

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND AZERBAIJAN: TOGETHER FOR ENVIRONMENT



Protecting, preserving and improving the environment is essential for present and future generations. Azerbaijan, like other countries in the region, faces difficult challenges in air pollution, ensuring a clean and safe water supply and sustainable waste management. The European Union is working together with Azerbaijan to tackle climate change and to ensure a better quality of life for Azerbaijani citizens through the development of better environmental policies and greener investments in the modernisation of the social and technical infrastructure in cities.

HOW ARE THE EU AND AZERBAIJAN WORKING TOGETHER?

- **Promoting decisions which respect both people and the environment:**

Developing and implementing policies which ensure a high level of environmental protection and improve the quality of life of Azerbaijani citizens.

- **Protecting nature:**

Building a joint network of protected areas across the Eastern Partnership region, the **Emerald Network**, and supporting the sustainable management of forests, crucial for better livelihoods in forestry-dependent communities.

- **Investing in an environmentally friendly future:**

Unlocking cheaper and more sustainable finance for local companies, municipalities and households willing to invest in environmentally friendly technologies.

- **Managing vital resources better:**

Improving the water management systems.

- **Delivering on climate policy goals:**

Supporting the delivery of the goals set by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Protecting biodiversity

Over the years, over-grazing has degraded mountain pastures in Azerbaijan, with impacts on the broader ecosystem and the farming communities that depend on them. The EU and Azerbaijan are working together to establish sustainable pasture management practices, improve the fertility of pastures and forests, and prevent soil erosion and landslides.

Results include:

- **pasture inventory** of 3,000 hectares of land in target zones
- experimental **restoration treatments** to enhance carbon pools, including the **sowing** of more than 20 hectares of degraded soil with seeds, completion of **12 demonstration plots** with plantings and erosion prevention measures, and establishment of **rotational grazing systems** for 16 farms
- more than **3,000 hectares** of summer pastures **restored**.

Find out more:

www.climaeast.eu

and www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/emerald-network



"The more the soil is grazed, the more the landslides happen... In September, when we leave for winter pastures, there is not even a single blade of grass."

Murshud Mirzayev,
Shepherd

Forest communities

As a schoolgirl, Ayla joined a school forestry club in the town of Gakh, created with the EU support. She became leader of the group, which raises environmental awareness among locals and visitors, has created a nature trail and works with the local forestry unit to plant and care for seedlings.

As well as supporting **young foresters' groups** for children across Azerbaijan, the EU has developed **teaching materials** for graduate technical schools and Ministry training institutes. In total **six new training guides** for teachers, schoolchildren, university and vocational schools students were developed by the EU, and included on the curriculum by the Education Ministry.

Find out more:

www.enpi-fleg.org/activities/azerbaijan



«To an amateur the forest may seem beautiful. But when you start understanding ecological processes, then you can identify signs of landslides or other hazards in the forest.»

Ayla Aliyeva

Monitoring air quality

The EU has launched a Twinning programme with Azerbaijan, aimed at strengthening **environmental monitoring systems** to ensure reliable data for policy planning. Working with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the project aims to:

- **streamline collection**, processing and reporting of data at the Ministry
- **develop technical systems** for environmental monitoring – comparing technical standards for **air quality** monitoring, **water and soil sampling** with EU standards and providing recommendations for priority investments
- **train staff** on data collection and analysis (workshops, hands-on training and study visits)
- **implement modernised systems** through **real case studies**, including public communication of air quality assessment and pollution level index

Find out more:

www.twinning.eco.gov.az/en



“Improving air quality is not only making sense to strengthen the environment; it is both an investment in health and the economy of Azerbaijan. The EU is proud to be a partner in this field.”

Jeroen Willems,
EU Delegation Azerbaijan

LOOKING FORWARD

To help deliver on its commitments the EU is launching two major initiatives:

- **EU4Environment** integrates in a single strategic framework initiatives to achieve: **greener decision making** – **sustainable economy and green growth** – ‘smart’ environmental regulation – **ecosystem protection** – **knowledge sharing**
- **EU4Climate** will support the Eastern partner countries to implement their climate policies by contributing to **low emission** and **climate resilient development**, and helping them to meet their commitments under the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

KEY STATISTICS

To find **key environmental statistics for Azerbaijan** on air pollution, biodiversity, waste, etc. visit the portal of the EU-funded project for shared environmental information systems – ENI SEIS II East.

www.eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east