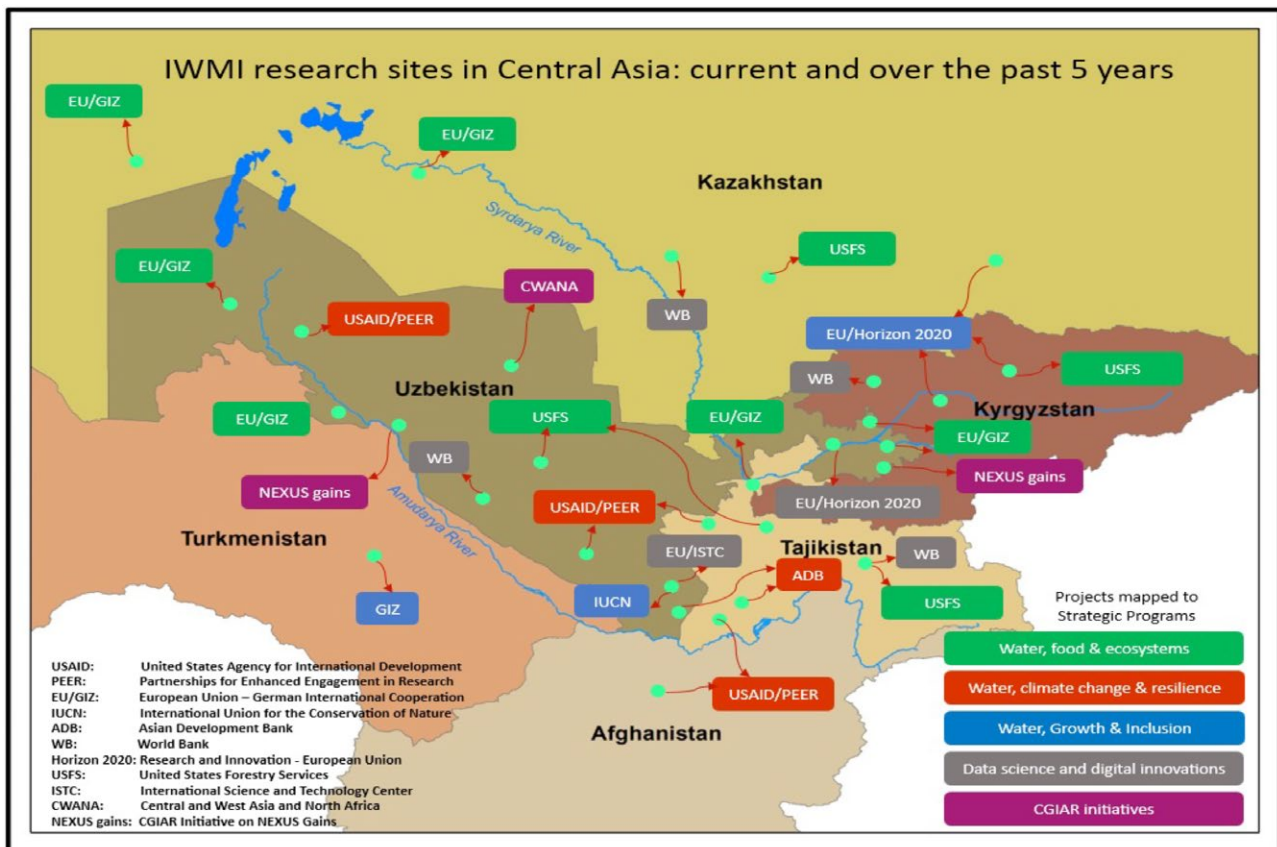


Figure 1. Examples of typology and geography of IWMI projects in Central Asia over the past 5 years (source: Zafar Gafurov/IWMI)

In preparation for this document, the authors analyzed IWMI's activities in Central Asia through a review of the 27 peer-reviewed publications of IWMI that were published from 2001 to 2025.

3. Strategic Priorities

IWMI has developed and adopted its strategy for 2024–2030, with three strategic focus areas and four strategic levers (Figure 2). This strategy should facilitate achieving IWMI's vision of a water-secure world. The primary focus of the strategic planning meeting of the IWMI office in Central Asia was to screen IWMI's current activities and identify potential intervention niches in Central Asian countries and at the regional level, ensuring alignment with the IWMI Strategy 2024–2030.



Figure 2. IWMI's Strategy 2024–2030: Strategic focus areas and levers (source: IWMI)

3.1 Co-design process

The Central Asia Strategic Roadmap was developed through an inclusive, multi-step consultation process involving IWMI staff, national experts, regional stakeholders, and international partners. This ensured alignment with national development priorities and the IWMI Strategy 2024–2030.

The roadmap preparation process has been organized as a multi-step, inclusive process.

The exercise began with IWMI staff identifying the research focus areas for Central Asia, with a special session held on February 28, 2025 to develop a joint vision and identify the elements of the roadmap. The second stage was to finetune the roadmap with the contribution of a group of experts from the region at the Blue Peace Central Asia (BPCA 2.0) project meeting on March 27, 2025.

The next stage was to share the roadmap with Central Asia's leading water experts, who have previously worked with IWMI, for their input. To finalize the roadmap, all input from the main stakeholders was systemized, aligning it closely with the strategic development priorities of the Central Asian countries.

3.2 Strategic priority areas

The identification of national and regional priority areas in this roadmap followed a structured, multi-step, and consultative process designed to ensure alignment with country needs, regional dynamics, and the strategic directions of IWMI. The process combined analytical review, expert judgment, and stakeholder engagement, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based prioritization and regional coherence.

IWMI has identified five interconnected strategic priority areas for Central Asia that define our mandate for 2024–2030. These priorities represent a coherent framework that aligns regional needs with international best practices for sustainable water development.

The five strategic priority areas were identified through a structured, evidence-based process combining regional diagnostics, country-level policy analysis, and expert consultations across Central Asia.

3.2.1 Climate change and water security

Addressing climate impacts on water availability, including glacier retreat, droughts, and floods.

The starting point was a comprehensive assessment of the region's evolving water risks, including climate-induced changes in hydrology, increasing water demand, and environmental degradation, drawing on long-term climate, hydrological, and socio-economic trends. This regional diagnosis consistently highlighted climate change and water security as the dominant systemic risk affecting all countries, particularly through glacier retreat, droughts, floods, and growing variability in water availability.

3.2.2 Transboundary water cooperation

Strengthening evidence-based dialogue, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and regional cooperation platforms.

Transboundary water cooperation emerged as a second priority based on the shared nature of the region's major river basins and the increasing pressure on existing allocation and governance arrangements. Country consultations and policy reviews underscored that technical water scarcity is increasingly compounded by institutional and coordination challenges, making evidence-based dialogue, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and trusted regional platforms essential for sustaining stability and development.

3.2.3 Water productivity and sustainable agriculture

Improving efficiency and productivity in irrigated agriculture through innovation and best available technologies.

Water productivity and sustainable agriculture were identified as a third priority due to the continued dominance of irrigated agriculture in national economies and its central role in water consumption. Analysis of national strategies and sectoral investments revealed that improving efficiency and productivity—rather than expanding supply—offers the most significant potential to reduce water stress while supporting food security, rural livelihoods, and economic growth.

3.2.4 Digitalization and data-driven water management

Advancing digital tools, remote sensing, and decision-support systems for water governance.

The fourth priority, digitalization and data-driven water management, was derived from persistent gaps in data availability, interoperability, and analytical capacity across countries. Consultations with national agencies highlighted that modern water governance increasingly depends on real-time monitoring, remote sensing, and decision-support systems to enable adaptive, transparent, and risk-informed management under climate uncertainty.

3.2.5 Ecosystems, WASH, and inclusive water services

Enhancing ecosystem health, water quality, and equitable access to water and sanitation services.

Finally, ecosystems, WASH, and inclusive water services were identified as a cross-cutting priority reflecting growing recognition that water security extends beyond resource allocation to environmental health and social equity. Degradation of aquatic ecosystems, declining water quality, and uneven access to safe water and sanitation were consistently cited as limiting human development outcomes and resilience, particularly for vulnerable and rural populations. Together, these five areas represent a coherent strategic framework that aligns regional needs, national priorities, and international best practice for sustainable water development in Central Asia.

4 Implementation Roadmap (2024–2030)

IWMI's Theory of Change assumes that improved water security and resilience emerge when robust evidence (data, analysis, scenarios) is systematically translated into inclusive policies, institutional reforms, and on-the-ground action through sustained stakeholder engagement at national and regional levels. IWMI's Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Impact Assessment (MELIA) approach operationalizes this pathway by continuously monitoring progress, evaluating outcomes, enabling adaptive learning, fostering impact-oriented innovation, and strengthening accountability, ensuring that research and pilots (e.g., drought assessments, decision-support systems, BPCA interventions) lead to measurable policy uptake and development outcomes.

Reviewing country-level priorities has helped formulate the multilateral, multi-country, and regional context niches for IWMI's interventions (Table 1). The niche area was defined by selecting a specific country priority that aligns with IWMI's areas of expertise. Monitoring water, ensuring equitable access, improving water quality, and managing natural disasters are potential intervention areas for IWMI in Central Asia at the regional level. These areas are directly linked with IWMI Strategy 2024–2030 focus areas and levers (Figure 2). In some regional niche areas, IWMI has ongoing projects (data management, water cooperation). In other areas, new interventions could be initiated. Primarily focusing on the climate's impact on water, equitable access, water-sector reforms, and support could be a substantial intervention pathway for IWMI's future activities in Central Asia.

Table 1. Implementation Roadmap for Central Asia against the IWMI Strategy 2024–2030 focus areas and levers

Expected outcomes (intermediate)	Key activities/ interventions	Countries/geographic areas	Partners and beneficiaries	Delivery model and timeline
Priority 1: Climate change and water security				
Enhanced climate and drought resilience through stronger risk assessment, preparedness, and climate-informed water planning.	Drought Risk and Resilience Assessments (DRRA); climate-water diagnostics; policy dialogues; support to adaptation planning; preparation of investment-ready resilience measures.	Kazakhstan: Climate adaptation in arid zones; drought and flood risk management; groundwater security; climate-resilient infrastructure. Kyrgyzstan: Glacier retreat and mountain hydrology; flood and landslide risks; climate resilience of headwaters. Tajikistan: Glacier monitoring; hydropower-irrigation balance; climate risks to food and energy security. Turkmenistan: Extreme aridity and climate-smart irrigation; storage reliability under climate stress. Uzbekistan: Climate impacts on irrigated agriculture; drought resilience; Aral Sea basin adaptation.	World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, hydromet services, ministries responsible for water, environment and agriculture, regional organizations, national research institutes.	Regional analytical and policy engagement, 2026–2028; follow-up investment preparation and scaling, 2028–2030.

Table 1. (continued)

Expected outcomes (intermediate)	Key activities/ interventions	Countries/geographic areas	Partners and beneficiaries	Delivery model and timeline
Priority 2: Transboundary water cooperation				
Strengthened evidence-based transboundary cooperation, trust-building and benefit-sharing mechanisms in shared basins.	Transboundary dialogue platforms; applied research; basin diagnostics; benefit-sharing analysis; support to small transboundary tributary cooperation and regional knowledge products.	Kazakhstan: Basin-level cooperation in Syr Darya and Ili-Balkhash; evidence-based negotiations under the new Water Code. Kyrgyzstan: Upstream–downstream benefit sharing; confidence-building with downstream neighbors. Tajikistan: Allocation and benefit-sharing mechanisms; institutional strengthening. Turkmenistan: Bilateral and multilateral dialogue on Amu Darya; regional legal harmonization. Uzbekistan: Proactive regional diplomacy; practical cooperation on Amu Darya and Syr Darya.	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation / Blue Peace Central Asia, river basin organizations, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea structures, national water agencies, basin councils, research partners.	Regional and basin-level platforms, 2026–2030; phased pilots in priority basins and tributaries.
Priority 3: Water productivity and sustainable agriculture				
Improved water productivity and sustainable irrigated agriculture through technology pilots, capacity development and system-level efficiency gains.	Technology pilots; irrigation modernization analytics; capacity building; water productivity monitoring; salinity and drainage management; support to scale-up through national programs and IFI investments.	Kazakhstan: Best available technologies; reduction of losses; modernization of irrigation. Kyrgyzstan: Rehabilitation of Soviet-era schemes; productivity in smallholder systems. Tajikistan: Efficient irrigation for food–energy security; salinity management. Turkmenistan: Large-scale irrigation efficiency; reuse of drainage water; climate-smart technologies. Uzbekistan: Water-saving technologies including drip and sprinkler systems; system-level productivity.	Ministries of water and agriculture, irrigation agencies, farmers and water user organizations, International Financial Institutions, universities, CGIAR and private technology providers.	National pilots and capacity building across all five countries, 2026–2030.
Priority 4: Digitalization and Data-driven Water Management				
Accelerated digital transformation of water management through GIS/RS tools, dashboards, monitoring systems and decision-support platforms.	GIS and remote-sensing tools; spatial dashboards; data portals; water accounting; smart monitoring; decision-support systems; targeted technical training and institutionalization of digital workflows.	Kazakhstan: Modernization; decision-support systems. Kyrgyzstan: Mountain monitoring networks; early warning systems. Tajikistan: Remote sensing for glaciers and flows; open hydrological databases. Turkmenistan: Digital water accounting for allocation and consumption tracking. Uzbekistan: Basin-level digital platforms; real-time monitoring of use and losses.	Government water agencies, hydromet services, academia, national geospatial and digitalization institutions, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), technology partners.	National and basin-level digital pilots, 2026–2029; institutional uptake and regional interoperability, 2028–2030.

Table 1. (continued)

Expected outcomes (intermediate)	Key activities/ interventions	Countries/geographic areas	Partners and beneficiaries	Delivery model and timeline
Priority 5: Ecosystems, WASH and inclusive water services				
More sustainable and inclusive water management, with improved water quality, ecosystem health, rural WASH access and participation of women, youth and vulnerable groups.	Water quality monitoring; ecosystem restoration analytics; rural WASH governance support; citizen/ user satisfaction surveys; gender and youth leadership programs; inclusive basin and service-delivery mechanisms.	Kazakhstan: Environmental flows; river restoration; urban–rural service quality. Kyrgyzstan: Ecosystem protection in headwaters; rural WASH access. Tajikistan: Ecosystem-based adaptation; equitable access in rural areas. Turkmenistan: Water quality protection; education and inclusion; basin councils. Uzbekistan: Aral Sea ecosystem recovery; rural WASH; pollution control.	World Bank, ADB, JSC Uzsuvtaminot, water utilities, ministries of water, environment and health, local governments, civil society and community organizations.	National pilots and institutional capacity building, 2026–2028; scaling through service providers and investment programs, 2028–2030.

According to the IWMI Strategy 2024–2030, the country and regional niche areas provide a strong platform for IWMI to continue leveraging its proven expertise, start new interventions, and build upon its global knowledge and experience. IWMI in Central Asia will collaborate with national systems and work in synergy with international partners on all its activities. Moreover, the team will expand by recruiting new experts both locally and internationally, and by engaging with IWMI’s other global offices.

The results framework outlines a coherent set of expected outcomes that translate regional and national water priorities into actionable interventions across Central Asia. The outcomes are structured to address both systemic regional challenges—such as drought risk and transboundary water governance—and country-level implementation needs related to productivity, digitalization, and institutional capacity. Each outcome is directly linked to targeted activities and clearly defined geographic scopes to ensure strategic focus and operational clarity.

Enhanced drought resilience is addressed through regional Drought Risk and Resilience Assessments (DRRAs) and structured policy dialogues, which provide an everyday analytical basis for national planning and regional coordination. This outcome prioritizes early-stage analytical work and stakeholder engagement (2026–2028) to inform longer-term investments and policy reforms. Improved water productivity focuses on national-level piloting and capacity building, recognizing the central role of irrigated agriculture in water demand and economic development. These interventions are designed to generate practical evidence that can be scaled through national programs and International Financial Institution-supported investments through 2030.

Strengthened transboundary cooperation is pursued through the facilitation of regional dialogue platforms and applied research, supporting trust-building, benefit-sharing, and coordinated basin management. In parallel, digital transformation interventions emphasize the development and institutionalization of Geographic Information System (GIS)- and remote-sensing-based tools to enhance transparency, monitoring, and decision-making at the national level. Together, the outcomes reflect a phased, integrated delivery approach that combines analytical rigor, policy engagement, and practical implementation, leveraging partnerships with governments, IFIs, regional organizations, and research institutions to achieve durable, scalable impacts.

5. Partners and Funders

IWMI collaborates with national authorities responsible for water, environment, agriculture, and research; regional cooperation organizations; IFIs; United Nations agencies; research institutions; and development partners, including the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and other bilateral and multilateral actors. These collaborations take multiple complementary forms, including joint analytical and diagnostic work, co-design and implementation of investment projects, policy advisory support, capacity development and training programs, piloting and scaling of innovative technologies, and facilitation of regional and transboundary dialogue platforms. IWMI also supports partners by developing decision-support tools, evidence-based policy notes, investment prioritization frameworks, and monitoring and evaluation systems aligned with international standards.

The strength of IWMI in these partnerships lies in its ability to bridge science, policy, and practice. As a globally recognized research-for-development organization, IWMI provides independent, credible, and policy-relevant evidence grounded in advanced water science, field-based research, and regional contextual knowledge. Its longstanding presence in Central Asia enables trusted engagement with national institutions and regional bodies. At the same time, its global network and CGIAR affiliation allow the transfer of international best practices and comparative experience. Through these partnerships, IWMI acts as a neutral knowledge broker, technical integrator, and convening platform, supporting partners in translating complex water challenges—such as climate change, transboundary water management, and water productivity—into actionable policies, investments, and cooperative solutions.

IWMI's work in Central Asia has been primarily supported by a group of longstanding and strategic funding partners that value evidence-based, regionally coordinated approaches to water security and climate resilience. Among the current core funders, the World Bank has played a central role by supporting analytical work, policy dialogue, and investment-oriented activities related to drought risk management, water governance reforms, and transboundary water cooperation. The SDC has been a key partner in advancing regional water cooperation, trust-building, and science-policy interfaces, particularly under initiatives such as Blue Peace Central Asia. The European Union (EU) has supported IWMI's engagement through regional programs focused on water, environment, climate resilience, and institutional strengthening, emphasizing alignment with EU external cooperation priorities and multilateral frameworks.

In parallel, IWMI is actively positioning itself to engage with a new generation of climate and environment financing mechanisms that are increasingly relevant for Central Asia. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) represents a significant opportunity to scale climate adaptation and mitigation investments in water, agriculture, and ecosystems, particularly for large-scale, multi-country programs addressing climate-induced water risks. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) offers substantial potential for supporting transboundary water management, ecosystem restoration, land degradation neutrality, and biodiversity-related water interventions. In addition, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is an emerging partner for climate-resilient water infrastructure, digitalization, and sustainable irrigation modernization, complementing traditional IFI financing in the region.

Through its established credibility, regional presence, and research-for-development mandate, IWMI is well-positioned to serve as a technical partner, knowledge broker, and implementing agency for both existing and emerging funders. This diversified funding engagement enables IWMI to bridge analytical work with investment pipelines, support multi-country initiatives, and align national priorities in Central Asia with global architectures for climate, water, and environmental finance.

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The **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWMI combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue and policy analysis to support implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center with offices in 17 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 55 countries.

Vision

A water-secure world

Mission

Research and innovation in partnerships for collective action that advance the transformation of water systems for sustainable, just and climate resilient development.

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