

**APPROVED:**  
**by the Decision of the Interstate**  
**Commission on Sustainable Development (IFAS)**  
**No. 3 dated March 18, 2022**

**STATUTE**  
**ON THE SCIENTIFIC-INFORMATION CENTER**  
**OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF THE**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1.1. This Statute on the Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (hereinafter referred to as the Statute) has been developed in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Status of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and its Organizations (Ashgabat, 9 April 1999), the Statute on the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (hereinafter – IFAS), the Statute on the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (hereinafter – ICSD), the Regulations on the Preparation and Conduct of ICSD Meetings and defines the legal status, tasks, functions and powers, as well as the organization of activities and the structure of the Scientific-Information Center IFAS ICSD (hereinafter referred to as SIC).

1.2. The SIC was established by the Decision of the ICSD IFAS dated September 9, 1995.

The headquarters of SIC is located in the city of Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) and has four branches/subdivisions of SIC in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the participating country).

1.3. The SIC ICSD is a working body of the ICSD, whose primary task is to provide scientific, informational, methodological, and consultative support to the activities of the ICSD.

1.4. The SIC carries out its activities in accordance with the decisions of the IFAS, the IFAS Board, the ICSD and this Statute.

## **II. LEGAL STATUS OF SIC**

2.1. In accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Status of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and its Organizations,” approved by the decision of the Heads of Central Asian States on April 9, 1999 in Ashgabat, SIC is a legal entity with the status of an international organization, having the appropriate privileges and immunities.

2.2. The SIC has separate property, has settlement and currency accounts in the bank’s institutions, has the right to acquire property and non-property rights on its own behalf, and to be a plaintiff and defendant in the courts.

2.3. In accordance with the established procedure, the SIC is liable for its obligations with its own funds and property, which may be subject to foreclosure.

2.4. The SIC is vested with the attributes required for its operations: a round seal, name-bearing stamps, official letterheads, and other official requisites.

2.5. The legal address of the location of the SIC head office: Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, Bitarap Turkmenistan Street, 15.

## **III. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE SIC**

3.1. In accordance with the tasks entrusted to it, the SIC performs the following functions:

- a) collects, processes and systematizes scientific and informational data on the environmental and socio-economic situation of the IFAS member countries;
- b) establishes a unified scientific information base and database in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources in the Central Asian region;
- c) prepares recommendations on scientific, technical, environmental, and socio-economic cooperation in addressing issues related to the Central Asian region;
- d) provides IFAS member states with information on environmental and sustainable development issues, as well as on scientific, technical, and best practice achievements;

- e) develops concepts and programmes in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development;
- f) promotes the introduction of international standards for environmental monitoring and supports the harmonization of environmental assessment systems;
- g) develops unified methodological foundations for the ecological and economic assessment of natural resources and environmental management projects in the Aral Sea basin;
- h) contributes to the harmonization of the environmental protection and sustainable development legislation of the Central Asian States within the Aral Sea basin;
- i) carries out cooperation with donor and international organizations within its mandate;
- j) provides overall guidance and coordination of the activities of the SIC's branch offices in the Central Asian States;
- k) provides scientific and informational support to the activities of the ICSD Consultative Council, including the preparation of working materials, reports on the implementation of programs and projects;
- l) performs other functions stipulated by these Statute, decisions of the Heads of State of the participating countries, IFAS and the ICSD on sustainable development and environmental protection of the Central Asian States.

3.2. In order to perform the functions assigned to it, the SIC has the right:

- a) conclude agreements and contracts within their mandate;
- b) open settlement and foreign currency accounts in accordance with the established procedure, transfer funds to accounts in banking institutions;
- c) determine the structure of the SIC in coordination with the ICSD;
- d) to hear reports on the activities of the branches/branches of the SIC;
- e) act as a plaintiff and a defendant in court;
- f) acquire and dispose of their property;
- g) receive grants, loans and subsidies for purposes related to environmental protection and sustainable development;
- h) implement international, regional, and national projects and programmes on a contractual basis, in accordance with the requirements of the labour legislation of the host country, and for these purposes undertake all necessary actions for their implementation;
- i) engage, if necessary, international and national experts for the implementation of programs and projects;
- j) receive, in accordance with the established procedure, from ministries and departments, statistical bodies, as well as institutions and organizations of the founding States, the data and information necessary for the performance of the functions assigned to it;

3.3. In order to perform the tasks and functions assigned to it, in addition to the rights provided for in this Statute, other rights may be granted to the SIC by higher authorities.

3.4. The SIC is responsible to the ICSD for fulfilling the tasks and functions provided for in this Statute, as well as projects and programs related to the sustainable development of Central Asia.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURE OF SIC**

4.1. The activities of the SIC are led by the Director, who is appointed and dismissed by the head of the national environmental authority in agreement with the members of the ICSD, followed by submission for approval at the ICSD meeting.

4.2. The Director of SIC shall:

- a) provide overall management of the SIC's activities and bear personal responsibility for the fulfillment of its mandated tasks and the exercise of its functions;
- b) allocate responsibilities among the staff of the SIC;
- c) submit, in accordance with established procedures, draft documents on matters within his/her competence for consideration by the ICSD;
- d) establish duties and define the responsibilities of the heads of structural units and staff of the SIC;
- e) issue, within the scope of his/her competence, orders and instructions, provide directives, and organize control over their implementation;
- f) approve the structure of the headquarters of the SIC, the regulations governing its structural units, and other normative documents defining the rights and obligations of SIC employees;
- g) develop and submit for approval the staffing table and budget estimates of the SIC headquarters to the Chairperson of the ICSD, or, where this is not possible, to the head of the branch of the Executive Committee of IFAS in Turkmenistan;
- h) represent the SIC in relations with government authorities, public organizations, and other institutions;
- i) approve the regulations of the SIC's branch offices, as well as their budget estimates, staffing tables, and other official documents;
- j) coordinate the appointment and dismissal of the heads of SIC branch offices upon the proposal of the head of the respective national environmental authority of the member state.

4.3. The SIC annually submits reports on its activities to the ICSD in accordance with the established procedure.

4.4. SIC periodically publishes its materials and scientific and practical information in the international scientific and practical journal "Problems of Desert Development" and in other print and electronic media.

4.5. All documentation of the SIC and its branches is conducted in Russian.

## **V. BRANCHES OF SIC**

5.1. The SIC branch offices in the member states shall serve as territorial subdivisions of the headquarters of the SIC.

5.2. In their activities, the SIC branch offices shall cooperate with the state authority responsible for environmental protection in the IFAS member state.

5.3. In their activities, the SIC branch offices shall be accountable to the SIC headquarters and to the ICSD.

5.4. The representative of the branch office located in the country chairing the ICSD shall perform the functions of the ICSD Working Secretary. In fulfilling this function, their activities shall be coordinated by the Head of the ICSD Secretariat.

5.5. The SIC branch offices shall be legal entities with the status of an international organization and shall enjoy the relevant privileges and immunities in accordance with international legal norms and the legislation of the member states.

5.6. The SIC branch offices shall possess separate property, maintain settlement and foreign currency accounts in banking institutions, and may acquire property and non-property rights in their own name, as well as act as plaintiff and defendant in courts of law.

5.7. The SIC branch offices shall be liable for their obligations with their own funds and property, against which claims may be enforced.

5.8. The SIC branch offices shall possess the attributes necessary for the conduct of their activities, including a round seal and stamps with their full official name, official letterheads, and other requisites.

5.9. In their activities, the SIC branch offices shall be guided by the decisions of IFAS, ICSD, and this Regulation.

5.10. The SIC branch offices shall be financed by contributions from the IFAS founding states on whose territory they are located.

5.11. The SIC branch offices shall cooperate with governmental, international, public environmental and other organizations, legal entities and individuals, as well as with entities of various forms of ownership, in order to promote the expansion of cooperation in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development in the region.

5.12. The SIC branch offices shall be headed by a director appointed by the head of the respective national environmental authority, in agreement with the Director of the SIC headquarters of the ICSD.

5.13. The staffing table and budget estimates of the SIC branch offices shall be approved by the Director of the SIC headquarters.

5.14. For the purpose of performing their assigned functions, the SIC branch offices shall have the right to:

- a) conclude agreements and contracts within the limits of their competence;
- b) open settlement and foreign currency accounts and transfer funds to accounts in banking institutions;
- c) act as plaintiff and defendant in courts of law;
- d) acquire and dispose of their property;
- e) receive subsidies, grants, loans, and subventions for purposes related to environmental protection and sustainable development.
- f) implement international, regional, and national projects and programs on a contractual basis within the requirements of the national labor legislation of the respective country. For these purposes, the SIC shall undertake all necessary actions to ensure their implementation;
- g) engage, when necessary, international and national experts for the implementation of programs and projects;
- h) obtain, in accordance with the established procedure, from national ministries and agencies, statistical bodies, as well as institutions and organizations of the founding states, the data and information necessary for the fulfillment of its functions.

## **VI. FINANCING AND PROPERTY OF SIC**

6.1. The headquarters of the SIC is funded by contributions from Turkmenistan transferred to the account of the IFAS Executive Committee branch located in Dashoguz, as well as international, regional and national organizations and funds.

6.2. The property of the SIC shall constitute its ownership.

6.3. In case of liquidation of the SIC, its property is transferred in accordance with the decision of the liquidation commission established by the ICSD.

## **VII. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF SIC**

7.1. The SIC, its branch offices, and their property within the territories of the member states shall be exempt from all direct taxes. All sponsorship payments

from international donors and organizations shall be exempt from all taxes and duties.

7.2. The SIC, its branches offices, are exempt from customs duties on the import and export of technical means, materials, equipment, etc., intended for official use, not representing historical or cultural value, and not related to the state secrets of the host country.

7.3. The staff of the SIC and its branch offices shall enjoy privileges and immunities in accordance with international legal norms and the national legislation of the member states.

## **VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS**

8.1. The present Statute of the SIC shall enter into force on the date of its approval by the decision of the ICSD.

8.2. Amendments and additions to the present Statute may be introduced by decision of the ICSD.

8.3. The SIC shall terminate its activities by decision of the ICSD.