

Kok-Aral Dam — World Bank-Financed Restoration of the Northern Aral Sea (Kazakhstan)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Kazakhstan

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Kazakhstan's World Bank-financed Kok-Aral Dam raised the Northern Aral Sea's water volume 42% to ~27 billion m³ by 2025, revived a fishery to 8,000 tonnes/year with 20 fish species reappearing, and a further phase is planned for 2026–2029.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Government of Kazakhstan \(Kyzylorda Region\) / World Bank](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[World Bank — Saving a Corner of the Aral Sea](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

[Eurasianet — Kazakhstan: Measuring the Northern Aral's Comeback](#) — accessed 2026-08-21

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