



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The **11th** **CENTRAL ASIA TRADE FORUM**

CENTRAL ASIA: POST-COVID RECOVERY THROUGH BETTER CONNECTIVITY

**OCTOBER
4-8, 2021**

A VIRTUAL EVENT

WWW.CATRADEFORUM.ORG

**ENHANCING CENTRAL ASIAN CASPIAN SEA
PORT COMPETITIVENESS IN ACCESSING
EUROPEAN MARKETS**

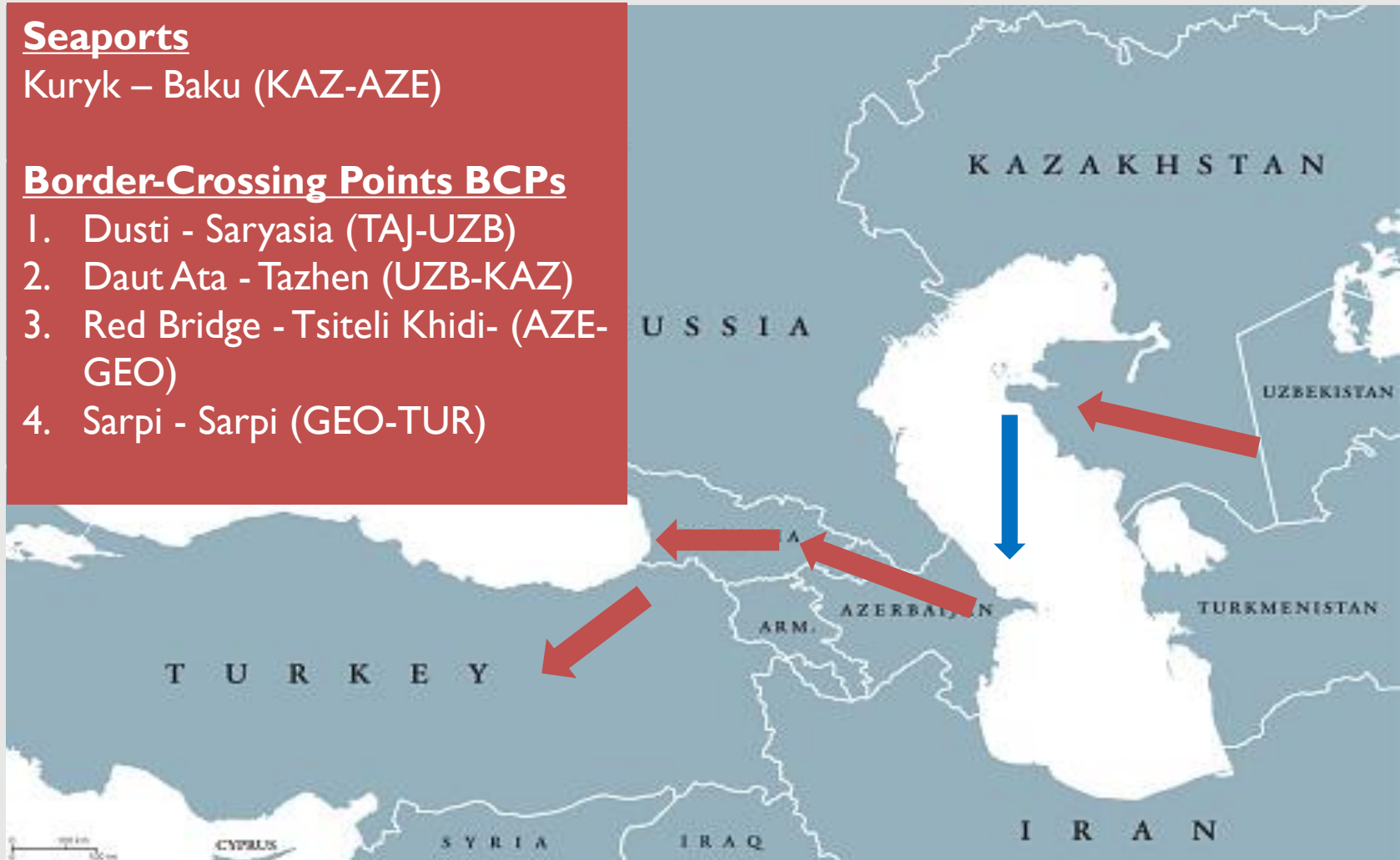
Route I : Caspian Crossing via Kuryk

Seaports

Kuryk – Baku (KAZ-AZE)

Border-Crossing Points BCPs

1. Dusti - Saryasia (TAJ-UZB)
2. Daut Ata - Tazhen (UZB-KAZ)
3. Red Bridge - Tsiteli Khidi- (AZE-GEO)
4. Sarpi - Sarpi (GEO-TUR)



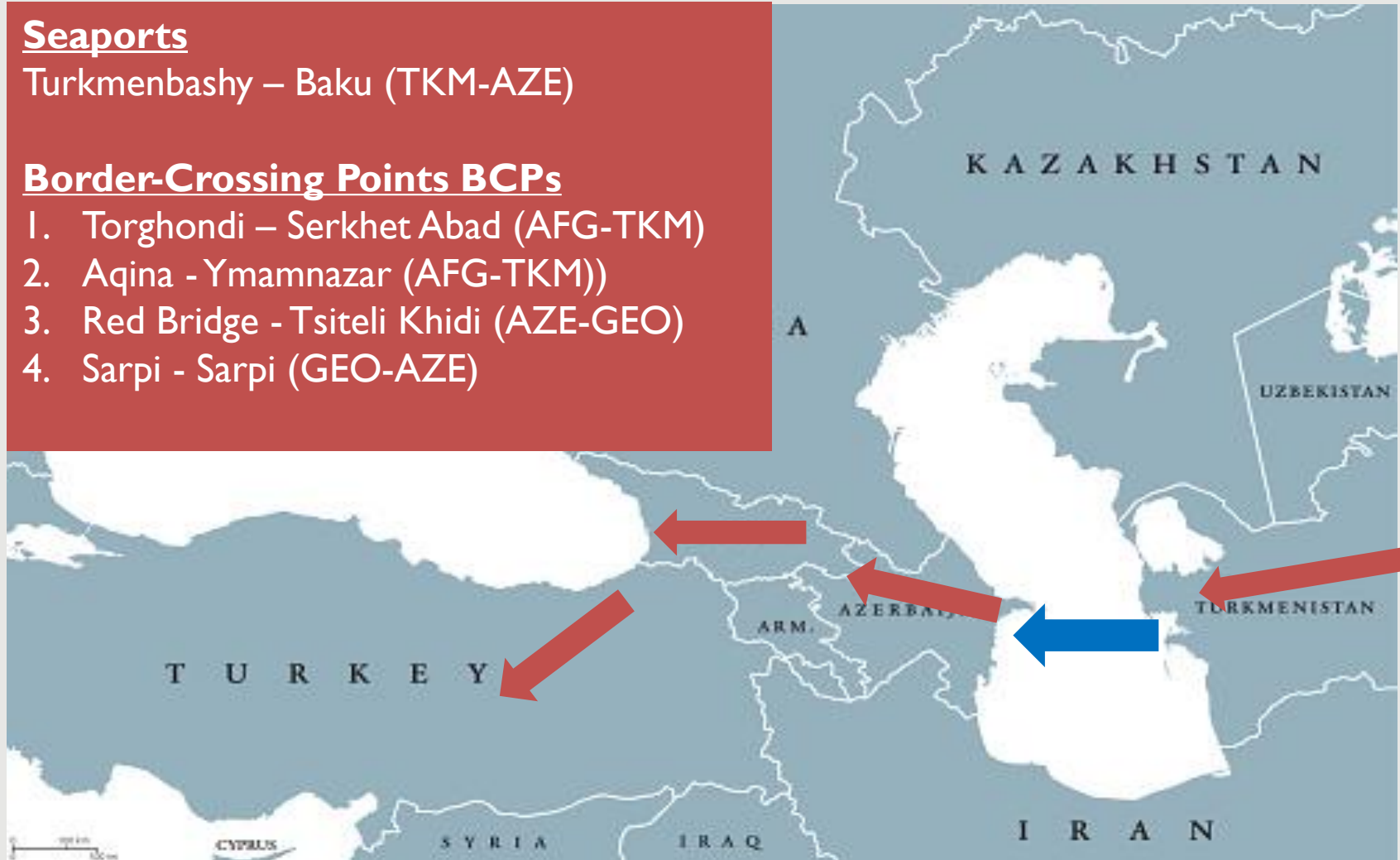
Route 2 : Caspian Crossing via Turkmenbashy

Seaports

Turkmenbashy – Baku (TKM-AZE)

Border-Crossing Points BCPs

1. Torghondi – Serkhet Abad (AFG-TKM)
2. Aqina - Ymamnazar (AFG-TKM))
3. Red Bridge - Tsiteli Khidi (AZE-GEO)
4. Sarpi - Sarpi (GEO-AZE)



Route 3 : Overland through Russia

Border-Crossing Points BCPs

1. Dusti - Saryasia (TAJ-UZB)
2. Daut Ata - Tazhen (UZB-KAZ)
3. Kurmangazy – Karaozek (KAZ-RUS)
4. Lars-Lars (RUS-GEO)
5. Sarpi - Sarpi (GEO-TUR)



Highlights

1. Kuryk Route is costlier than Overland Route. (3 times more costly)
2. Kuryk Route has a higher speed than Overland Route. (1.35 times higher speed)
3. The total transport cost is 2.28 times costlier for Black Sea to Central Asia direction than the reverse direction.
4. There is no significant difference for the speeds in either direction.
5. There is no significant difference in the cost between Kuryk or Turkmenbashy route.

Volga-Don Canal



- ✓ The Volga-Don canal connects the Caspian Sea to the Arov Sea and Black Sea through Russia.
- ✓ It offers a full inland waterways corridor from Central Asia to Turkey and Europe.
- ✓ Currently, both Kazakhstan and Russia are Eurasian Economic Union members. Vessels registered in Kazakhstan has the special permission to sail through Volga-Don.
- ✓ This option avoids the hassle of trans-loading cargoes and using different shipping documents.

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)



- ✓ The BRI has six key corridors.
- ✓ Two of them pass around Caspian region. New Eurasian Land-Bridge to the north, and China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor to the south.
- ✓ Can the Caspian region attract traffic and capitalize on the trade flows?
- ✓ Need to address one-way traffic and the cost of procuring a 40 foot container.

Caspian Water-Crossing

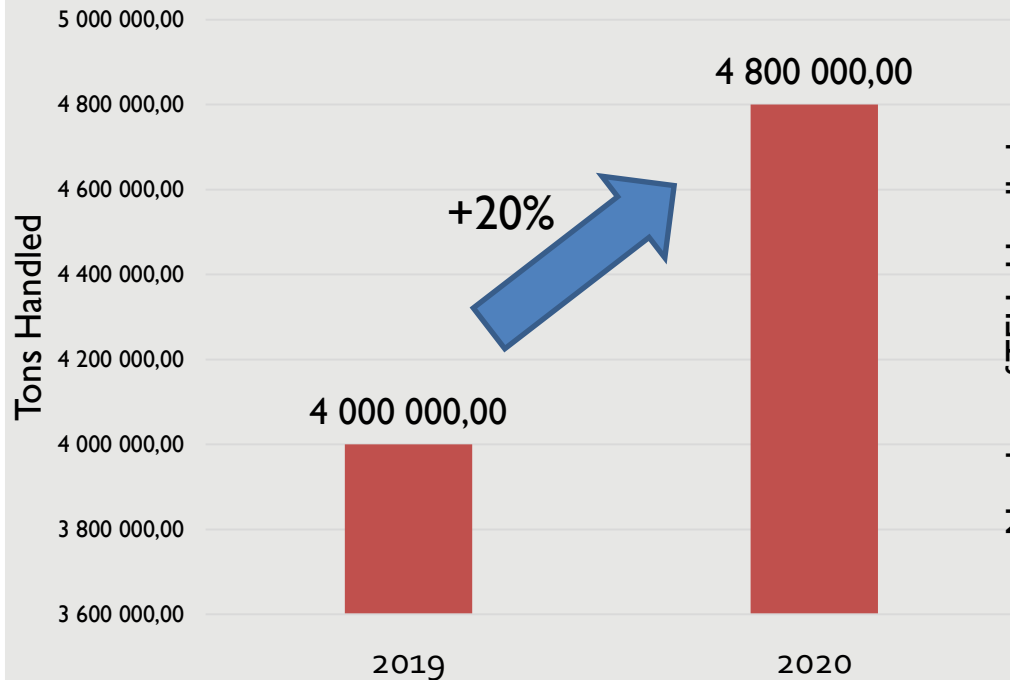
Directions	Time (hrs)	Cost (USD)
Baku-Kuryk	22	1,188
Kuryk-Baku	27	948



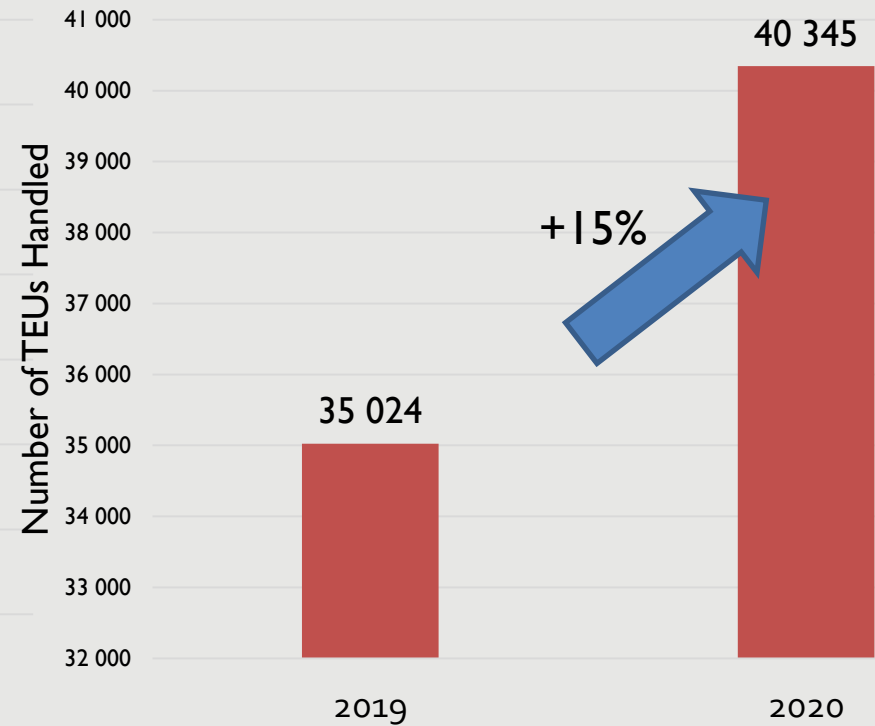
Directions	Time (hrs)	Cost (USD)
Baku-Turkmenbashy	15	884
Turkmenbashy-Baku	16	884

Increased Freight Traffic at Baku

Freight Throughput



TEUs handled



Recommendations

