

The aral sea disaster - the classical example of the result of the anthropocentric approach



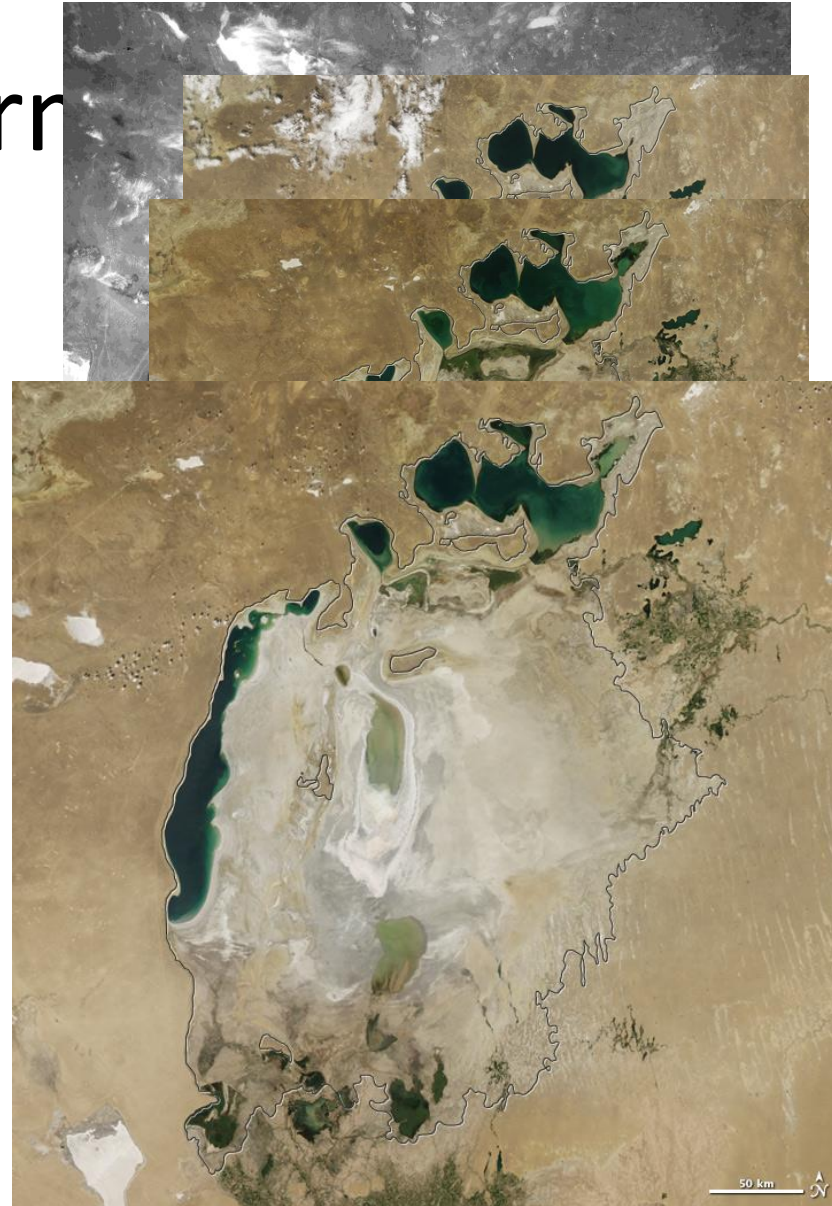
Module: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC
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outline:

- General information about the Aral Sea;
- The reasons for the desiccation;
- Why we think this is an ethical issue?
- The consequences of drying of the Sea on the environment;
- Some solutions and ideas on mitigation of consequences;
- References;

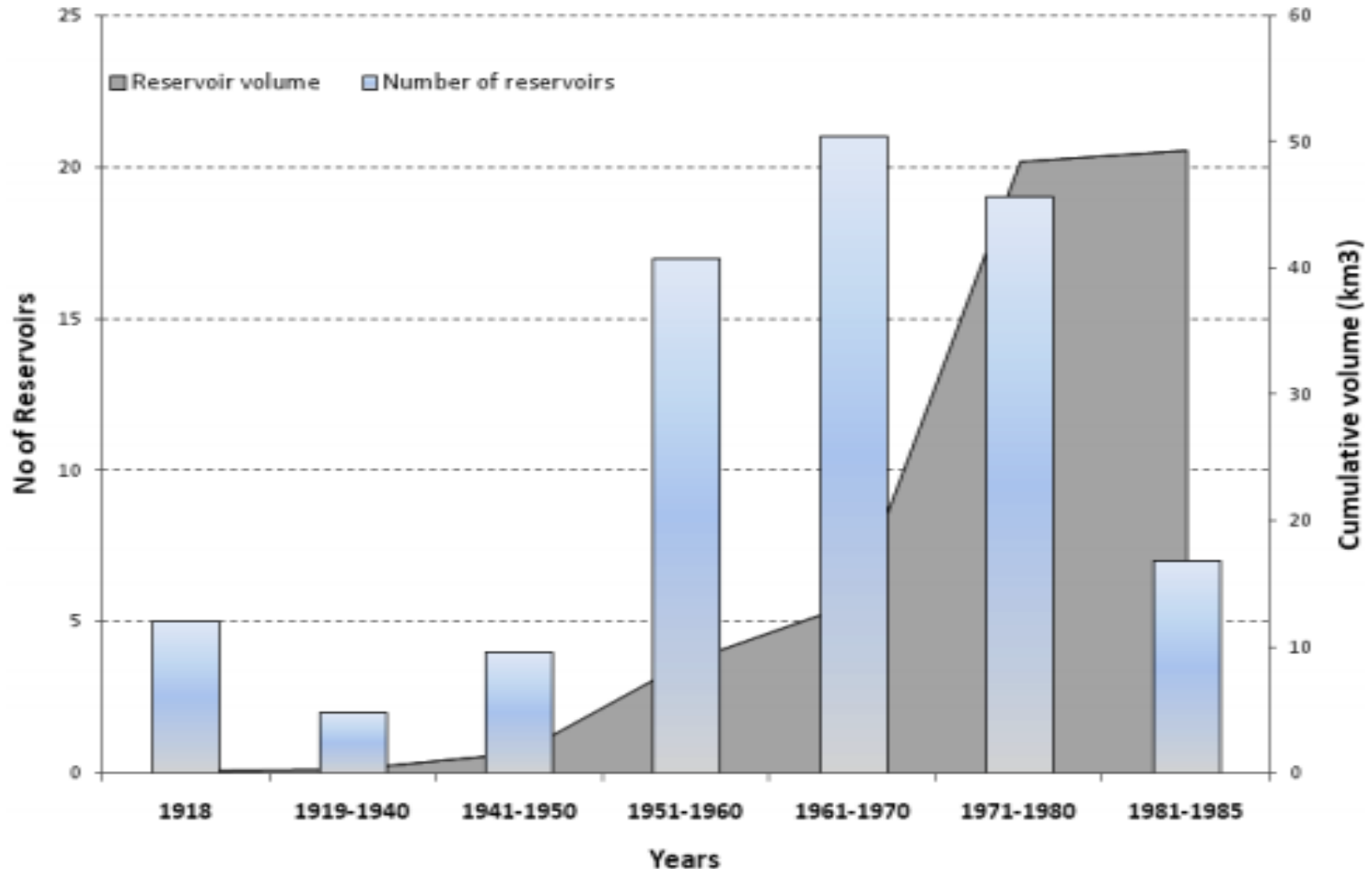
General information

- The Aral Sea was formerly one of the four [largest lakes](#) in the world;
- In 1960, sea level was 53.4 m, area 68,000 km², volume 1090 km³, average depth 16 m, and average salinity near 10 g/liter;
- Formed after merging The Amudarya River and The Sirdarya River in Kizilkum desert;
- Located between two CA countries – Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan;



The reasons for drying:

- During the 20th century more than 60 water reservoirs were built mainly for irrigation of new developed cotton fields;



<https://www.google.es/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=how+many+water+reservoirs+in+central+asia>

Why we consider this as a ethic issue?

- Because in this specific case Human being whose well-being is assumed to be the summum bonum;
- By ignoring all other species;

The consequences of desiccation on the environment:

- Water balance changed;
- Exposed bottom of the Sea causing to salt and dust storms;
- 20 out of 24 fish species disappeared;
- The biggest canneries at Aralsk and Muynak in CA closed;

Some ideas and solutions to mitigate the consequences:

- Gradually shifting of crop to which require less water;
- Improvement of irrigation systems;
- Seeding plantations to prevent salt and dust storms;
- Highlighting ecological problems and their consequences in education systems with the particular emphasis on water usage;

References:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aral_Sea;
- <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=77193>;
- <http://www.ciesin.org/docs/006-238/006-238.html>
- <http://www.sitesatlas.com/Maps/Maps/802.htm>
- <https://www.google.es/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=how+many+water+reservoirs+in+central+asia>;

Thanks for your attention and questions!!!

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