



**ECMHT – European Educational – Information Center in Baku**

The clean water resources of the world undergo serious influences and changes due to gradual expansion of human activities. Growth of population, increasing economic activity and life level lead to increase of competition and conflicts for the clean water resources.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of June is celebrated as the day of Kura - Araz Rivers every year by the states situated in the Kura - Araz water basin beginning from 1999 by being founded in Tbilisi city of Georgia. This event was held several times in Baku city and other regions of the Republic by non-governmental organizations.

Azerbaijan rather suffers from pollution of ecology for either water shortage or pollution of waters in comparison with Georgia and Armenia being other basin states for being situated in the mouth of Kura - Araz Rivers. That's why, the celebration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, the day of Kura - Araz Rivers, is very important for Azerbaijan. Attraction of large public as well as youth to this event may give a great benefit in the protection of Kura and Araz Rivers as a life source of our country.

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## The rivers of Azerbaijan

All rivers of Azerbaijan belong to the basin of Caspian Sea being one of the largest non-flowing basins of the world and divided into three groups (1) the Kura and (2) Araz Rivers, (3) the rivers indirectly flowing into the Caspian sea. There are 8359 rivers in the Republic and the length of most of them (7861) is less than 10 km. 3964 of these rivers flow to the Kura and 1177 of them flow to the Araz. The Kura, Araz, Alazan, Samur and other rivers more than 21 are trans-border rivers in Azerbaijan.

## The basin of Kura River

The total area of the basin of Kura River being one of the international river basins is 188 thousand km<sup>2</sup> (together with the River Araz).

The greatest part of the basin of the River Kura, it means 28 % (52,9 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) falls in the share of Azerbaijan, 21 % (40 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) in the share of Iran, 20 % (36,4 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) in the share of Georgia, 16 % (29,8 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) in the share of Armenia and 15 % (28,9 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) in the share of Turkey.

If we take into account the lowland area of 16 thousand km<sup>2</sup> of Mugan-Salyan plain and Eastern Shirvan that have no surface water flow, then 79.6 % of the territory of the country is situated in the basin of the River Kura.

The River Kura being the greatest river of the Southern Caucasus takes its source from the territory of Turkey and flows through the area of 1515 km and falls in the Caspian Sea. 900 km of its total length falls in the share of Azerbaijan.

The average annual water consumption of the River Kura in the part uniting with the River Araz is 563 m<sup>3</sup>/s. No river falls in it after this part.

The period of the river with low level water begins in the summer and it continues until September. Its water is highly oozy.

The length of the River Araz being the greatest branch of the river Kura is 1072 km, the area of the water collecting basin is 102 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. The River Araz taking its source from Turkey flows through the borders Turkey-Armenia, Iran-Armenia, Azerbaijan-Turkey and Azerbaijan-Iran and joins to the River Kura near Sabirabad city (from the right bank).



36 % of the water of the river Kura is formed on account of snow, 30 % of it is formed on account of underground waters, 20 % of it is formed on account of the rain waters and 14 % of it is formed on account of the ice. The main amount of the water – 60 % falls in the spring. The annual

sediments taken by the River Kura arrange 0.3 % of it.

The River Kura is of great economic importance for Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and it is used in energetics, shipping, irrigation, fishing and with the purpose of drinking. The cities Borjomi, Gori, Tbilisi, Rustavi, Mingachevir, Yevlakh, Sabirabad, Salyan and Ali-Bayramli are situated over this river.

The fact of location of many cities over it and fall of many small rivers into it changes the quality of the water of the River Kura, it means, the river accepts much industrial and household waters along its stream, and this changes the quality of its water and worsens it.

The main reason of pollution of the River Kura is polluted industrial and household waters flowing through the territory of Georgia and Armenia. So that, the reason of pollution of the water in the zone of Georgia is polluted waters flowing from the cities Borjomi, Tbilisi, Rustavi and other cities.

It is clear that non purified or incomplete purified waters from Tbilisi and Rustavi cities are flown from chemistry, machinery, metallurgy, textile and wood processing industry and food industry, also agricultural fields, communal household fields. The later pollutions are formed on account of the waters flown from some cattle breeding farm within the Republic, industrial and household fields. And sometimes it is formed on account of the waters flown from cattle-breeding farms, industrial and household fields. And sometimes, it is polluted on account of oil mixtures flown from some fields. The River Kura undergoes to great pollutions.

Mainly, the pollution happens in the territory of the state of Armenia. The industrial flows of

Injivan city fall in the River Agstafachay. The amount of oil produces increases in the border of Armenia and reaches to 0,22 mg/l. In this area, the quality of waters of the rivers Tovuzchay and Agstafachay is formed by the influence of the polluted and industrial waters flown from the territory of Armenia. The amount of phenol is much in Agstafachay, and the amount of phenol and copper is much in Tovuzchay. The reason of pollution of the River Kura in the territory of Azerbaijan is flow of polluted industrial and household waters into it. The polluted waters entering into the River Kura around the Shikhli and Yenikand from the territory of Georgia form its chemical composition. In this area, the waters entering from the territory of Georgia increases the amount of copper, phenol, oil produces in the River Kura.