How to establish a Water Users Association?

Practical Steps for Social Mobilizers

MARCH 2003
1. Background

The central Asian experience shows that in the past, most of the Water Users Associations (WUAs) have been established through a top-down approach, where the ordinary farmers have neither been consulted nor been informed that they are members of the WUA. Rather, a group of knowledgeable people (usually called the founding members or the incentive group) initiated the process of establishing WUA, got it registered with the justice department, and then the initiators became the council of WUA. In many cases, such WUAs have failed or are unable to even recover the costs of water and operation and maintenance of the irrigation and drainage facilities from the farmers, because the ordinary farmers do not feel ownership and tend to avoid fee payment.

This experience suggests that if the WUAs are established using a top-down approach, they are weak and have a high risk of failure. WUAs should rather be established through a bottom-up consultative approach. There is a need to work with the ordinary grassroots level farmers/ water users to establish WUA so that they understand what is a WUA and how they will benefit from it. Charts 1-17 describe some of the important aspects of WUAs in Kyrgyzstan.

2. What do we mean by a Water Users Association?

A Water Users Association (WUA) is a non-profit organization that is initiated, and managed by the group of water users along one or more hydrological sub-systems (distributory canals which are the higher level than a watercourse) regardless of the type of farms involved. By water users we mean the ordinary cultivators of land, individual members of lease-holding farms and shirkats, owners of private and dehkan farms, owners of home garden plots, etc. These are the potential members of the WUA, who pool financial, material, technical and human resources for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation and drainage system within their jurisdiction for the benefit of all the members. The membership in the WUA is based on contracts and/or agreements between the members and the WUA. Likewise, the supply of water and payment of fees to the water service provider is also based on contracts and/or agreements between the WUA and the irrigation service provider, where rights and obligations of both parties to the contract, time of delivery and agreed-on volumes are specified.

The farmers, by joining a WUA can have some, or all of the following benefits:

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1 To establish a WUA, however, the water users need to be assisted by projects, state structures, or any other facilitating organization.
2 A distributory canal is the one which supplies water to the canals from where the farmers directly divert water to their fields. Thus, it can be a secondary or tertiary canal. A watercourse is a canal from where the farmers directly divert water to their fields. It can be a tertiary or quaternary canal.
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- Equitable water distribution among farmers regardless of their location, type of farm, or size of the farm
- More reliable water supply
- Water supply becomes more responsive to crop needs
- Quick dispute resolution at the local level
- Well-maintained canals (decreasing the time of irrigation due to less fluctuation of discharges, reduced losses, etc).
- Less water theft/stealing

Typically, a WUA has the following organizational structure::

- **General Assembly** comprising all water users or a **Representative Assembly** comprising elected representatives from watercourses

- **Revision Commission** elected by the General Assembly
- **WUA Council** elected by the General Assembly headed by Chairperson
- **Dispute Resolution Commission** elected by the General Assembly

**Policy Level Decisions**

- **WUA Executive Body / Directorate** = WUA employed staff

**Day-to-day management and execution of tasks based on WUA policy and procedures**
3. Practical Steps to Establish a WUA

A WUA can be established by taking the following steps:

**STEP 1:** Build friendly relationships, and create awareness about WUA, its benefits, structure of WUA, its role, functions and how it is organized with farmers, their leaders, representatives of the water managing organizations (WMOs), aksakals and other key actors involved in the service area of the WUA; and collect initial information about farmers, farm types, sizes, key water-related problems, etc. The mobilizers should collect data about distributory canals and watercourses in the service area of WUA and the number of water users by type on each of these canals; prepare layouts of the service area with irrigation and drainage network (already completed for Uzbek and Tajik pilot WUAs).

The mobilizers should meet farmers in small informal groups to create friendly relations, and introduce the WUA and its benefits. To help understand more about the WUAs and their objectives, meetings can be conducted with farmers in small groups at village/ farm / watercourse level, as it might suit the local situation. To initiate the discussion, the mobilizers should provide the farmers a brief overview of the project and its intention to establish WUA in the pilot areas in as simple words as possible. They should also discuss key problems in water management that can be resolved by a WUA rather than existing way of water management. After the explanations, the Mobilizers should talk less and listen more, and answer the farmer’s questions or queries. The Mobilizers should make the audience feel that they are from amongst them and not the outsiders. This will build farmer’s confidence and trust on visitors.

Mobilizers with help from interested local people should convene group meetings with water users at the watercourse/ village / farm level for comprehensive farmer’s awareness. As an essential part of this meeting, the Mobilizers should help the participants of the meeting to carry out a diagnostic analysis. They can start with a brief overview of the project and request farmers to identify problems related to irrigated agriculture and specifically to irrigation water management. Depending on the number of participants, groups of 6-10 people should be assisted to list the problems, and then each group should be requested to present the problem analysis and possible solutions with identifying who should do that.

After these concepts clarifying meetings, the mobilizers should request the participants of the meetings to go back to their community, and further discuss the idea of forming a WUA to resolve these problems.
STEP 2: Identify essential components of Irrigation and drainage service plan

During the second set of meetings, the Mobilizers should present the findings of the earlier diagnostic analysis. After the presentation, the discussion should lead to “how establishing a WUA would lead to addressing some or all problems identified” and “how the irrigation service should look like” under a WUA management. Address the questions like: “What are the essential tasks? Who should perform those tasks and to whom should those performing the tasks be accountable to? Who would pay for that? How to monitor that the objectives are achieved?” Thus, this discussion would lead to some more in-depth discussion and understanding of WUAs on one hand and to definition of the objectives of the irrigation service and identification of a draft irrigation service plan, on the other.

STEP 3: Consult the Water Users on Appropriate Organizational Design, characteristics of the elected representatives, and the way they would like to choose their representatives along each watercourse for forming the Representative Assembly

During this stage, decisions about the structure and organs of WUA, membership criteria, tenure of representatives, election procedure, rules and by-laws for effective functioning of the WUAs at different level of the system should be discussed. The mobilizers should present different examples of structures, by-laws, and membership systems to the participants of the consultation meetings.

For that the Mobilizer should hold meetings in each village/ watercourse, or distributory level as appropriate, to consult water users on tentative plans for establishing water users association. The mobilizers should invite all water users served by the watercourse/ distributory canal/ farm or village system and residing in that village by sending hand written messages, announcing in mosques or through other local communication means. It should be ensured by the mobilizers that all people receiving water know that there is a meeting about organizing a Water Users Association (when and where, to do what). The mobilizers should also paste written notices of information on the public places where farmers pay regular visits (for example door of the mosque, community center, grocery shops, etc). The teams should target to inform all users/ farmers. After a brief overview of the benefits of WUA, purpose, structure, etc. and other clarifications by the mobilizers if needed, the meeting participants should then be consulted about the following:

- Do the participants think that a WUA would be beneficial for all water users (Shirkat and lease-holding farm members, dehkan and private farms and home garden plots owners)?
- Who should be the potential members of the WUA? (all types of users having right to take water should be proposed as equal members by the mobilizers, to start the discussion)
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- How many representatives should be elected from each watercourse into the representative assembly? When should they be elected? How? Who elects them?
- How many people should be elected to the WUA council out of the representative or general assembly? Who elects them/ when, how
- What should be the characteristics of the representatives/ leaders?
- How many members should be in the Revision Commission and Dispute Resolution Commission? What should be the role of these Commissions? Who elects members to these Commissions? How?
- Should the women farmers having the right to get water be equal members? If not, why not? What will be the mechanism to represent them in the WUA?
- After how long the WUA Council, Representative or General Assembly and Dispute Resolution and Revision Commissions should be elected again?
- Any other relevant issue they like to discuss or feel important.

Mobilizers should also take notes to document the process and note down the suggestions made by the water users using field note books for documentation. The field teams should also note down the important processes as well, like how many people were invited, how many participated, who said what, was the meeting dominated by a few important/ influential participants, or was it more participatory, did all the participants really understand the discussions, etc.

STEP 4: Representative election Meetings for Watercourses level Water Users Groups (WUGs) and for the Representative / General Assembly

The Mobilizers with active involvement of local people should conduct a series of meetings at watercourse level. Meeting dates, times and venues should be fixed in such a way that suits water users. For example, several water users might like to hold meetings in the evening to let their routine work not suffer. The mobilizers should widely publicize the selection meeting to provide equal opportunity for all eligible water users to come forward for representation. In this regard, announcements in the village two to three days ahead of the meetings and written messages to all water users would be highly useful. The mobilizers should try to ensure maximum participation. If the participation is less than the set criteria (about 50-60% of all water users), the selection meeting should be re-scheduled. Water users present in the meeting should announce the schedule of the next meeting on the spot by consensus, and then the mobilizers make sure that they advertise and publicize the meeting better to trying to ensure better participation.

3 In areas where the number of water users in the service area is too small, all the water users can be the members of the general assembly, and choose WUA council directly.
In these meetings, before proceeding to election of representatives for the WUA assembly, water users group (WUG) members will need to be selected, who will oversee the internal affairs of the watercourse, such as

- Organizing periodical cleaning of the watercourse through “khashar”
- Ensuring equitable water distribution within the watercourse level members
- Preventing, identifying, and resolving disputes within the watercourse
- Improving water distribution within the watercourse
- Any other tasks having collective benefits for all watercourse members

In addition, the water users of each watercourse will choose representatives to represent the interests of their watercourse in the general/representative assembly (if the number of water users in the service area is small, all water users can become the members of a general assembly, otherwise, they will need to elect agreed number of representatives from each of the watercourses to form a representative assembly). It would be highly important to give a brief description at the start of the meeting about the project, functions, tasks, and authority of WUAs, qualities of good leadership (as identified during the consultation meetings) and need for selection of best leadership. Depending upon the size of watercourse, number and type of water users, and other interest groups, water users may select appropriate number of members for representing them in the representative assembly and one or more representatives to oversee the internal affairs within that specific watercourse (for example resolving disputes, motivating people for maintenance).

**STEP 5: Introductory Meetings of the Representative Assembly:**

After the WUG members and watercourse representatives for representative assembly of the WUA are elected, they should then be invited to attend an introductory meeting. This will give them the opportunity to meet and get to know one another well. The agenda for discussion in these introductory meetings should be to refresh the minds of the representatives about the purpose of the WUA, to consult on the selection procedure for the WUA Council, Dispute and Revision Commissions, and date, time and venue of selection meeting.

The participants of introductory meetings should also be briefed again about the basic objectives of: 1) an organized and participatory effort in irrigation and drainage management, 2) decentralization of management responsibilities and authority to WUA level 3) greater equity in distribution of irrigation water, 4) reliable water supply, 5) better access to government and private sector facilities/inputs and other services as organized group, 6) self governance, and 7) self-reliance.

Afterwards, the Representative Assembly decides on date, time and place for next selection meeting. Ideally the venue of the selection meeting should be at some community center, local body office, school, a training hall or any common place in village where no individual or group has any reservation to participate.
**STEP 6: Selection of WUA Council, Chairperson of WUA, and Dispute and Revision Commission Members**

It is always useful to start with a brief presentation of what has happened till now and where do we go from now on.

Then the mobilizers should help the members of the WUA Representative Assembly to carry out a group analysis of agriculture and irrigation related problems and identify suggested solutions for the irrigation system for which the WUA is meant. This discussion should identify the essential management functions associated with the solutions. This will serve as the definition of irrigation service and identification of irrigation service plan.

A short presentation of the characteristics of good leadership, identified by most of them during earlier meetings will help. Also mobilizers should discuss with the participants the importance of selection that will affect the quality of the services they intend to receive from the WUA, and then providing them sufficient opportunity for negotiation among themselves, develop consensus. The enthusiasm among the Representative Assembly members will be quite visible. Interference from political corners could be possible. Therefore, the Mobilizers again should brief the participants about the basic objectives of WUA and highlight the envisaged benefits of organized behavior through their own efforts. They should explain that dealing with water problems as a group would lead to better service than individual efforts of water users. The group should be allowed sufficient time for negotiation to nominate their candidates with consensus. The important point here to be considered is the sustainability of the organization, which will largely depend upon 1) degree of political interference, 2) consensus among the members, 3) provision of equal opportunity for all in decision making, and 4) equal representation of all the watercourses in WUA Council.

The Representative Assembly can decide to elect persons for various positions using a secret ballot or open voting or consensus.

Similar process should be followed to elect the Dispute Resolution and Revision Commissions and their Chairpersons.

**STEP 7: Preparing the Founding Documents**

Before the WUA can proceed further, a set of founding documents will be required. These documents include: model charter and bylaws, various maps, service area and other similar documents specific to each country. The Mobilizers need to help prepare these documents. For the IWRM-Fergana Project, the SIC and IWMI teams would already have prepared these and the WUA Council can start with the next step.
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STEP 8: Adopting the Normative Charter, By-laws, and other documents for registration and applying for registration

The first task of the WUA council will be to act as the founding committee (responsible for applying for registration on behalf of the WUA members), review the founding documents (charter, by-laws, draft plans) and adapt these to their local conditions. The by-laws of an organization are dynamic instruments used to enforce, regulate and promote disciplined action in an organization. They are referred to as a dynamic instrument because the by-laws are not static or permanent, and can be changed by the general/representative assembly. No organization can function properly or be sustained for longer time unless the organization has some basic and clearly defined set rules to abide by.

The Mobilizers and project staff will provide technical assistance in this regard in shape of providing the model by-laws already farmed by the state legislation or by the project (depending upon site specific situations). The main areas which are generally covered in the by-laws are: 1) cropping plans, water demand, limits, water allocation, and distribution and disposal procedures, and maintenance of the system, 2) duties and function of different office bearers, 3) meeting time and procedures, 4) eligibility for membership, 5) termination of membership or from office, 6) membership fee, 7) fund raising, 8) dispute resolution mechanisms, 9) sanctions; and 10) any other.

The mobilizers should help in explaining these documents to the Council, who should adopt these in the light of the objectives of their draft irrigation and drainage service plans, keeping in view the legal provisions (if already approved by the government). The mobilizers should also assist the council in discussing the implications of the alternative choices WUA council has agreed to in the by-laws.

STEP 9: Capacity-Building and Training for Management

The main objective of this step is to prepare the WUA for its essential tasks, as an independent self-managing autonomous organization. Most of the capacity will be built through an on-the-job training. Though the elected WUA Council might not have to perform all of these tasks themselves, it is useful for the members to know the broader principles so that they can supervise their staff better. After the formation of WUAs, the WUA Council and the staff (Executive Body) should be trained in related activities to be undertaken for irrigation and drainage system management.

The training program should be focused on subjects like flow measurement, water distribution and monitoring, preparing and implementing maintenance plans, preparing and implementing business plans, organizational management, financial management, record keeping, framing of by-laws, and methods of mobilizing resources for the system operation and maintenance. The important aspect here to be considered is a provision of a set of training manuals and
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competent and experienced trainer. For this appropriate resource persons should be identified (such as Raiselvodkhoz hydro-technicians, staff of other successful WUAs etc.). This training should be a continuous process and be conducted up to grassroots level organizations i.e. WUGs. The watercourse representatives and WUA staff already trained should be used as resource persons for lower tiers of the organizations (WUGs), because farmers learn more from their fellow farmers.

Under the IWRM-Fergana project, a Capacity-Building Program for the WUAs along these lines will soon be launched at the Osh Branch Training center of the ICWC, and jointly prepared manuals by IWMI and SIC will be available as soon as the pilot WUAs are ready.

Though majority of the farming community in Central Asia are used to manage their irrigation system at the watercourse level, they don't have any experience to manage the distribution level of the irrigation system. One of the good ways to build water users confidence to take on the O&M responsibilities is to show them a successfully managed irrigation system by a WUA., in addition to provision of training and operational manuals.

For this appropriate sites inside and/or outside Central Asia will be selected and a manageable group of WUAs representatives will be taken to visit these sites, where water users/ farmers themselves are managing part of the irrigation / drainage system. During such visit the WUA representatives will be briefed not only about how that WUA is managing their system, but also about organizational matters, rules, by-laws, fund raising and irrigation service fee assessment, collection, and its use. This will help in building WUA confidence as "seeing is believing".

**STEP 10: System Management Transfer to WUA**

The WUA will first review the model transfer agreement and adopt this to their local condition, and then negotiate the arrangements with the water service provider (Raivodkhoz/Oblvodkhoz) as the case may be.
4. Elaborating Charts on Kyrgyz WUAs

Chart 1: Functions/Objectives of WUA

Chart 2: Obligations by a WUA

Chart 3: Procedure for setting-up a WUA in Kyrgyzstan through the Constituent Committee

Chart 4: A WUA Charter

Chart 5: WUA Membership

Chart 6: WUA Members’ Rights

Chart 7: Obligations by WUA Members

Chart 8: Termination of WUA Membership

Chart 9: WUA Governance & Management Bodies

Chart 10: Powers of WUA’s Supreme Body (Representative Assembly)

Chart 11: Voting Right in a WUA

Chart 12: Powers of a WUA’s Governing Body

Chart 13: Powers of a WUA Council-hired Executive Body

Chart 14: WUA’s Controlling Body

Chart 15: Working Arrangements for a Disputes Settling Commission

Chart 16: WUA’s Sources of Income

Chart 17: Regulatory Body
Chart 1: Functions/Objectives of a WUA

- **Operate and maintain irrigation system within the WUA’s service area and distribute water among WUA members based on annual contracts.**
- **Distribute water on a contract basis among those non-WUA members, who own or use irrigated lands within the WUA’s service area.**
- **Take actions as to improving land properties.**
- **Procure, replace, operate and maintain hydraulic equipment.**
- **Manage water delivery and prevent water contamination.**
- **Operate and maintain irrigation system within the WUA’s service area and distribute water among WUA members based on annual contracts.**
- **Rehabilitate and improve irrigation systems within the WUA’s service area and carry out construction works as required.**
- **Train WUA members to use advanced irrigation methods and ensure the using of new methods and technologies.**
- **Purchase irrigation water from a water supplier or independently divert water from river, underground and other natural water facilities as per license obtained to further distribute it within the WUA’s service area.**
Chart 2: Obligations by a WUA

Ensure rational and economical water use, reduce non-productive losses, control soil erosion and salinity, prevent soil/land waterlogging.

Ensure full involvement of all WUA members in setting up and managing a WUA.

Make fair and democratic decisions within WUA.

Ensure just and equitable water distribution among all WUA members.

Ensure free access of all WUA members to WUA-related information.

Ensure ecologic safety, enforce rights and legal interests of land owners and users.
Chart 3: Procedure for setting-up a WUA in Kyrgyzstan through the Constituent Committee

1. **Initiative Group**
   - Defining WUA’s service area
   - Setting up an arrangement

2. **Constituent Committee**
   - Rules
   - Procedures
   - Chairman
   - Constituent Assembly

3. **Regulatory body**
   - Draft Charter of Authority
   - Development of a map-plan
   - Draft-Budget
   - WUA’s Action Plan

4. **Constituent Assembly**
   - Defining a list of potential WUA members
   - The Constituent Committee convenes
   - Chairman holds

5. **Water users**
   - Reviews a Draft Charter to be approved by 50%

6. **Justice bodies**
   - Assigns the date
   - Elects
   - Auditing Commission
   - Disputes Settling Commission
   - Registration

7. **General Assembly**
   - Elects
   - WUA Council

8. **WUA Council**
   - Elects

9. **Audit bodies**
   - Elects

10. **Review**
    - Reviews

11. **Constituent Assembly**
    - Elects

12. **Regulatory body**
    - Agreement
    - Timeframe not specified
    - 6 weeks (42 days)
Chart 4: A WUA Charter

- Description of WUA’s service area, including plans and maps
- Structure and powers of WUA management bodies
- Terms for terminating WUA activities
- Rights and obligations of WUA members

WUA’s Charter of Authority

- Procedures to convene WUA’s General Assembly
- Arrangements to become a WUA member, grounds and arrangements to terminate WUA membership
- Provisions as to setting WUA fees
- Arrangements and sources of compensation for damages incurred by WUA members

- Location of a WUA
- Name of a WUA
- Subject-matter and goals of WUA activities
- Responsibilities of WUA members
Chart 5: WUA Membership

W U A

Natural person, owner of a land plot
Legal entity, owner of a land plot
Natural person with the right to use a land plot for more than 3 years
Legal entity with the right to use a land plot for more than 3 years

Written Agreement or Lease Contract

Lesser

WUA’s Service Area
Chart 6: WUA Members’ Rights

- WUA members shall be entitled to:
  - A just and equitable share of irrigation water distributed by the WUA
  - Take part in WUA's decision making process
  - Vote at general meetings, provided they have made all WUA-related payments
  - Suggest on agenda items for General Assembly meetings to be discussed
  - Nominate their candidates to WUA management bodies or be elected themselves as such
  - Use services provided by the WUA
  - Examine bookkeeping records and accounts, envisaged by Article 26 under this Law
  - Compensation for damages inflicted on their crops or land plots when accomplishing WUA’s goals and objectives
  - Examine bookkeeping records and accounts, envisaged by Article 26 under this Law
WUA members shall be obliged to

- Comply with provisions of a WUA Charter or any by-laws, adopted by the General Assembly
- Stick to irrigation schedule and receive water as specified therein
- Ensure careful treatment of the equipment used or owned by the WUA
- Allow WUA staff an access to their land plots when carrying out activities related to operation and maintenance of irrigation systems
- Provide the WUA with land and water use information
- Stick to all irrigation systems operation rules passed by WUA’s General Assembly or Council
- Timely pay WUA fees as established by a WUA Charter
- Pay for the costs of repairing or replacing parts of WUA equipment, damaged as a result of intended or neglectful action or non-action
- Allow the WUA to use any pipes, canals, hydrants or other hydraulic equipment, both owned and used, within the confines of their land plots to ensure sustained performance of irrigation systems

Chart 7: Obligations by WUA Members
Chart 8: Termination of WUA Membership

Termination of WUA Membership

Expelling a WUA member

- Ceasing the right to own or use a land plot within the WUA’s service area
- Regular non-compliance with the WUA Charter or any other document approved by the General Assembly
- Refusal to pay fees to the WUA
- Groundless refusal to recover or pay for damages inflicted on WUA's irrigation systems and equipment
- Unauthorized water withdrawal or repeated violation of water distribution schedules
Chart 9: WUA Governance & Management Bodies

WUA’s General Assembly
The Supreme Governing Body

The WUA Council
Governing body

WUA’s Auditing Commission

Disputes Settling
Commission

A WUA Council Chairman

WUA Directorate
Executive body

Chairman of Auditing
Commission

Chairman of Disputes Settling
Commission

- Control over financial and economic activities
- Must submit documents whenever requested
Chart 10: Powers of WUA’s Supreme Body (Representative Assembly)

- WUA’s General Assembly
  - Define major WUA activities
  - Make amendments and additions to a WUA Charter
  - Approve a WUA Council regulation
  - Approve an Auditing Commission regulation
  - Approve WUA’s annual action plan and irrigation schedules
  - Approve WUA’s by-laws
  - Elect an Auditing Commission and define arrangements for its ahead-of-schedule termination
  - Elect a Disputes Settling Commission
  - Select and dismiss WUA’s Council members
  - Other issues related to WUA activities

- Set the size of fines payable by WUA members when violating WUA Charter or bylaws
- Make decisions on the reorganization and liquidation of WUA, appoint a liquidating commission, approve midterm and final balance sheets
- Approve annual reports and balance sheets
- Approve annual WUA budget
- Approve WUA’s annual action plan and irrigation schedules
- Approve WUA’s by-laws
- Set the size of annual fees to be paid by WUA members and non-members
Chart 11: Voting Right in a WUA

WUA’s Charter of Authority

- Each WUA member has one vote regardless of the size of their land plot.
- Each WUA member has a proportionate number of votes based on their land plot size.
- Each WUA member has an appropriate number of votes corresponding to the amounts and costs paid during the preceding year.
- The right to vote depends on whether arrears due to WUA were paid.
- Each member is entitled to not more than ¼ of the total number of votes.
Chart 12: Powers of a WUA’s Governing Body

- General governance of WUA activities
- Control the performance of a WUA’s executive body
- Select a WUA Council Chairman from the Council members
- Convene WUA’s General Assembly
- Prepare agenda for WUA’s General Assembly
- Prepare annual balance sheet and submit for approval by WUA’s General Assembly
- Other issues as defined by WUA’s General Assembly or established by this Law
- Stick to WUA’s operational procedures as specified in the WUA Charter
Chart 13: Powers of a WUA Council-hired Executive Body

WUA Directorate

Prepare a draft budget, operation and maintenance plan for irrigation systems as well as other required documents to be submitted to the WUA Council.

Operate and maintain irrigation systems.

Control the delivery of irrigation water by a water supplier and water distribution among WUA members.

Prepare contracts for the WUA Council's approval in accordance with approved budget and action plan for O&M of irrigation systems.

Issue orders and instructions to be followed by all hired staff of WUA Directorate.

Manage WUA's bank accounts in accordance with regulation approved by the WUA Council.

Other issues as defined by the WUA Council or established under this Law.

Hire and dismiss staff of WUA Directorate and supervise their performance.

Keep the register of WUA members and non-members to be reviewed and updated each year, indicating the size and location of each WUA member’s or non-member’s land plot within the WUA’s service area, keep a log for registering irrigation water requests by WUA members and non-members and the number of irrigations made.

Other issues as defined by the WUA Council or established under this Law.
Chart 14: WUA’s Controlling Body

- **Auditing Commission**
  - Selects
  - Accountable to
  - Control financial and economic activities

  - **General Assembly**
  - **Chairman of the WUA Council**
  - **WUA Council**
  - **WUA Directorate**

Submit documents whenever requested.
Chart 15: Working Arrangements for Disputes Settling Commission

Chairman of the Commission

- Water use disputes
- Water distribution disputes between WUA members

Disputes Settling Commission

Convenes within 10 days

Complains, notices about violations of Charter or irrigation schedules

WUA members

Water use disputes

Hears disputes on a date and time specified by the Commission

Complaining Party

Party-at-fault

Additional inquiry

10 days from settling the issue

Final verdict on complaint

Dismiss

Impose sanctions
Chart 16: WUA’s Sources of Income

- Fees paid by WUA members
- Proceeds from payments by non-WUA-members for irrigation water delivered on a contract basis
- Interest paid on bank account funds
- Donations and grants from governmental sources
- Other sources allowed by Kyrgyz legislation
Chart 17: Regulatory Powers

Regulatory Body

- State regulation, coordination and control over WUA activities
- Functions as to supervising WUA activities

Draft a WUA Charter

Define a list of would-be WUA members

Convene a Constituent Assembly

Justice bodies

Constituent Committee

- Submit reports and be liable for unreliable and untimely submission
- Copies of founding documents, Charter, Registration Certificate

Constituent Assembly

- Conduct audits
- Hire independent auditors to perform audits

Written application by WUA members

Keep WUA register

Provide consultancy

Assist in legal, accounting and technical issues

WUA

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Contact details:

**I W M I**
International Water Management Institute
6, Apt.103, Murtazayeva St.
POB 4564 at Glavpochtamt
Tashkent 700000
Uzbekistan
**Phone:** 998-71-1370445
**Fax:** 998-71-1370317
**E-mail:** iwmi-cac@online.ru
**Website:** www.cgiar.org/iwmi

**SIC ICWC**
Scientific-Information Center
Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
SANIIRI Institute
11, massiv Karasu-4,
Tashkent 700187
Uzbekistan
**Phone:** 998-71-1665101
**Fax:** 998-71-1665097
**E-mail:** imwr@icwc-aral.uz
**Website:** www.icwc-aral.uz

Homepage of the IWRM-Ferghana Project: iwrnf.icwc-aral.uz