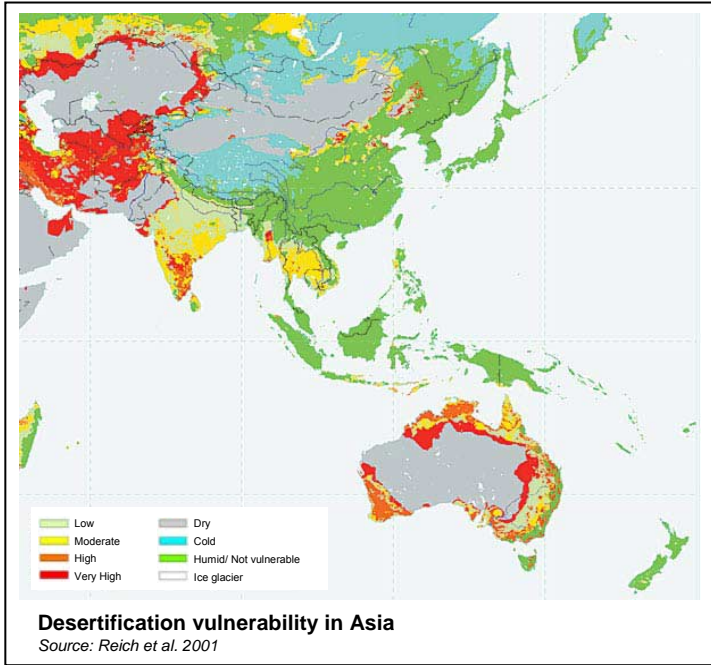




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# Fact Sheet Desertification

## Asia



### Area affected by desertification:

*Kharin et al. 2000* 980 million ha  $\approx$  23% of total Asian land area, of which are 26% ( $\approx$  254 million ha) severely or very severely affected

*Dregne 1991* 1312 million ha  $\approx$  31% of total Asian land area  $\approx$  69% of all used drylands

### Area of drylands affected by human-induced soil degradation:

*UNEP/GLASOD 1997* 370 million ha  $\approx$  8.7% of total Asian land area  $\approx$  22% of all susceptible drylands

### People living in Asian drylands:

*UNDP/UNSO 1997* 1445 million  $\approx$  42% of total Asian population (incl. Russia)

### Status of desertification in agriculturally used drylands:

type of land use in drylands	total (million ha)	degraded (million ha)	degraded (%)
irrigated lands	92	32	35
rained croplands	218	122	56
rangeland	1881	1311	70

Source: Dregne 1991

### Type of human-induced soil degradation:

type of soil degradation	degraded (million ha)	percentage of degraded drylands
water erosion	158	42
wind erosion	153	41
chemical deterioration	50	14
physical degradation	10	3

Source: UNEP/GLASOD 1997



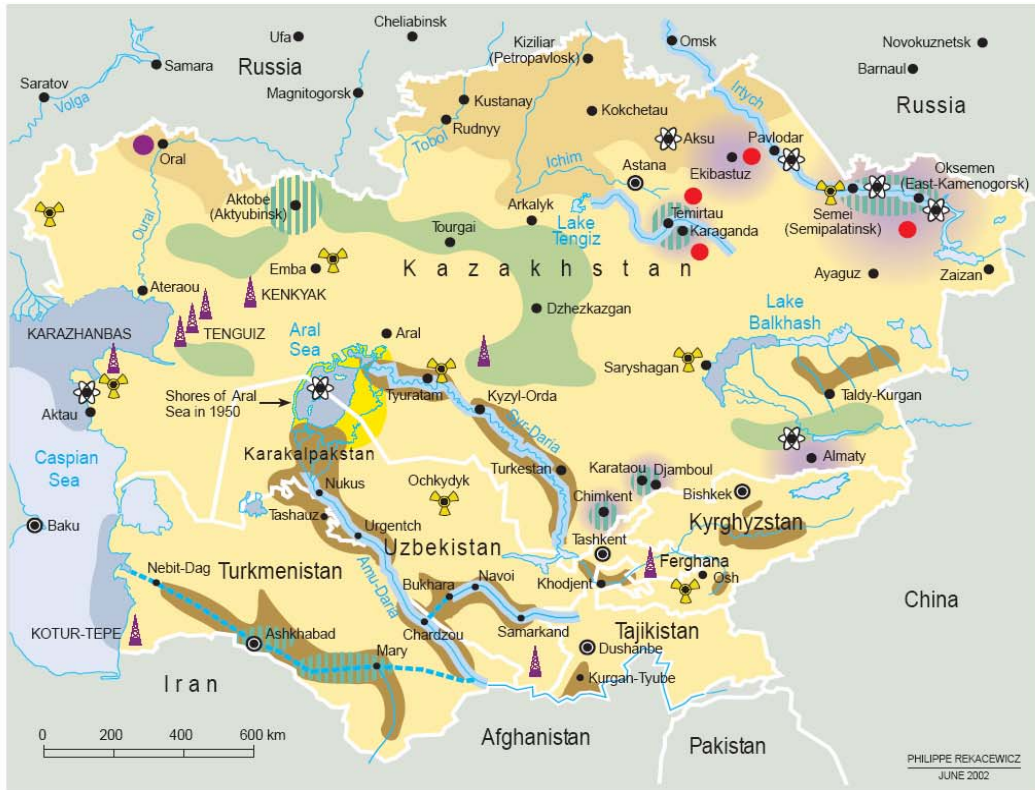
**Note:** Reliability, validity and accuracy of the presented data are subject to debate. Objective of this data compilation is to provide a brief overview of the most significant facts on the magnitude and dimension of desertification-related problems. For more detailed information see the referenced literature.



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# Fact Sheet Desertification

## Asia



### CENTRAL ASIA IN PERIL

- Wind erosion
- Overgrazing
- Salinization
- Desertification
- Serious atmospheric pollution
- Radioactive contamination
- Dangerous defence industries (chemical, nuclear and biological)
- Oil exploration
- Dangerous industrial waste storage
- Lakes, seas (1),
- rivers (2) and
- groundwater (3) contaminated by industrial or agricultural pollution

Sources : Ruben Mnatsakanian, *L'Héritage écologique du communisme dans les républiques de l'ex-URSS*, Frison-Roche, Paris, 1994 ; Atlas of the USSR (in Russian), Moscow, 1985.

**Environmental Degradation in Central Asia**

Source: UNEP/GRID Arendal 2002

### Economic costs of desertification:

Selected region/ country	Gross annual income loss (US\$ billion)
Asia (total)	20.9 (direct costs) <i>Dregne 1991</i>
South & Southeast Asia (8 countries)	9.8 - 11(7% of AGDP*) <i>Young 1994</i>
China	7.7 direct costs 31 indirect costs (4% of GDP*) <i>Berry et al. 2003, referring to the year 1999</i>
Turkmenistan	Cumulative losses: Direct: 112 million Indirect: 234 million <i>NAP Turkmenistan 1996</i>

\*AGDP = Agricultural Gross Domestic Product, GDP = Gross Domestic Product

### Area classified as drylands:

UNDP/UNSO 1997

total: 1840 million ha (39%)  
 arid: 616 million ha (14%)  
 semi-arid: 765 million ha (16%)  
 dry sub-humid: 459 million ha (9%)

### Cumulative loss of productivity as a result of soil degradation: (Oldeman 1998)

Cropland (%)	Pasture land (%)	Crops and pastures (%)
12.8	3.6	4.7 - 8.9



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