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Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries



Azərbaycan Respublikası  
Ekologiya və Təbii Sərvətlər  
Nazirliyi

## EU4ENVIRONMENT WATER AND DATA NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE – AZERBAIJAN

### THEMATIC SESSION 1: DIALOGUE ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU4ENVIRONMENT WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA PROGRAMME

5 April 2023

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## THEMATIC SESSION 1

- Towards sustainable management of water resources, Azerbaijan has a number of priority areas that are interlinked:
  - **Social**, including equitable access to water supply and sanitation, public health, affordability of service
  - **Environmental**, including tackling pollution, addressing sustainable water use and the impacts of climate change, including long-term water availability
  - **Economic**, including levels and application of taxes and subsidies
  - **Legislative**, including finalising progress with the water strategy and progressing relevant EU directives
- EU4Environment Water and Data aims to support Azerbaijan in making progress against these priorities with a number of key activities:

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## POLICY QUESTIONS

NPD Steering Committee Members are invited to consider the following policy questions with particular reference to their day-to-day challenges and experiences:

- What are the priorities **to advance IWRM / WFD implementation**? What are the current challenges for implementation? How can field **monitoring**, lab analysis and data interpretation improve?
- **River Basin** is the unit to guide progress, prioritise and address water management challenges. What can Azerbaijan do to progress on **organisation** and **planning** at River Basin scale?
- Well designed and implemented **Economic Instruments** have potential to support water policy objectives. What **challenges** do you see with application of Azerbaijan's current Economic Instruments and what **policy objectives** should they be supporting?
- How can Azerbaijan promote **cross-sectoral policy coherence** and **long-term planning** to address its water management challenges?
- What are the next steps to advance **transboundary cooperation** on water?
- What are the commitments and key take aways for Azerbaijan from the **UN Water Conference**?
- How can EU4WD support establishing **wastewater-based epidemiology** as a new water & health surveillance and decision support tool?

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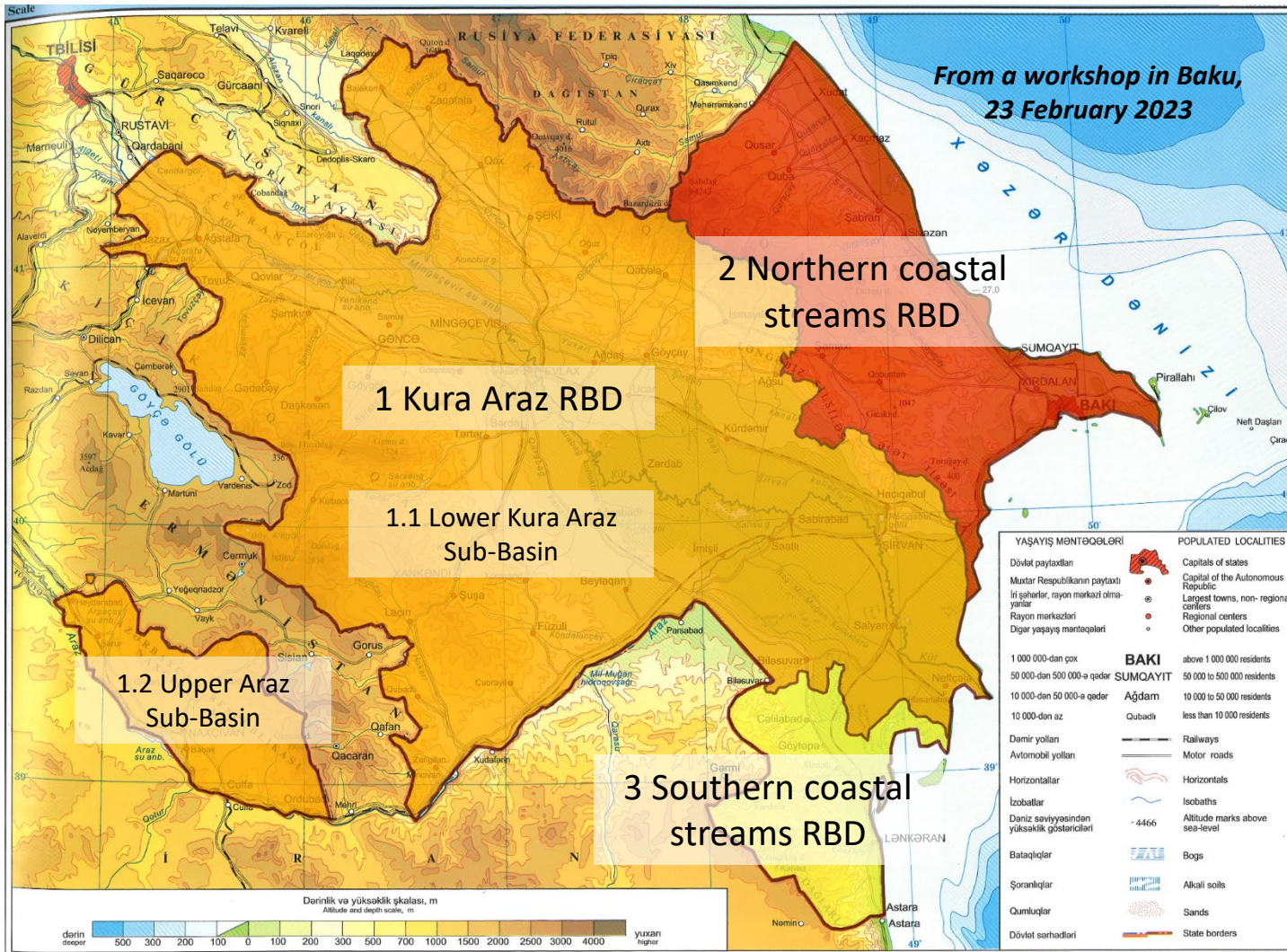




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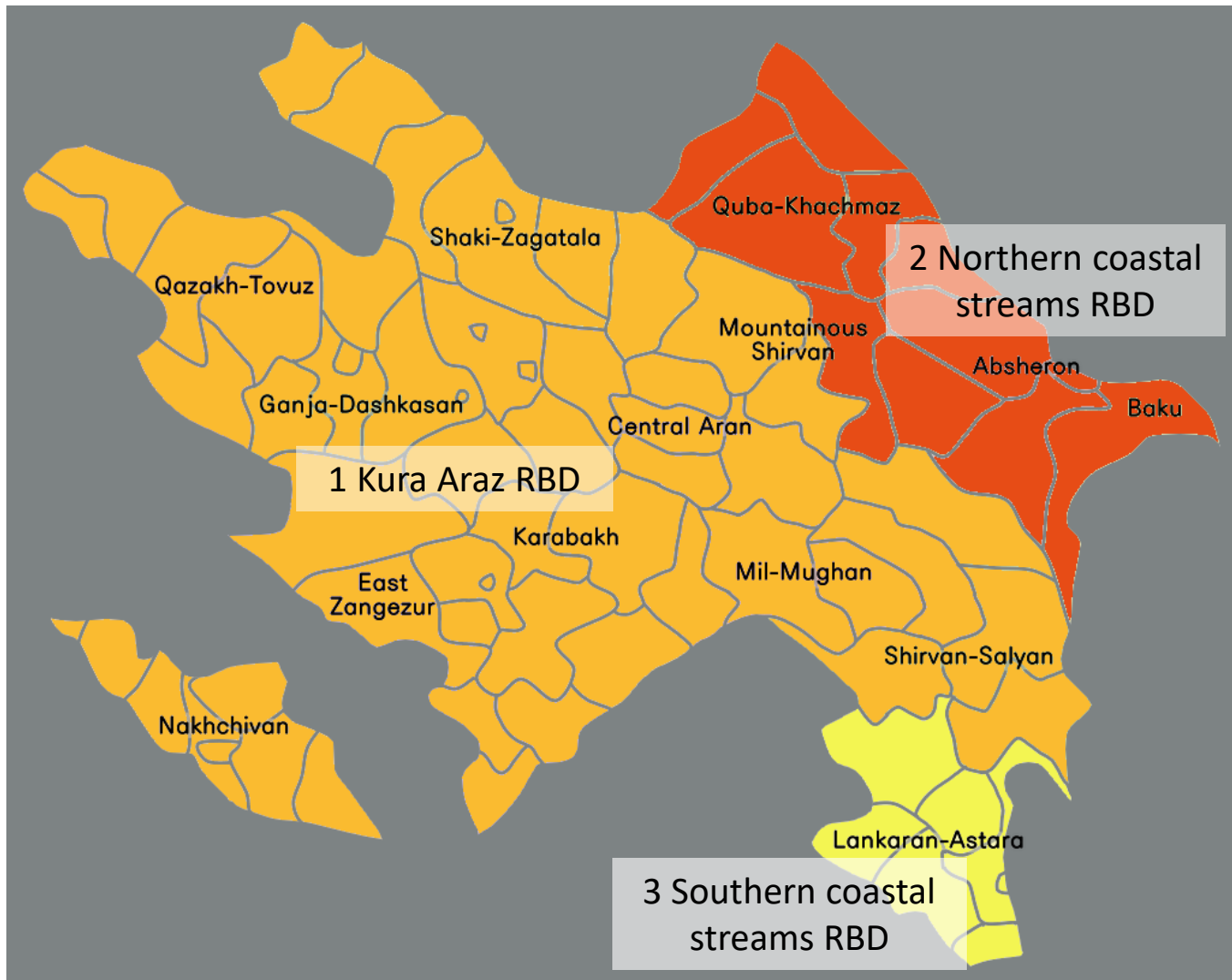
# RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS (RBD) PROPOSAL



Hydrographic logic  
For River Basin  
Organisation  
And River Basin  
Management  
Planning



## RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS (RBD) PROPOSAL



Each Administrative District and each Economic Region belong to one sole River Basin District except Economic Region “Mountainous Shirvan”



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## WATER MONITORING

- Extend monitoring **networks, frequency, parameters and interpretation** based on EUWI+ *Monitoring Development Plans*

### ➤ SURFACE WATER:

- October 2022: **ecological survey** at 15 sites in the **Upper Kura** basin
- May 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> **ecolog. survey** in Upper and **Lower Kura RB + Delta**
- **Trainings** on
  - 1) **Phytobenthos** (sampling, lab treatment, and identification);
  - 2) **Benthic invertebrates** (improved taxonomic resolution);
  - 3) **Data interpretation** (chemical & biological data)

### ➤ GROUNDWATER:

- 30 March 2023: bilateral coordination of transboundary groundwater bodies with Georgia for Alazani RBD
- June/July 2023: GW survey in **Kura delta** (focus on salinity).

### ➤ Monitoring and assessment of **transboundary waters**:

- September 2023: joint **SW and GW surveys** in **Alazani RB** jointly with Georgia.



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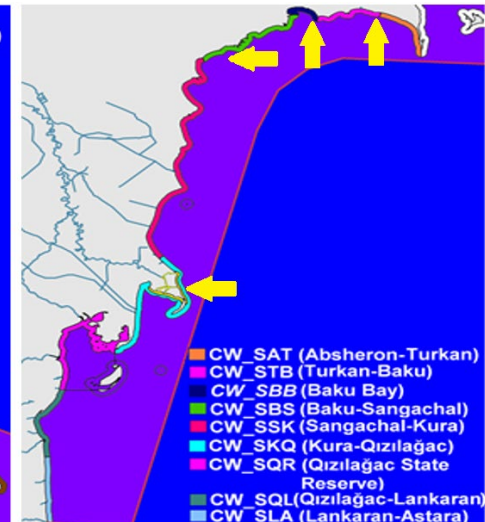
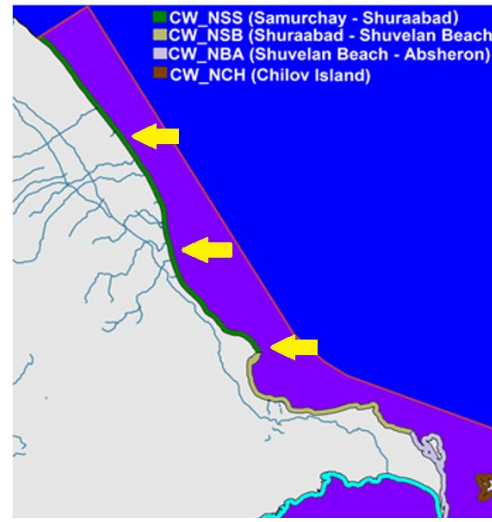




## WATER MONITORING - COASTAL & TRANSITIONAL WATERS

Coastal **survey Oct. 2022** at 7 stations in selected water bodies (out of 4+9 delineated Water Bodies):  
from Nizovaya (north) to Kura delta;  
report (Jan 2023) jointly with CTW expert

➤ Identification of threshold values for the 5 ecological classes (*high* to *bad*).



Result:  
**Ecological status** (draft from *autumn aspect*) ranged from *high* to *bad*.

**May 2023: 2nd survey** with additional sampling points in Baku Bay (*spring aspect*):  
(phys.-chem.-biol.parameters)  
Kura (nutrients + salinization)





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## WATER MONITORING – COVID-19 WASTEWATER MONITORING

**New EU standard of WW-based epidemiology:** early detection, representative, low cost

- 2022: Presentation of the EU concept and methods to National Centre for Disease Control of the Ministry of Health
- Sept. 2022: first **sampling** of wastewater from Hövsan WWTP (Baku) and processing in the NCDC laboratory: **SARS-CoV-2 virus detected!** Several recommendations to upgrade the lab equipment.
- **Next steps in 2023:** joint discussion of the process
  - Status of **equipment** purchase
  - Possibilities to set up a **political agreement** on collaboration in **wastewater epidemiology** as a prerequisite for continuous data production
  - Preparedness of further **trainings on methods** incl. sequencing and data processing







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## WATER MONITORING - LABORATORY

- Nov 2022: **Regional training** for WFD compliance with GC MS/MS equipment on ISO 28540 - determination of 16 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in water
  - with GC experts from **GE, AZ, MD and UA**
- Pre-training **mission** on 24 April 2023 to Baku
- June - Oct 2023: ca. 5 more (**regional**) **trainings** for WFD compliance are being coordinated with Azelab
  - on PAH, organochlorine pesticides, phthalates (DEHP), alkylphenols (OP, NP) and volatile organic carbons (VOCs).
- Prepare for lab accreditation: participation in international **Proficiency Testing** schemes for:
  - Heavy metals M165 (**successful** participation)
  - Nutrients N165 (**successful** participation)
  - Pesticides H115 (registered)



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## WATER ACCOUNTS

### • Preparation

- **Introduction** and training to Water Accounts in April 2022 – concept, definitions, data sources
- **Coordination** between competent authorities and key data providers on data sources and knowledge development in Oct. 2022
- Follow-up **training** on Physical Flow and Use table in May 2023

### • Test filling of Physical Supply and Use Tables (PSUT)

- Support to SSC, MENR and Amelioration & Water Farm to pre-fill PSUT with **available data** and coordinate collection of additional data and estimates to fill gaps in May 2023.
- Data collection and estimates to **fill gaps** from June - Dec 2023
- Provide the **completed PSUT** as a supporting tool for country water allocation in March 2024.



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## WATER AND HEALTH

Promotion of the implementation of **water and health goals, with emphasis on COVID-19** challenges & international commitments

- Assistance with revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (in view of COVID-19)
- Study and sharing of international experience on treatment and re-use of wastewater (in collaboration with output 1.4)

**Recommendations for post-pandemic recovery measures** related to sustainable water-management

**Technical advice and capacity building** for implementation of policy recommendations **related to water & health**

- 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (16 - 18 November 2022)

New publication on the Protocol in English and Russian

<https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/364655>



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## WATER GOVERNANCE AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

Regular **National Policy Dialogues** on IWRM

Support for updating **national environmental related strategies** (tbc the National Water Strategy and the National Action Plan, Climate Change law)

Regional **workshop on monitoring & assessment** –  
October 2023

**Enhanced transboundary water cooperation:**

- Transboundary groundwater and surface water monitoring for Alazani basin

Facilitate the **3<sup>rd</sup> reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2** on transboundary water cooperation in 2023-2024, capacity building & experience exchange



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## UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE (22-24 MARCH 2023, NEW YORK):



### Proposed topics for the interactive dialogues

**Water for Health:** Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17);

**Water for Development:** Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12);

**Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment:** Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR (SDGs 6.5, 6.6, 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15);

**Water for Cooperation:** Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda (SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17);

**Water Action Decade:** Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

More information at: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

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# Water Action Agenda

Water is a fundamental part of all aspects of life

**REGISTER COMMITMENT**

More than 700 commitments

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>

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## TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION COALITION

A catalysing framework for commitments and progress on transboundary water cooperation

**Objective** – “Promote and support both the sustaining and the advancement of transboundary water cooperation in the context of the Water Action Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, in light of growing risks, including those linked to climate change”



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## ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND MOBILISING FINANCE

- ***Opportunities and prerequisites for reforming water pricing systems in agriculture in Azerbaijan***
  - Current tariffs considered very low, limiting policy objectives and do not take into account climate impacts and water availability
  - Work has commenced to review water pricing and water allocation for irrigation in Azerbaijan, propose reform options and analyse expected impacts, resulting in the development of a roadmap for action
- ***Enabling environment survey and financing Nature Based Solutions***
  - Assess barriers to financing water
  - Analysis and linkages to OECD roundtable on financing

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