

## PROGRAM ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

### IFAS Reform Progress



On October 18, the 5th Meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on Improving the Organizational Structure and Legal Framework of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Organized by the Executive Committee of IFAS, with CAWEP support under the *Facilitation of the Regional Dialogue* activity, the meeting brought together representatives of the governments of Central Asian countries, IFAS institutions, donor countries, financial institutions, and other international development partners.

The RWG agreed that the geographic focus for IFAS should remain on the Aral Sea Basin, and that the thematic focus should remain on water, environment, and social-economic development, while also considering energy and natural

disasters. The RWG agreed that IFAS functions sensibly include cooperation, project monitoring and implementation, joint research and knowledge exchange, and securing finance for joint projects.



On the same day, the Executive Committee of IFAS discussed with international development partners potential support to the 4th Aral Sea Basin Program (ASBP-4). Development partners, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Islamic Development Bank, issued a [Joint Statement of the EC-IFAS and International Development Partners on the Implementation of the ASBP-4](#). Participants agreed to strengthen donor coordination, establish a platform for dialogue, and share information on ongoing activities and plans to synergize implementation of regional projects and programs.

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### New Water Supply and Sanitation Law in the Kyrgyz Republic Will Address Current Gaps



On October 29 and November 3, consultations on the concept of the new water supply and sanitation (WSS) law took place in the Kyrgyz Republic. The law is expected to address existing gaps and shortcomings in WSS services while making them more sustainable.

The two-day consultations were organized jointly by the State Agency of Architecture, Construction, Housing and Communal Services (Gosstroy) in the Kyrgyz Republic and its Department of Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal (DDWSWD), and the Community Development and Investment Agency ([ARIS](#)).

Delegates discussed a vision for the sector and the existing governance arrangements, including the legal framework, asset management, service quality/affordability/delivery, tariff regulation, customer engagement, and performance monitoring. The discussions will inform the finalization of the concept for the new law.

The new law is being prepared with support from EcoAudit LLC under the World Bank-funded [Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Development Project](#) implemented by ARIS. International experts in the field of water law and WSS regulation are providing guidance, under the CAWEP activity *Human Water Security: Strengthening WSS at Regional Level*.

Around 40 participants representing the Ministry of Economy, Gosstroy, DDWSWD, State Agency on Antimonopoly Regulation, the State Agency on Regional Development, the Department of Disease Prevention and Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, utilities, and development partners, as well as sector experts attended the consultations.

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## Exchanging Experiences in Renewable Energy Development in Central Asia



On December 9-10, the governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan organized a workshop on the development of renewable energy and private sector investments. Participants from the energy and finance sectors, together with parliamentarians learned about best practices for scaling up renewable energy; preparation of renewable energy development strategies, policies, and regulations; and private sector participation. The event took place in Bishkek, under the CAWEP *Support to Renewable Energy Development* activity.



The workshop was followed by a study tour in Uzbekistan for the Kyrgyz delegation (December 14-17) to see the outcomes of the energy sector reforms, including increased renewable energy generation and integration into the national grid. The Kyrgyz delegation visited solar and wind power plants, and learned more about the practical experiences of implementing public-private partnerships. The study tour participants met with representatives of various ministries (Energy, Investment and Foreign Trade, Finance, Development of Information Technologies and Communications), the Regional Electric Networks JSC, Tashkent city administration, and the World Bank team.

These two events contributed to enhancing the knowledge base for green energy sector development in the Kyrgyz Republic in a way that is strategic, based on a favorable legislative framework and actively engages the private sector.

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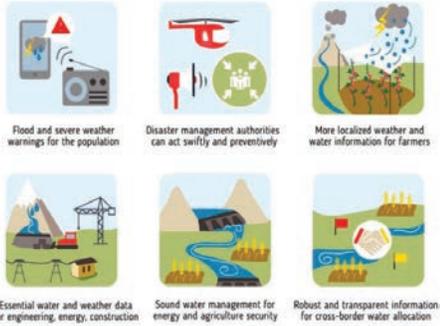
## PUBLICATIONS & MULTIMEDIA

### Forecasting Risk: How the Central Asian Flood Early Warning System Will Protect the Region

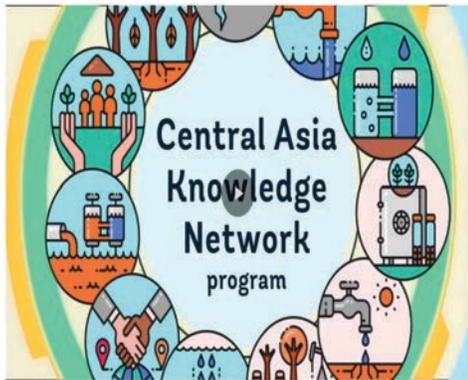
A new set of [infographics](#) has been published describing the Central Asian Flood Early Warning System (CAFEWS). Conceived as a shared virtual platform for data exchange and weather and flood forecasting, CAFEWS will help better manage the transboundary risks posed by weather, climate, and water.

A [video](#) published on the World Bank YouTube channel explains how the CAFEWS will help improve prediction of the location and timing of extreme

## CAFEWS benefits and applications



weather and floods.



## Celebrating 10th anniversary of the Central Asia Knowledge Network

Over the past decade, the [Central Asia Knowledge Network \(CAKN\)](#) has provided a regional convening platform for academics practitioners, and youth and other civil society leaders from Central Asia and Afghanistan. It supports a multisector approach to regional collaboration in the areas of water management, environmental protection and sustainable development. A [video](#) to mark the 10th anniversary of CAKN presents achievements and highlights of the partnership.

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CAWEP funds initiatives that improve water and energy management, strengthen national and regional institutions, and facilitate regional dialogue on energy and water security.

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