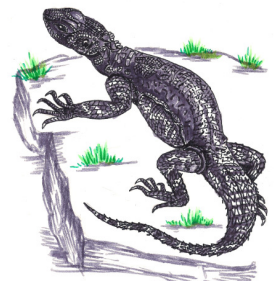


Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus

Biodiversity Day - 22 May

Final Report



22 May 2010 – 1500 children explore the biodiversity of Azerbaijan

In 2010 the International Biodiversity Day was celebrated in Azerbaijan jointly by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education and the GTZ Programme on Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus. 12 environmental education centres and more than 100 schools with approximately 1500 students from different regions and cities participated in the campaign. The main aim was to increase the knowledge of schoolchildren in Azerbaijan regarding the biodiversity of their regions.

Prior to the Biodiversity Day, the teachers attended a training seminar on the theoretical background and field methods for assessing biodiversity. During a special lesson they explained the concept of biodiversity and the species richness of Azerbaijan to their pupils. Finally, on the 22 May, teachers and students went out into nature to explore themselves.

During a two-hour excursion on (or near) 22 May, members of the schools' eco-clubs assessed animal and plant species in an area close to their school (e.g. a park, green area or a similar place). The activity also included an environmental game. The teachers helped them to identify and document the biodiversity of area.

A list with all species discovered during the excursion was compiled and amended with drawings or photos. The documents were then submitted to the regional environmental education centres which later sent it to the head quarter in Baku. A final report was then compiled with support of GTZ-SMBP.

For the future the campaign is planned to reach out to all schools in Azerbaijan. Thus, the International Biodiversity Day will eventually become a nation-wide biodiversity monitoring activity, as the same areas will be assessed year after year, revealing changes across time and regions.

What is the International Biodiversity Day?

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. It is celebrated in many countries by school children with educational games, competitions, species identification exercises and many other activities. The International Biodiversity Day is organized within the framework of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD entered into force on 29 December 1993 and was ratified by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 14 March 2000.

This report summarizes the findings of the International Biodiversity Day 2010 in Azerbaijan. It is the joint effort of the Ministry of Education with their ecological education centres, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, GTZ-SMBP, as well as the many highly dedicated teachers and schoolchildren.

Results

In 2010, the International Biodiversity Day was celebrated in Azerbaijan in the following 12 cities: Baku, Shirvan, Shamakhi, Barda, Lenkoran, Shamkir, Sumgayit, Nakhcivan, Fizuli, Gakh, Ganja and Ordubad. In each region, some 10 schools participated in the event.

A total number of 118 animals and plant species were observed and listed by schoolchildren and their teachers. The following table summarizes the total numbers of species found, as well as the average numbers by school:

Species Group	Total number	Average by school
Birds	26	8.9
Reptiles	12	2.2
Amphibians	5	1.6
Butterflies	10	3.0
Dragonflies and other insects	20	7.8
Trees and bushes	20	9.2
Other plants	24	10.6
Total number	117	43.3

The following charts show how often the species were recorded with the height of the bars representing the percentage of schools that had noted the species. On the left hand side the more common species can be found, while the lower bars at the right margin indicate the rarer ones.

The maps depict the regional distribution of biodiversity by species group. The larger the circles the higher the number of species found in the region.



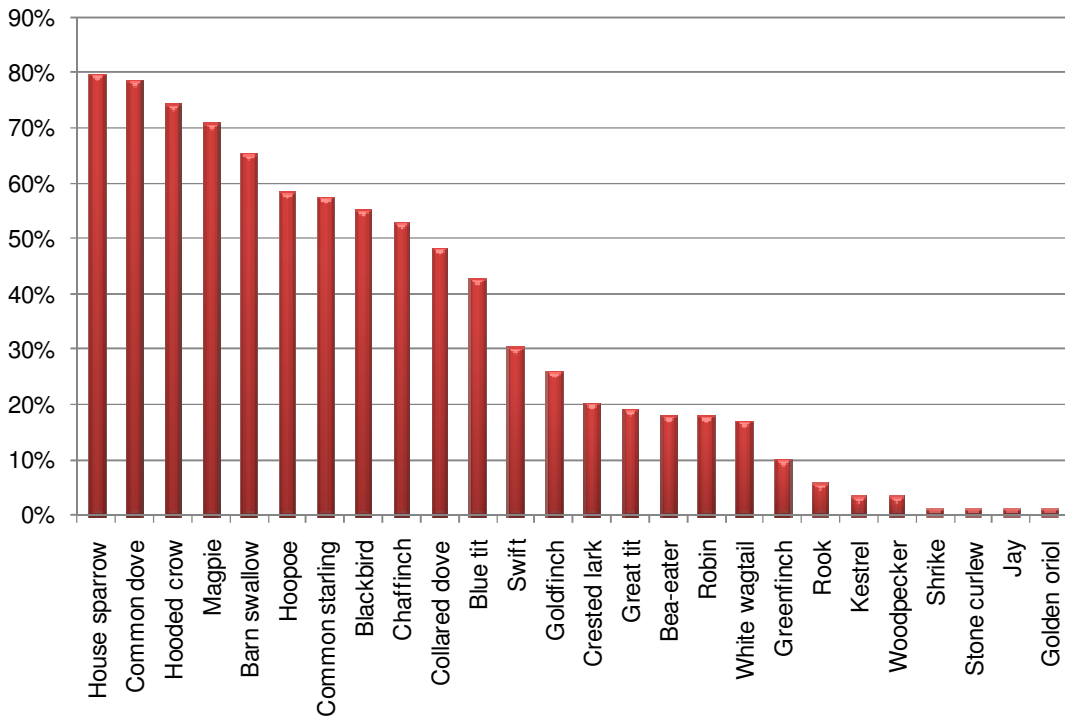
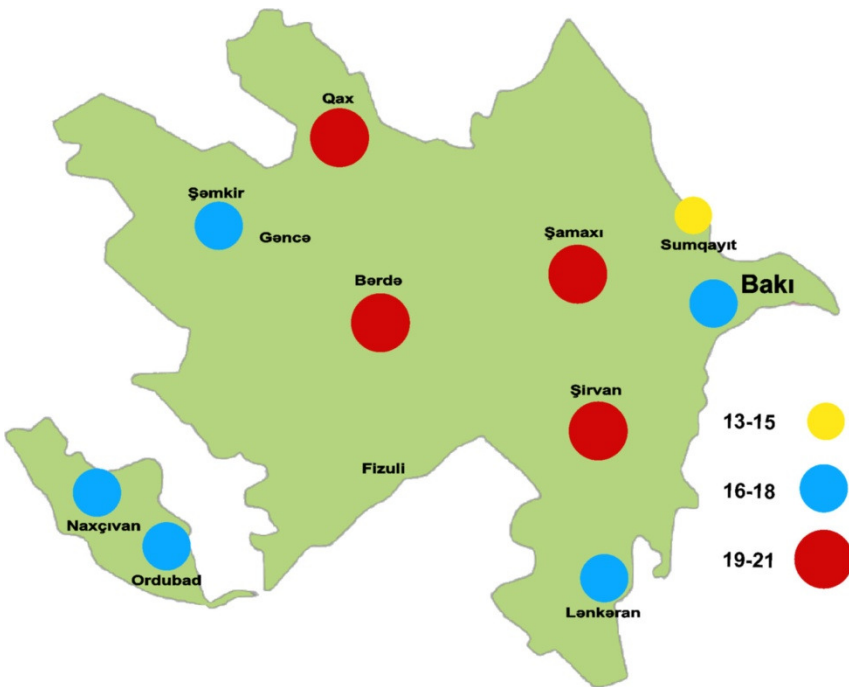


Chart 1: Percentages of schools which found the respective bird species



Map 1: Number of bird species found in each region



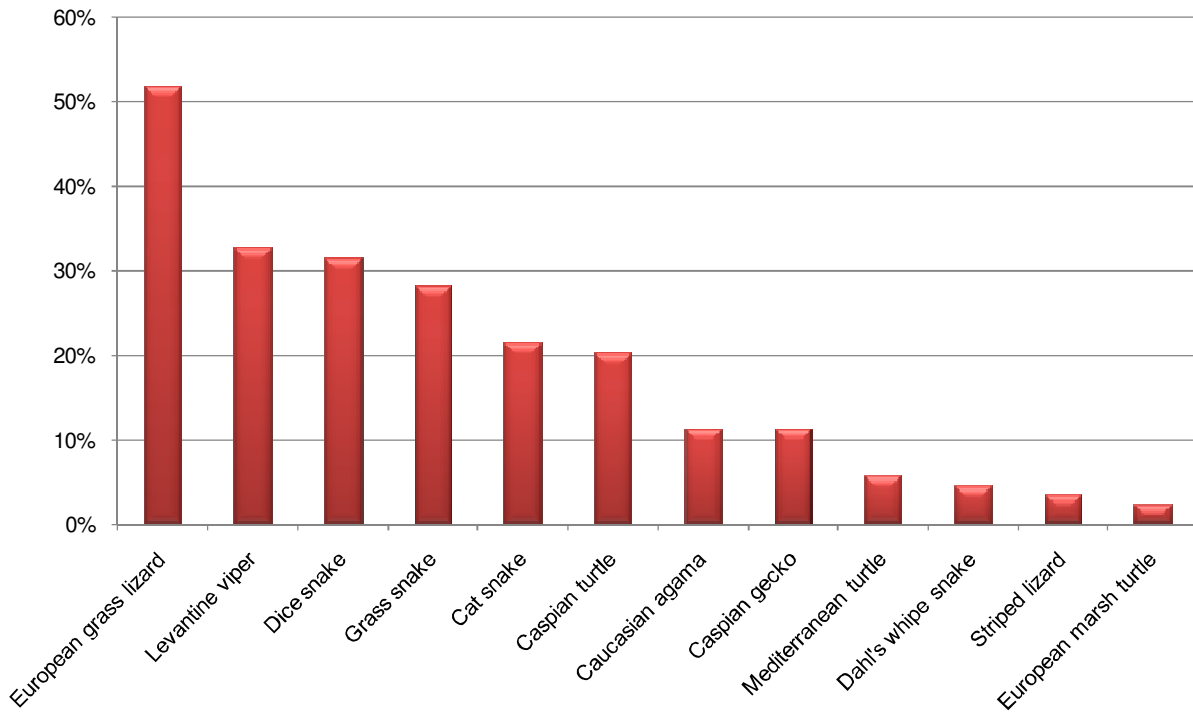
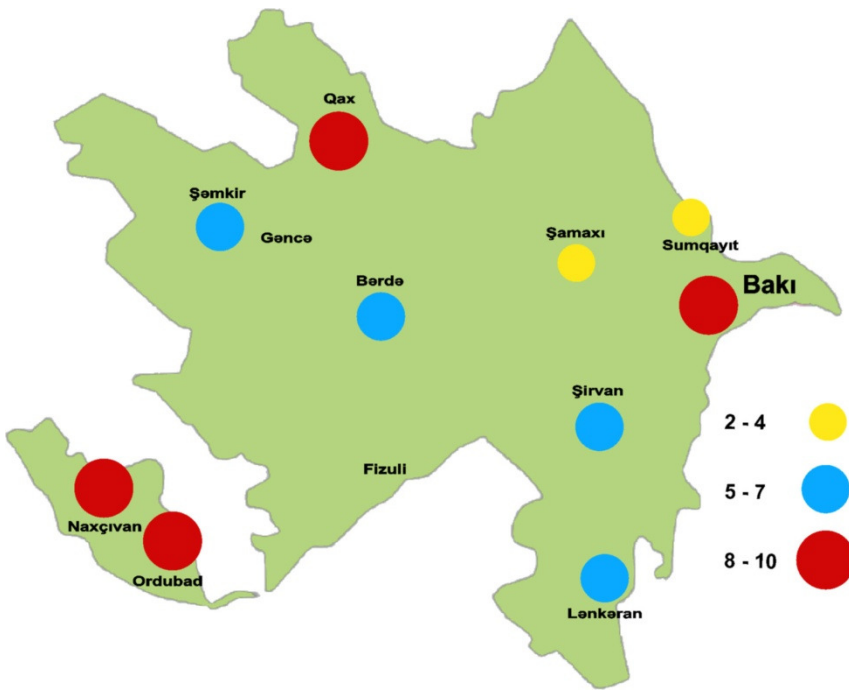


Chart 2: Percentages of schools which found the respective reptile species



Map 2: Number of reptile species found in each region



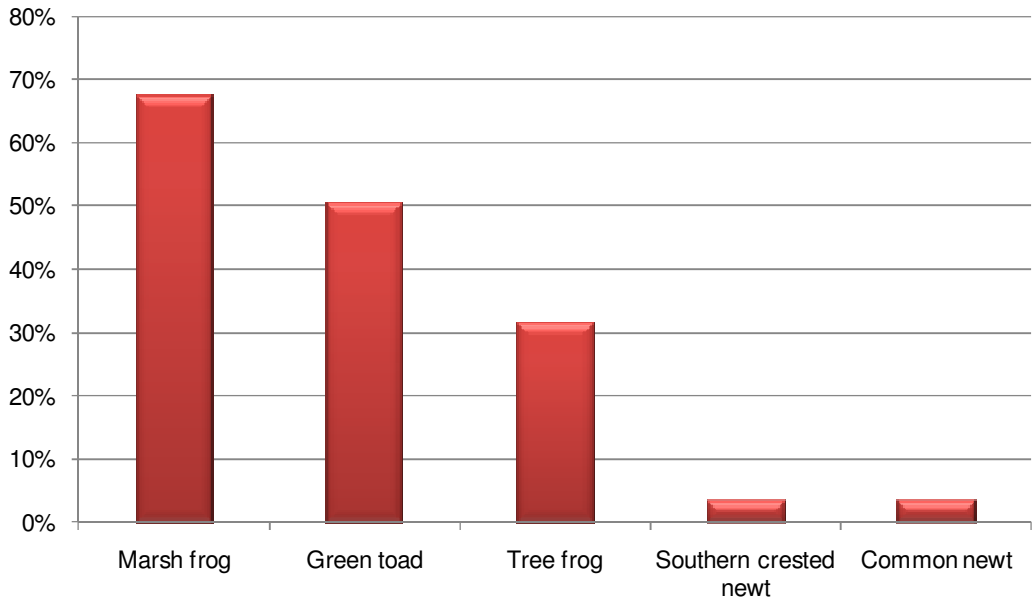
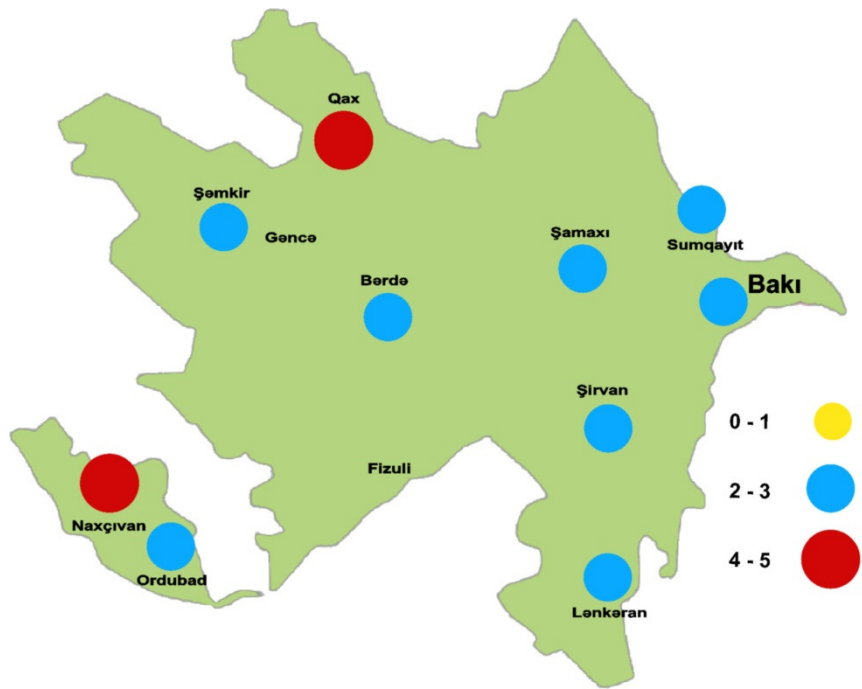


Chart 3: Percentages of schools which found the respective amphibian species



Map 3: Number of amphibian species found in each region



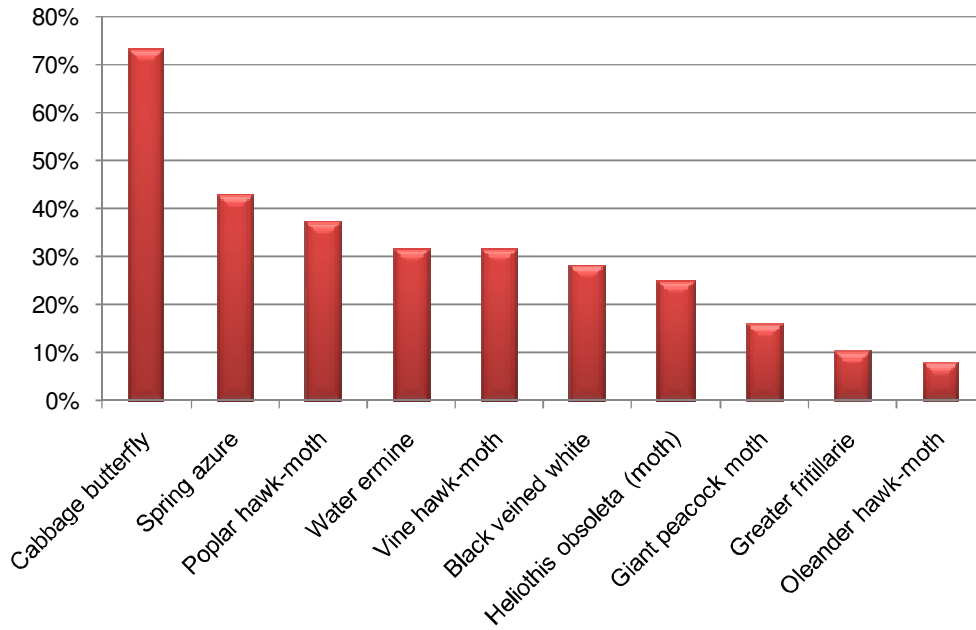
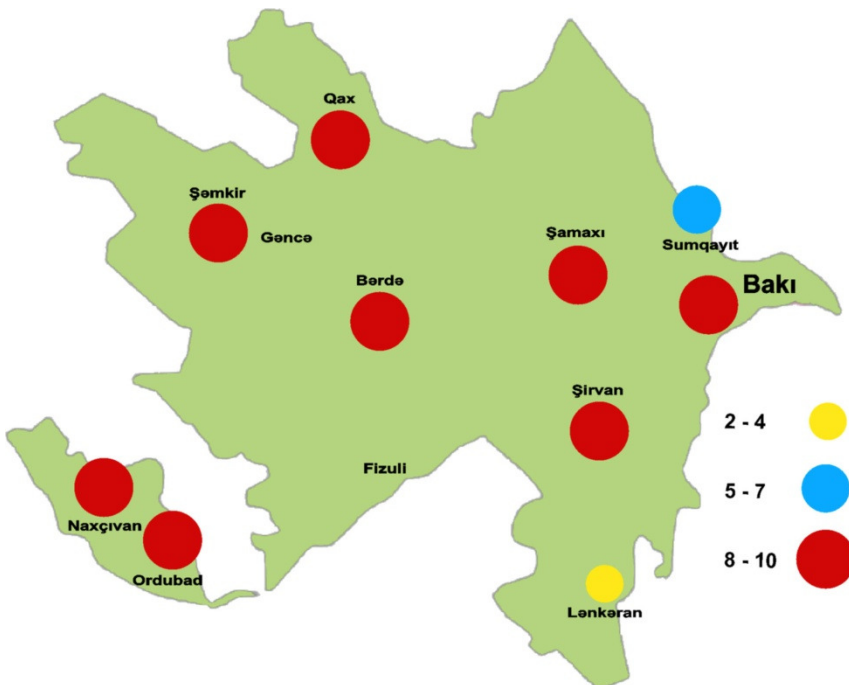
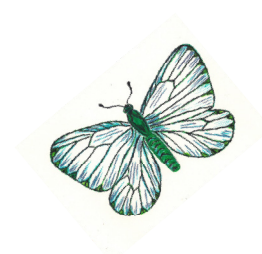


Chart 4: Percentages of schools which found the respective butterfly species



Map 4: Number of butterfly species found in each region



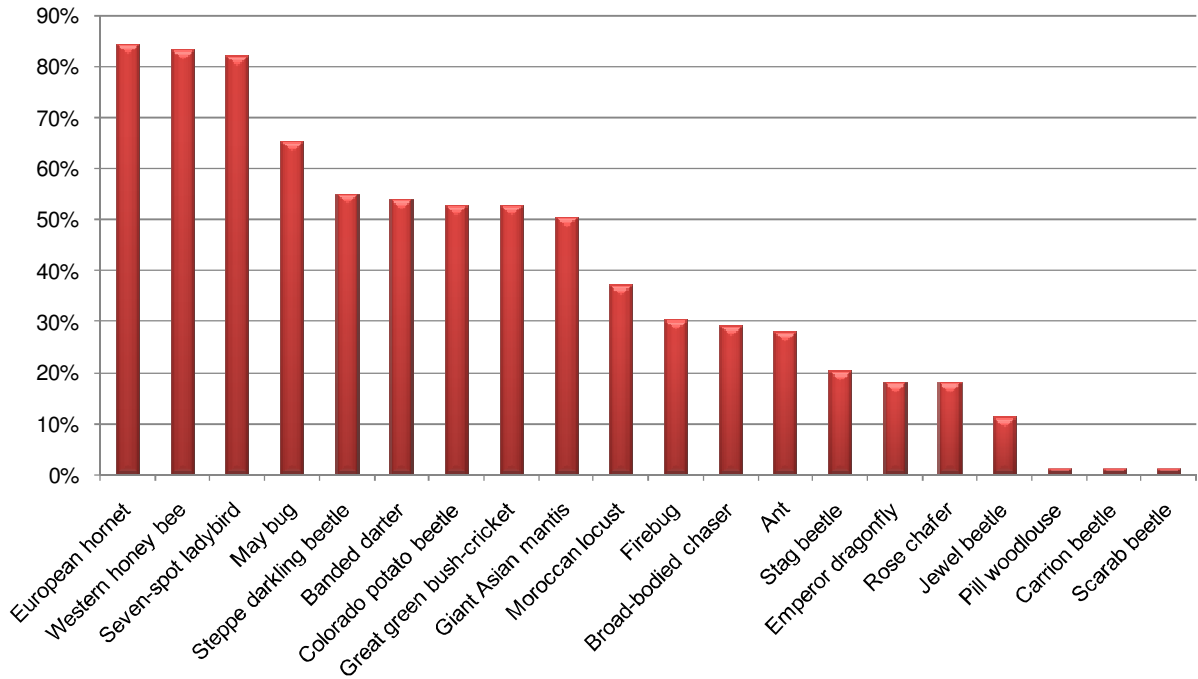
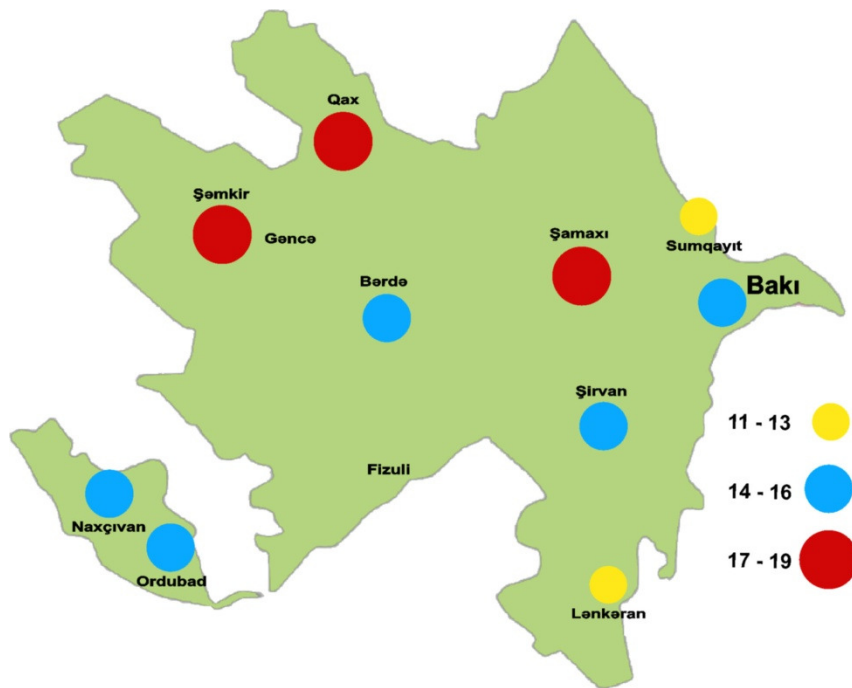


Chart 5: Percentages of schools which found the respective insect species



Map 5: Number of other insect species found in each region



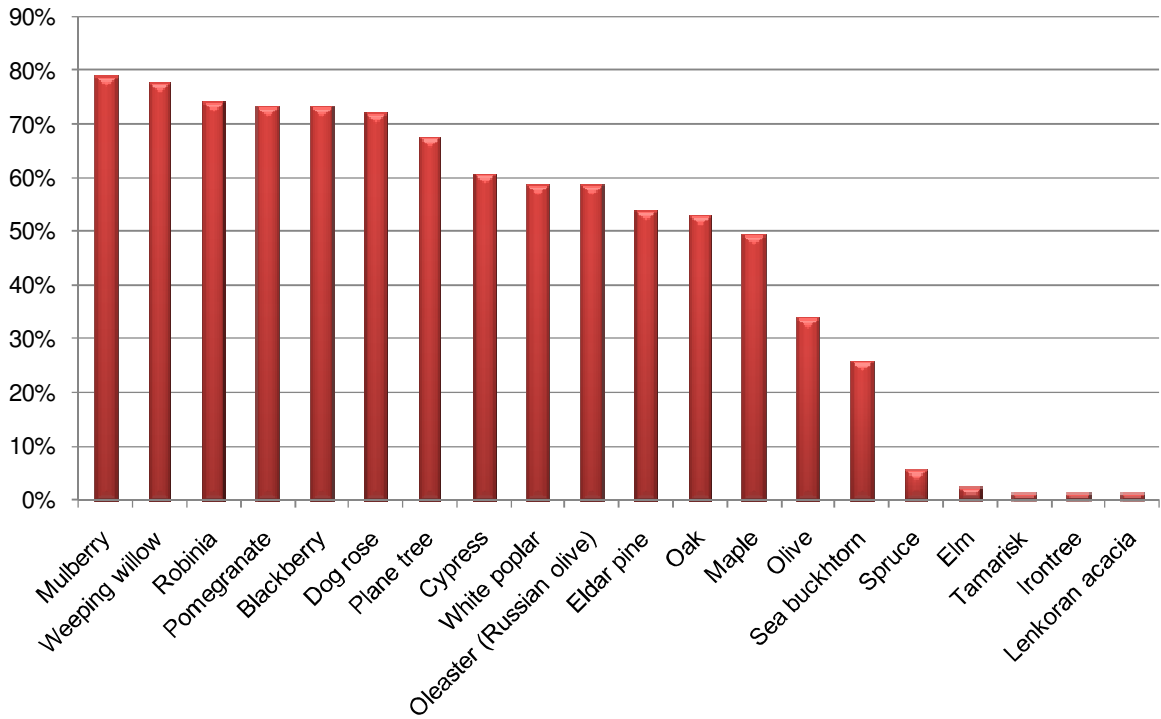
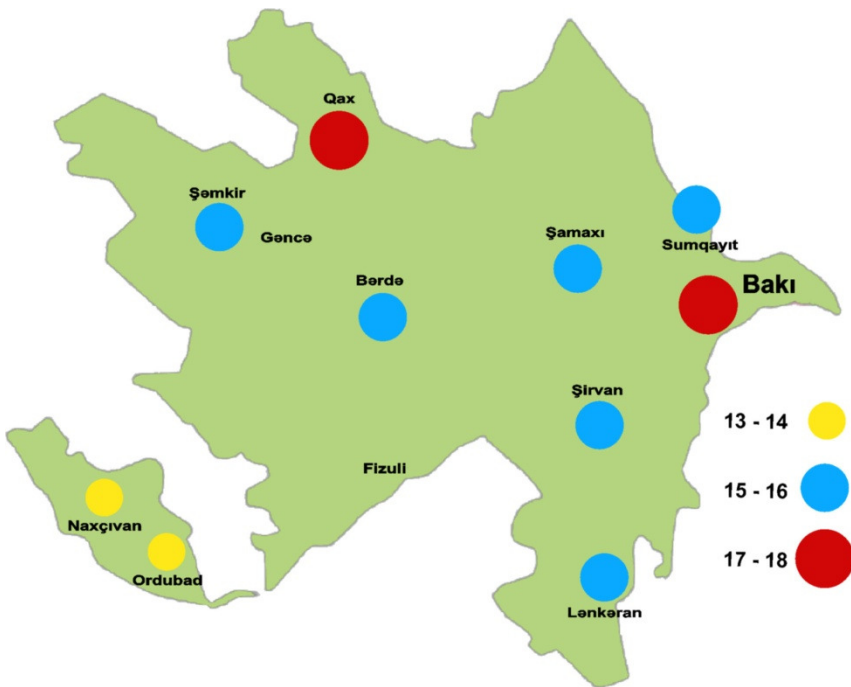


Chart 6: Percentages of schools which found the respective tree or bush species



Map 6: Number of tree and bush species found in each region



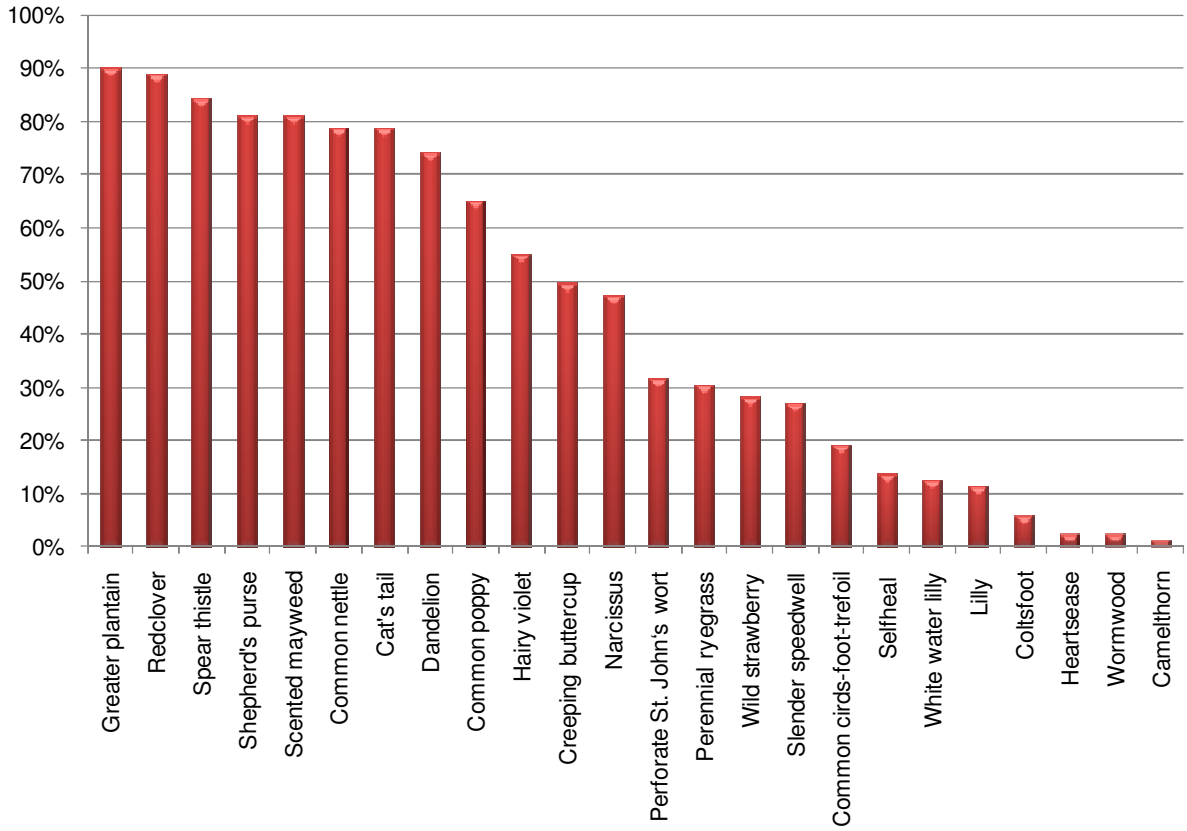
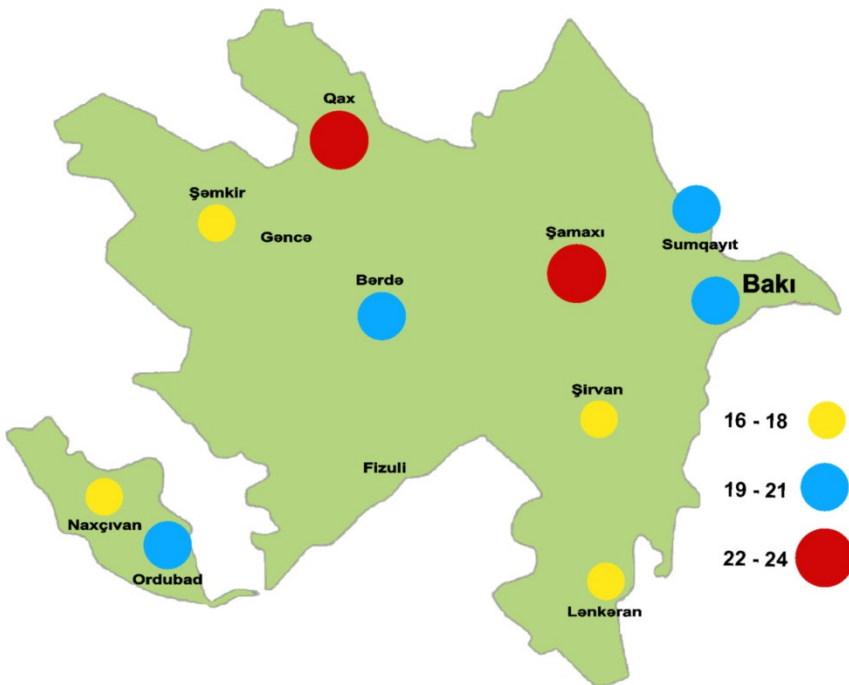


Chart 7: Percentages of schools which found the respective plant species



Map 7: Number of other plant species found in each region



