



Green Central Asia
Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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KASACHISCHE
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The Aral Sea Summer School Young Water Leaders – Vector of Change August 2021

Background

Today, more than ever before, water is recognized as a fundamental resource to ensure future sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and access to water is vital as a basic human right. In committing to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we aim to implement our summer schools on an annual basis, focusing on the themes of United Nations World Water Development Reports. Consequently, the third Aral Sea summer school will be entitled to the theme of “valuing water”, and will serve youth – one of the most vulnerable groups as specified in the 2030 Agenda.

The young water leaders of the Central Asian region are potential future decision-makers, representatives of academia and research, who will influence the development of the region and beyond. Thereby, we aim that the summer school will be a tool to empower and inspire the youth to choose nature-based solutions when addressing environmental challenges. We will lead an expert-to-youth knowledge exchange, as well as capacity-building and networking opportunities for future water leaders. It is also crucial to raise awareness of the Aral Sea desiccation and how this man-made environmental tragedy continues to affect the local population, who had to migrate and leave their homes. Therefore, we envision an added value of the summer school in acknowledging the current situation in the Aral region and attracting more young specialists to engage with the topic in their professional and academic life.

Structure and approach

Three main directions of influence:

❖ Water for food and agriculture

Driven by population growth, between 2012 and 2050 global demand for food production and other agricultural products is expected to increase by 50% (FAO, 2017b). Efficient use of water resources and improved irrigation can sustain additional services - apart from water for food production - and result in improved environmental and human health. Increasing water scarcity in most regions around the world will require a transition to agricultural development towards sustainable intensification, which includes production systems and practices like agroforestry, conservation agriculture, sustainable forest and fisheries management. We aim to acquaint the youth with these practices and expose how local communities are involved and can develop these practices in the Aral Sea region.

❖ Water for the cultural benefits

Cultural ecosystem services shape environmental spaces and enhance cultural practices to enable an experience of belonging, senses of tranquillity and inspiration. The water-related values can be evaluated within the framework of cultural ecosystem services, however, there are far more aspects relevant to water resources that can foster various positive emotional experiences in terms of spirituality and religious contexts. The cultural aspect is also about sharing water resources and valuing transboundary water resources through dialogue and communication. This thematic scope will foster youth to understand & seek more than the economic value of a

resource, but also to pay attention to traditional knowledge sharing and knowledge mapping.

❖ Water for economic prosperity

Considering economic aspects to estimate the significant value of nature, which supports people, can also aid to project the cost of inaction, in terms of ecosystem loss and degradation. The ecosystem services relate to provisioning and cultural services, as well as regulating - supporting resilience and reducing risks. It is reported that - “in 2019, environment-related risks accounted for three of the top five risks by likelihood and four of the top five by impact” (World Economic Forum, 2019). Disaster risks such as floods, landslides only exacerbate the loss of ecosystem services. It is important to expose the youth to various tools to carry out assessments and analysis to better understand the impact of economic aspects of water on nature and our environment. *All three thematic scopes will be structured to develop a better understanding of transboundary and regional cooperation, as well as discover the potential of youth to advocate for water and peace supporting the Blue Peace Central Asia initiative.*

Methodology

The summer school will be based on interactive thematic lectures, which will then be followed by working sessions to foster intergenerational dialogue, and build the capacities of the participants. Field trips around the Aral Sea Basin will provide an opportunity for the engagement of youth with the local community and interaction with civil society, which will be an essential part of the experience and traditional knowledge sharing.

Objectives

- Expand knowledge of future water leaders in the field of nature-based solutions;
- Raise awareness of the youth through strengthening a platform for networking to create ties between different youth representatives and allow new, concrete actions to emerge in the region and beyond;
- Promote dialogue between the youth and civil society/local communities in the Aral Sea region;
- Cultural representation of the event in the media to provide more visibility and opportunities for cross-regional cooperation.

**III Летняя школа на Аральском море
Молодые водные лидеры - вектор перемен
11–21 августа, 2021**

Предварительная повестка

Дата	Место назначения	Время	Мероприятия/Лекции/Выезды/Экскурсии
День 1 (11.08.)	Алматы	10:00 - 10.25 10.25 - 11:25 11:30 - 13:00 13:00 - 14:00 14:00 - 14:30 15:00 - 16:40	- Официальное открытие мероприятия - Презентация о Летней Школе от Central Asia Youth for Water (CAY4W) Network - Презентация проекта ESERA (Экосистемы, общество и экономика Приаралья) - Региональная олимпиада по ЦУР 6 (гибридный формат) - Обед - Подведение итогов и результаты региональной олимпиады по ЦУР 6 - Выезд на ЖД вокзал / Отъезд из Алматы
День 2 (12.08.)	Аральск	14:40	- Прибытие - Заселение в отель - Ужин
День 3 (13.08.)	Аральск- Аралкум- Камыстыба с	09:00 - 11:00 11:30 - 12:30 13:00 - 14:00	- Посещение офиса ГПЗ “Барсакемес” - Посещение музея рыболовства - Обед - Посещение саксаульных насаждений ТОО “Байтак Дала” (Аралкум) - Прибытие в НТЦ “Арал” (Камыстыбас) - Ужин
День 4 (14.08)	Камыстыба с	09:00 - 18:00	- Вводные презентации по тематикам: Изменение климата, Вода и Гендер - Ужин - Культурный вечер
День 5 (15.08.)	Камыстыба с - Коджар - Каскакулан - Каратерен	09:00 - 18:00	- Рыбопромысловые водоемы в Коджаре - Обед в Каскакулане - Посещение тематических районов Каскакулана (наблюдение за куланами) - Ужин - Ночевка в Каратерене
День 6 (16.08.)	Каратерен - Аклак - Кокарал - Акбасты	09:00 - 18:00	- Посещение гидро-конструкции Аклак - Дамба Кокарал и малое Аральское море - Обед - Окаменелости - Термальный источник - Процессы опустынивания - Акбасты - Ужин
День 7 (17.08.)	Акбасты - Акеспе	09:00 - 18:00	- Аральские каньоны - Опустынивание в селе Акеспе - Термальные источники Акеспе - Ночевка в селе Акеспе
День 8 (18.08.)	Акеспе - Аральск	09:00 - 18:00	- Отъезд в Аральск - Обед - Подведение итогов - Прощальный ужин - Свободное время
День 9 (19.08.)	Аральск - Алматы	09.00	- Отъезд в Алматы
День 10 (20.08)	Алматы	17:40	- Прибытие в Алматы

День 11 (21.08)	День отъезда из Алматы		
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