Christopher Wizda

TURKMENISTAN, CASPIAN AND REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY · ENERGY AND CRITICAL MINERALS · MIDDLE CORRIDOR

chris@christopherwizda.com · christopherwizda.com · linkedin.com/in/christopher-wizda · Ulaanbaatar and Boston



Capability statement

Research, analysis and advice on Turkmenistan, the Caspian and regional connectivity for consultancies, investors, development organizations, publishers and media. Senior Expert for Turkmenistan, the Caspian and regional connectivity at Steppe Bridge Advisory; former Country Director of American Councils in Ashgabat (2025), leading a 40+ person office and a multimillion-dollar grant portfolio. Works from English, Russian and Turkmen sources.

Available immediately; two weeks' notice for full-time roles.

Available directly, or through Steppe Bridge Advisory for larger assignments, where working through the firm means he can bring a team of experts alongside his own Turkmenistan and Caspian coverage.

Work authorization: USA, Slovakia (Slovak Living Abroad Certificate) and Mongolia.

Focus areas

- **Energy and critical minerals.** Gas exports, Trans-Caspian pipeline prospects and Turkmenistan's iodine, bromine, salt and brine, from his Steppe Bridge brief, Praevisio sector briefs and Trade Finance Global features.
- **Middle Corridor and Trans-Caspian connectivity.** Turkmenbashi port, Caspian shipping, rail bottlenecks and the changing risk profile of the Europe-Central Asia corridor.
- **Policy, regulatory and institutional analysis.** The Caspian Convention and seabed treaties, Turkmenistan's digital asset regime, neutrality and foreign policy, and country data for the UN E-Government Survey.
- **Stakeholder engagement and risk.** Principal interlocutor with Turkmen ministries and the US Embassy as Country Director, keeping programs compliant through budget freezes and stop-work orders.
- **Digital trade, data and geospatial work.** A Single Window document-consistency pilot for Turkmenbashi port, an interactive GIS atlas on satellite imagery, and UNITAR-UNOSAT and NASA ARSET training.

What clients commission

- Country and risk briefs
- Energy, trade and minerals
- Corridors and ports
- Regulatory and legal-framework scans
- Maps and satellite work
- Program design and M&E
- Expert calls and briefings
- Editing
- Russian to English translation

Selected engagements

Steppe Bridge Advisory: Trans-Caspian infrastructure: legal barriers, pipeline prospects and investment risks
Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and the Caspian · 2026 · Senior Expert, sole author
Analyzed how the 2018 Caspian Convention, bilateral seabed treaties and Iran's pending ratification shape subsea cables and pipelines, and assessed investment risk for buyers and financiers.

Trade Finance Global: Trade Monitor: Turkmenistan
Turkmenistan, Central Asia and the Caspian · 2026 to present · Columnist
A monthly column on Turkmenistan's trade, energy and finance, from the new digital asset regime to brine minerals and corridor risk, sourced in English, Russian and Turkmen.

Praevisio Institute: Turkmenistan energy sector briefs
Turkmenistan and the Caspian · 2026 · Author and analyst
Two sector briefs covering 2024 to 2026, one commercial and strategic and one on infrastructure and operations, plus analysis of the Trans-Caspian pipeline window and single-track rail risk at Turkmenbashi.

American Councils for International Education: Country office management
Turkmenistan · 2025 · Country Director
Led a 40+ person office, a multimillion-dollar grant portfolio and five programs across four regional centers through budget freezes, stop-work orders and a full restructuring.

UN Academy of Somalia: M.Sc. in Project Management
Somalia (remote) · 2020 · Project Management Department Head
Led a team of educators developing a two-year master's program for 100+ East African students, and delivered online lectures.

UNDP Jordan and the Ministry of Interior: Local governance initiative
Jordan (remote) · 2019 to 2020 · Program Development Consultant
Advised a joint initiative to strengthen local governance structures in two regions, reviewing design and implementation against stakeholder goals.

Credentials

MSc in Management (International Business Development); BA in Northern Studies; PMD Pro, PgMD Pro, FMD Pro and MEAL DPro; UNITAR-UNOSAT geospatial training; NASA ARSET remote sensing; School of Modern Diplomacy, UNU-CRIS (2026).

Languages: English (native); Russian (C1); Mongolian (intermediate); Turkmen (A2); Slovak (A2).

Rates on request. For deadline work, put DEADLINE in the subject line.

CV and writing samples: christopherwizda.com/services/