
ARAL SEA: CENTRAL ASIA'S BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

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The meeting held in Tajikistan by the Executive Committee International Fund of Saving the Aral Sea brought up the biggest environmental disaster of Central Asia, which occurred with the drying up of the lake, on the agenda again.

Studies have shown that Aral, once the world's fourth-largest lake, is just a ninth of its former size 60 years ago and only a third as deep, with its total volume a 15th of the level in the 1960s.

Then, the Aral Sea covered 68,000 square kilometers (about 26,255 square miles) and housed 1,083 cubic km (about 260 cubic mi) of water. It was 426 km (about 265 mi) long, 284 km wide, and 68 meters (223 feet) at its deepest point.

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