

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS – PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION

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Master level course is a cooperation between Uzbek and Kyrgyz Universities and the Swedish Aral Sea  
Society

# Transboundary Waters: Key Messages and Facts

- Most rivers (276!) worldwide cross borders
- Joint management through agreements, and joint institutions (e.g. Danube Commission) is crucial for sustainable development.
- Generally, water cooperation prevails over conflicts
- Increasing water stress might increase water conflict
- Majority of transboundary basins outside of Europe do not have basin agreements or existing agreements lack crucial provisions
- Therefore: need for a global legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary cooperation
- SDG 6 on water, target 6.5 states: *By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.*





# Albufeira Convention

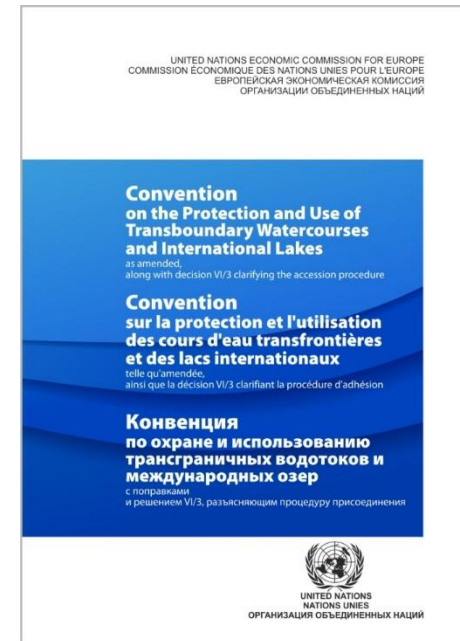


# Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Objective: to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation

**The Convention is based on three legal principles:**

- The right to reasonable and equitable use
- To avoid causing significant transboundary harm
- To cooperate



## Status of ratification of the UNECE Water Convention

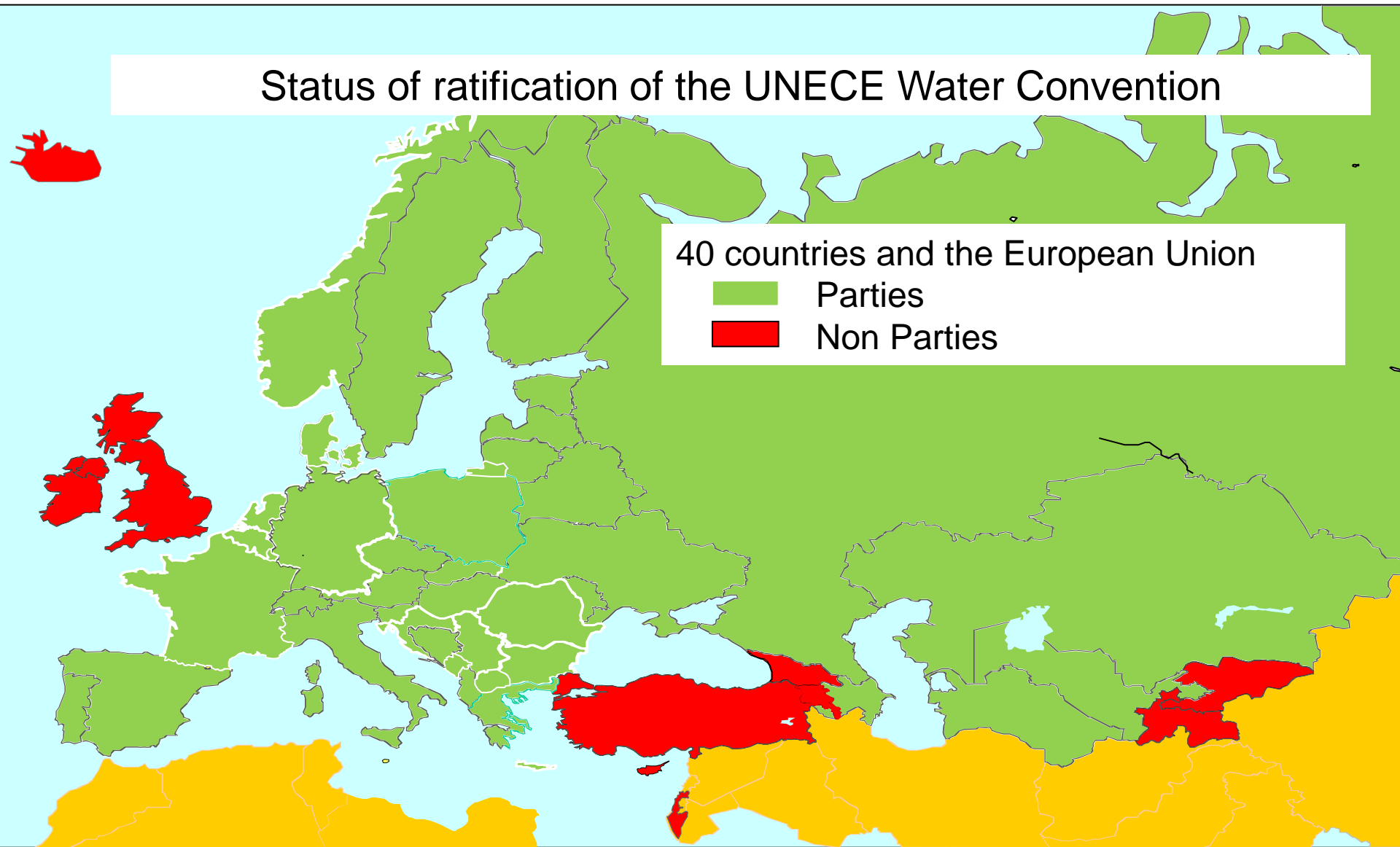
40 countries and the European Union



Parties



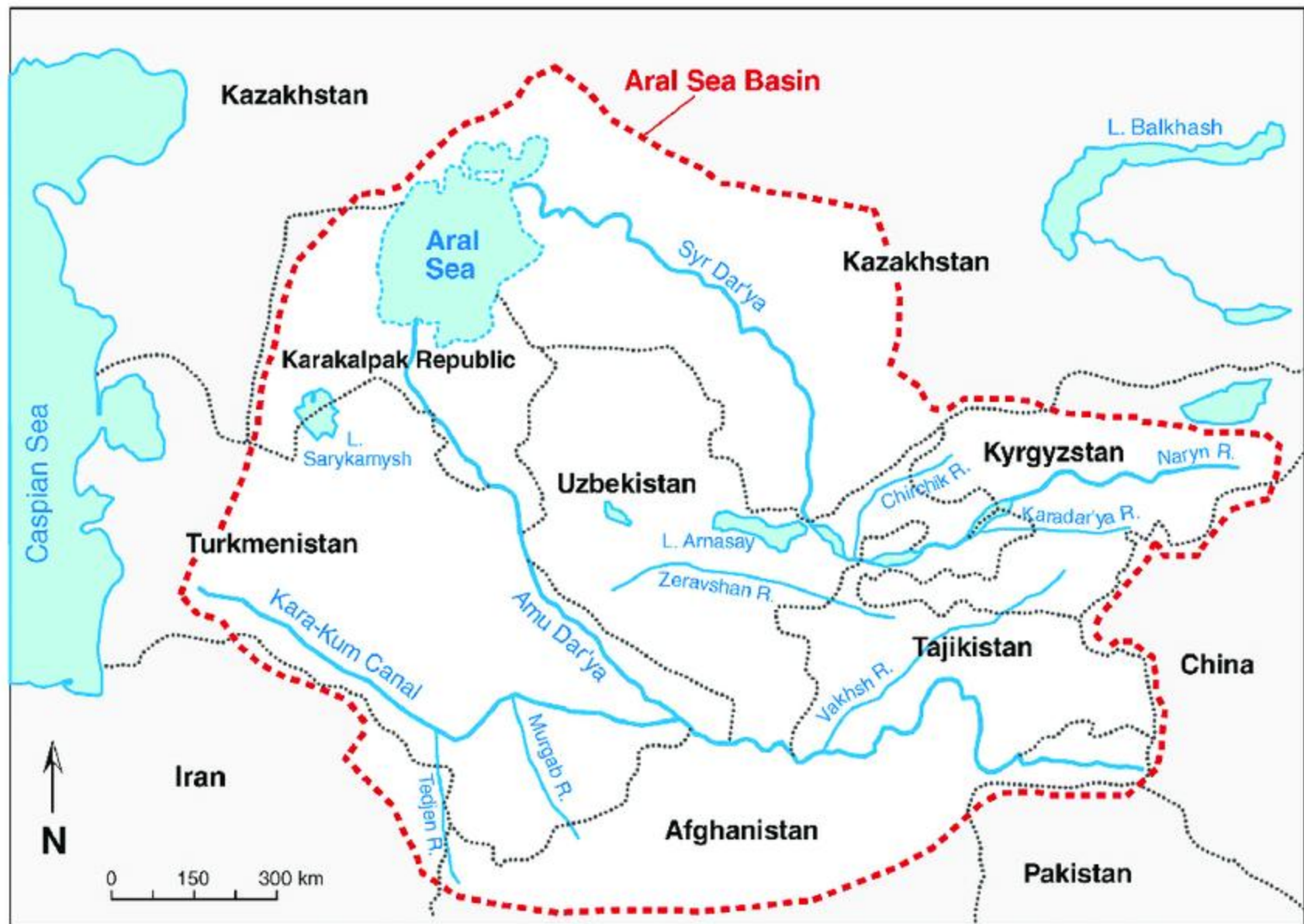
Non Parties



# Obligations under the Convention – Riparian Parties (Part 2)

- Obligation to conclude specific agreements and establish joint bodies
- Consultation
- Joint monitoring and assessment
- Exchange of information
- Warning and alarm systems
- Mutual assistance

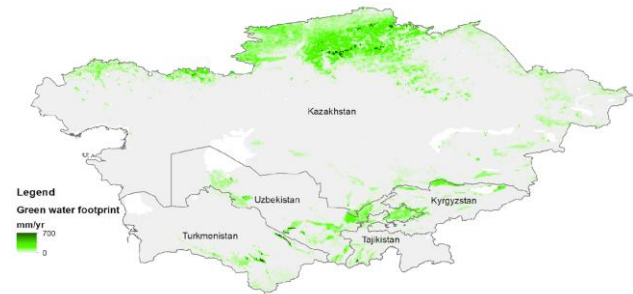
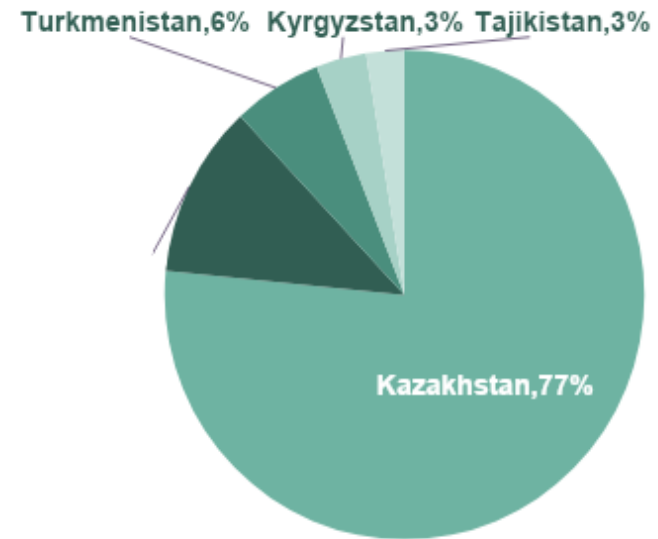
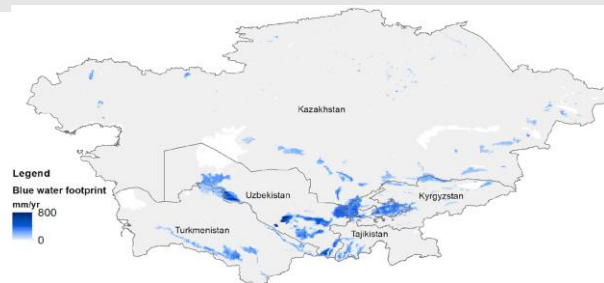
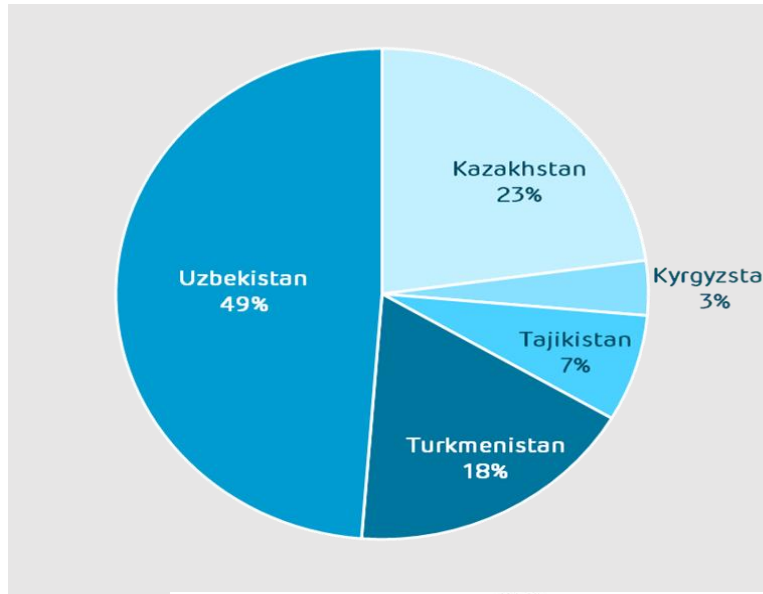








# Blue & Green water footprint of production



<https://www.bluepeace-centralasia.ch/materials/water-footprint-analysis-of-central-asia/>

1992 Agreement between the Republic  
of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the  
Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of  
Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on  
**Cooperation in Joint Management of  
Use and Protection of Water Resources  
of Interstate Sources**

# Water cooperation in Central Asia-

## Present situation

- **IFAS** (International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea), **ICWC** (Interstate Commission for Water Coordination), **ICSD** (Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development)
- Kyrgyzstan is presently not participating, Afghanistan was never part of these organizations
- Bilateral cooperation (Chu-Talas rivers, Kazakh-Uzbek, Turkmen-Uzbek, Kyrgyz-Uzbek etc)



The costs of inaction on water  
cooperation add up to more  
than  
US\$ 4.5 billion per annum for  
Central Asia

<https://www.adelphi.de/en/publication/rethinking-water-central-asia>

## Info about slides 13-16:

13. The Kirov dam in Kyrgyzstan – as a reminder of the need to cooperate better between countries in Central Asia on dam safety

14. Map of the Chu and Talas basins shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. A good bilateral cooperation on water sharing and water infrastructure is demonstrated in these basins.

15. Pyanj river where bilateral water cooperation was initiated between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. This cooperation is now discontinued.

16. The regional working group on water quality in the Aral Sea basin. There is a need for better cooperation on water quality between countries along the rivers of Syr Darya and Amu Darya.





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map









# Study questions

1. Which sector uses most water in the Aral Sea basin?
2. Describe the conflict between the hydropower and irrigation in Central Asia.
3. Which are the countries sharing the Aral Sea basin?
4. What is the North Aral Sea?
5. Which are the three basic principles of the UNECE Water Convention?
6. What is the name of the regional water cooperation organization in the Aral Sea basin?
7. Name water-related areas where transboundary cooperation needs to be further developed in the region.



# Спасибо за внимание!

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