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AzerGold Closed Joint-Stock Company was established in accordance with Decree No. 1047 issued by H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on the 11th of February 2015. It was registered with the state on the 5th of July 2016 and commenced operations shortly thereafter.

The Closed Joint-Stock Company focuses on the study, research, exploration, development, and management of both non-ferrous and ferrous metal ore deposits. It also embraces new technologies, upgrades its material and technical infrastructure for more efficient use, and engages in a range of related activities within the industry.

#### **ABOUT US**

AzerGold CJSC places a high priority on aligning its operations with corporate governance standards. As a wholly state-owned enterprise, its highest governing authority is the general meeting of shareholders.

According to the Decree No. 2514, dated February 22, 2021, of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the authority of the general assembly of the Company is entrusted to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to Azerbaijan Investment Holding in agreement with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Supervisory Board, which conducts general control and management of the activities of AzerGold CJSC, consists of five members appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The executive body of the Company is the collegial Executive Board.

#### **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to transform natural resources into social welfare and sustainable development. Although our company has started with only Chovdar mine, today it operates with several active gold mines, various mines that are being prepared for exploitation, and two subsidiary companies.

AzerGold holds the leading position among the state exporters in non-oil sector of Azerbaijan. Our company is moving forward with big and confident steps towards becoming the largest mining company in the region.

#### **OUR STRATEGIC VISION**

The development strategy of AzerGold CJSC until 2035 has been prepared for ensuring the sustainable development of the mining sector of our country. The strategy is updated based on the changing economic requirements.

The main goal is to become a global and leading mining company. AzerGold has succeeded in total elimination of the dependence on state budget in financing mining projects and implemented several large-scale projects that require higher investments at its own expense.

#### **OUR KEY OBJECTIVES**

- ➤ To become a mining company with an annual turnover of 1 billion
   Azerbaijani manats (\$ 588 MM) by 2030;
- ▶ To eliminate dependence on state budget in realizing strategic programmes;
- ➤ To become one of the largest companies, taxpayers, employers in non-oil and gas industry;
- ➤ To contribute to the development of the auxiliary fields of mining industry and jewelry in Azerbaijan by applying innovative technologies.

# **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** Milli KSM Mükafatı AzerGold

#### 3.8 MILLION \$

CSR EXPENDITURE DURING OPERATIONAL PERIOD







NATIONAL CSR AWARD 2019







NOMINATION FOR "THE BEST SUPPORTIVE PARTNER OF **ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**"







NATIONAL CSR AWARD 2022







"AUTISM'S FRIEND" AWARD

Sustainable and Inclusive Development

Sports and Health

Environmental protection

Agricultural Development Education

Awareness

Support for Entrepreneurial Activity

Contribution to Historical and Cultural Heritage

#### **CSR POLICY**

Effective use of natural resources, implementing the concept of sustainable development, and social responsibility are the major principles of AzerGold CJSC's governance. The Joint-Stock Company's Social Impact and Responsibility Policy is formed and continuously improved considering the requirements of the national law, the best international practice in the field of mining, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

AzerGold CJSC's Social Impact and Responsibility Policy is formed and implemented by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee, which has been operating under the Company since October 2017. The projects implemented by the Company over the past period in the field of environmental protection, protection of cultural heritage, and socio-economic development of local communities are also highly appreciated by the public.

It is not by chance, AzerGold is the first state company to receive the **National Corporate Social Responsibility Award**, which is traditionally organized every year for promoting corporate social responsibility policy in the country.

One of the projects implemented by AzerGold in 2019 as part of the cooperation with the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Regional Development Public Union - training in Adaptation of Private Agricultural Farms to Climate Changes, aimed at combating climate change and its impacts included in 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly, was selected the winner in the relevant nomination.

In 2022, AzerGold CJSC received the **National Corporate Social Responsibility Award** again for the project on Supporting Individual Development of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders, implemented in partnership with the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and Together and Healthy Public Union. The Company became the winner of Good Health and Well-being nomination at the competition, which was included in Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

AzerGold CJSC was awarded by the Together and Healthy Public Union for its support to the individual development of children with autism and received **Autism's Friend Award**. In 2023, the Company was awarded in the nomination of **The Best Supportive Partner of Environmental Projects** by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

#### **OUR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**







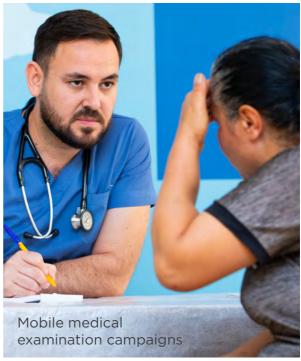












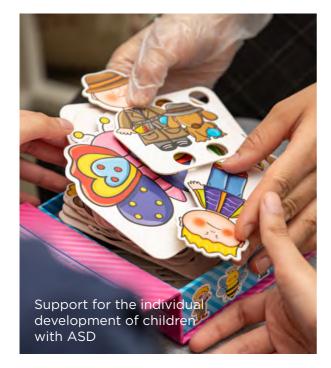








































## SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP



#### SUPPOR FOR

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEEKEEPING

Supporting micro and small business activities is one of the priorities of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of AzerGold based on the principle of improving the socio-economic welfare of local communities. In 2022 and 2023, Supporting the Development of Beekeeping in Dashkasan Project was organized for this purpose. Fifty-six farmers from the villages of Chovdar, Guschu, Bayan, and Zaylik have benefited from the project.

Meetings with beekeeper farmers were arranged to discuss the opportunities for local communities to benefit from the project, as well as the difficulties faced by beekeepers and how to eliminate them. Theoretical and practical training sessions were organized by consultants on handling bees in spring, breeding and raising queen bees.

The farmers were given recommendations about breeding, preserving and improving bee colony genes, regular veterinary control of bee families, systematic clinical examination, treatment and prevention of diseases. Also, regular monitoring was carried out in beekeeping farms, and samples were taken for analysis from some apiaries, where disease symptoms were observed.

At the end, the farmers who successfully completed the training were awarded with certificates, 216 fully equipped bee colonies were provided to help farmers to expand their business, and 5 bees wax machines were presented for the general use of beekeepers.















#### SUPPORT FOR

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF POTATO FARMING

The Project Support for the Development of Potato Farming in Dashkasan was realized by the organization and initiative of AzerGold CJSC and with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. This project was aimed at developing entrepreneurial ecosystem in mining territories of AzerGold, contributing to the development of potato farming, one of the traditional agricultural fields in Dashkasan, and promoting it as entrepreneurial sphere, and at increasing potato production by dry farming.

The project involved ten farmers from the villages of Gushchu and Zaylik, who were registered in the Electronic Agricultural Information System of the Ministry of Agriculture and had at least one hectare of arable land.

Theoretical and practical training sessions were organized for the farmers by the experts of the Scientific Research Institute of Vegetable Growing, "Telman" and "Amiri 600" seeds, suitable for local climatic conditions, were sown on a 10-hectare area, appropriate agrotechnical care was provided. Consequently, about 100 tons of crops were collected. Eighty-five percent of the harvested crop was presented to farmers and fifteen percent was shared among low-income families living in Dashkasan region.























#### CONSTRUCTION

#### OF NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

AzerGold CJSC continuously realizes social projects in its operational regions to contribute to the state policy on educational development. The Company provides necessary school objects, additional reading materials for schoolchildren in Dashkasan, takes appropriate measures to provide remote village schools with IT technologies and internet.

One of the educational development projects by AzerGold CJSC in Dashkasan is the construction of a modern-standard new school building in the remote Gushchu settlement, near the Chovdar gold mine. On the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and with the support of the Company, a new modular building of secondary

school named after Salmikhan Isgandarov - a martyr of the First Karabakh War - was built in Gushchu settlement for the 2022-2023 academic year. The school is designated for 80 students and supplied with all the necessary equipment for the educational process, internet network, computers, furniture etc. The school has ten classrooms, a teacher's room and a library.











#### **BOOKSTAND**

A bookstand was installed in the centre of the remote Gushchu village of Dashkasan region.

The Bookstand, like the other successful educational projects such as Book Gift, Children's Book Friend organized at AzerGold's mining operation territories, is aimed at developing reading habits among the villagers, especially among children and teenagers, at spending their free time efficiently and supporting book reading.

The outdoor library-style bookstand is available 24 hours a day and provides works of world classics, pearls of modern Azerbaijani and world literature, as well as the newly published books on business and self-development. After reading the selected books, the readers will return it back to the bookstand for other readers. Furthermore, by donating any publication to the bookstand, readers will create an opportunity for others to read it as well.















#### **INNOVATIVE SUPPORT FOR**

#### VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE





For contributing to the inclusive development, innovative Braille Teach devices were donated to the residents of Ganja and Dashkasan regions to help the visually impaired citizens to learn Braille in an interactive easier way with more fun.

The device is designed for oral speech and intellectual development, which teaches Braille individually to preschool children, and provides audio books and games for spending their free time efficiently. The device enables learning the alphabet and mathematical calculations more easily and comfortably without teachers.



#### **GANJA REGIONAL**

#### **AUTISM CENTRE**



The Regional Autism Centre was launched in Ganja city on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the support of AzerGold CJSC, and the organization of the Together and Healthy Public Union within the Year of Heydar Aliyev. The Autism Centre serves to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families in Ganja city and surrounding regions, including Goygol, Dashkasan, Goranboy, Shamkir and Toyuz.

The families with problems undergo a medical, psychological and pedagogical assessment by local and international specialists, risk group children, who need special education are supported within the project. Training and rehabilitation of children with autism, including pre-school education, skills developing, self-control and independent behavioral skills are considered in the process.









#### MOBILE MEDICAL

#### **CHECK-UP CAMPAIGNS**

To increase the availability of medical services for local communities, especially for residents of remote villages, AzerGold CJSC realizes projects, which serve to protect the health of citizens in the regions and enlighten them about preventive check-ups.

One of the projects implemented by the Company is a mobile medical check-up campaign. Thus, together with the Regional Development Public Union of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and Baku Health Centre, AzerGold CJSC organizes mobile medical check-up campaigns for residents of remote villages of Dashkasan region. These campaigns have been organized since 2021 and more than 2,000 Dashkasan residents benefited from various medical services free of charge, including surgery, pediatrics, therapy, endocrinology, hepatology, otorhinolaryngology, ophthalmology, cardiology, urology, and oncology.





















# SUPPORT FOR SPORTS



### RECONSTRUCTION OF SPORT STADIUMS



In 2022, based on the state policy on the development of physical education and sports, the mini football pitch, multipurpose volleyball and basketball courts of Dashkasan Iron Ore LLC - a subsidiary of AzerGold CJSC - were launched after reconstruction.

The project was aimed at promoting teenagers and young people in the operation areas of AzerGold to spend their free time fruitfully and to boost their interest in sports. Within the project, favourable environment was organized for residents to use these sport areas when they wish.

In addition, mini football and volleyball competitions were organized among schoolgirls and schoolboys to support popularization of sports in Dashkasan.







**Mini football tournament** among schoolboys of Dashkasan

#### **Volleyball tournament** among schoolgirls of Dashkasan











#### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

#### **MEASURES**

AzerGold CJSC is aware of the possible environmental impact of its ore deposit activities. The regulation of this impact is carried out based on the Social Impact and Responsibility Policy, formed according to the national legislation and the most advanced international mining practices.

An environmental impact assessment document for the exploitation and operation of each ore deposit is prepared and approved by the Company. The document is reviewed in public discussion, by involving expert individuals, representatives of civil institutions and scientific organizations in the discussions. Expert proposals are recorded for review and inclusion in the document.

In accordance with the ecological monitoring programme, dust measurement is carried out in production areas, and soil, water basin and water reservoir samples are analyzed. All types of waste, generated from the production process, including mercury, activated carbon, oil, batteries and PET bottles, are sent to recycle.

In addition, regular cleaning, tree planting campaigns are organized, fish stocking is realized, and bird nests and feeders are placed on trees to contribute to the environment and restore the ecosystem.











### ADAPTATION OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL FARMS

#### **TO CLIMATE CHANGES**



To contribute to the development of agriculture, to fight against climate changes, training sessions on Adaptation of Private Agricultural Farms to Climate Changes were organized to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. By the way, Azerbaijan has also joined SDGs of the UN.

About 50 farmers from different cities and regions of Azerbaijan joined the project. Training sessions on the management of water, land and plants under climate changes, and on current innovations in agriculture were organized by the experts of state organizations, educational institutions, and other experts for the farmers, and the participants were informed about the state regulations on the farms affected by climate changes.





#### TEMIZ DASHKASAN

#### **PROJECT**



Temiz (Clean) Dashkasan Environmental Project was organized within Green World Solidarity Year.

A cleaning campaign was organized in the territories of Gushchu and Khoshbulag villages of Dashkasan region, as well as on the banks of Goshgarchay and Zaylik rivers within the project.

The territories were cleared of plastic, polyethylene, metal, glass, paper, cardboard and other wastes by the participants of the campaign. The collected wastes were sorted and sent for recycling.

New waste containers and bins were provided, bird nests with eco-friendly paints were hung from the trees in the territory of Dashkasan.





## REINTRODUCTION OF RARE PLANT SPECIES

The project on propagation and reintroduction of rare and endangered plant species was implemented in Dashkasan region. Within this project since 2021, endangered plant species, such as Rosa Zangezura Jarosch. (Zangazur rosehip), Rosa Nisami Sosn. (Rosehip), Rosa pulverulenta M.Bieb. (Cretan rose), Frangula Randiflora A.Pool. (Large-leaved Frangula) have been discovered in the mountains around the Chovdar mine and their seeds were collected, sorted out, dried with appropriate chemicals, and grown under special agrotechnical conditions.

Later, those species were planted and reintroduced in a large area around the Chovdar mine.

This important project by AzerGold CJSC was included in the 3rd edition of the Red Book of Azerbaijan published in 2023.



#### **PRESERVING**

### BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Environmental measures are implemented in Dashkasan region to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.

More than 2,000 spotted golden trout babies were released into the Guney-Zaghali water reservoir, bird nests and feeders were installed on trees in the centre and remote villages of Dashkasan city within the project. In addition, food stock for birds during the harsh winter months was also considered.

Volunteers and schoolchildren are involved in environmental campaigns, and they are informed about the importance of preserving biodiversity for environmental health, fresh air, prevention of climate changes, etc., and they are challenged to be proactive in environmental projects and protect nature.











#### RECULTIVATION

#### IN THE AREAS



Focusing on environmental protection in its mining operations, AzerGold started the recultivation of lands in Aghyokush-1 gold mine in 2022, after the exploitation was over. The recultivation project was approved by the State Environmental Expertise Agency of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Within the first stage of the project, the fertile soil layer has been restored and terraces have been formed for the purpose of slope reinforcement and surface runoff. Later, biological reclamation

was carried out and trees were planted in the area. Note that, this is the first recultivation project on closed gold mines in Azerbaijan.

- Fertile soil layer was restored
- Terraces were formed
- Reforestation started
- 600 Eldar Pine (P. eldarica Medv.) trees, 200 kilograms of alfalfa and 10 kilograms of walnut seeds were planted











#### **IMPROVING POTABLE WATER**

#### SUPPLY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

AzerGold CJSC focuses on improving potable water supply of the residents of Dashkasan region, especially in the remote villages near the Chovdar Integrated Regional Processing Area.

Potable water lines have been restored, new water lines and water springs constructed in Chovdar, Chaykend, and Shadakh villages and settlements until now. In addition, a new drinking water network has been established in Yukhari Dashkasan and Medenchiler settlements.

The project aims at making an additional contribution to the national developmental priorities of Azerbaijan and the global activity in ensuring the availability of potable water for everyone, which is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of UN.















CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



## KHAZINA MUSEUM EXPOSITION

In 2024, on the initiative of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve and support by AzerGold CJSC the Khazina (Treasure) museum exposition, dedicated to the Azerbaijani jewelry art and numismatics, was organized at the Shirvanshahs Palace Complex.

The museum exposition is aimed at introducing ancient Azerbaijani jewelry traditions and numismatic heritage and it reveals valuable exhibits dating back from the ancient times to the 20th century.

Modern high-technology coins, which are the indicators of the economic power of Azerbaijan, are included in the exposition together with the ancient jewelry samples and coins.











#### **NECROPOLIS OF CHOVDAR**

The protection of national and cultural heritage is on the focus of attention of AzerGold CJSC. The Company takes important measures on preserving historical monuments and artifacts, on their scientific research and investigation within its Social Impact and Responsibility Policy.

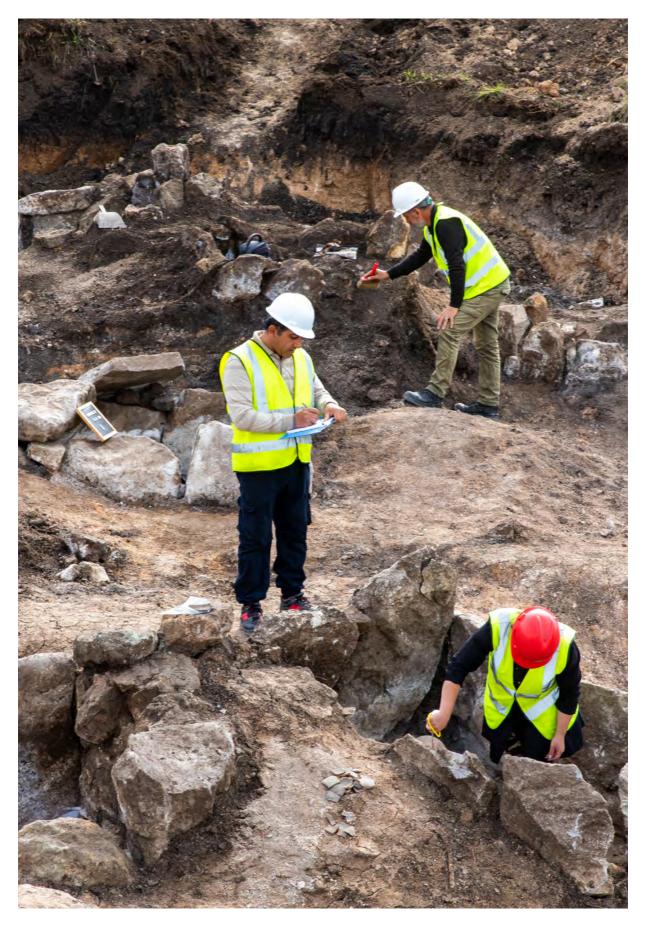
In February of 2019, graves were discovered during the construction works by AzerGold in Chovdar mining area of Dashkasan region. Therefore, construction process was postponed and Archaeology and Anthropology Institute was involved. Consequently, Dashkasan archaeological expedition was organized by the Institute.

The archaeological expedition was supported by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and AzerGold CJSC and 156 graves were unearthed during five months of the first stage. The unearthed graves revealed more than 6 000 artifacts.

The artifacts date back to Khojaly-Gadabay culture of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages (late 2nd - early 1st millenia BC).







#### **Desktop Studies**

Desktop studies of the found artifacts were carried out at the next stage of the Chovdar necropolis project. Consequently, a location plan of 156 graves was provided. About 619 pottery samples, 833 bronze and metal objects, and 2243 small-size artifacts were restored. In addition, 136 human skeletons were studied. Based on the human skeletons, DNA, radiocarbon, carbon and phosphorous isotope analyses were realized at prestigious global laboratories at further stages of the project by involving local and foreign experts.

DNA analysis for the investigation of Khojaly-Gadabay culture was realized for the first time within the Chovdar necropolis project.

**Laboratory Analyses** 

DNA analyses revealed genetic information about the kinship of ancient tribes with other nations of the region.

Other analyses enabled to get detailed information about the settlement history of ancient tribes here, about the buried humans' gender, age, diseases, death reasons, nutrition, etc. Thus, household and lifestyle, and occupations of ancient people, epidemic

diseases in the territory can be investigated based on these data. In addition, spectral analyses of the revealed metal objects in the necropolis allow studying their composition. These investigations help to study the trade relations with foreign countries, the development stage of handicrafts in that period, and the raw material sources of the used metal objects.

The fauna and flora of Chovdar village of Dashkasan region and surrounding areas in ancient times, the landscape of the region and the density of population were investigated in addition to the scientific research.

Laboratory analyses were carried out in the laboratories of Hacettepe University, Middle East Technical University, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, National Research Council of Italy, and Tokyo University of Japan.

The main goal of the project is to research and promote our ancient cultural heritage and to pass this heritage on to future generations by conserving them.











### Industrial Commitments and Contribution to Archeology and Cultural Heritage

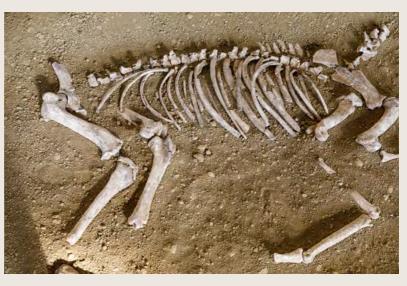
In 2019, a symposium dedicated to Industrial Commitments and Contribution to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage was realized on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and organization of BP Azerbaijan, Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve, AzerGold CJSC and Atelier Erich Pummer of Austria.

The international event was organized at Stone Chronicle Museum and various projects by different organizations for preserving cultural heritage and exchange of practices in this sphere were presented, as well as the presentation of the Chovdar necropolis project was realized.

Special exposition consisting of the found material and cultural artifacts was provided during the event.











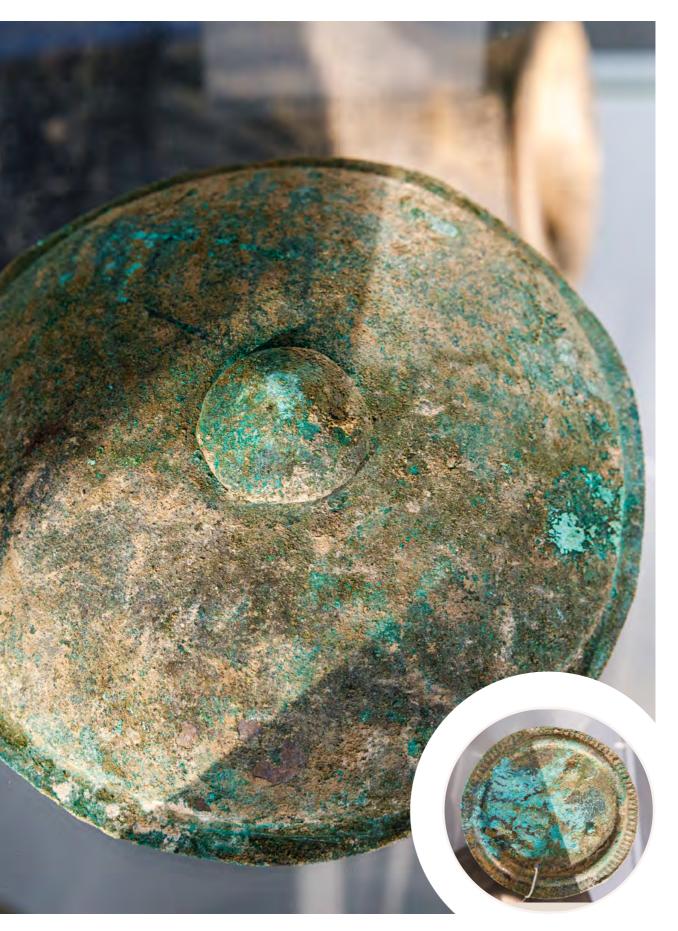






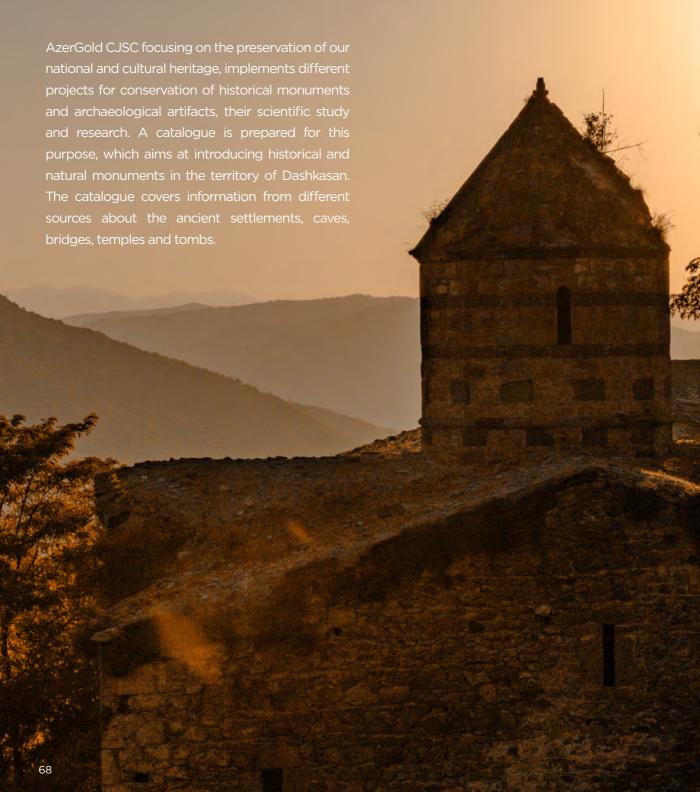
**Artifacts discovered in the Chovdar necropolis** in the Stone Chronicle Museum exposition



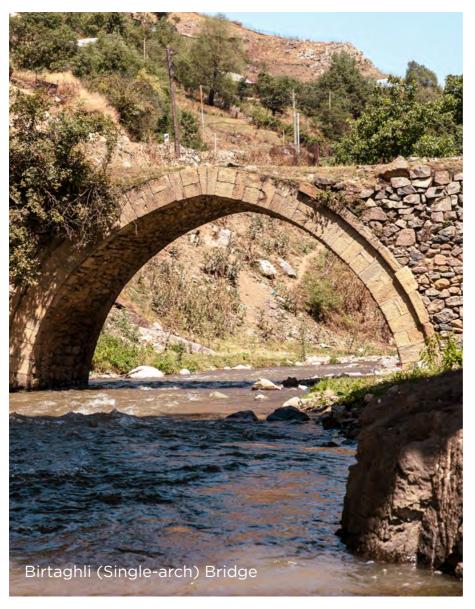


# INTRODUCING ANCIENT ARCHITECTURAL AND NATURAL

### **HERITAGE**



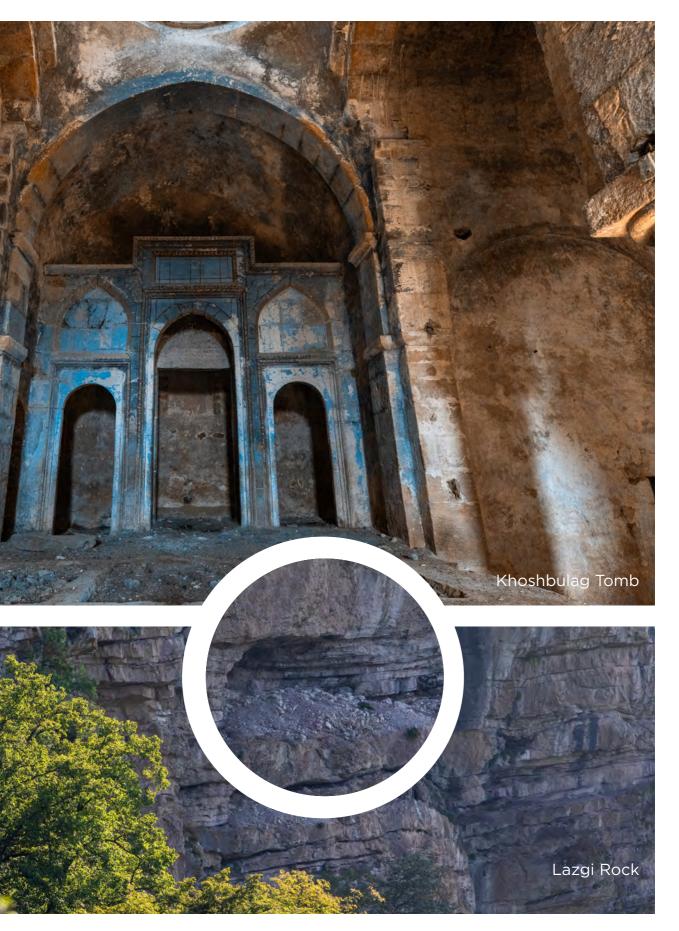












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