


**ECONOMIST  
IMPACT**

# The Blue Peace Index: Central Asia

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# Freshwater is scarce and doesn't stop at the borders

52%

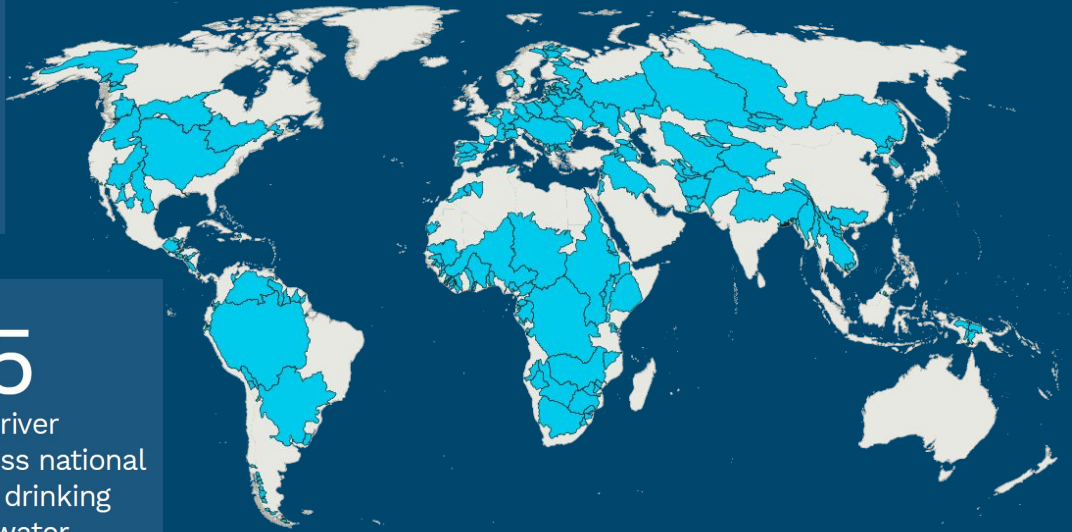
of the world's population will live in water-scarce areas by 2050.



2 in 5

people rely on river basins that cross national boundaries for drinking and domestic water.

*Global Transboundary River Basins*



# The lack of adequate management imposes significant costs

There are almost **300** transboundary river and lake basins, spanning almost **150** countries, though less than **30%** have joint water management bodies.

Inadequate management and inefficient use of water has significant social and economic consequences for local communities

**There is a clear need for more effective cooperation.**



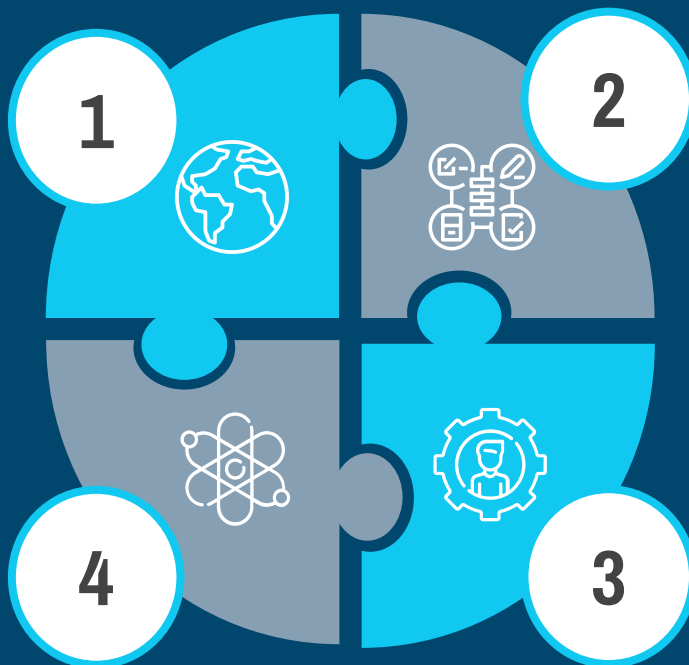
# Why did we build an index which measures Blue Peace?

## Reliance on stressed transboundary water resources is growing

There is an urgent need to manage these shared resources in a sustainable, equitable and collaborative manner.

## Investors and researchers can use a holistic assessment of water policy environments

The index allows for a holistic exploration of the drivers and necessary conditions for sustainable collaboration over shared water resources.



## Diverse stakeholders need a common framework to boost cooperation

The index provides stakeholders with a common framework to understand the complexity of the issue and to organise a coordinated response.

## Countries and basins need to know how and where to act

The index allows stakeholders to identify and understand their countries' relative strengths and weaknesses, enabling them to address the most relevant challenges.

# What is the Blue Peace Index?

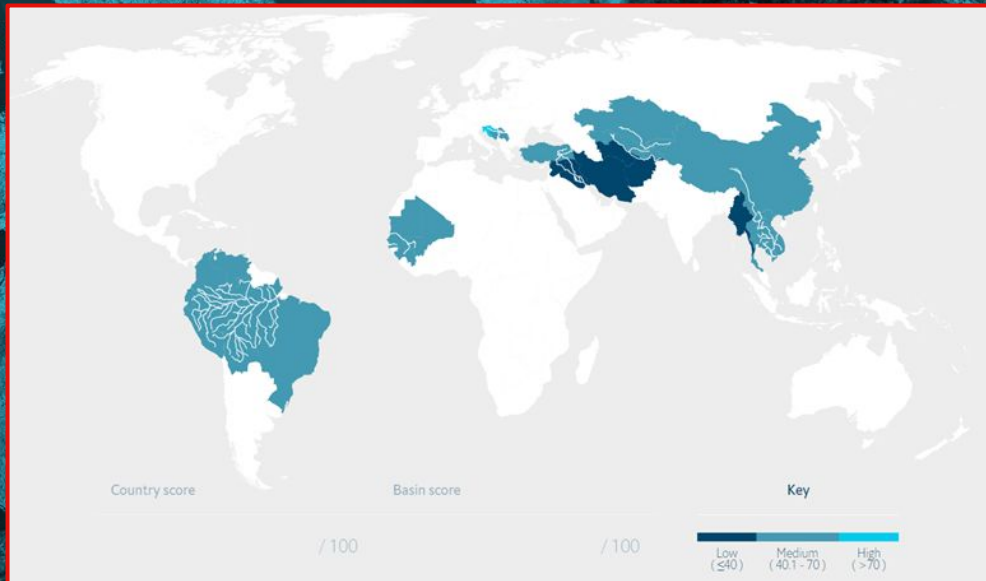
A tool which measures the extent to which countries and basins are managing their shared water resources in a sustainable, equitable and collaborative manner

The Blue Peace Index currently covers...

30 countries

7 basins:

- Amazon
- Amu Darya
- Mekong
- Sava
- Senegal
- Syr Darya
- Tigris-Euphrates



# What does the Blue Peace Index framework consist of?

The Index examines **74** qualitative and quantitative indicators across **five domains** – or groups of indicators. Some indicators are assessed at a **national level** and others at a **basin level**.



## I. Policy and legal frameworks

The extent to which countries have developed **robust, yet flexible, legislative and regulatory frameworks** at national and basin level.



## II. Institutions and participation

The extent to which countries have developed **institutional arrangements** for cross-sector coordination, capacity building, information sharing, and stakeholder engagement.



## III. Water management instruments

The extent to which countries and basins have developed and implemented **water management mechanisms** and methods to put water policies and laws into practice.



## IV. Infrastructure and financing

How comprehensively and sustainably **investment in water management** is conducted at a national and international level.



## V. Cooperation context

The major drivers and risk factors relating to **peace** within the chosen environments, such as water stress, exposure to natural disasters, political instability, and economic cooperation and vulnerabilities.

# Key recommendations



## Political will:

Move water to the top of the agenda



## Stronger institutions:

Build the foundations for cooperation



## Developing trust:

Build up the “Momentum of history”



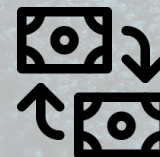
## Inclusive decision-making:

Find common ground



## Evidence-based decision-making:

Inform & communicate

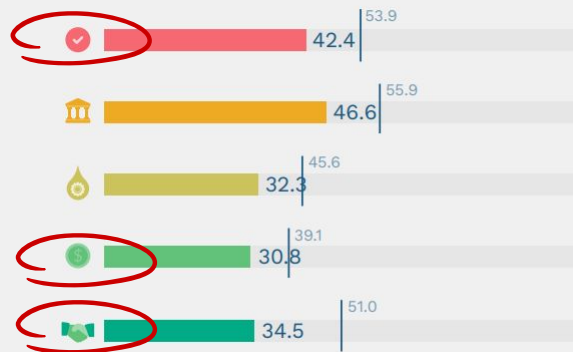


## Finance:

Invest in Blue Peace

# Snapshot of Findings: Amu Darya

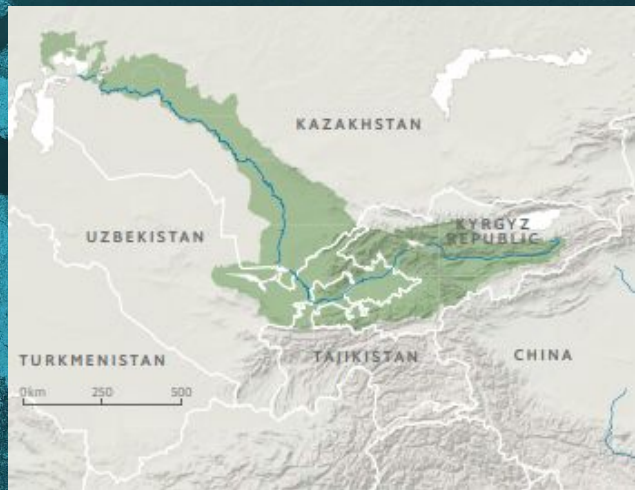
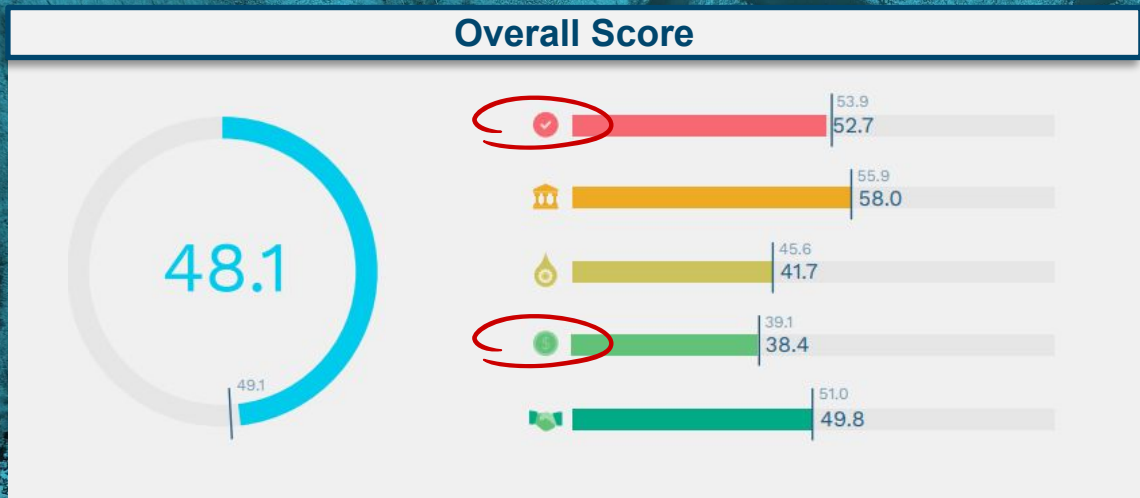
## Overall Score



- **Challenges:** Basin-level cooperation is mostly limited to water allocation and technical capacity activities. Exaggerated by relatively high levels of political risk and low intra-regional economic integration. Sustainability is not adequately incorporated in national economic development strategies.
- **Opportunities:** Some signs of progress on better engagement between riparians, and market reforms on national level. Key area for improvement is the general institutional and governance capacity at both the domestic and regional level.



# Snapshot of Findings: Syr Darya



- **Challenges:** Basin-level arrangements lack the mandate and capacity to carry out broader transboundary water management. At the regional and national level, water investment and infrastructure remains inadequate, and lack private participation.
- **Opportunities:** Some bilateral and multilateral efforts in areas, such as joint assessment, pollution control, and disaster management exist, but are limited and should be further developed. Existing platforms for data and information publication should be developed further. On national level, overall investment climate has been improving in recent years.

# Overview of Findings



Find out more at:  
<https://impact.economist.com/projects/bluepeaceindex>

