



Dry Aral Sea

[Source: DTE](#)

A recent study reveals that the **drying up of the Aral Sea** has resulted in the emergence of the **Aralkum Desert**, making Central Asia dustier **by 7%**.

- The **Aral Sea**, once the **world's fourth-largest lake**, dried up in **Soviet Central Asia** in the **1960s**, leading to severe environmental consequences like **increasing dust** and consequently **affecting air quality** and could change the overall weather patterns, **and increase the air pressure** on the ground in the Aral region.
 - It can **intensify** the Siberian high in winter and a **weakening** of the Central Asian warm low in summer.
 - The dust can accelerate the **melting of glaciers**, **exacerbating the water crisis** in the region.
- The Aral Sea was fed by the two great rivers of Central Asia — **the Amu Darya** (from the **Pamir Mountains**) and the Syr Darya (Tien Shan mountain ranges).
- Other similar examples:
 - **Lake Urmia in Iran and Lake Hamoun** on the Iran-Afghanistan border have also dramatically shrunk and become strong local sources of dust.



Read more: [Aral Sea](#)

