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POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATION OF GEOPARK IN NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC

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Summary. Azerbaijan is distinguished by a great variety of geoheritage sites, including those of a regional and global importance. In 1982, 37 geosites were included in the country's first of protected nature monuments. In 2009-2012, special National Action Plan was implemented, resulting in the development of an extended inventory of 484 geosites of global, regional, national and local importance. As some groups of the identified geosites are located within relatively small geographic areas with outstanding natural, cultural and historical heritage, the most promising way of organizing their conservation is the establishment of geological parks. As of now, there are 6 areas in Azerbaijan, characterized by high potential for the organization of a geopark. One of such areas is the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic – a landlocked exclave of Azerbaijan, characterized by exceptionally rich geological and biological diversity, as well as representative cultural-historical heritage. In 2020-2022, Azerbaijani specialists have studied the feasibility of integrating most important geosites of the province within the framework of a single Ilandagh geopark which resulted in the development of a detailed inventory of 171 rare and unique geosites. The territory of the planned geopark is also known as one of the key biodiversity areas of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus ecoregion. As to cultural and historical heritage, there are 66 historical and 108 archaeological monuments, including 2 historical and 28 archaeological monuments of global importance. All these factors make Ilandagh one of the best places in Azerbaijan to create a global geopark.

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Potential of the country

Thanks to the complexity of geological structure and the specifics of geological evolution background, territory of Azerbaijan is distinguished by a great variety of geoheritage sites, including those of a regional and, in several cases, global importance. There are many unique geosites in Azerbaijan, all having certain value from the perspectives of scientific research, visual perception and tourism potential. Apparently, the most prominent component of the national geoheritage is the world's largest mud volcano concentration represented by more than 400 active volcanoes detected within the relatively small geography of the Eastern Azerbaijan. Besides that, the list of Azerbaijan's unique geosites includes, but is not limited to, the world's richest Quaternary fauna deposits, Naftalan oil with strong healing properties, thermal and mineral water sources, multi-origin magmatic and tectonic landforms, rare lithological-stratigraphic sections, relic mountain lakes, etc.

In 1982, 37 of the most prominent geosites of the country were included in the "List of state nature monuments – geological (paleontological) objects taken under state protection", approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan. In 2009-2012, "National Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Rare Geological Objects in Azerbaijan Republic" was implemented, resulting in the development of an extended inventory of geosites located on the territory of Azerbaijan. The new inventory included 484 geosites of global, regional, national and local importance. According to the Plan, the identified geosites have been grouped in a number of categories, including stratigraphic and paleontological (75 geosites), mineralogical and ore-petrographic (132 geosites), geotectonic (132 geosites), geomorphological (94 geosites), hydrological-hydrogeological (94 geosites) and historical-geological objects (Kangarli, Babayev, 2012).

Following development of the above detailed inventory, the government and the scientific society of Azerbaijan started working on how to organize individual protection of the identified geosites by mandating them status of individual nature monuments, conserving them as part of existing or newly

conserving them as part of larger special protection areas. As some groups of the identified unique geosites are located within relatively small geographic areas with outstanding natural, cultural and historical heritage, the most promising way of organizing their conservation is the establishment of geological parks. As of now, there are the following 5 areas on the map of Azerbaijan, characterized by high potential for organization of a geopark.

Mud volcanoes

Azerbaijan has gained a fame of the country with the highest mud volcano concentration. There are over 350 mud volcanoes in the eastern part of the country, including 156 offshore volcanos active on the bottom of the Caspian Sea (Alizadeh et al., 2016b; Rashidov, 2014; Rashidov et al., 2019). Total area occupied by the volcanoes amounts to 60 thousand km^2. Back in 1982, 4 most famous mud volcanos became the first geosites in Azerbaijan to be mandated the status of specially protected area. In 2007, the State Nature Reserve "Mud Volcanoes Group of Baku and Absheron Peninsula" was established on a total area of 123 km^2, which covered 43 mud volcanoes and their surroundings. Besides its' geoheritage, development area of the mud volcanism is known for rich cultural and historical heritage (Aliyev et al., 2024).

Girmaki

Occupying small area in the east of the Absheron peninsula, Girmaki site contains several valuable geosites, including an original erosive relief, daylighting bitumen deposits and an exposed stratotype of the oil-bearing productive series. Besides its' geological landmarks, the area is known as a habitat of rare semi-arid flora species, and due to a natural gas fire blazing continuously at the foot of the Yanardagh hill. Girmaki site is also known for its' mining-historical heritage represented by a number of preserved ancient oil pits used back in 17th to 19th centuries.

Khaltan depression

Located in the river valley of Gilgilchay in the north-western Azerbaijan, the area is characterized by rich landscape diversity and presence of several unique geosites. One of such landmarks is a stratotype section of the Jurassic and Cretaceous sediments of the continental slope and foot facies of the southern margin of the Scythian Epi-Hercynian platform. Another important geosite is a well-exposed complete lithological-stratigraphic section of the Cretaceous deposits of the Greater Caucasus marginal sea facies, building up the geological structure of the Khaltan mould – the largest structural basin in the Southeastern Caucasus region. Geomorphological diversity of the area is also very pronounced, represented by multiple exotic landforms emerged as a result of nappe tectonics of the Austrian phase of tectogenesis. Finally, the area is famous for the thermal mineral water outcrops, as well as a number of historical and archaeological monuments.

Basgal

Located on Mikhtokan range in the Ismayilli district of Azerbaijan, Basgal area is renowned for a number of unique geosites formed as a result of nappe tectonics of the Aptian-Rhuddanian tectogenesis, including the stratotype section and structural forms of the island-arc margin of the South Caucasus continental massif, unique outcrops of the Quaternary tectonics, Mudresa structural basin, and the Caucasus' only Earle Paleocene intrusion (Buynuz gabbro-sienites). Other-than-geological sites of the area are represented by famous medieval villages of Lahij and Basgal.

Nakhchivan

Territory of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is known for especially rich geodiversity. Nakhchivan geoheritage amounts to over 150 geosites located all over the territory of the province. The region also stands out for rich landscape and biological variety, as well as historical, cultural, and archaeological monuments.

Geopark potential of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic

One of the most geodiversity-rich provinces of Azerbaijan is Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic – a landlocked exclave of Azerbaijan, bordered by Armenia in the north and east, Iran in the south and west and Turkey in the northwest. Occupying a relatively small area of 5500 km^2, the province is characterized by high density and rich diversity of geosites. Rich geoheritage of the province include lithological-stratigraphic sections reflecting 400 myr geological history of the region, magnificent magmatic landforms, easy to access and study faulting zones and rupture dislocations, numerous sources of mineral waters with a wide range of balneological properties, rich ore and non-ore deposits, mining-historical monuments, etc. The province is also characterized by diverse geo-morphology represented by spectacular river valleys, terraces and alluvial cones, glacial cirques, trough valleys and moraines, exotic rocks and rock compositions, mountain peaks, ancient volcanic structures, karst and pseudo-karst formations, and different-age peneplains.

In 2009-2012, an inventory and passportization of the geoheritage of the Nakhchivan province was implemented within the framework of the "National Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Use of

Rare Geological Objects in Azerbaijan Republic". As a result of the implemented studies, over 150 rare and unique geosites were identified in the province, including 22 lithology-stratigraphic, 25 hydrological and hydrogeological, 18 magmatic, 14 ore-petrographic, 68 geomorphological and 5 mining-historical sites.

In 2020-2022, specialists from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics have studied the feasibility of integrating most important geosites of the province within the framework of a single geopark. The study resulted in the outlining of the geopark's border, and the development of a detailed inventory of 171 rare and unique geosites. Covering a total area of 1700 km^2 between the drainage divide of the Zangezur range in the northeast and the riverbed of Araz in the south, the geopark will cover the territories belonging to Ordubad (872 km^2), Julfa (582 km^2) and Babek (246 km^2) districts of Nakhchivan AR (Kangarli et al., 2018; Kangarli et al., 2019) (Fig. 1).

On the territory of the planned geopark there are 1 city, 3 urban-type settlements and 65 villages with a total population of 75,570 thsd people. As local community livelihoods depend mainly on beekeeping, animal husbandry, gardening and olericulture, almost an entire territory of the geopark is characterized by low levels of manmade environmental impacts. Thus, there are no large cities or industrial enterprises, whereas 70% of electricity needs are provided by renewable sources. In addition to the geological heritage, the area is renowned for rich biodiversity and historical heritage.

Based on the study results, a special task force was created to develop a detailed inventory of the planned geopark and undertake the other steps required for its' organization. In the beginning of 2023, a proposal was sent to the respective national autho-rities of Azerbaijan in connection to the establishment of the "Ilandagh" geopark, named after the most prominent geological and geomorphological landmark of the Nakhchivan AR.

Insight into the geological heritage of Ilandagh geopark

The inventory of 171 geosites studied and described by the task force, include 73 geomorphological, 54 geological, 34 hydrogeological and 10 hydrological objects of global, national and regional importance located in the different parts of the Ilandagh geopark. The below paragraphs provide for the characteristics of each of the above categories supplied with Illustrated description of the most valuable monuments.

Geomorphological sites

On the territory of Ilandagh geopark, there are a large number of rare geomorphological objects, reflecting historical and modern relief-forming processes. The most remarkable morphosculptures are volcanic domes, intrusive massifs, caves, exotic rocks, picturesque mountain peaks, canyons, etc. (Alizadeh et al., 2016a). The inventory includes 72 rare geomorphological sites, including majestic mountain peaks, 32 exotic rocks, 11 caves, 8 canyons and river valleys.



Fig. 1. Map of Ilandagh Geopark

Majestic mountains

In Nakhchivan, mountains do not only form ranges, but also act as individual peaks, standing out against a predominantly flat surface of the Nakhchivan sloping plain. 22 majestic mountain peaks been identified as rare geosites (Fig. 2). These mountains are cone-, plateau-, table- and dome-shaped structures with true altitudes varying from 876 amsl (Mt. Plovtapa) to 3829 amsl (Mt. Gemigaya). According to their genesis, many of these mountains are also classified as tectonic geosites. On several mountains, there are also the archaeological and historical monuments dating back to prehistorical, antique and medieval periods.

Exotic rocks

Widely developed in the eastern part of the province, exotic rock landforms had emerged due to erosion of Cenozoic volcanosedimentary complexes. Unique outlines of such rocks and rock compositions are very attractive for tourists, while geological structure of the outcrops is very informative for researchers (Fig. 3). The total of 32 exotic rocks were included in the inventory, including 13 standalone cliffs, 12 rock compositions, 1 earthen pyramid and 2 rocky areas (Kangarli, Babayev, 2012).

Caves

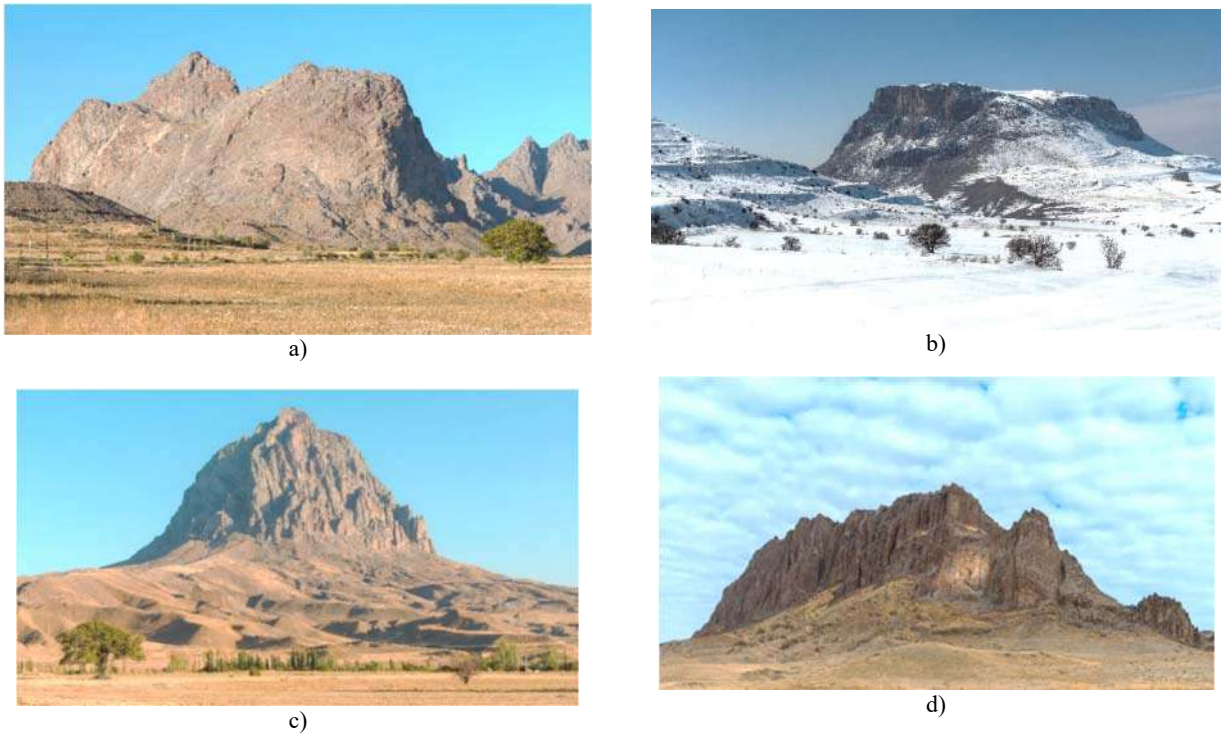
Geosites inventory of Ilandagh geopark includes 11 enclosed limestone and limestone-dolomite karst, as well as pseudo-karst caves with outstanding value of national and regional importance. Some caves are also popular for their archaeological and cultural value (Fig. 4). For example, there are early men's sites discovered in the caves of Havush piri, Gazma, Dashgala and Bibgatal. The other caves are known as sacred places of worship. The most famous one is the Ashab-i Kehf cave – one of the most important sacred places of Azerbaijan, popular for the Islamic communities of the Caucasus and Middle East regions (Kangarli, Babayev, 2012).

Canyons

In different parts of the Zangezur and Daralayaz ranges, there are several undisturbed valleys and canyons with unique geological and geomorphological characteristics and magnificent landscapes. The most picturesque 8 canyons, each extending for the distance of 3-7 km in the river valleys of Ganzachay, Goydara, Kilit, Saggarsu, Nakhchivanchay and Araz, were included in the geopark's inventory (Fig. 5).

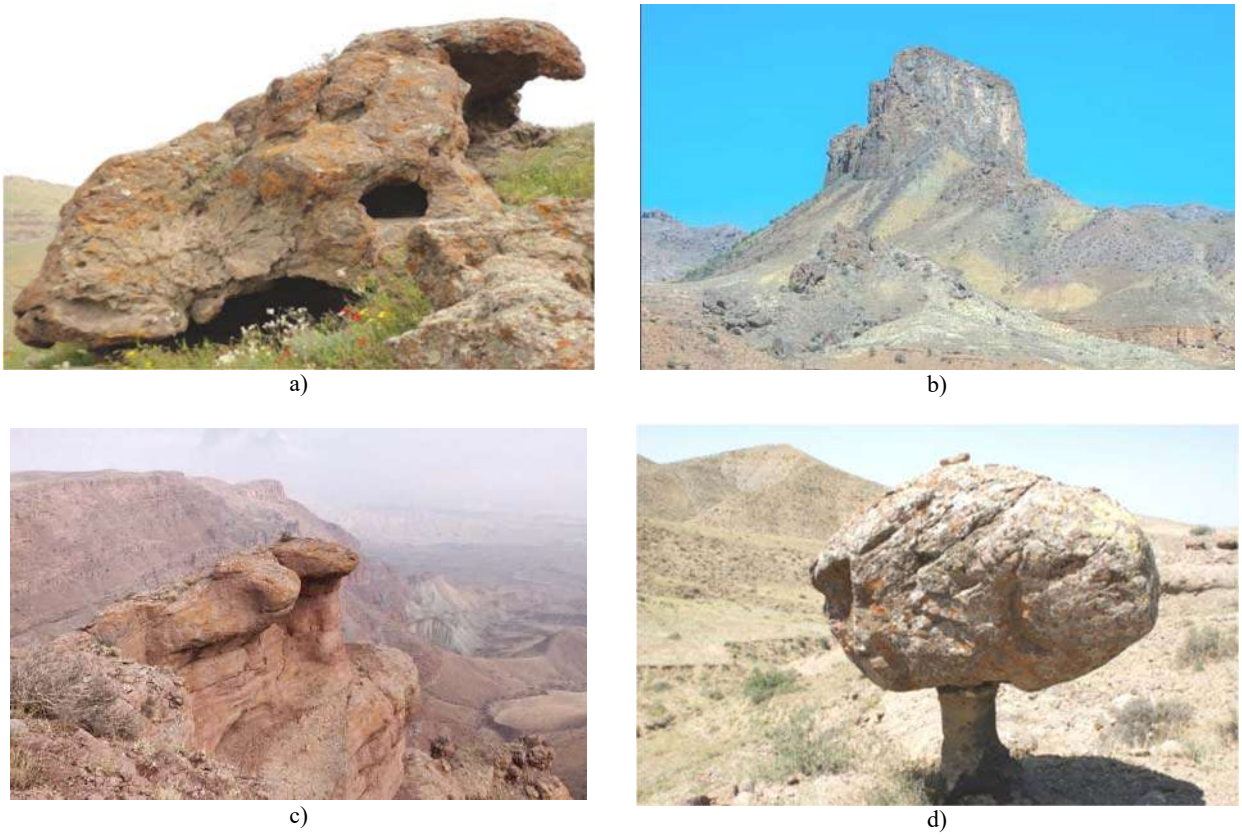
Geological sites

In Nakhchivan, there are a lot of rare geosites associated with different-age and multi-genesis geological and tectonic processes. 54 of such geosites have been studied and inventoried by the task force of Ilandagh Geopark. Identified geosites were grouped in the categories of stratigraphic, tectono-magmatic, ore-historical and petrographic monuments.



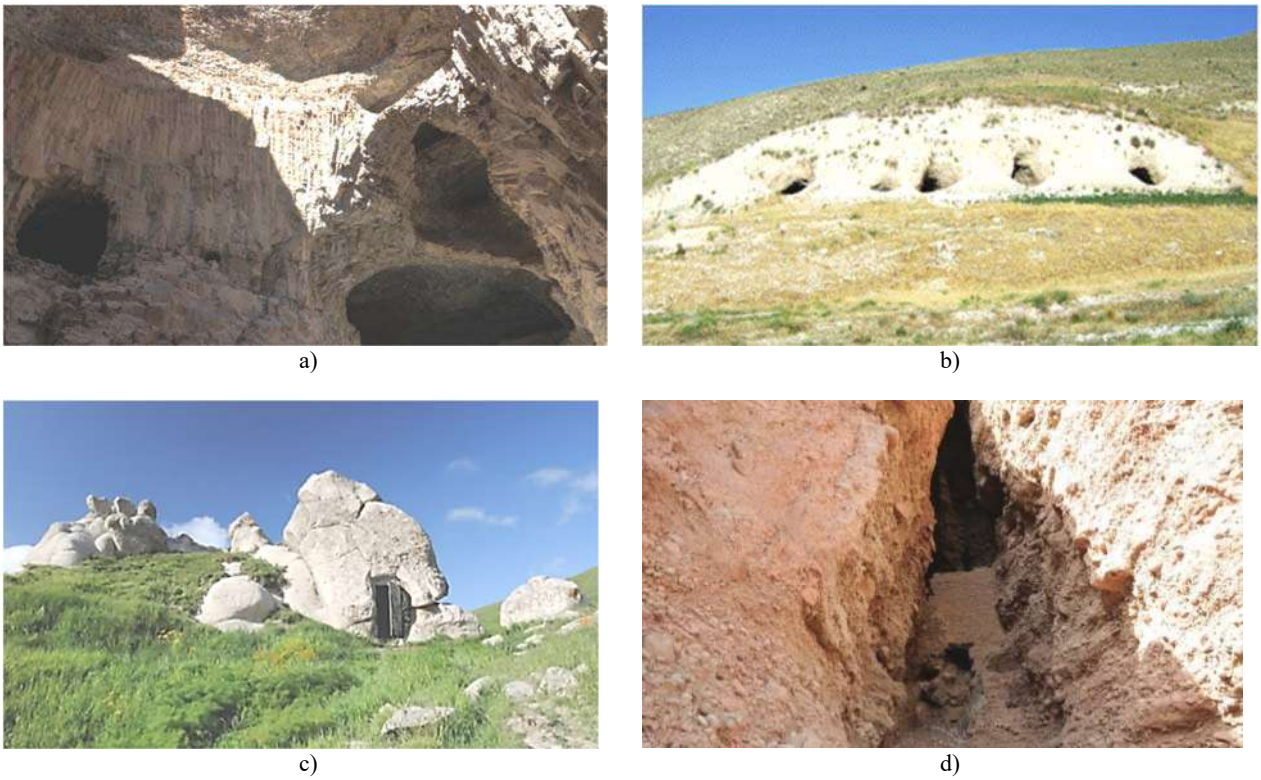
a) b) c) d)

Fig. 2. Majestic mountain peaks: a) Alinja (1811.9 m), b) Bardik (2053.6 m), c) Ilandagh (2415.8 m), d) Nahajir (1807.3 m)



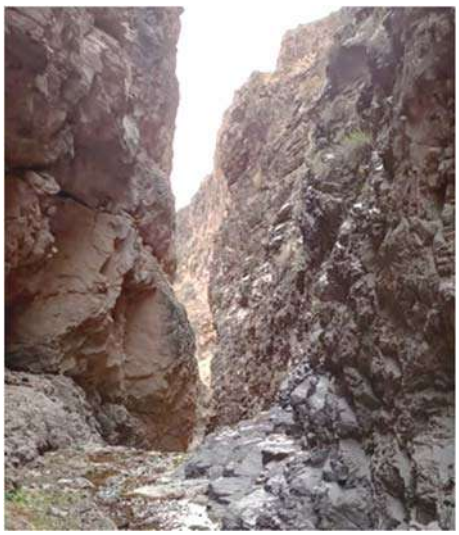
a) b) c) d)

Fig. 3. Exotic rocks: a) Ayigaya, b) Babek Galasi, c) Jutbash Kertenkele, d) Papagdash



a) b) c) d)

Fig. 4. Caves: a) Ashab-i Kehf, b) Lizbirt, c) Farhad evi, d) Darasham



a)



b)



c)

Fig. 5. Canyons: a) Koydara, b) Saggarsu, c) Nakhchivanchay

Stratigraphic geosites

Unique stratigraphic sections are of a high priority in the list of rare geosites of the Nakhchivan province, as they reflect some of the key milestones in the geological evolution of the Caucasus, Middle East and Anatolia regions. Lithological and stratigraphic sections exposed in the province belong to the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic complexes of the Araz megazone. On the territory of Ilandagh geopark, there are 17 unique lithology-stratigraphic sections, including the most remarkable stratotype sections of Aza (Paleocene-Eocene terrigenous complex), Paradash (Bartonian-Priabonian formation), Chashirdagh (Lower-Middle Miocene series), Kukukchay (Lower Lutetian formation), Darasham (Upper Permian terrigenous-carbonate complex) and Kotam (Upper Cretaceous volcanosedimentary complex) (Fig. 6) (Kangarli, Babayev, 2012).

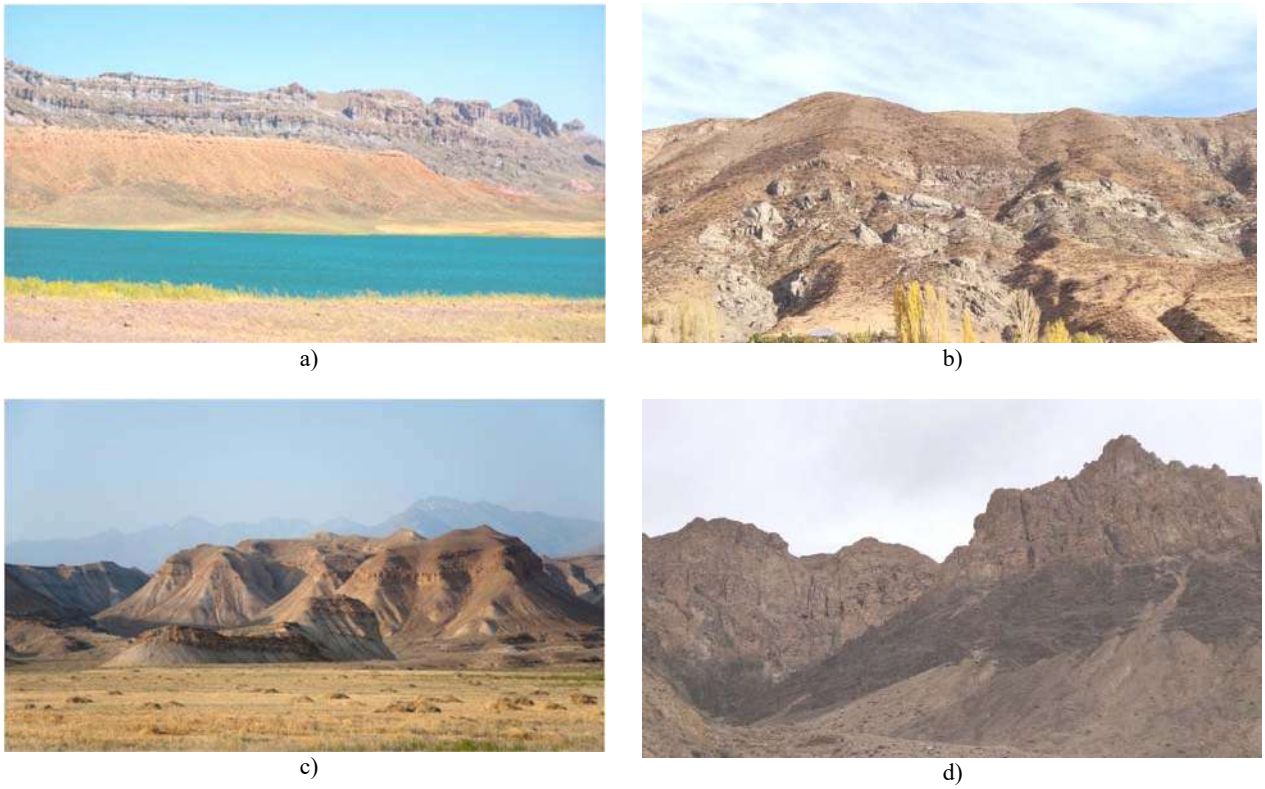
Tectonomagmatic geosites

Rare tectonomagmatic geosites of the Nakhchivan province are represented by intrusive and subvolcanic massifs, as well as ancient blocks of the rocks with unique petrographic and tectonic parameters (Alizadeh et al., 2016c). 13 such geosites are located on the territory of Ilandagh geopark, including famous Nakhchivan laccoliths – the group of spectacular intrusives – abovementioned magnificent mountains of Ilandagh, Nahajir, Khanegah and Bardik (Fig. 7).

Ore-petrographic geosites

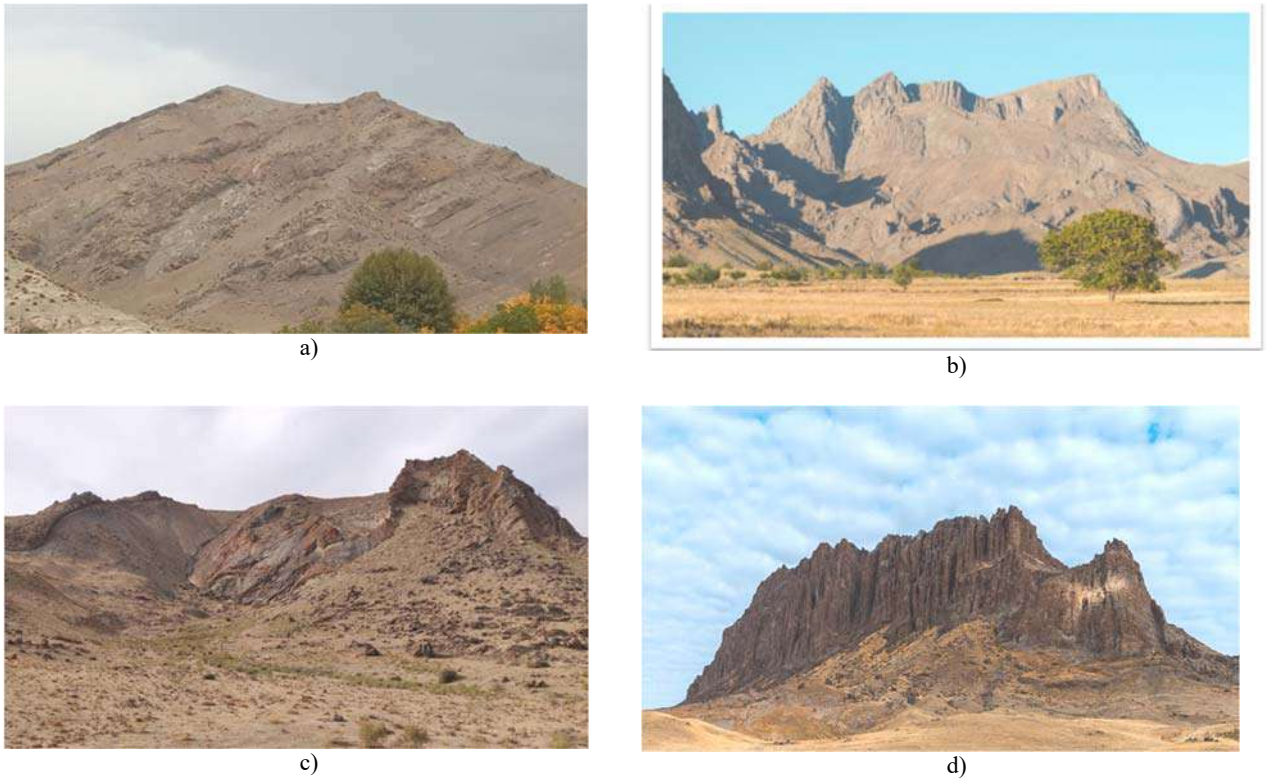
Ore-petrographic geosites are one of the most representative parts of the Nakhchivan's geoheritage. There are 14 ore deposits on the relatively small territory of the province, and 12 of them are located on the territory of Ilandagh geopark. These are the only in the entire Caucasus and Middle East regions deposits of silty agates in Daralik and andalusite in Paraghachay, Buzgov travertine deposit known for rich reserves of the high-quality minerals, the world's largest dolomite deposit in Nokhutdagh, the Caucasus' largest rock salt deposit in Duzdagh (developed for 5 thsd years) and melanterite deposit in Nehram valley, as well as Ganzin granodiorite, Kilit

hornfels and monzonite, Ordubadchay granodiorite-granosyenite Gapijig rutile and Sirab aragonite deposits known as the only deposits of these minerals in Azerbaijan (Fig. 8).



a) b) c) d)

Fig. 6. Lithology-stratigraphic sections: a) Chashirdagh, b) Kukukchay, c) Aza, d) Kotam



a) b) c) d)

Fig. 7. Tectonomagmatic geosites: a) Aghridagh intrusive, b) Bardik intrusive, c) Gal intrusive, d) Nahajir intrusive



a) b)

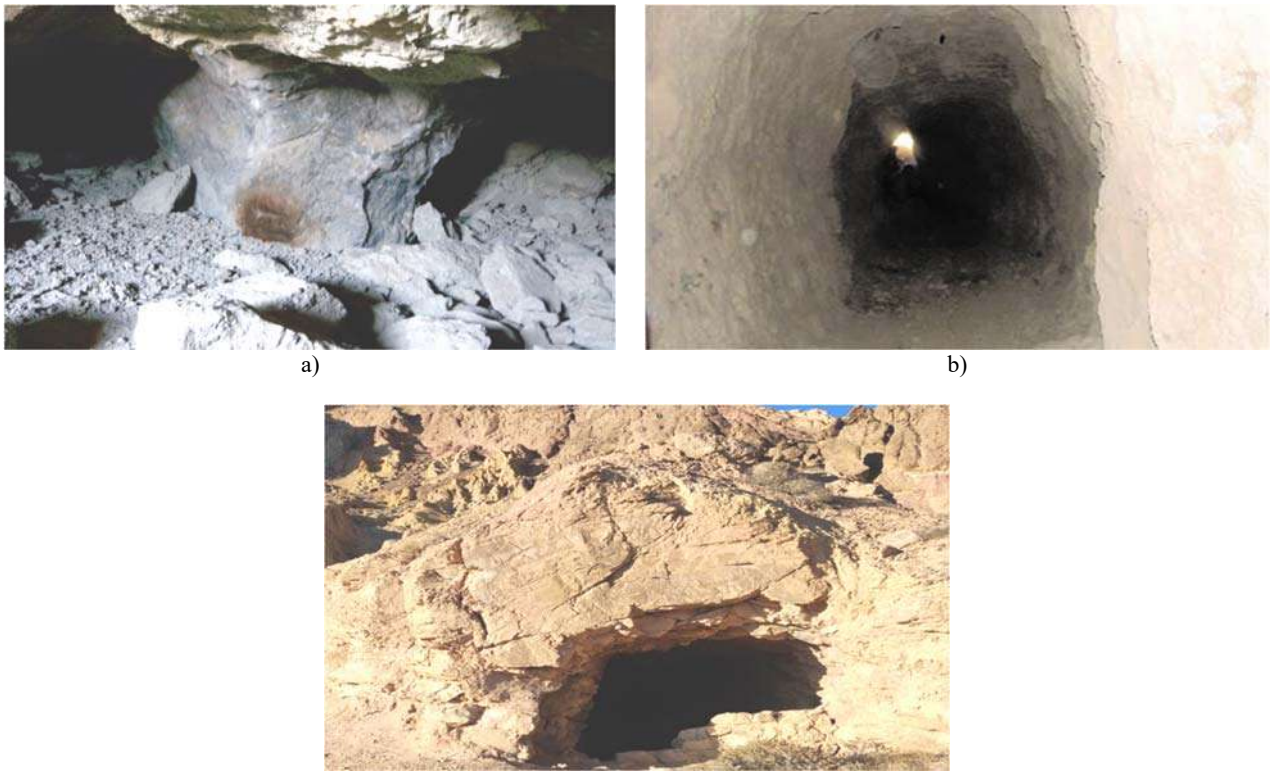
Fig. 8. Ore-petrographic deposits: a) Nokhutdagh dolomite deposit, b) Sirab aragonite deposit

Mining-historical geosites

Some of the numerous mineral deposits of the Nakhchivan province have been developed since ages. For example, mining of salt from the Duzdagh deposit has been carried out since the 3rd millennium BC. The copper-arsenic deposits of Daridagh were exploited back in the 3rd century BC. According to the 12th century historian Hamdullah Ghazvini, there were several copper mines in the vicinity of Nakhchivan town, production of which was exported to the other countries in the region. The total of 7 ore-historical geosites were identified and inventoried as part of the Ilandagh geopark. In addition to the deposits mentioned above, the list includes Gomur sulphur (18th century), Paraghachay molybdenum (18th century), "Safar evleri" construction stone (15th century), as well as Sirab and Vaykhir copper (3rd-1st millenniums B.C.) deposits (Fig. 9).

Hydrogeological sites

One of the most famous and valuable elements of the geological heritage of Nakhchivan province are the numerous sources of mineral and thermal waters. So far, only 54 of the 220 mineral water sources discovered in the region have been studied in detail.



a) b)

c)

Fig. 9. Ore-historical geosites: a) Duzdagh salt deposit, b) Vaykhir copper deposit, c) Daridagh copper-arsenic deposit

In general, mineral waters are divided into 6 types, 8 classes and 33 types and, according to their balneological properties, are represented by chloride-sulphate, sulphide, magnesium-iron and radon groups. The total flow rate of the studied sources reaches 15 million litres per day. In the relatively small geography of the province, analogues of many world-famous mineral waters are produced, including the Russian "Sinegorskaya", "Narzan", "Yessentuki", "Kislovodsk" and "Pyatigorsk", the Georgian "Borjomi", "Tsaghveri" and "Java", Czech "Frantiskovy", Hungarian "Kevert", Polish "Kudova", French "La Bourboule", German "Dürkheim", Ukrainian "Shoima", etc. Of particular interest are the fissure-vein waters emerging from subsoil of the Badamli, Vaykhir, Gahab, Sirab, Nahajir, Gizilvang and Daridagh mineral water deposits. The temperature of the water taken from the operating wells of the Sirab and Daridagh sources reaches 41-52ºC. There is a balneological hospital operating on the basis of the Daridagh carbonate-Margumush reservoir. 35 natural and drilled mineral water sources were included in the inventory of the Ilandagh geopark (Fig. 10).



a) b) c) d)

Fig. 10. Hydrogeological sites: a) Sirab, b) Vaykhir, c) Daridagh, d) Ganza

Hydrological sites

The list of rare hydrological monuments of Nakhchivan includes mountain lakes and waterfalls with different hydrological parameters, hydrodynamic regime and chemical properties of water. Standalone part of this heritage is a rock salt waterfall - a unique natural monument at the Duzdagh deposit. The picturesque mountain lakes Goygol, Salvarty, Ganlygel and Batabat, located between absolute heights of 2100-3100 m on the slopes of the Zangezur and Daralayaz ranges, are the highest mountain lakes in the Azerbaijani part of the Lesser Caucasus. Also, there are 11 beautiful 10-20 m tall waterfalls located in different reaches of the major rivers of the province. Hydrological sites of Ilandagh geopark include Batabat, Goygol, Ganligol and Salvarti high-mountain lakes, as well as Balliduz, Jamalchay, Arafsa, Gavakh, Pazmara and Zidara waterfalls.

Biodiversity

An important condition for achieving sustainability of a global geopark is the richness of a candidate territory in the other types of natural, as well as tangible and intangible cultural and historical heritage. The territory of Nakhchivan province is distinguished not only for its' rich landscape diversity and large accumulation of rare geosites, but also for its biodiversity.

Most of the flora and fauna species spread on the territory of Azerbaijan (60 and 56%, respectively) are present in the Nakhchivan ecosystems. The biodiversity of the province is represented by about 3,000 species of plants, 373 species of animals and 226 species of birds. Among them, 58 animal, 39 plant and 3 bird species are listed in the Red Book of Azerbaijan. On the territory of the autonomous re-

public there are Zangezur National Park, as well as Shahbuz, Arpachay, Ordubad and Araz state reserves.

The territory of the planned geopark is known as one of the key biodiversity areas of not only Nakhchivan, but also Azerbaijan and the Caucasus ecoregion. The geopark's fauna is represented by 403 species of vertebrates and 2030 species of invertebrates. 142 species, including 9 fish, 6 amphibian, 14 reptile, 71 bird and 42 mammal species, are included in the second edition of the Red Book of Azerbaijan. The flora diversity of the province is also very rich, amounting to 3021 species of alpine, petrophytic and desert vegetation.

Cultural and historical heritage

Another element of the wealth of the Nakhchivan province is its historical and cultural heritage. In total, there are more than 280 archaeological and 400 historical monuments registered on the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. On the territory of the planned geopark, there are 66 historical and 108 archaeological monuments. 2 historical monuments are of global, 60 of national, and 4 of local importance. 28 archaeological sites are of global, 61 of national, and 19 of local importance.

Conclusions

Geological and natural diversity, as well as rich cultural and historical heritage of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic make it one of the most promising regions of Azerbaijan in terms of the creation and successful functioning of a global geopark. Concentration of a large number of easily accessible geosites in a relatively small area with developed transport and energy infrastructure facilitates the solution of problems associated with the organization of the Ilandagh geopark. Ilandagh geopark will integrate geological, geomorphological, and culture-historical heritage of the province, as well as its' key biodiversity areas (Zangezur National Park) into a single legal nature protection system. In addition, the proposed geopark will allow creating an original protection mechanism of natural sites and human heritage, with the involvement of local societies. Moreover, it will promote organizing education and awareness raising activities, and developing geotourism in the province.

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ПОТЕНЦИАЛЬНЫЕ ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ГЕОПАРКА В НАХЧЫВАНСКОЙ АВТОНОМНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ

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Резюме. Территория Азербайджанской Республики отличается исключительным богатством геологического наследия, включающего в себя в том числе редкие геологические объекты (РГО) регионального и мирового значения. В 1982 году 37 РГО были включены во впервые разработанный список охраняемых природных памятников Азербайджана. В 2009-2012 гг., в целях расширения этого списка был реализован «План действий по охране и устойчивому использованию редких геологических объектов в Азербайджанской Республике», в ходе которого были изучены и инвентаризированы 484 РГО мирового, регионального, национального и местного значения. Учитывая, что некоторые из выявленных групп РГО расположены на сравнительно небольших территориях, характеризующихся богатством природного и историко-культурного наследия, наиболее перспективным способом организации охраны этих объектов можно считать создание геологических парков. В настоящее время в Азербайджане имеется 5 территорий, отличающихся высоким потенциалом для организации геопарков. Одной из таких территорий является Нахчыванская Автономная Республика, отличающаяся исключительным геологическим и историко-культурным наследием, а также богатым биологическим разнообразием. В 2020-2022 гг. группа азербайджанских ученых исследовала потенциал интеграции важнейших РГО региона в рамках правового режима геопарка «Иландаг». В результате проделанных работ были составлены паспорта для 171 объектов геологического наследия Нахчыванской АР. Территория планируемого геопарка также признана одной из основных зон биоразнообразия Азербайджана и Кавказского экорегиона. Что касается культурно-исторического наследия, то здесь насчитывается 66 исторических и 108 археологических памятников, в том числе 2 исторических и 28 археологических памятников мирового значения. Все эти факторы делают геопарк «Иландаг» одним из самых благоприятных мест для создания глобального геопарка в Азербайджанской Республике.

Ключевые слова: *геоконсервация, редкие геологические объекты, геопарк, геология, геоморфология, Нахчыван, Азербайджан*

NAXÇIVAN MUXTAR RESPUBLİKASINDA GEOPARKIN TƏŞKİLİ ÜÇÜN POTENSİAL İMKANLAR

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Xülasə. Azərbaycanda regional və dünya əhəmiyyətinə malik təbiət abidələri daxil olmaqla, bir çox geoloji irs obyektləri mövcuddur. 1982-ci ildə 37 nadir geoloji obyekt (NGO) Azərbaycanda ilk dəfə tərtib olunmuş qorunan təbiət abidələrinin siyahısına daxil edilmişdir. Həmin siyahının genişləndirilməsi məqsədilə 2009-2012-ci illərdə həyata keçirilmiş "Azərbaycan Respublikasında nadir geoloji obyektlərin qorunması və davamlı istifadəsinə dair Tədbirlər Planı"nın icrası nəticəsində ölkə ərazisində yerləşən qlobal, regional, milli və yerli əhəmiyyətli 484 NGO tədqiq edilmiş və inventarlaşdırılmışdır. Müəyyən edilmiş bəzi qrup NGO-ların təbii və tarixi-mədəni irsin zənginliyi ilə səciyyələnən nisbətən kiçik coğrafi ərazilərdə yerləşdiyini nəzərə alaraq, həmin obyektlərin mühafizəsinin təşkili üçün ən perspektivli yol geoloji parkların yaradılması hesab edilə bilər. Hazırda Azərbaycanda geoparkların təşkili üçün yüksək potensialı ilə seçilən 5 ərazi mövcuddur ki, bunlardan biri də müstəsna geoloji və tarixi-mədəni irsi, habelə zəngin bioloji müxtəlifliyi ilə seçilən Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasıdır. 2020-2022-ci illərdə Azərbaycanlı alimlər vilayətin ən mühüm NGO-larının "İlandağ" Geoparkının hüquqi rejimi çərçivəsində inteqrasiyasının potensialını təhqiq etmiş və nəticədə 171 obyektin pasportlarını işləyib hazırlamışdır. Planlaşdırılan geoparkın ərazisi həm də Azərbaycanın və Qafqaz ekoregionunun əsas biomüxtəliflik ərazilərindən biri kimi tanınır. Mədəni-tarixi irsə gəlincə, burada 66 tarixi və 108 arxeoloji abidə, o cümlədən dünya əhəmiyyətli 2 tarixi və 28 arxeoloji abidə mövcuddur. Bütün bu amillər "İlandağ" Geoparkını Azərbaycan Respublikasında qlobal geopark yaratmaq üçün ən əlverişli yerlərdən birinə çevirir.

Açar sözlər: *geokonservasiya, nadir geoloji obyektlər, geopark, geologiya, geomorfologiya, Naxçıvan, Azərbaycan*