



# **Environmental and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)**



**Information Day**

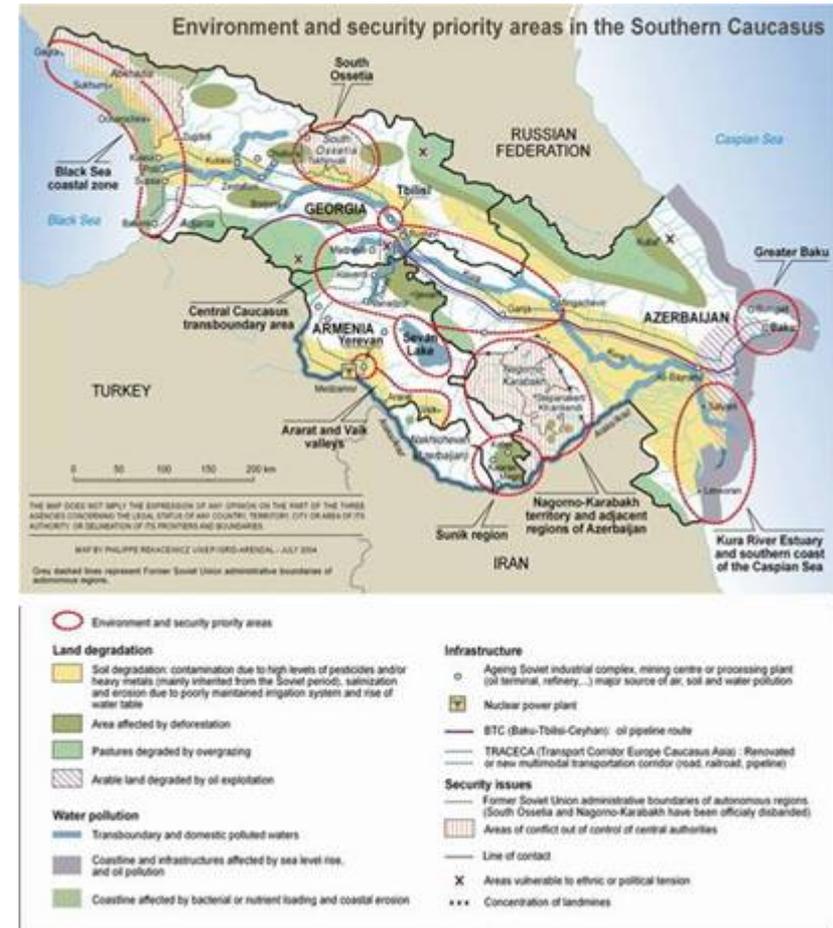
**NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme**

**4 February, 2010, Istanbul/Turkey**

# ENVSEC Objectives



- Assess and address environmental problems when there is a potential threat to security within and across national borders
- Facilitate dialogue on common environmental problems, offering possibilities for cooperation in the environmental sector





# ENVSEC Partners and Regions



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

# Work Programme Development

**Stage 1: National Request**

**Stage 2: Desk assessment**

**Stage 3: National and Regional Consultations**

**Stage 4: Assessment report and work programme**

**Stage 5: Launch and implementation**



# Work Programme Pillars

- **In-depth vulnerability assessment, early warning and monitoring**
- **Strengthening policies, institutions and awareness**
- **Capacity building and training**
- **Clean-up and remediation (mobilizing financial support and technical expertise for areas with specific risks).**

# ENVSEC – Regional Assessment South Caucasus





# **ENVSEC Priority Issues South Caucasus**

- Environmental degradation and access to natural resources in areas of conflict**
- Management of trans-boundary natural resources**
- Population growth and rapid development in capital cities**
- Public Awareness and Participation**



## Cluster One: Environmental Degradation and Access to Natural Resources in Conflict Zones

### Environmental Assessment Mission on Wildfires in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Zone (October, 2006)

- Assess impacts of wildfires on the environment in the fire affected territories.
- International Team with Local Experts appointed by Azerbaijan and Armenia with access to both sides of the Line of Contact
- Recommendations called for multi-stakeholder and joint cooperative action of the parties aimed at the reduction of the occurrence and impacts of wildfires.



# Cluster One: Environmental Degradation and Access to Natural Resources in Conflict Zones



## Joint OSCE/UNEP Assessment Mission on Environmental Impacts of August 2008 Conflict in Georgia

- Assessment of impacts of forest fires and conflict related environmental damages in regions adjacent to South Ossetia.
- Fire Management Training in Georgia (July, 2009)
- Regional Training Courses on Fire Management on Terrain Contaminated by Unexploded Objects, Land Mines and Radioactivity (Kiev, Nov 2009)



# Cluster Two: Management of Transboundary Natural Resources



## NATO/OSCE South Caucasus River Monitoring Project

- Monitoring and data-collection of heavy metals, radionuclide, and POPs contaminants in Kura-Araks River Basin
- Training and data-sharing between National Academies of sciences in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia
- 50 monitoring sites
- Regional meetings





# Cluster 4: Public Awareness and Participation

- Aarhus Centres
- Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Affairs

# Aarhus Centres: Operations and Activities

- Access environmental information
- Raise Public awareness on environment
- Government – NGO meetings
- Public hearings on environmental draft laws
- Free legal advice





# Ongoing ENVSEC Projects in the South Caucasus

- **Seminar on Wildfire Management in Antalya, Turkey for South Caucasus and South East European Countries**
- **Negotiations on a Bi-lateral Water Agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia**
- **CASE: Civic Action for Environment and Security in Azerbaijan and Armenia**



# ENVSEC Partnership Achievements

- **Political support and interstate agreements** on environment and security hotspots.
- **Stakeholder dialogue and improved coordination** on environment and security hotspots.
- **Platforms and networks** for peace building through inter-sectoral cooperation.
- Environmental **problem solving assistance** on the ground.
- **Increased awareness, access to information and more active public participation** in environment and security matters.



# Environmental and Security Initiative



Thank you for your attention!