

Location of Aral Sea

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The **Aral Sea** has started shrinking due to a **water division project** initiated in **1960** to develop the desert region around the lake.



[ref-marine insight]

Location of the Aral Sea:

- It is an **endorheic lake** situated between **Kazakhstan** (north) and **Uzbekistan** (south).
- It was once one of **Central Asia's large saltwater** lakes but is now shrinking.
- It drains parts of **Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan**, and was formed at the end of the **Neogene Period** (23 to 2.6 million years ago).
- The name **Aral** means the "**Sea of Islands**," derived from Mongolic and Turkic languages.
- The **Syr Darya** and **Amu Darya** rivers once flowed into it.