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Strategic Ecological Assessment (SEA): Hypothetical SEA for a city Master Plan in Azerbaijan

Online Training Workshop on the Practical Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
in Regional and Spatial Planning

26-27 April, 2021

Baku, Azerbaijan

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Khirdalan City.

It was built as a village early 20th century. In 1930-1960, it acted as a settlement within Binagadi District and as the center of Absheron District founded under 1963 Decree of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR.

Khirdalan, which was an urban settlement in 1936 gained the status of a city in 2006 under an Executive Order by President Ilham Aliyev.

According to the conclusions of the population census conducted in 1999, the population of Khirdalan City were 28,576 persons that year, while this number was 94.6 thousands for early 2013.



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Khirdalan City is closely connected to Baku

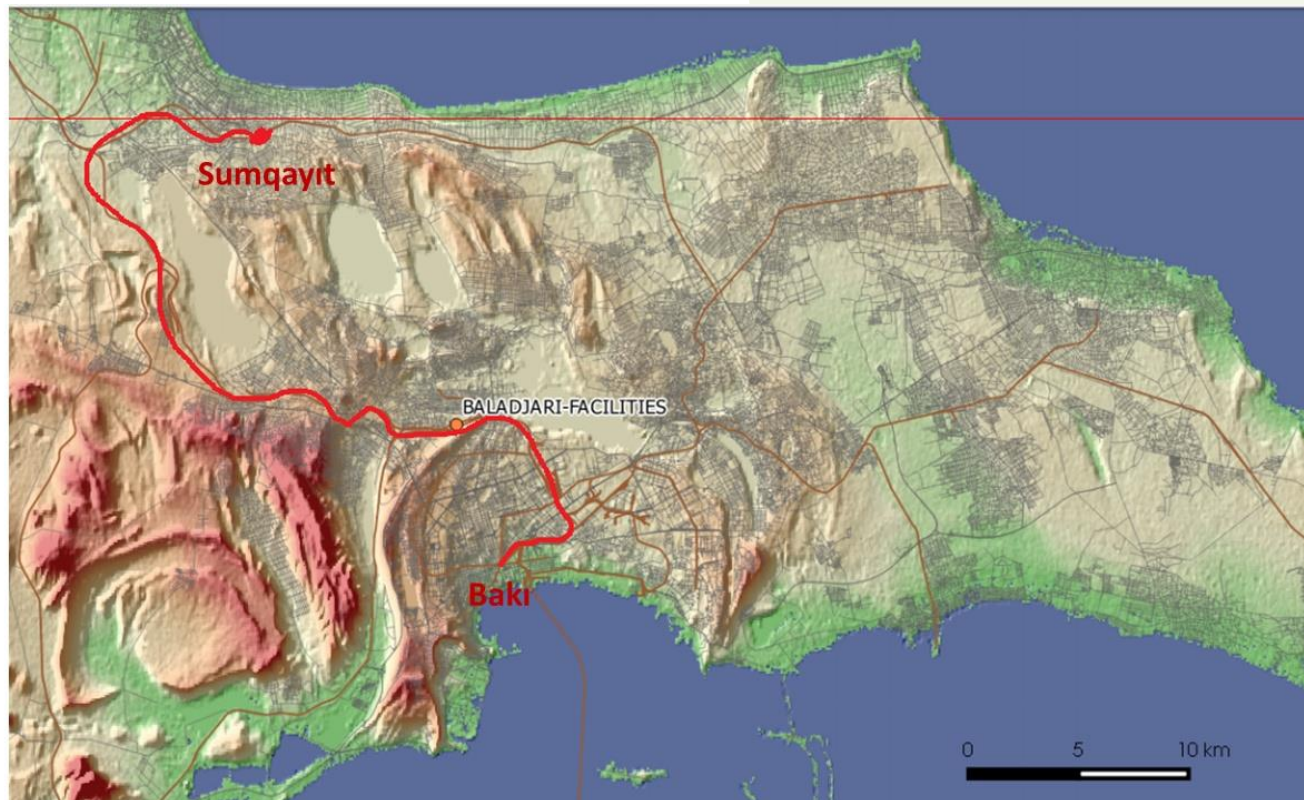
- It is informally recognized as a part of Baku
- Baku is reachable in 21 minutes by an expres train (*its activity has been temporarily stopped due to the quarantine*)

This route is currently active. Baku Railway Station – Biladjari – Khirdalan – Gouzdak – Sumgayit. 11 pairs of trains operate a day and transport average 6 thousand passengers a day.

- A few extra minutes are required by car

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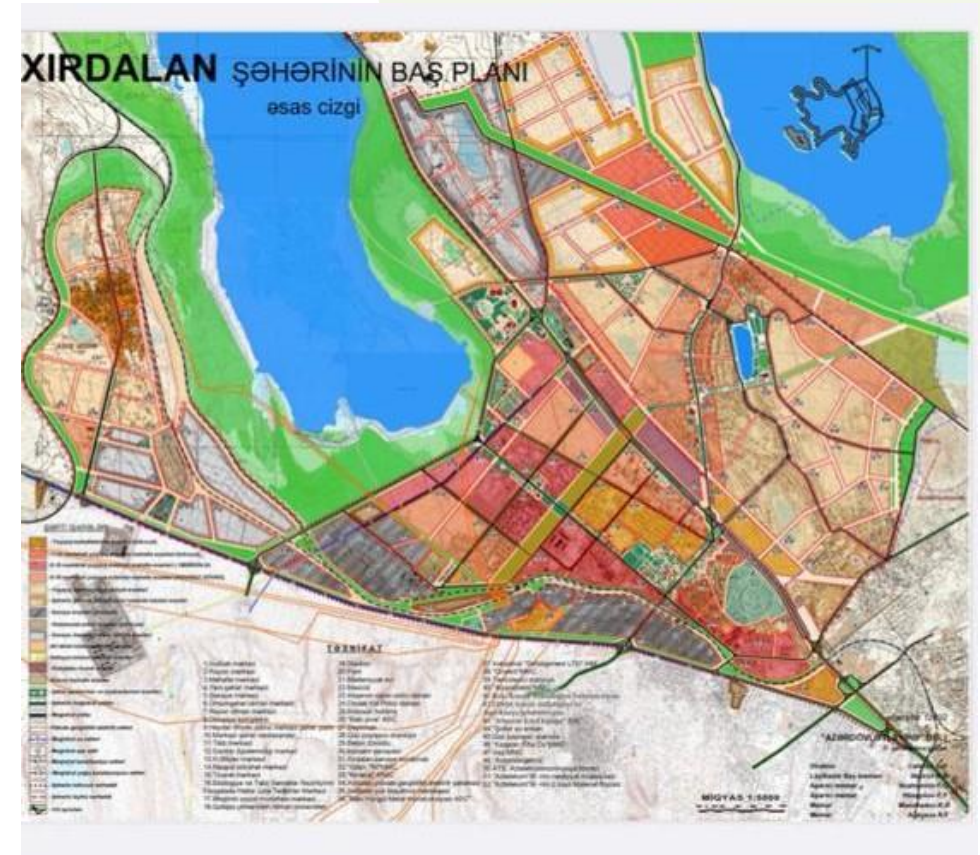
Master Plan of Khirdalan City

No SEA has been applied

Designed by AzerDovlatLayiha Institute under the Ministry of Emergency Cases under an order by the State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture

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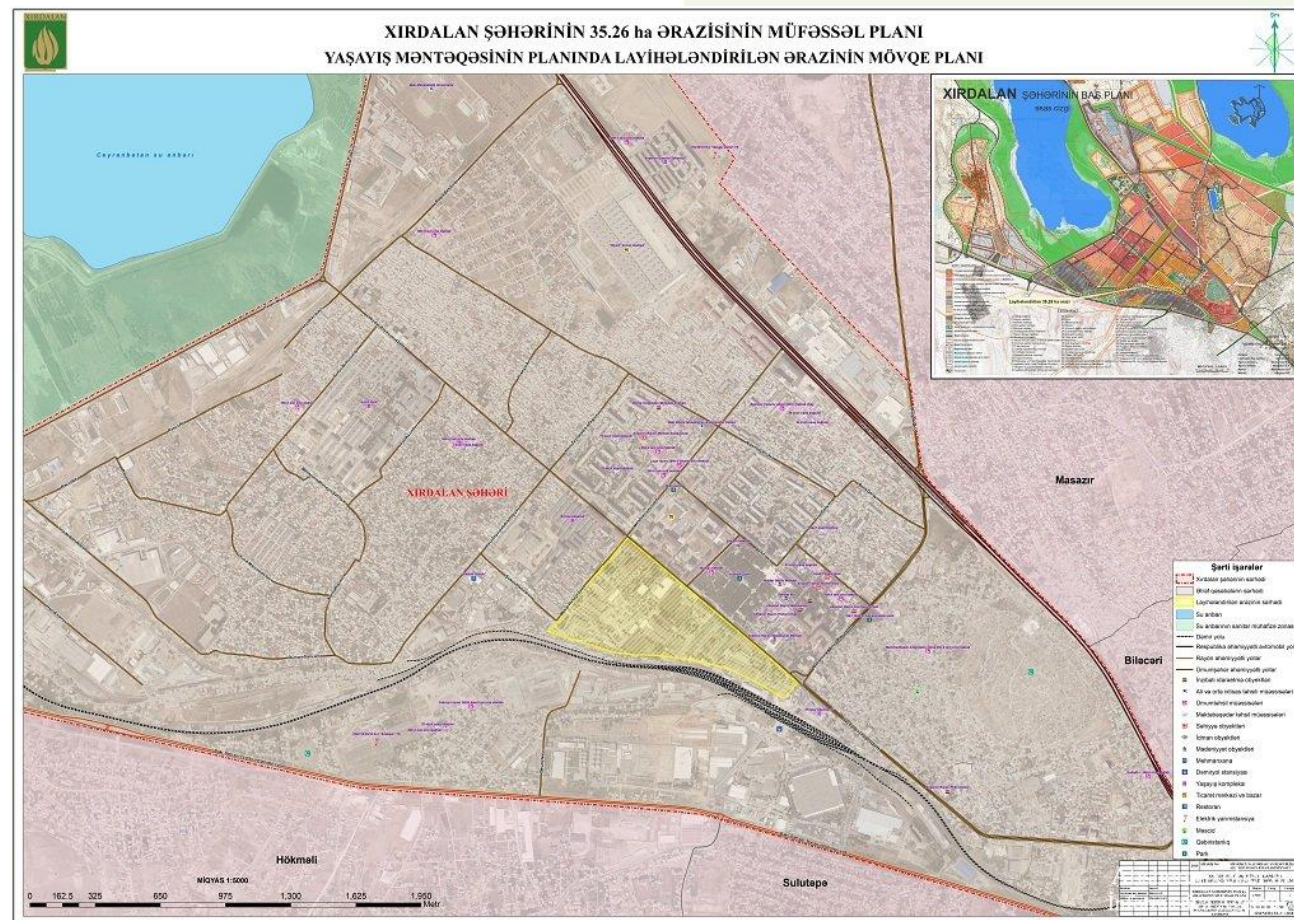
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Detailed Plan for 35 Ha in Khirdalan City

Its public hearing was held in 2019

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Content and context of Master Plan

- Baseline conditions– Social, economic, environmental
- SWOT Analysis
- Planning objectives: sectoral, spatial,...
- Thematic concepts (transport system, residential areas, technical infrastructure, natural risks and ...)
- Key question to ask: What is proposed by the new Masterplan? i.e. What will be different
- compared to the existing land-use and spatial limits?

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Determined as a result of the Strategic Ecological Assessment conducted within the framework of the Draft Regional Development Plan for Great Baku of the Master Plan

- Illegal housings, storehouses and logistics centers, industrial facilities (furniture, salt, beer, food manufacturing facilities),
- It is characterized by the petrol industry. It has been a part of Baku for long years. The development in the territory of Binagadi has been taking either in a planned or unplanned way at a relevant level for years, which has lead to provision of poor ecological services in the territory.
- Furthermore, unrelated activities have located very close to each other. Narrow and populous streets limit the traffic.

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The spatial planning priorities are as follows:

- Establishment of a new railway station in Khirdalan (the existing one has been operating since 2016)
- Construction of a new hospital (planned)
- Improvement of the road infrastructure and utility services (partly implemented)
- Implementation of new housing projects (including adjacent territories, such as Sulutapa)

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Environmental impacts that may arise from the development of the city are as follows:

Impacts of an inadequate location of unrelated activities, conducting wires, houses and industrial and commercial facilities and of their planning on the social and cultural environment

These impacts may be eliminated by planning and improving relevant zoning.

For this purpose, technological capacity (such as creating noise barriers between highways and residential zones) may also be used, if necessary.

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Inadequate management in the following areas leads to contamination of the natural environment and threatens the public healthcare

Solid wastes from households and industrial facilities. Waste management plans are needed to be linked with the actions that are implemented by Tamiz Shahar OJSC for Baku. The major necessary action for now is to enhance the waste collection system and the program of effective recycling of wastes. Some existing waste dumps should be closed.

Hazardous wastes from hospitals, industrial and commercial entities. These wastes require transportation to a hazardous waste treatment/disposal facility, or to a recycling facility if they can be recycled.

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Inadequate management in the following areas leads to contamination of the natural environment and threatens the public healthcare

Wastewater from households and industrial facilities. All households and *industrial facilities* should be connected to wastewater collection systems. These collection systems should be connected to either the existing or a new wastewater treatment plant. For the protection of the natural environment, wastewater should be discharged to the wastewater treatment plants for treatment before discharging to the Caspian Sea and being used in the irrigation of close areas by reuse.

Stormwater management. Stormwater drainage systems are required to ensure that buildings do not flood. The drainage systems should be designed so that to enable the discharge of wastes that stormwater brings. This will enable the treatment of these waters before using for irrigation purposes and discharging to lakes or the Caspian Sea.

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Consultations (SEA and Master Plan)

- Stakeholders (Reports and Protocol of public consultations)

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Thank you for your attention!!!

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