



Greening the Belt and Road Investments in Central Asia: A Visual Synthesis

Otto Simonett, Zoï Environment Network, CEP24, Geneva, 30. January 2019

New « Silk road »

- Central Asia expanded
- Secondary state involved
- China
- Russia
- European Union

◆ Eurasian hub in China

Railroad

- existing
- - - planned or under construction

Pipelines connecting China

- Main pipelines (oil and gas)

Economic corridors

- Eurasian road
- South and Southeast Asia
- Maritime road

North maritime road

- Permanent
- Only in the summer

Ports with Chinese engagement

- ⊕ existing
- ⊕ planned or under construction



The Big Picture: Global

Rationale

- ***'It is there'*** large (1.5 trillion) and rapid infrastructure development happening now in Central Asia as world wide
- ***'Greening'*** declared by all players: China, the countries of Central Asia and international organizations
- ***Safeguards*** in place through national legislation, international agreements and financial instruments and voluntary compliance

Objectives

- *Regional ‘bird’s eye’ synthesis aimed at policy-makers*
- *Communicative and visual presentation with maps, cartograms and infographics*
- *Outline of possible ways forward, implementing environmental safeguards*

Target Audiences in Central Asia, China and the World

- ***'influencers'*** (=you) *environmental policy setters (the converted)*
- ***'environmental ignorants'*** *mainstreaming greening to actors in business, finance, investment and industry (the non-converted)*
- ***'general public'*** *providing information as a base to react*

Partnership

- **Zoï Environment Network**

is a non-profit organization that helps build sustainable societies through informed analysis, visual communication, design and action.

- **UN Environment**

is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

- **Switzerland FOEN International Affairs**

coordinates and develops Switzerland's political and strategic positions on international environmental questions and manages international negotiations and processes in this area.

CGTN



It is the longest tunnel in Central Asia

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Qamchiq Tunnel: a demonstration of 'Chinese speed'



New trade route connects China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

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Belt and Road Initiative provides development opportunity to Central Asia



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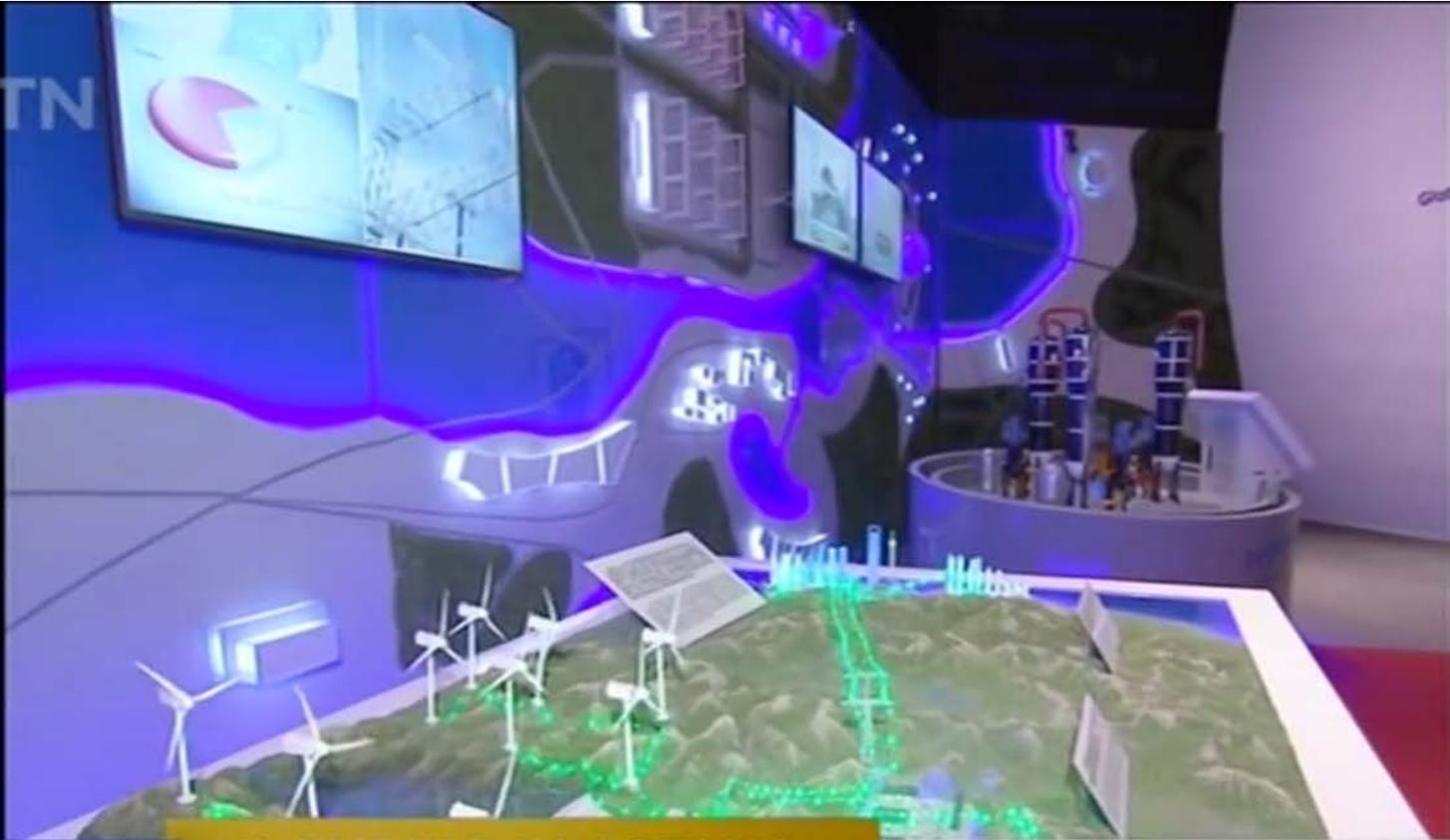
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Belt and Road Initiative provides development opportunity to Central Asia

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Better transport links between China and Kazakhstan vital, say both presidents

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Tajik citizens benefit from closer economic cooperation with China





Hitachi EX3600-6 mining excavators at Kumtor Mine, Kyrgyzstan -HD-



WORLD
INSIGHT

SAPAR ISAKOV
KYRGYZ PRIME MINISTER

CGTN

BRI critical to central Asia, says Kyrgyz PM



Advancing the Belt and Road Initiative: China's Trillion-Dollar Vision - Davos 2019

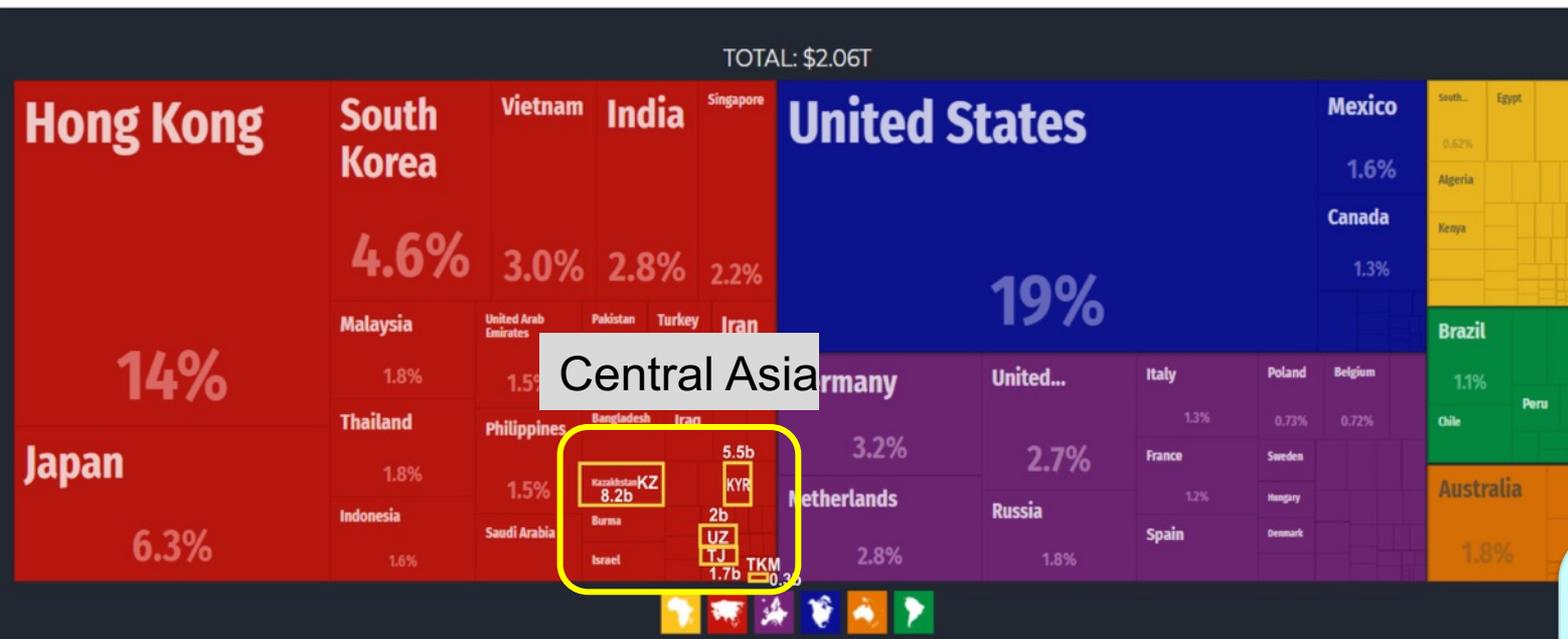


Advancing the Belt and Road Initiative: China's Trillion-Dollar Vision

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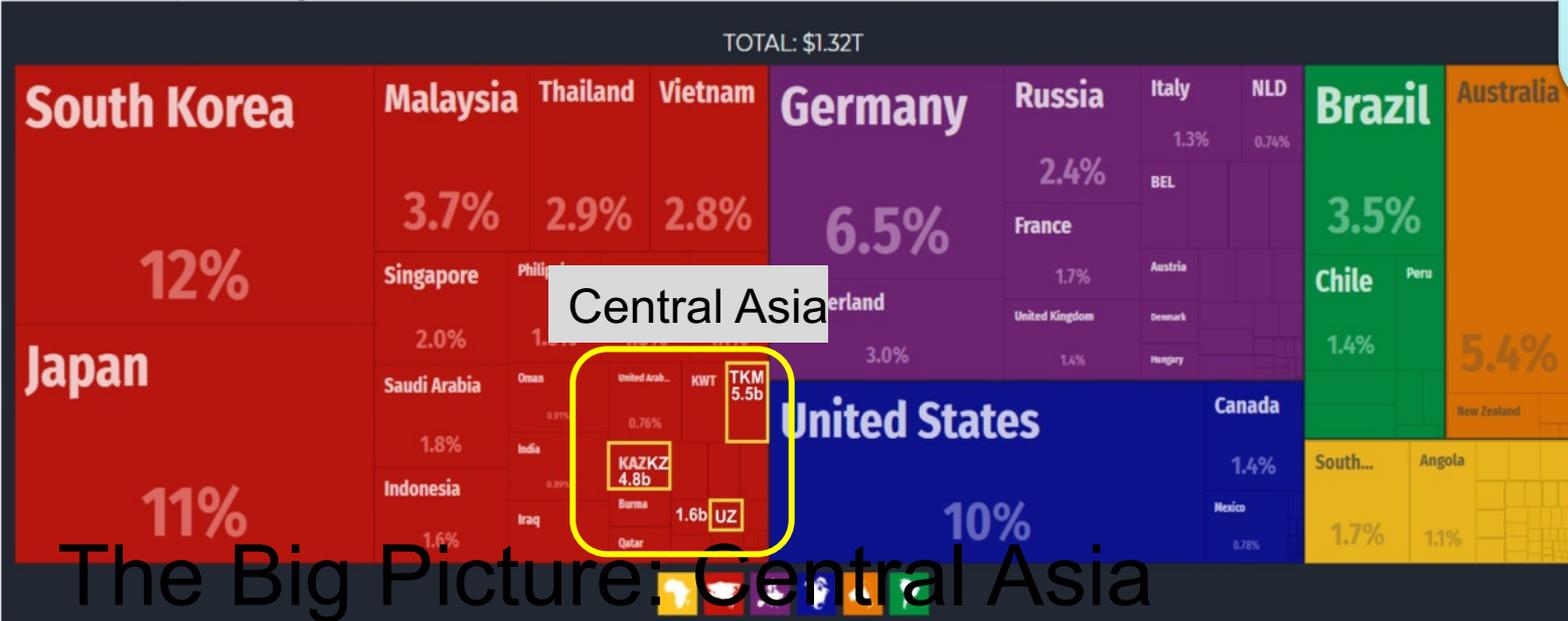


China export destinations



Global comparison
Trade relations
China with
Central Asia

China import origins

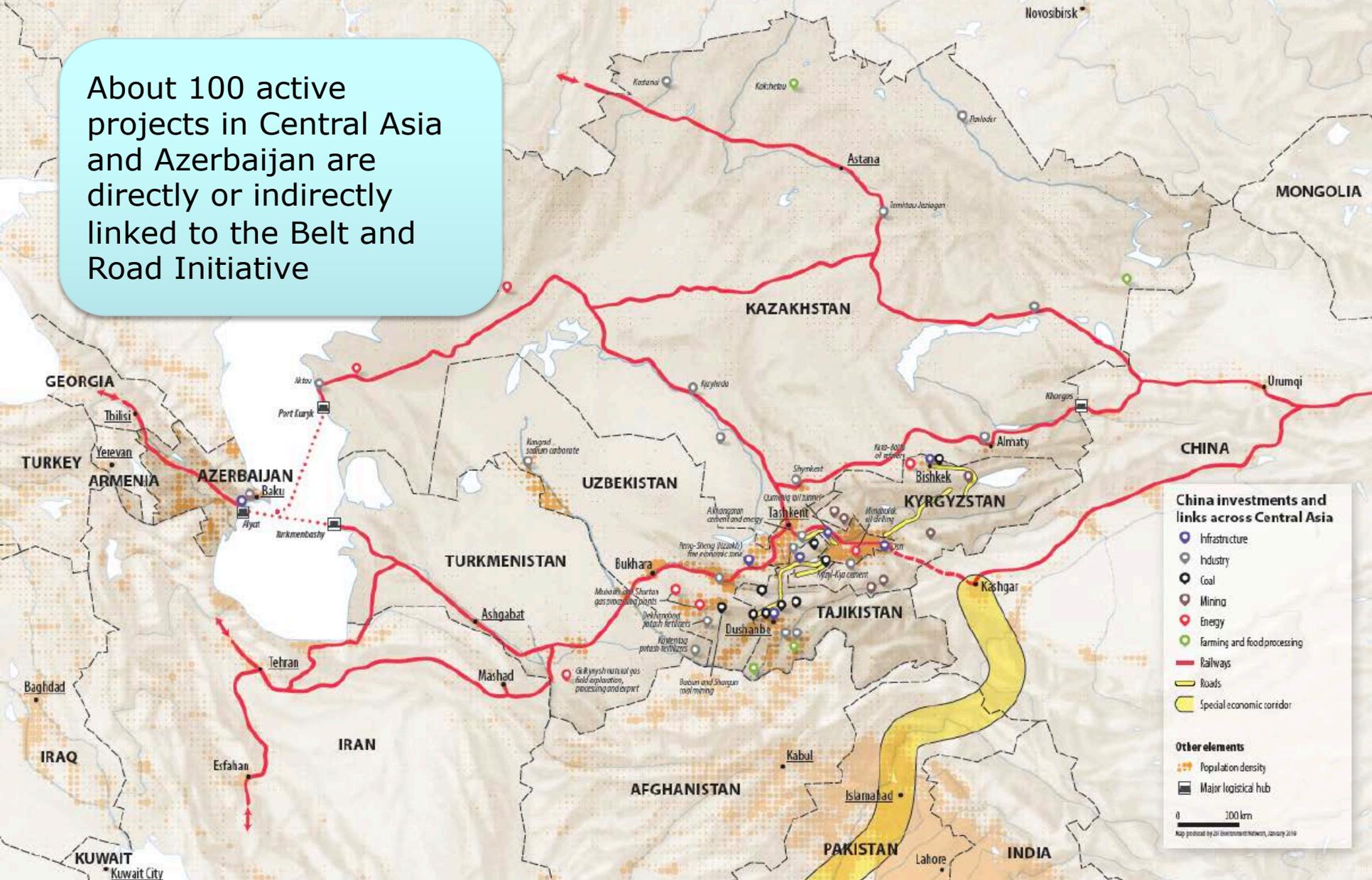


The Big Picture: Central Asia

KYR and TJK - less than 0.05b



About 100 active projects in Central Asia and Azerbaijan are directly or indirectly linked to the Belt and Road Initiative



Belt and Road in Central Asia

The Environmental Stakes



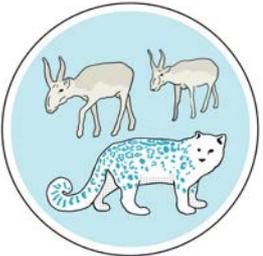
CLIMATE CHANGE
AIR QUALITY

- ***World Environmental and Cultural Heritage Sites with tourism attractions along the ancient Silk Route***



WATER AND LAND

- ***Water and land crucial to the economies***



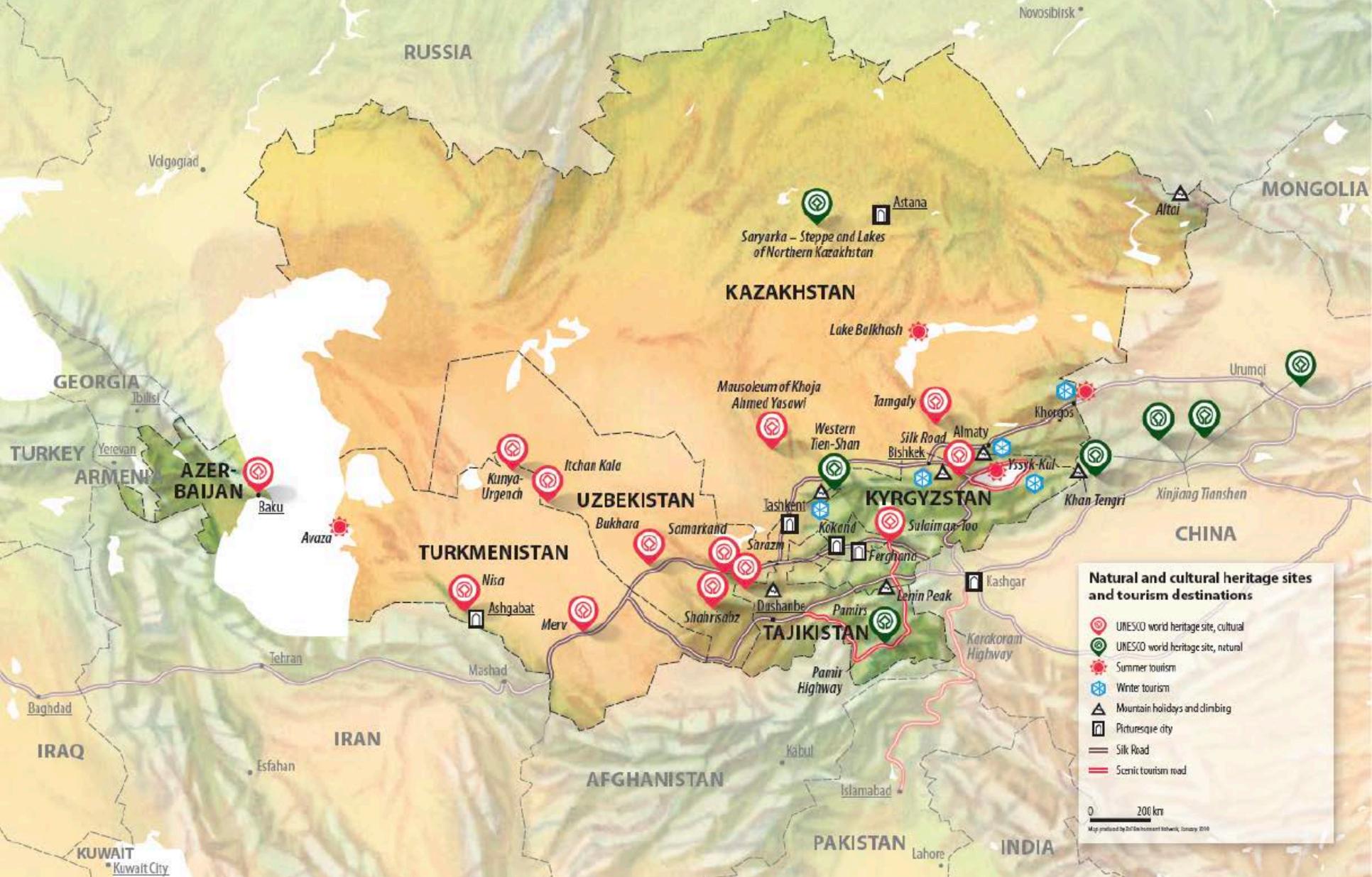
BIODIVERSITY

- ***Vast and unique steppes, deserts and mountain areas rich in biodiversity***

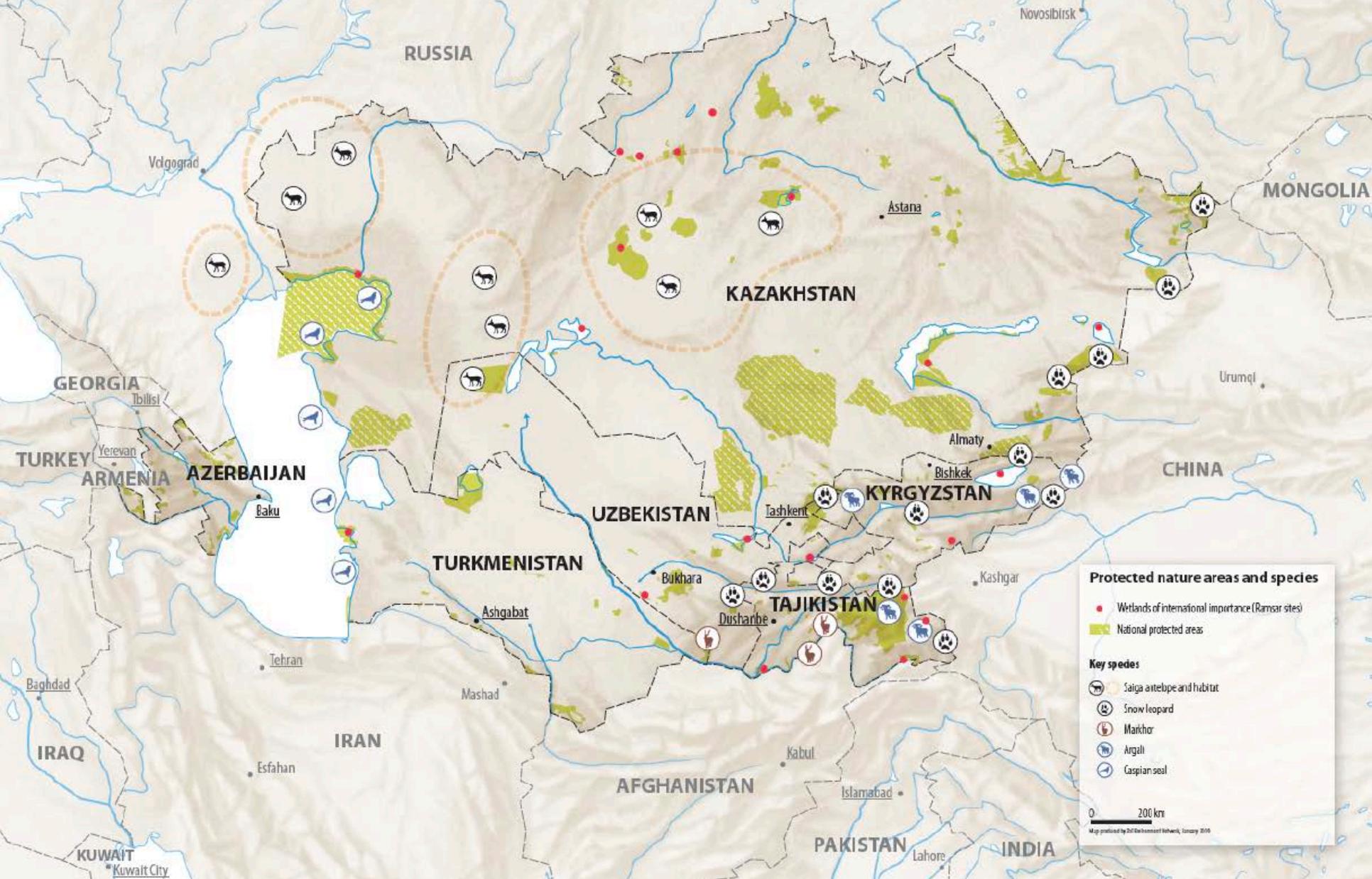


WASTE

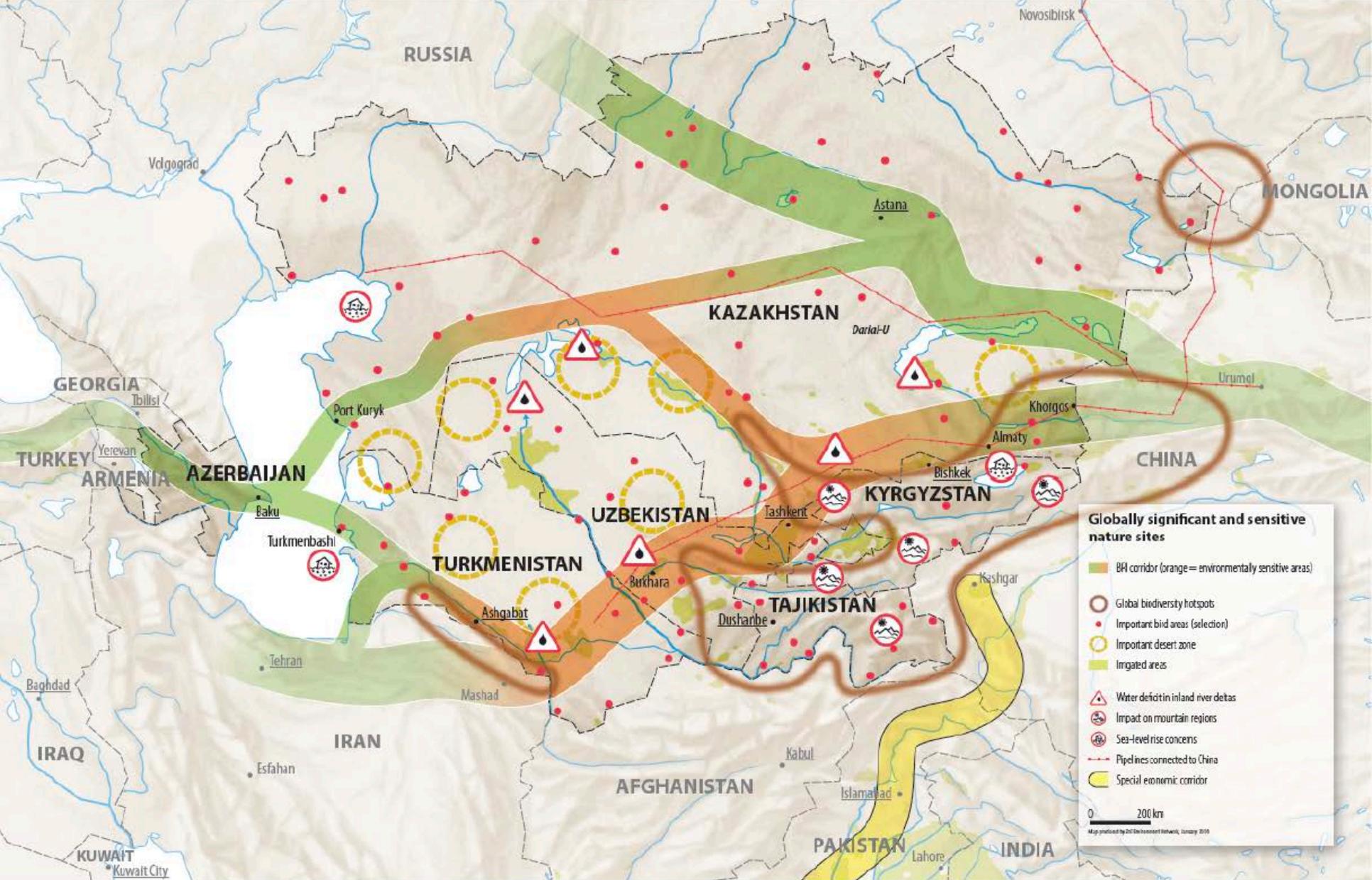
- ***Climate change and other environmental pressures already showing impact***



Environmental Stakes: Heritage Sites



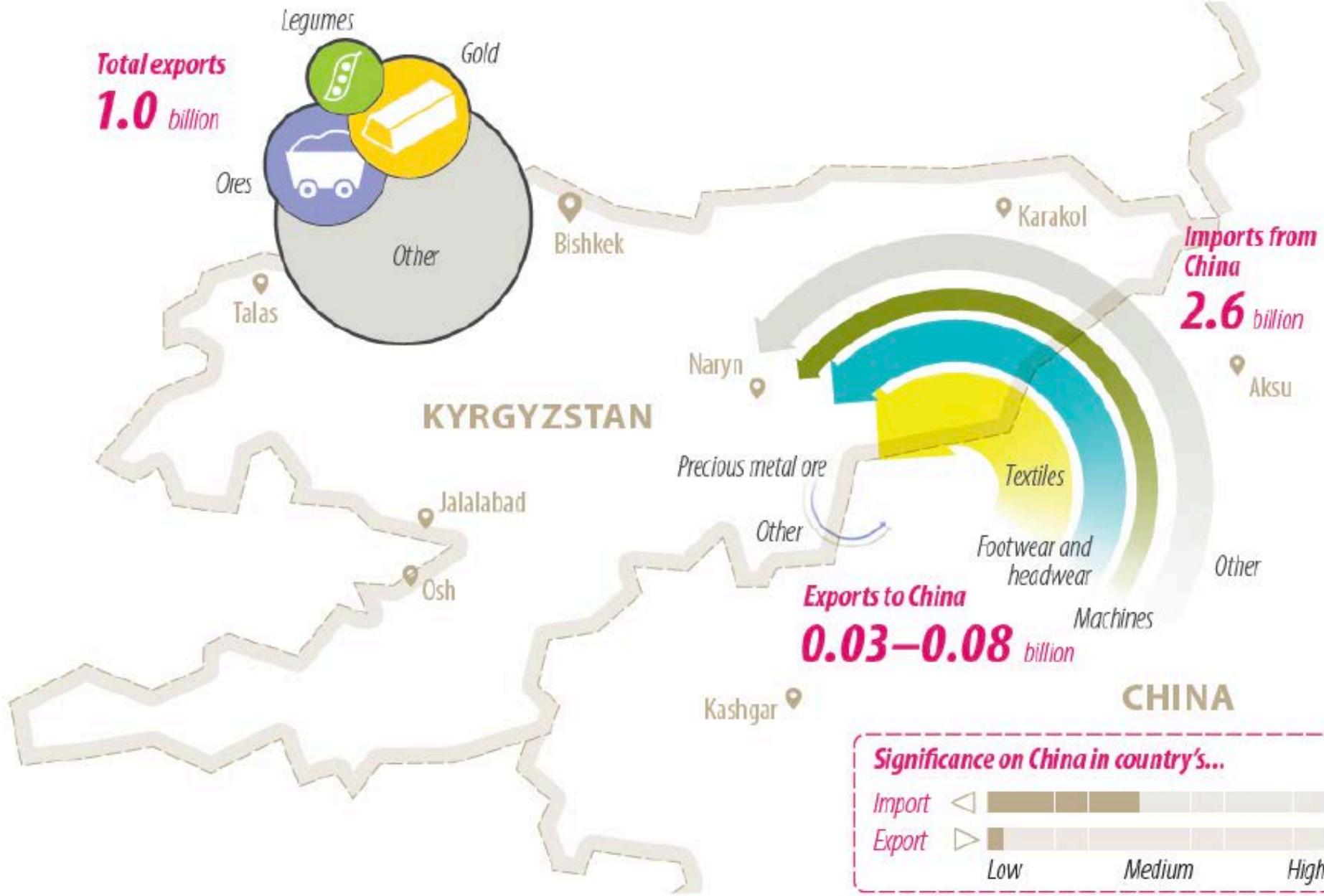
Environmental Stakes: Nature Protection



Environmental Stakes and BRI Corridors

Mapping Belt and Road in Central Asia

- *BRI is **not a single thing** but rather a catchall term for investments, information has to be assembled from multiple sources ranging from national to global data portals, Chinese sources and also the media, including news channels.*
- *The nature of the BRI investments can vary considerably from engineering design and construction works to ‘resource for investments’ barter deals.*
- *There are significant differences between the countries of Central Asia.*



Cartogram Profile: Kyrgyzstan



BRI Inventory Map: Kazakhstan



BRI Inventory Map: Kyrgyzstan



Prior to Belt and Road: 2010



Belt and Road boost to Khorgos: 2019



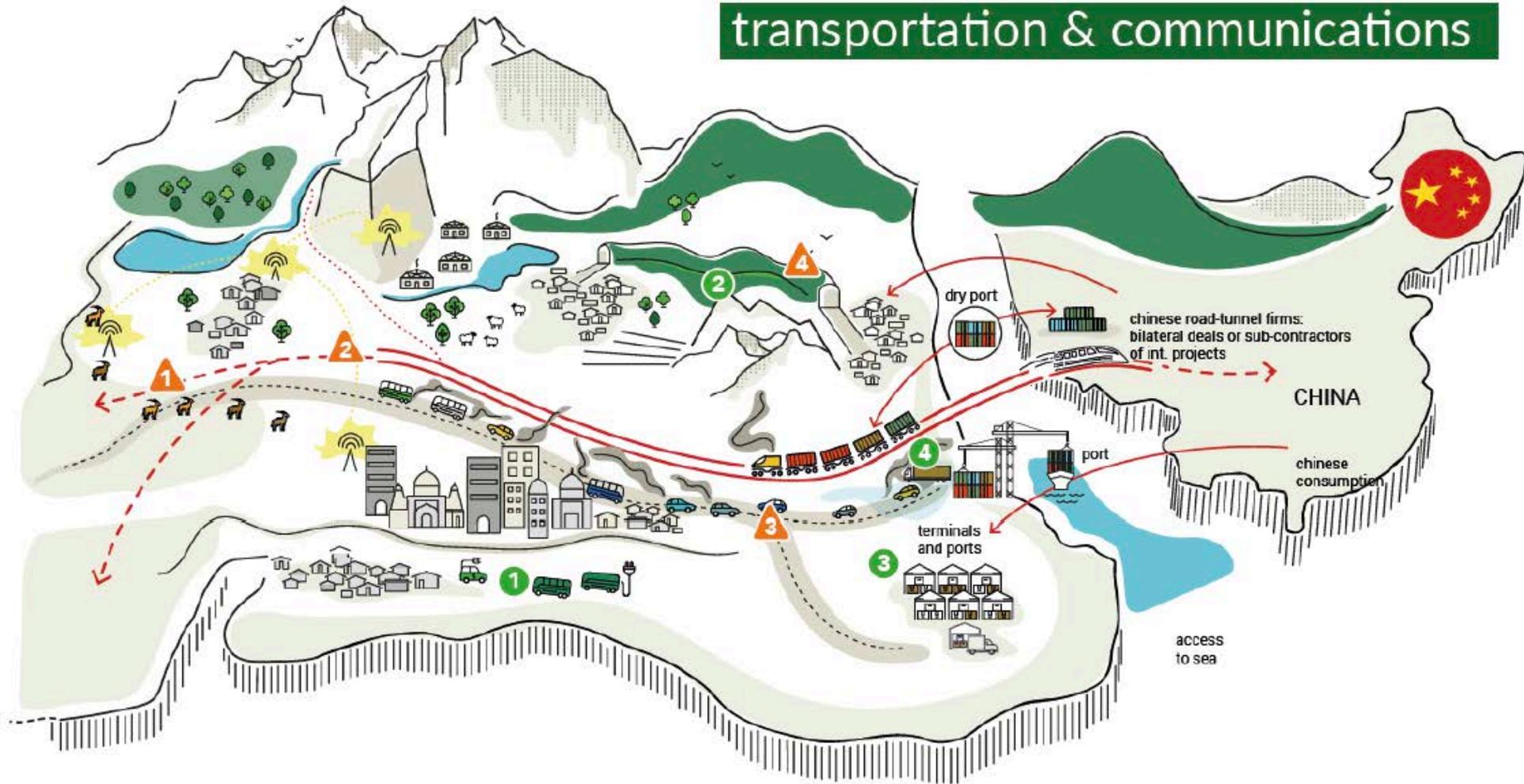
Belt and Road future of Khorgos: 2035

BRI Dynamics: Dry Port Khorgos

Belt and Road Safeguards

- *Throughout Central Asia, **national laws** regulate water and land use, emissions and waste*
- *The use of environmental **impact assessments**, **bank safeguards**, **industry standards** and **voluntary compliance** provide additional environmental protections*
- ***Regional and global instruments** work on tranboundary environmental protection and issues of global significance.*

Ramifications of Belt & Road projects on... transportation & communications



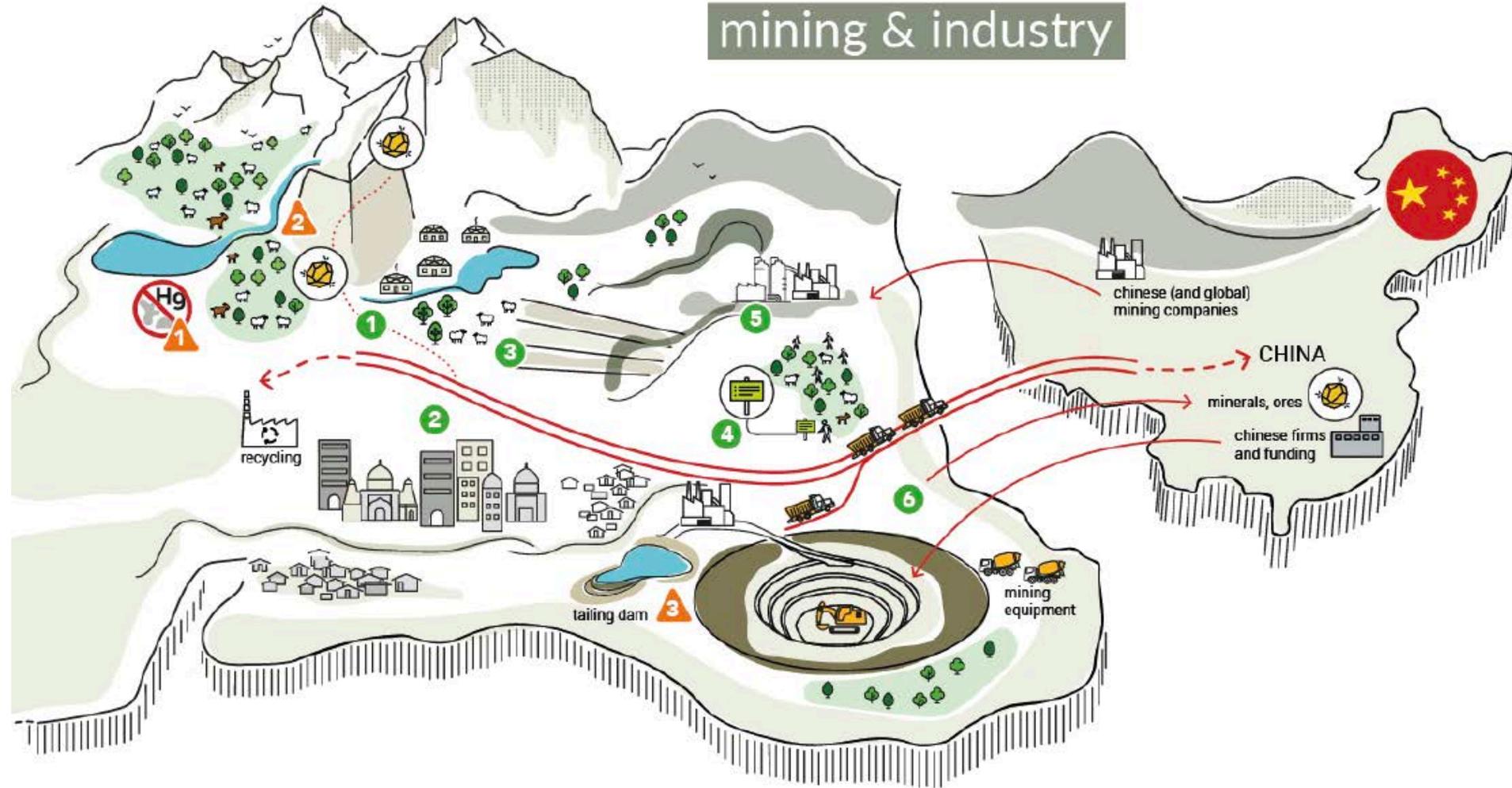
Follow good practices

- 1 Prefer small electric or gas-powered cars and electrified railroads
- 2 Develop tunnels to help reduce the risk of avalanches and to cut travel times and emissions
- 3 Plan ports and terminals to avoid congestion
- 4 Enhance communications that enable rapid responses to natural disasters and other emergencies

Exercise caution

- 1 Minimize the fragmentation of natural areas, nature reserves and migratory paths caused by road and rail development
- 2 Recognize that expanded infrastructure may bring additional environmental pressures
- 3 Avoid excessive motorization
- 4 Maintain reasonable, affordable tolls on tunnels and roads

Ramifications of Belt & Road projects on... mining & industry



Follow good practices

- 1 Support local roads, schools and water supply
- 2 Hire a local labour force
- 3 Procure food locally
- 4 Report on operations and income and provide briefing for local communities
- 5 Conduct credible socio-environmental impact assessments
- 6 Promote and practice transparency

Exercise caution

- 1 Limit investments in mining of coal and primary mercury
- 2 Avoid mining in ecologically sensitive areas
- 3 Recognize and apply national legislative requirements and international environmental and safety standards

Looking ahead

Secure local support and long-term success by practicing:

- **Transparency:** *Advanced notice and information about prospective projects, both for engagement and avoidance of corruption.*
- **Monitor** and apply relevant **safeguards** and **engage stakeholders**, including NGOs with respect.
- **Training:** *for stakeholders in the countries, Chinese SoE and other enterprises.*

CEP and Belt and Road

- ***Multilateral Agreements***

Impact assessment (Espoo); industrial accidents (Helsinki); Information, public participation, access to justice (Aarhus); Long-range air pollution (Geneva); Water (Helsinki)

Climate Change, Biodiversity, Desertification, Ozone

- ***Assessments, Reviews***

Environment Performance Reviews, State-of-the Environment Reports, GEO, SDGs

- ***EfE2020***

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中国科学院
新疆生态与地理研究所



Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and
Geography, Chinese Academy of
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Merci!

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