



**Classical Bulletin**  
**Special Issue 1, 2018**  
doi: 10.33909/cb/94.2018.02.006

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## **Targeted program approach in the state environmental policy and its application in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The article presents the implementation of the state's ecological policy through targeted programs and reveals essence, features, advantages and disadvantages of targeted program approach and method applied as a systematic approach in solving ecological problems. It analyses practical aspects of the realization of targeted ecological programs in the Republic of Azerbaijan, European Union, US and Russian Federation and gives recommendations and suggestions for providing their efficiency.

**Keywords:** state's ecological policy, the targeted program method, targeted ecological programs, practical aspects, and efficiency

### **Introduction**

Targeted programs providing effective results have important role in the mechanism of realization of state's ecological policy. and experience shows that these programs, based on a targeted approach, act as one of the means to ensure the effectiveness of individual areas, including environmental management activities. Targeted program approach through its targeted programs, to link policy objectives with resources. Targeted program is a document for the solution of a concrete problem which includes all targets and measures for their realization, time-limits of realization, tasks, their performers, and mutual links between used resources. On the other hand, these programs do not only determine the step-by-step solution of the problem, but also provide connection between actions and activities of all interested actors and help to mobilize necessary resources. Programmed - targeted public administration is used in many countries, especially in developed countries, and one of these is the management of the environmentally-targeted programs. In all this, the Republic of Azerbaijan is using this experience and the

application of a targeted, programmatic approach to environmental governance in implementing the state of the country's sand, its sand in other areas gives its positive outcome.

#### Discussion

Today's realities of the development of states demonstrate the urgency of applying program mechanism of planning and administration in the realization of primary tasks. Tendencies of global development and changes in world states, increasing demands for efficiency of the results of realized projects and their ecological and social characteristics provide perspectives for applying targeted program approach. Targeted program approach applied in targeted programs is a concept of selecting targets and tasks of development directions, identifying methods and plans for their realization, balancing the division of necessary resources, organizing effective mutual relations between participants and realizing overall control [Kirillov, p. 30-31]. The notions of "program" and "target-purpose" are used in this concept. In more general terms, "program" is explained as a sum of actions, operations and procedures identified for the solution of the problem and tasks which are planned to be systematically realized, as well as information about these actions. "Target-aim" is defined as a consciously imagined, expected and intended result [Maksimets, 2012].

The essence of targeted program approach is organic unity of its structured maintenance part and mechanisms of its organizational and financial realization, as well as control over its realization and estimation of its efficiency, which are also elements of actively operating feedback mechanism. Targeted program management based on this methodology is a management which is directed to the achievement of final result for a certain problem, for development of a certain area or region in pre-defined term. Its main elements are final target orientation, planning which takes into account all the aspects of managed object and etc. [economy.gov.az]. Means and privileges of program management are seen mainly in solution of strategic and large-scale problems with big funds and resources. Public administration with targeted program is used for solution of difficult and large-scaled problems regardless the type of political system of a country. Dimensions of the sphere where targeted program method is applied enlarges day by day. Systematic approach applied in this case helps to understand the essence of the relations in management process and to find more efficient options for developing and advancing their organizational structure [Klaptsov, 2010].

Targeted program method has been used since 1930 s, but it was developed in 1950 and used as a term in 1954 by P.F.Druker. (*State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015*). This method is a kind of planning directed to the achievement of defined targets and means through selection of concrete targets and logical order of the ways, methods and instruments for their achievement. It is applied in a form of complex targeted program which constitute one of the important instruments of state policy. These programs allow mobilizing all efforts for complex and systematic solution of problems selected in the framework of targeted program method. Targeted program management which gets growing role in all levels, has following stages:

Defining program's targets;

Division of the target into separate tasks and measures;

Grounding alternative directions and methods for achieving the program's target;

Division of resources among the separate branches of the target and optimizing the temps of their financing;

Changing priorities among separate targets of the program and the ways of their achievement;

Adaptation of program's target to changing external circumstances (*ecoslovar.ru*). In the stage of realization of programs, the system of monitoring and assessment of program's measures get greater importance. [*Maksimets, 2012*].

Use of targeted programs as a complicated organizational tool in solution of ecological problems is based on applying systematic approach methodology. In this case, systematic character of aims and tasks of the program on solution of development problems of socio-ecological sphere and political-ecological space connected with it; providing unity of applied methodological and methodical approaches; formalization of targets and tasks and potential possibility of providing public control over use of resources; opportunity to mobilize limited material and financial resources for the solution of principal problems and other main features constitute the advantages of targeted program method. This method is an important instrument for state's policy in different spheres, including its ecological policy.

Developed states have big experience in the sphere of successful application and realization of targeted complex programs in public administration. The experience of US, European Union and Japan proves the possibility of effective use of targeted program approach in realization of state's social-economical and other policies, including ecological policy, as well as achieving concrete large-scale and strategic tasks. In Soviet Union, targeted program was used in the first half of the 20th century in energy sector and realized in GOELRO complex program on country's electrification program adopted in 1920. In later period, especially in 1960s and 1980s several programs adopted for important spheres of country's social-economical development: Food (1982), Energy (1984), Development of producing national consumption goods and service spheres (1985), Chemicalization of national production (1985). For example, complex chemicalization program was an inter-sphere program including social, ecological, territorial and other tasks and constituted an effective integration of science, planning and administration. However, above-mentioned and other large scale targeted programs of Soviet era were not totally realized, as they demanded unaffordable financial, material and technical resources. The other reasons were lack of appropriate technological basis and non-monitoring of realization of complex measures, as well as selection of administrative staff based on "directives" approach [*Koshkin, 2012*, p.31].

Application of targeted program method does not only requires the deep understanding of its essence and nature, but also the creativity in concrete situations and preparation of technological procedures for application and realization of programs in accordance with the principles of targeted program methodology. This method can be applied in the cases when the existing problem is not solved in the process of natural development of the system, in the contrary, it demonstrates aggravation tendency. In this case, it is important to take special program measures and mobilize efforts and resources [*Kirillov 2012*]. One of the features of the targeted program method is its ability to provide two types of socio-ecological and scientific-technical processes at the same time: first - integration of territory that demands mobilization of efforts of different spheres, such as municipal bodies and subjects of different forms of property; second - time integration that demands precise sequence and unity of different stages of general movement process directed to the target envisaged in the program.

Nowadays, one of the ways of modernizing targeted program in the context of market economy changes is making changes in the context of the stages of preparation and realization of targeted programs. These changes include the followings:

Concept of the targeted program;

System of program aims and tasks;

Objects of targeted program taking in account possible alternatives: the chart which includes program's logic and terms;

Assessment of targeted program (comparable assessment of risks and resources taking into account alternatives);

Analyses and selection of mechanisms for targeted programs realization on the basis of assessment of efficiency and monitoring concept;

Administrative provision and realization of targeted program, assessment and provision of post program parameters in the spheres of activity relating to the results [Koshkin, Soloviev, 2012, p.37].

Mechanism of the selection of problems through targeted programs, in accordance with the state's ecological policy is not properly developed. In some cases, ecological problems are not of complex character and these situations are in contradiction with the targeted program method applied to the solution of the selected ecological problems. However, program mechanism for the realization of practical measures in the sphere of environment protection is one of the instruments for increasing the efficiency of state's ecological policy. Targeted program method applied in these cases provides the achievement of purposes, deeply changing eco-political sphere and creating new conditions of socio-ecological systems, which is impossible to achieve in the process of realization of individual aims. From other hand, it helps to provide realization of integration processes conditioned with the growing complexity of ecological problems, which need efficient mutual relations for their solution. Effective use of this method also demands strict control system over the realization of the program and availability of analytical information about the implementation progress within defined terms and use of financial resources, as well as providing the general executor with monthly and annual reports [Kirillov, Matveeva, 2013]. Taking into account above mentioned, targeted ecological program can be defined as a complex of scientific-research, socio-economic, industrial, environment protective, organizational and enlightenment measures with defined terms, performers and resources for the solution of ecological problems. This environmental program is also a document defining priority measures for near future, concrete targets and tasks.

Estimation of the effectiveness of ecological programs implies consideration of political and economic effects of their realization and their non-confrontation. Effectiveness of program measures, in its turn is a category, reflecting adherence of investment project with the aims and interests of its participants and traditionally includes public and commercial effectiveness. In this case, the targets of the program are intended to be more than maximum income. For that reason, every program realized on regional or municipal level does not meet the criteria of commercial effectiveness [Kirillov, 2012, s.231].

The most successful western country applying targeted program management is the United States. This method has been used in US since 1928, first in aviation sector, then starting from 50s, especially during 60s and 70s it has been developed in different sectors of socio-economic development, including cosmos (Apollo program), metallurgy, energetics and food sector [Chernyaga, R. 2013]. There are not country-level programs on application of ecological

standards in US. Such programs are realized by separate states and directed to the protection of national parks, reserves, forests and application of ecologically clean technologies, including automobile and aviation engines. Besides, the US public widely supports adherence to ecological norms in daily life (starting from high penalties for smoking in public places to polluting of natural complexes). The business sphere also supports ecological programs in this country; entrepreneurs sponsor foundations for environmental protection. The American business patronages the protection of different natural complexes or finance programs demanding transition to ecological standards, invest in ecologically clean technologies and transport means [Fenenko, 2010].

The European Union's success in the sphere of application of targeted ecological programs are also noticeable. The first ecological program was adopted in 1973, during the first wave of European Economic Community, indicating the protection of environment as a one of the main tasks of the Community. Main tasks defined in the program were liquidation, decrease and limitation of ecological damage, preserving ecological balance and rational use of natural resources.

The second ecological program of European Community was adopted in 1977 for four years. The six program on environmental protection adopted in 2002 by European Parliament and confirmed by European Council for ten years. The program defined main ecological tasks and priority spheres of activity based on environmental evaluation. The program defines priority themes for European Union for near future: climate change; nature and biological diversity, environment, health and life quality, natural resources and industrial waste [Klapstov, 2010, s.148].

The separate chapters of the program on these priority themes define concrete measures. For example, the target of the chapter on nature and biological diversity is protection and restoration of natural systems which lose their biological diversity under the anthropogenic influence. The main target of the chapter on "Environment and health" is achieving the quality of environment where there are no negative impacts of radioactive pollution to human health. In the chapter of "natural resources and wastes", the target is the optimization of consuming of renewable and non-renewable natural resources. This target can be achieved through effective use of resources, diminishing economy's resource usage and application of wasteless manufacturing technologies. The program also includes stimulation of repeated use of raw material and new approaches to the use of wastes. One of the aims of the program is to diminish the level of harmful wastes collected in storages. It is decided to diminish this level to 20 percent in 2010 and 50 percent in 2020 in comparison with 2010.

The enlargement process of EU was also taken into account during the adoption of the six program. For this reason, it is indicated in one of its chapters that adherence to the legislation on environmental protection should be one of the accession criteria for candidate states. Besides, those countries should take all measures for prioritizing environmental protection problems in economic and social spheres [Klapstov, 2010, s. 158].

#### **Management of ecological field with targeted programs in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

According to the national development strategy of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, targeted programs are applied in ecological sphere in the Republic of Azerbaijan and this experience is noticeable both from scientific and practical point. The application of management of ecological sphere through national and state programs in the framework of ecological policy strategy has its positive results. Taking into account that targeted programs are effective tool for realization of state's ecological policy, the national leader affirmed several programs in this sphere.

The national programs on “Ecologically sustainable socio-economic development in the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Restoration and enlargement of forests in the Republic of Azerbaijan” was approved on February 18, 2003, as well as State Program on “Effective usage of natural stone reserves in Absheron peninsula (2003-2006)” was adopted on June 13, 2003 [*Ecological Socio-Economic Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and "On Forests Restoration and Expansion in the Republic of Azerbaijan". February 18, 2003*].

The aim of the National Programs on “Ecologically sustainable socio-economic development in the Republic of Azerbaijan” was to protect ecological systems and economical potential, as well as the effective usage of natural reserves in the Republic of Azerbaijan for providing needs of present and future generations. The plan of measures of the National Program was based on complex approach and covered the ways of management of country’s ecological and economical resources according to national, regional and international norms and understanding of potential damage to environment and economy based on assessment of certain conditions.

. The national program analyses population and labor resources, protection of environment and effective use of natural resources (water resources, air, soil resources, forest resources, fish resources), climate change as a global ecological problem, prevention of desertification, problems of preserving biodiversity, industrial complexes (fuel-energetics and oil-chemical complexes, construction industry, transport), agriculture, tourism, science, education and culture. The plan of measures for its realization defines concrete events, their executers and time limits for implementation. The implementation of the program based on methodical instructions, mathematical programs and scientific information is entrusted to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan [*Ecological Socio-Economic Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and "On Forests Restoration and Expansion in the Republic of Azerbaijan". February 18, 2003*].

The National Program on “Restoration and enlargement of forests in the Republic of Azerbaijan” is prepared with the aim to restore forests on regional types, increase their quality and productivity, plant new forests and verdures. The realization of the program will serve to partial meeting of people’s needs for forest produce with cultivation of fast-growing trees, enlarging the protective forest planting, preserving arable lands, preventing erosion and protecting forests from fire and pest insects, as well as creating new work places and enlarging recreational opportunities for population [*Ecological Socio-Economic Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and "On Forests Restoration and Expansion in the Republic of Azerbaijan". February 18, 2003*].

The state program on “Effective usage of natural stone reserves in Absheron peninsula (2003-2006)” was approved by the decree No.1242 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on June 13 2003. The State Program was developed for efficient use of natural resources existing in the Absheron peninsula, environmental protection, attracting investment to the country and the creation of new work places, creating the conditions for the use of local raw materials in various fields in the economy.

The following main objectives have been identified to achieve this goal:  
- to provide use of each field on the basis of a contract and with an individual approach in accordance with the legislation;

- to provide restoration of activity in stone reserves and their development by selecting economically profitable reserves and creating suitable economic and ecological conditions;  
- to ensure the creation of new jobs through the effective exploitation of reserves.

The main executors of the program were Ministries of Ecology and Natural Resources and Economic Development and they were tasked with coordinating the activities of the central and local executive authorities in performing the program's tasks [*State Program on Efficient Use and Development of Natural Stone Deposits in the Absheron Peninsula (2003-2006). Approved by the Decree No. 1242 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated June 13, 2003*].

In our days, the experience of national leader Heydar Aliyev on managing the ecological sphere with state programs is successfully continued and enriched by his decent successor President Ilham Aliyev. Attaching great importance to the implementation of the policies in this area, the head of our state notes: "Paying attention and approach to environmental issues is a reflection country's general policy, its culture. In recent years, this is the most important area. Oil and gas are depleted resources. They are of temporary importance. But the nature, the environment - this is a permanent rich. For centuries, for millenniums, the universe, the world has existed. It is our duty, to protect it. To protect it for ourselves, for future generations, for the survival of our country. Therefore, we attach great importance to these issues. We are trying to be in leading position in the implementation environmental programs" [files.preslib.az]. The examples of that are the "Program on development of hydrometeorology in the Republic of Azerbaijan" (January 28, 2004), "State Program on effective use of summer-winter pastures and haylands and prevention of desertification" (May 22, 2004), "National Strategy and Action Plan on preserving and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Republic of Azerbaijan (March 24, 2006), etc.

In the "Program on development of hydrometeorology in the Republic of Azerbaijan" approved by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on January 28, 2004 it is noted that the atmospheric phenomenon which has influence on society and related hydrometeorology services happens in a large scale and long period of time.

Despite providing daily information about the sequence of meteorological phenomena and forecasting these events several days (weeks) beforehand, one of the main tasks of the hydro meteorological service is to prepare information about the atmosphere for a long period (from months to hundred years). In general, defining the current problems in hydro meteorological sphere and finding the ways of their solution is an important factor stimulating development in this sphere. In these terms, the Program on development of hydrometeorology in the Republic of Azerbaijan serves to the improvement of hydro meteorological situation in the country.

The main tasks of the program are the following:

- improving the quality of meteorological services, proper implementation of environmental protection obligations of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of hydrometeorology arising from international treaties;

- Optimal management of water resources and improving hydro meteorological maintenance of the projects on efficient use of water resources, accurate assessment of water resources;

- development of forecasting system of hydro-meteorological events that may cause natural disasters (hurricanes, heavy rains, hail, flood, etc.) improving the system of early warning of these events;

- Improving the system of observation and evaluation of climate and climate change, integration to the Global Climate Observation System and Global Terrestrial Hydrology Network, etc.

The main directions of the Program are hydro metrological maintenance of relevant public agencies, population and mass media, agriculture and forestry, meteorological maintenance of sea industry, fish industry and aviation. The special attention in the program is given to studying of climate change, development of national hydro meteorological system, personnel and technical maintenance of the program implementation. It is envisaged to organize relevant seminars and courses for the preparation of personnel and their professional development by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan [*Hydrometeorology Development Program in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Approved by the Decree No 62 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated January 28, 2004.*].

The next program approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is the "State Program on effective use of summer-winter pastures and haylands and prevention of desertification" (May 22, 2004). The program notes that one of the main tasks of the state is effective use of summer-winter pastures and haylands, their restoration and strengthened protection taking into account their important role in the development of cattle-breeding as a feeding source, as well as in protection of environment. The state program envisages the realization of necessary measures for the solution of problems in this sphere. The purposes of the program were efficient use of summer and winter pastures and hayfields, prevention of erosion of land on the mountain slopes, salinization on foothills and plains regions, improvement of the mechanism of use of state and municipal lands and development of structure and storage circumstances of cattle-breeding through the increasing of soil fertility, protection of country's food safety, environment, natural landscape and biodiversity and achieve sustainable development. The following tasks were defined to achieve these tasks: to improve current normative-legal basis to ensure effective use of pastures and haylands; to ensure protection of pastures and haylands and prevention of salinization of soil; to raise the efficiency of use of soil, water and other natural resources. The program measures include improvement of normative-legal documents and realization of necessary organizational actions; effective use of soil, water and other natural resources; supporting the development of cattle-breeding and agriculture; protection of environment and providing sustainable development. The main performers of the program are Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National Academy of Sciences, local executive authorities [*State Program on Rational Use in the Republic of Azerbaijan of Summer and Winter Pastures, Meadows and Prevention of Desertification. Approved by Decree No. 222 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 22, 2004.*].

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed on September 28 2006 "On Approval of the Action Plan for the Improvement of the Environmental Situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan" was of particular importance in environmental protection and environmental security in Azerbaijan. Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Cabinet of Ministers on Comprehensive Measures to approve the sources of financing of the Plan, to coordinate the implementation of the Plan and to co-ordinate the relevant government agencies and, most importantly, to implement the Complex Action Plan to reduce harmful anthropogenic impacts to the environment. Twice in a year the Cabinet of Ministers has been tasked with reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan [Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Approval of Comprehensive Plan of Actions for Improvement of Ecological Situation in the Republic of

Azerbaijan" 28 September 2006 // "Azerbaijan" newspaper, 29 September 2006.]. Undoubtedly, the head of our state has taken control over the implementation of the Action Plan.

In the decree, the priorities for the duration of the environmental policy implemented by our state have been defined as follows: "A number of important measures should be taken to prevent the negative impacts on the environment and improve the ecological situation in the country, including the coastline of the Caspian Sea, the Absheron Peninsula and waste water must be cleaned in order to restore the natural water quality of the water basins, air and soil in other regions, sewage networks should be reconstructed, contaminated soils should be reclaimed, forests and green zones should be laid in large areas, landscaping work and other necessary measures should be taken. With respect to the implementation measures in the Comprehensive Action Plan in mentioned priority areas it is planned:

- to improve the ecological situation in the bay of Baku;
- to improve ecological situation in "Bibi Heybat" zone;
- to improve the ecological situation around the Heydar Aliyev International Airport;
- to improve the ecological situation in the Absheron peninsula;

- to improve the ecological situation in other regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan [*Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Approval of Comprehensive Plan of Actions for Improvement of Ecological Situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan" 28 September 2006 // "Azerbaijan" newspaper, 29 September 2006*].

The plan is considered to be implemented in several stages. For example, in the Action Plan, the improvement of the ecological situation in the Baku Bay is intended to be implemented in two stages. In the first stage, the prevention of sewage discharges to the Baku bay by isolation of domestic intra-household sewerage network from the rainwater sewerage network, modernization of wastewater at large industrial facilities operating in the coastal strip of the Bay (ship repair plants, oil refineries, etc.) installation of local treatment facilities, cleaning of the Bay and beaches from sunken and semi-submerged ships, metal and concrete constructions and other wastes. In the second stage, the establishment of a centralized system with modern stations providing modern technical, technological and ecological approach in the sidewalk bridges and piers located at the Baku International Sea Port and the coastline, preparation and implementation of proposals for the transfer of off-shore enterprises operating in the coastline are of the Baku bay that badly affect the environment [*Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Approval of Comprehensive Plan of Actions for Improvement of Ecological Situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan" 28 September 2006 // "Azerbaijan" newspaper, 29 September 2006*].

The following activities have been carried out by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for the implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan in 2006-2010:

-For the reconstruction of the Heydar Aliyev International Airport within the framework of dendrological project the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources started the reconstruction of the road with 206 hectares being planted with 204,000 pieces of decorative trees and shrubs on both sides of the road, 98,425 thousand m<sup>2</sup> of lawn sprinkled and an irrigation system was established.

- Comprehensive research works was carried out within an ecological rehabilitation project for ecological improvement of the airport environment in the direction of preparation and implementation of complex researches and ecological rehabilitation project for environmental improvement of the airport environment.

- In order to ensure the environmental safety of the surrounding area, Sadarak and Bina shopping malls were cleared of waste from the area and the pastures have been cleaned and 65,000 trees and bushes have been planted in 60 hectares.

- The project on cleaning of the Greater Shor lake, as well as the restoration of the lake and recreation zone for the population of the city were elaborated and carried out.

- In order to identify the polluted areas of the oil and gas production zones of the Absheron peninsula, the contaminated soils and other industrial wastes, and also in order to prepare the large-scale (1:10 000) environmental map of the Absheron peninsula, and to study the pollution of the soil on the territory of the country soil samples taken from the territories of the areas named after Haybatneft, Surakhanyneft, Binagadineft, Balakhanyneft, Tagiyev and Fikret Amirov, and reports were prepared and submitted to relevant state institutions.

- Schematic map of contaminated soils, polluted areas, contaminated areas and other contaminated areas, as well as anthropogenic impacts on the Absheron peninsula, were prepared by the Ministry and submitted to the organization responsible for its implementation.

- On a monthly basis data table is sent to the Health Ministry with respect to "Average and maximum concentrations of harmful substances in atmosphere air in large industrial cities of the Republic" in order to assess the impact of environmental contamination on population health and create the information bank.

- an assessment was conducted to monitor atmosphere air, rainfall, soil, surface water, including environmental pollution in the country, and in order to forecast environmental processes as a result of anthropogenic impacts an environmental data base was created, operative and regime data was prepared and spread out. Based on the results of the monitoring, daily, 10-day and monthly bulletins were prepared and submitted to relevant government agencies and regularly posted on the Ministry's website.

-The study of quality and quantitative parameters of radioactive contamination in the Absheron peninsula and mapping of contaminated areas were carried out, and deactivation proposals were made for improvement of radio ecological condition.

- proposals were made and implemented with respect to installation of sewerage network and sewage treatment facilities in resort areas, tourism and catering enterprises, beaches and individual living spaces operating on the coast of the Caspian Sea (including the Absheron peninsula).

- In order to prevent pollution of the air by toxic gases control was enhanced over technical condition of vehicles in order to adapt them to European standards (euro-3), environmental checkpoints were set up, utilization of abandoned vehicles and elimination of traffic jams with the use of modern equipment, and increase of "pedestrian" zones in cities were carried out and other measures were taken.

- Completion of forestry and design works to determine the perspective areas for reducing the anthropogenic pressure on the forests based on the country's climate and soil condition.

In order to ensure the proper functioning of fuel, energy and heating supply systems and other industrial facilities according to the environmental requirements in Baku, Nakhchivan, Ganja, Sumgayit, Ali Bayramli, Mingachevir and other cities, the Ministry carried out activities in the field of cleaning, monitoring of gas-dusting installations enterprises, and these enterprises were given mandatory instructions. Warnings were made for limiting their activities. Control over these activities is continued by the Ministry of Ecology.

- Improving the protection of trees and shrubs that are not included in the forest fund and improving their record system to identify future activities planned in this regard in the city.

- the work was continued on clear identification of lands for the laying green zones in and around Baku and on land clearing, preparation, soil fertilization, laying of protection channels on the area, as well as the organization of the irrigation system.

- Preparation and implementation of proposals for the installation of local water treatment systems to improve the quality of water supply of the regional centers and villages in the country.

- Rehabilitation of hydrometric observation points on 5 floodwaters and flood disaster areas was carried out to establish an Open Hydrological Monitoring System for accurate assessment of water resources, prevention and optimal management of pollution.

- Automated river-level recorders made in USA were installed on the Kura river in Girag-Kasaman settlement on Kura river, Kasaman settlement on Gabirri river, Ayrichay settlement on Ganikh river, Musaköy settlement on Aghstafachay with respect to automation of hydrological monitoring system in rivers. The Finnish automatic river level recorders were installed in Ilisu settlement on Kurmukchay.

- In order to reduce the harm caused by hazardous hydro meteorological cataclysms due to climate change Early Warning System was established and with the funds allocated for that automatic meteorological stations, meteorological forecasting models, hydrological models, telecommunication systems and meteorological stations, were installed. One of the possible scenarios were prepared for climate change in the region with the increase of a current rate of carbon dioxide and other thermal effects generated by atmospheric emissions. This scenario is based on the PRECIS model prepared by Experts' Group of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the Center for Advanced Studies of the British Meteorological Organization, one of the models recommended by the. According to the results, the average temperatures in the Republic in 2020-2050 may increase by 1.50C and 50 C in 2070-2100. The maximum temperatures may rise by 5-70 C at the end of the 21st century to 47-520C, which may lead to a change in lifestyle, especially in the summer months.

"2010 is the year of Ecology in higher and secondary education institutions, institutions and organizations in various regions of the Republic in order to strengthen ecological propaganda and enlightenment measures", "Environmental protection is our duty", "The role of young generation in the creation and protection of new green zones" "5 June is the World Environment Day", "Green Protection", "Clean Water for Children - Clean Life", "The attention and care shown by President Ilham Aliyev to the development of ecology and natural areas" and other this type seminars, roundtables, meetings with ecological propaganda topics were organized.

- The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for the World Environment Day was celebrated in the European region in 2010 and Baku city along with of Geneva ( Switzerland ) and Genua (Italy) was chosen and on 5 June a massive tree planting campaign was held on the 10th kilometer of the ZykH Heydar Aliyev highway, with the participation of more than 2,000 people including representatives of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, State and Non-Governmental Organizations, diplomatic corps, representatives international organizations in Azerbaijan and mass media.

According to the Comprehensive Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources under the "Year of Environment" press tours were organized under the motto "2010 Year of Ecology - Green World" for media representatives. In these press-tours, discussions

were held on the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the national parks, the reports were made and questions asked by journalists were answered by experts.

-20 October - 20 November 2010 in various regions of the Republic at the higher and secondary education institutions were held seminars, round tables and meetings on various issues related to environmental problems under the slogan "Year of Ecology of 2010". At the same time, an essay competition on "Heydar Aliyev: I want you to be the one who protects nature", drawing competitions in kindergartens on "Environment through children's eyes", competitions among schoolchildren, as well as autumn sowing season in the regions were carried out.

- Legislative improvements, etc. [eco.gov.az].

National Strategy and Action Plan on preserving and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved by the decree No.1368 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on March 24, 2006 according to the Article 6 of the UN Convention on Biodiversity joined by Azerbaijan in 2000. The main purposes of the National Strategy and Action Plan are to eliminate poverty, to ensure preservation for future generations and effective use of country's biodiversity through achievement of ecological balance and sustainable development. Its main directions are the following:

Protection of genetic resources of plants, animals and micro-organisms, their valuable species, varieties, species;

development and implementation of short and long-term programs in the field of sustainable use of biodiversity ;

Taking into account the importance of biodiversity in the framework of ecosystem approach, giving priority to the protection of rare and endangered plant and animal species, taking into account local traditions and cultural values;

creating opportunities for community's active participation in assessing the anthropogenic impact to environment;

Ensuring wide dissemination of ecological knowledge, sustainability of environmental education through defining legal, economic and organizational basis of population's environmental awareness, etc. [*National Strategy and Action Plan on the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 24, 2006, No. 1368*].

The measures of the program include strengthening the preserving measures of biological diversity and genetic resources; expanding natural areas under special protection; protection and effective use of forests' biological diversity; conservation of biodiversity in the border areas; protection and restoration of rare and threatened plant and animal species outside their natural habitats (ex-situ conditions); increasing environmental education; expanding cooperation, information exchange and joint activities of organizations dealing with the protection of biological diversity; ecological enlightenment of population and increasing the level of environmental awareness; protection of cultural heritage and traditions related to biodiversity; applying socio-economic incentives to ensure protection of biodiversity; improving legislation on biodiversity; financing measures on restoration, protection and rational use of biodiversity; regulating activities with negative impact on biodiversity [*National Strategy and Action Plan on the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 24, 2006, No. 1368*].

Azerbaijan has favorable natural conditions and enough alternative and renewable energy potential and renewable natural resources. The approval of the State Program on alternative and

renewable energy sources in the Republic of Azerbaijan by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 21 October 2004 to provide creation new energy powers using the world experience and the existing sources in the Republic is very important. The goal of the program is to expand energy production from renewable and ecologically clean sources by using the country's natural potential and effective use of hydrocarbon energy resources. The State Program indicates wind, solar, biomass, geothermal energy and small hydroelectric power stations as alternative (renewable) energy potential types. As it is indicated in the program, the natural climatic conditions of Azerbaijan opens up great opportunities for increasing electric and thermal energy by using solar energy. According to estimations, the amount of sunlight falling on the territory of Azerbaijan are more than in other countries (including the US, Russia and France) and can be regarded as one of the efficiency criteria of attracting investments to utilization of solar power. The program notes the followings as as the sources of biomass energy: the combustive industrial wastes; forestry and wood processing wastes; agricultural and organic wastes; domestic and communal wastes; waste from areas polluted with oil and oil products. The program also grounds the potential use of small hydroelectric power stations and notes the expedience of construction of 61 small power plants in the near future [*State Program on Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Resources in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated October 21, 2004*].

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources was entrusted with implementation of a number of measures envisaged in the Action Plan. In line with the implementation of these measures, the Ministry has taken relevant measures:

- National Strategy for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for 2008-2012 was developed with the support of the United Nations Development Program exchange of experience among experts of various organizations was carried out with respect to the study and application of international experience on the use of alternative (renewable) energy sources, National Action Plan on Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts (NAMA) and Programmatic TIM mechanisms were exchanged with experts from relevant agencies.

- Specialists of the Ministry participated in the events held by the international organizations, also took part in programs at TV channels, schools and made speeches on the topic of training specialists for the use of alternative (renewable) energy sources and educating energy consumers.

- With the financial support of the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the "Environmental Education and Monitoring" Public Union has prepared with the participation of experts from the Ministry a booklet entitled "Climate Change and Rules of Alternative Energy Use".

- "Ecological Education and Monitoring" Public Union held a public meeting in Sumgayit on "Climate Change and Rules of Alternative Energy Use" with participation of the Ministry's experts.

- The following project proposals were prepared with the participation of experts on the use of alternative (renewable) energy sources: "Use of local wastewater treatment facilities in the Absheron peninsula using wind energy"; "Use of solar energy of drinking water treatment plants in regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan"; "Alternative energy supply of administrative buildings of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources".

- Information on geothermal water sources and their potential has been submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Energy for the preparation of a map for the use of geothermal water sources.

- Clean Development Mechanisms for the construction of small power plants by biogas from household waste in Sumgayit and Ganja cities were developed jointly with the Ministry of Environment of Denmark with regards to the development of modern technologies, production and application of biomass from industrial, agricultural and domestic wastewater, and the introduction of small biomass stations.

- The activities on improving and implementing the Clean Development Mechanism projects have been continued [*eco.gov.az*].

According to scientists, there are following prospects of the development of alternative and renewable energy sector in Azerbaijan: first, renewable energy will turn to a strategic element of provision of country's sustainable socio-economic development and economic and energy security, as oil and gas reserves are exhausted in the world and in the country; second, successful realization of special complex of state programs and large-scale measures and stimulation of effective apply of new technologies in the sphere of alternative and renewable energy will further increase the level of the use of these energy sources; third, meeting the larger part of countries energy needs through the renewable energy sources, and applying new technologies in this sphere will ensure the solution of the most of the ecological problems connected with the production and use of hydrocarbon fuel, etc. [*Najafbeyli, M. Teimurov E. 2012*].

The state programs on energy efficiency and development of fuel-energetics complex are also directed to applying ecologically clean technologies and providing sustainable socio-economic development in the country, as well as efficient use of renewable energy sources for producing ecologically clean energy.

Along with above-mentioned programs, state programs on other spheres are also include ecological issues. In this context, approval and successful implementation of first (2004-2008), second (2008-2013) and third (2014-2018) state programs on "Socio-economic development of the regions in the Republic of Azerbaijan", as well as other state programs on "Poverty reduction and sustainable development in 2008-2015", "Population's reliable supply with food products in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008-2015", "Socio-economic development of Baku city and its settlements in 2011-2013" are very important.

One of the most important events in our republic is undoubtedly the socioeconomic development programs of the regions that gave a great boost to the socio-economic development of the country. Environmental issues in the three above-mentioned State Programs (2004-2008, 2009-2013, 2014-2018) didn't go unnoticed. For example, in the State Program on Socio-Economic Development of the regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated April 14, 2009, a series of measures to prevent negative impacts on the environment and improve the ecological situation in the country were undertaken and it was pointed out that the following measures should be taken in the coming years in the field of environmental protection and efficient use of natural resources for the rapid development of the country's economy:

- Improvement of hydrological monitoring system in Kur, Araz and other rivers;
- expansion of greenery works, street and avenues of cities and settlements;
- continuation of forest restoration and forestation measures in the regions;

- identification of important recreation forests and organization of service infrastructure for ecotourism development;
- Continued measures to prevent pollution of water resources by waste water, including transboundary pollution;
- Implementation of measures to prevent pollution of atmospheric air by industrial enterprises and vehicles;
- taking measures against soil erosion and salinization;
- raising environmental awareness and other awareness-raising activities related to environmental education in educational institutions.

As you can see, the program also has a great place in the field of ecology, and concrete tasks are being put forward in this area by 2013. It should be noted that Article 4 of the Program provides a substantial and regional scale Action Plan on "State Program on Socio-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013". There are also extensive environmental measures among national measures, including measures intended to be undertaken throughout the region, and even in the administrative district [*State program on socio-economic development of regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013. Approved by the Presidential Decree of 14 April 2009*]. In connection with the implementation of the State Program, the following work has been done by the Ministry of Ecology as the main executive body:

- Within the framework of the program, 4,684 thousand planting material was grown in different types of landscaping works in urban and urban-type settlements, measures on forest restoration were implemented in 2451 hectares;
- Development of specially protected natural areas, ecological networking has continued;
- Measures were taken to improve the early warning system of hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena, to improve the hydrometeorological observation network; new apparatus for improving the hydrological monitoring system in Kur, Araz and other rivers;
- Installation of modular water treatment plants in the regions was continued according to the Presidential Decrees;

Measures on greenery of surrounding highways and environmental improvement (in Sabunchu circle - between Heydar Aliyev International Airport, Zyk, Bayil slope areas, Baku-Shamakhy, Baku-Guba roads) were implemented [*eco.gov.az*].

In the programs on socio-economic development of the regions in the Republic of Azerbaijan, special place has been given to the measures on the use of environment and natural resources, improvement of water supply and sanitation services and public safety. One of the main purposes of the program for 2014-2018 years is to achieve ecological balance. Measures on biodiversity protection, neutralizing the negative impact of the fuel and energy complex on the environment, elimination of pollution of the sea and its protection, restoration of green areas and effective protection of availability of resources will be continued in coming years. The main purpose of the ecological policy is defined as achievement of sustainable development, preserving current ecosystems and effective use of natural resources. The following measures should be implemented to achieve this purpose:

- to take appropriate measures for industrial enterprises in the regions to operate on the basis of "green economy";
- to detect new raw material deposits for supplying the economic development with raw material sources;

- to continue afforestation and reforestation activities in the regions, to increase green areas;
- to ensure the development of specially protected areas and sustainability of biodiversity in regions;
- to manage solid and industrial waste in regions;
- to expand the use of alternative and renewable energy sources.

The state program defines measures on use of ecological and natural riches, improvement water supply and sanitation services, population's safety and their implementation period in the concrete regions of the country. The performers of the program are Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources, "Azerbaijan Irrigation and Water Management ", JSC "Azersu" JSC and local executive bodies. It is planned to take ecological measures in oil fields and install modular water treatment plants in the settlements of Aghdash, Imishli, Aghsu, Salyan, Samux, Fuzuli and some other regions. The program envisages measures on environmental activity in the oil and gas production areas, forest planting, exploration and assessment of deposits of construction materials in Neftchala and Salyan districts; improvement of ecological situation in Ganja city and Goranboy district, continuation of works for improvement of water supply and sanitation systems in Ganja and Naftalan cities; population's safety Aghstafa, Dashkasan, Gadabay and other regions; exploration and assessment of construction materials in the territory of Ismayilli, Shamakhi, Gobustan, Goygol and other regions; specific environmental measures and effective use of national resources in Nakhchivan region [*State Program on Socio-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan (for 2014-2018). Approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated October 21, 2004*].

Relevant Decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the three state programs on social and economic development of Baku and its suburbs (2006-2007, 2011-2013, 2014-2016) and their successful implementation show achievements in the field of environmental protection. With regard to the implementation of these programs, it should be noted that the works carried out within the framework of the "Program of Actions on Acceleration of Socio-Economic Development of the Baku Towns in 2006-2007" are aimed at improving the ecological situation in Baku and preventing the discharge of wastewater into the sea by the Hovsan Expansion and implementation of the reconstruction of Zykh pump station No. 2; Nearly 100 hectares of oil polluted areas in Bibiheybat and Sabunchu districts were treated and 1200 meters of closed canals through closed concrete canals; washing and disinfecting of water reservoirs with total capacity of 221,800 cubic meters; It is the commissioning of a biological treatment plant with a capacity of 10,000 cu m / day in Buzovna settlement.

Implementation of the measures aimed at eliminating the major environmental problems of the Absheron peninsula, which was entrusted to the Ministry of Ecology in the State Program on the Socio-Economic Development of the City of Baku and its settlements in 2011-2013 approved by the Presidential Order, covered the following:

- Landscaping around the highways (120 ha of land around Zykh-Heydar Aliyev International Airport highway and 110 ha of Surakhani-Zyk highway).
- Conducted research works on improvement of ecological condition of ecological condition of Khojasan Lake and implementation of ecological healthcare measures were carried out, and the solution of issues related to the competence of other state bodies (Azersu, SOCAR, local executive bodies) was put forward;

- Research was carried out on the implementation of measures to improve the environmental condition of Lake Zykh and surrounding Lake Bulbula, and the research documents have been submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development;

- Taking into account the amendments to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated July 22, 2012, the ministry has continued its work with key executives within its competence in this area [*eco.gov.az*].

As a result of the implementation of this State Program, cleaning of oil-polluted soils and lakes, relocating industrial enterprises to suburban areas and putting serious environmental requirements into newly established enterprises to eliminate the negative impacts on Baku's ecological situation have already yielded a positive result, and waste removal process at Balakhani landfill has been further improved, solid household waste incineration and solid household waste sorting plants have been put into operation, and so on. [*e-qanun.az*].

One of the main directions of "State Program on Socio-Economic Development of Baku and its settlements in 2014-2016" is the implementation of measures to improve the ecological situation, including the work on the collection and transportation of waste, renovation and greenery, and all of them have been successfully implemented.

In the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015, approved by the Presidential Order No. 3043 of September 15, 2008, priority directions in the field of environmental policy were defined and further redefined as follows:

- sustainable management of forest resources;
- sustainable water resources management;
- sustainable land management and prevention of desertification;
- sustainable management of biodiversity;
- Continuous management of atmospheric air;
- expanding the use of alternative energy sources;
- Integrated waste management;
- complex management of mountain and coastal ecosystems;
- improving the regulatory legal framework, monitoring systems and resources for environmental management;
- Raising environmental awareness [*State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015. Approved by the Decree No. 3043 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 15, 2008 // "Azerbaijan" newspaper, 16 September 2008*].

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, considered as one of the responsible implementors of the State Program, took the following measures in the Program in the following directions:

protection and restoration of forests, maintaining the state forest fund in forestry records and elaborating forestry designs, expanding the use of forests;

improvement of ecological condition of population with drinking water, water objects, transboundary rivers, monitoring of rivers and reservoirs within the country, efficient use of water resources and their protection against pollution;

Preparation of National Action Plan on Combating Desertification;

ensuring the sustainability of water biological resources, creating biodiversity biological diversity, biological centers for forest animals and birds;

assessment of possible impacts of climate change on ecosystems and economy, water resources, coastal areas, some areas of agriculture and human health;

Prevention of pollution by atmospheric air in Baku and other major cities Improvement of the atmosphere air monitoring system;

Quantitative and qualitative assessment of collected and generated waste, preparation and utilization of measures for their management, Improvement of regulatory and legal framework for solid and industrial wastes management;

Creation of local environmental centers to educate the populated area for ecological knowledge, such as ecosystem management, monitoring and development [28].

As a successful outcome of this State Program, the state's consistent implementation of the poverty-combat policy is to reduce the poverty level to 6 per cent in 2013, which exceeds 13 per cent of the population of refugees and IDPs, which limits the sustainable development of our country, It points to a significant achievement in the fight against poverty [*Alakparov U., 2013, p.128*]. Successful implementation of the State Program on education, health, social protection, environmental protection and other spheres played an important role in reducing poverty in the country. As a result of the completion of the implementation of the Program Implementation Plan (2011-2015) and the relevant measures taken the poverty level in the country has dropped to 4.9% as of January 1, 2016 [*e-qanun.az*].

Thus, a purposeful - programmatic approach is being implemented to carry out a consistent and purposeful environmental policy based on sustainable development principles in independent Azerbaijan, which has made great progress in building a democratic state and rapidly accelerating socioeconomic and sustainable development, and this experience is one of the factors of the state's environmental policy. It is no coincidence that according to the results of the research conducted by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy at the University of Yel at the end of 2016, Azerbaijan ranked first among the CIS countries in the rating list of the World's Environment Efficiency Index Ranking and ranked 31st among the 180 countries with 83.78 indexes, which once again reaffirms that environmental policy is being efficiently implemented in our country [*gtmarket.ru*].

At present, the concept of "Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future", approved by President Ilham Aliyev Decree dated December 29, 2012, has identified as one of the key targets to achieve ecological sustainability of socio-economic development: protection of biodiversity, environmental impacts, neutralization of the environmental impacts, prevention and protection of the water basin pollution, and the continuous carrying out of the necessary measures to effectively protect existing resources, increasing the proportion of forest areas to common land areas through restoration of forests and rehabilitation, and for the protection of atmospheric air, as well as for the reduction of traffic noise from traffic, creation of green zones; making and applying national standards in accordance with accepted European standards for hazardous substances thrown atmospheric air, and so on. During the period covered by the concept, it is envisaged that the amount of energy used in the production of a single unit GDP in Azerbaijan and the amount of emissions of carbon dioxide will be closely linked to the relevant indicators of the Economic Cooperation and Development Organization, which is important for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals [*president.az*]. In accordance with the goals set out in the concept, numerous activities aimed at socio-economic development from ecological point of view are being carried in the country within the framework of successful innovative strategy of development of the country.

Conclusion. Thus, first of all, as opposed to laws, targeted programs usually cover a certain period and envisage implementation of concrete measures. As we have already mentioned, targeted programs allow coordination of activities in the defined area and prevent the loss of time and resources covering all procedures (from financial provision to clear division of work among various institutions, organizations and public authorities); Second, development and implementation of targeted programs demand proper selection of priority problems and themes, concrete definition of goals and objectives, planned activities and their realization period, innovative character of planned targets, their convenience with the available resources and etc.; Third, the analyses demonstrate that socio-economic and ecological programs successfully realized in the Republic of Azerbaijan meet the mentioned and other requirements and they are efficient; Fourth, the analyses of experience proves the necessity of grounding the priority problem of the targeted program, defining the alternatives for its solution and more efficient stages and directions of the tasks and targets of the program, as well as the scope of necessary resources. On the other hand, the development and realization of any targeted program, including ecological programs, needs systematic and comprehensive approach.

Experience shows that environmental programs, first of all, must briefly ground the necessity and expediency; secondly, the duration of the program's main purpose must be defined; third, the current state of the problem on which the program is focused must be characterized; fourth, priority areas of activity must be identified to achieve the program's results; Fifth, stages of the implementation of program's tasks and their time period must be envisaged and program measures in each stage must be implemented in a complex manner.

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