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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by:

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## Selected Envisaged Results and impacts

# Ecologically oriented regional development in the Aral Sea Region

Supporting cross border economic development for better livelihoods and ecological sustainability of the Aral Sea region



### Challenges

Large sections of the rural population in the Aral Sea region are hardly benefiting from the economic growth of the last four years in Uzbekistan (about 5 % annually) and Kazakhstan (about 4 %). The majority makes a living from irrigated farming, although climate change, the overuse of soil and water is leading to increasingly poor conditions. Both countries strive to diversify their economies through infrastructure development, promotion of innovation, economic liberalization and the reduction of subsidies for water-intensive crops. Nevertheless, it remains difficult for rural land users to create profitable alternatives to their traditional and water-intensive ways of income generation. The project supports the governments of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to ensure an ecologically sustainable economic development of the Aral Sea region across borders.

Duration: 01.07.2020 – 30.06.2024

### Services and Modes of Delivery

#### Remote Sensing for Land Management

State-of-the-art satellite technology and images support the agricultural, forestry and water sectors, resulting in new opportunities for regional spatial planning. With the aid of remote sensing techniques, for example, climate-related production risks or cases of damage can be recognized and secured at an early stage.



### Environmentally Oriented Investment Decisions

Emphasis will be placed on capacity building measures for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and their employees as well as employees of ministries and state agencies to enable them to make climate resilient and ecologically oriented investment decisions.



### Cross-Border Cooperation

Partners will be supported in amending or developing policies or strategies for ecologically oriented regional development in the Aral Sea region agreed between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and are implemented across borders in different economic sectors.



**60%** of 120 Uzbek and 80 Kazakh MSMEs (25% run by women) will have taken advantage of project-supported advisory services on ecologically sustainable economic development

**10** measures using spatial planning instruments or procedures based on earth-observation for ecologically sustainable resource use will be implemented, of which four will be cross-border measures



**50** planners (20% of whom are women) from regional administrations, national ministries and the private sector are successfully applying digital planning tools in **5** thematic areas

Policies/strategies across borders in **5** economic sectors for ecologically oriented regional development in the Aral Sea region will be developed

