



**Meso level cooperation on transboundary tributaries and infrastructure in the Ferghana Valley**

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20/09/2011

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## Setting the Scene

- Despite the 1992 agreement on water sharing in Central Asia, the region was identified as being at great risk of conflict.
- ‘nowhere in the world is the potential for conflict over resources as strong as in Central Asia’ (Smith 1995: 351)
- Overall – water conflicts are much more known than water cooperations in Central Asia



## Map of existing and potential water conflicts (SDC 2002)



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## Below the radar of larger basins

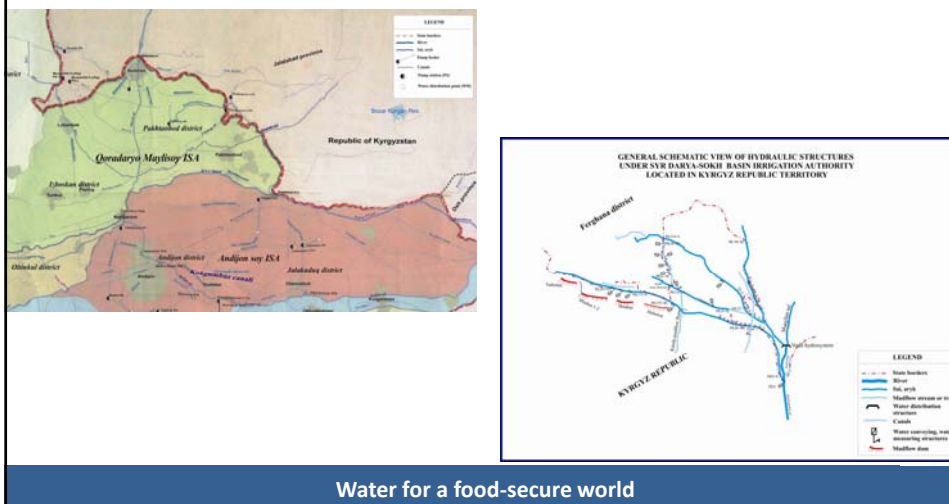
- Long and broad history of cooperation in sharing Central Asian water.
- In Ferghana Valley there are 22 small transboundary tributaries of the Syr Darya, all of them have some kind of agreement on either:
  1. Water sharing
  2. Property rights on infrastructure
  3. basin linkages / compensations



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## Examples of property rights - cooperation



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## Conclusion

- current emphasis on non-cooperation & conflict is unfounded – more nuanced approach has to be taken
- Preliminary finding – widespread property rights to transboundary water management infrastructure
- Looking at Ferghana Valley – not a simple upstream-downstream relationship

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*Thank you.*



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