

Transboundary assessment of persistent organic pollutant contamination in central Caucasian countries Georgia and Azerbaijan - Sampling and analysis pilot phase

Initiative: Zwischen Europa und Orient - Mittelasien/Kaukasus im Fokus der Wissenschaft

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Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are recognized as a severe threat for the environment and human health due to their stability, bioaccumulative potential, and toxicity. Transboundary transport and remobilization of certain POPs via the atmosphere and the transnational Kur river system will be investigated for the Caucasian countries Georgia and Azerbaijan. By means of sophisticated chemical analytical methods and a sample screening of biotic and abiotic matrices combined with geographical information system, a spatial pattern of the degree of pollution with certain POPs across both adjacent Caucasian countries will be established. Communication with stakeholders in the study region will be facilitated by the participation of two NGOs in both Georgia and Azerbaijan. Knowledge transfer will be fostered by a training course for young scientists of the Caucasian cooperation partners. The basic knowledge gained on POP's behavior and remobilization potential shall be used to start a larger follow-up project. By this project, remobilization potential of POPs under different climate change scenarios will be investigated in more detail. This should offer opportunities for sustainable food production with a high level of consumer protection in the Caucasian Region. Furthermore, the specific implementation of water management and treatment technology should be stimulated.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Rolf-Alexander Düring

Universität Gießen

Institut für Bodenkunde und Bodenerhaltung

Interdisziplinäres Forschungszentrum (IFZ)

Gießen

Prof. Dr. Besik Kalandadze

I. Javakhishvili Tbilisi

State University

Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences

Department of Geography

Tbilisi

Georgien

Dr. Elbay Babayev

Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

Institute of Chemistry of Additives

Laboratory of Protective Additives

Baku

Aserbaidtschan