

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**



**Transboundary Management of the  
Irtysch River Basin**

**Supported by the French Fund for Global  
Environment**

# Legal and financial basis of the project

- **The project is carried out in accordance with a Memorandum on co-operation between Russia-Kazakhstan and France, signed in Paris in 2000.**
- **Project financing for an amount of 1 000 000 Euro by the FFEM (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)**



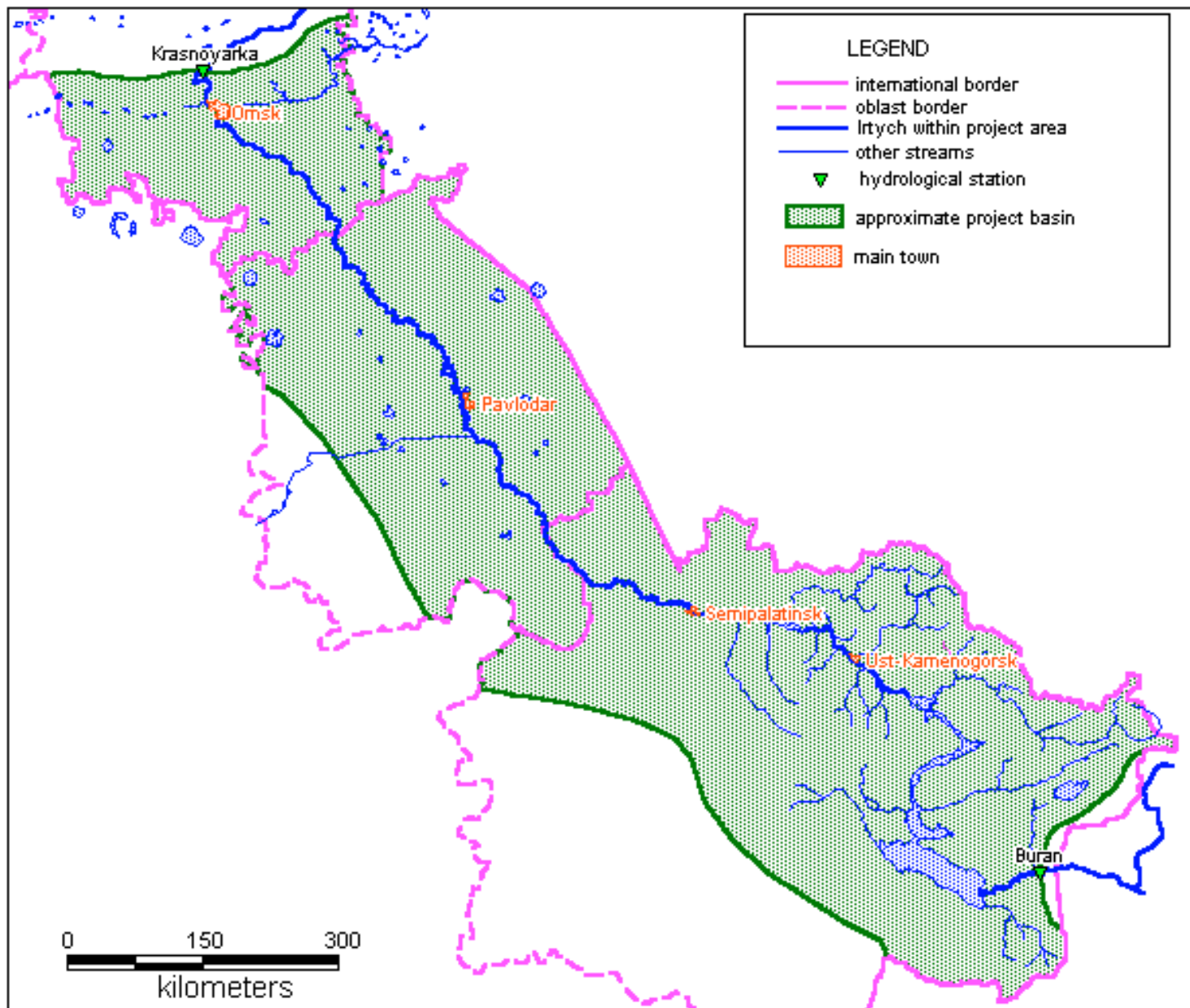
## Project area

*Irtysch river, from the Upper Irtysch on the border between China and Kazakhstan (Buran) to the first station downstream Omsk (Krasnoyarka), which is approximately 1300 km.*



# Objectives of Irtysh project

- ◆ Contribution to the development of the monitoring system for the Irtysh river between Kazakhstan and Russia
- ◆ Development of a model for water resource management in the basin
- ◆ Organization of institutional arrangements for cooperation and data exchanges between both States



# Specific Objectives

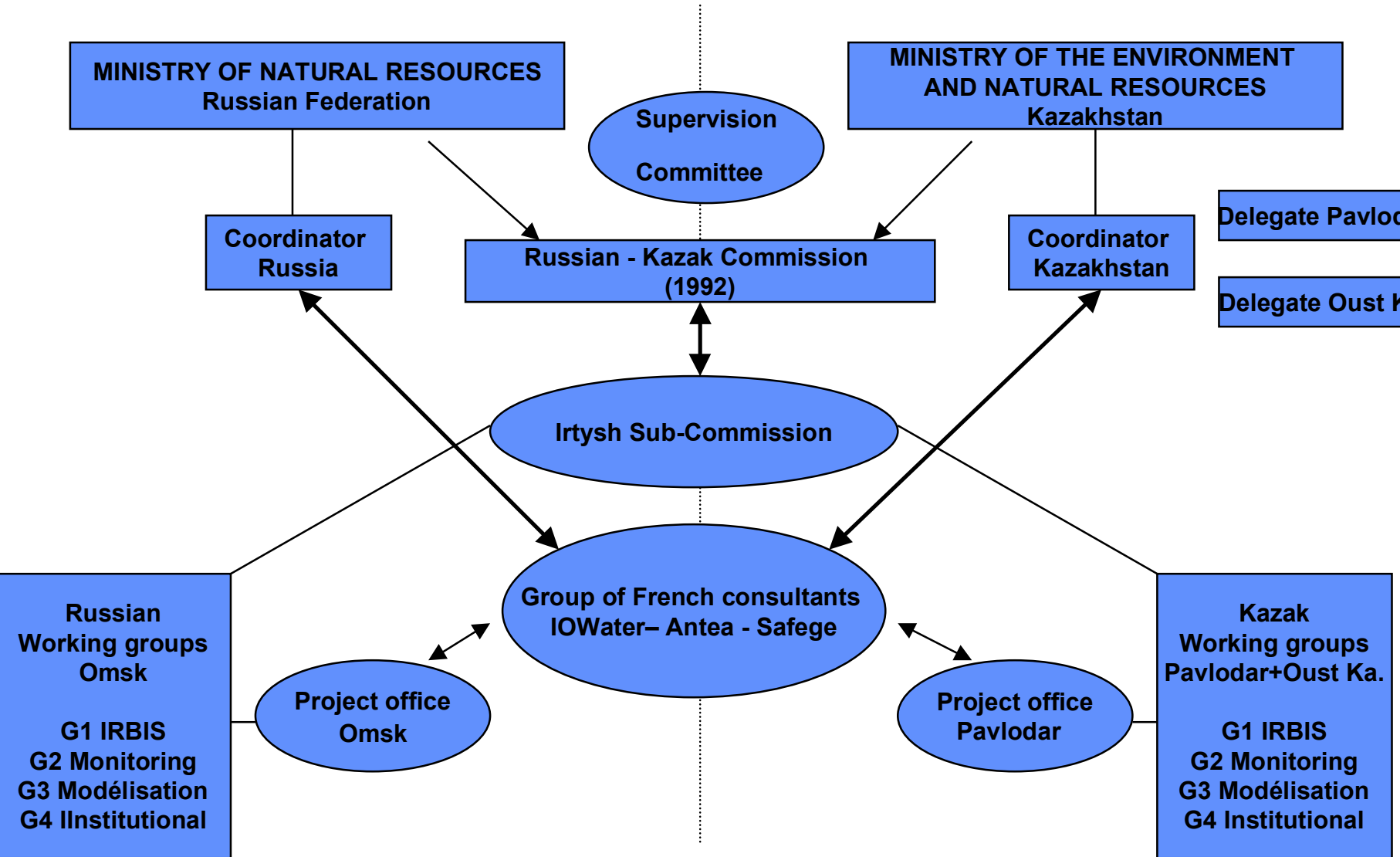
- ❖ **Creation of experts ' groups, work plan and organizations of meetings**
- ❖ **Assistance with the follow-up, standardization and collection of water-related data**
- ❖ **Set up of a « Basin Information System » (IRBIS)**
- ❖ **Design of a tool for resource management**
- ❖ **Legal and institutional assistance**

# *Means*

- ◆ Part time secondment of French experts
- ◆ Organization of meetings for dialogue and follow-up (Irtysk Sub-Commission)
- ◆ Capacity building of the concerned institutions
- ◆ Financing of monitoring campaigns
- ◆ Light equipment and local consultants



# Organization



# *Creating the working groups*

- To carry out the works in between the meetings, four working groups have been created:
  - Creating the basin database (IRBIS).
  - Developing the monitoring network
  - Creating the hydrological model of Irtysh river.
  - Writing legal texts on co-operation and data exchange between Russia and Kazakhstan regarding the Irtysh basin.
- Each working group comprises 5 to 7 people, which are working in the organizations included in the Sub-Committee list. The groups meet on a regular basis to resolve current issues. As for the meetings between the groups, they take place twice a year, to raise and solve those issues and make those decisions, which require the joint Sub-Committee approval.

## *Results of the working group activities:*

### Working group 1 – Implementation of the Basin Information System

- ❖ **A data list of the superficial waters within the area, as well as the IRBIS database structure.**
- ❖ **The data to be used by IRBIS, has been collected.**
- ❖ **A basis for the geo-information system of the basin (electronic map) was created.**
- ❖ **A first version of web-site has been made.**
- ❖ **The necessary hardware and software has been purchased to create the IRBIS database server.**

## Working group 2 – Control and approval of monitoring procedures and standards

- ❖ Knowledge of the organizations involved in hydroclimatological, hydrological and quality monitoring of studied area surface waters.
- ❖ Analyse of the procedures and standards used by the organizations for collecting, estimating, processing and interpreting the data.
- ❖ The monitoring equipment has been purchased .

# *Working group 3 – Design of the Irtysh river hydrological model*

- ❖ The methodology of hydrological simulation has been designed.
- ❖ The data required for building up the model has been collected.

## *Working group 4 – Legal and institutional basis*

- ❖ The Russian and Kazakh water laws have been analyzed in order to find out the common clauses and check if they comply with the international legislation.
- ❖ Proposals have been defined for a special Irtysh Committee, which acts within Russian and Kazak Committee for transboundary waters.

# Expected benefits

## ◆ Socioeconomic:

- ➔ **at the national level:** improvement of knowledge for designing and implementing resource management tools ;
- ➔ **at the local level:** improvement of drinking water quality and optimization of fishing, agricultural and industrial activities.

## ◆ Ecological :

- ➔ **at the regional level :** improvement of joint management of polluted water ;
- ➔ **at the local level :** a more regular flow and better water quality will have positive impacts on fauna and flora.

## ◆ Institutional:

- ➔ **at binational level:** regular dialogue between the two countries on Irtysh water management ;
- ➔ **at the national level :** implementation of the Irtysh river basin management in each country.

# *Key issues for the future*

- **Involving China in the Irtysh water management could be a next stage.**
- **Creating a hydro-chemical model (water quality) and a pollution warning system for the river**