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CENTRAL ASIA
ATLAS
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Asian Development Bank

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Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
Asian Development Bank
Manila, Philippines

2010

The background of the page is a high-angle, aerial photograph of a vast, hilly landscape. The terrain is characterized by rolling hills and valleys, with a prominent winding road or path cutting through the center. The lighting is soft, suggesting either dawn or dusk, with a mix of warm and cool tones. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and expansive geography.

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Printed in Hong Kong, China.

The spelling of place names in this atlas generally follows Asian Development Bank (ADB) usage in those maps approved by the ADB country program specialist concerned and the editing group in the Office of the Secretary. ADB base maps were used for the regional and country profiles and thematic maps. Additional names and features on thematic maps were added by the cartographers, GIS Cartography, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. These names were reviewed by the respective countries and amended based on reviewers' comments.

Remote-sensing images are Landsat Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) images; Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) images; Global Inventory Modeling and Mapping Studies (GIMMS), Land Cover Facility images; and Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) images. Data on protected areas were from the World Database on Protected Areas; and on waterlogging from Raisa Taryannikova, head of the national secretariat of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Sustainable Land Management. Details are provided in the References section of the atlas.

The major sources of social, economic, and natural resource statistics throughout the atlas were ADB *Key Indicators 2007*, World Bank *World Development Indicators 2009*, United Nations *Human Development Report 2007/2008*, and United Nations *Millennium Development Goals Indicators* (website). Statistics on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry are based on data reported by the countries to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

The spelling of geographic features, animals, and plants follows generally accepted scientific usage. However, effort has been made to reflect common usage in the countries of the region.

Tabulated data are for years up to and including 2007. Unless stated otherwise, weights in tons are metric tons throughout, and maps showing the Aral Sea are based on different years, depending on the source. A separate map of the Aral Sea showing its decrease in size from pre-1960s to 2009 is provided.

The views expressed in this atlas are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of ADB or its Board of Governors or the governments they represent.

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By making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographical area, or by using the term "country" in this document, ADB does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

ISBN: 978-971-561-886-1

Publication Stock No. BBK101663

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■ The rising sun in the Zailiiski Alatau mountains in Kazakhstan.



Foreword

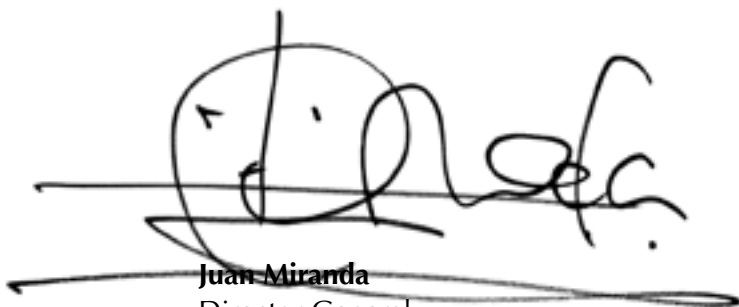
Central Asia, made up of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, is a vast land mass separating the countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus from East and South Asia. It is a region rich in natural resources, including oil and gas, and has a surprising variety of animals and plants. And it is a region long shrouded in mystery, known by most for its role in ancient trans-Asian commerce via the Silk Road.

This Atlas brings to readers a sense of the beauty and wealth of Central Asia's natural resources, some issues its peoples face in using and conserving them, and the progress being made toward sustainable development.

The Atlas is an output of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) Program, a 10-year partnership between the Central Asian countries and the international donor community that began in 2006. Its aim is to restore, maintain, and improve the productive functions of land in Central Asia, leading to better economic and social well-being, while preserving the ecological functions of the land. The initiative has set in motion an integrated approach to sustainable land management that will have local, national, and global benefits.

I would like to express sincere thanks to the many colleagues in the Asian Development Bank and those working on CACILM, and in institutions in the countries of Central Asia for their help in bringing this Atlas to life.

I hope that the Atlas fulfills its dual purpose of setting out the diversity and importance of the region's natural resources and the need to maintain them while offering a fascinating glimpse into this very special part of our world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Miranda', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Juan Miranda
Director General
Central and West Asia Department

