

ADB

COUNTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

AZERBAIJAN



Asian Development Bank

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ENVIRONMENTAL
ANALYSIS

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ADB analysis to provide background information for informed decision making on environmental issues that are most important for development

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Use of the term “country” does not imply any judgment by the author or the Asian Development Bank as to the legal or other status of any territorial entity.

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Abbreviations

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
AZECOLAB	–	Azerbaijanskaja Ecologicheskaja Laboratorija
BTC	–	Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (pipeline)
EU TACIS	–	European Union Technical Assistance to Commonwealth of Independent States
FSU	–	former Soviet Union
IDP	–	internally displaced person
MENR	–	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
NEAP	–	National Environmental Action Plan
NEHAP	–	National Environmental Health Action Plan
SCLII	–	State Committee for Land Improvement and Irrigation
SPESSED	–	State Program for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development
SPPRED	–	State Program on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development
SPSEDR	–	State Program for Socio-Economic Development of Regions
UNECE	–	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	–	United Nations Environment Program

Glossary

anadromous (fish)	–	dependent on river freshwater for breeding
Bakkanalizatsiya	–	Baku Canal and Wastewater Services
Hydromet	–	state hydrometeorological service
ichtiofauna	–	ecological term meaning fish
<i>kahriz</i>	–	traditional system of subterranean water conveyance originating in Persia
<i>kolkhoz</i>	–	collective farm (during Soviet days)
<i>kolmatazh</i>	–	mechanical removal of larger stones from the alluvium and control of the land's porosity
<i>priusadok</i>	–	household garden plot
<i>sovkhos</i>	–	state farm (during Soviet days)
vodokanal	–	municipal water service company

Notes

- (i) In this document, the broader “environmental” is used instead of “ecological” (a common mistranslation from Russian into English), keeping the word “ecological” only where its technical meaning is not compromised.
- (ii) Both “Aras” and “Araks” are used in the literature to describe the tributary of the Kura River. Here the former version is used.
- (iii) Several action and strategic documents of the Government are sometimes referred to as *state* programs sometimes as *national* programs. Unless a particular usage has become widely accepted (e.g., in the National Environmental Action Plan or the National Environmental Health Action Plan), this document uses the former label.
- (iv) Inconsistent English names of certain government bodies abound in the documentation. This is particularly true for state committees dealing with irrigation and drainage and land use and mapping. The text makes it clear which versions are favored here.
- (v) In this report, “\$” refers to US dollars.

Currency Equivalents

(as of April 2005)

Currency Unit	–	Azerbaijan Manat
AZM 1.00	=	0.00002077706
\$1.00	=	AZM4,813

The present volume brings to a wider audience some of the analysis behind the country strategies and assistance programs that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) formulates in consultation with its member countries. The focus of the document is environmental management, one of ADB's priority concerns.

ADB member countries under the responsibility of the East and Central Asia Department (ECRD) include transition economies, six of which are countries of the former Soviet Union. This provides unique opportunities for ADB to contribute to the ongoing economic and social change in these fledgling market economies.

ADB's support for environmental management in ECRD's geographical area of responsibility is not new. Earlier ADB publications devoted to the same broad subject include *Central Asian Environments in Transition* (1997); *Environmental Profile of Tajikistan* (2001); *Mongolia's Environment and the Implications for ADB Operations* (2002); a series of country environmental analyses prepared for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in 2004–2005. These analyses complement a considerable body of detailed unpublished material that ADB staff members use.

This document is one of the outputs of Regional Technical Assistance 6095: Integrating Environmental Concerns in Government Policies, Plans, and Programs, and is based on the work of Ivan Ruzicka, an ADB consultant. It incorporates a number of comments made by ADB staff members during the document's preparation.

This document builds on the analysis and recommendations of the comprehensive *Azerbaijan Urban Profile* (2005).

ADB thanks Azerbaijan's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources for facilitating the report's preparation and the State Committee for Land and Mapping for generously sharing its experience of land

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