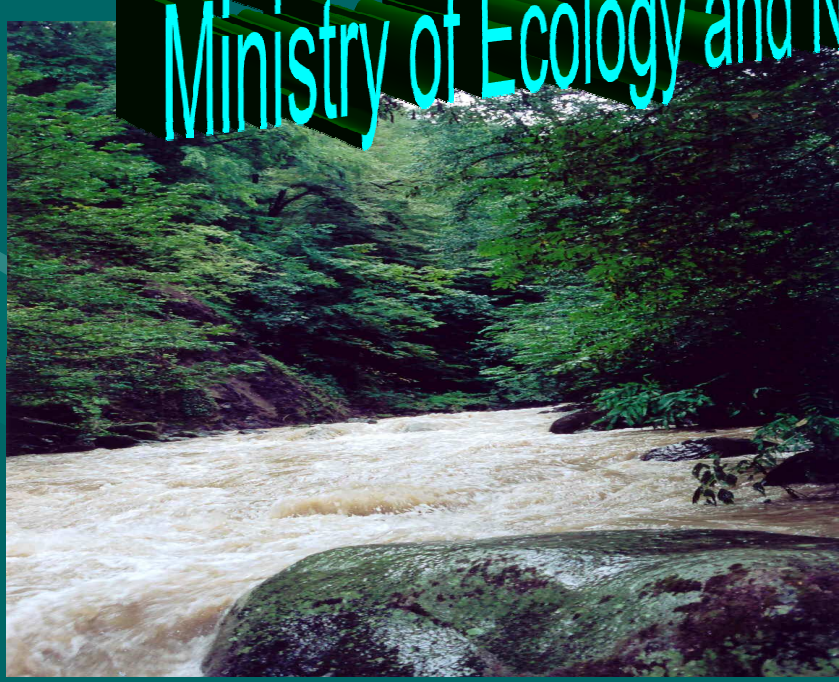
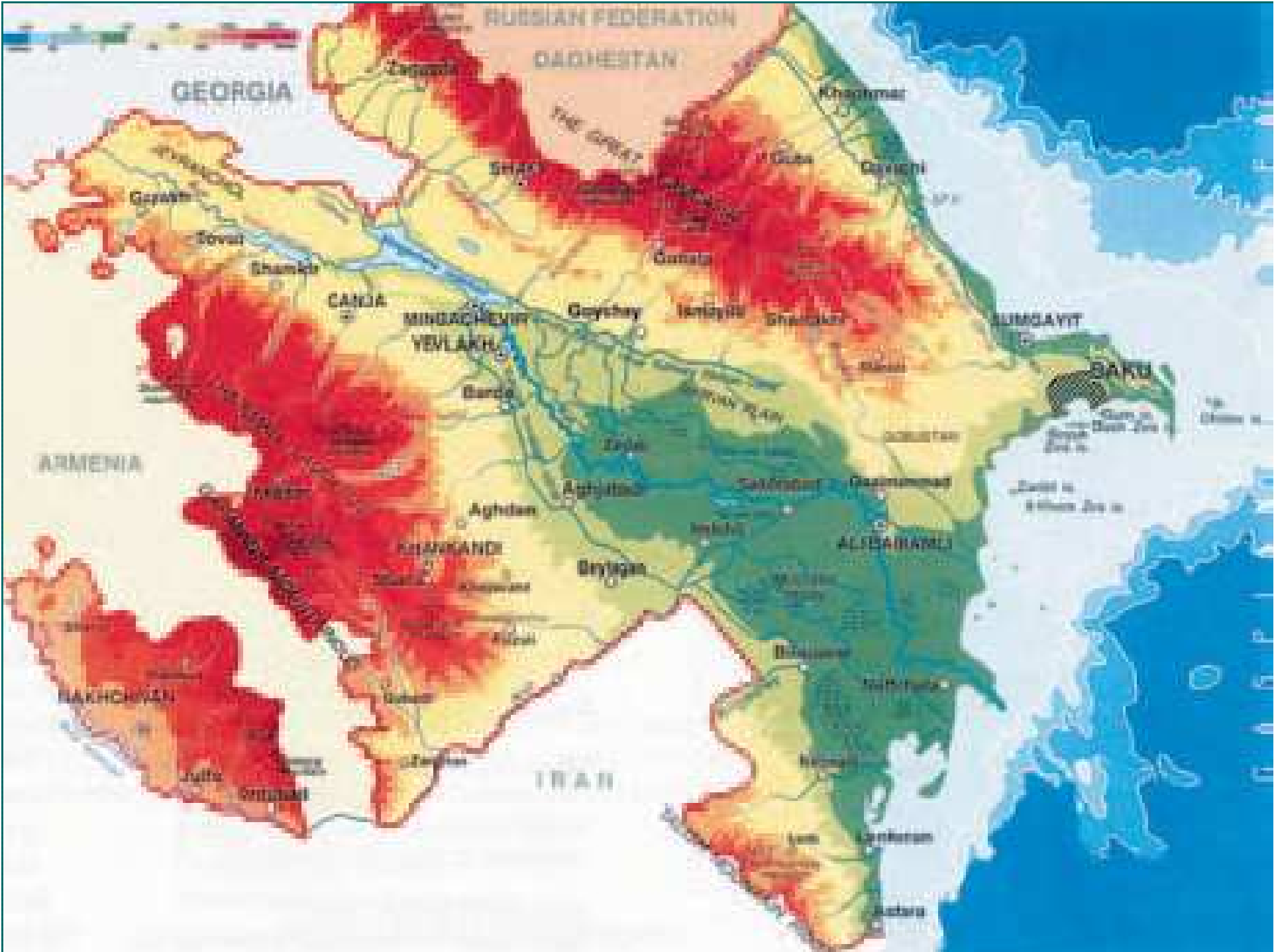


Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic



Geographic location, borders and land area

- The Republic of Azerbaijan is an ancient country, situated between the continents of Europe and Asia in the southeast of the Caucasus region. It is located on the western shores of the Caspian, to the northwest of the Persian Plateau. It has an area of 86,600 km². It is in a favourable geo-political location, bordering five countries; the Dagestan Republic of the Russian Federation in the north (289 km of border length), Georgia in the north-west (340km), the Republic of Armenia (766 km) and Turkey (11 km) in the west, and the Islamic Republic of Iran (432 km) in the south. There is approximately 800 km of coastline along the Caspian shore in the east. The capital city of Azerbaijan is Baku, a port city, located on the Absheron peninsula on the shores of the Caspian Sea.



- Research into biodiversity has been conducted in Azerbaijan over a number of years. A range of research institutes of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences are involved in this, including: the Institute of Microbiology (focusing on the distribution and applied use of microorganisms); the Institute of Botany (focusing on the distribution and ecology of lower and higher plants, including description of new species of algae from the Caspian Sea); the Institute of Zoology (focusing on the distribution, ecology, evolution and protection of animal species and species composition of zoogeographical complexes, including the description of 200 new species); and the Institute of Genetic Resources (focusing on assessments of the genetic bank, agrobiodiversity and wild relatives, assessments for sustainable use of biodiversity).

- Biological diversity is a key, integral part of a country's natural resources. In Azerbaijan, geological history and climatic conditions have combined to create an abundant and complex wealth of biodiversity, which has not yet been fully assessed. The rich history and culture of the country is directly linked with the diversity of its natural resources. Across the world, the pressures of various human activities have resulted in a decline in biodiversity. The dramatic decline in global biodiversity, and the need to arrest this trend, was recognised as a priority issue towards the end of the 20th century, and as we enter the 21st century it is time to ensure that activities that threaten biodiversity are meaningfully reduced.

- International cooperation is based on the concept of ‘sustainable development’, where by natural resources are used rationally, to ensure their availability for future generations. Taking into consideration the global opportunities for biodiversity conservation through international cooperation, the parliament of Azerbaijan ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

- Special protected areas play an important role in conservation of nature.
- All the strictly protected nature territories are under the authority of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic.

- Protected areas are established in order to preserve areas of natural importance from the
- negative effects of human activities. The following categories of protected area are legally
- permitted in Azerbaijan

- The specially protected natural areas in Azerbaijan depending on their aim, protection regime and usage peculiarities shall be divided into the following types:
- National parks
- State reserves
- State Sanctuaries
- Nature monuments
- Botanical gardens and dendrological parks

Strict nature reserves including biosphere reserves. Reserves are state-owned, strictly protected areas designated for nature protection and scientific research. No economic activity is allowed. All have management plans and both enforcement and scientific staff.

- National parks are areas with ecological, historical, and aesthetic values, designated for
- nature protection, environmental awareness, scientific, cultural and other purposes. All land and natural resources belong to the Park management authority, and some economic activities (including ecological tourism) are allowed.

- Natural monuments are protected objects that have ecological, cultural value.
- They range in size from individual trees (of which 2,083 over 100 years old are designated) to patches of ancient forest, and also include caves, paleontological sites and landscapes. Their destruction or damage is strictly forbidden.

- Wild life sanctuaries are designated for nature protection, but limited human activities - for example agriculture - are permitted according to certain regulations, provided that they do not adversely affect nature conservation. Land title is retained by the original owners. All are managed, often by staff attached to a nearby zapovednik.

International agreements and conventions

Azerbaijan is a member of most international agreements and conventions relating to biodiversity

International environmental conventions ratified by Azerbaijan

International convention	Year ratified
UNESCO Convention on Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage	1994
UN Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)	2001
UNESCO Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat' (Ramsar Convention)	2000
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	1995
Protocol on UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol)	2000
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	2000
UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	1999
UNECE Convention on Environment Impact Assessment in the Trans-boundary Context (Espoo Convention)	1999
UNECE Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollution	2002
Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	1999
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Agreement on Protection of Sturgeons	1998
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)	1998
UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Convention)	2000
FAO Convention on Plant Protection	2000
UN Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention)	1996
Agreement on Mutual Cooperation of Commonwealth of Independent States in the area of Hydrometeorology	1998
Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal)	2000
European Agreement about Transportation of Dangerous Loads on International Routes	2000

- In 24 March 2006 The President of The Republic of Azerbaijan ratified the Decree on the Ratification of National Strategy and Activity Plan on the protection of biological diversity of The Republic of Azerbaijan according to the UN Convention on the Biological Diversity

- According to the Decree it was organised mobile water purefiers about in 40 lawland villages, where there were a big problems with a fresh water. And we got a good result because these purefires can provide the settlements with drinkable water.

- We are planning to continue this activity in a near future.
- One of the point of Action Plan is plant forests in open area around the airport in the centre.
- As a result we plant trees in a 3-4 thousand ha.

- One of the point of AP is a banding of animals in whole territory of the Republic.
- During 2 years it was ringed about 10 thousand birds.

Thank for your attention!

