

Opportunities for transnational and cross-border cooperation in the
Caucasus –
a contribution to the International Year of the Mountains 2002

DR. ALEXEJ GUNJA
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY
MOSCOW

DR. THOMAS BAUSCH
ALPENFORSCHUNGSINSTITUT (INSTITUTE FOR ALPINE RESEARCH)
GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

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Foreword

For many of us, the International Year of the Mountains began well in advance of 1 January 2002. Both state organisations and NGOs responded to the appeal put out by the United Nations and developed countless activities that all pursued one common goal: to promote sustainable development in the world's mountain regions.

For the Member States of the European Union, a range of diverse projects and campaigns focused on the Alps. But Europe, in fact, extends from the Pyrenees to the Urals and has an enormous potential of other outstanding mountain regions. With the long-term Eastward enlargement of the EU, the Carpathian and the Caucasus mountains are increasingly becoming established in the public consciousness as European mountains.

Countries and in particular scientists and NGOs working in the international arena recognised this much sooner. However, they are also concerned that the desired economic integration of the Eastern European countries will endanger the natural and cultural heritage of habitats areas that are to a large extent still untouched or in their original state. The call for legal instruments to protect them is being voiced with increasing frequency and possible solutions are beginning to be discussed more intensively. Virtually all parties to this discussion feel that the Alpine Convention is a shining example to be followed here.

The Caucasus is now also the focus of this animated discussion. Based on our preliminary work in recent years, we have begun to have reservations about whether this discussion might not in fact be wide of the mark, ignoring the actual conditions in the Caucasus. Also, the uncontested assumption being put forward by all sides that the Alpine Convention is the perfect recipe for success in all

cases set us thinking. Can the Alpine Convention really already be definitively evaluated as a recipe for success as measured against its original objectives, as a model that can indiscriminately be transposed to other mountain regions?

We believe that the Alpine Convention must primarily be regarded as a process that began in the 1950s. For that reason, the creation of this convention can on no account be viewed in isolation from the formation of the EU and the general process of integration that that entailed. If we assume that the successful conclusion of the Alpine Convention is to a great extent due to the lively dialogue on a broad range of cooperation issues that grew up over the years between all the Alpine countries, then the obvious question that springs to mind is to what extent are there any signs of a similarly intensive transnational and cross-border cooperation in the Caucasus region.

With this work, we have thus tried to illustrate the development of cooperation between the countries in the Caucasus over the last ten years, along with any intentions for the near future that have already been expressed. As an indicator of the intensity and quality of this cooperation, we have referred to projects that have been carried out in the Caucasus on sustainable development in the broadest sense. By analysing the number and quantity, type of projects, funding organisations and level of funding, we have tried to give a rough outline of the current status. Based on this, we have suggested the basic conditions needed for successful cooperation, along with appropriate topics the activities should focus on and geographical areas to be designated if the activities are to have a potential for success. Finally, we return to our original question and discuss this against the background of the results of our study.

It goes without saying that projects are not the only suitable indicators for describing the conditions needed for lively cooperation aimed at securing

sustainable development for the entire Caucasian region. We can therefore only draw tentative conclusions for the entire Caucasian system from this partial consideration. We see this analysis as reaffirming our original hypothesis that the Alpine Convention is neither transposable to the Caucasus as a process nor do the prerequisites exist that would allow an effective multilaterally agreed development paradigm, modelled on the Alpine Convention, to be agreed. The far more obvious conclusion, we believe, is that on an analogy with the Alpine Convention, numerous small steps in the form of projects and state-run consultations are required. Only this will establish the foundation required for a common development perspective adapted to the needs of the region; exactly what it will look like in its final legally binding form is still completely open-ended and should remain that way.

We hope that our work will be a small but very concrete contribution to the International Year of the Mountains. It would not have been possible without the renewed support of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety and the Bavarian State Ministry of Regional Planning and Environmental Affairs. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to everyone who helped us with advice and research contributions. Our thanks also go to the many people who helped us, both at the Institute of Geography at the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Alpenforschungsinstitut (Alpine Research Institute).

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Dr. Alexej Gunja

Dr. Thomas Bausch

1 Definition of the area studied

The Caucasus region is one of the most outstanding mountain regions of the European continent and one of the 200 most ecologically important regions of the world. The area covers many different countries and regions that are characterised by great heterogeneity: differences in culture, language and farming methods should be mentioned as well as the different climate zones, the availability of valuable raw materials and natural and cultivated landscapes. In the geopolitical sense, the Caucasus forms the border between Russia and NATO (Turkey), the Islamic world and Christianity, North and South. In recent years, Caspian mineral oil has played an increasingly important role as a resource of strategic importance, in which different countries, ranging from Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Iran to the U.S.A., have shown increasing interest.

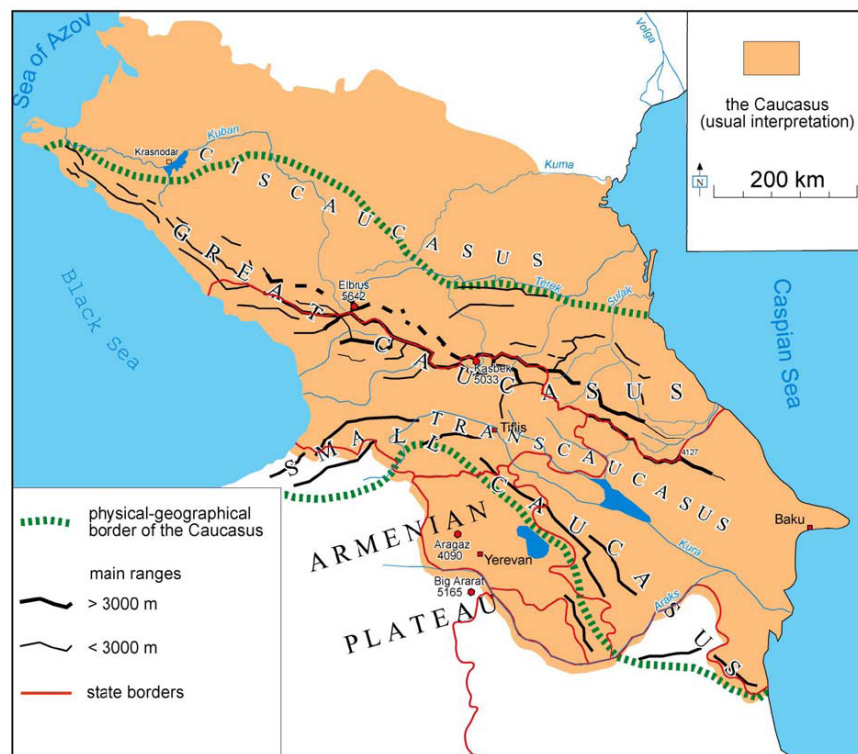


Figure 1: Physical-geographical boundaries of the Caucasus

The Caucasus lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea and covers the area to the north of the Caucasus Mountains (Ciscaucasia), the Greater Caucasus, the Transcaucasian Depression (Transcaucasia) and the Little Caucasus. Ciscaucasia and the Russian part of the Greater Caucasus are often referred to as the North Caucasus (nine regions in Russia: Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechnya, Dagestan, the Krasnodar region (Krasnodarskij kray) and the region of Stavropol (Stavropolskij kray)). From an economic point of view, the Rostov is also included in the North Caucasus, although it is further to the north and has no mountain regions.

In cultural and ethnic terms, the Kalmykia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions must be regarded as belonging to the North Caucasus. The part of the Caucasus that is within Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, is known as Transcaucasia. The watershed between the North Caucasus and Transcaucasia is formed by the Greater Caucasus Range, which is often regarded as the border between Europe and Asia. It includes the highest peaks in the Caucasus and in Europe: Elbrus (5642) and Kazbek (5033).

The Little Caucasus, which is to the south of Georgia and borders on Azerbaijan, is considerably lower. The highest peak – Aragats (Armenia) – is nevertheless 4090 m high and lies to the south of the Caucasus's physical-geographical border with Turkey. In physical-geographical terms, parts of Turkey's northeastern areas and northwestern areas of Iran also belong to the Caucasus (Fig. 1).

The study looks at the areas of the North Caucasus along with the part of Transcaucasia that belongs to the Greater Caucasus. The Little Caucasus region and the Armenian Plateau have also been included, because they play a particularly important role in the geostrategic significance of the entire area.

2 The geopolitical situation in the Caucasus as a basic framework for transnational and cross-border activities in the field of nature conservation and sustainable development

2.1 New states in the Caucasus region

The geopolitical situation in the Caucasus changed fundamentally with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Caucasus is still mostly regarded as a territory that consists of land belonging to countries of the former Soviet Union (Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia). However, the fact is that the Transcaucasian countries maintain very close contacts with Iran and Turkey (together these countries form what is known as the centre of Asia Minor).¹

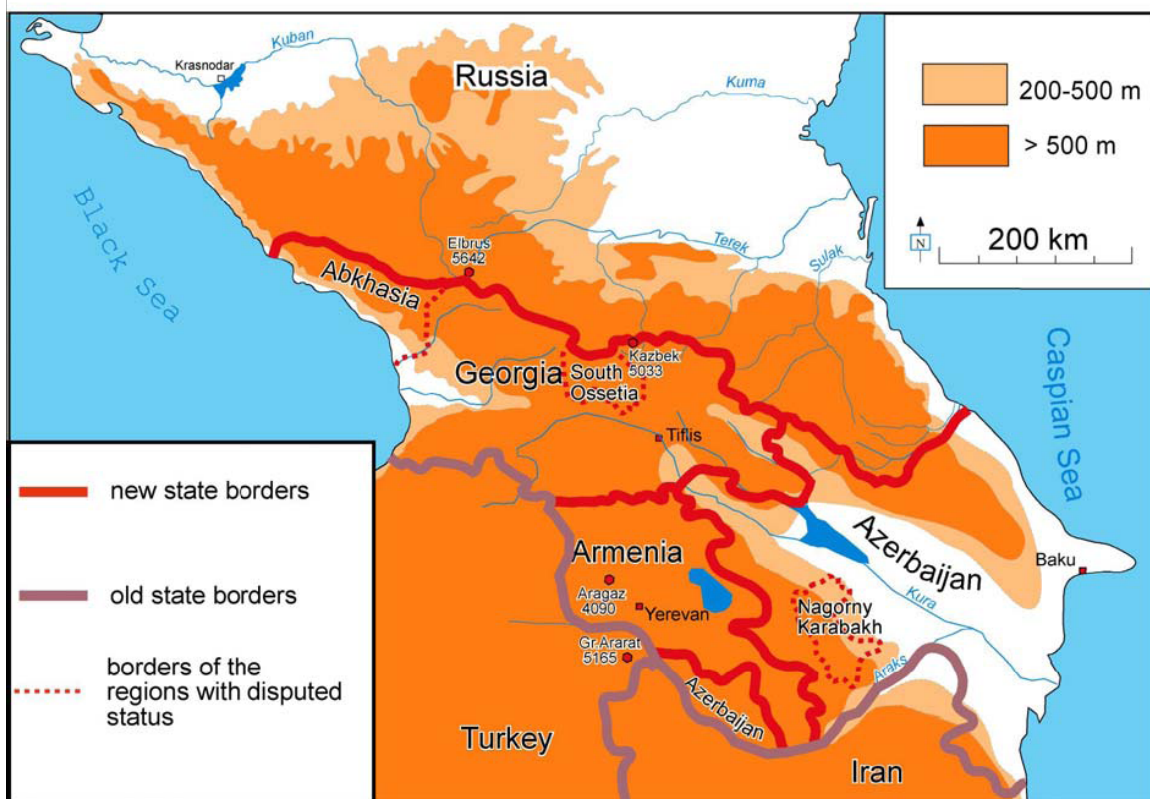


Figure 2: The New States in the Caucasus

Relationships with the former super centre Moscow have also changed radically. The Transcaucasian countries now take their cue to a great extent from European or Western structures (Georgia and Azerbaijan from the EU [European Council] and NATO). Transcaucasia can therefore no longer be regarded as being on the periphery of Russia, but must be seen as being on the periphery of Europe.

The changes in the last ten years include the so-called “New States with unresolved status:” Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, and Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan (cf. Fig. 2). Abkhazia, whose holiday resorts on the Black Sea are still very popular with Russians - as they were in the past - leans towards Russia. Nagorno-Karabakh is today a de facto part of Armenia. The areas of Azerbaijan that are situated between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia are also under Armenian control. Both the conflict over Abkhazia and the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh are still a perceptible strain on bilateral relations in each case.

Although during the Soviet era, South Ossetia was an autonomous region (autonomeoblast') within the Republic of Georgia, it now no longer has an officially recognised status. It still has strong economic and political links with North Ossetia in Russia. In recent years there have been no more armed conflicts in this region. Similarly, blockades between South Ossetia and Georgia have now also been lifted.

One of the knock-on effects of the collapse of the Soviet Union has been a marked weakening of relations between the regions within Russia. The regions are each trying to develop their own political systems that are as independent of Moscow as possible. However, a special case within the Caucasus region is Chechnya. The Chechen territory to the south of the River Terek is a demarcated military zone and access is restricted. The Russian military grant permission to enter only on certain conditions.

Since President Putin came to power, regional relations between the Russian republics have once more intensified significantly. However, the phenomenon of

Russia and the Transcaucasian states drifting away from each other politically can still be clearly observed. Added to that is the fact that within the states, individual regions, some of which did have autonomous status during the Soviet era, are striving for independence. An example of this is the formerly autonomous republic of Abkhazia in the south of Georgia, which has its own political system independent of Tbilisi. The areas on the periphery, such as Svanetia in Northwest Georgia, the Pankisi Gorge in northeastern Georgia, settled by Georgian Chechens, known as Kists, or the northeastern region of Azerbaijan, can be controlled only with great difficulty by the state. In the border regions of Azerbaijan there are often ethnic protests by Azerbaijani Lezgins who want to be part of Dagestan (Russia).

2.2 New structures

CIS

All the Caucasian states within the core area studied (Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia) are members of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States). For the Caucasus this represents an important amalgamation between its southern and northern areas. The region receives funding under the officially declared aims of the CIS.

The Russian language still has great importance in cross-border cooperation in and with Transcaucasia. However, networks within Transcaucasia are increasingly using English as their language of communication. By comparison with other large areas of cooperation, language barriers tend to be a minor problem.

GUUAM

Another institutionalised forum for transnational cooperation, in addition to the CIS and the north-south relations organised within it, is GUUAM² – an alliance made up of Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova. The work of this grouping focuses on topics relating to East-West cooperation in the extended Caucasus region (Fig. 3). It is striking that Armenia is not a member of GUUAM,

since it focuses on cooperation with and maintaining relations with Russia.



Figure 3: GUUAM - Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Moldova (2002, later Uzbekistan has left GUUAM)

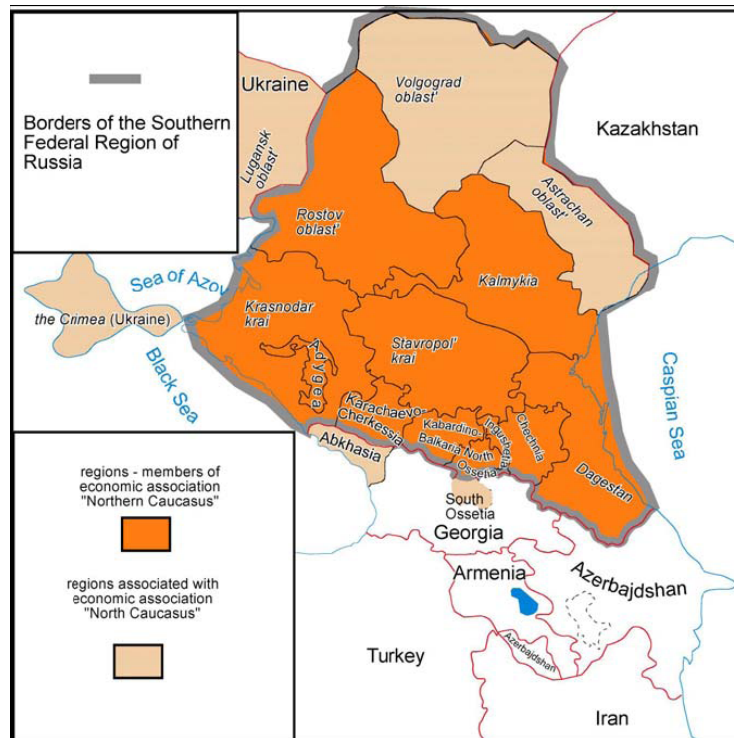


Figure 4: Southern federal sub-region of Russia and the economic association "the North Caucasus"

Southern federal subregion and “North Caucasus” association

The reforms recently introduced by President Putin aim at strengthening federalism in Russia. Seven new macro-regions were created in Russia: Centre (Moscow and areas in the centre of Russia), Northwest (St. Petersburg and northwestern areas), Volgo-Vyatka (major city – Nizhni Novgorod), Southern Federal Subregion - Northern Caucasus (major city – Rostov-on-Don), Urals (major city – Yekaterinburg), West Siberia (major city – Novosibirsk), Far East (major city – Khabarovsk). The southern federal subregion comprises 13 regions: Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechnya, Dagestan, Kalmykia, the Krasnodar region (Krasnodarskij kray), the Stavropol region (Stavropolskij kray), Astrachanskaj oblast', Rostovskaja oblast', Volgogradskaja oblast'.

The “North Caucasus” economic association is well-known in the North Caucasus as an economic organisation. It comprises the 13 regions of the Southern Federal Subregion of Russia, plus Abkhazia (Georgia), South Ossetia (Georgia), Luganskaja Oblast' (Ukraine) and the Crimea (Ukraine) (Fig. 4). The members of the association meet regularly twice a year. Individual regions work on different key areas. For example, due to its position on the Black Sea, Abkhazia has a particular interest in tourism.

2.3 New borders – a new framework for cross-border cooperation

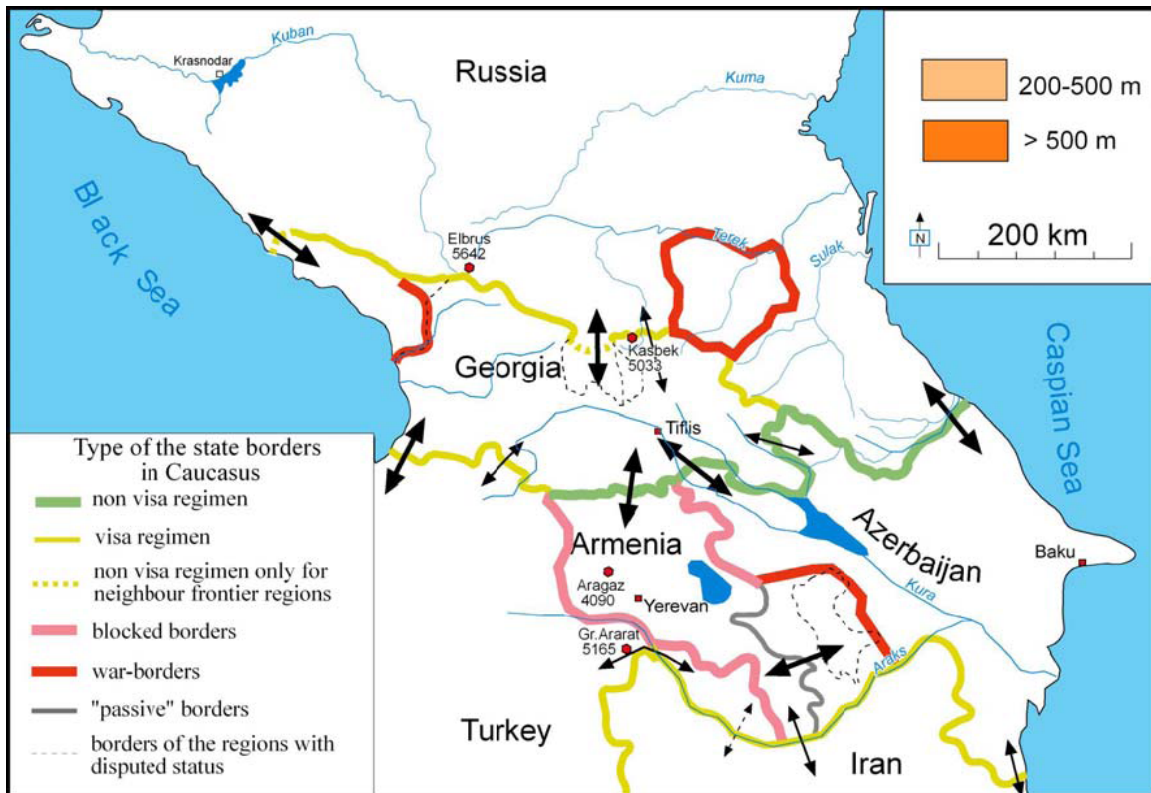


Figure 5: New borders in the Caucasus

The current situation with regard to transnational cooperation in the Caucasus is significantly characterised by the structure of the state and regional borders in the region as a whole. The legal status of these borders is extremely heterogeneous, and there are great regional differences in the way the resulting administrative regulations are handled (Table 1, Fig. 5). The type of border also reflects the character of economic relations. For example, the border between Azerbaijan and Russia is characterised by intensive agricultural activity, which, however, depends on irrigation from the Samur, the river marks the border between the two countries. By contrast, the border between Azerbaijan and Georgia is very much characterised by the corridor function that is essential for goods haulage in an East-West direction to the south of the Greater Caucasus mountains.

For that reason, this border was chosen for development schemes under the EU's TRACECA programme (Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia)³ which must also be seen against the background of the oil deposits in the Caspian Sea and the problem of transporting it to the main buyer countries in the West.

	Russia	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Georgia	Iran	Turkey
Russia	Chechnya as a special military area	No visa regime	No visa regime	Visa regime (exception: Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Kazbegi Rayon)	Visa regime	Visa regime (visas can be obtained at the border)
Azerbaijan	No visa regime	Relations with Nagorno Karabakh and neighbouring areas are blocked	Relations are blocked Impasse in relations?	No visa regime	Details not known	
Armenia	No visa regime	Relations are blocked	Status of Nagorno Karabakh is unresolved – today it belongs de facto to Armenia	No visa regime	Visa regime	Relations are blocked
Georgia	Visa regime (exception: Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Kazbegi Rayon)	No visa regime	No visa regime	Links with Abkhazia blocked, with South Ossetia difficult	Visa regime	Visa regime (visas can be obtained at the border)
Iran	Visa regime	Visa regime	Visa regime	Visa regime		Details not known
Turkey	Visa regime (visas can be obtained at the border)	Visa regime has been eased	Relations are blocked	Visa regime (visas can be obtained at the border)	Details not known	

Table 1: Characteristics of state borders in the Caucasus

2.4 Legal basis for transnational cooperation

The basis for the legislation governing cross-border cooperation dates back to the Soviet era. The virtually exclusive authority of central government is strictly legislated. Any initiative taken by a region or republic within Russia in the field of cross-border cooperation is restricted by federal legislation. Thus transnational and cross-border cooperation does not come under the jurisdiction of neighbouring border regions or local authorities but central government. The regions have made several attempts to slacken the federal legislation on cross-border relations and have sought increased rights of self-determination. The Russian Parliament (Duma) has to date deferred any attempt to solve the problem due to the difficult situation in some border areas (e.g. Chechnya). In December 2000, visas became mandatory between Georgia and Russia, the initiative for this coming from Russia. The reason given for this is Georgia's liberal relations with Chechen separatists.

As late as 1997 the CIS Council passed what was known as the Mountain Charter. The 24 points of the Mountain Charter laid down fundamental principles for sustainable development in the mountain regions within the CIS. The structure of the Mountain Charter is basically similar to that of the Alpine Convention. However, to date this document has not been taken further: there have been no attempts to develop it into a convention binding under international law nor to implement it.

In 1998, A. S. Dzasokhov, President of the Republic of North Ossetia, initiated a Caucasian Mountain Charter as the basis for regional integration and sustainable development in the regions of the Caucasus. However, this initiative went no further.

In the Georgian Mountains Act (1999), the Alpine Convention was expressly mentioned as an exemplary model. For Georgia, the Alpine Convention is a symbol of European integration, cross-border development and progress. Georgia is very much guided by European structures and is trying to use the Europe-based technical and legal terms of the Alpine Convention. Cross-border

cooperation is, however, not mentioned in the Act, although it is this above all that is the central feature of a multilateral convention. Currently there is no known work on analysing the potential for using the Alpine Convention in Georgia and the Greater Caucasus

3 An overview of completed and on-going activities within the Caucasus region

Both past and current activities and projects in the Caucasus can be divided into the following groups:

- Local (covering a small area, operating, for example, at local authority level)
- Regional (within larger spatial units, usually defined by administrative boundaries or natural features)
- Cross-border (between states, but tending to be on quite a small scale confined to the areas close to the borders);
- Transregional and transnational (comprehensive, covering an area of cooperation formed by connected regions or nations);
- Interregional (between a number of regions that are not directly physically connected).

Interregional projects are now rarely found even within the EU and are currently being funded on a larger scale for the first time as part of the Community initiative INTERREG IIIC. They do not currently exist in the Caucasus as the result of specifically targeted initiatives and have therefore not been included in this study. There are, however, examples of cooperative activities of an interregional character. For example, the Kabardino-Balkaria region in Russia has concluded a cooperation agreement with Abkhazia, although these two regions do not share a common border. Armenia similarly does not have a common border with Russia, but has much stronger economic links with Russia and with regions outside the Caucasus than with its neighbours.

The *transnational* and *transregional* projects currently focus primarily on general conditions for development (political developments or investment climate) for the Caucasus.

In order to understand the current situation in the Caucasus, it is necessary to look at all the projects in their historical context. They divide into four separate phases:

- Projects dating from the Soviet era (up to 1992);
- Projects dating from the era of the so-called sovereignty parades (1992-1996);
- Projects dating from the period between 1997 and 2001;
- Current projects – South Russia Programme, WWF projects.

		Transnational projects	Transregional projects	Other projects
Individual research projects (ISAR, Makartuhr – total of 307 projects)	1992-1996	13%	4%	83%
	1997-2000	9%	8%	83%
“South Russia” programme” (714 projects planned)	2002-2006	7%	48%	45%
WWF (99 projects)	Ongoing projects and proposals	32%	15%	53%

Table 2: Share of transnational and transregional projects

3.1 Projects dating from the Soviet era

During the Soviet era, large-scale projects were conducted throughout the entire USSR⁴ and thus also in the Caucasus, which, as part of the state-controlled economy, were intended to promote the development of entire regions and demonstrate the efficiency of socialism. Small projects, by contrast, did not figure at all. The centrally controlled state system funded, for example, numerous water-use projects in Georgia (Inguri, Rioni), the North Caucasus (Samur, Terek)

and in Azerbaijan (Kura, Araks).

One example of a large-scale project covering several regions is the construction of a road between Georgia and Russia via the Greater Caucasus which passes through South and North Ossetia. Shortly before 1990, a tunnel was built (Rokskij). This is de facto still the only route from South Ossetia to Russia that is passable all year round and the only means of importing goods from Russia. Another example is the building of the railway line from Georgia to Russia through Ingushetia and North Ossetia. After the collapse of the Soviet Union this project was interrupted and to date has not been continued.

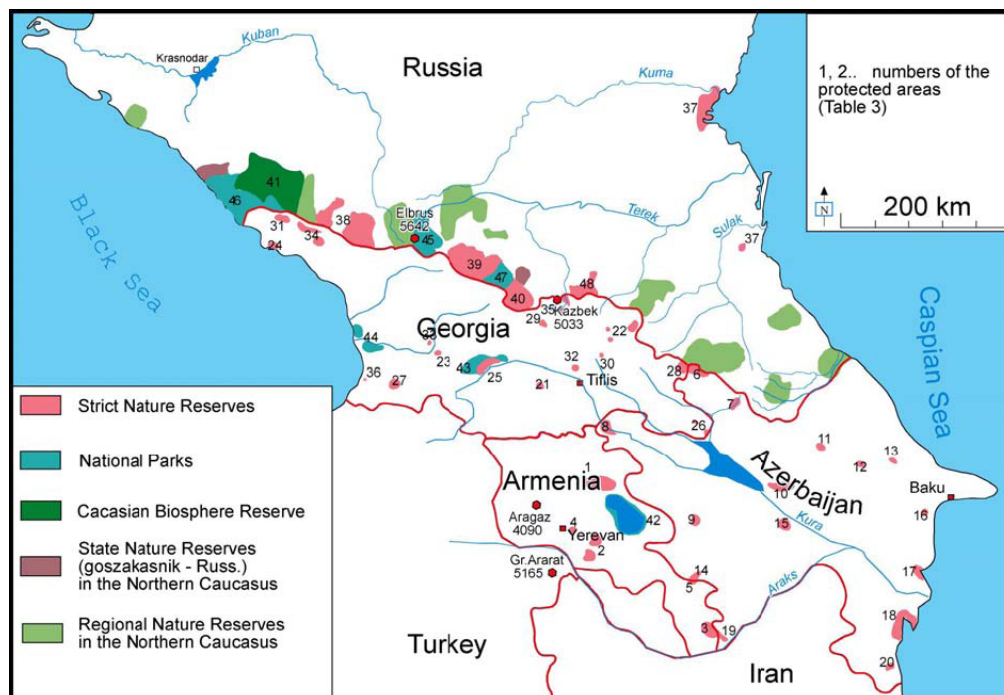


Figure 6: Protected areas in the Caucasus

The projects that were emphatically transregional were in the field of tourism, such as a collaboration between tourism providers and tourist regions in the North Caucasian high mountain regions and holiday resorts on the Black Sea via numerous routes through the Greater Caucasus.

An important positive legacy of the Soviet Union is the network of protected areas in the Caucasus that was created during the Soviet era (cf. Figure 6:

protected areas in the Caucasus and a key to the individual protected areas in Table 3: Protected areas in the Caucasus: current implementation status of measures in the annex of data and tables). However, the measures developed, including those that were specifically implementation oriented, have not been put into practice for ten years in the majority of protected areas.

All the protected areas were in the past planned and set up by state agencies without any involvement of local people. Some protected areas also include traditional landscape elements, such as clusters of trees that local people believe to be sacred, comparable with natural monuments in Germany.

Most of the nature reserves are in the high mountain regions. The state nature protection policy gave priority to protecting alpine and sub-alpine landscapes, as fragile eco-systems with numerous endemic plants and animals. By comparison with the low mountain ranges and foothills, the majority of high mountain regions have suffered relatively little anthropogenic influence. The exception is Dagestan's high mountain area, which is heavily grazed and relatively densely populated. Consequentially, it has no protected areas, with the exception of a number of nature protection areas that have the status of "Zakaznik" – wild animal reserves. Currently no nature protection programme also includes cultivated landscapes in low mountain regions and foothills.

The question of how to define the boundaries of nature reserves presents further problems. Almost all nature reserves are situated within the boundaries of a single administrative region (an exception to this is the Caucasian biosphere reserve). This means that natural boundaries, which, for example, the biotope network systems initiated by Natura 2000 are based on, were ignored. On the other hand, to a republic or region, a nature reserve represents a "neutral point" on the map: the region has no responsibility in this area and thus no influence when it comes to changing things or shaping the future. Thus entrepreneurs in the Caucasian regions cannot for example build roads or hotels inside nature reserves without obtaining permission from the ministry in Moscow. An example of this is the conflict between the Republic of Adygea and the federal nature

conservation authorities over the building of a road to the Black Sea through the Caucasian biosphere reserve.

Many of the protected areas are concerned specifically with protection of species and nature conservation. Only a small number of protected areas are designed to take an integrated approach and include development aspects by looking at protection through use (Figure 7: Basic functions of the protected areas in the Caucasus). Ecologically oriented cross-border cooperation in the Caucasus is still in a rudimentary stage of development.

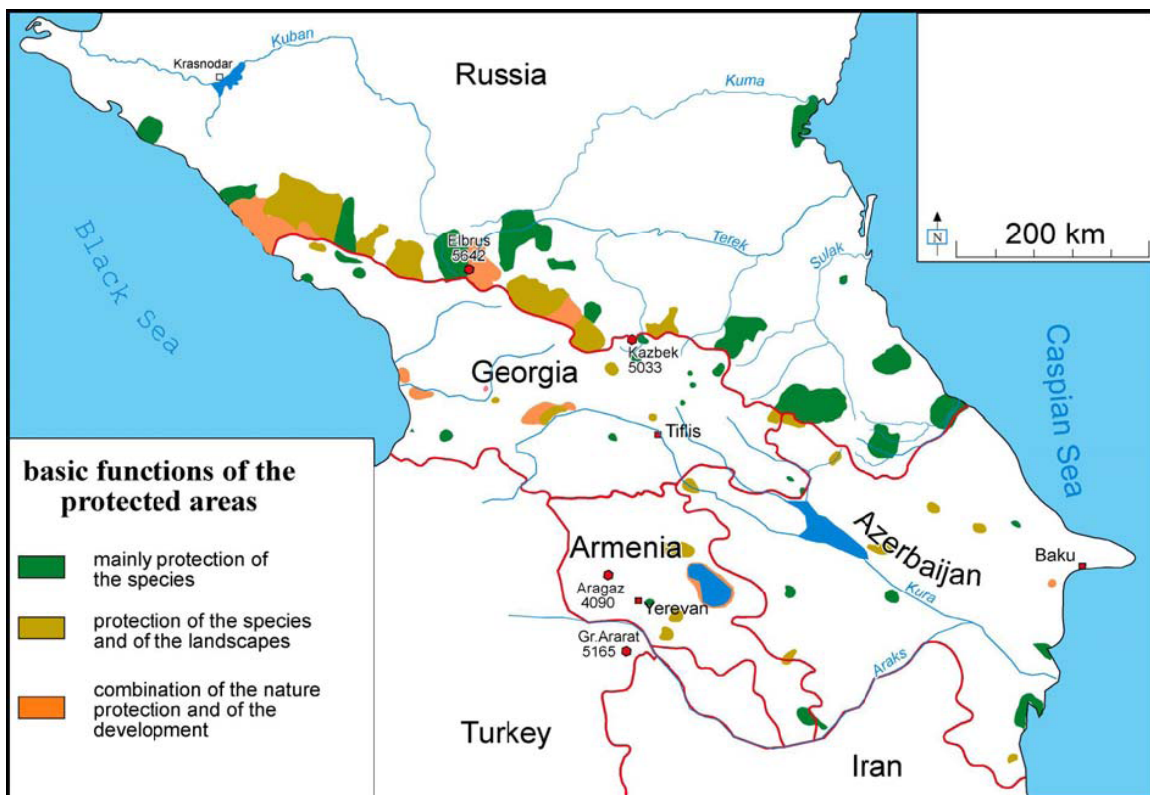


Figure 7: Basic functions of the protected areas in the Caucasus

3.2 Projects dating from 1992-2001

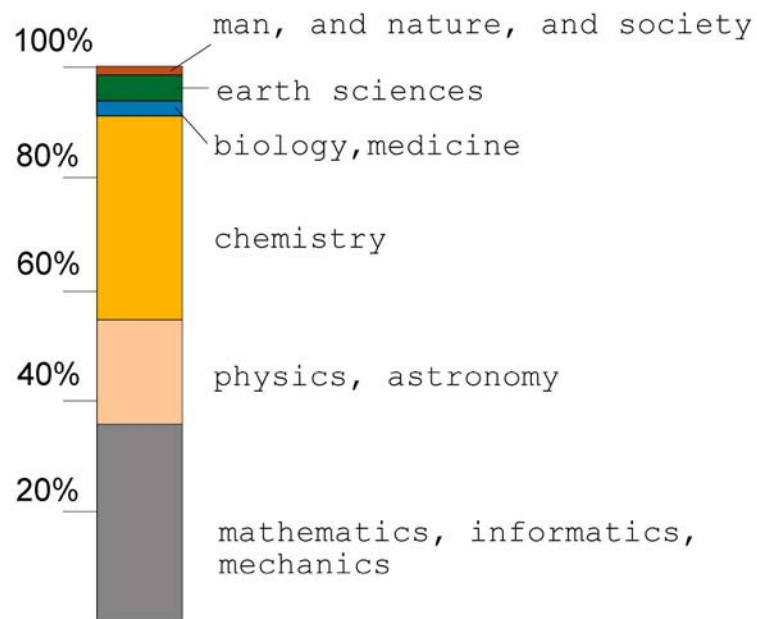


Figure 8: Projects in the North Caucasus region (Russia). Source: projects of the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research (RFFI), 1997.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, all ongoing transregional projects were interrupted. It was a unique time, in which projects were mostly initiated not by the state but by independent researchers.⁵ Only about 2% of all projects were concerned with the field of humankind, nature, society, as is illustrated by the procentual distribution across different subject areas (source: Projects of the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research – RFFI, 1997). Cf. Figure 8: Projects in the North Caucasus region (Russia). This also reflects the current situation in Russian science. The activities of foreign foundations that funded individual projects in CIS countries also come under this period.

As examples, we have analysed here the Makartuhr Foundation and ISAR, both of whom work in the field of nature conservation and sustainable development. More than 600 individual applications (1993-2000) were reviewed. In the main they are research projects, of which only about 10% were approved. An analysis

of these project ideas illustrates overall the “bottom-up” activities in the Caucasus. Of approximately 600 project ideas, only 307 relate to the specific territory or the regions within the Caucasus. The others are formulated in more theoretical terms and do not relate to specific geographical areas.

Only about 17% of these projects (52) were concerned with transregional issues (Figure 9: Research projects in the Caucasus 1993-2000: Key subjects and geographical areas studied (of 307 selected projects). Over half the projects are regional and 24% local. The preponderance of regional projects is due to the specific characteristics of the applicants, who are mostly based in cities and other regional centres or capitals of the Republics. Only a small proportion are representatives of other areas (nature reserves, small towns etc.). Almost half the projects focus on issues of nature conservation.

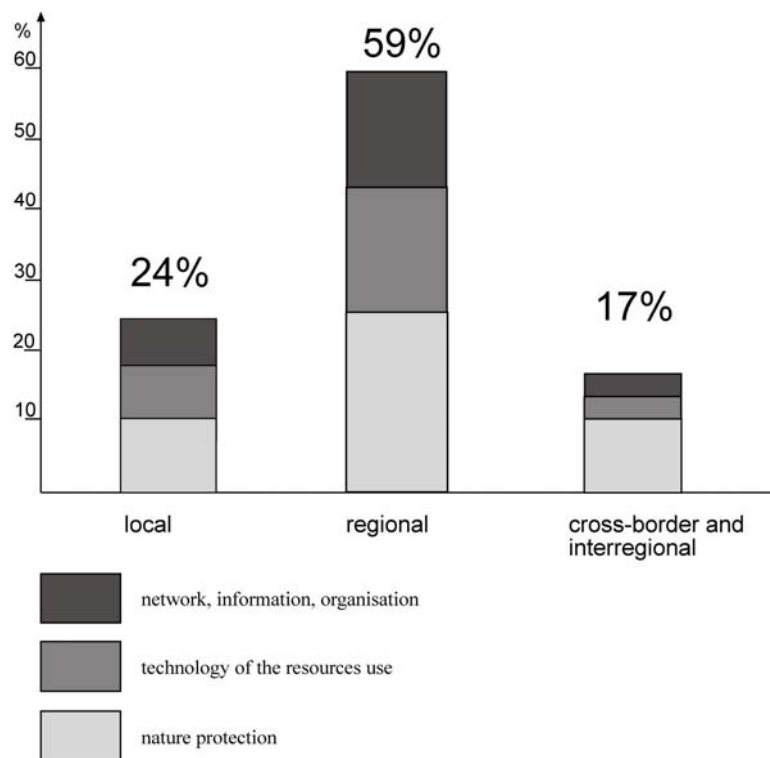


Figure 9: Research projects in the Caucasus 1993-2000: key subjects and geographical areas studied (of 307 selected projects)

Figure 10 clearly shows a marked concentration of projects in the West

Caucasus and an equally marked lack of projects in the East Caucasus, in Abkhazia, and relatively few in Azerbaijan. The majority of activities relate to areas that are relatively far away from the borders, in other words, the border areas are either not popular for research activities or of little relevance. There are no research projects of a cross-border nature that look at specific territory between two regions or countries. Over a third of all transregional projects are concerned with studying the Caspian Sea and Black Sea.

In addition to the individual research projects, we also analysed transregional, transnational and cross-border projects that were initiated by foreign NGOs, foundations and organisations (“top-down” activities). These projects are far fewer in number, but they enjoy significantly better funding. Behind each project there are geopolitical interests of the countries providing money for the projects.

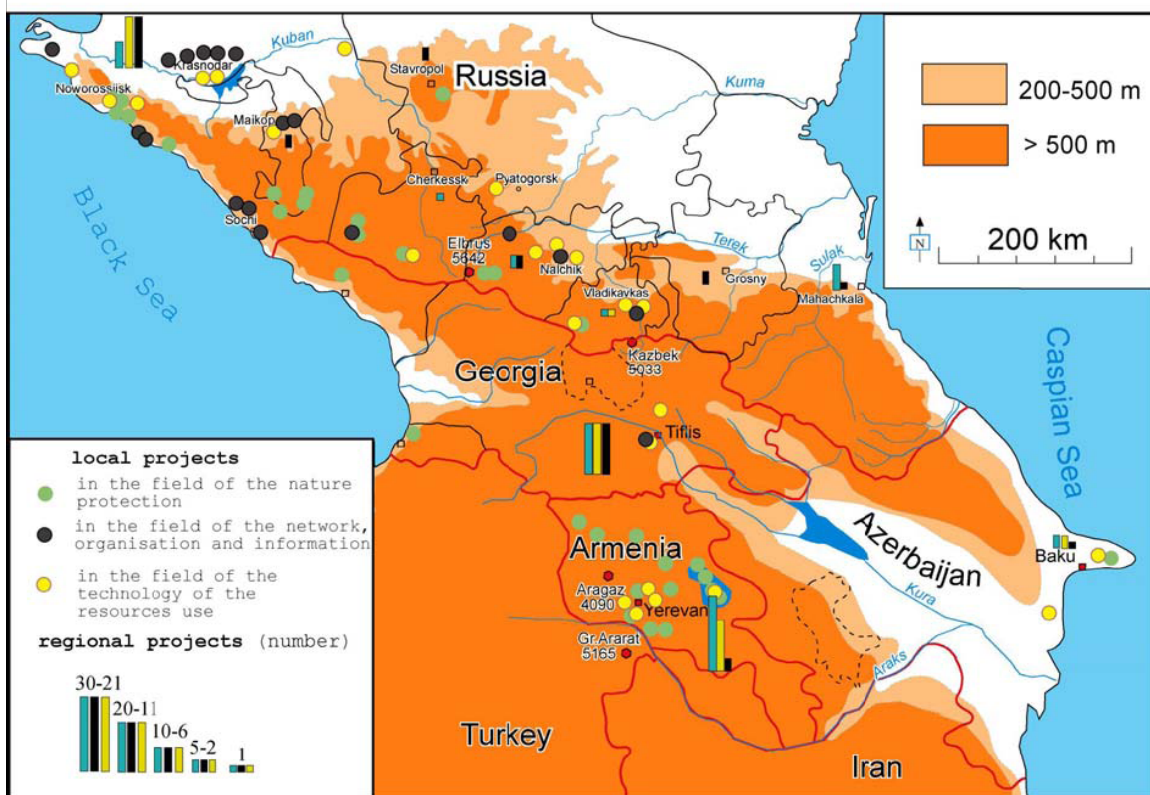


Figure 10: Area-specific research projects in the Caucasus: geographical situation of 307 selected projects

Against the background of the necessity for cross-border collaboration, the emergence of ideas for transnational and transregional projects during the post-Soviet era divides into two phases:

- transregional and initial transnational projects during the period of the so-called sovereignty parades (1992-1996);
- transregional, transnational and some cross-border projects dating from 1997-2001.

During the 1992-1996 phase, Soviet stereotypes still prevailed. There was no urgent need for transregional projects. All citizens in the Caucasian countries still had Soviet based passports and could travel without problems to other countries. Of greater interest were social projects that promoted the individual development of each country. The number of projects looking at transregional and transnational research questions was still relatively high (30 projects – Table 3). Here theoretical projects were in the majority. There were only two transregional projects in the field of information and coordination.

As “leftovers” from the days of the large-scale Soviet state projects, the water-use project on the border between Dagestan and Azerbaijan and a project on developing tourism in the Central Caucasus are worthy of mention. Both projects are well-founded, but were never realised due to the overall economic crisis in Russia. Currently these two projects are being revived under the “South Russia” programme (cf. 3.3 Current stage of development – “South Russia” programme”).

Of all the foreign projects, those that have been initiated under EU programmes are particularly well known: TACIS (food in Armenia, the environment in Azerbaijan, energy in Georgia) and TRACECA (first stage began in 1993). This period also saw many Caucasian NGOs being established with foreign funding. They are particularly numerous and were set up particularly quickly in the Transcaucasian countries.

During the 1997-2001 phase, the disintegration of the Caucasus continued. The

entire Soviet region gradually began to sink into oblivion. The gap in the field of integrated development approach was gradually filled by foreign NGOs. A series of foreign projects and the financial backing connected with them is no doubt due to the geostrategic importance of the oil reserves in the Caspian sea.

The individual applications in this period included fewer purely theoretical projects. Implementation-oriented transregional projects were for the most part coordinated by NGOs and relate to the Transcaucasian and Caspian regions. Compared to other projects, they are still relatively few in number. The gap between Transcaucasia and the Russian part of the North Caucasus has widened.

This period of development is important because, apart from the official transnational projects in Transcaucasia (e.g. the EU with TRACECA), Transcaucasian regions began new, informal transnational relations and initiatives with Russia. First and foremost of these was that Abkhazia and South Ossetia joined the economic association “Northern Caucasasia” (in 1995).

Foreign NGOs in Transcaucasia now have great potential. A concentration of NGOs in the capital cities can be observed (Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku). Activities in the field of cross-border collaboration have overtaken the political realities and official state activities in the Caucasus. In the last three to four years, a Caucasus Convention has frequently been cited at conferences and in the literature as a possible instrument for transnational cooperation.

3.3 Current stage of development – “South Russia” programme”

The southern region of Russia accounts for only 3.5% of the overall territory of Russia. The production of the entire economy of this region accounts for only 6.5%; the population, by contrast, totals approximately 1/7, in other words 14%, of the entire population of Russia. The population’s earnings amount to only 43.8% of the Russian average. The Russian regions of the Caucasus are heavily subsidised by the state (between 30% and 85%). At 20.1%, unemployment is very high compared to 3.5% in Russia as a whole. Tourist amenities run at only

1/3 of their capacity (there were 25 million visitors in 1985; today that figure is 6.5 million, although the accommodation capacity is roughly the same). There are currently 500,000 refugees in the southern regions (almost half the total number of refugees in Russia).

In 2001, Russia began to develop the federal programme for South Russia (for 12 regions of the southern subregion of Russia excluding Chechnya⁶). It is the first programme to employ free-market principles and development strategies. The programme's principal aims are to create the economic and social conditions necessary for a stable development without conflicts and to safeguard Russia's interests in the entire region. Specifically, the following outcome is expected:

- Economic development (to meet the Russian average level)
- Guarantee independent regional authority, including financial responsibility
- Support for 140,000 existing jobs and creation of 700,000 new jobs
- Raise the standard of living and reduce social tension in the region.

The projects divide into four levels:

- **Geostrategic projects** – construction of a pipeline (oil and gas), exploitation of natural resources (particularly in the Caspian region), safeguard bioresources in the Caspian Sea, transnational transport corridors.
- **Federal supraregional projects** – transport network, the environment, tourism, social problems (refugees, unemployment etc.)
- **Transregional projects** – infrastructure, industry, information, development of scientific institutions, culture, education.
- **Regional level** – exploitation of natural resources, infrastructure, agriculture, industry, health, free-market infrastructure, business climate.

The programme gives clear priority to transregional projects (second and third level) (Table 4).

Geostrategic projects are oriented to transnational economic cooperation and exploiting the advantageous transit situation of the Caucasus. Ports are being built or reconstructed on the Caspian Sea (Olja, Makhachkala and Lagan') and Black Sea (Novorossiisk), primarily in order to assure the transportation of oil (but also gas and other natural resources) from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Iran to Turkey and Europe. One of the most important tasks is to link South Russian transport communications into international infrastructure (primarily "North-South" and TRACECA). 27 projects focus on protecting bioresources in the Caspian Sea. In the main, small fish-farming facilities are being built or reconstructed (sturgeon).

Tourism projects are particularly well represented in the *federal supraregional projects* (a total of 145 projects). These projects are concentrated in Russia's traditional holiday resorts: Black Sea coast (Sotschi, Gelendzhik, Anapa), Krasnaja Poljana (ski resort and spa near Sotschi), Caucasian mineral spas (Pyatigorsk, Kislovodsk, Essentuki), Elbrus area (Kabardino-Balkaria), Dombai (Karachay-Cherkessia), Zei and Ardon (North Ossetia). Relatively new are the holiday resorts Lagonaki Plateau (inside the Caucasian biosphere reserve) as well as a number of projects on the Caspian Sea (in Dagestan, Kalmykia and the Astrakhan' area).

The majority of *transregional projects* are in the field of information and organisation (e.g. Internet connections, scientific integration of the regions etc.). Economic projects that could provide concrete additional benefits for two or more regions (energy, light-industry facilities, food factories etc.) are also important. The programme provides some 150 billion roubles of funding (approx. \$5 billion), of which 70% of the financing is meant to come from the regions and only 30% from the central government budget. Achieving the economic development goals has clear priority over solving ecological problems. An example of this is the conflict between nature conservation and tourism. For example, in 2001 the Caucasian biosphere reserve (founded back in 1924) was restructured, restrictions on part of it being lifted to allow a road to built from Maikop to the Black Sea and the construction of a ski resort.

4 Development zones for transnational and cross-border cooperation

4.1 Completed and on-going projects

All transnational and transregional projects can be divided into three groups which centre on different actors:

- Individual research projects and “contact projects,” which are based on the interests and potential of local actors and are for the most part financed by foreign foundations;
- “Western” initiatives (or “linkage grants”) – major NGOs, foreign foundations and international organisations (UNDP, UNEP, WWF etc.), which de facto represent the interests of their countries or organisations. There are two different sub-groups here:
 - o projects in which the state is not necessarily involved (e.g. small-scale species protection projects);
 - o projects that are closely linked with the state (EU projects, for example as part of the TACIS programme etc.)
- State projects that were initiated only recently and only in Russia (“South Russia” programme).

A rough estimate indicates that financing is not evenly distributed across all the groups. The relation of funding for the first two groups (in the last 7-8 years) is 1 to 10. The financing for the interregional projects in the Russian Programme totals almost \$3 billion for the next 5 years (2002-2006).

The interest of these three groups in possible topics within the context of sustainable development in the Caucasus region is similarly not evenly distributed. The selective interest of the “Western” group in the field of nature conservation, information and transport corridors is clearly visible. The interest of governments with territory in the Caucasus leans heavily towards tourism (they would like their tourism infrastructure to be able to compete with western

infrastructure and would like to see their national tourists visiting domestic holiday resorts rather than travelling abroad). Little attention is paid to nature conservation. In the field of transport, there are both government and western interests, which to some extent compete with each other. Little attention is paid to agriculture because it is not sufficiently important in strategic terms.

4.2 Categories of projects by subject matter and area studied

The subjects and areas that are of key importance for sustainable development in the Caucasus can be divided into nine main groups:

Subjects:

- 1) Nature conservation and preservation of species. Current projects distance themselves from the social and economic problems in the Caucasus. The majority of projects are either very theoretical (individual research projects) or internationally “fashionable” (natural heritage, “green corridor,” etc.). They do not take the specific needs of the Caucasus into account and furthermore do not accept the current situation.
- 2) Infrastructure, transport. Both important in geostrategic terms and the basis for regional/transnational economic development with key areas .
- 3) Information, coordination. Here there is a clash of interests between the state and the NGOs.
- 4) Tourism. A state priority intended to promote the development of the tertiary sector (in the “South Russia” programme).
- 5) Energy, use of resources. The importance of these projects will increase significantly in the near future.
- 6) Ethnicity, conflicts. The problems here are beginning to attract interest, particularly amongst academics.
- 7) Agriculture. Still relatively unattractive for current projects. This area will, for the foreseeable future, continue to be heavily influenced by state

control mechanisms, but in the medium term will start to gain importance due to the liberalisation of world trade.

Key development areas:

- 8) Caspian Sea. Individual projects have been developed to form a coherent programme.
- 9) Black Sea. Interest has declined significantly since the first half of the 1990s.

Using projects from the first five groups, we have identified the success factors (particularly against the background of transnational cooperation in the Caucasus) and assessed them on the basis of our own studies carried out in the Caucasus over the last 10 years.

4.3 Transnational and cross-border projects in the field of nature conservation and protection of species

4.3.1 Completed and on-going projects

Of the 29 completed projects, most were concerned with the protection of individual species of plants and animals. Particular attention was paid to protecting bisons (GEF and WWF). NACREC financed a project on the protection of the brown bear in the Caucasus. Another seven projects had the objective of developing appropriate methods for nature conservation. None of these projects produced any substantial results that might have made a significant contribution to promoting the transnational climate in the region.

There are only five cross-border projects that are practical in character (Figure 11). In 1995, the WWF⁷ began planning a project to create an international nature reserve on the border between Russia (Dagestan), Georgia and Azerbaijan. Due to the war in Chechnya, the project was never realised.

Another project was initiated by Russia on the border with Azerbaijan to protect the relic forest in the Samur Valley. It was part of a large-scale project in this region that had been developed by the Russian state organisation “Sovintervod” in 1995. Due to lack of financing, this project was never realised, but is now being re-examined as part of the “South Russia” programme (2002-2006).

The existing projects in the Kura area are concerned not only with nature conservation but also water management. The River Kura flows from Turkey through Georgia and Azerbaijan and into the Caspian Sea.



Figure 11: Cross-border projects in the Caucasus in the field of nature conservation and preservation of species (1993-2001)

4.3.2 Projects in the development and planning stage

The proposals are based primarily on WWF plans for the Caucasus (a total of 22 projects). The majority of these projects focus on the protection of individual species of plants and animals. The broader-based projects include:

- 1) Creating a so-called “Green Corridor” along the Greater Caucasus (cf. Table 6 in the annex of data and tables);
- 2) Establishing transnational cooperation in the field of biodiversity and sustainable use of forest and alpine ecosystems in the Eastern Caucasus;
- 3) Improving transnational and transregional cooperation between the nature reserves in the arid areas of the Kura Valley;
- 4) Improving transnational cooperation in the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of land in the mountain regions along the Armenian-Georgian border.

A proposal was made for a new reserve, which would also represent a new type of protected area in the Caucasus: the Peace Park in the Kazbek region. An example of this kind of reserve in a different part of the world is the “Olympus” biosphere reserve in Greece.

Overall, it can be concluded that currently in the field of transnational cooperation on nature conservation more concrete projects are in the planning stage than have already been concluded. That is also a consequence of the generally difficult political situation in the Caucasus.

4.4 Transnational and cross-border projects in the field of transportation and traffic infrastructure

4.4.1 Completed and on-going projects

The development of transport infrastructure in the Caucasus can be divided into three phases (Tarhow, 1990):

1. Major roads are built at a great distance away from the region (up to the second half of the 19th century);
2. Roads are built around the mountains of the Caucasus, and road construction into the mountains along the river valleys begins (first half of the 20th century);
3. The mountain region is gradually sub-divided by roads (second half of the 20th century until the present day).

A fourth phase, in which a mountain region has a dense network of transit roads running through it, as is the case in the Alps, has not yet begun in the Caucasus. Developments in the Caucasus are still at the beginning of the third phase; there is only one road through the main mountain range in the Central Caucasus that is passable all year round through the Rokskij Tunnel. The Georgian military road is closed in winter due to the risk of avalanches. In the West Caucasus, where the mountain ranges are lower, there are three roads. In the East Caucasus, there is only one road, which bypasses the Caucasus mountain range (cf. Figure 12).

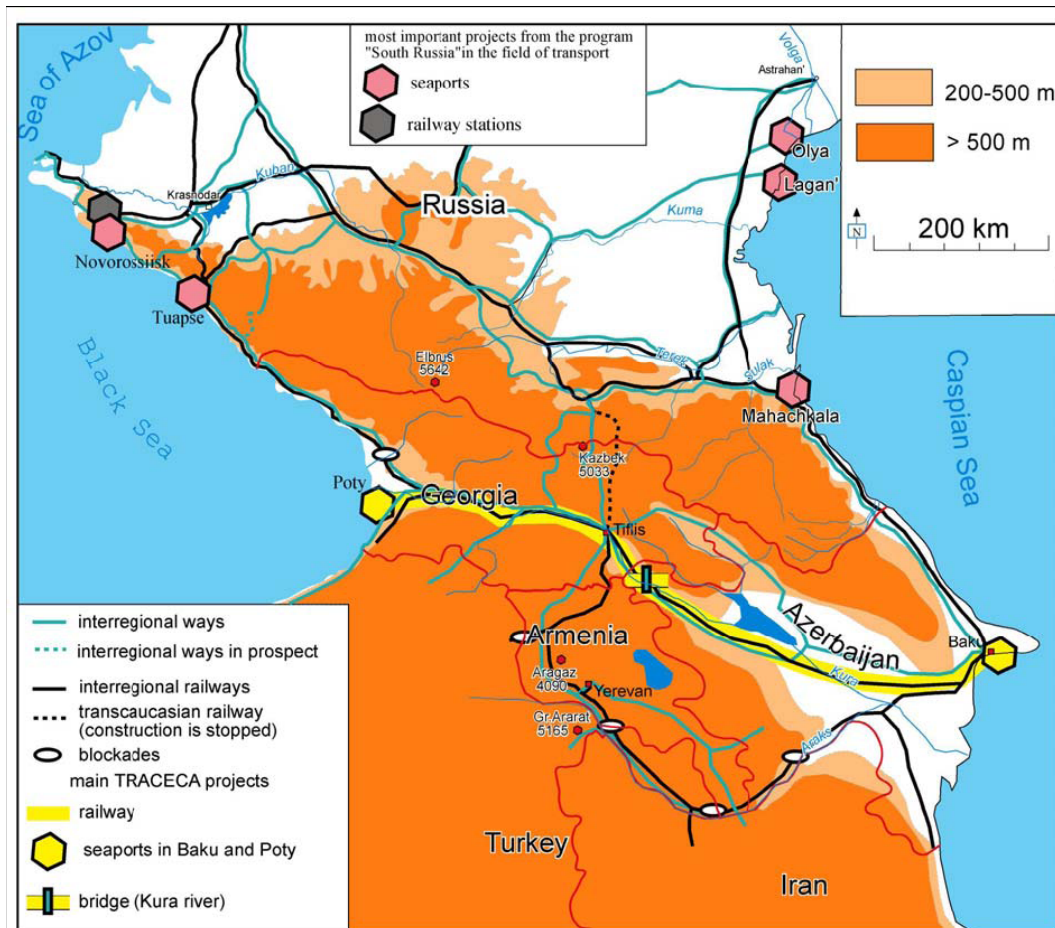


Figure 12: Cross-border projects in the field of transport and traffic infrastructure

Most of the roads into the high mountain regions are cul-de-sacs, so that the tourist areas (e.g. Priel'brus'ye, Teberda) had recurrent problems with car traffic in the 1980s. The construction of a railway line through the main mountain range in the Caucasus from Georgia to Ingushetia and North Ossetia was abandoned at the beginning of the 1990s.

The existing projects divide into two groups:

- Railway and motorway networks (Figure 12)
- Oil and gas transportation facilities (Figure 13)

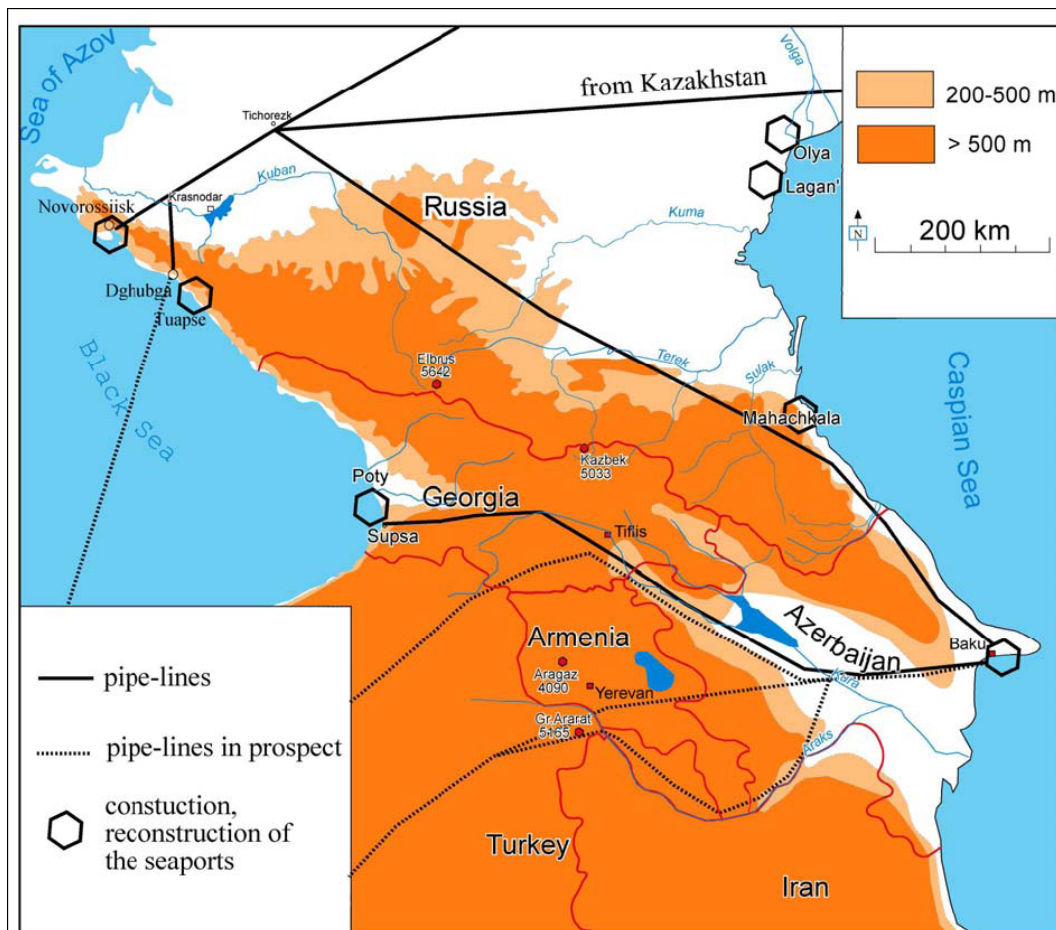


Figure 13: Cross-border projects in the field of oil and gas transportation

There is a marked difference between projects that were planned by the Russian government (58 projects in all) and EU projects (TRACECA/TACIS) (7 projects in all). The Russian projects focus on developing roads and the pipeline in the Northern Caucasus. There is clear competition with the Transcaucasian Pipeline and transit roads (East-West). The construction of the pipeline and docks on the Black Sea is causing ecological damage to the sub-tropical landscapes. The economic interests involved in the transregional projects are also leading to conflicts with nature conservation (for example, the construction of the road from Maikop to Sotschi through the Caucasian biosphere reserve).

The TRACECA project, co-initiated by the EU is very well known (it is analogous with the historical silk road). The individual projects that make up TRACECA

focus mainly on restoring former railway lines in Transcaucasia and building ports on the Caspian Sea (Baku) and Black Sea (Batumi and Poti).

4.4.2 Projects in the development and planning stage

The planned construction of a pipeline from Azerbaijan through Georgia around Armenia and into Turkey has been heavily criticised, particularly by the USA. The further development of a comprehensive network for gas and oil transportation is closely connected with linking Iran to the existing pipeline.

An evaluation of the TRACECA projects shows that the plans are a long way from being implemented solely from revenues and without external financial assistance. This is primarily due to the difficult political situation in the Caucasus. Today, North-South economic relations, which already play a major role (Transcaucasia, Turkey, Iran from one side and Russia from the other side) in wealth creation for the entire region, are more significant. Yet in these areas there are no other new projects to date. The projects in the North Caucasus aim solely to develop traffic infrastructure in the North Caucasian republics.

4.5 Transnational and cross-border projects in the field of tourism

4.5.1 Completed and on-going projects

The Caucasus has been a traditional recreational and tourist region for a long time now. For example, the Caucasian spa resorts of Mineral'nye Vody, Pjatigorsk, Kislovodsk and others in Russia have been well-known and popular for over 200 years. The following spas in Transcaucasia have a similar tradition and are very well known: Borjomi, Zchaktubo and others (Georgia), Zakchadzor (Armenia). However, the main tourist area in the Caucasus is the Black Sea coast. There are also a number of spa resorts on the Caspian Sea (Dagestan, Azerbaijan), but they are not as important.

By contrast with tourist activity in seaside resorts on the Black Sea, which flourished even during the Tsarist era, there has only been any Russian-Soviet

tourism to speak of in high-mountain regions since the mid-1920s. Any exploration before that had the character of an expedition and was confined to small groups of researchers. The famous high-mountain regions include the areas around Elbrus, Kazbek, Dombai, Archyz and Zei. For example, the area around Elbrus (Russian: Priel'brusje) has an accommodation capacity of 5,000 beds, most of which cater for individual tourists. Priel'brusje, like other high-mountain centres, specialises in skiing in the winter and walking in the summer; it has many long-distance trails for ramblers. During the Soviet era, the hiking trails from the North Caucasus along the main Caucasian range to the Black Sea were very popular. Central Caucasus, with its numerous summits (ten of them are over 5000 m high), was used as a training area by a number of mountaineering schools. At present, there are fewer tourist facilities in East Caucasus.

Between 1992 and 1996, the holiday resorts of the Caucasus went through a recession. Two main factors were responsible for this: on the one hand, the political instability in the Caucasus itself, and, on the other hand, the fact that people began to go abroad. The new freedom to travel meant that many of them headed for the Alps.

At present we do not know of any implementation-oriented transnational projects for the Caucasus in the field of tourism. By contrast, there are a number of academic activities that are mostly concerned with theory or methodology. The projects run by the Eurasia Foundation (cf. Transnational, transregional and cross-border projects in the Caucasus: international foundations (from the literature and internet research)) are an exception. Here eco-tourism is a keyword, but it should be evaluated with caution because at the moment it is often bandied about for strategic reasons since it is International Year of Eco-tourism.

4.5.2 Projects in the development and planning stage

The WWF's future plans include developing eco-tourism linked to developing the local authorities that are affected or stand to benefit from it. However, no specific

regions have yet been defined for the two projects currently under consideration in this area. By contrast, the subjects to receive funding, which have been designated as supraregional in the Russian “South Russia” programme, have been very specifically defined:

- Building or restoring hotels and sanatoria;
- Upgrading existing spa resorts or creating new ones (sewage treatment, roads, gas and water pipes);
- Landscape planning, crafts etc.

The projects concentrate on those areas in the Northern Caucasus that were traditionally the most important Russian tourist areas in the former Soviet Union (cf. Figure 14 and Table 7).

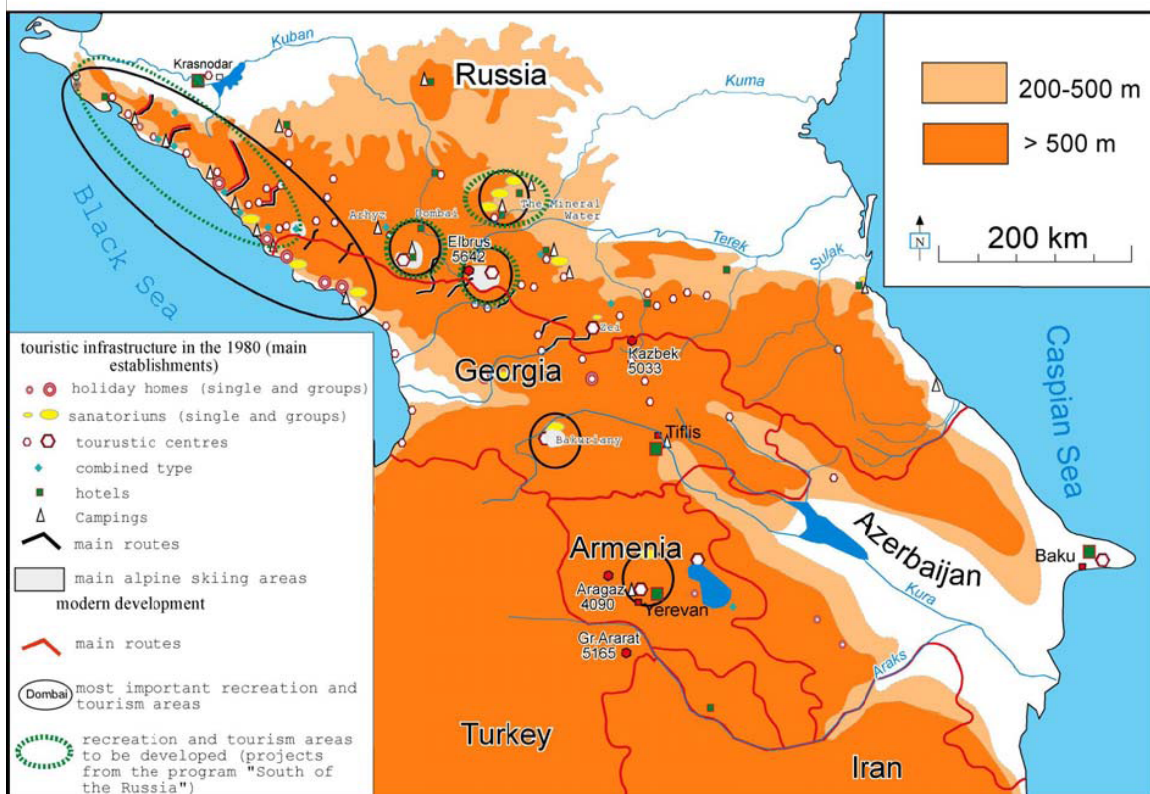


Figure 14: Tourism in the Caucasus

For 5-6 years now, the Georgian spas and sanatoria in Abkhazia have been more intensively used once more. This is an example of informal cross-border relations in the West Caucasus in the field of tourism. The further development of tourism in the West Caucasus is closely linked to cross-border cooperation between Russian and Abkhazian companies in Georgia. Other development factors include security for foreign investors and the lifting of travel restrictions at borders for tourists.

4.6 Transnational and cross-border projects looking at use of resources (taking use of water as an example)

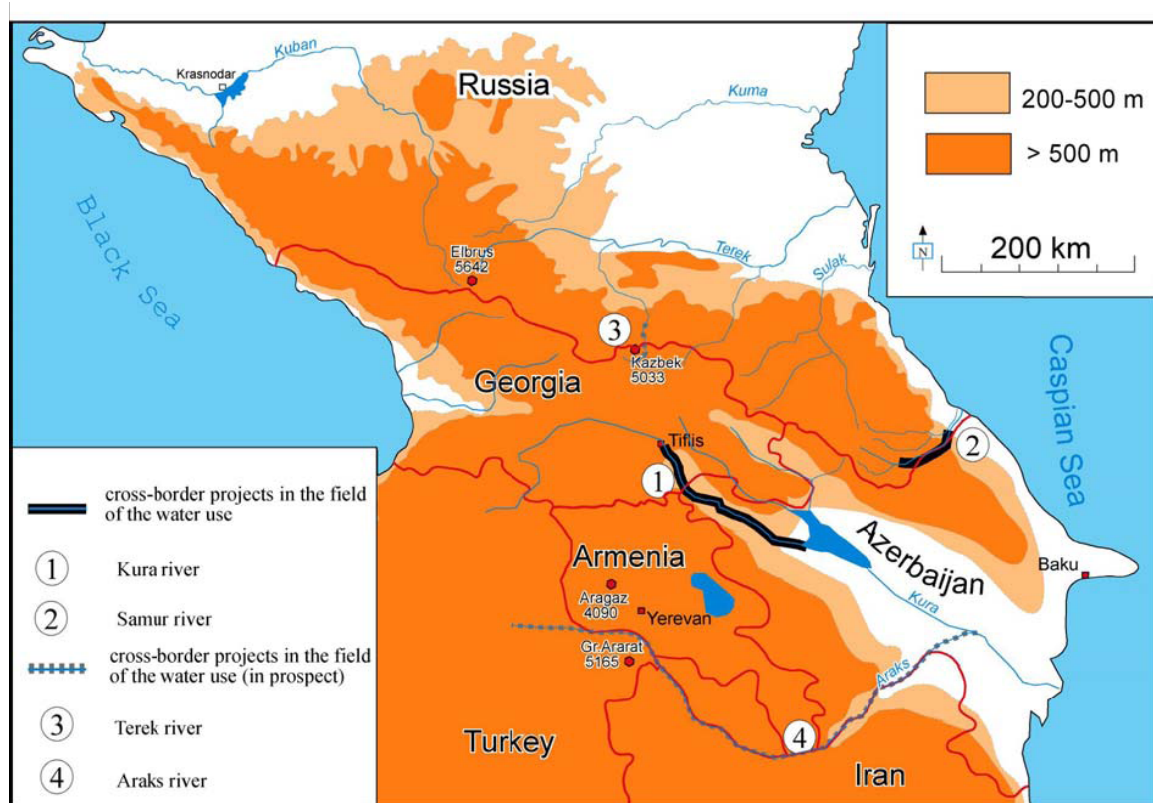


Figure 15: Cross-border water-use projects

The activities of the World Bank and USAID in the Transcaucasian countries aim primarily at sustainable use of resources and are strongly regional in focus.

Transregional projects have to date not progressed beyond plans and

pipedreams. There are currently only three significant projects that aim to solve the problems of shared water use (cf. Figure 15).

The projects planned for the Rivers Kura and Terek have preponderantly ecological aims. In the case of the River Kura, information is being gathered in Georgia about the extent and type of water pollution and corresponding recommendations for appropriate countermeasures are being developed. In the case of the River Terek, an investigation into the pollution of the water on Georgian territory (Kazbegi Rayon) is also of interest, because it subsequently flows through Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, where it used for the public water supply.

Another project that is concerned with classic questions of bilateral use of water from a border river is the Samur project. This project dates back to the Soviet era and is still a subject of bilateral importance (Russia and Azerbaijan) for economic, social and ecological relations.

The River Samur is in the East Caucasus on the border between Russia (Dagestan) and Azerbaijan. The common border on the river is 38 km long and confined to the middle section of the river. The upper course and estuary, as well as the greater part of the catchment area, are in Dagestan (97%). In 1956 a pumping station was built on the River Samur, from where canals were built to Baku (Samur-Apscheronskij Canal) and Dagestan. The water was used for irrigation purposes (Dagestan and Azerbaijan) and to supply water to the city of Baku. From 1967 to 1990, water use was regulated by a bilateral agreement between Azerbaijan and Dagestan.

Between 1990 and 1995, Azerbaijan began extracting more water for its own use (cf. Table 9). Since the distribution station is on Azerbaijani territory, Azerbaijan has unilateral control of the water distribution. This has led to further economic and ecological problems:

- There is no guaranteed minimum water supply to the irrigated agricultural land in Dagestan;

- Degradation of a relic natural complex (known as the Samur Forest) in the Samur Valley;
- Less water from the wells (water supply to the Dagestani city of Derbent) that are situated close to the Samur Valley.

In 1995, Russia proposed dividing the water 50/50 between Azerbaijan and Russia. Azerbaijan rejected the proposal. Russia then developed the project to build its own distribution station on the Russian side of the border in the upper course of the river.

The main aims of this project are:

- To safeguard the water supply for the irrigated agricultural areas and towns and cities in Dagestan;
- To safeguard the minimum flow that is required for ecological reasons;
- To protect ecosystems in the Samur Valley.

However, a precise analysis of this project indicates that, apart from the officially published aims, other endeavours play an important part, such as the attempt to exercise political influence on Azerbaijan, the possible sale of water to Azerbaijan etc.

This is a key project that will have a major impact on Russian-Azerbaijani relations in the near future. The difficult situation could also worsen as a result of the ethno-social factor: the Lezgins live on both sides of the Russian-Azerbaijani border which artificially divides this ethnic minority across the territory of two countries.

5 Obstacles to and opportunities for transnational and cross-border cooperation

An analysis of transnational and cross-border projects in the Caucasus that have been completed, are on-going, or in the planning or preparation stage has shown that the successful implementation of these types of project is highly dependent on the following factors:

1. The quality of bilateral relations between the countries of the Caucasus.

The often very poor quality of bilateral relations between the countries of the Caucasus means that frequently there is no true cross-border cooperation to speak of. The borders between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Georgia and Chechnya are closed. The borders between other countries are however potentially open for transregional and cross-border cooperation. Nevertheless, there to there are often many reservations regarding cross-border cooperation.

2. Need for cooperation at state, regional or local level.

The need for transregional and cross-border cooperation has been described in detail.⁸ The main need is for communication, economic relations, joint tourist use etc. However, these and other concerns are not very visible or have only low priority because the focus is on finding solutions to other problems (internal political strife, conflicts, strategic objectives such as oil transportation etc.).

Thus, for example, on the state level, oil transportation is particularly important to Georgia and Azerbaijan. Important for Armenia are the transport corridors for trading goods with Russia. On a regional level there is a particularly high level of acceptance with regard to the benefit of developing tourism in the West Caucasus (Russia and Abkhazia). Another example of successful cooperation on the regional level can be seen in the diverse nature of relations between North and South Ossetia. On the local level, trade and agricultural relations between Georgia and Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan and Russia (Dagestan) are particularly important.

3. Global interest in transregional and cross-border cooperation in selected regions.

The necessity to preserve biodiversity and unique natural and cultivated landscapes is promoting transnational and cross-border cooperation, although it must be said that here the impetus has on the whole come into the region from outside. Within the Caucasus these subjects tend to be marginal topics that receive very little attention, priority being given to infrastructure and economic development. The opportunities for a region that can arise from integrated approaches to sustainable development usually go unrecognised.

An analysis of transnational and transregional projects shows that there have been numerous investigations and studies of the situation, past developments and work on development scenarios or models, but that very few concrete implementation measures have been developed and few institutions given the remit to implement them. Cross-border cooperation is still based on the old legal foundations and instruments that are more of a hindrance than a help.

There are fewer activities to be found that are of an exclusively cross-border character (about 7% of all transnational, transregional and cross-border projects). There are four types of limitation that determine the chances of cross-border projects being implemented (cf. Figure 16):

1. No potential for implementation because the border is not permeable
2. Very low potential for implementation because the permeability of the border is severely restricted
3. Good prospects of implementation on local authority level
4. Good prospects of implementation on a regional/supraregional level

Azerbaijan and Russia (Dagestan). Here, particularly in the densely populated border regions with their traditional cross-border trade in farm produce, there are good opportunities for projects. Lezgins live on both sides of the border. Russia has already approached Azerbaijan several times with a request for additional border crossing points, because the only existing checkpoints at present are on

the main Baku to Makhachkala road. The border region in the high mountains would seem less well suited for cross-border cooperation, because little need for it has been identified there.

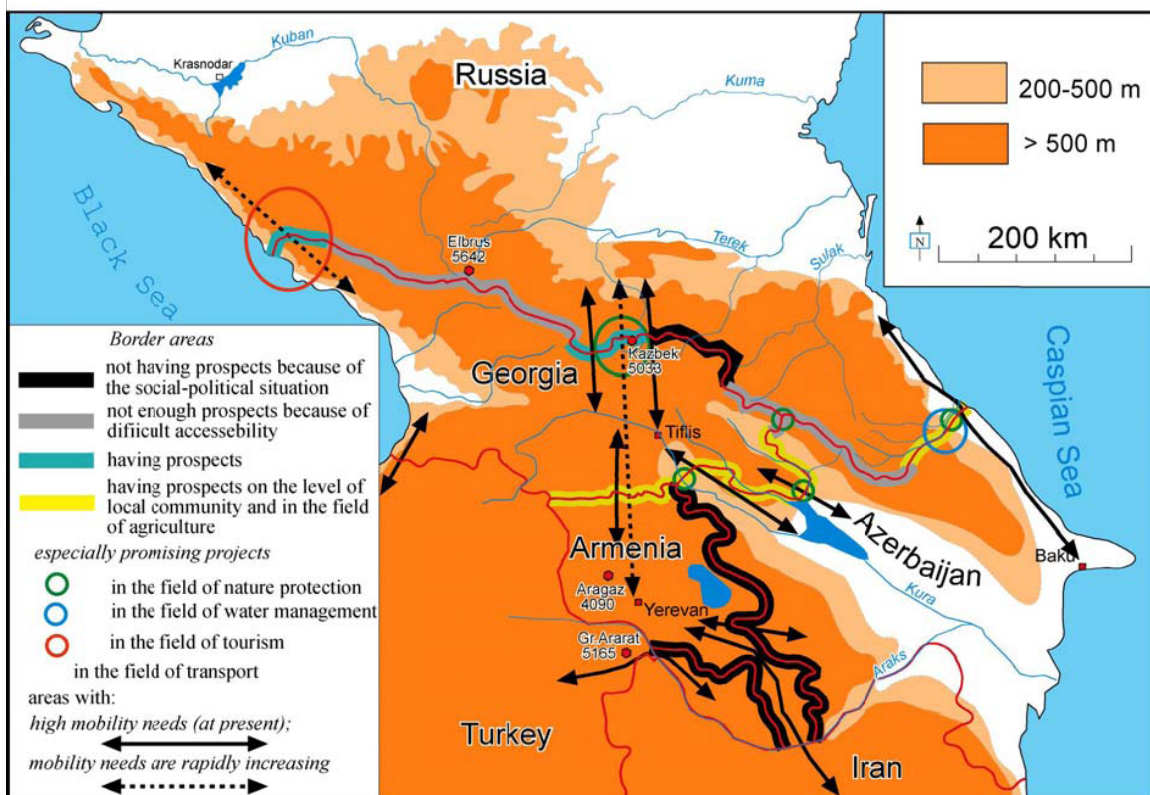


Figure 16: Areas suitable for cooperation and possible subjects for cross-border cooperation

An analysis of existing projects shows that on the Azerbaijan-Russian border there is currently only one ongoing project – distribution of water from the River Samur. Here, however, there seems to be very little prospect of finding a joint solution. Russia is still the only party seeking a solution. .

In the border area between *Azerbaijan and Georgia* it was possible to identify several projects. However, these projects all have a strong ecological focus. Here there is a great deal of potential in the field of trade and agricultural cooperation which is not currently reflected in the on-going and planned projects.

The population on both sides of the border is mixed (Azerbaijanis and Georgians), which would suggest a high potential for success.

It was impossible to find any cross-border projects between *Georgia and Armenia*. This is surprising, because the predominant population on both sides of the border are Armenians and there are traditional cultural and agricultural links.

Relations in the *Russia-Georgia* border area are extremely complicated. For the most part, the border runs along the Greater Caucasus Range, which creates a natural barrier that is difficult to surmount. Access to the high mountain region is currently poor, both in Georgia and Russia (peripheralisation of the high mountain regions) and is a result of the difficult economic situation. The lack of link roads alone means that there is very little chance of any transnational or cross-border cooperation even at local authority level. It is only possible to speak of individual cases of existing cooperation at a regional level:

- . South and North Ossetia, where there are two cross-border roads (this means that projects in the field of transport, tourism, nature conservation, agriculture would be possible);
- Abkhazia (Georgia) - Krasnodarskij kray (Russia) in the field of tourism (there is one existing road).

Particularly important for cross-border cooperation is the reopening of roads between Abkhazia and Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan that have been closed as well as repair of existing roads: Yerevan-Tbilisi-Vladikavkaz, Tbilisi-Baku, Baku-Makhachkala etc. It is particularly important to set up new crossing points along the borders. There are often lengthy checks at the crossing points on the new borders, causing long queues (particularly on the border between Georgia and Russia). Sharply rising mobility needs on the Georgia-Turkey border underline the necessity to rebuild the existing road.

If we analyse all the borders between the four Caucasian states, we can conclude that currently around 5-10% at best of all the border areas would be suitable for large-scale cross-border cooperation that would stand a reasonable

chance of success. At least 30% of areas are currently completely unsuitable for cross-border cooperation and another 40-45% could be described as probably not suitable for projects. For 20% of the border areas it can be assumed that collaborative activities could be successfully launched in the long term, at least on a local level.

6 Basic conditions and decision-making structures for projects

To carry out a project that has a development and implementation character the following prerequisites must be in place:

- Agreement of politicians and the civil service (state, government etc.);
- Clarification of financing;
- Acceptance of the public and their representatives at regional and local level (regional politics, NGOs, the press etc.).

Agreement of politicians and the civil service

The state structures in Russia – federal ministries based in Moscow with responsibility for the relevant subject areas: nature conservation, use of resources (natural resources, water, energy), transport, industry etc. – rank amongst the key institutions (Annex B) that exercise great influence.

Furthermore, cross-border development is controlled and restricted by federal legislation in the field of border protection, customs etc. In the 1990s, insufficient funds were available to develop and carry out independent projects. Thus, during this time, central institutions were responsible more for creating obstacles than providing any impetus.

Today, regional and local state structures (Annex B) also play an important role. Current cross-border relations between Russia and Georgia, Russia and Azerbaijan are based on non-official relations in the border regions (e.g. North and South Ossetia). In order to end this “unofficial” status, the border regions are now demanding greater authority in the field of cross-border cooperation.

In the North Caucasian regions, state structures have considerably greater status than the NGOs that are based there. Since the state institutions focus predominantly on projects with economic objectives, the dispute between the state authorities and the NGOs has become more acute recently in the North

Caucasus. There are very few activities of international organisations and foundations in the field of cross-border cooperation in the North Caucasus.

Since the focus in Russia to date has been on bilateral activities with a clear bias towards the West, in particular the EU and NATO, cross-border cooperation on the southern border in the Caucasus is not a priority. Nevertheless, for individual activities - in the area of the economy and energy supply, for example - the potential and thus the opportunities have been recognised. We can therefore expect a gradual increase in importance and thus in the amount of attention paid. This will mean that relations between the following border regions will play a major role: North Ossetia, South Ossetia, Dagestan and Azerbaijan, the Krasnodar region in Russia and Abkhazia.

Financing instruments

State budget. The salaries and wages for employees with permanent contracts working in nature reserves and scientific institutions are financed out of the state budget. In Russia, the state foundation, RFFI (Russian Fund for Basic Research) is particularly important. Some projects are also financed directly from individual ministries such as the Ministry for Nature Conservation in Russia (11 projects between 1993 and 1998). However, there are virtually no transnational projects. This is connected not only with the difficult economic situation, but also with the lack of interest in transnational cooperation (the Chechen conflict has meant that transnational processes in the Caucasus tended to be seen as negative). The Russian “South Russia” programme heralds a new phase, also with regard to transregional cooperation and joint development of the regions of the North Caucasus. By contrast, it cannot be seen as positive for transnational cross-border development. Some projects, such as water use on the River Samur or the construction of the pipeline, concentrate on developing the Russian part of the Caucasus, without taking the interests of Transcaucasia into account.

Private foundations. Primarily, the Makartur Foundation, Soros, should be mentioned: it was the first foundation in Russia to be founded and it provides decisive funding to science. As one of the most important results, the success in

mobilizing scientists, politicians etc. in the field of integrated development of the Caucasus must be cited. In this context, a series of transnational projects were also funded (Annex A).

Independent funding or third-party funding from NGOs. As is usual for NGOs, financing comes not only from their own funds but also from a wide range of different sources: ISAR, Roll, Eurasia, NAGRES, WWF, IUCN, Horizonti etc. ISAR finances primarily non-scientific projects. The WWF is very active and has a separate department in Georgia. Particularly active in Transcaucasia is the Eurasia Foundation with its “South Caucasus Cooperation Program”: 58 “contact projects” with financing amounting to \$144,539 and 23 “linkage grants” with financing totalling \$1,719,168 in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia must be cited. Above all, innovative projects in the fields of information, coordination and tourism are funded.

International organisations. Above all, EU activities (TACIS and TRACECA programmes) have a transnational focus. On closer examination, however, it is seen that the vast majority of projects are in Transcaucasia. By contrast, the only projects in the Russian part of the Caucasus funded under the TACIS programme are in the field of nature conservation. Within the TRACECA programme, some 90 million euros have been spent since 1993, almost 1/3 of that in Transcaucasia. Other international organisations that are active in the Caucasus are various UN organisations (UNDP, UNEP), NATO and USAID. USAID has injected particularly high levels of funding into regional development in each of the Transcaucasian countries.

Financial organisations: EBRD, World Bank, GEF. The European Bank for Regional Development (EBRD) has backed two transnational projects in Transcaucasia. The World Bank, on the other hand, finances regional development projects in each of the states in the Caucasus. In the 1990s, over \$100 million were invested in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, almost 1/3 of that being spent in the field of nature conservation and use of resources. The GEF backs projects in the field of biodiversity, international water use and the

climate. Between 1995 and 1997, the GEF invested almost \$ 90 million in Russia. Foreign expenditure over the last ten years for nature conservation and rational use of natural resources in Russia amounts to a total of almost 1 billion US dollars. At the Aarhus Conference (Denmark) in June 1998,⁹ the lack of coordination between the funding activities was criticised. In the case of the Caucasus, it is clear that the funding levels of national projects were considerably higher than for transnational and cross-border projects.

NGOs

Two types of NGOs must be clearly differentiated: NGOs that represent state interests or the interests of state civil services and NGOs that pursue their own aims, such as ecologically oriented organisations, which often take action against projects that are biased towards economic interests. An example of this is the protest of ecological NGOs in the West Caucasus against the construction of a road from Maikop to the Black Sea through the Caucasian biosphere reserve and against the reorganisation of this nature reserve. In the East Caucasus there are fewer NGOs, so that state structures prevail and there is no corrective element to represent other interests and initiate countermeasures and checks.

Initiatives by foreign foundations in the fields of information, coordination and setting up local/regional institutions concentrate on Transcaucasia. Since 1994, a number of new organisations that make use of the increasingly accessible Internet have been set up on the initiative of the ISAR Foundation, . Each month a bulletin is published about ecological measures and important developments in Transcaucasia, and an information page on the Internet is currently being prepared. Almost all the NGOs are based in the capitals (Baku, Tbilisi, Yerevan).

Thanks to the support of the Wallace Genetic Foundation and the Sacred Earth Network a telecommunications network for ecologically oriented NGOs working mainly in the Transcaucasian countries was set up. As part of this project, "Caucasian Environment Reports" are published on the Internet. The TEAP programme aims to:

- increase the amount of attention paid to environmental issues in the TACIS countries;
- establish an ecological way of thinking;
- raise the profile of the NGOs;
- take an active part in discussions in society.

Transnational and cross-border projects in Transcaucasia were initiated and backed by foreign foundations. Partner NGOs in Transcaucasia that are working on questions of cross-border cooperation are included in the type of NGO which pursue the remit of their financial backers, i.e. the foundations.

Today a process of bureaucratisation of the Transcaucasian NGOs can be observed. Basically there is now a close cooperation between the state civil service departments and the major NGOs such as the WWF, IUCN etc. In recent years, international organisations have set up departments in Transcaucasia, including, for example, a regional department for the TACIS programme in Tbilisi (Georgia), a Caspian regional centre in Baku etc.

Of the 14 transnational projects in the field of information, organisation and institution building, 12 are in Transcaucasia, whilst in the Russian part of the Caucasus there is a marked deficit. That is connected to the fact that in the North Caucasus only relatively few foreign foundations have to date been active in the field of regional development. By contrast, their activities concentrate primarily on political issues, the war in Chechnya and other conflicts (over 30 different NGOs). To date there is no dedicated Internet network in the North Caucasus, which could form the basis for cooperation between the North Caucasian regions and the North Caucasus as a whole with Transcaucasia, although back in 1998 the Caucasian NGO Forum was organised (Elbrus Declaration of 26.07.1988). This forum deals with conflicts and ethnic problems. This year, the Caucasus Environment Foundation was founded in Tbilisi. In all, over 100 NGOs are active in the Caucasus, working in the field of nature conservation, the environment and regional development. The most important of these are described in Annex C. The majority of NGOs are regional and local in focus.

7 Cooperation in the Caucasus and conclusions to be drawn from the Alpine Convention process

Before launching a broad-based initiative for sustainable development in the entire Caucasus region, the question of what form of comprehensive activities are feasible must first be clarified. In the context of development perspectives, future transnational and cross-border activities in the Caucasus can be divided into three groups:

- 1) Activities that can be initiated in the short term and then implemented in the short to medium term that have a high probability of rapidly generating positive economic, social or ecological developments. This group includes, for example, tourism projects in the West Caucasus, the water-use project in the East Caucasus (a more medium to long term overall implementation) and the project to create the Peace Park with the aim of assuring nature conservation in the Kazbegi area (Central Caucasus). All these activities have not only specific primary aims (tourism in the West Caucasus, nature conservation in the Central Caucasus and water use in the East Caucasus) but also secondary aims connected with balanced sustainable development (ecology, economic and social aspects). The solid foundation needed for the effective implementation of these activities already exists: a number of smaller initial projects have already been carried out successfully, the cooperation processes are running smoothly and the social-political climate is favourable. Furthermore, organisations and experts are available who are in a position to carry out these projects professionally. Three examples of this kind of project are described in Annex E: I; II; III.
- 2) Activities that have a chance of being implemented in the medium term that look at the following problems: identification of obstacles to sustainable development and identification and analysis of obvious mistakes, development of measures and creation of an organisational framework to implement and maintain processes initiated. The primary

aim is to create the appropriate basic conditions and foundations (scientific, methodological, social etc.) to generate concrete transnational activities that can then be implemented in the short term. The analogy that can be cited here is the EU structural funds programme, which is part of the Community initiative INTERREG Line A (cross-border) and B (transnational). A specific analogy is the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space Programme.¹⁰

By contrast, purely theoretical projects do little to produce specific recommendations and implementation measures. There is already a clear gap today between academic work and implementation. Furthermore, there are very few organisations that would be capable of carrying out this work for the entire Caucasus region. For example, there are very few new ideas at present in the Caucasus concerning the implementation of nature conservation aims; the paradigm “protect against use” prevails.

Against this backdrop, the planned establishment of a Caucasus Mountain Centre in Tbilisi (Georgia) could be seen as “just one more” organisation to add to the numerous international organisations already present in Tbilisi (REC, TEAP, SDC, TASIC etc.).

- 3) Activities that take a long-term perspective, formulating strategic goals and creating the basic conditions needed for medium and short-term transnational cooperation. For the Caucasus there are two significant examples of this kind of system of objectives that are often cited in the CIS: the Alpine Convention (protection and development aims for a highly developed mountain region) and the so-called Regional Strategy of Action plan (in Central Asia). Positive developments that have taken place in recent years in individual states that have to a great extent taken their cue from the European Union have engendered the idea that the application of the approach and methodology used for the Alpine Convention in the Caucasus could quickly create the conditions required for transnational

and cross-border projects. By contrast, not one of the countries involved has so far put forward for discussion any strategy specifically adapted to the region. Similarly, there are no agreed proposals for less binding ways of agreeing common goals, in the form of a charter, for example.

Recently, in connection with nature conservation and sustainable development measures, the idea of a "convention" has been voiced with increasing frequency. A convention would come under the third type of activity. All actors who consider that kind of activity to be of particular interest should keep in mind the long-term time scale needed to develop a convention. As a consequence of the general process of democratisation and the increase in international initiatives in the field of sustainable development (e.g. Agenda 21), the desire for legally binding regulations is entirely understandable. However, given the political and geographical structure in the Caucasus and above all the its need for development and, in view of the regional peculiarities, the following reservations are justified here:

- Aims are being seized, and to some extent adopted wholesale, that bear little relation to the actual situation in the Caucasus at present.
- Western methods and concepts are being followed uncritically that are not automatically applicable to the political systems and current situation in the Caucasus.
- No fundamental work has been carried out to identify cross-border protection and development needs for the entire Caucasus and to list them in order of priority.

Insufficient attention is being paid to the fact that the Alpine Convention is not only a treaty that is binding under international law, it is also a process. This process has not yet been concluded. On the contrary, the ratification of the Protocols is about to herald the next phase of the process. And this process has already been developing for almost 50 years, if we take the foundation of CIPRA in 1952 as having given birth to the discussion about an internationally organised way of protecting the Alps. Thus – despite the Alpine Convention's undisputed

model function – it is still not possible definitively to conclude whether a convention that was specially developed for the Alps is the appropriate instrument for achieving in the long term the aims we have formulated.

If we take into account the specific conditions in the Caucasus, which are very different from those in the Alps – even the Alps in 1952, we must consider even more carefully whether we are not looking here at a totally different starting situation. The hypothesis often put forward without thought that the Alpine Convention can quite simply be transposed to other mountain regions in the world, must therefore be very carefully revisited. After all, we are not simply concerned with the question of whether a legal instrument can be adapted, but far more with the question of whether the process associated with it can automatically be applied to this situation.

It is above all the process that is the major element in the dynamic development. The convention itself is static. The process does not end with the completion of the eight implementation protocols and one dispute resolution protocol. By making use of international experience, it might be possible to foreshorten the technical preparation of a number of protocols in the Caucasus. However, the accompanying process that is necessary to reach agreement on a common vision, that is indeed necessary to create an understanding of communality and common responsibility in the first place, will no doubt take much longer. It cannot be simplified or speeded up.

Nevertheless, the Alpine Convention can be a starting point from which to think about sustainable development in the Caucasus and can give us ideas on how to go about setting up the process:

- Categorisation by subject of the fields of action relevant to the sustainable development of a mountain region
- Possible protection aims for each field of action, categorised into primary and secondary aims
- Possible formats for multilaterally recognised legal texts

- Identification of detailed topics that could entail great potential for conflict
- Setting up structures and procedures for the work process

The process behind the Alpine Convention itself provides a great deal of positive empirical experience to draw upon for cross-border cooperation in the Caucasus. Of particular importance are:

- On the state level: the promotion of mutual understanding and the constructive creation of good neighbourly relations in a region that has coherence both in natural terms and as a human habitat.
- The creation through discussions on the state level of a joint goal and action document will mobilise actors at the local and regional level and the NGOs to specify their own concrete goals
- A build up of pressure to implement the joint goals and to adhere to the principles for action that have been published;
- The people living in the region are called upon to look at the question of whether a common identification with this natural space and habitat exists.

However, of prime importance – and this is borne out not only by the experiences gained with the Alpine Convention – is the creation of a permanent foundation for transnational and cross-border cooperation. The “activation” of the public as the major actor in the cooperation process is particularly important here and can be achieved through the following measures:

- Information and public relations work to explain the necessity of cross-border cooperation
- Exchange of opinions in the media and on the Internet;
- Education and training of the actors, also making use of existing experience;
- Support for innovation projects in the most important fields (tourism, nature conservation, joint use of resources);

- Coordination of regional actors and organisations.

A further indispensable foundation for sustainable development throughout the Caucasus is the initiation of a cooperation process in the area of harmonisation of the legal standards of neighbouring countries. Legal standards are often simply the formal expression of aims and implementation instruments. Close cooperation in this area automatically promotes the development of traditional neighbourly relations.

As the study carried out has shown, it is at present far easier to find sponsors in the Caucasus for national projects than for transnational projects. There is no mutual understanding between neighbouring countries, nor amongst other financial backers, on how to stimulate cross-border, let alone transnational, projects. Rather, current funding practices and tendencies of state policies to favour bilateral agreements with the EU is reinforcing the rift between the North Caucasus and Transcaucasia. It therefore seems doubtful whether pursuing this funding practice in the short and medium term will be able to create the foundations needed for a joint overall development of the Caucasus.

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<http://www.dai.com/projects/armenia2.htm>
8. Eurasia Foundation - <http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm>
9. EU-TACIS - <http://europa.eu.int/index.htm>
10. Ecoline in Russland - <http://www.ecoline.ru/>
11. ISAR Foundation - <http://www.isar.org>
12. MakArtur Foundation - <http://www.macfound.org>
13. Regional Eco-Centre in the Caucasus (REC) - <http://rec.caucasus.net>
14. Sandia National Laboratories <http://www.cmc.sandia.gov/caucasus/>
15. State structures in Russia
- <http://www.government.ru/institutions/others>
16. The Tacis Environmental Awareness Raising Programme –
<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Andes/3566/tbilisi/description.html>

17. Transcaucasian Electronic Newsletter for environmental Issues -
<http://caucasus.virtualave.net/project.html>
18. WWF in Russland - <http://www.wwf.ru>

A. Transnational, transregional and cross-border projects in the Caucasus: international foundations (based on the literature and Internet research)

Year	Name of project	Organisation	Foundation	Cost	Type ¹
EU, TACIS					
1996	New regional ecological centres in Russia, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine	Nature conservation ministries	EU-TACIS http://europa.eu.int/index.htm	\$420 000	5
1997	<u>The Tacis Environmental Awareness Raising Programme</u>	The project is implemented by a consortium led by Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide/Brussels	EU Tacis programme http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Andes/3566/tbilisi/description.html		5
2000	Regional eco-centre in the Caucasus (REC)	NGO in Tbilisi http://rec-caucasus.net/index_rus.htm	EU-TACIS		5
EU, TRACECA					
1995	REHABILITATION OF THE	Various	TRACECA, EU	EURO	7

¹ Classification as in Table 6: Transnational and transregional projects in the Caucasus: number of projects, categorised by subject and actors

	CAUCASIAN RAILWAYS			5,000,000	
1997	REHABILITATION OF THE RED BRIDGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRACECA BRIDGE	Khidmsheni JSC Azermost Azerenergstroy Montaj	TRACECA, EU	EURO 2,500,000	7
1997	ESTABLISHMENT OF A FERRY CARGO MOVEMENT COMPUTER SYSTEM AND SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE PORTS OF ILIYCHEVSK (UKRAINE) AND POTI (GEORGIA)	<u>Computer Solutions</u>	TRACECA, EU	EURO 1,500,000	7
1998	DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A RAIL FERRY FACILITY IN THE PORT OF POTI (GEORGIA)	<u>Athena Hellenic Engineering and several other contractors</u>	TRACECA, EU	EURO 3,400,000	7
1998	CONTAINER SERVICES BETWEEN BAKU AND TURKMENBASHI	<u>GABEG and several other contractors</u>	TRACECA, EU	EURO 2,500,000	7

Jahr	Name des Projektes	Organisation	Foundation	Kosten	Typ ²
1998	CARGO AND CONTAINER HANDLING EQUIPMENT FOR THE COTTON EXPORT LOGISTICS CENTRE NEAR BUKHARA (UZBEKISTAN), AND FOR THE SEAPORTS OF BAKU (AZERBAIJAN), TURKMENBASHI (TURKMENISTAN), POTI (GEORGIA) AND ILIYCHEVSK (UKRAINE)	<u>several other contractors</u>	TRACECA, EU	EURO 5,825,000	7
	SUPPLY OF AN OPTICAL CABLE SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATION AND SIGNALLING TO THE RAILWAYS OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA	Siemens	TRACECA, EU	EURO 15,000,000	7
MacArtur Foundation					
1996	Wildlife Regional Study in the Caucasus	Government of Georgia	MacArtur Foundation		1
2000	Support of research on Chechen refugees in Georgia and the effect of	Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy and	MacArtur Foundation	\$100,000	4

² Classification as in Table 6: Transnational and transregional projects in the Caucasus: number of projects, categorised by subject and actors

	war in Chechnya on Georgia's internal stability and regional security	Development, Tbilisi, Georgia			
WWF					
1990	Conservation Programme for the Caucasus	Government	WWF		1
1995	Establishing a nature reserve (on the border between Azerbaijan, Georgia und Russia)	Russian, Georgian and Azerbaijani NGOs	WWF		1
1999	Analysis of the current situation and development of priority measures for nature conservation and the rational use of bioresources in the Caucasus	Russian and Georgian WWF (NGOs)	WWF http://www.wwf.ru/proj/index.html	\$80000	1
NACRES					
1996	Brown Bear (Ursus arctos) Conservation Program	Government of Georgia	NACRES		1
1999	Transcaucasian Electronic Newsletter for environmental Issues	Armenian NGO	NACRES http://caucasus.virtualave.net/project.html		5
1999	Conservation of Alpine and Sub-alpine Wetlands in the Caucasus	Government of Georgia	NACRES		1
EBRD					

1999	Caucasus Fund, Regional		EBRD	\$8 mio	5
2000	EBRD Violates Rules for Environmental Procedures with the Frontera Resources Project	Georgian and Azerbaijani NGOs	EBRD	\$60 mio	8
Eurasia					
1999	South Caucasus Librarian and Information Specialist Network	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$47000	5
2000	South Caucasus Region-Wide Information Directory	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$44000	5
	Regional Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of Transport and Freight Forwarding	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$90000	7
2001	Support for the development of Farming in the South Caucasus	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$100 000	9
	Development of Eco/Agro-tourism in the South Caucasus	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$100 000	6
	Caucasus Tourism Information System	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$93 000	6

	Designing and Publishing a Tourist Guide for the South Caucasus	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$57 000	6
	Regional Training Center "Caucasus"	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$96 000	6
	Caucasus Regional Network on Improving Election Systems	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Eurasia http://www.efscpp.org/grants.htm	\$99 000	5
USAID					
1998	Networking Equipment Grants electronic bulletin - Caucasus Environmental News	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	USAID		5
2000	Strengthening Water Management in the South Caucasus	DAI – development Alternatives, Inc, USA. http://www.dai.com/projects/armenia2.htm	USAID	Phase I \$830,000 Phase II Implementation \$3,169,000	8

Others					
1993-94	Wolf Re-stocking in Lesser Caucasus Mountains	Caucasian Wolf-Switzerland	MGELI-Fund		1
1995	Caspian Environment Program transboundary thematic areas	<u>10 regional centres</u> and Programme Coordination Unit in Baku	GEF, UNEP, TACIS www.caspianenvironment.org		3
1996	Sustainable tourism and integrated development of Caucasus mountains	Sustainable Tourism Centre, Tbilisi (NGO)	Several Foundations		6
1998	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian NGOs	Sacred Earth Network		5
1998	Ornithological Monitoring along Oil Pipeline	GCCW (Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife) and Azerbaijanian Ornithological Society	Horizonti Foundation		1
1998	Caucasian Conflict Early Warning Pilot Project	Russian Academy of Sciences/Institute of Ethnology Human Rights Centre Azerbaijan, Caucasian Institute for Peace,	GEDS		4

		Democracy and Development			
1999	Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystem in the Caucasus	Government of Georgia	UNDP/GEF, NACRES		1
1999	Northern Caucasus-Emergency		UNDP		4
	Protection and management of transboundary river Kura	Azerbaijan and Georgia NGOs	UNO, GEF		1
1999	Inst Frameworks in the Caucasus	IUCN	Oxford University	\$10 000	5
1999	Projects on study, protection and improvement of an ecological conditions of the rivers Kura and Araks	Transkaukasian NGOs	ISAR, Soros Foundation, UNDP, TACIS, Eurasia		1
2001	Cooperative River Management among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the U.S.	Sandia National Laboratories http://www.cmc.sandia.gov/caucasus/	NATO http://www.cmc.sandia.gov/caucasus/		8

B. State Structures

Ministries of natural resources in the North Caucasus			
Region	Head	E-mail	Address
Kabardino-Balkaria	Ivanov Igor	kbgeokom@digsys.ru	360030 Naltschik, Tarchokova 18
Adygea	Kozmenko Georgij	nature@maycop.ru	385000 Maikop, Gagarina 52
North Ossetia - Alania	Vagin Vladimir	cnr@globalalania.ru	360221 Vladikavkaz, Iristonskaja 25
Ingushetia	Hamhoev Hasmago med		366700 Ingushetia, Staniza Ordshonikidzevskaja, Demchenko 76
Karachay-Cherkessia	Tambiev Aslambek	kpr@mail.svkchr.ru	357100 Cherkessk, Kavkazskaja 19, k.506
Chechnya	Dohtukaev Timerlan		366900 Chechnya, Gudermes, Prospekt Lenina 5
Dagestan	Aliev Nurij-Kadi	dkv@datacom.ru	367027 Makhachkala, Buganova, 17b
Krasnodarskij krai	Velichko Sergei		350000 Krasnodar, Krasnaja 19
Stavropolskij krai	Panasenk o Nikolai	stvodres@avn.skiftel.ru	355038 Stavropol, Lenina 480
Ministerial department for the North Caucasus region	Magometo v Abdul- muslim		357600 Essentuki, per. Sadovy 4a
<p style="text-align: center;">Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation</p>			

Head of Environmental Cooperation Division	Evgeny GORSH KOV	Tel.: + (7-095) 254 79 47 Fax : + (7-095) 254 82 83 Telex : 411692 BOREI RU e-mail : root@ecocom.ru	Russian Federation Moscow 123995, D-242, GSP-5 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya 4/6
Leading Specialist	Ms. Elena BAGRIC HEVA	Tel.: + (7-095) 254 86 01 Fax : + (7-095) 254 82 83 Telex : 411692 BOREI RU e-mail : root@ecocom.ru	Russian Federation Moscow 123995, D-242, GSP-5 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya 4/6

Ministries of economic development and trade in the North Caucasus (Russia)			
Region	Head	E-mail	Address
Adygea	Zubenko Sergej	mineco@maykop.ru	385000 Maikop, Pionerskaja 199
Ingushetia	Gaisanov Rashid	(87345) 5-11-16,5-11-32 http://www.ingushetia.ru/	366700 Ingushetia, Staniza Ordshonikidzevskaja, Demchenko 76
Dagestan	Sainalov Shamil	(8722) 683122	367012, Dagestan, Makhachkala, Abubakarova 67
Stavropolskij krai	Gaevski Valeri	35-44-71; Fax 26-68-13 invest@stavropol.net	355025 Stavropol, Lenina 1

Ministries in Transcaucasia			
Region	Head	E-mail, Telephon, Fax	Address
Armenia, Ministry of Nature Protection	Mourad Mouradyan	Tel.: + (3741) 52 10 99 Fax : + (3741) 15 15 95	35, Moskovian, Yerevan, 375002
Advisor to the Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia President of Environmental Advocacy Center (EPAC)	Ms. Aida ISKOYA N-	Tel.: + (3741) 53 92 55, 58 98 34 Tel/Fax : + (3741) 53 06 69 e-mail : epac@arminco.com e-mail : aidaisk@arminco.com	Moskovyan 35 Yerevan, 375002
Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia	Ms. Nune DARBINYAN	Tel/Fax : + (3741) 53 18 61 e-mail : nuneemil@yahoo.com	Moskovyan 35 Yerevan, 375002
Armenia, Ministry of Industry and Trade, department of tourism development	Egoyan Abgar	Tel: (374 2) 566 639; (374 2) 526 577	5, Anrapetutyan, Yerevan
Azerbaijan, Government ecology committee	Bagirov Gussejn	Tel.: (8922) 385454, Fax: (8922) 398432	Bahrama Agaeva Str. 100a, 370073, Baku

Georgia , Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia	Frau Nino Chkhobad ze	Tel: (+995-32) 23-06-64, 33-47-29 Fax: (+ 995-32) 94-36-70, 33-39-52 gmep@access.sanet.ge	68a, Kostava Str. 380015, Tbilisi
Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia	Ms. Margaret KHIDIRB EGISHVI LI	Tel.: + (995 32) 23 06 64 Tel/Fax : + (995 32) 33 40 82 Fax : + (995 32) 94 36 70, 98 34 25 e-mail : <u>gmep@access.sanet.g</u> <u>e</u>	68a, Kostava 380015, Tbilisi
Committee on Mountain Regions of the Parliament of Georgia	Ms. Nana TALAKV ADZE	Tel.: + (995 32) 93 43 58 Fax : + (995 32) 92 12 83	Rustaveli 8, Tbilisi 380018 Georgia
Georgien, State Department of Tourism and Resorts	Shubladze Vazha	Tel: (+995-32) 22-61-35, 22-61-25 Fax: (+995-32) 98-2477	80, Chavchavadze Str., Tbilisi
Georgien, Ministry of Agriculture and Products	Bakur Gulua	Tel: (+995-32) 99-62-61 Fax: (+995-32) 99 94 44	41, Kostava 380023, Tbilisi

Georgia, State Department of Preserved Territories, Reservations and Hunting Farms	Shishniash vili Ramaz	Tel: (+995-32) 23-50-77 Fax: (+995-32) 23-51-50	84, Chavchavadze ave. 380062, Tbilisi
Georgia, State Department of Forestry	Japaridze Givi	Tel: (+995-32) 39-19-41 Fax: (+995-32) 32-05-49	9, Mindeli 380086, Tbilisi

C. Caucasian NGOs

Country or region	Name	Contact	Address	Main aims
Armenia	Bars Media	Hovhanniss yan Vardan	Mashtots Str. 53, Yerevan, bars@arminco.com , Tel. 562601	Information on environmental issues
Armenia	Armenian eco- tourism association	Shanna Galyan	Abovjan Str. 44-2, Yerevan, 375025 Tel. 397552 Zhanna@freenet.am	Eco-tourism
Armenia	Foundation „Hazer“	Gabrieljan Aram, Rubina Stepanjan	khazer@nature.am ; http://www.nature.am/ Khazer	Ecological education, tourism
Armenia	CENN	Tigran Arsumanja n	http://www.cenn.org	PR, coordination in the field of environmental policies
Armenia	Association for Human Sustainable Development	Danieljan Karine	ashd@freenet.am ; http://users.freenet.am/ -ashd	

Armenia	Environmental Survival Organisation	Ghukasjan Evelina	esu@sci.am ; http://caucasus.virtuale.net	
Armenia	EPAC (Environmental Public Advocacy Center)	Iskojan Aida	epac@arminco.com	
Armenia	Sustainable Development	Ter-Nikoghosjan Victoria	nkaramya@freenet.am	
Georgia	REC	Armen Martirosjan	programs.rec@caucasus.net ; www.rec-caucasus.org	Coordination and ecological information
Georgia	CENN	Nana Janashhia	Cenn@access.sanet.ge ; http://www.cenn.org	Coordination of ecologically oriented NGOs
Georgia	Sustainable Tourism Center	Vano Vashakmadze	Abashidze 40, Tbilisi, Tel/Fax: 99532 250937 E-mail: stc@gol.ge	Eco-tourism, nature conservation
Georgia	WWF-Georgia	Nugsar Sasanashvili	nzazanashvili@wwfgeo.org	Nature conservation and protection of species
Georgia	Elkana	Nana Nemsadze	Elkana@access.sanet.ge	Ecological farming
Georgia	GRID-Tbilisi	Msia Gvilava, Manana Kartubadse	grid@gridtb.caucasus.net	Ecological development
Georgia	NACRES (Noe's Arch-Center for the recovery of	Zurab Guerielidze	nacres@access.sanet.ge	protection of species

	Endangered Species)			
Georgia	Association „Green Alternative“	Kohladze Manana	greenalt@wanex.net	
Azerbaijan	Rusgar	Islam Mustafaev	imustafaev@iatp.baku.az	Eco-monitoring
Azerbaijan	ECORES	Shahin Panahov	Ecores@iatp.baku.az	Collection and dissemination of ecological information
Azerbaijan	CENN	Aiten Poladova	http://www.cenn.org	Coordination of ecologically oriented NGOs
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani Green Movement	Faruda Hussejnova	Ngo@isar.baku.az	Environmental protection
Azerbaijan	ISAR-Caucasus	Enver Safar-Zade	ngo@isar.baku.az	Training, consultancy
Azerbaijan	Ecolex	Samir Isajev	ecolex@azdata.net	Training, consultancy for the local NGOs
Azerbaijan	Ecopark	Hikmet Salahov	ecopark@azeronline.com	Environmental protection, education
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani Environment Union	Sabir Israfilov	isabir@azdata.net	Environmental protection
Adygea	Socio-ecological union of Adygea	Andrei Rudomaha	les@mail.ru	Independent ecological expertise, information
Krasnodarskij kray	Southern regional resource centre	Tatjana Lyskina	Ssrc@krasnodar.ru ; www.ssrc.ru	Support for NGOs
Kabardino-Balkaria	Aura	Boris Kolchenko	Aura@kbsu.ru	Environment
Krasnodarsk	“Autonomous effect”	Dmitri	Fak-kr@mail.ru	Ecology and

ij kray	– Krasnodar	Rjabinin		Environment
Krasnodarsk ij kray	“Green flash”	Semen Simonov	lmeret@mail.ru	Information
Caucasus	Caucasus NGO Forum	2001 in Vladikavkas, Forum@alanianet.ru		Coordination of NGOs in the field of conflicts, ethnic issues etc.

Other Georgian NGOs working in the field of nature conservation and ecology can be found at the following address: <http://www.gidra.no/enrin/htmls/georgia/soegeor/english/institut/ngo/list.htm>

North Caucasian NGOs working in the field of conflicts, ethnic issues etc. can be found at the following address: <http://www.caucasus.neutralzone.com>

D. Annex of data and tables

Number on map in Figure 6	Name	Surface area (km ²)	Implementation of management or zoning concept
Armenia			
1	Dilishan	290	implemented
2	Khosrov	292	Not implemented
3	Shikahog	100	Partially implemented
4	Erebuni	1	Not implemented
5	Sevlich	2	Not implemented
Azerbaijan			
6	Zakatala	238	Not implemented
7	Ilisu	92	Not implemented
8	Gara-Jaz	49	Not implemented
9	Gej-Gel'	71	No details available
10	Turjan-Chai	126	Not implemented
11	Ismaili	58	Not implemented
12	Pirkuli	15	Not implemented
13	Alty-Agach	44	Not implemented
14	Gara-Göl	2	No details available
15	Ag-Göl	44	No details available
16	Gobustan	k.A.	Partially implemented
17	Shirvan	258	Not implemented
18	Gysyl-Agach	264	Not implemented
19	Basut-Chau	1	Not implemented
20	Girkan	29	Not implemented
Georgia			
21	Algeti	64	Not implemented
22	Ahmeti	163	Not implemented
23	Adshameti	48	Not implemented
24	Pizunda-Myussera	15	No details available
25	Borshomi	680 ³	Partially implemented
26	Vashlovani	80	Not implemented
27	Kintrishi	139	Not implemented
28	Lagodehi	178	Not implemented
29	Liahvi	64	Not implemented
30	Mariamdshevi	10	Not implemented
31	Riza	172	No details available
32	Saguramo	53	Not implemented
33	Sataplia	4	Not implemented
34	Pshu-Gumista	408	No details available
35	Kazbegi	87	Partially implemented
36	Kobuleti	3	Not implemented

³ In conjunction with Borschomi-Karagauli National Park

Russia			
37	Dagestansky	191	Partially implemented
38	Teberdinsky	850	implemented
39	Kabardino-Balkarsky	825	implemented
40	Severo-Osetinsky	295	implemented
41	Kavkasky biospherny	2 803	implemented
48	Ersinski	?	Not implemented
National parks			
Armenia			
42	Sevan	248	implemented
Georgia			
43	Borshomi-Karagauli	298	Partially implemented
44	Kolheti	?	Not implemented
Russia			
45	Priel' brusje	1 012	Partially implemented
46	Sochinsky	1 913	Partially implemented
47	Alania	549	Not implemented

Table 3: Protected areas in the Caucasus: implementation status of measures

	Nature	Technology relating to use of resources	Information; society	total
local	17	20	8	45
regional	50	30	25	105
Transregional and transnational	20	8	2	30
total	87	58	35	180

Table 4: Research projects and applications in the Caucasus 1993-1996: key subjects and geographical areas studied (data base: 307 selected projects from the entire period up 2000)

	Nature	Technology relating to use of resources	Information; society	total
local	14	5	11	30
regional	27	24	24	75
Transregional and transnational	10	1	11	22
Total	51	30	46	127

Table 5: Research projects and applications in the Caucasus 1997-2000: key subjects and geographical areas studied (data base: 307 selected projects from the entire period since 1993)

Project group	Individual research projects (“contact projects” – a selection from a total of 307 projects, 1993-2000)	„linkage grants“		State projects “South Russia” programme ⁴ (2002-2006) a selection from a total of 714 projects)
		1993-2000 ⁵	WWF – projects in the planning stage (a selection from a total of 307 projects ⁶)	
1- High-mountain ecology, biodiversity, nature reserves	18	11	22	1
2 - Black Sea	9	0	0	1
3 - Caspian Sea	8	1 Programme	0	18
4 – Ethnic groups, conflicts	11	1	1	7
5 - Information, coordination, institution	3	11	22	34

⁴ Not including Volgograd region

⁵ Selection from different sources, including the Internet

⁶ Biodiversity of the Caucasus Ecoregion. WWF. Moscow, 2001.

6 – Tourism incl. eco-tourism	1	5	2	145
7 – Infrastruktur, Transport	2	8	0	58
8 – Energy, use of resources	0	3	0	24
9 - Agriculture	0	1	0	50

Table 6: Transnational and transregional projects in the Caucasus: number, categorised by subject and actors

Key to colours: total costs per subgroup

	Up to \$100 000
	\$100 000 - \$1 million
	\$1 Mio.- \$10 million
	Over ten million

Number or letter in Figure 6	Name	Region
41	Caucasus biosphere reserve	Krasnodarskij kray, Adygea (Russia)
31	Riza	Abkhazia (Georgia)
A	Arhyz (planned national park)	Karachay-Cherkessia (Russia)
38	Teberdinsky	Karachay-Cherkessia (Russia)
34	Pshu-Gumista	Abkhazia (Georgia)
45	Priel'brusje	Kabardino-Balkaria (Russia)
S	Svanety (planned national park)	Georgia
39	Kabardino-Balkarsky	Kabardino-Balkaria (Russia)
R	Racha (planned national park)	Georgia
29	Liahvi	Georgia
40	Severo-Osetinski	North Ossetia-Alania (Russia)
29	Kazbegi	Georgia
48	Erzinski	Ingushetia (Russia)
22	Ahmeti	Georgien
T	Tusheti (planned national park)	Georgien
D1	Tliartinski (planned nature reserve)	Dagestan (Russia)
D2	Bogosskij (planned nature reserve)	Dagestan (Russia)
28	Lagodehi	Georgia

6	Zakatala	Azerbaijan
7	Ilisu	Azerbaijan
13	Alty-Agach	Azerbaijan
D3	Samur	Dagestan (Russia)

Table 7: Planned “Green Corridor” along the Greater Caucasus

Region	No. of projects in the South Russia programme (2002-2006)
Black Sea coast	40
<i>Of these: Sochi</i>	19
<i>Krasnaya Polyana</i>	7
<i>Anapa</i>	7
Caucasian mineral spas (e.g. Kislovodsk, Pyatigorsk, Essenuki)	41
Kabardino-Balkaria	13
<i>Of these: in the Elbrus region</i>	10
Dombai-Teberda (Karachay-Cherkessia)	14
Adygea	4
North Ossetia	7
Dagestan and Caspian coast	8

Table 8: Regional distribution of projects in the field of tourism in the South Russia programme (2002-2006)

	Dagestan (km³)	Azerbaijan (km³)	Ecological flow (km³)
1955	0,09	0,3	1,36
1967-1990	0,3	0,89	0,56
1990-until today	0,16-0,18	1,1	0,47
Russian proposal from 1995	0,39	0,39	0,92

Table 9: Distribution of water from the border river, the Samur

- E.** Transnational project: proposals for the International Year of the Mountains 2002 in the fields of nature conservation (I), sustainable tourism (II), cross-border water use (III)
- I.** Development of a regional planning concept for cross-border nature conservation and sustainable land use in the Kasbek region (Georgia, Russia)

Project/action (working title):

Development of a regional planning concept for cross-border nature conservation and sustainable land use in the Kasbek region (Georgia, Russia)

Problem and objective:

The rift between the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasian countries is still the major obstacle to further development in this region. The border closures of the last decade have given rise to a number of serious negative consequences for the sensitive eco-systems of the Caucasus.

These coincide with the pollution and strains on this natural landscape that already exist. The major problems in the Central Caucasus are:

The lack of a joint nature conservation strategy in the high-mountain region of the Central Caucasus;

Overgrazing as a result of the border closure and ending of grazing on distant pastures and transhumance practices near centres of population;

Destruction of cultivated landscapes due to the abandonment of agricultural land and, in particular, pastures in the sprawling high-mountain region;

High levels of exhaust gas and particulate emissions on the heavily used transit roads (Georgian Military Road and the Transcaucasian Highway) etc. The specific aim behind the development of a regional planning concept in the transnational Kasbek area is to create the foundation for a transnational Kasbek biosphere reserve. An effective regional development strategy will also include nature conservation and sustainable land use in its objectives and will involve the land use actors in the process.

Situation in the region:

The Kasbek region is in the Central Caucasus, on the border between Russia and Georgia, and includes the northeastern territory of South Ossetia (republic in Georgia with unresolved status). At the heart of the region is Mount Kasbek (5033m), the second highest mountain in the Caucasus. For a long time, it has been the symbol of the entire Caucasus and it is considered sacred by the local people. Ossetians and Georgians live in the area. There are three large nature reserves here – Kasbegi, Liahvi and the Alania National Park; there are also two important transit roads “North Caucasus - Transcaucasia”.

Prerequisites:

A cross-border dialogue would favour the special visa-free border crossing regulations that apply to the people living in the border regions of South and North Ossetia and Kasbegi Rayon. There is no longer any ethnic tension between Ossetians and Georgians. However, the peace that has now been established should be consolidated through concrete joint measures.

Tasks:

Landscape planning and development of proposals for an overall network of nature reserves in the Kasbek area;

Zoning of land use across the entire territory taking into account both nature conservation interests and the interests of all actors on all levels (from the central government to local authority) (clustering of interests);

Drawing up a development strategy for each development zone and each interest group (formation of clusters).

<p>Necessary steps: Document current land use and existing nature reserves in the Kasbek area, process the information using GIS, draw up a development strategy using the expertise of the parties involved in the project (from Georgia and Russia).</p>	<p>Lead responsibility: Alpenforschungs-institut, Geography Institute at the Russian Academy of Science</p>	<p>Parties involved: Vano Vashakmadze Sustainable Tourism Center (NGO) Abashidze str. 40, 1st floor, Tbilisi, Georgia Tel/Fax: 99532 250937 E-mail: stc@gol.ge; Dr. Kosta Dzugaev, South Ossetian University, Zhinvali, Koblova 22, Tel. 00995-99-190459 E-mail: dzugaev_ir@omen.ru Dr. Ailarov Aivar North Ossetian University, Vladikavkaz, 362021, Tel: (867-2) 33-09-62</p>	<p>Time scale: 06.2002-12.2003 (18 months)</p>
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II. Development of a Management Plan for sustainable tourism in the mountain region of the West Caucasus

Project/action (working title):

Development of a Management Plan for sustainable tourism in the mountain region of the West Caucasus

Problem and objective:

For a long time, tourism in the West Caucasus has been a decisive factor in the region's development. The destruction of the entire traditional holiday and recreational area in the West Caucasus by the new state borders has resulted in many negative processes, such as seasonal strain caused by tourism (particularly in coastal regions on the Black Sea), a sharp drop in tourist numbers (in the high-mountain region), destruction of the entire tourist infrastructure (routes from the North Caucasus to the Black Sea) etc. Whilst in the Russian part of the Black Sea coast all the hotels are overcrowded, those in the Georgian part are half empty (Abkhazia). On the other hand, the new market-oriented tourism development trends are causing a serious conflict with nature conservation. The aim of the project is to develop cross-border measures and to manage tourism in the West Caucasus in a way that is in harmony with nature conservation.

Situation in the region:

The area under study is in the West Caucasus and includes both the Russian regions Krasnodarskij kray and Adygea, and Abkhazia (Georgia). Many West Caucasian ethnic groups live in the area, including Adygeans, Cherkessians, Shapsugs, Abkhazians, and Georgians. The largest protected area in the Caucasus, the "Caucasian biosphere reserve", is situated here, as is the Sochinski national park and the Riza, Pshu-Gumista and Pizunda-Myussera nature reserves. There is a very diverse landscape structure to be found here in a relatively small region, ranging from the nival-glacial zone to the subtropical zone on the coast. There is no doubt that this area has great potential for developing tourism.

Prerequisites:

Now that the war between Abkhazians and Georgians has ended, the region is currently enjoying a phase of peace. The numerous sanatoriums, holiday homes and hotels are gradually being reconstructed and are frequented in summer by tourists and holiday visitors from all over the Caucasus. The fact that visas are not required to cross the border from Krasnodarski kray (Russia) to Abkhazia is facilitating the development of contact between the border regions.

Tasks:

To analyze the situation and identify trends (visitor numbers, capacity);

Identify existing and potential control measures;

Draw up a concept for managing regional development focusing on “Tourism – nature conservation and environmental protection”

Necessary steps:	Lead responsibility:	Parties involved:	Time scale:
Draw up an inventory (statistics, capacity, demand) Assess the situation and analyze trends Describe the conflicts (nature conservation - tourism) Develop measures and recommendations	Alpenforschungs-institut, Geography Institute at the Russian Academy of Science	State University in Maykop (Adygea), GIS laboratory. Pervomaiskaja (Universitetskaja) 208. Maykop, 352719. Dr. Varschanina Tatjana. Tel: 007-087722-17444. Agu@istnet.ru Prof. Beruchashvili Nikolai, University in Tbilisi, Chavchavadze 1, Tel: 99532 –323854; E-mail: berou@instex.ge Krasnodarskij kray , Nationalpark Sotschinskij, Mail: forest@sochi.ru, Tel. 007-8622-927313, Ivan Avdonin	06.2002- 12.2003 (18 months)

III. Landscape planning concept in the catchment area of the River Samur based on different cross-border water distribution scenarios (Azerbaijan – Dagestan)

Project/action (working title):

Landscape planning concept in the catchment area of the River Samur based on different cross-border water distribution scenarios (Azerbaijan – Dagestan)

Problem and objective:

There has always been a serious water-use problem in the East Caucasus. At local level, the water distribution question is dealt with on the basis of long-standing traditions. The large-scale water distribution systems, such as the Samur-Apscheronskij Canal (Smur-Baku), were built during the Soviet era. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the water distribution problems re-emerged:

Political problems. A regulation of use of water from the Samur imposed unilaterally by Azerbaijan (although 97% of the catchment area is in Russia);

Economic problems. There is not enough water to supply the irrigated farm lands;

Ecological problems. The reduction in flow in the Samur to a level below that which is ecologically required has caused a drop in the ground water table, which also has ecological and other consequences for the relic forest in the Samur Valley;

Ethnic problems. Lezgins live on both sides of the River Samur. They are monophyletic and have traditional kinship ties.

The objective is to draw up a landscape planning concept that will take into account the various water distribution options and aim to reduce any potential ecological consequences.

Situation in the region:

The River Samur is the East Caucasus on the border between Russia (Dagestan) and Azerbaijan. The river forms a common border for 38 kilometers, exclusively in the middle section of the river. The upper section and estuary are in Dagestan. The majority of the catchment area is in Dagestan (97%). In 1956 a hydrostation was constructed on the River Samur, from which canals to Baku (Samur-Apscheronskij Canal) and Dagestan were built. The water was used for irrigation (Dagestan and Azerbaijan) and for water supply to the city of Baku.

Lezgins live on both sides of the border between Azerbaijan-Russia (250,000 in Dagestan and 175,000 in Azerbaijan).

Prerequisites:

Both Russia and Azerbaijan have an interest in optimizing water distribution. At the moment the situation on the border is characterized by intensive trade; there is no visa regime; scientific studies are being carried out in this area.

Tasks:

1. Analyze the situation;
2. Assess and analyze development trends and possible ecological effects if water distribution remains unchanged (more than 50% of the flow is transported to Azerbaijan);
3. Assess and analyze development trends and possible ecological effects of the Russian water distribution option (50% - 50%);
4. Develop a landscape planning concept for the Samur catchment area.

Necessary steps:	Lead responsibility:	Parties involved:	Time scale:
Mapping and zoning the territory	Alpenforschungs-institut,	Institute of Geography in Baku	06.2002-12.2003 (18 months)
Gathering statistics	Geography Institute	(Azerbaijan), Prof. Budagov.	
Describing scenarios	at the Russian Academy of Science	Economics Ministry of the Dagestan Republic,	
Drawing up a landscape planning		Shahmard Muduev,	

concept		Minec@Datacom.ru Interwod. Moscow, Enisejskaja 2, k. 906. Tel. 1891922. Kotljarov Yuri.	
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¹ A further example of the fact that the new geopolitical framework has not yet been fully accepted in the world is illustrated by the fact that Pamir is not integrated into the ICIMOD structure.

² The GUUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova) group was founded as a political, economic and strategic alliance in order to strengthen the independence and sovereignty of these former republics of the Soviet Union. Further information can be found at www.guuam.org.

³ For further information cf. <http://www.traceca.org/tracecaf.htm>

⁴ Irrigation system in Central Asia, railway construction in Siberia etc.

⁵ Of course, individual projects also existed during the Soviet era. However, they were subject to stringent bureaucratic and ideological control.

⁶ A separate federal programme was developed for Chechnya

⁷ From 1995 onwards the WWF, along with Russian representation, has worked on establishing a coordinated system for transboundary protected areas in the East Caucasus, based on Lagodekhi (Georgia) and Zakatala (Azerbaijan) reserves and Tliarti strict national reserve (Daghestan/Russian Federation).

⁸ Cf. also the final report: Wissenstransfer und Erfahrungsaustausch mit Russia und GUS Staaten, A. Gunja, Th. Bausch, AFI Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 2000

⁹ The "Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters" requires its parties to develop extensive rules for guaranteeing the public's right to know about potential threats to the environment. Developed through the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the convention has been ratified by five countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), 10 New Independent States (NIS) and only two Western European countries.

¹⁰ Cf. Programme document CI INTERREG IIIB at www.alpinespace.org