**UZBEKISTAN DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION AND WETLANDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
(PROJECT P009127)

**Key Dates:**
Approved: June 19, 2003
Effective: February 20, 2004
Closing: June 13, 2013

**Financing from all co-financiers, million US Dollars***:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financier</th>
<th>Financing</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
<th>Undisbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBRD Loan</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>10.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of Uzbekistan</td>
<td>14.55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>74.55</td>
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</tbody>
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*As of February, 2012 Note: Disbursements may differ from financing due to exchange rate fluctuations at the time of disbursement.

**Challenges:**
The Project is part of the Aral Sea Basin Program approved by the heads of five Central Asian States in 1994. In Uzbekistan, in particular in Amu Darya basin, the soils are saline and drainage systems are inadequate. The common practice is to apply large quantities of water for leaching the soils of salts. This practice results in high groundwater levels, and causes, through capillary action, the salts in the soil profile to be brought to the surface. By improving drainage, the Project will break this vicious cycle of high water applications, water logging and secondary soil salinization.

**Project Objective:**
The Project Development Objectives are to: (a) increase productivity of irrigated agriculture, employment and incomes in Karakalpakstan, one of the poorest regions in Central Asia; (b) improve the water quality of the Amu Darya River by the safe disposal of drainage effluents, and enhance the quality of wetlands in the Amu Darya delta; and (c) develop institutions for improving water management, operation and maintenance (O&M) of the irrigation and drainage systems, and for promoting sustainable irrigated agriculture through participatory irrigation management.

**Results achieved:**
- Groundwater table lowered to an acceptable level in 90 percent of the Project area. The lower groundwater table is resulting in desalination of irrigated lands and is preventing secondary soil salinity.
- Arable land that was unfit for agriculture before the Project because of its salinity is cultivated, helping to generate new employment and income in the Project area.
- Quality of water in the Amu Darya improved. Water salinity in the Amu Darya downstream of the Project area has gone down considerably because drainage effluent no longer flows into the river.
- 21 Water Users Associations (WUAs) established to improve water management, operation and maintenance of the irrigation and drainage systems. Farmers, members of Water Users Associations, operators, staff of water management organizations, rural communities, and staff of local authorities (1,250 persons in total) have received training in improved agriculture and water management practices.
- The civil works under the project to be completed before project closing date June 2013.

**Key Partners:** Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.
**Key Development Partners:** ADB, SDC and SIC-IWRC.