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The land of Fire
Azerbaijan



GENERAL INFORMATION



LOCATION

AZERBAIJAN extends between longitude 44° and 52° east and latitude 38° and 42° north

AZERBAIJAN borders with

IRAN (765 km) and Turkey (15 km) on the south,

RUSSIA (390 km) on the north,

GEORGIA (480 km) on the north-west and

ARMENIA (1007 km) on the west.

There is approximately 800 km of coastline along the Caspian shore in the east.



POPULATION

To January 15, 2010, population of the Republic of Azerbaijan was estimated at 9 million.

About 54,1 percent of population live in towns, while 45,9% in villages. Men constitute 49% of population, while women 51%. Male–female ratio is 1000 to 1039.

TERRITORY

86,6 thousand square km (forests 12%, water basins 1.7%, sown area 54,9%, including 31.1 % pastures and hayfields, 31.4% other lands).



BAKU

the city of winds..



BAKU is the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It is a large scientific, cultural and industrial center.

BAKU was first mentioned in the Book of the Dead by the Egyptian Pharaoh Minesan in 3,500 BC.

BAKU is situated on the shore of the Caspian Sea in the south of the Absheron peninsula. It covers an area of 2,200 square km and has a population of 2 million.

BAKU has 11 administrative districts and 5 settlements.

BAKU situated at the parallel of 40° .





SILK ROAD

Azerbaijan at Crossroads



NATIONAL LANGUAGE

Azerbaijani language is the state official language of Azerbaijan and the mean of linguistic communication of the 9 million population of the country .

Besides, Azerbaijani is also spoken by 20 million Azerbaijanis residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Several millions of Azerbaijanis reside in Russia, USA, Turkey and Western Europe. Regardless of their current country of residence, Azerbaijanis still can understand each other easily. There are over 30 million speakers of Azerbaijani at present.

Genealogically, Azerbaijani language belongs to the Turkic group of languages and, together with closely associated Turkish, Turkmen and Gagauz languages, forms the southwestern group of Turkic languages.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS

According to the Article 23. The symbols of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

1. The national symbols of the Republic of Azerbaijan are the national flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the national emblem of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The National Flag



The National Emblem



NATIONAL LEADER



Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev was born on 10 May 1923 in the city of Nakhchivan of Azerbaijan. Since 1941, Heydar Aliyev heads the department at the People Commissariat of Internal Affairs of Nakhchivan ASSR and on 1944 was sent to work at the state security bodies. Being elected at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in July 1969 as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev heads the Republic. In October 1987, Heydar Aliyev, as a sign of protest against the policy pursued by Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and personally the Secretary General Michael Gorbachev, resigned from his post.

In June 1993, when the people of Azerbaijan believed that the national statehood was on the edge of fall, when there began the hardest days, it insistently demanded change of the existing power, and since that time relied its destiny on Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev, seeing misfortune of his nation, accepted the invitation and returned to great politics in Azerbaijan. The people met the return of Heydar Aliyev with a hope and joy, and this day went down the history of the independent Azerbaijan as the Day of National Salvation. Historical destiny of Azerbaijan, covering the period of over the thirty latest years, was inseparably linked with the name of Heydar Aliyev. Revival of the people during these years in all spheres of its socio-political, economic and cultural life is connected just with his name.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

(Article 105, labor code of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

Holidays of the Republic of Azerbaijan are the following:

New Year Holiday (January 1 and 2)

Women Day (March 8)

Day of Victory over fascism (May 9)

Day of Republic (May 28)

National Salvation Day of Azerbaijani people (June 15)

Day of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan (June 26)

Day of State Independence (October 18)

State Flag Day (November 9)

Day of Constitution (November 12)

National Revival Day (November 17)

Day of Solidarity of World Azerbaijanis (December 31)

Novruz Holiday – five days

Gurban Holiday – two days

Ramadan Holiday – two days



RELIGION

BACKGROUND

According to paragraphs 1-3 of Article 18 of the Constitution the religion acts separately from the government, each religion is equal before the law and the propaganda of religions, abating human personality and contradicting to the principles of humanism is prohibited. At the same time the state system of education is also secular.

The peculiarities of the historical development of Azerbaijan, its geographical position and the national composition of the population created favorable conditions for the spread of different religions in the country. Such religions as heathenism, Zoroastrism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and others managed to spread over the country in different periods of time, interacted with one another and established the specific religious life in the country. Azeri population were converted to Islam with by the early representatives of this religion in the 18th year of Muslim era (639).



RELIGION

IN PRESENT

ISLAM: Approximately 93 % of the population are muslims. Islam is represented by such trends as Shiizm, Sunnism and Shafiism in Azerbaijan. The policy of openness recently conducted in the country created conditions for the spread of a number of other trends and Sufi sects in the regions of the country.

JUDAISM: There are three communities of Jews-Mountain Jews, Ashkenazi Jews and Georgian Jews Azerbaijan. Nearly 16 000 Jews reside in the country.

CHRISTIANITY: Christianity is represented by Orthodoxy, Catholicism and Protestantism as well as a number of sectarian communities in Azerbaijan. Five Armenian-Gregorian communities have been registered in the country.

ALBANIAN-UDI CHURCH: Though the number of people belonging to the Albanian-Udi Christian religious community differs from that of others yet it's distinguished for its nature, content, religious and political importance. To date of 6000 of 10 000 people of Udi ethnic community live in Azerbaijan including 4400 people compactly residing in the Nich village of Gabala district.



Azerbaijan has great potential for the development of the tourism industry - with such fascinating sights as ancient cities, palaces, fortresses, mausoleums, and mosques. As is well known, 9 climate zones exist in Azerbaijan, out of the 11 in the world.

Historical Monuments: There are more than 6 thousand historical architectural monuments on the territory of Azerbaijan.. In Surakhani, there is a site of eternal flame. From ancient times, fire worshippers from remote places, and even Indian priests, came to Absheron in search of fire, and found it here. They built large temples here in Surakhani and in Ateshgah.

Nature, Landscape, Seashores: The natural climatic conditions of Azerbaijan are unique. Azerbaijan is endowed with picturesque natural landscapes, monuments of culture and modern tourist resorts. The Khudat-Yalama seacoast, bordered by forests, and the seashores of Absheron and Lankaran are fine places for recreation and relaxation. In these places, there are fine sandy beaches with steady water temperatures of 22-26 C for five or more months, which provide for a long swimming season.

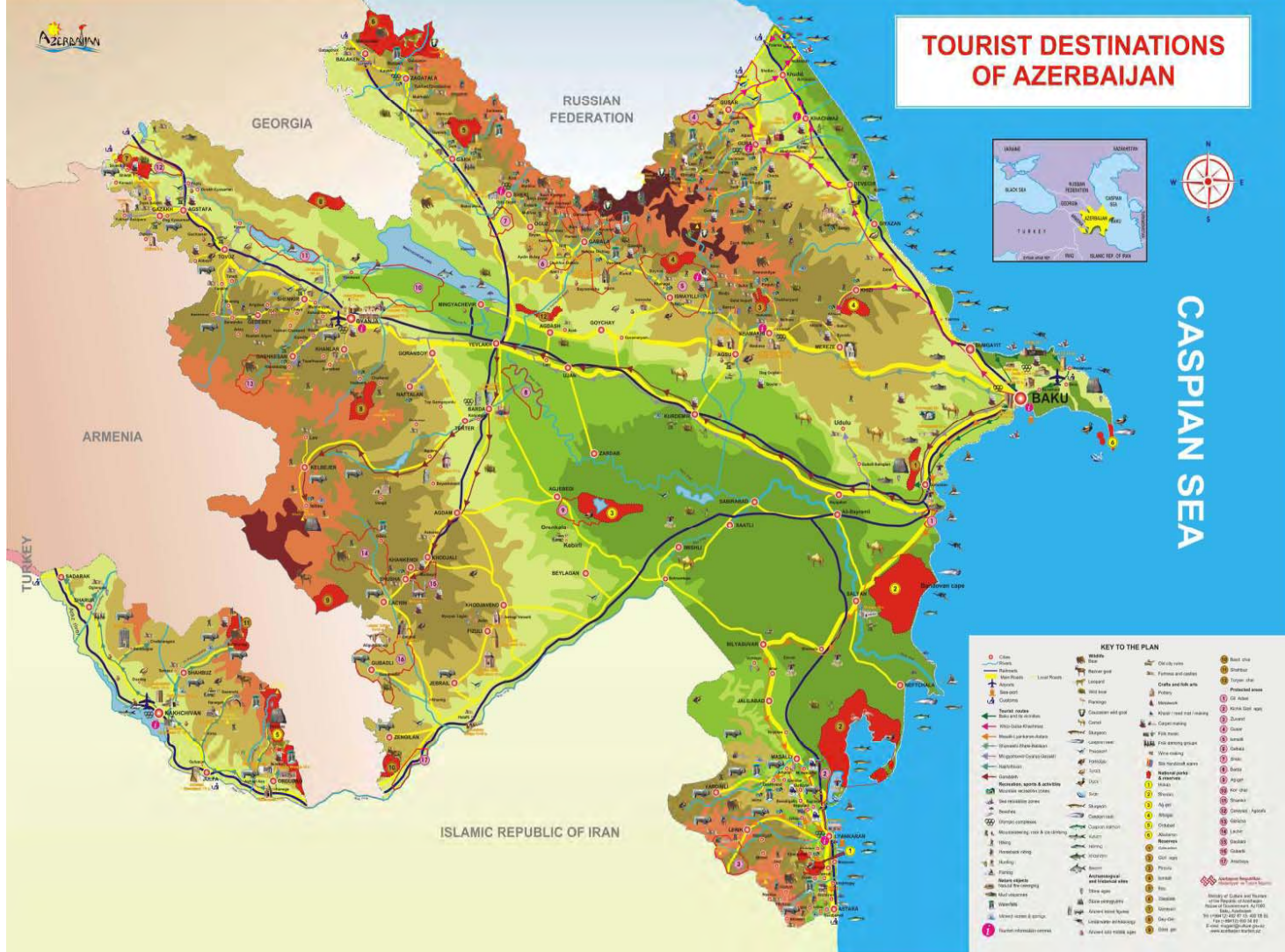
Alpinism: The most attractive areas for Alpinism and winter sports are Shamakhi and Gusar.



Medical tourism: In Azerbaijan are a number of health resorts and spas, creating an opportunity for treatment of many illnesses yielding to natural therapies. Most of the resorts with mineral spas also function as tourist centers. Nakhchievan is especially rich in mineral sources; the only known deposit of medicinal petroleum in the world - Naftalan - is completely unique.

Hunting: Many types of animals and birds are objects of licensed hunting, and in the reserves they are very easy to watch and photograph. In particular, the Gizilagach reserve, where in the winter months more than one million individuals from two hundred species of birds of passage gather, is ideal for this purpose.





NAGORNO KARABAKH ENCLAVE



The Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan is part of the geographical area called Garabagh (Qarabağ). The name of this part of the country consists of two Azerbaijani words: “qara” (black) and “bağ” (garden). This area covers the lands from the Araz River in the south to the Kur River in the north, and from junction of the Kur and Araz Rivers in the east to the eastern ranges of the Lesser Caucasus in the west.

From ancient times up to the occupation by Russians in the early 19th century, this region was part of different Azerbaijani States.

NAGORNO KARABAKH CONFLICT

In 1988, towards the end of Soviet rule, Armenian secessionists began a bloody war against Azerbaijan. As a result of aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan 20 percent of its territory, 890 towns and cities, villages and settlements were occupied, 904,214 people became refugees, 20,000 people were killed, 50,000 people were wounded or became invalids; according to initial calculations the caused damage constituted 60 billion USD. Despite a 1994 cease-fire, Azerbaijan has yet to resolve its conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. Occupied by the local Armenian troops to this day, this conflict has not officially ended. Negotiations have so far failed to produce a permanent peace agreement.



- Borders of former NKAO
- Road Gorus-Lachin-Shusha-Khankendi
- Temporary refugee settlements
- Tent camps
- The occupied territories of Azerbaijan


GEOGRAPHY

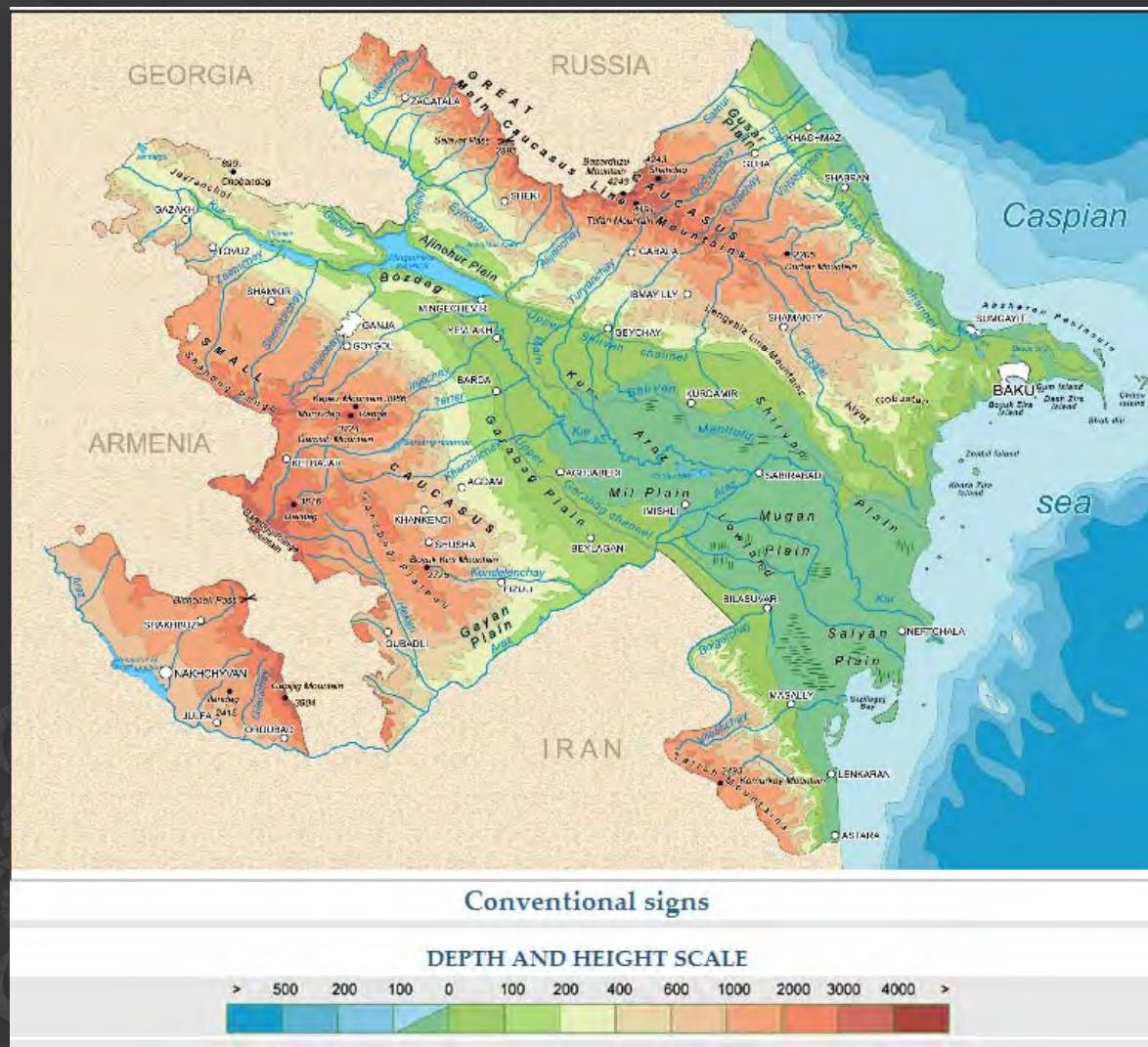


LANDSCAPE

The Republic of Azerbaijan is situated in the Alp-Himalayan mountain belt. The three mountain ranges are the Greater and Lesser Caucasus, and the Talysh Mountains, together covering approximately 40% of the country. The highest point in the country is on Mount Bazarduzu (4,485 m above sea level) situated in the Greater Caucasus. Lowlands and plains make up the other 60% of the country. The average height of the country is 657 m above sea level, however 18% of the country is below sea level. The complexity of a landscape causes nonuniform formation of climatic zones and creates vertical climate zones, etc.

Azerbaijan does not extend over a large geographical area, and much of the differentiation of landscapes is due to the variation of altitude. Landscapes are influenced by climate, soil, and habitats that change with increasing altitude. Landscapes replace each other with height, graduating from lowland plains, semi desert, steppe, forest, alpine meadow to subnival communities at the greatest heights of the mountains, creating landscape zones at different altitudes.





CLIMATE

Taking into consideration distribution and features of regime of weather temperature and atmosphere precipitations, as well humidity circumstance in Azerbaijan Republic, 8 of 11 climate patterns of the Earth (according to V.V.Keppen) are determined here. Many of these patterns are divided into semi-types.

TEMPERATURE: The climate varies from subtropical and humid in the southeast to subtropical and dry in central and eastern Azerbaijan. Along the shores of the Caspian Sea it is temperate, while the higher mountain elevations are generally cold. Baku, on the Caspian, enjoys mild weather that averages 4 ° C (39.2 ° F) in January and 25 ° C (77 ° F) in July.

RAINFALL: Most of Azerbaijan receives little rainfall, only 152 to 254 millimeters (5.98 to 10.00 in) annually on average. As a result, agricultural areas require irrigation. Approximately 14,500 km² (5,598 sq mi) of the land is irrigated. The greatest precipitation falls in the highest elevations of the Caucasus but also in the Lankaran Lowlands of the extreme southeast. The yearly average in these areas can exceed 1,000 millimeters (39.37 in).

The absolute temperature maximum (46C) and minimum (-32C) are registers on the plains around Araz in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, characterized by its continental climate

CLIMATIC ZONES IN AZERBAIJAN



- 1 Half-deserts and dry steppes with soft winter and dry hot climate.
- 2 Half-deserts and dry steppes with cold winter and dry hot climate.
- 3 Moderately warm climate with dry winter.
- 4 Moderately warm climate with dry summer.
- 5 Moderately warm climate almost with uniform distribution of sedimentary.
- 6 Cold climate with dry summer.
- 7 Cold climate with dry winter.
- 8 Cold climate with plentiful quantity of sedimentary in all seasons.
- 9 Climate of mountainous tundra.



Conventional signs

AIR TEMPERATURE (Centigrade)	WIND DIRECTIONS
-2 - middle annual isotherms	→ in July
37 absolute maximum	→ in January
-23 absolute minimum	

MIDDLE ANNUAL SCALE OF PRECIPITATIONS (mm)
< 200 400 600 1000 1600 >

FLORA

There are more than 4100 plant species in the territory of Azerbaijan. More than 200 of these plants are endemic.

“Eldar Shami” pine tree can be found only in Azerbaijan and neighboring Georgia. Caspian Lotus (“Sanagullesi”) which can be found in the delta of Kura River has unique beauty.

“Tugai” forests that have grown after Kura, Araz and Alazan floods, protect the ground and are located in the coast of rivers, which have strong water flow and cross dry plains.

These forests have rich reserves of oak, poplar, willow and hazel trees. The foothills with the height from 600-700 m to 1800 m are covered with forests that have oak, hornbeam, beech, huge birch trees and also ash-tree. These forests cover more than 10% of the territory of Azerbaijan Republic. Highland forests have water-protective and soil-protective characteristics and have good hunting, recreation and tourism potential.

Broad-leaved highland forests of Talish-Lankaran region are very important. Ancient species of pink siris, heavy argan tree and immersed argan tree.



FAUNA

There are more than 12000 animal species in Azerbaijan Republic. They consist of 92 species of mammals, 350 species of birds, 49 species of reptiles, 9 species of amphibians, 88 species of fish and 10 species of invertebrates.

There are several zoogeographical provinces in Azerbaijan Republic and each of these provinces has specific animal species-fauna complex.





Conventional signs

MAMMAL

	Red deer		Caucasian mouflon		Jackal		Marsh beaver
	Dappled deer		Wild hyena		Fox		Suleysin
	Gazelle		Brown bear		Rock squirrel		Wild mice
	Dagestan tur		Leopard		Forest squirrel		Roe
	Lynx		Caspian seal		Chamois		Wild cat
	Rabbit		Fasan		Raccoon		Iranian grey squirrel
	Wild pig		Wolf		Indian porcupine		Bat colonies

Natural habitats of different sorts of mice

	Iranian sand mouse		Red-tail sand mouse		Asia Minor sand mouse		Vinogradov sand mouse
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FISH

	Sturgeon		Kutum		Breanu		Caspian salmon
	fatio		Sazan		Herring		Kulma
	Zander		Kheshem		Shamayi		Sprat

BIRDS

	Pelican		Black stork		Golden goose		Swan
	Geese		Red-chest goose		Ducks		Partridge and natural habitats
	Bearded eagle		Bustard		Little bustard		Sultan hen
	Bald-coot		Sandpiper		Silver gull		Caucasian tetra
	Caucasian ular		Caspian ular		Pheasant and natural habitats		Turaj and natural habitats
	Black-head gull		Quail		Pigeons		

REPTILE

	Water snake		Caucasian viper		Mediterranean turtle		Caucasian agama
	Disaster agama		Stripy lizard				

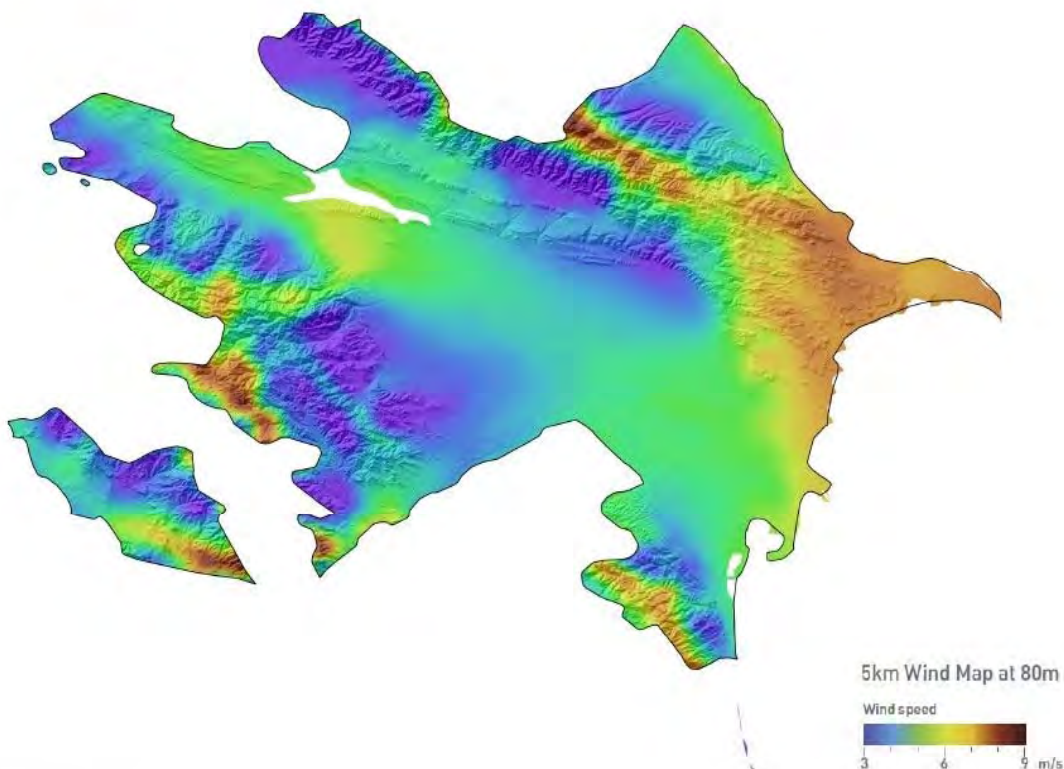
AMPHIBIA

	Lake frog
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STRONG WINDS

Orographic features of the area enable west winds to become stronger along Kura river basin and west coasts of the Caspian sea as well as east winds in the territory of Nakhichevan AR. An increase tendency of number of very strong windy days (more than 25 m/second) is observed in the republic within the last years according to statistic analyses carried out. So that within 2002-2008 maximum speed of wind in territory of the republic reached to 38-40 m/second in Baku and Absheron cities, Ganja-Shamakhy-Zardab-Zagatala regions in August 2005, in March 2006 and February, March, August, September 2007.

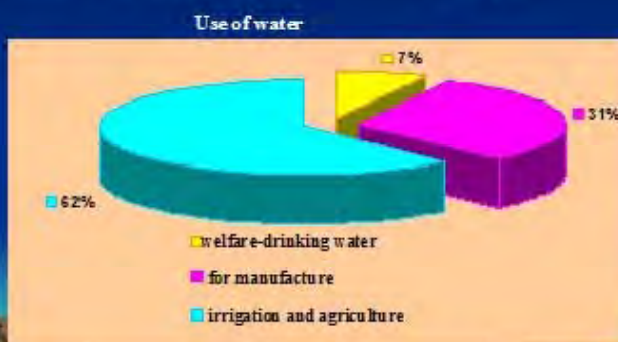
Azerbaijan Wind Map at 80m



WATER RESOURCES

Key water facilities related to hydrographic network - rivers, lakes and water reservoirs were allotted irregularly in different natural provinces of Azerbaijan Republic. Azerbaijan remains behind South Caucasus states subject to index of ground water resources per km² of area and per capita of population. So that 62% of total water reserve (310 bln. m³) of South Caucasus is shared by Georgia, 28% by Armenia and only 10% by Azerbaijan.

Total 35 billion m³
Including underground water resources 5 billion m³
70% of surface waters are formed outside of Azerbaijan
Annual water deficit 4 billion m³



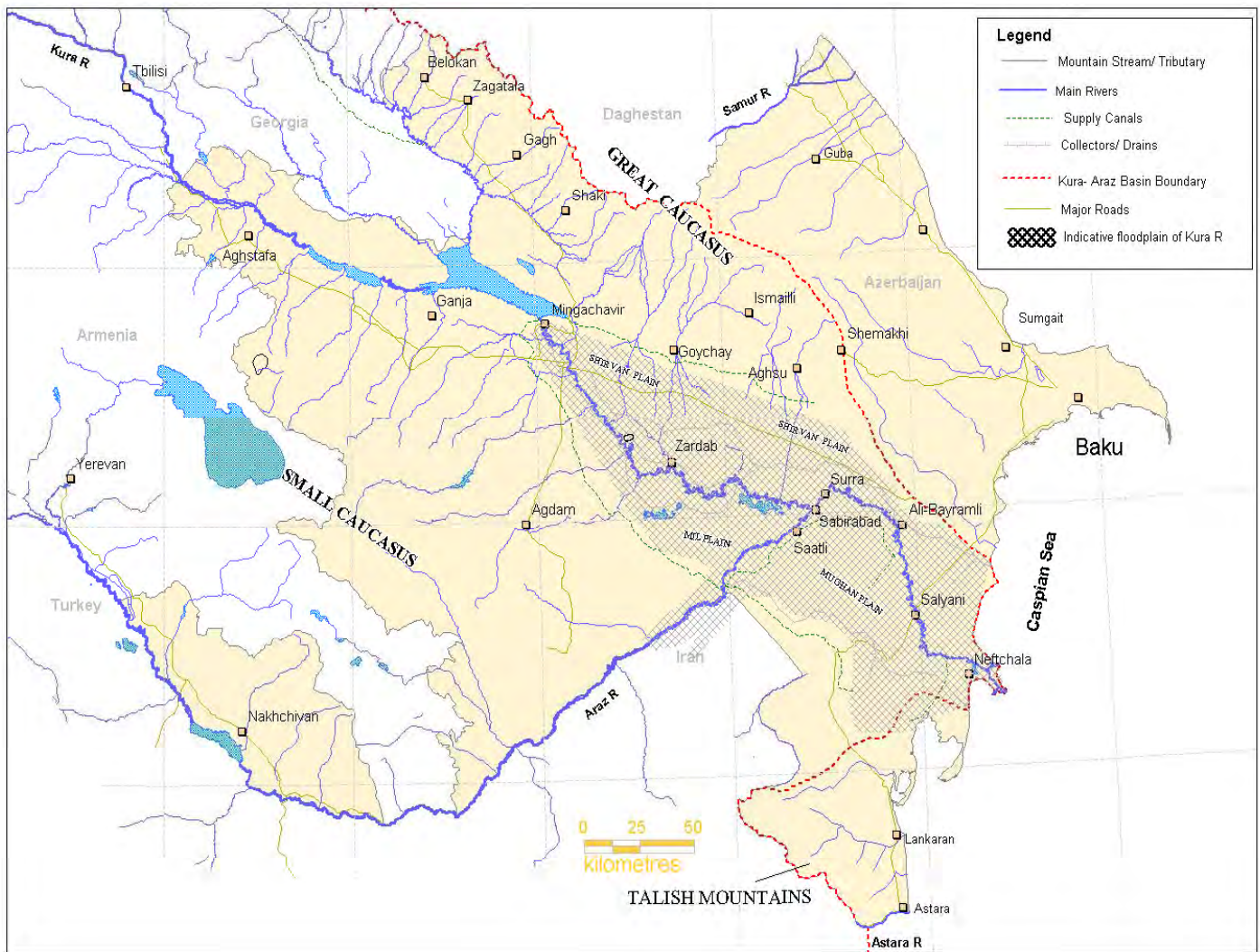
Countrywide water reserves total to average 35 bln. m³ that out of 5 bln. m³ are underground water. No sufficient water reserve exists in Azerbaijan in order to meet demand of the population for potable water and needs of agriculture.

WATER RESOURCES

RIVERS: The main sources of water in Azerbaijan are the surface waters. However, only 24 of the 8359 rivers are greater than 100 km in length. Of them 8,188 rivers are less than 25 kilometers in length. All the rivers drain into the Caspian in the east of the country, through three main river basins - the Caspian Basin, (rivers draining directly into the Caspian), the Kura basin (in western and central Azerbaijan) and the Araz basin. The average density of river networks is 0.39 km per km², with most of the rivers occurring in the Kura basin. Artificial rivers (canals) and ponds are a part of Azerbaijan's water systems

UNDERGROUND WATERS: Underground waters constitute 24 million m³ in a day (8.8 km³ in a year) being formed in foothills of Great and Little Caucasus and plain areas, Nakhichevan and Talish ranges of the country. Presently, 5 million m³ or only 20% of overall resources are used in a day. It shows possibility of widely usability of underground water potential of the country in water deficiency period.





MINERAL RESOURCES

In addition to the well-known oil and gas deposits, Azerbaijan has rich deposits of natural minerals that are useful in chemistry, metallurgy, construction building and health therapy. These include ferrous and non-ferrous ores, rare and fine metals, semi-precious stones, as well as a wide variety of underground sources of thermal, mineral and natural spring water. Here is an overview of the minerals that exist in Azerbaijan and their current state of development.





Conventional signs

▲ Oil	▲ Oil and natural gas	▲ Natural gas
▲ Iron ore	■ Chromite ore	◆ Molybdenum ore
■ Bauxite	■ Copper ore	⊕ Complex ore
○ Mercuric ore	▽ Barit	⊠ Sulphury pyrites
□ White salt	■ Brackish salt	■ Dolomite
▨ Gypsum	■ Limestone	◇ Marble
■ Silica sand	■ Gill	▨ Cement raw material
◇ Mineral dyes	■ Pearlites	* Agate
† Mineral water sources		

TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Azerbaijan has large-scale oil and gas industry facilities in Baku and its suburbs and heavy chemical industry, mainly concentrated in the city of Sumgait. Moreover, 443 km of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline run through Azerbaijan. It has the capacity to export 1 million barrels of oil a day and includes two pump stations in Azerbaijan. Another potential technological hazard is the Metsamor nuclear power plant, located in the seismic zone close to the Armenian border.

NATURAL HAZARDS AND CASE STUDIES



ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS

The following are the principal ecological problems of Azerbaijan

- The pollution of water resources by way of introduction of contaminated water, including transnational pollution;
- The supply of low-quality water to inhabited regions, the loss of fresh water prior to its delivery to the end consumers, insufficient development of sewer systems;
- Air pollution from industrial plants and transport vehicles;
- Degradation of soil (erosion, desertification, etc.);
- Improper regulation of industry and housing, as well as hazardous solid wastes;
- Decline in biological diversity;
- Decline in forest reserves and fauna, especially fish reserves

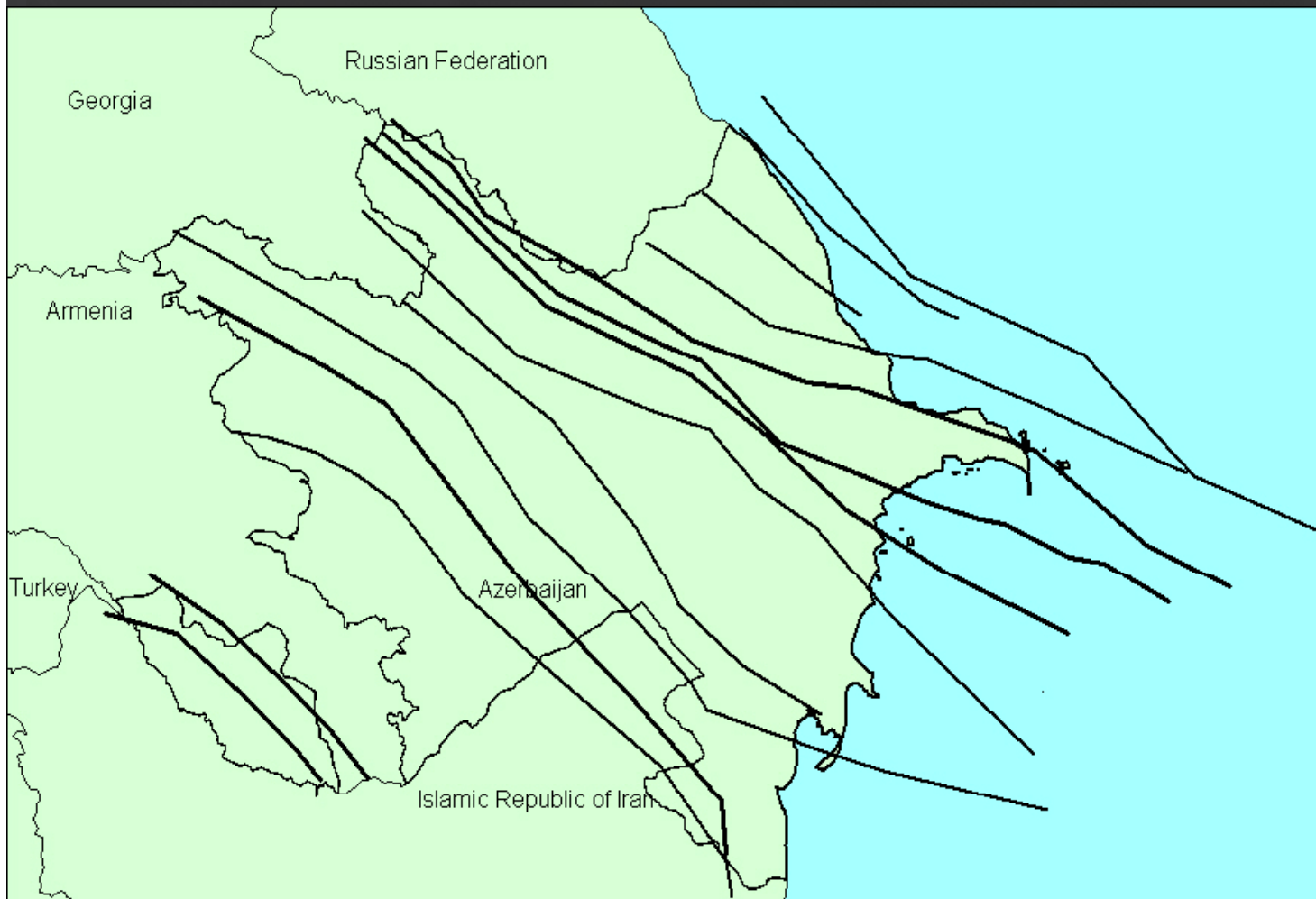


SEISMICITY

The territory of Azerbaijan which is included into the Alpine folded system is characterized by a high seismic activity. In the territory fault zones with different direction create a very complex geological structure. Such heterogeneity of distribution of seismicity is connected with a various level of activity of separate parts of fault zones.

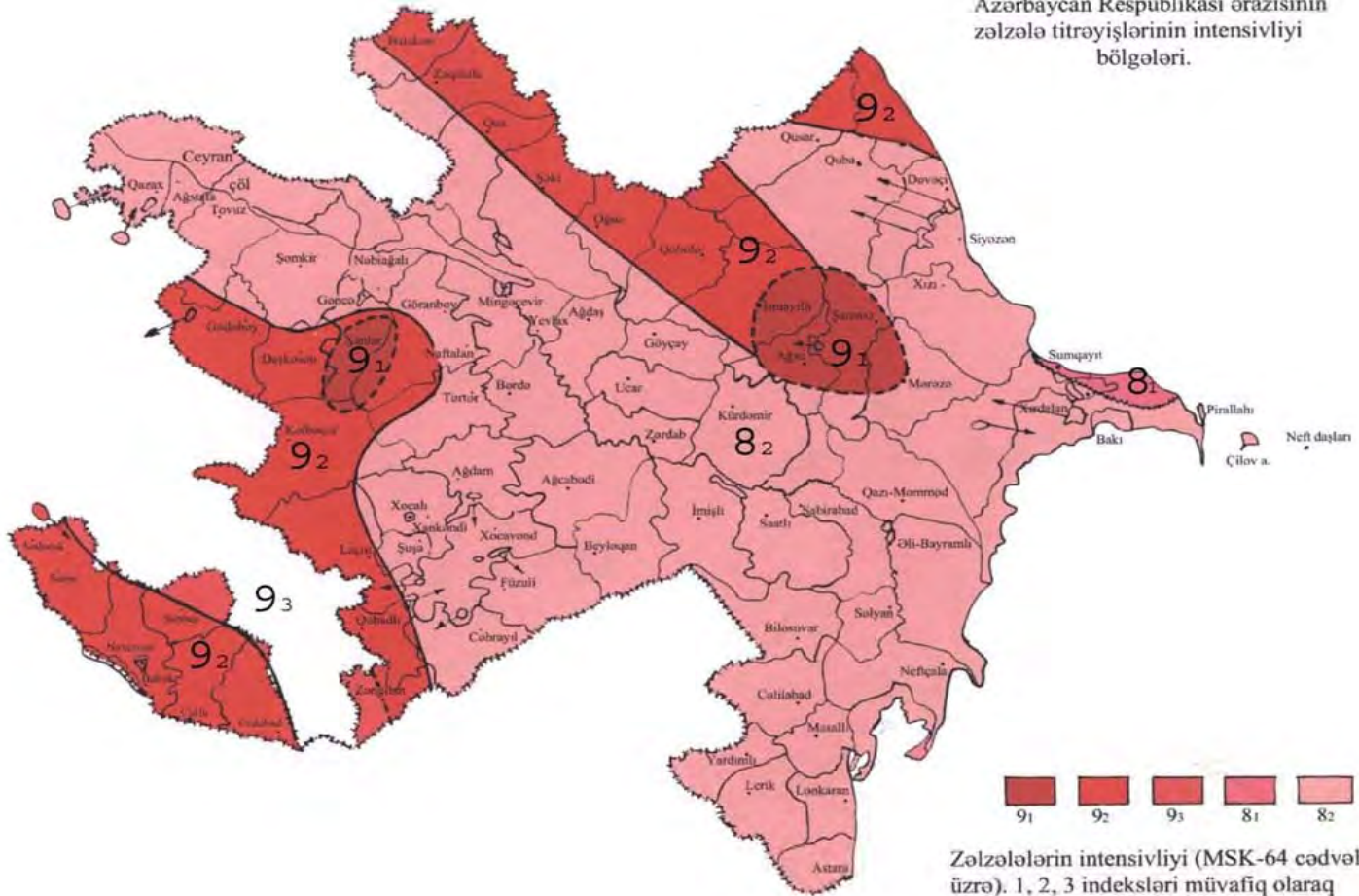
The background level of seismic hazard in terms of intensity is equal to 8 (MSK - 64). High seismic hazard 9 (MSK - 64) is expected in a zone of the Great Caucasus which covers territory from the city of Shamakhy up to border of Georgia. Other zones with the same potential danger are allocated within the limits of Small Caucasus.

ACTIVE FAULTS IN THE TERRITORY OF AZERBAIJAN



SEISMIC ZONATION MAP OF AZERBAIJAN

Azərbaycan Respublikası ərazisinin zəlzələ titrəyişlərinin intensivliyi bölgələri.

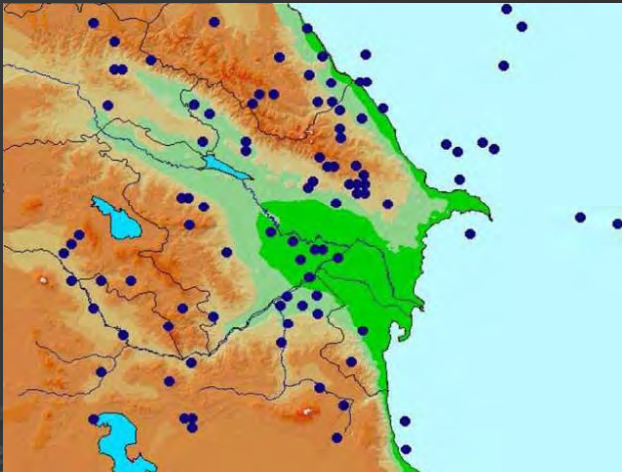


Zəlzələlərin intensivliyi (MSK-64 cədvəli üzrə). 1, 2, 3 indeksləri müvafiq olaraq 100, 1000, 10000 ildə bir dəfə təkrarlanmaları göstərilir.

SEISMICITY

CASE STUDY

Epicenters map of earthquakes (M≥5,0) happened in Azerbaijan territory in 427-1930.



Azerbaijan saw devastating earthquakes since the ancient times. The first reports on "an overall devastating event that destroyed all towns and villages" is dated back to 427 AD. In 1139 AD, a devastating earthquake with the magnitude of IX took place in Azerbaijan. The strongest earthquakes mainly have been registered in Shamakhi and Ganja regions. The earthquake happened in Shamakhi in 1668 ($M \approx 7.0$) can be considered as one of the strongest earthquakes happened in the Caucasus up to now.

According to historical information this earthquake resulted with landslides and more than 80000 people died. In Shamakhi region registered seismic shocks with intensity up to 8 according MSK-64 in 1828, 1859, 1869 and 1872 years. In this area the last catastrophic earthquake ($M = 6.9$) happened in 1902.

SEISMICITY

CASE STUDY



Another area where happened destructive earthquakes is Ganja region. In this area happened strong earthquakes in 427 ($M \approx 6.7$); in 1139 ($M \approx 6.8$); in 1235 ($M \approx 5.7$);. In 1139, not far from Ganja, a massive earthquake occurred, as a result of which eight of the most beautiful lakes were created. One of them is the pearl of Azerbaijan, the amazing Göygöl Lake. A Reserve of the same name is situated here. The nature of the Reserve is rich in forest beauty, blue lakes, charming bird songs and the aroma of trees and flowers.

Göygöl Lake



SEISMICITY

CASE STUDY



On November 25, 2000 two consecutive quakes with the magnitudes 6,5 and 5,8 stroke the capital of Azerbaijan – Baku city. Intensity of the quakes in coastal regions of Apsheron peninsula was about 6-7. Some minor damages were incurred to buildings. No human loss was registered as a primary result of the earthquake.

MUD VOLCANOS

Mud volcanoes are pervasive within the Republic of Azerbaijan. There are over 220 mud volcanoes in Azerbaijan (Absheron Peninsula, Gobustan, southeast Shirvan plain, Samur-Davachi plain terrane, both Absheron and Baku Archipelago. The biggest are Galmas, Toragay, Big Kanizadag etc. Most of them have a cone shape. Their height varies in the range from 20 to 400m, whereas base diameter may vary from 100 to 4500m.

Besides onshore mud volcanoes there are buried volcanoes and offshore mud volcanoes. There are over 140 offshore mud volcanoes within the Caspian Sea. Eight Islands within Baku archipelago were generated by mud volcano eruptions (Khara-Zira, Zambil, Garasu, Gil, Sangi-Mughan, Chigmil etc).

Mud volcanoes are one of the visible signs of the presence of oil and gas reserves under the land and sea in the Caspian region. Gas seeps are a related phenomenon. These occur when a pocket of gas under the ground finds a passage to the surface.

MUD VOLCANOS

CASE STUDY



An impressive volcanic eruption occurred in 2001 in Azerbaijan, but there were no casualties or evacuation warnings. The biggest flames burned for about five minutes. Then there was another huge explosion, and then they calmed down to about 10 or 20 metres (32 or 65 feet) high. The flames could easily be seen from 15 kilometres away on the day of the explosion, and were still burning, although at a lower level, three days later.

MUD VOLCANOS

CASE STUDY



Shikhzayirli mud volcano erupted in Gobustan region of Azerbaijan on March 13, 2011. Witnesses heard explosions before the eruption, mud breccia erupted and then fire blazed up in the territory of the volcano. The fire had an altitude above 50 m. Experts and rescuers of the Ministry of Emergency Situations immediately arrived at the site to prevent any emergency situation. After its activation decreased and mud flows were seen in some bald peaks. Deep grikes were created around the crater. The mud volcano didn't threaten the nearby villages.

MUD VOLCANOS

photos



FLOODS/LANDSLIDES

Heavy showers on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic often lead to floods with damages and human casualties. Moreover, hail fall is observed on the territory during warm periods. They cause damage to agriculture. Hail diameters sometimes are about 30–50 millimeters, which results in total destruction. About 1.2 million hectares of land in Azerbaijan are vulnerable to floods, which can cause considerable loss of life and property. A substantial part of central Azerbaijan could be flooded in case of damage to the Mingechevir water reservoir in the west.

Another major reason of occasional landslides in Azerbaijan is semi-nomadic animal husbandry. As a result of increasing livestock in the country on the semi-nomadic principle, the land is subjected to erosion, resulting in landslides. Among others another noteworthy cause of landslides oil and other wastes from the Soviet period.



Azerbaijan - Floods/Landslides

6 May 2003

OCHA Situation Report No. 1

"... the floods affected over 30 regions countrywide causing damage to over 7,000 private houses and 150 public buildings."



Melting of snow and heavy rains have resulted in flooding in 11 districts of Azerbaijan. Intensive precipitation has caused landslides in Ismayilli, Gobustan, Siyezen, and Shamakhi regions, where about 130 houses have been destroyed and over 300 houses have been heavily damaged.

Orange circle: Areas affected by Landslides

Overflowing of the Kura river, has caused over 6,000 houses have been flooded and about 300 houses are heavily destroyed in the worst affected districts of Neftchala, Salyan, Sabirabad, Imishli, Zardab, Kurdamir, and Ali Bayramli. No casualties or missing person are reported.

Green circle: Areas affected by Floods

Source: OCHA Situation Report No. 1
Azerbaijan - Floods/Landslides
6 May 2003

Map Produced by ReliefWeb
6 May 2003
www.reliefweb.int

FLOODS

CASE STUDY



In May 2010 unusually large amounts of rain in Southern Azerbaijan caused the Kura River to rise to its highest level in over 100 years, bursting dams and overflowing onto nearby villages. This unprecedented level of flooding hit hardest in the Sabirabad, Imishli, Saatli districts, which is near the confluence of the Kura and Araz rivers. More than 24,000 people were affected with tens of thousands of homes flooded or destroyed and 50,000 hectares of farmland inundated.

LANDSLIDES

CASE STUDY

On 7 March 2000, a major landslide involving an area of 15 ha occurred in the Bayil zone of the Sabayil district, south of Baku city center. The landslide in the Bayil slope destroyed dozens of shops, apartments and gas stations. After the incident, it was decided to move roughly 300 families from this territory. The slope in later years also experienced few minor landslides which led Baku City Administration to examine the area and make a final decision on razing houses in this territory.

Analysis of the landslide mechanism and its causes revealed that it was a single compound slide with one slip surface, which was triggered by intense rainfall during October and November 1999 (more than the average annual precipitation occurred within two months).

Due to the low permeability of the soil, the groundwater table was slowly recharged; but the investigations after the disaster showed that the crack openings in the landslide zone had allowed a significant lowering of the water table. Some water leakage from utility lines crossing the slide may also have had a detrimental preparatory effect.

DROUGHTS

Drought is a natural climatic feature of the region and occurs time by time in specific periods. Azerbaijan has been severely affected by the drought that has stricken many countries in Central Asia, the Near East and parts of Europe during the spring 2000. An FAO assessment mission carried out early January 2001 reported significant losses of harvests, particularly of potatoes and vegetables. The most affected farmers were those cultivating plots located at the tail end of irrigation canals. The fisheries sector has also been severely affected by the low water levels in the rivers and reservoirs due to the drought. Several generations of fish have been lost due to a disruption in breeding patterns.



FIRES

Deciduous/leaf bearing forests dominate mainly in Azerbaijan, therefore forest fires are not specific for the republic. But fires happened as a result of anthropogenous impacts can cause to extinction of various species of flora and fauna. Majority of fires occur due to burning of fields after corn reaping mainly in arid cycle. So that 7 forest fires happened in 2002 covered 46 ha area. But fire-fanging of hay, then trees appears in spring-summer seasons in Talish ranges. Six forest fires happened in 2007 covered 88.3 ha area, four forest fires in 2008 covered 25.3 ha area.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

“For the purpose of providing prevention of natural and man-made disasters and fires, elimination of their consequences, management of activities of the relevant bodies responsible for rescue and rehabilitation works by one centralized system, organization and realization of civil defense work in the country, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan is established.”

Ilham ALIYEV

**The president of the
Republic of Azerbaijan
Baku, 16 December, 2005**





MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE MES

- Protection of population and territories from fires and disasters;
- Prevention of emergency situations and elimination of their consequences;
- Ensuring of safety rules in water basins, building sites, industrial and mining enterprises and safe movement of small ships in state waters
- Establishment and proper management of the State Resource Fund;
- Organization of protection of strategic objects exposed to natural, man-made and terror threats, neutralization of radioactive wastes;
- Organization of quick response to emergency situations and management of humanitarian aids;
- Organization of management rescue-searching and first aid, aviation and other transport life-saving operations in case of emergency
- Organization of awareness-raising activities among population regarding life safety rules and measures, methodical guidance over respective work done in this field by state bodies and public organizations etc.

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

FUNCTIONAL BODIES

State Fire Protection Service	State Fire Control Service	Civil Defense Troops	Special Risky Rescue Service
Crisis Management Center	State Material Reserves Agency	State Agency for Construction Safety Supervision	State Agency for Industrial Safety and Mountain Mining Supervision
State Inspectorate for Small Vessels	Caspian Basin Accident-Rescue Service	State Water Rescue Service	State Water Reserves Agency
State Agency for Radiological and Nuclear Activities Regulation	"ISOTOP" Special Center	Aviation Detachment	Medical Service
Central Laboratory	Capital Construction Department	Financial and Technical Assistance Department	Operative Investigation Department
Research and Production Unity	Sports & Fitness Club	Academy of MES	

REGIONAL CENTERS/MES OF NAKHCHIVAN AR



CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER

Crisis Management Center is the executive body of the Ministry of Emergency Situations which controls over operative and effective management and coordination of the forces and facilities of the Ministry

- ◆ *during accident-rescue operations,*
- ◆ *in emergency prevention, response and rehabilitation activities,*
- ◆ *compilation, classification, analysis of information received via "112" hot-line and other assistant stations of the Ministry, relevant executive authorities as well as other sources,*
- ◆ *making relevant decisions with regard to them and ensuring duly implementation of the decisions.*



THANK YOU !



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ?