

Houbara Bustards Conservation

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environmental Conservation

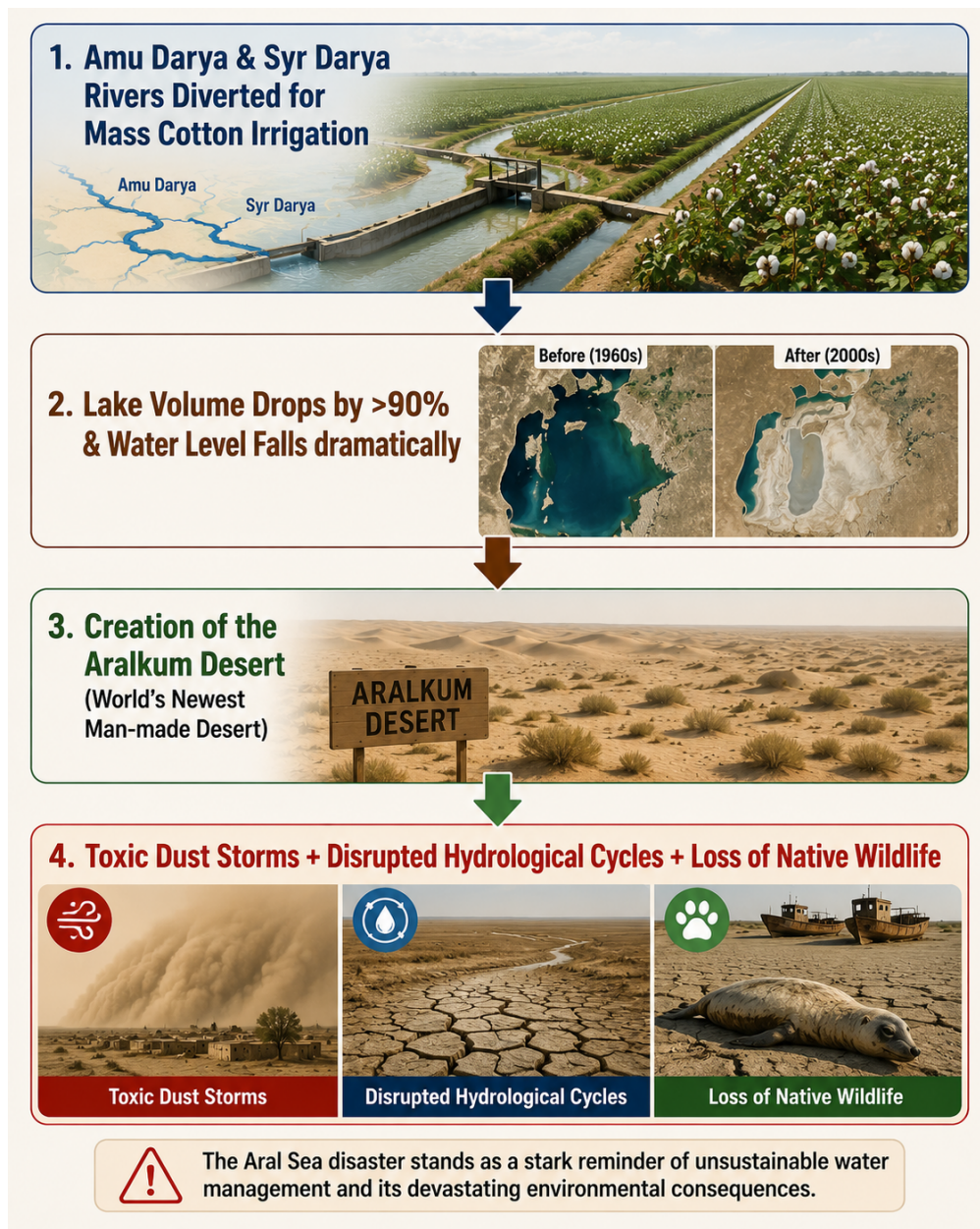
Why in News?

In June 2026, environmental authorities released 672 captive-bred Asian Houbara bustards into the wild landscapes of Karakalpakstan in western Uzbekistan.

- **Location** - Karakalpakstan (Autonomous Republic of Uzbekistan), **Aral Sea / Aralkum Desert region.**
- **Key Species** - Asian Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*).
- **Reintroduction Milestone** - It forms part of a multi-nation, transboundary initiative aimed at restoring the severely degraded dryland ecosystems around the former Aral Sea (now largely the Aralkum Desert).
- **Breeding & Technical Support** - The birds were bred in a specialised facility run by the UAE (Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan office) in Kazakhstan.
- It prepared through pre-release conditioning under the supervision of Uzbekistan's National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change and international CITES experts.

The Aral Sea Environmental Disaster

- The Aral Sea, once the world's 4th-largest inland lake, was decimated by Soviet-era river diversion projects starting in the 1960s.



Species Profile- Asian Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*)

Attribute	Details
IUCN Status	• Vulnerable
International Protection	• Listed under CITES and Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
Habitat Range	• Arid plains and semi-deserts across Central Asia, the Middle East, and parts of South Asia
Primary Threats	• Historical habitat destruction (Aral desiccation), illegal poaching, and loss of migratory stopovers



Reference

[Down to Earth | Houbara bustard Conservation](#)

