

# New Thinking on water Governance

on example IWRM-Fergana  
project

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# How comprehensive and integrated are water policies in your country / State?

- The Central Asian States swiftly responded to the challenge of self management and concluded in Almaty, on February 18, 1992 an agreement in which they constituted the Interstate Coordination Water Commission (ICWC) as the body responsible for the definition of water management policy and the annual agreement on water allocation and reservoir operation of the transboundary waters of the basin and agreed to maintain the established order of water allocation among them (the "1992 Agreement"). The basis of water use regulation is set in Central Asia through mutual agreements, such as: Agreement of March 26, 1993 **"About joint actions for solution of problems in the Aral Sea and its coastal zone (Prearalie), on environmental improvement and socio-economic development in Aral area; Almata and Ashgabat Declarations of the Heads of Central Asian State** signed in September 28, 1997 and April 9, 1999.

# How updated are water laws in your country/ States?

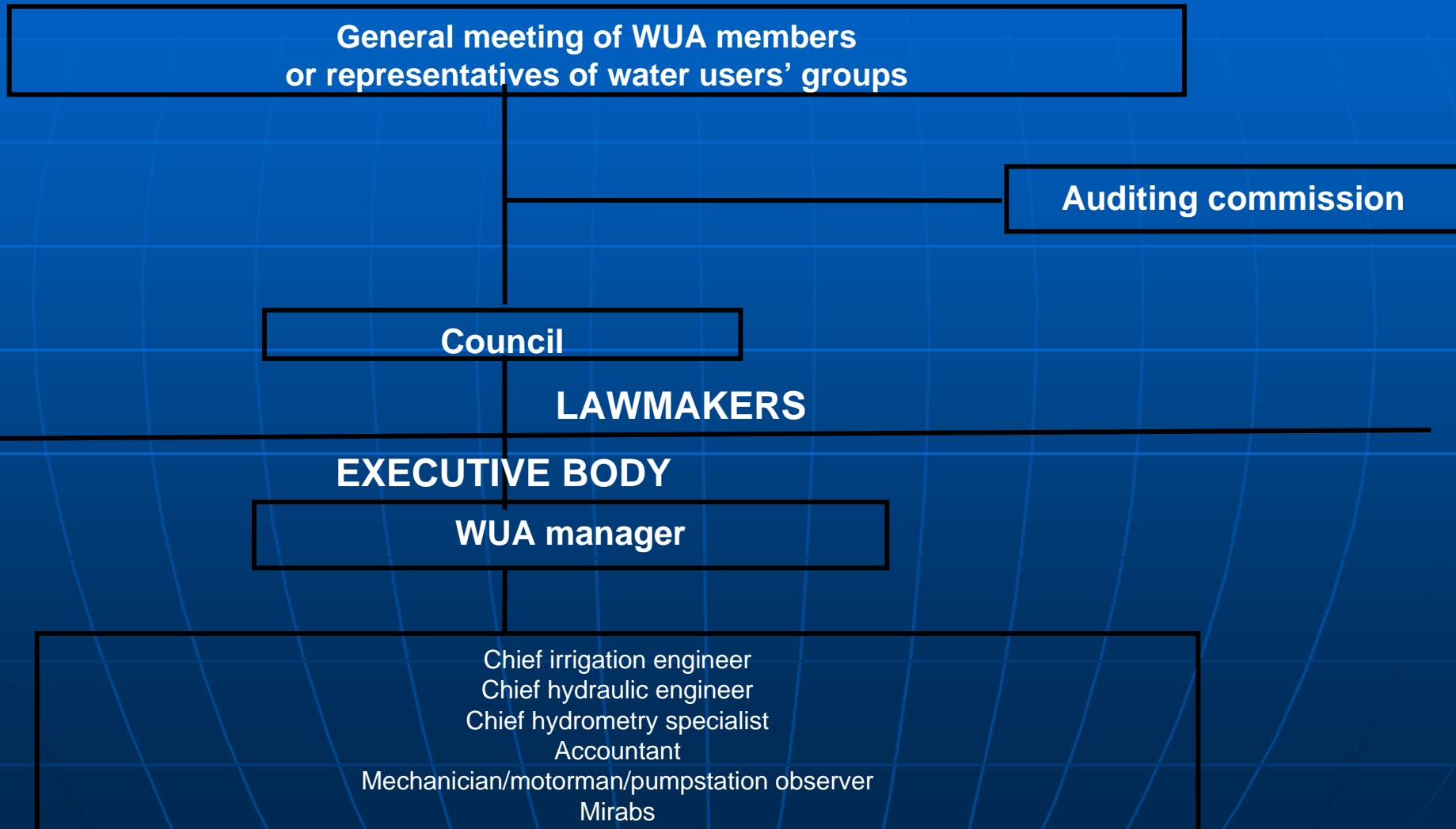
In 1993, Oliy Majilis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the Law on Water and Water Use. This main Law of Uzbekistan about Water and Water Use was amended according to Uzbek laws of 25.04.97, 29.08.98; Law of 31.08.2000, section III; Law N 175-II of 15.12.2000, section I, para.4. This year, revision of this law is prepared and will be submitted to Oliy Majilis of Uzbekistan. This Law is to regulate water relations, ensure rational water use for population and economic needs, protect water from pollution, contamination and depletion, prevent and liquidate harmful water effects, improve status of water bodies, as well as protect rights of enterprises, agencies, organizations, individual and dehqan farms and citizens in area of water relations.

# Are there water legislations and /or policies for the following?

	Yes/No	How effective are these policies? (scale of 1 to 10 being highly effective)
Water rights	Yes	7
Quality standards	Yes	7
Ground water use	No	-
Demand management	No	-
Resource conservation	No	-
Private sector participation	Yes	5
Civil society participation	Yes	6
Institutional responsibilities for water sector functions	Yes	7

# How autonomous and accountable are water service providers: Rural water supply; Urban water supply;

## Irrigation service



# To what extent do water users participate to make services and service providers more responsive and accountable to beneficiaries, their needs and ability to pay?

- WUA members have a right to:
- Nominate candidates for election to WUA management board and be elected
- Receive an equitable and equal share of irrigation water, according to water use plan, as well as to exercise the right to priority getting of additional water
- Participate in discussion of issues of concern
- Put forward a claim to WUA for non-compliance with Statute and contractual obligations
- Have access to information about WUA activity affective public interests or water users' interests

# To what extent are cost recovery tariffs applied?

According to the Law about Water and Water Use, economic measures in support of rational water use and protection include: charges for special water use, for pollution of water sources and other types of harmful impact; tax, credit and other privileges given to enterprises, organizations, as well as to legal and physical entities and citizens for application of water-conservation technologies, for implementation of activities having water protection and water saving effects; application of effective legal, economic, institutional, social, environmental and other incentives in integrated and rational water use and protection.



# Are there policies and practices that effectively provide for explicit participation of the poor in water projects?

Considering the IWRM systems, the UNDP links water with four key areas of activities 1) struggle against poverty; 2) life support; 3) environmental protection; and 4) gender equality. Gender analysis implemented under the IWRM-Fergana Project has shown that yet there are gender imbalances in water resources management. However, it is necessary to note that the level of women's business activities is rising in rural areas; and women-leaders are appearing.



# How effective are water regulatory agencies?

Hundreds and even thousands of private farms with an irrigated area ranging from 0.3 to 20 ha have replaced former collective farms and state farms under reforming the agricultural sector in Central Asian countries. Therefore, the information-management system “IMS-Fergana” aimed at evaluating and validating different methods of water resources allocation in the agricultural sector with the purpose to improve the efficiency of water use has been developed in the frame of the IWRM-Fergana Project. The “IMS-Fergana” solves various water management tasks at different stages of managing the water distribution process.

**Are there programs to educate the industry on the efficient use of water and the need for higher prices for both water use and effluent treatment and discharge?  
How effective are these programs?**

It is necessary to note one of target program funded by the ADB and OSCE. This is program “Water and Education” with help of which the topics covering special knowledge on water resources will be included in a curricula of secondary schools. An interactive training method, employed in the ICWC Training Center, under which all trainers can exchange their practical experience, is exceptionally useful for crating the atmosphere of collaboration and an understanding of peculiarities and approaches of other countries, as well as for reaching the consensus in the overall view on the future of water resources use.