

# Water cooperation in STTs: can it be model for larger basins?

**Jusipbek Kazbekov, IWMI**

Workshop on Triggering Cooperation across the Water-Energy-Food

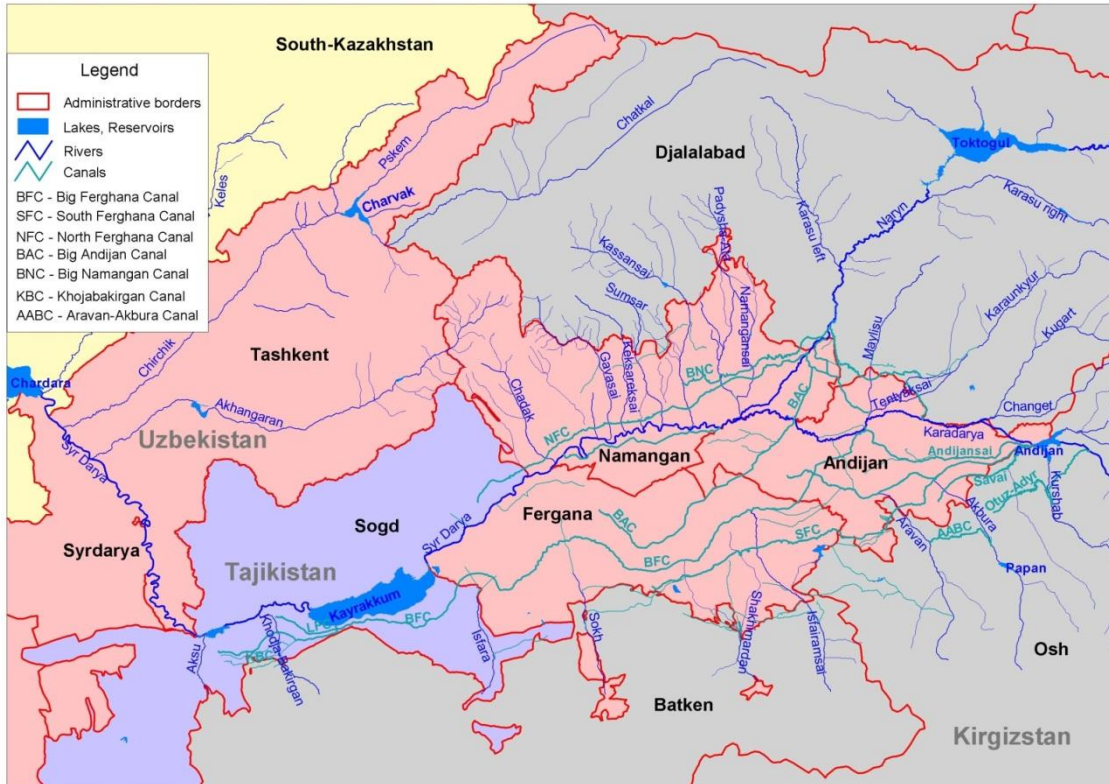
Nexus in Central Asia by IUCN, IWA and EWI

Istanbul, Turkey on 15 to 17 July 2014

# Challenges

- Basins are closed – no more water for new allocations/ deteriorated infrastructure/ ongoing land reforms/ transboundary debate;
- Need for more food for growing population – more water needed;
- With CC high rainfall variability, patterns will shift and will be drier;
- Bottom line – water availability will change (in amount or time) – so we need to also;
- Building resilience institutionally – a case from Small transboundary tributaries in the FV.

# STTs in the Ferghana Valley



- 20+ STTs
- Natural streams, mostly unregulated;
- Frequent extreme events (floods, etc.);
- High density of transboundary infrastructure – STTs;
- 1983 Scheme on Complex Use and Protection of Water Resources for Syr Darya – integrated approach;
- Since Soviet times STTs were considered as local issue and had its own agreements;
- Issues solved in mediation of Moscow and STT protocols had to be updated on a regular basis;

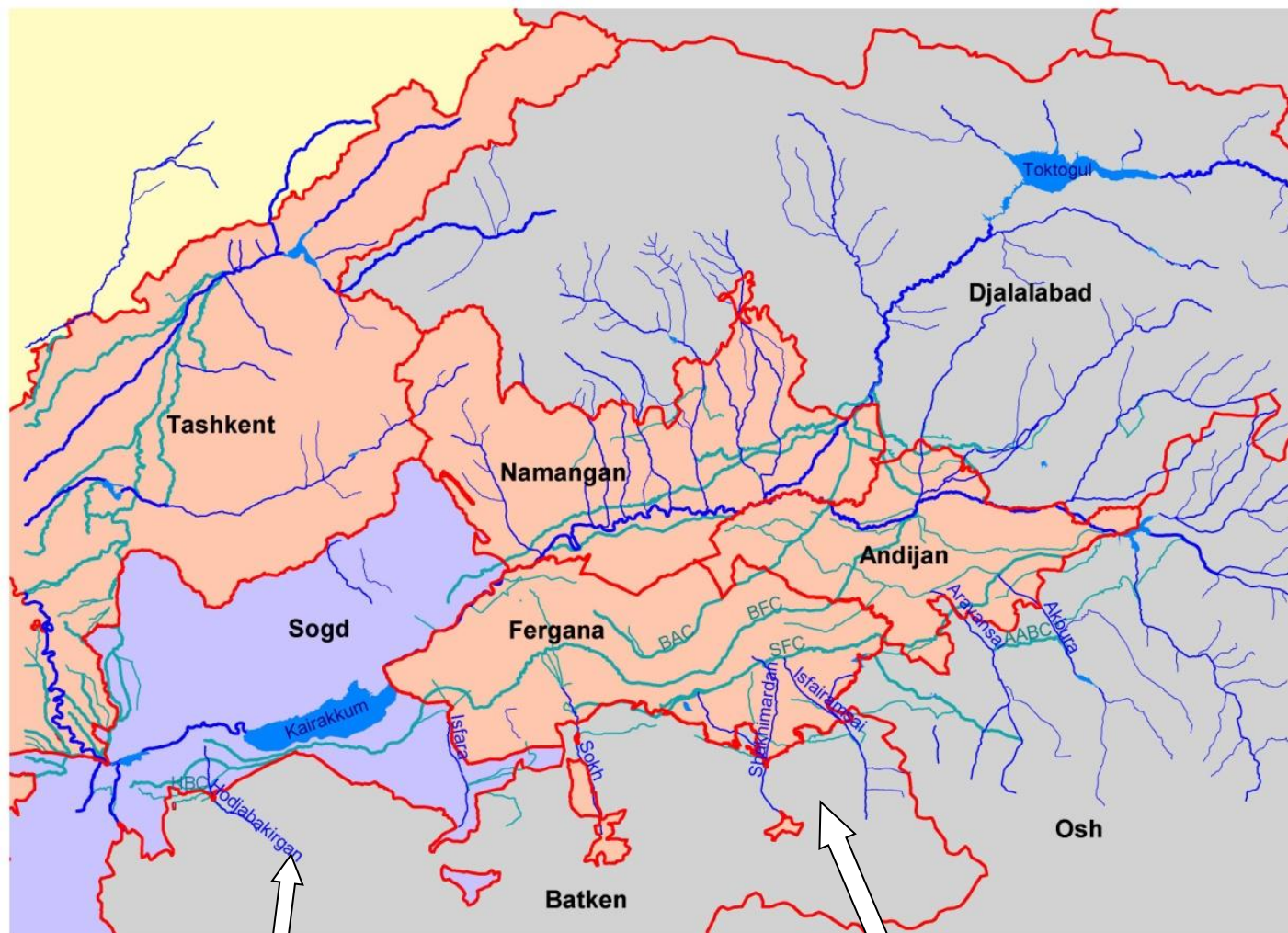


# What do we have now

- After independence – the change of operation mode of upstream reservoir (Toktogul) – disintegration;
- STT agreements outdated but some still in force – some modified (unknown to many)
- Ad hoc contacts: rather reactive than proactive (water, infrastructure maintenance, emergencies);
- No 3<sup>rd</sup> party facilitation after USSR;
- Need for frequent contacts & border crossings after problems occur;
- Sensitivity of border-crossing /borders still to be sorted out;
- No incentive system in place to systematically promote and encourage cooperation;
- No cooperation btw different departments.



# Two pilot STTs within the Ferghana Valley

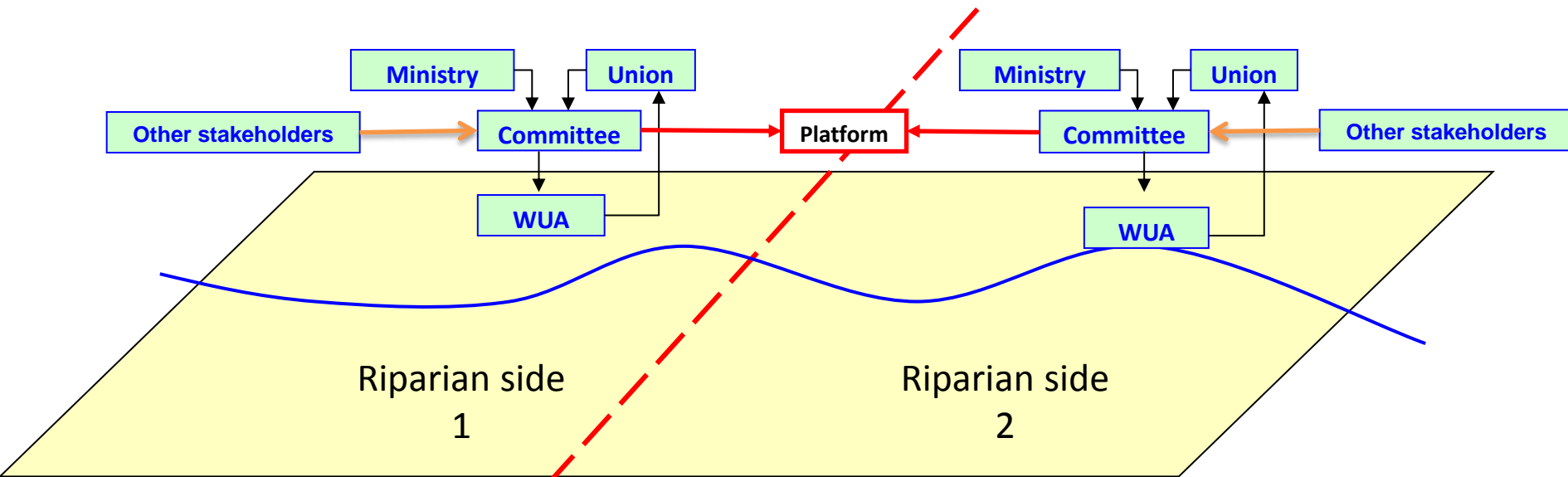


Khojabakirgan (Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan)

Shahimardan (Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan)

# River-wide institutional arrangements

- Platform, mechanisms, tools for systematic exchange are established;
- Joint governance arrangements are advised by local stakeholders;
- Data on plans, water & extreme events are shared, jointly maintained and monitored;
- Platform still needs formalization and link-up with legal frameworks.



# What were the triggers

- Good grasp of local context (existing agreements, key stakeholders & issues)
- Continuous facilitation/ long term trust building;
- Systematizing communication on day to day issues;
- Inviting border, emergency, ecology, domestic water supply bodies;
- Flexible and ready to adapt to local conditions



# Key messages

- Water cooperation can be boosted if encouraged on a bilateral or multi-lateral basis & linked to existing regional frameworks;
- Otherwise promoting cooperation might be too time-consuming and complicated by mediation from different donors with competing interests;
- The proposed solutions have to be flexible to better adapt to local conditions;
- Threat of reinventing the wheel from other donor-funded projects if interventions are poorly coordinated and not aligned with previous experiences and lessons;
- Historic knowledge of water cooperation can serve as a better platform for policy making and donor decisions.

