

**BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE FOR
AZERBAIJAN**

MAY 2004

Prepared by:

MOHAMMAD A. LATIF, P.E., R.E.A.
USAID EUROPE & EURASIA (E&E)/REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
Phone: 202 712 5091, E mail: mlatif@usaid.gov

*(submitted electronically by M. Latif, REO to Catherine Trebes, USAID/Caucasus-Azerbaijan
on May 30, 2004)*

Reviewed and Delivered by:
Catherine Trebes
USAID/ Caucasus-Azerbaijan

INTRODUCTION

This Biodiversity Assessment Update is prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Caucasus Mission to Azerbaijan in response to the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) Section 119 and Automated Directives System (ADS) 201 requirements on Environmental Analysis for Biodiversity Conservation. The original report was prepared in 2000 by Chemonics International that addressed the Mission's current Strategy (2001-2004). This report provides the Biodiversity Assessment Update for the Mission's next Strategic Plan (2005-2009).

The Assessment was done by Mohammad Latif, USAID/E&E Bureau Regional Environmental Officer (REO). Jeff Ploetz, Devtech System, Inc. provided necessary support during the course of work and critical review/revision of the update. Alicia Grimes, USAID Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) Bureau expert on biodiversity and Philip Jones, Europe and Eurasia (E&E) Bureau Environmental Officer provided the Principal Investigator function throughout the course of work. The REO talked to various individuals and organizations, gathered relevant information, performed the required analysis, and prepared the Biodiversity Assessment Update in compliance with the FAA Section 119 requirements addressing:

- (1) The actions necessary in Azerbaijan to conserve biological diversity [FAA Section 119 (d) (1)], and
- (2) The extent to which the actions proposed for support by USAID meet the needs thus identified [FAA Section 119 (d) (2)].

Following Mission's review, the draft report was submitted to USAID/W (EGAT and E&E Bureaus) for comments. The report was revised further to respond to their comments.

The following are attached and complete the report:

Section 119 (d) (1) - Actions Necessary in Azerbaijan to Conserve Biodiversity;

Section 119 (d) (2) - The Extent to which the Actions Proposed by USAID meet the needs thus identified;

Appendix A - Threats to Biodiversity

Appendix B - Partial List of Internationally Funded projects in Biodiversity

Appendix C- List of Persons Contacted; and

Appendix D- List of Abbreviations

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (FAA) SECTION 119 (D) (1)

ACTIONS NECESSARY IN AZERBAIJAN TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY

Reproduced below is a summary of the 2000 Biodiversity Assessment Report Actions as recommended by Chemonics International and additional actions identified in the 2004 Update. The additional actions were developed following a review of actions recommended in the 2000 report, and their response to related threats to biodiversity conservation; status of actions taken to-date by the host country or donors, and identification of additional biological diversity conservation actions for the 2004 Update.

As other Donor Strategic Plans (i.e., Asian Development Bank etc.) and the country's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) are currently under preparation, and a new Mission Environmental Officer is joining the post in the near future, we recommend that the USAID/Caucasus Mission in Azerbaijan consider a further revision of the Biodiversity Update once these actions are completed. Such action will enable the USAID/Caucasus Mission in Azerbaijan to perform an adequate gap analysis of other donors actions as related the environment and biodiversity areas, and identify areas where USAID assistance can be leveraged or complimented.

Recommendations for Biodiversity Conservation

1. Develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)

2000 Report Action recommendation

This is a primary recommendation of the NEAP and is a critical first step in understanding and prioritizing biodiversity issues in Azerbaijan. The Government of Azerbaijan should ratify the Convention on Biodiversity, which could then allow access to GEF support for developing a national biodiversity strategy. Regardless of GEF financing, the effort should begin with a conservation priority-setting process that identifies habitats and species of critical biodiversity importance and assesses the status and threats to their conservation. A workshop bringing together stakeholders, including NGOs and regional representatives, to discuss priorities and actions will increase transparency and information sharing. It is important that the workshop not be dominated by academic scientists, but brings in related disciplines such as forestry, fisheries, and agriculture, as well perspectives from political, social, and cultural fields, and feedback reflecting realities from the field. Selected background papers and information can be prepared, but it is important that workshop goals, objectives, and methodologies are clear and agreed upon, and that the process is well facilitated and results in clear, implementable, and prioritized recommendations. The presence of participants from outside of Azerbaijan who can share best practices and lessons learned from a regional or international perspective can be valuable.

A critical output of such a workshop is the identification of information gaps and needs for effective conservation interventions.

2004 Update Action recommendation

Considering the obligation of nations to regulate the rational use of natural resources, Azerbaijan ratified Convention on Biodiversity in March 2000. Azerbaijan needs to complete the BSAP, circulate BSAP to donors, NGOs, Azerbaijan Government Ministries and other stakeholders. The country should also establish the program leadership and the implementation unit by encouraging cross-sectoral cooperation across all ministries and engage them as well as donors to provide the required support and technical assistance.

2. Review, analyze, propose and develop a revised protected area system, including forest reserves, for representation, effectiveness and management regimes

2000 Report Action recommendation

The current protected area network should be reviewed to:

- Assess the status of individual protected areas, because some have been severely degraded, and boundaries may need to be revised to reflect the distribution of the original natural ecosystem
- Assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of current management categories in protecting the reserves and propose alternative management categories that may increase effectiveness, e.g., through the provision of incentives for community involvement
- Review the extent to which the variety of ecosystems and species is represented in the current protected area system and propose changes to the network to ensure improved representativeness
- Review the protected areas network within a broader landscape framework that links areas under different land use and management regimes, such as forest lands, and identifies pressures and threats, to develop a more holistic and integrated approach to biodiversity conservation

2004 Update Action recommendation

The BSAP document team is currently assessing and reviewing the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) categories in protecting the reserves and proposing alternative management categories that may increase effectiveness, e.g., through the provision of incentives for community involvement. A network of protected area will likely include National Parks, Strict Natural reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Monuments for Protected Trees, National Monuments for Protected Geological and Paleontological sites, Coastal National Parks and Historical National Reserves. Azerbaijan should soon finalize a

revised protected area system, including forest reserves, for representation, effectiveness and management regimes.

Azerbaijan should work to align the protected area system with IUCN standards. Revision of the protected area system should be accompanied by revised and/or new legislation to bolster the legal presence, legitimacy and viability of the system.

3. *Identify status and develop management guidelines for fragile or vulnerable habitats, and incorporate into environmental guidelines*

2000 Report Action recommendation

Azerbaijan, like many other former Soviet Union countries, has been slow to reorient its approach from one based on individual species conservation to one that focuses on protecting habitats. Updating the Red Data Book, which details the status and threats of endangered species, is important to identify those species critically at risk. This should be accompanied by a process that identifies and documents habitats on which those species depend. Identification and distribution of fragile and vulnerable habitats, such as alpine meadows and wetlands, should be the first step in developing management guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of such areas. This should then be incorporated into environmental guidelines and legislation concerning different types of planned investment projects potentially affecting these habitats.

2004 Update Action recommendation

This 2000 report recommendation was premature. Adopt and implement systematic approaches to prioritize conservation efforts at the national level in Azerbaijan. Systematic approaches are lacking and create barriers in identification of critical sites and in policy and legal framework developments. More specifically, identify and prioritize critical habitats at the national level, and implement measures such as policy reform to place critical habitats under protected status. Alternatively, provide guidelines to mitigate impact of any land use and construction near/on these areas.

The development of a biodiversity information database or Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) as established by the CBD (www.biodiv.org/chm/default.aspx) has also been identified as a need. Such a system will promote transparency and access to information for decision-making and stakeholder discussion purposes. The CHM should be developed, with possible funding from the GEF using state-of-the-art technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS); performance of priority setting analyses such as U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Gap Analysis Program (GAP); development of management planning guidelines for critical sites and habitats; and utilization of analyses results in the national policy and strategy developments.

4. *Develop pilot initiatives in community-based natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, e.g., for forestry, grazing, wetlands, tourism*

2000 Report Action recommendation

Although the development of environmental programs and action plans provides an important framework for investment in the sector, few local biodiversity conservation initiatives exist that can inform the policy and planning process. Examples of innovative approaches need to be developed that promote the sustainability of natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. Given the harshness of the current economic situation, incentives for local communities and other stakeholder groups are needed to better manage their resources. Management plans that detail the rights, responsibilities, and benefits to local groups should be developed for improved management. In the absence of such incentives, natural resources will continue to be depleted in an unsustainable fashion. Community-based management of forests, grazing lands, and wetlands should be encouraged on a pilot basis and carefully monitored for sustainability. Opportunities for community involvement in protected area management, e.g., through ecotourism development and biodiversity monitoring, should be encouraged.

2004 Update Action recommendation

Develop incentives and motivation for community based natural resource management (CBNRM) tied to the impacts of land tenure practices on the natural and physical environment. The incentives may include, but not be limited to alternative income generation, pilot projects linking sustainable harvest of wild products to green markets, taxes and subsidies. This conservation action covers the highest number of the threats to biodiversity, and consequently many programs and donors should address it. Possible activities may include creation of a site-based care-takers network. Under the ongoing community-based natural resources management programs, expand activities to include fisheries management, non-timber forest products including medicinal plants, eco-tourism development (bird watching), community-based information and visitor centers, and the promotion of communities active participation in decision-making process.

Additionally, there is a need to support the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in Azerbaijan. Capacity building for the EIA process on all levels is required resulting in a better-informed public and a more transparent society. Public participation component of the EIA process is also a critical need for capacity building from sustainable development standpoint.

- 5. Develop and build on mechanisms to bring together government, donors, academic and NGO groups for awareness raising, information sharing and coordination of activities***

2000 Report Action recommendation

There is confusion regarding the most appropriate and effective roles for government agencies (at both national and local level), academic institutions and NGOs. In order for biodiversity conservation to be effective, the relative advantages and different roles of these groups, and how they interact with communities and the public at large need to be understood, internalized and developed. While there is a good basis for coordination and communication, this needs to

be improved, and capacity building efforts need to be appropriately targeted. Resources will always be scarce and it is important that they are used optimally.

2004 Update Action recommendation

The BSAP should be the mechanism to address this recommendation. If to date the development of the BSAP has not been participatory in nature, efforts need to be shifted in this direction. The needs require a more rapid implementation of more activities in the field of biodiversity, information sharing, communication, and coordination of efforts among different stakeholders. The specific actions include wider use of participatory techniques in prioritization and planning processes; utilization of new technologies for improving the access to information and its sharing aspects, *e.g.*, biodiversity web-page development and newsletter; and development of awareness raising activities at local levels involving wide range of stakeholders. This should be done with an aim of linking to the CBD Clearing-house Mechanism. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has a department unit dedicated to this effort but this unit needs further strengthening.

Additionally, efforts should be made to increase the presence of environmental education in the schools, particularly elementary school (due to low student retention for post elementary education). Focus on the media should also be given to development a “green media” to promote common environmental topics that directly effect the quality of life of Azerbaijani citizens.

6. *Support NGOs in awareness raising and local initiatives*

2000 Report Action recommendation

The newly formed NGO movement has an important role to play with respect to advocacy, awareness raising, and education about environmental issues targeted at decision-makers, politicians, the general public, and schoolchildren. NGOs are already active and effective in these areas. Efforts to develop organizational capacity need to continue, and be paired with building technical and implementation capabilities. There is little coordination of activities among NGOs, and there is an opportunity to bring concerned NGOs together to discuss approaches and coordinate activities. This process could be facilitated by a group such as ISAR, which could also support interregional cooperation with neighboring countries and international NGOs. An international environmental education specialist should facilitate the process, and share best practices and lessons learned from elsewhere, as well as indicating areas of collaboration with international NGOs.

In addition to awareness raising, NGOs can potentially play a valuable role in working with local communities to support and develop field-based conservation initiatives (see No. 4, above). It is not clear whether such capacity currently exists, but training, skills transfer, small grants and partnerships with regional and international NGOs can significantly increase the ability of NGOs to be effective local development partners.

2004 Update Action recommendation

Support biodiversity conservation oriented NGOs and CBOs at local levels in capacity building initiatives for biodiversity conservation, focusing particularly on the ability to monitor impacts of development activities, and their subsequent mitigation. The capacity of local conservation groups is very weak and in many areas even non-existent. The ongoing Important Bird Areas Program in Georgia may provide an excellent example to develop this type of action. The community investment and environmental investment projects of by British Petroleum (BP) at Sangachal Oil Terminal near Baku and along the pipeline route, on protected area management, species conservation, capacity building in biodiversity management such as conservation project targeted at Turtles, soil waste disposal and wastewater treatment and water quality degradation may be good pilots for NGOs, Government and other private sector organizations to replicate throughout the country.

7. Promote regional collaboration through information sharing, exchange visits, study tours, conferences, and transboundary initiatives

2000 Report Action recommendation

Broadly speaking, Azerbaijan's progress in biodiversity conservation lags behind that of Armenia, and particularly Georgia. Lessons and experiences shared between these three countries that together represent many of the biological resources unique to the Transcaucasus region have the potential to significantly improve capacity in the region, as well as promote broader cooperation. Azerbaijan can benefit from the experience of Georgian organizations, particularly NGOs, in information sharing, community-based initiatives, and policy development, but also with the government with respect to modernizing the protected area system and forest management policy. Georgia is the only one of the three countries with representation of international conservation NGOs (World Wildlife Fund) and with experience of implementing a major biodiversity project (Protected Areas Development). The proposed Regional Environmental Center in Tbilisi has the potential to be an important institution in this respect.

2004 Update Action recommendation

Evaluate impacts of regional activities (completed and ongoing) and redesign them as necessary to have greater positive impact for biodiversity conservation. This would require regular review of lessons learned from several regional initiatives. This action will contribute positively to the regional collaboration in the future, specifically in the area of mitigation of illegal natural resources use, conservation of trans-boundary habitats and ecosystems, migratory species monitoring and conservation, and information and experience exchange initiatives.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (FAA) SECTION 119 (D) (2)

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ACTIONS PROPOSED BY USAID MEET THE NEEDS THUS IDENTIFIED

A review of the available version of Mission's next Strategic Plan (SP) for 2005-2009, was conducted to identify the proposed components in USAID/ SP that have an impact on biodiversity conservation in Azerbaijan. This analysis was helpful in developing the extent to which the actions proposed by USAID meet the needs thus identified.

Once the Mission starts designing programs, projects and activities for all SOs, and undertakes the work of preparing SO level Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs) based upon the approved country strategy, it is imperative that USAID/Caucasus Mission in Azerbaijan consider a further revision of the Biodiversity Update. Such action will enable the USAID/Caucasus Mission in Azerbaijan to perform an project pipeline analysis of country programs to see where it makes sense to consider areas for possible USAID funding or leveraging of such funds to maximize the impacts of USAID development activities.

2000 Report Actions

USAID's program in Azerbaijan has focused primarily on humanitarian assistance to populations internally displaced by the conflict in Ngorno-Karabakh. This support has been mainly through international relief organizations. The Mission's new three-year strategy seeks to shift the orientation of assistance efforts to longer-term economic development goals, focusing on the potential to support private sector initiatives in agricultural development through agribusiness, agro processing, and related areas. Assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan is currently prohibited under Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, a situation that could change in the event of significant progress toward resolving the Ngorno-Karabakh situation.

The difficulty of controlling natural resource management in disputed areas, and deforestation by refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to meet fuelwood and other subsistence needs were cited by various government agencies and others as significant issues. USAID's program to improve living conditions for refugees and IDPs should have a positive effect in reducing unsustainable, short-term natural resource exploitation. However, resettlement programs need to be carefully monitored to minimize the impact of short-term and potentially long-term effects on ecosystems that are fragile and may have long recovery times. This should be built in to cooperative agreements with grantees and other organizations supported by USAID.

USAID's support to the developing NGO sector through ISAR has a positive effect on encouraging and building confidence of environmental NGOs, as well as building their capacity and promoting partnerships.

2004 Update Actions

USAID supports a regional effort in the South Caucasus on sustainable water management. The new strategy for Azerbaijan's bilateral program currently addresses biodiversity indirectly through this and other activities. The components of community-based and other actions that have a significant impact on the environment and health, and are proposed by USAID new Strategy (2005-2009) under Strategic Objective (SOs) numbers 1.3, 2.1, 3.4 and 4.2 will help conserve biodiversity in local areas because the activities will have mandatory compliance for mitigation of physical environmental impacts, biological environmental impacts and social environmental impacts according to 22 CFR 216 (USAID Environmental Procedures). Mitigation and Monitoring of such impacts will be the responsibility of individual CTOs.

However there is a potential to develop specific actions under the proposed strategy once the programs, projects and activities are designed under each SO. Inclusion of a seasoned environmental professional as part of the design team will be a key to development of sustainable activities as found by some other Missions.

Specific examples of additional actions to supplement proposed SOs and their Intermediate Results (IRs) are provided. These actions if integrated in to the IRs of the new Strategy will contribute to conservation needs in Azerbaijan by directing positive environmental change through crosscutting themes.

1. Potential additional opportunities of the proposed Mission SOs and IRs

a. SO 1.3: Accelerated Growth and Development of Competitive Private Enterprises

- i. Sub-IR 1.3.1.1 – incorporate the promotion of environmental standards that will promote and/or facilitate international trade
- ii. Sub-IR 1.3.1.2 – along with the development of appropriate legal and regulatory framework, appropriate environmental framework should be included.
- iii. Sub-IR 1.3.1.3 – promote the legal establishment and use of Environmental/Social Impact Assessment (EIA)
- iv. Sub-IR 1.3.2.2 – Train banking institutions to incorporate environmental guidelines/standards into loans to SMEs to determine sustainability/credit worthiness.
- v. Sub-IR 1.3.3.1 – Promote training of input dealers, farmers, and processors to include proper handling, application and disposal of inputs.
- vi. Sub-IR 1.3.3.1 – Promote proper use of inputs through Integrated Pest Management. Additionally, an agriculture assessment will provide valuable insight and may result in strong recommendations to increase yields while promoting better environmental practices such as improved cultivation and irrigation methods resulting in a decrease of soil erosion and loss of productive lands.

b. SO 2.1: More Representative, Participatory and Better Functioning Democracy

- i. Sub-IR 2.1.1.1 – Promote the development of a “green media” to address environmental and environmental health issues.
- ii. Sub-IR 2.1.1.1 – Promote the establishment of “eco-clubs” as part of USAID efforts to engage youth in nation building.
- iii. Sub-IR 2.1.1.2 – Improve capability of local NGOs to conduct public education and advocacy with regards to the environment and environmental health.
- iv. Sub-IR 2.1.2.2 – Improve the knowledge of judges, attorneys and advocates with regards to environmental laws and foster their enforcement of such laws.
- v. Sub-IR 2.1.2.3 – Promote the adoption and implementation of a nationally sanctioned EIA process.
- vi.

c. SO 3.4: Increased Use of Social and Health Services and Changed Behavior

Promote information exchange to inform the public of the linkages between pollutants/pathogens and health

2. Regional on-going/proposed programs which may contribute to conservation needs

a. Under SO 1.5 “Strengthening of Water Resources Management in the South Caucasus”

Environment is an area that presents significant opportunities for cooperation between Georgia and the neighboring states of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey; there are many shared resources as well as a history of cooperation between Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. DAI’s ongoing regional Caucasus water initiative covering Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan is providing a framework for fostering an increase in cooperation for the management of water resources in the region, demonstration of integrated river basin planning in Alazani River Basin in Georgia and Azerbaijan, and Khrami-Debed River Basin in Georgia and Armenia, and an assessment of institutional, legal and policy issues for more effective water management in the region. Additionally, DAI is implementing activities to promote regional cooperation through water resources database and information sharing, exchange visits, conferences, partnerships, and transboundary projects (e.g., within the context of Kura-Araks basin initiative).

Key recommendations under this regional activity include:

- Due to the integrative nature of planning it is recommended that the biodiversity sector be highlighted as an area of focus during the planning/implementation phase. This would include impacts on protected areas in the basin, nature resources management aspects, and species and habitats conservation.
- Promoting an inter-sectoral approach in water resources management provides the foundation for increased cooperation between the agencies involved in natural resources management not just at the regional and national levels, but also at the local level.
- Other activities include environmental awareness and NGO development.

3. Optional Actions (Not required by FAA Section 119 but allowed under ADS 201 to help Mission in achieving the design and implementation of sustainable activities):

3.1 USAID Azerbaijan may consider rolling out the lessons learnt from the following ongoing initiatives in Caucasus/Georgia. The activity component in the Intermediate Result (IR) 1.5.2.1. on Environmental and Social Impacts Mitigated for Strategic Objective (SO) 1.5 that is providing support through the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in strengthening protected areas management, notably institutional strengthening, training, and exchange visits. USAID will, however, continue to monitor progress to see the results being achieved.

This action in Georgia provides an opportunity for Azerbaijan to leverage funds provided under the GEF/World Bank Protected Areas Development project. Support for environmental awareness and outreach is especially important with respect to biodiversity conservation needs. Based upon the results of ongoing activities through NPS, and with GEF, possible activities may include support to NGOs involved in environmental awareness raising, media support, awareness raising of the implications and opportunities regarding policy and legislative reform (such as the new forest code), integration of awareness raising into local community-based natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation initiatives. The NPS would assist mentoring and technical assistance to DPA staff at three protected areas of Tusheti, Logodekhi, and Vashlovani in protected area management, business planning and ranger training. Rangers will be trained in patrolling and enforcement, and working with local communities and user groups to build understanding and support for proper management of protected area.

3.2 USAID supported action through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency helped the development of the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in supporting small grants program for natural resources management including biodiversity conservation aspects. There is a prime opportunity here for USAID to continue to fund activities for conservation and the strengthening of the civil society sector in Azerbaijan.

The REC will continue awarding small grants in dealing with certain components of biological diversity. USAID through regular interagency and donor meetings will monitor improvements in specific areas of biodiversity conservation. The Mission would follow progress with the REC because of its potential value for regional cooperation. For example, it could provide an opportunity to continue open Parliamentary meetings and public hearings developed under the Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) awareness-raising program. Because both ISAR-Baku and the NGO Center in Yerevan were supported by USAID, there is a clear opportunity to integrate these activities into future USAID programming for NGO support. In the future, the Mission may consider an effort targeted at improved understanding of biodiversity and why it is important, and linking biodiversity to wider environmental, health, and economic issues.

3.3 A possible component of (SO) 1.3 may help in achieving a more economically efficient and environmentally sustainable energy sector, thus minimizing the use of illegal fuel wood and energy sources that result in deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

This potential component would help to pave the way for a sustainable energy future and improved quality of life for the communities of Azerbaijan. A parallel objective is to counteract the problem of unsustainable exploitation of forests by supporting the development of a replicable approach for assisting local entrepreneurs to initiate and implement rural projects that harness energy technologies for productive uses and income generation and environmentally sustainable uses.

This Community Mobilization task endeavors to work with communities to develop energy alternatives and natural resource management practices that, in turn, will relieve pressure on forests and help stimulate economic growth as well as contribute to improved environmental health and cleaner fuels. The program being proposed here will consist of a balanced approach towards the four key objectives of community development and participation, socio-economic opportunity, energy alternatives, and mitigating deforestation.

On the side of community development and socioeconomic opportunity, the community development team will apply well-established participatory techniques – in both community selection and subsequent community mobilization phases – to ensure that interventions respond truly and comprehensively to communities’ needs (including the differing priorities of diverse sub-groups within communities). These participatory methodologies have been used successfully around the world to avoid the pitfalls of technology-heavy approaches that have too often measured success in terms of installing energy systems more than meeting the needs of the communities they are intended to serve.

Appendix A

THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

List of threats according to 2000 Report

Direct:

1. Habitat Loss and fragmentation
2. Unsustainable forest practices
3. Unsustainable livestock practices
4. Illegal hunting and harvesting
5. Pollution of the Caspian Sea

Indirect:

6. Weak PA system, lack of MPs
7. Lack of conservation activities outside of PAs
8. Weak Legal framework
9. Weak Institutional Capacity of government agencies
10. Weak Policy framework
11. Low level of environmental awareness and biodiversity valuation
12. Unavailable systematic tools for prioritization - data-bases on species, habitats, etc.
13. Absence and/or weak capacity of CBOs and local community groups
14. Weak regional cooperation among countries in the Caucasus
15. Limited role of private sector in Biodiversity Conservation

List of Threats according to 2004 First National Report to the CBD Report

Key threats to biodiversity:

1. Habitat loss and modification – land conversion, land degradation, and habitat fragmentation
2. Over-use of biological and natural resources- overgrazing of grasslands and pastures, over use of forest resources, over hunting and persecution, trade in wildlife, water extraction
3. Pollution- Water pollution, Terrestrial
4. and soil pollution, Air pollution
5. Introduced and invasive species
6. Natural pathogens
7. Climate change
8. Natural Disasters – floods, strong winds, avalanches, temperature extremes, fire, fluctuation of level of the Caspian Sea

APPENDIX B

PARTIAL LIST OF INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN AZERBAIJAN RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY (1999-2004)

1. Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and National Report, UNDP, GEF - State Committee of Ecology
2. Expedited Financing of Climate Change Enabling Activities (Phase II), UNDP, GEF
3. NATURAL PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES (former SHAH DAG RURAL ENVIRONMENT AZ) Shah-Dag Rural Environment Project, IBRD, GEF – not yet approved
4. National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management, UNDP, GEF - Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
5. Regional Partnership for Prevention of Transboundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras river, UNDP, GEF – concept phase
6. Towards a Convention and Action Programme for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment, UNDP, GEF – UNOPS
7. Irrigation Distribution System & Management Improvement Project, IBRD, IDA, WB
8. Rehabilitation and Completion of Irrigation and Drainage Infrastructure Project, IBRD, IDA, WB
9. Agricultural Development and Credit Project, IBRD, IDA, WB
10. Pilot Reconstruction Project for Azerbaijan
11. Farm Privatization Project (FPP)
12. South Caucasus Regional Water Management Project—USAID
13. TACIS Joint River Management Programme—TACIS
14. Regional Environment Center (EU-TACIS, USEPA)
15. South Caucasus Highland and Mountain Development Project—IFAD
16. Support for South Caucasus Highland and Mountain Development Project—Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
17. Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystem Conservation in the Caucasus (CASEC)GEF/UNDP (grant)
18. Biodiversity portfolio for the Caucasus MacArthur Foundation
19. Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, USAID
20. Peace Zone project—Helsinki Citizens' Assembly
21. Cooperative River Monitoring among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the US—NATO Science for Peace Programme

APPENDIX C

List of Persons Contacted

Name	Institution
William McKinney	Country Coordinator, USAID/Azerbaijan
Jeff Lee	Deputy Country Coordinator, USAID/Azerbaijan
Keith Sherper	International Development Expert
Zeynal Akperov	National Coordinator- UNDP Biodiversity Team
Samir Orujov	National Project Assistant-UNDP
Ramiz Tagiyev	National Expert for Economics and legislation-UNDP
Saadat Kaffarova	National Specialist for Public Awareness and capacity Building-UNDP
Huseyn Baqirov	Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)
Isa Aliyev	Head of Internal Cooperation MENR
Huseyn Mammadov	Head, Inspection Dept, MENR
Qoheman Xalilov,	Head of EIAs, MENR
Latifa Huseynova,	Head of Caspian Initiative, MENR
Namig Ibrahimov	Director, Shirvan Reserve and Park
Phil Middleton	ESIA manager, BP, AGT pipeline
Faig Askerov	Associate Director, BP Group of Companies
Lynn McBrien	Environmental and Social Manager, AIOC, Sangachal Oil Terminal
Dan Bliss	ESIA manager, BTC Pipeline
Kamran Abdullayev	Director, World Bank, Grants Program
Adakat Nahmatov	Director, Jalilabad Agro business Company
Manfred Smotzok	IFDC Chief of Party
Several Input Distributors	Masali, Jalilabad, and Lankaran

APPENDIX D

List of Abbreviations

ADS	Automated Directive System
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEO	Caucasus Environmental Outlook
CEPF	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CI	Conservation International
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FAA	Foreign Assistance Act
FDP	Forestry Development Project
GCCW	Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KfW	German Bank for Reconstruction and Development
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
NACRES	Noah's Ark Center for the Recovery of Endangered Species
NEAP	National Environmental Action Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAD	Protected Areas Development
PA	Protected Area
REC	Regional Environmental Center
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WB	The World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature