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# AZERBAIJAN

## PROJECT « BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA »

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Implementing partners



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## KURA RIVER BASIN



Conceptual diagram showing the features of and threats to the Kura River basin.

Diagram courtesy of the Integration and Application Network (ian.umces.edu), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Source: South Caucasus region trans report card, IAN Press 2009.



# KURA DELTA





## MAIN ISSUE: WATER SCARCITY

### overuses

- irrigation, energy, industry, etc
- 60-70% of Lower Kura used



### reservoirs

- Shamkir, Yenikend, Varvara, Mingachevir
- Half filled over the last few years



### climate change

- increasing of temperature, decreasing of precipitations (< 250 mm)
- Very low flow in summer and winter. Decreasing of water resources by 15% to 30% in recent years





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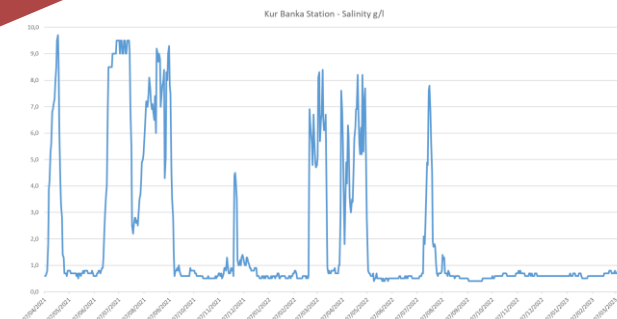
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## MAIN ISSUE: SALINITY FROM CASPIAN SEA

Low level  
of Kura  
and strong  
winds

Salinity up  
to 50 km  
upstream;  
from 0.5  
g/l to 5.6  
g/l

Drinking  
water and  
irrigation  
challenges





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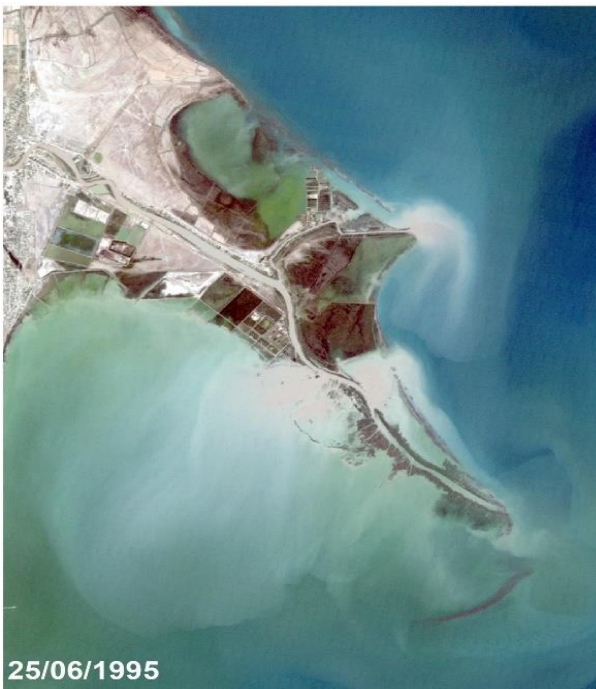
## MAIN ISSUE: HYDROMORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES

Main branch (Mother Kura) silted

Construction of a canal

Construction of weirs before the Caspian Sea

Natural sea level changes





## MAIN ISSUE: BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Caspian sturgeon  
75,000 waterbirds  
during migration  
Rare birds

Habitat loss  
Artificial functioning  
Wetlands alteration  
Unorganised landuse  
and works  
Overfishing, poaching

Many species  
endangered  
Biodiversity loss



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## BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA: OBJECTIVES

- Natural functioning of the area
- Reduction of salinity of tap water,
- Access to drinking freshwater,
- Floods mitigation,
- Wise use of the area to avoid any conflicts,
- Agriculture with added values,
- Landscape amenity,
- Etc.



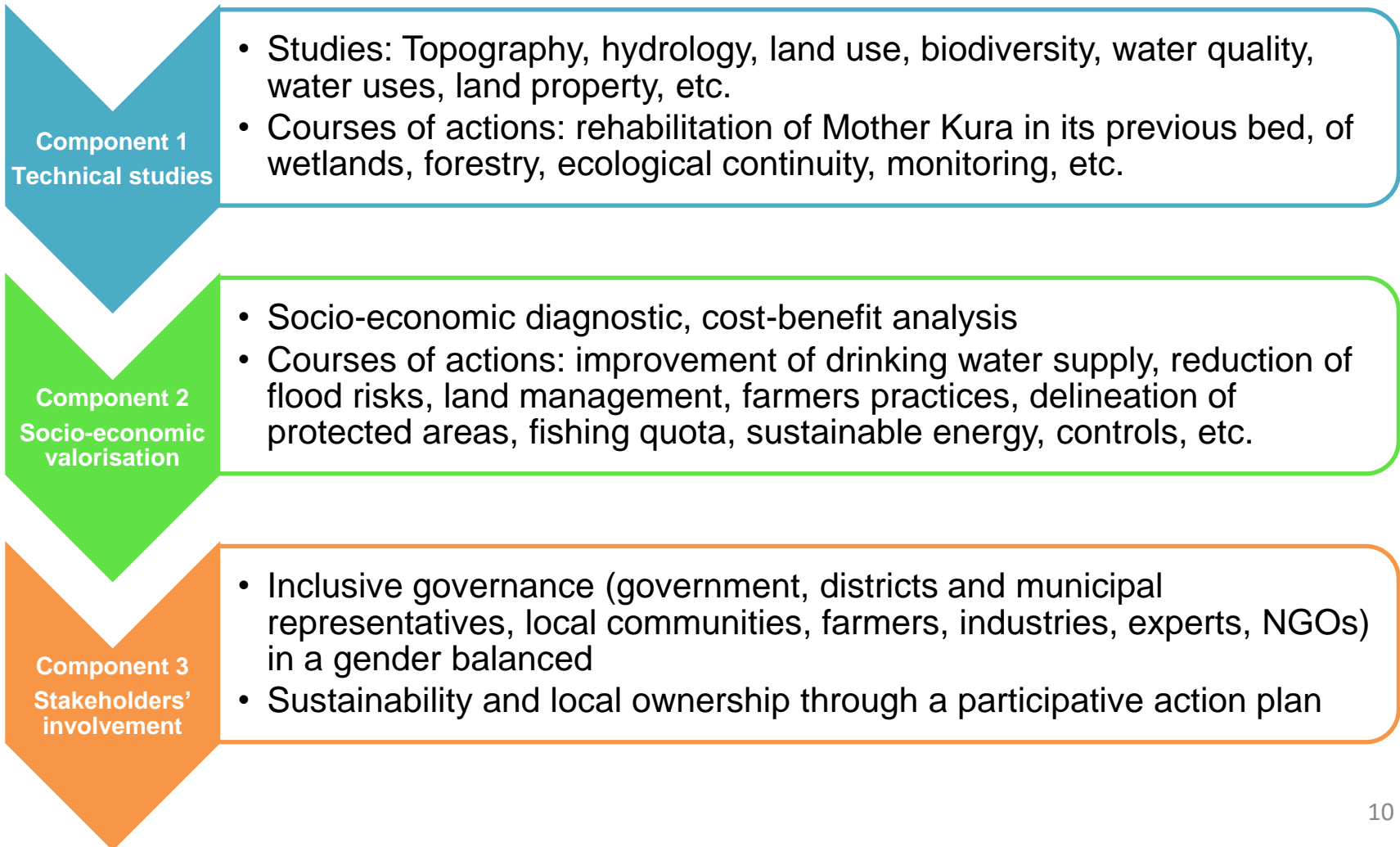


## BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA: INDICATORS

- Water quality: salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients;
- Habitat quality: vegetation cover, restored wetlands, natural watercourses, erosion rate;
- Biodiversity: species richness, population density, distribution;
- Ecosystem services: carbon sequestration, flood control, soil fertility;
- Community involvement and well-being: drinking water supply, income of farmers and fishermen, participation rate, feedback.



## BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA: PHASE 1 COMPONENTS





## BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA: IMPLEMENTATION

Items	Phase 1 « Participative action plan »	Phase 2 « Measures implementation »
Planning	2024-2025	2025-2027
Budget	200,000 €	1 to 5,000,000 €
Project owners	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Depending on measures
Sources of funding	Search on-going	Not yet applicable



## BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA: CONCLUSION

- Ambitious project currently seeking funding.
- The project cannot solve all the Kura issues but it must be associated with the development of a River Basin Management Plan on the whole Kura and locally Water Allocation Quantitative Management Plans to tackle quantitative issues.
- Activities concerning the whole Kura basin will not be addressed in the frame of this project.