

UDC:101.1:316

[https://doi.org/10.30546/ifs.2025.1\(44\).116](https://doi.org/10.30546/ifs.2025.1(44).116)

## THE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON NATURAL MONUMENTS OF AZERBAIJAN AND GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM PERSPECTIVE

**Hafiza Imanova**

Research-fellow, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology ANAS, Azerbaijan

email: hafizaimanova@yahoo.com

<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-3058-2063>

**Abstract.** Climate change represents a significant threat to protected areas globally, impacting the ecosystem of those areas in diverse ways as well. This article delves into the complex effects of climate change on structures and perspectives of eco-tourism in Azerbaijan. Additionally, we can change adverse effects of climate change into new development strategies. In the article we have discussed new potential of tourism spheres and management in Azerbaijan. The author also concludes that by identifying the essence philosophy of human-nature relationship we can solve climate-induced negative impacts and attain sustainability in both economic and social spheres.

**Keywords:** climate change, nature reserves, national parks, impacts, sustainable development, eco-tourism.

## AZƏRBAYCANIN TƏBİİ ABİDƏLƏRİNƏ İQLİM DƏYİŞİKLİYİNİN TƏSİRİ VƏ HÖKUMƏTİN TURİZM PERSPEKTİVLƏRİNİN İNKİŞAFINDA ROLU

**Hafizə İmanova**

**Xülasə.** İqlim dəyişikliyi qlobal səviyyədə qorunan ərazilər üçün ciddi təhlükə təşkil edir və həmin ərazilərin ekosistemlərinə müxtəlif yollarla təsir edir. Bu məqalə Azərbaycan ətrafında iqlim dəyişikliyinə strukturlarına və ekoturizm perspektivlərinə olan mürəkkəb təsirləri araşdırır. Bundan əlavə, iqlim dəyişikliyinə mənfi təsirlərini yeni inkişaf strategiyalarına çevirmək mümkündür. Məqalədə turizm sahələri və idarəetmə üçün Azərbaycanın yeni potensialı müzakirə edilib. Müəllif həmçinin insan-təbiət münasibətlərinin mahiyyət fəlsəfəsini müəyyən etməklə, iqlim təsiri neqativ halları həll etməyin və həm iqtisadi, həm də sosial sahələrdə dayanıqlığa nail olmanın mümkün olduğunu qeyd edir.

**Açar sözlər:** iqlim dəyişikliyi, təbiət qoruqları, milli parklar, təsirlər, dayanıqlı inkişaf, ekoturizm.

## ВЛИЯНИЕ ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КЛИМАТА НА ПРИРОДНЫЕ ПАМЯТНИКИ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА И РОЛЬ ГОСУДАРСТВА В РАЗВИТИИ ТУРИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ

**Хафиза Иманова**

**Резюме.** Изменение климата представляет собой серьезную угрозу для охраняемых территорий по всему миру, оказывая влияние на их экосистемы различными способами. В данной статье рассматриваются комплексные эффекты климатических изменений на структуры и перспективы экотуризма в Азербайджане. Кроме того, показано, каким образом неблагоприятные последствия изменения климата могут трансформироваться в новые стратегии развития. В работе также обсуждается потенциал туристической сферы и управления в Азербайджане. Автор приходит к выводу, что, определив суть философии взаимоотношений человека и природы, возможно смягчить негативные последствия,

вызванные изменением климата, и достичь устойчивости как в экономической, так и в социальной сферах.

**Ключевые слова:** изменение климата, природные заповедники, национальные парки, воздействия, устойчивое развитие, экотуризм.

### **Introduction**

Nature reserves, established across the globe over the course of the last century, are the product of a considerable investment by governments, public agencies, and charitable bodies. Establishment of protected areas is one of the most important activities in the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, including promoting ecotourism and sustainability in the country. The concept of preserving landscape-ecological diversity and sustainable development promotes the improvement of socio-economic indicators and at the same time ensuring the protection of the environment and ecosystems. The aim of the paper is to examine the relationship between landscape-ecological diversity in protected areas in Azerbaijan and the factors that contribute to this relationship with sustainable development. The article identifies landscape-ecological differences, including the principles and development of protected areas such as National Parks, Nature Reserves in Azerbaijan.

**The nature reserves in Azerbaijan.** Azerbaijan is fortunate to have rich natural heritage and biodiversity. Thanks to unique geography, the country is home to an abundance of flora and fauna. Dry landscapes (semi-desert, piedmont, and mountainous) cover more than half of Azerbaijan's territory. Azerbaijan boasts nine of the world's climate zones, which shape the biodiversity of species and ecosystems. Specially protected nature areas play a great role in maintaining and safeguarding biodiversity, ensuring conservation of rare flora and fauna species and achieving integrated nature conservation (1).

Azerbaijan can be divided into the following five broad ecosystem complexes, all of which contribute to the high levels of biodiversity represented in the country:

- Forest ecosystems;
- Freshwater,
- wetland and swamp ecosystems;
- Grassland and semi-desert ecosystems;
- High mountain ecosystems; and
- Marine and coastal ecosystems.

There are many natural parks for conservation of nature and development of tourism. One of them is Aghgol (White lake) park, an important wetland area for migrating birds species and it was included in the list of Ramsar Convention "On Wetlands of International Importance". This lake is being attracted by tourists for being second large salty lake and encompasses not only wetlands but also adjacent typical steppe and semi-desert landscapes.

Aghgol is located at the administrative territory of Agjabadi and Beylegan regions. The first attempt to protect the lake was made in 1964. On march 02,1978 the water body of the lake was given a status of a strictly protected reserve. Since 2003 Aghgol State Nature Reserve has become a national park. The main reason for protecting the lake system is its international significance as a refuge for endangered bird species included in the IUCN "Red List" and Red Book of Azerbaijan. The objective in establishing National Park was to ensure the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems and endangered species, as well as to carry out environmental monitoring, education of population and development of ecotourism.

The another natural monument of Azerbaijan is the sacred mountain Beshbarmag (Five fingers). Its giant stone fingers protecting from the hilltop have always attracted the travelers. It is likely that you will meet priest and pilgrims if you climb the steps up to its highest finger. In addition to its benign spirits, the summit will reward visitors with fantastic panoramic view of Caspian Sea and the mountain ranges of the Caucasus. Altiaghaj (6 trees) National Park was created in the administrative areas of Khizi and Siyazan regions. Atachay and its several branches flow through the area. And its water is used for irrigation purposes. The main purpose in the creation of the National Park was to ensure the conservation of basic components of the natural landscape of the southeastern slopes of

the Greater Caucasus, the preservation and rehabilitation of flora and fauna species, the conducting of environmental education among the population, and the creation of favorable conditions for scientific research, tourism and recreation.

One of the main cultural monuments of Azerbaijan is Goygol (Blue lake). More than 30 registered monuments can be found in the villages around the Park, including Bronze Age graves and mediaeval arched stone bridges. Goygol city has a "German street" with a "Lutheran" church and houses all of which were built in the 19th century by German settlers from Swabia who specialized in wine growing. The idea of creating a reserve in the area dates to the early XX century. Given inspiration by the public it was re-established under Order N475 signed into law by Soviet Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR in 1965. Goygol National Park was designated on April 1, 2008 by the Order of the President of Azerbaijan Republic on the base of Goygol State Nature Reserve in Khanlar, Dashkasan and Goranboy districts' administrative territories.

Shahdag National Park is a unique place to see wild nature of the Greater Caucasus -its flora and fauna, mountain landscape, untouched Alpine meadows, fresh air and snow-capped peaks. This area is ideal for hiking, mountaineering and horse trekking. The route from Khinalig to Laza is known as one of the highlights of Azerbaijan's nature experience. The area includes springs (Isa bulagi, Istisu bulagi), waterfalls (Gurdah, Pillakali), mountain peaks, rivers, "Bugurt" castle, "Omar Sultan" sacred place, "Ahmad Revan' holy place, Javanshir castle, ancient Avakhil mosque, etc. Objectives for Shahdag National Park were to rehabilitate, preserve and manage mountainous forests and pasture ecosystems of global significance located in high mountain areas including various endemic and endangered species and transboundary migratory animals, to conserve fertile soil layers, to regulate the stability of natural systems, to create all favorable conditions for implementation of scientific research works, as well as awareness and promote ecotourism in the territory, which has great potential for tourism.

Azerbaijan has been well-known globally as a unique and classic development area of mud volcanoes of the Earth (5). Most of the mud volcanoes have been expanded in Baku and Absheron Peninsula and some of them are protected as natural monuments. Mud volcanoes serve as exploitation wells with no costs for determining oil and gas fields. It is also used for treatment of several diseases. Additionally, volcanoes bear great importance for projecting and estimating earthquake occurrence and similar circumstances, as they are related to seismic incidents. In order to eliminate anthropogenic impacts on mud volcanoes located in Baku and Absheron Peninsula, as well as to arrange for their protection, considering great scientific and practical importance of studying their activities, and with a purpose to preserve those values and sustain them for future generations, furthermore to promote the natural heritage of our country in a wide range, the "State Nature Reserve of Baku and Absheron Peninsula mud volcanoes group" was established under Order 2315, dated August 15, 2007, signed by Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, and 43 mud volcanoes were given State Nature Reserve status. Today a number of tourists visit mud volcanoes. It is among of top list of visitors' sightseeing. Tourism and travel-related services are among countries' main parts of the service sector. By creating the flow of tourists, tourism services can lead to capital transfer, job creation, cultural exchange (globalization), and increasing welfare in the country hosting the tours (7). The ecotourism and global climate change problem are related problems and the latter one can increase the need of focusing on ecotourism perspectives (6).

Azerbaijan is always taking important steps to protect world historical and cultural monuments, and the government's contribution to the protection of world cultural heritage is indisputable. The government accepted legislation for protecting its historical and cultural monuments. According to Article 77 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "every citizen shall be responsible for protection of historical and cultural monuments. Historical and cultural monuments shall be the national wealth of the people. The State shall guarantee the protection of historical and cultural monuments, create conditions for establishment, operation and development of institutions necessary for scientific research and promotion as well as rational use of monuments" (4). In the local and regional context, Azerbaijan's ecological problems are mainly related to oil extraction carried out for decades with imperfect methods in the Absheron Peninsula and Caspian Sea without taking into

account the ecological consequences. No secret, the biggest percentage of harmful emissions into the atmosphere falls on the industrial sector. In some countries it is coal mines. For Azerbaijan, the oil and gas sector requires serious attention in terms of environmental regulation. Azerbaijan’s state oil company SOCAR has been implementing projects for recovering oil-contaminated lands in Absheron Peninsula for several years. For instance, the best result of this activity was the improvement of the once critically contaminated area around Boyukshor Lake.

The Azerbaijani president issued an order on the management and use of Boyukshor Lake, that portrayed a source of environmental problems for many years. Scaly work has been done, including removal of millions of cubic meters of soil contaminated with oil, and change of the routes of the oil pipelines passing here. After recovering the lake, improvement work was carried out around it, a new boulevard was laid and many green spaces were planted. Today, Boyukshor is an excellent example of successful attempt to improve the environmental situation in Azerbaijan, and through it, in the region (3).

### **Conclusion.**

Objectivity, fairness, an open mind — by whatever name you call it, this is the first necessity of philosophy. It is known that philosophy takes both the close view and the long view. We have to accept that our partial liberation from the struggle is all too easily confused with absolute victory and the unconditional surrender of nature to us. Our historical struggle with nature is not one that we can actually win, for if we were to defeat nature itself, it means we would defeat the very source of our own existence and place to live in. In our search for wisdom about nature we must be guided by a sense of eternal love and respect, commitment towards nature. We should think about that human beings must radically reconceive their relationship with nature if they are ever to make that relationship truly healthy and beneficial for all mankind. Only after achieving harmony with nature, we can save our Planet and protect the monuments and architectural buildings that represent our history and evolution of progress through centuries.

### **References**

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan>
2. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/az/az-nr-05-en.pdf>
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Boyukshor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Boyukshor)
4. <https://icherisheher.gov.az/en/12-legislation/>
5. S Schmidt. Potential analysis for further nature conservation in Azerbaijan: a spatial and political investment strategy. 2009
6. Stefan Gössling, *Ecotourism and global environmental change*//Routledge, 2007, pp. 15
7. [Yunfeng Shang, Chunyu Bi, Xinyu Wei, Dayang Jiang, Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary & Ehsan Rasoulizhad](#)// *Eco-tourism, climate change, and environmental policies: empirical evidence from developing economies*

**Rəyçi: f.e.d.. prof. Sakit Hüseynov**