

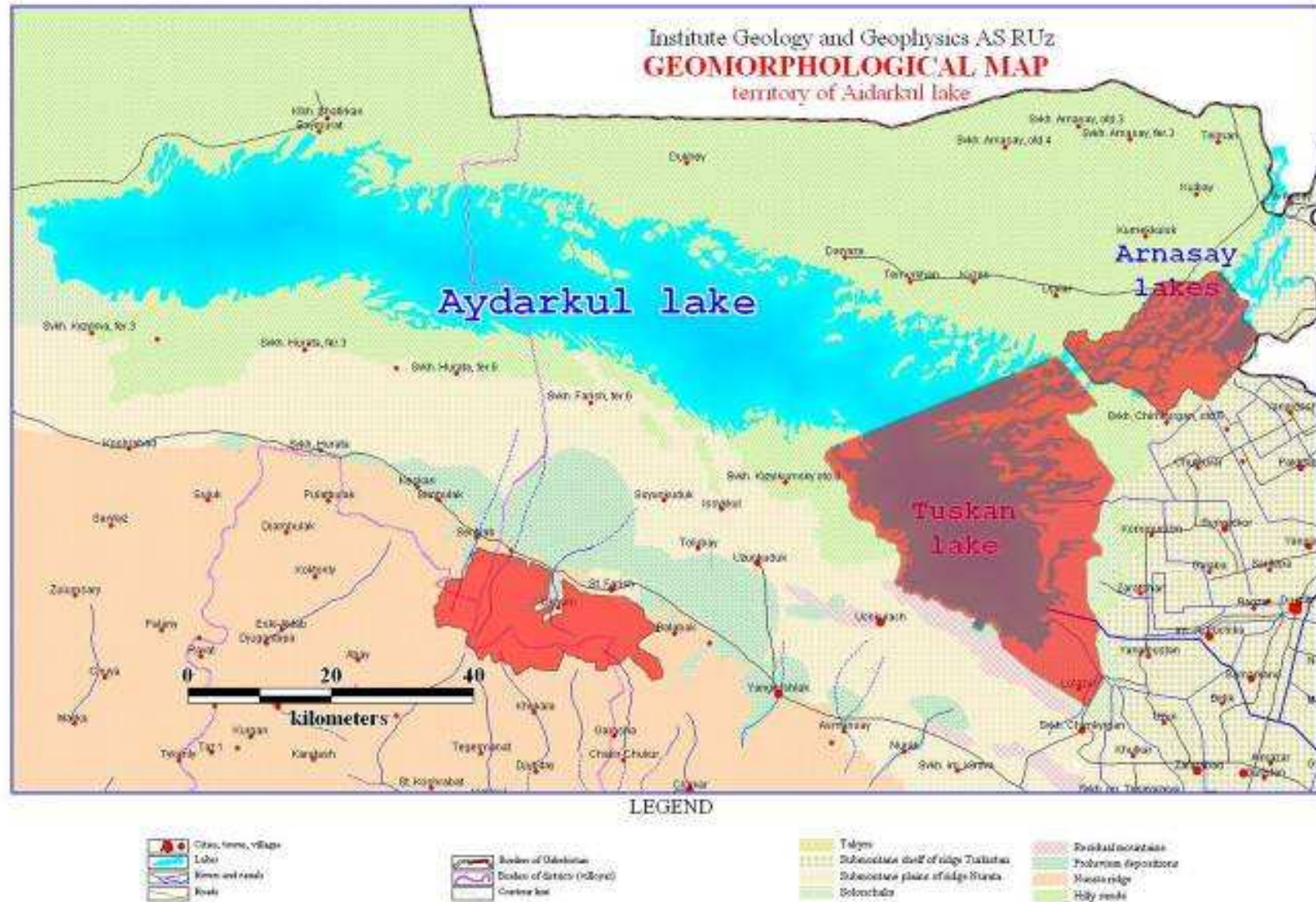
# The Aidar-Arnasay system of the Syrdary river basin

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# The Aidar-Arnasay system of the Syrdary river basin



# Description

- Man-made system which emerged in the late 60ties when Syr Darya was dammed up
- System includes 3 brackish water lakes (Aidar-Kul, Arnasay and Tuzkan)
- Located in the salines of south-eastern Kyzylkum
- 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> and one of the largest lakes in the region

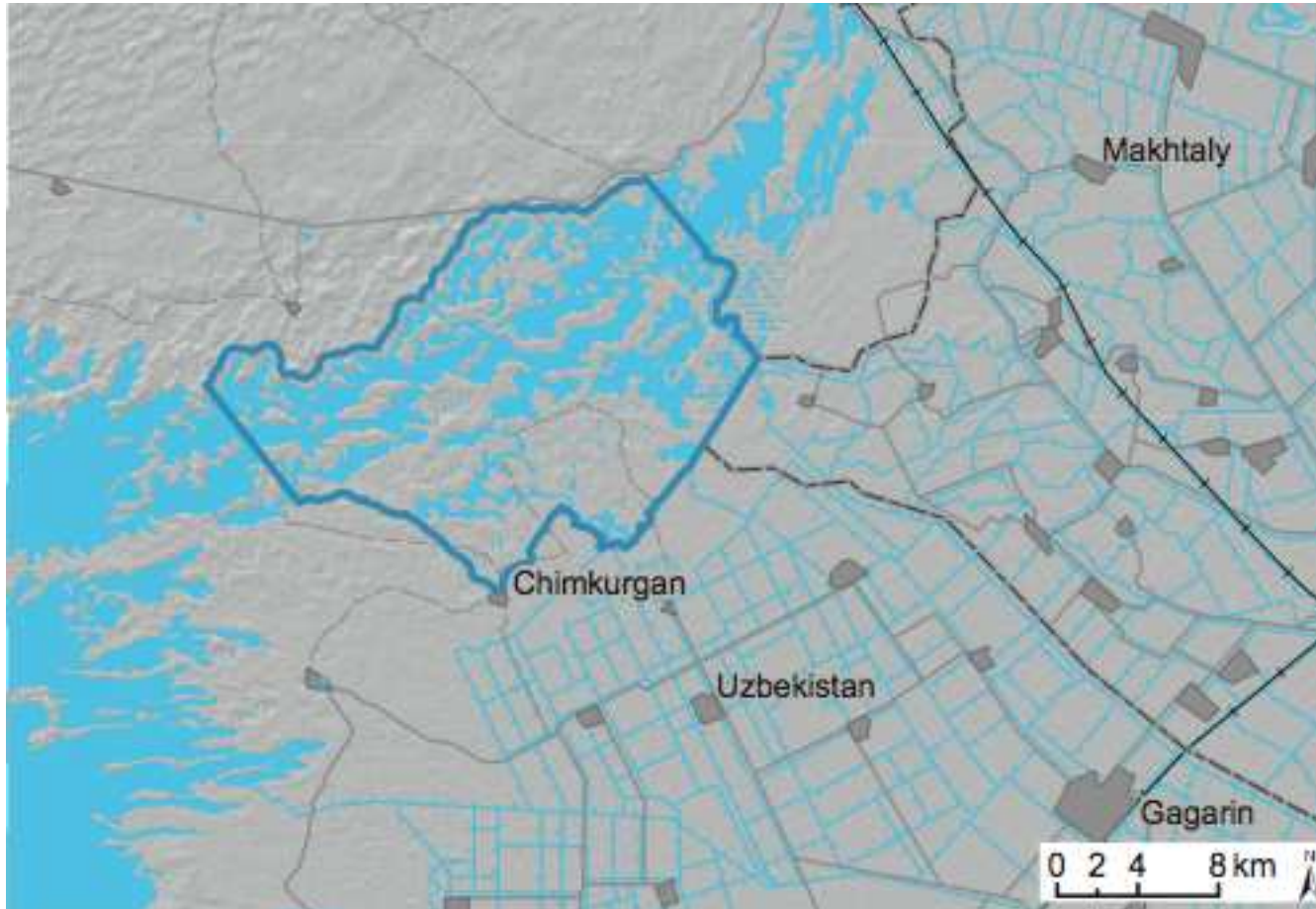
# socio economics

- Low population living around lake
- A number of fish introduced and now a source for commercial fishing (up to 2,000 t of fish/year)
- Subsistence fishing
- Important for recreation (hunting, fishing and non-consumptive)
- Harvest of reeds and other plants

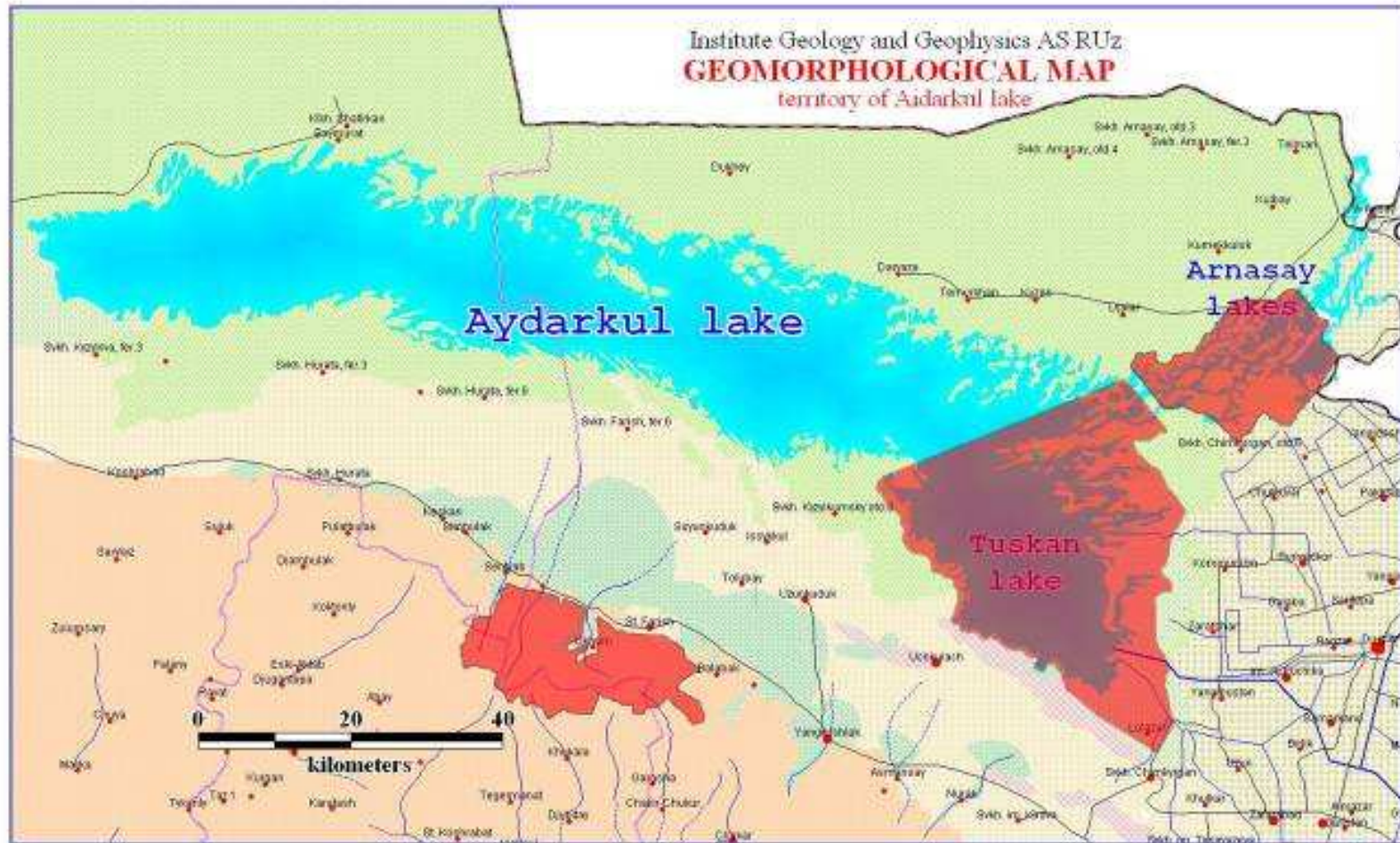
# Biodiversity values – IBA Northern Shore of Aidarkul Lake



# Biodiversity values – IBA Arnasay Lake System



# IBAs Arnasay Lake System and Northern Shores of Aydarkul Lake



**LEGEND**

- Cities, towns, villages
- Lake
- River and roads
- Roads

- Border of Dzhirgatal
- Dikhan of Sirtan (border)
- Channel bed

- Talysh
- Subcoastal shelf of ridge Talyshian
- Subcoastal plain of ridge Talyshian
- Dolomitic

- Erosional mountains
- Proluvium deposits
- Mesoridge
- Hilly lands

# biodiversity facts

- A designated Ramsar site but not protected under national legislation
- Is situated on the Central Asian migratory flyway and serves as a congregation site for migratory and wintering waterbirds (high numbers >190,000 wintering birds (2000))
- Fulfills 4 IBA criteria
- Important for IUCN Red List Central Asian Tortoise *Testudo horsfieldii* (VU) and Goitered Gazelle *Gazella sub-gutturosa* (VU)
- Arnasay Lake system (1 IBA criteria) important for GTS Ferruginous Duck and others



# pressure factors

- After construction of the Arnasay reservoir the general flow of water into the lake decreased
- Built of additional dam upper of Churdarya will reduce flow into the system
- Bottom gill nets present a serious threat to waterbirds, especially diving species
- Degradation of the desert around livestock farms as the result of intensive cattle grazing and firewood collection.
- The invasive Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* is also expanding into the desert areas.
- Uncontrolled hunting, fishing and water use

# transboundary management

- Only framework agreements which require annual and complicated negotiations between the four states of the river basin
- Uzbekistan resistant to sign a multilateral agreement between the four range states and only agrees to bilateral agreements
- Transparent regional plans and strategies which regulate water needs/use and distribution covering the river basin don't exist
- Dissagreements on designation of Aidarkul lake as Ramsar Site by the Uzbekistan government