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**Environmental Protection of
International River Basins Project**

Contract No. 2011/279-666



A project implemented by a Consortium
led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

**Development and finalisation of National Water Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan**

**INCEPTION REPORT
(Draft)**



Prepared by PERIOD Consulting

Baku 2016

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations:

1. EC – European Commission
2. EPIRBP – Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project
3. EU – European Union
4. GIS – Geographic Information Systems
5. IWRM- Integrated Water Resources Management Plan
6. MENR- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
7. OSCE- Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe
8. ToR- Terms of Reference
9. UNECE- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
10. WFD – Water Framework Directive

Introduction

This inception report has been prepared according to the contract made on February 8, 2016 between: Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG (“Client”) and PERIOD Consulting (“Contractor”), to assist relevant beneficiary organizations to develop and finalise the National Water Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan as defined by Contract for the needs of the EU project “Environmental Protection of the International River Basins”(SC № 2011/279-666, Europe Aid/131360/C/SER/Multi). The services carried out starting from 06 February 2016. Duration of the assignment is 6 months.

According to contract objectives of PERIOD LLC is to produce the following reports and documents:

- Deliverable 1: Inception report, outlining the assignment approach
- Deliverable 2: Together with expert group organize working meeting to analyze the outline for the New Water Strategy and make proposals for combing the two Water Strategy documents
- Deliverable 3: Organisation of a National workshop at which to agree on strategy principles, objectives and programme of measures.
- Deliverable 4: Preparation of draft Water Strategy and organisation of a second National workshop
- Deliverable 5: Preparation of final draft National Water Strategy document and submission it to relevant organizations for adoption

This Inception Report serves a Delivery 1 report and is prepared within the inception phase to outline methodology and action plan to be used to implement the project. This phase is summarized in the report and lays a new basis for the implementation of the project, reflecting changes in circumstances and/or practical implementation issues.

The implementation strategy of the project on assisting of relevant beneficiary organizations to develop and finalise the National Water Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is to involve experts from different interested organizations to work together to summarize 2 draft water strategies (developed by support of UNECE and ADB) and develop one single document for submission to the government. In order to do this company is implementing below actions:

- In the inception phase (February-March) on the NPD meeting on February 25 2016 brief presentation has been presented to relevant stakeholders and necessary steps(creation of expert groups to summarize 2 draft documents , submission of combined draft to stakeholders to get their comments and finale discussions of the strategy document updated according to comments received and submission of it to government) have been discussed with them
- According to agreed at the workshop procedures 2 draft strategy document have been submitted to members of working group(containing of specialists of relevant water related organizations and experts) to submit their comments and vision how 2 documents can be combined together by middle of March

- In second half of March consultative group will meet to summarize received comments and then combine them as a one strategy document and submitted National workshop to agree on strategy principles, objectives and programme of measures
- According to comments received during the National workshop document will be finalized and submitted to relevant organizations for their review (by middle of April 2016)
- After receiving comments of relevant organizations relevant changes will be done in documents by expert group members and then will be discussed at second National workshop (May 2016)
- By decision of the second National workshop with some edition document will be finalized and submitted to government for approval in June 2016

1. Implementation Methodology

In preparation of 2 draft water strategy documents main methodology used was international approach and legislation which is based on principles of EUWFD, UNECE Water Convention, CapNet and GWP guidelines on use of IWRM and ecosystem based RBMP development procedures.

This approach will be used further in combining of 2 draft documents to make water strategy in full compliance with international legislation.

2. Reporting

Deliverable 2 report will describe a new draft water strategy document developed by combining of 2 draft water strategies through analyzing and summarizing of expert group members comments.

Deliverable 3: report will be about results of discussions of a National workshop at which the new strategy document will be discussed to agree on strategy principles, objectives and programme of measures.

Based on comments and recommendations of the workshop will be finalized and send to relevant institutions for their comments

In the workshop will be discussed updated draft strategy document according to comments received from institutions.

Deliverable 4 report will be about preparation of updated draft strategy document according to comments received from institutions and discussion of it at a second National workshop

Deliverable 5: report will be about preparation of final draft National Water Strategy document and submission it to relevant organizations for adoption according to recommendation of Second National Workshop

3. Inputs and outputs

Consultant carefully reviewed both draft water strategy documents prepared by support of UNECE and ADB and selected relevant experts group which include independent experts in the area of water legislation and policy, water management, ground water and water quality specialists, experts worked in the area of public participation in water sector and also specialist of relevant water related organizations. This group composition is sufficient to cover all areas described in 2 strategy documents and finalise them in compliance with international legislation.

Group members also reviewed experience of other countries in the area of water management strategy document as a step to use international practices as much as possible in this process.

Drafting, reporting and implementation of above deliverables will be coordinated, advised and monitored by the project team, consisting of the Deputy Team Leader, respective CWM Expert and the project Key and Non-key experts.

4. Management arrangements and staff

Implementation of the above deliverables will be completed by RBMP Development Team established by Contractor.

We have below key experts to do the work:

- Amin Mammadov. IWRM expert
- Farda Imanov, Hydrology and Water resources expert
- Teymur Osmanov, Specialist on Amelioration
- Rashail Ismayilov, Specialist on water supply and sanitation
- Farid Garayev, Public awareness specialist
- Vafadar Ismayilov, GIS Specialist
- Ahmad Mamamdov- Hydraulic specialist
- Leyla Tagizade- Specialist on water and sanitation
- Rena Gashgay- National Academy of Science

In the process of finalizing of the water strategy experts will be supported and assisted by representatives of MENR, Water Agency, National Parliament and other organizations

5. Timetable of activities

Duration of the assignment is 6months. The expected commencement date for implementation of the assignment is 6 February, 2016, and the completion date –August 01, 2016. The assignment is divided into four phases with the following general schedule:

An approximate timeline is shown in the table below; it will vary depending on the country adoption procedures

Work plan	February	March	April	May	June	July
Inception report and analysis of draft WS documents						

National workshop and preparation of proposals for combining draft documents						
Preparation of combined draft water strategy and second national workshop						
Preparation of final draft water strategy document and submission it to relevant organizations for adoption						
Adoption procedures						

