

**EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT -  
SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**AZERBAIJAN COUNTRY REPORT**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAWF	Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm Joint Stock Company
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
DNA	Designated National Authority
EEA	European Environment Agency
ENPI	European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument
IDA	International Development Association
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JSC	Joint Stock Company
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
MA	Ministry of Agriculture
MED	Ministry of Economic Development
MES	Ministry of Emergency Situation
MIE	Ministry of Industry and Energy
MH	Ministry of Health
MT	Ministry of Transport
NDEM	National Department of Environmental Monitoring
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
REC	Regional Environmental Center
PRECIS	Providing Regional Climates for Impact Studies
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SCS	State Committee of Statistics
SCLC	The State Committee of Land and Cartography of Azerbaijan Republic
SOCAR	State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## Executive summary

The current report was prepared for EEA under the ENPI-SEIS Project by the Azerbaijan Branch office of REC Caucasus with inputs from ENPI-SEIS national focal points and based on discussions during the SEIS country visit of the EEA on 13-14 June 2011.

This report reflects the current State of Play and future development needs of the three SEIS components – inter-institutional cooperation, content and infrastructure – and identifies the country's capacity for taking SEIS implementation forward. The overall objective of the ENPI-SEIS project is to promote the protection of the environment in the ENPI countries. Specific objectives include identification and further development of environmental indicators; improvement of capacities in the field of monitoring, collection, storage, assessment and reporting of environmental data; promoting setting up national and regional environmental information systems in line with the SEIS principles; and tracking progress of the regional initiatives.

The expected long-term outcome of the process includes improved assessment of the quality of the environment at regional level by using common tools and methodologies; stronger institutional partnership at national level; trained experts in all SEIS components; and improved regional cooperation and partnership with regional and international bodies.

In the regional meeting held in Brussels in November 2010, the following priorities were agreed for ENPI East region by the representatives of the countries: freshwater, household and municipal waste, and atmospheric air.

This report describes cooperation, infrastructure and data/information availability in Azerbaijan in the field of freshwater, waste and air emissions, assesses current environmental inter-institutional cooperation in the three priority fields and identifies the country's capacity for taking ENPI-SEIS implementation forward.

Chapter 1 of the report describes the inter-institutional cooperation and the national governance for environmental information and statistics in the priority sectors, including the links among the different bodies.

Chapter 2 on infrastructure describes the current status of environmental monitoring and information systems, including the structure and content of the monitoring and information systems used in the country and a description of the duties of those responsible for the management of the systems.

Chapter 3 of the report presents the reporting obligations of Azerbaijan according to multilateral, regional and sub-regional environmental agreements, and also describes environmental data and indicator availability, including analysis of existing datasets.

Chapter 4 analyzes strengths and weaknesses for ENPI-SEIS implementation in Azerbaijan.

Chapter 5 proposes follow-up activities for implementation of ENPI-SEIS project in Azerbaijan.

## 1. Inter-institutional Cooperation

Throughout 20-years period of its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has constantly been improving its environmental protection system. As a result of structural reforms within the country, the State Committee on Hydrometeorology, the State Committee of Ecology and Control on the Use of Nature and the “Azermeshe” Production Union were merged and became part of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources following the order of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan of May 23, 2001. Environmental management, including monitoring of the quality of atmospheric air, precipitation, soil, surface and ground water, biological resources, biodiversity, forests, radioactive pollution of the environment, as well as issues related to climate change, waste management, assessment and forecast of environmental processes under anthropogenic impact, creation of database on the state of the environment, as well as data flow is performed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR – [www.eco.gov.az](http://www.eco.gov.az) ).

MENR is the Designated National Authority (DNA) for participation in the Clean Development. With a view to implementing commitments to the Convention, facilitate coordination and support the State Commission, a Climate Change and Ozone Center was established within the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Presently, there are 3 divisions dealing with climate change issues at the Center

Funding for MENR has been on the rise since 2003. The structure of the Ministry consists of the central apparatus and specialized departments. In 2003, the structure of the Central Apparatus was reorganized as the result of the implementation of the Law on Civil Service. As a result of the 2003 restructuring of the Civil Service, the Forests Development Department and the Department for Protection of Biological Diversity and Protected Areas were removed from the composition of the apparatus and started functioning as subordinate organizations.

Regional environmental departments were dissolved in consecutive orders in 2004, 2005, and 2006, reducing the number from 20–25 departments to 12–13, primarily as a means of reducing costs. These regional departments are subordinated to MENR and their funding comes out of the State budget, through requests from MENR. They carry out similar functions as MENR with regard to environmental media, but in their own locality.

Other changes in the structure of the Ministry include the establishment in 2004 of the Section on Environmental Promotion within the Central Apparatus of the Ministry. A Microbiology Sector was established in 2006 within the National Monitoring Department and a Microbiological Research Section in 2008.

A Response Center for the Pollution of the Caspian Sea under the Environmental National Monitoring Department was created by ministerial order in 2008, as was a center under the National Monitoring Department for checking the quality of potable water along the Kura River. Following the Presidential Decree on Tree Planting and Landscape Structure dated 13 June 2008, an Open Joint Stock Company under the Ministry was established to provide services related to tree planting. In November 2008, a Scientific and Technical Council was organized in the Environmental Center of the Ministry for the development of scientific technical information and methodology, with the aim of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the use of natural resources and of developing environmental standards.

In addition to MENR, a number of other ministers and agencies in the country perform environmental activity, having departments on environmental protection in their structure and coordinating their activity with MENR.

Other Government bodies play an important indirect, role, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Industry and Energy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Transport (table 1.1). As a rule, ministries also have a Department of Environment coordinating activities with MENR, although coordination is not always effective. Within the Cabinet of Ministers, a separate section on environment was recently established, whereas before there was

a Section on Environment and Agriculture. Municipalities are responsible for water supply and sanitation activities and land use decisions within the geographic areas of their jurisdiction.

The institutional distribution of responsibilities is summarized in table 1.1.

**Table 1: State ministries or agencies with environmental responsibilities**

Sector	State ministries or agencies with environmental responsibilities
Air	MENR, MH, MT, MES
Biodiversity, Forestry, Fisheries	MENR
Land and Soils	MENR, SCLC, MA
Water	MES, MENR, Azersu Joint Stock Company, MH, AAWF JSC, MA
Oil pollution	SOCAR, MENR, MES
Hazardous waste	MES, MENR; MH
Waste	MED, MENR, Executive powers and municipalities
Mineral resources	MENR, MED
Climate change	MENR, MED, MIE

**Ministry of Health** (<http://www.mednet.az>) of the Azerbaijan Republic is the central executive authority implementing State policy and regulation on public health protection. It implements atmospheric air control in industrial zones and dwelling premises, control of drinking water quality in recreational areas and control of medical wastes management.

The **Ministry of Agriculture** (<http://www.agro.gov.az/>) implements state policy on the following spheres: development of production and processing of the agricultural products; necessary service and provision of information to producers of the agricultural products; amelioration and water economy, veterinary, plant quarantine and favorable use of the soil; implementation of unique scientific-technical policy, to organize priority investigation programs on plant growing and animal breeding; supply food security in the country and economic and social development of the villages. Along with the MENR the land and soil state control is also implemented by the **MA** as for the pesticides use. MA carries out state tests and registration of pesticides and agrochemical substances and makes decisions on registration and use of pesticides and agrochemical substances that have been proved positive. It is entitled to temporarily or entirely prohibit the application of substances to ensure their safety.

In 2004 State Phyto-sanitary Control Service was established within the Ministry of Agriculture. Pursuant to the statutes of the Service, pesticides cannot be imported, exported, manufactured, repackaged, distributed, sold or proposed for sales unless they have been registered by State Phyto-sanitary Control Service.

**State Committee of Land and Cartography** (<http://www.dtxk.gov.az>) is the central executive power body implementing land cadastre, land monitoring, geodesy, topography, mapping, gravimetric, land reform, formation of fruitful use of land resources, restoration and increase of land productivity, regulation of land-citizen relations, setting territorial units, state control on geodesy and cartography. Besides, the Committee prepares technical documents to form state registration of rights of property to land according to legislation, assures creation of geographic information systems of state importance, designing and publication of general geographic, land, geo-botanical, political-administrative, scientific information and other inter-field thematic maps, carries out delimitation and demarcation of state frontiers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, also frontier waters and sector of Caspian Sea (lake) belonging to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The control of harmful substance emissions from mobile sources, mainly from the motor transport, is authorized with the **Ministry of Transport**. Ministry of Transport (<http://www.mot.gov.az>) is the central executive body, regulating the interregional relations and shaping the single state policy in the railways, water, motor and civil aviation roads (the road transport complex) and transport and expedition activity, the projection, construction, repair and maintenance of the roads, the technical maintenance of the navigation hydro technical plants, water, air and rail roads and highways, and other individuals and legal enterprises that carry out

the scientific researches and training of specialists, repair the transport means and technical equipment and conducts other operations related to transport.

Hazardous wastes management is implemented by the **Ministry of Emergencies** and **MENR**, while domestic wastes are managed by Ministry of Economic Development, MENR and municipal authorities. **Ministry of Emergency Situations** ([www.fhn.gov.az](http://www.fhn.gov.az)) develops and assures implementation of the state policy in field of civil defense, protection of population and territories from emergencies, fire safety, human safety in basins, technical safety in industry and mining works, construction safety, prevention and removal of consequences of emergencies caused by accident-related flow of oil and oil products, creation of the public material resource funds, coordinates action of central and local executive power bodies in frame of the united public system in field of civil defense, protection of population and territories against emergencies, fire safety, human safety in basins, also prevention and removal of consequences of emergencies and performs normative regulation and control-inspection functions.

Water resources management, conservation, and scientific research performed in this field are implemented by the MENR and the **AAWF**. AAWF implements the following activities:

- supplies various industries with water,
- carries out water distribution for irrigation,
- maintains register on water use and conservation,
- use and protection of water resources;
- reconstructs water and ameliorative objects of strategic importance
- removes salt water on the meliorated lands,
- mitigate hard consequences of water flow,
- provides water supply for winter pastures,
- order for new constructions,
- ensure scientific and technical development by promoting advanced technologies, modern science and techniques, designs water devices and pursues the policy of reforming the amelioration and water management sector.

**State Agency for Water Reserves under the Ministry of Emergency Situations** is recently established Agency by Presidential order. At present time the Charter and Manual of the Agency is under preparation.

The Cabinet of Ministers coordinates intergovernmental links between different governmental bodies. In most cases, there are established different commissions consisting of representative of various governmental agencies.

At present time, the information flow between the governmental bodies is regulated by mutual correspondence. There is not a unique information database on environmental monitoring to be used by all interested governmental agencies. Relevant data are collected by different agencies and shared only on request. That information is published in various reports of relevant agencies.

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