
FOREWORD

The EU has some of the world's highest environmental standards. Environment policy helps green the EU economy, protect nature, and safeguard the health and quality of life of people living in the EU.

Protecting the environment and maintaining a competitive EU presence on the global market can go hand in hand, and environment policy can play a key role in creating jobs and stimulating investment. Environmental innovations can be implemented and exported, making Europe more competitive and improving people's quality of life.

As a global actor, the EU plays a key role in international efforts to promote sustainable development. In order to learn more on the basics of the EU-Azerbaijan cooperation in the environmental realm, please visit http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan/index_en.htm. This brochure covers six ongoing EU-funded environmental projects being currently implemented in Azerbaijan. We do believe that our continuous support and commitment in improving the status of environment in the country will help Azerbaijan to tackle successfully the global environmental challenges.

Clima East Pilot Project in a NUTSHELL:

Duration: 2013–2017

Funded by: European Union

Geographical coverage: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia

Implementing Organizations: UNDP

Core partners in Azerbaijan: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, local executive authority of Ismayilli region, local farmers



“Ecosystem-based approach to climate change” - Clima East Pilot Project

The main idea behind the EU funded EC Clima East Pilot Project on “Ecosystem-based approach to climate change” is to support the design and application of sustainable pasture management practices in the country which leads to enhanced CO₂ sequestration and absorption by the grasslands.

The project has three inter-related major outputs:

- conducting inventory of the pasture areas in Ismayilli to obtain a clear picture on soil/vegetation/carbon conditions;
- preparation and application of sustainable land management models across 3,000 ha of selected pasture land (including rehabilitation and restoration works);
- design and application of carbon flow monitoring mechanism to assess changes in carbon sequestration/absorption and avoided CO₂ emissions overtime.

All components have built-in capacity building elements targeting local government representatives responsible for land management and agricultural policy, farmers and communities, as well as civil servants in the field of environment. The project has succeeded in development of management plans for the local farms, conduction of pasture inventory and promotion of Program’s objectives through development of various video/promo materials.

To learn more, please visit www.climaeast.eu.

FLEG II in a NUTSHELL:

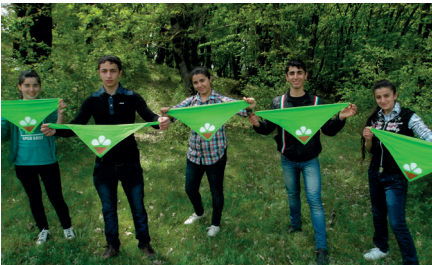
Duration: 2013–2016

Funded by: European Union

Geographical coverage: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Implementing Organizations: The World Bank; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Core partners in Azerbaijan: the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Emergency Situations



FLEG II Program

After years long consultations and discussions, finally, in the year 2010, the European Union extended its full support to implementation of the ENPI-FLEG Program, “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia” in Azerbaijan. During two intensive years the Program’s Team in Azerbaijan has produced a remarkable amount of analytical and practical data related to the development of forest education, forest legislation and study of unsustainable forest practices in the forest-dependent communities. Program’s signature achievement – introduction and promotion of the school-based young foresters’ movement was among the main reasons to extend the Program for another 4 years in 2013. Effectively fostered inter-sectoral cooperation between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Recourse, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Emergency Situations has made possible a publication of important manuals and tutorials for the secondary schools and higher education facilities fostering the sustainable forest management in the country.

Since 2013 the FLEG II Program, successor to ENPI FLEG, has further strengthened forest education and fostered international cooperation among the young foresters. The Program gets deeper into the current issues experienced by the state forestry actors by introducing the forest rehabilitation techniques, possibilities of development of sustainable tourism and recreation, and studying forest functionality. Through the specially designed National Program’s Advisory Committee which includes civil society, academia and governmental bodies the Program implements an effective communication and distributes information about the Program’s activities. The Program’s implementing organizations are the WBG, IUCN, and WWF.

The Program is approaching its final phase and expected to be concluded in the end of 2016. To learn more, please visit www.enpi-fleg.az and www.enpi-fleg.org.

Pre-feasibility Study for Regionalized Waste Management in the Southern Region of Azerbaijan in a NUTSHELL:

Duration: 2015–2016

Funded by: European Union

Geographical coverage: Azerbaijan

Implementing Organizations: ICP, EPTA and ENVIROPLAN

Core partners in Azerbaijan: the Ministry of Industry and Economy



Pre-feasibility Study for Regionalized Waste Management in the Southern Region of Azerbaijan

A preparation of EU-supported ‘15 Year Waste Strategy’ for the City of Lankaran in 2012 has shown that more needs to be done in terms of streamlining the current waste collection and disposal systems in the area. The European Union follows up on this initiative with support for a new project for the approximately 900,000 inhabitants of the Lankaran Economic Region.

Economic and population growth experienced by Lankaran district in the last years have challenged the fragile waste management system which does not fulfil the required environmental standards.

To examine the opportunity and benefits of establishing an integrated regional solid waste system in the Southern Region of Azerbaijan the Ministry of Economy and Industry has decided to develop a Pre-Feasibility Study and a Regional Investment Plan. The principle objective is to investigate the viability of managing the solid municipal waste at regional level in the target area.

The Team of local and international experts have produced 4 scenarios for a regional solid waste management system.

The project is the first attempt to develop the regional waste management strategy for the Economic Region of Lankaran and the first in the country (excluding the greater Baku area) fully in line with the National Waste Management Project of Azerbaijan. Thus, all results and findings are exemplarily will apply in developing of the ongoing National Waste Management Strategy Project. The latter is a basis to design the regional waste management strategies in the remaining regions of Azerbaijan.

The Project has been finalized in June 2016.

The EaP Green Program in a NUTSHELL:
Duration: 2013–2016

Funded by: European Union, co-financed by the Government of Slovenia, the Austrian Development Bank

Geographical coverage: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Implementing Organizations: Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Core partners: governments and private sector



Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP GREEN Programme) UNIDO Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Demonstration Program in Azerbaijan “

The EaP Green Program aims to support the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries to move towards a green economy by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion.

The demonstration projects which are UNIDO and UNEP responsibilities show the application of the resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) methodology in the food, chemical and construction manufacturing sectors. UNIDO RECP Demonstration Programme is aimed at improving resource productivity and environmental performance of businesses at regional and national level in particularly food processing, chemical and construction materials sectors.

In Azerbaijan the EaP Green Program has provided expertise to the respective governmental bodies in development of draft law on Environmental Impact Assessment and National Strategy on Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Resources in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2015 – 2020.

To learn more about the Program, please visit <http://www.green-economies-eap.org/countries/azerbaijan/>.



EPIRB in a NUTSHELL:

Duration: 2012–2016

Funded by: European Union

Geographical coverage: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Partners: Hulla&Co Human Dynamics KG (lead); REC (Hungary); H.P. Gauff Ingenieure GmbH & Co.KG-JBG; CES Consulting Engineers Salzgitter GmbH; Crimean Republic Association Ekologiya I Mir (CRAEM); Ukrainian NGO "Mama-86"



Improving water quality in transboundary river basins through capacity building, training, and water legislation harmonization

“Environmental Protection of International River Basins” (EPIRB) is an EU-funded transboundary project designed to continue work undertaken by the European Union (EU) in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea basins on the implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) – specifically the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The project aims **to improve water quality** in the transboundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus, and **to encourage sustainable use of water resources** through capacity building and by taking a ‘learning by doing’ approach.

What are River basin management plans (RBMPs)?

Since January 2014, a RBMP development process has been introduced in the five river basins of participating countries, Central Kura region is a pilot area pick in Azerbaijan. The final product, River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) developed together with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, is perfectly in line with the respective EU and Azerbaijan legislation. WFD-compliant monitoring programs, conduction of respective trainings and workshops and production of e-learning videos are among the core products developed by the Program.

To get more information, please visit www.blacksea-riverbasins.net.

Sumgayit Industrial Center in a NUTSHELL:

Duration: May 2014 – May 2015

Funded by: European Union, Azerbaijani Chemical State Company (Azerkimya) and Polygon state enterprise

Geographical coverage: Sumgayit area

Implementing Organizations: Blacksmith Institute for a Pure Earth, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Affected population: 10.000 people



Toxic Site Identification Program (TSIP)

The Toxic Site Identification Program (TSIP) endeavors to identify and screen contaminated sites in low- and middle-income countries where public health is at risk. TSIP is a joint initiative of Blacksmith Institute, UNIDOP, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank and the Swedish Green Cross Society.

The Sumgayit Industrial Center project in Azerbaijan

As the second industrial center with over 40 factories in Azerbaijan, the city of Sumgayit, is plagued today with the environmental challenges. Despite the governmental efforts to reduce the impacts of the city's industrial legacy area soil test results show that large areas are still highly contaminated with high concentrations of PCBs, benzene, benzo[a]pyrene, and heavy metals. Sumgayit Organic Synthesis Plant stands out as the one in an urgent need of a cleanup.

After a SOCAR-supported detailed assessment of the site a multi stakeholder working group has been established after the discovery of variety of pollutants in the site.

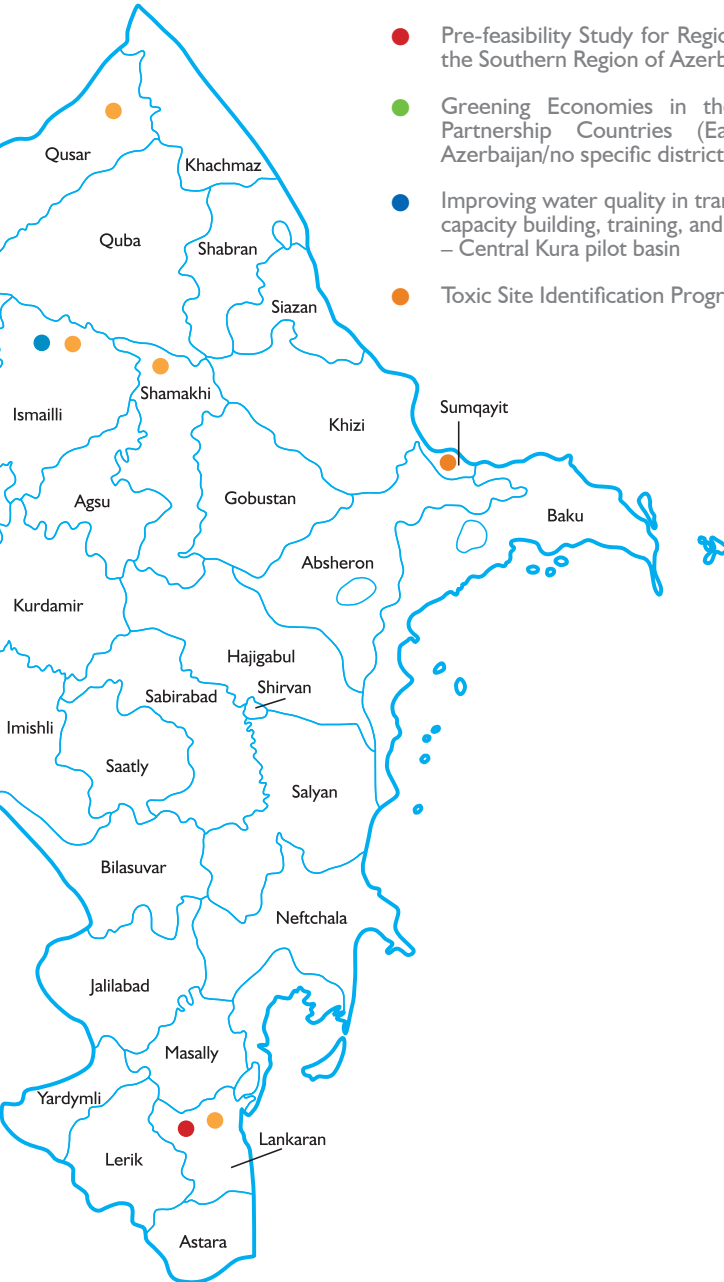
Key activities and achievements

Remediation has been launched in February 2015. The total of 600 cubic meters of contaminated soil was removed and moved to a specially designated landfill. Over 1000 cubic meters of clean soil were placed in the area of approximately 120 by 200 m. In April and May trees, bushes, and grass have been planted to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. A specially installed irrigation system aimed to provide the water supply to the plants. The project represents an excellent example of a successful multi-stakeholder cooperation in the country. The expedited cleanup procedure supported by the major stakeholders has transformed the highly polluted land into the nice and clean leisure area for the people.



List of regions per project

- Clima East
- FLEG II
- Pre-feasibility Study for Regionalized Waste Management in the Southern Region of Azerbaijan
- Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP GREEN Programme) – Azerbaijan/no specific district
- Improving water quality in transboundary river basins through capacity building, training, and water legislation harmonization – Central Kura pilot basin
- Toxic Site Identification Program (TSIP) – city of Sumqayit



LIST OF ONGOING REGIONAL PROJECTS (UPDATE MAY 2015)

Project Title	Implementing Partner	Key Contacts
Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS)	European Environment Agency - EEA	Galina Hristova (Galina.Hristova@eea.europa.eu)
Emerald Network II	Council of Europe	Iva Obretenova (Iva.OBRETENOVA@coe.int)
Clima East Policy: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	HTSPE Ltd	Zsolt Lengyel (Zsolt.Lengyel@climaeast.eu)
Importing Capacities to tackle obsolete pesticides and other unused hazardous chemicals	FAO	Thompson, Richard (Richard.Thompson@fao.org)
Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP-GREEN)	OECD (UNDP/ UNIDO/UNECE)	Krzysztof Michalak (Krzysztof.MICHALAK@oecd.org)
Support to the EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)	OECD (+UNECE)	Krzysztof Michalak (Krzysztof.MICHALAK@oecd.org)
PPRD II East-Programme for Prevention Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters	MWH	Sergei Anagnosti (sergey.anagnosti@pprdeast2.eu)