



AZERBAIJAN PROJECT « BRING BACK NATURE IN KURA DELTA »

6 July 2023 Rafig Verdiyev

Implementing partners

Austrian
 Development
 Agency





UNECE

Co-funded by

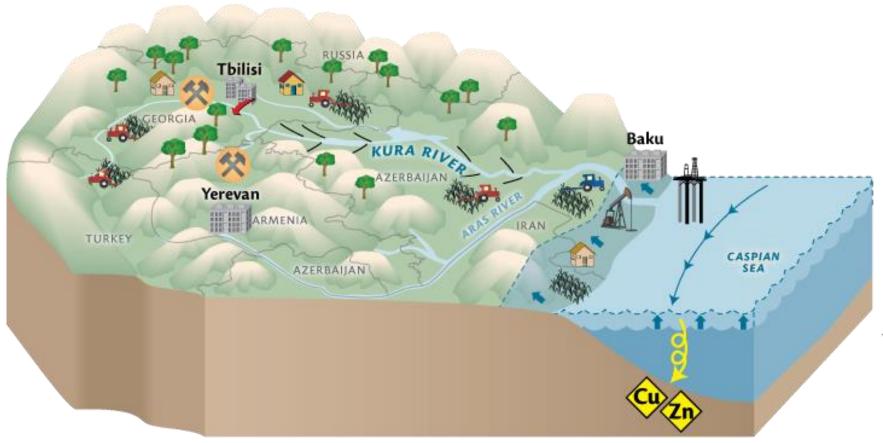
With funding from Austrian Development Cooperation







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



Map No. 3761 Rev. 9 UNITED NATIONS September 2014 Department of Field Support Cartographic Section

EU4Environment

Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries

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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 	



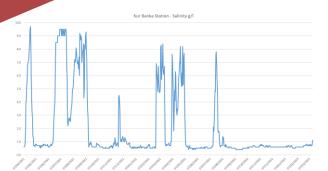


MAIN ISSUE: SALINITY FROM CASPIAN SEA

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









MAIN ISSUE: HYDROMORPHOGICAL 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 Artifical functioning Wetlands alteration Unorganised landuse and works Overfishing, poaching

Many species endangered Biodiversity loss





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

Component 1 Technical studies	 Studies: Topography, hydrology, land use, biodiversity, water quality, water uses, land property, etc. Courses of actions: rehabilitation of Mother Kura in its previous bed, of wetlands, forestry, ecological continuity, monitoring, etc.
Component 2 Socio-economic valorisation	 Socio-economic diagnostic, cost-benefit analysis Courses of actions: improvement of drinking water supply, reduction of flood risks, land management, farmers practices, delineation of protected areas, fishing quota, sustainable energy, controls, etc.
Component 3 Stakeholders' involvement	 Inclusive governance (government, districts and municipal representatives, local communities, farmers, industries, experts, NGOs) in a gender balanced Sustainability and local ownership through a participative action plan





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.