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**Environmental Protection of
International River Basins Project**

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

**PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CENTRAL
KURA RIVER BASIN DISTRICT**



**Prepared a consortium led by SADIG LLC
in cooperation with
Azeri branch of REC Caucasus, HSRI and PERIOD LLC**

Baku, April 2016

Introduction

This draft RBMP for the Central Kura Basin District (BD) was prepared by the consortium led by the SADIG LLC, in cooperation with the REC Caucasus, SHMI and PERIOD LLC, under the consultancy assignment commissioned by the Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG, for development draft River Basin Management Plan for a selected pilot basin in Azerbaijan, as part of the EU funded project "Environmental Protection of International River Basins" (SC № 2011/279-666, Europe Aid/131360/C/SER/Multi)..

The assignment entailed for preparation of a draft River Basin Management Plan consistent with the EU Water Framework Directive and national legislation of Azerbaijan, also to be aligned with the approach used by the Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRB).

Water Code of Azerbaijan Republic considers integrated ecosystem approach as part of the water management policy, however no legislative act exists that describes mechanism for application of the basin management principles. Currently Azerbaijan is planning to harmonize the national water legislation with the EU directives. One of the specific objectives of the EPIRB includes development of draft RBMPs for selected pilot river basins according to the EU WFD requirements therefore the WFD planning cycle is used as the basis, keeping in mind that the water legislation of Azerbaijan does not contradict to the logics of the WFD compliant planning cycle. The main objectives of EU Water Framework Directive is to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies (including marine waters up to one km from shore) and to prevent deterioration and ensure the conservation of high water quality where it still exists. The main goal of the Central Kura pilot river basin management plan also is to achieve environmental objectives of the WFD through implementation of necessary measures.

The Central Kura RBMP is aimed at introduction of WFD methodology to increase knowledge of relevant national and regional organizations on water resources management and protection and increasing of their capacities to develop RBMPs according to requirements of the Directive

During the development of River Basin Management Plan for the Central Kura BD the below tasks have been implemented:

- Classification of water bodies based on available biological and chemical data;
- Identification of pressures and impacts and water bodies at risk. Identification of significant pressures and the related possible risks of each water body to fail the WFD environmental objectives, aligned to the EC IMPRESS WFD guidance document (Article 5, Annex II);
- Setting of environmental objectives (WFD Article 4);
- Design of surveillance and operational monitoring programme and network (Article 8, Annex V) included as an Annex to the RBMP;
- Identification of gaps in data availability and design of investigative monitoring programmes and network;
- Assessment of water status (surface water and groundwater) using available biological, chemical and quantitative data;
- Revision of water body status based on outcomes of investigatory monitoring (JFS);
- Initial economic analysis consistent with the WFD guidelines (WFD Article 5, Annex III);
- Development of national and basin-wide confined Programme of Measures (WFD Article 11, Annex VI); and

- Preparation of a River Basin Management Plan in accordance with the WFD and national regulations (WFD Article 13, Annex VII)
- Discussion of Draft RBMP with stakeholders and public and when finalizing of document. taking their comments into account

The overall delineation of surface water bodies, the typology of the newly delineated, water bodies was carried and in the classification of the water bodies was used the results of water quality monitoring conducted by the EPIRB project.

Central Kura Basin District RBMP is aimed at achieving the environmental objectives for waters. According to WFD all water bodies are required to have at least good ecological status. In this regards to achieve good status has been developed PoM for water bodies at risk and other water bodies.

Progress in reparation of Central Kura Basin District Draft RBMP was according to below time schedule:

- ⊙ Preparation of Draft Central Kura BD RBMP, March 2015
- ⊙ Discussion of the draft RBMP for Draft Central Kura BD RBMP at the Public Consultation meeting in Ganja (April 23, 2015)
- ⊙ Discussion of Draft RBMP with main beneficiary to see if it is in compliance with national legislation (July-August 2015)

Revision of draft RBMP according to comments of stakeholders and beneficiary organizations

In the stage of continuation of previous phases of the basin management planning process main activities have been based on the tasks already accomplished under Activity 2.1 River Basin Analyses 2.2 Water body identification and typology, 2.3 Analysis of baseline situation (Pressures and Impact and At Risk assessments) 2.5Development of national and base-wide Programme of Measures (PoM) 2,7 Public involvement and awareness raising activities. Under the previous assignment the results of these activities have been incorporated into a draft River Basin Management Plan for the selected pilot that has been subject to public consultation with the basin and national stakeholders. The new assignment was build on these results to prepare a final draft River Basin Management Plan consistent with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and national legislation.

Working with the project beneficiary, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Republic of Azerbaijan and the EPIRB project team, SADİG LLC delivered a draft final RBMP for approval at the basin and national levels. The assignment included the following activities:

- Review and incorporation of stakeholder comments arising from the public and internal consultation processes.
- Incorporation of 2014 and 2015 JFS and Kura III results from 2014 and 2015
- Incorporation of national pilot project results
- At the request of the beneficiary inclusion of ancillary topics, such as climate change, flooding, and planned investments
- Where required assist with further public consultation events
- Preparation of final draft RBMP, to include executive summary and all annexes and consistent with WFD and national legislation
- Preparation of a summary RBMP document for public distribution
- Assistance to beneficiary in complying with national approval procedures

The inclusion of ancillary topics in the RBMP have discussed with the beneficiary at the beginning of the assignment. It should be noted that in preparing the RBMP, in addition to meetings the requirements of the WFD the RBMP complies with existing and pending national legislation and regulations relating to RBMPs. Where there is disagreement the national legislation shall take precedent.

During the process of revision of RBMP for CK basin district followings have been considered:

- ⊙ Addressing of comments of stakeholders and beneficiaries (May-September 2015)
- ⊙ Revision of content of draft RBMP according to discussions including addressing of such sectors as (i) climate change and water adaptation; (ii) flood management in more details in developed PoM and proposing some pilots on application of Flood Directive UWWTD and combining of IWRM and WFD RBMP in pilot area
- ⊙ Surface and groundwater field surveys, including surveys to cover data gaps (Groundwater: May 2015, Surface water: June-July 2015)
- ⊙ Including into Central Kura BD RBMP the results of the pilot projects
- ⊙ Adoption of RBMP (December 2015)

Revised Table of content included below new items in relevant chapters and sub chapters

:

- ⊙ 3.4.3. Climate change and its impact to water resources
- ⊙ Add subchapter on water adaptation for different sceneries
- ⊙ 7.4 List of identified Basic and Supplementary measures for Central Kura Basin District
- ⊙ Add measure on application of EU Flood Directive in CK BD
- ⊙ Add measure on Development of water allocation program in pilot river basins combining IWRM and WFD RBMP
- ⊙ CHAPTER 9. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION
- ⊙ CHAPTER 10.COMPOTENT AUTHORITIES
- ⊙ _CHAPTER11. Contact points
- ⊙ CHAPTER 12. EBIRB SUPPORTED PILOT PROJECTS
- ⊙ ANNEXES(Add results of pilot projects)

The Final Draft River Basin Management Plan

During the RBMP contract extension period the new assignment was built on the results of the work on development of CK basin district RBMP with aim to prepare a final draft River Basin Management Plan consistent with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and national legislation.

Working with the project beneficiary, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Republic of Azerbaijan and the EPIRB project team, SADİG LLC was assigned to deliver a draft final RBMP for approval at the basin and national levels. The assignment included the following activities:

- Review and incorporation of stakeholder comments arising from the public and internal consultation processes.
- Incorporation of 2014 and 2015 JFS and Kura III results from 2014 and 2015
- Incorporation of national pilot project results
- At the request of the beneficiary inclusion of ancillary topics, such as climate change, flooding, and planned investments
- Where required assist with further public consultation events
- Preparation of final draft RBMP, to include executive summary and all annexes and consistent with WFD and national legislation
- Preparation of a summary RBMP document for public distribution
- Assistance to beneficiary in complying with national approval procedures

The inclusion of ancillary topics in the RBMP have discussed with the beneficiary at the beginning of the assignment. It should be noted that in preparing the RBMP, in addition to meetings the requirements of the WFD the RBMP complies with existing and pending national legislation and regulations relating to RBMPs.

During the development of the RBMP the following public information and consultation measures were taken:

- Information was circulated on the draft and final Communication Strategy and Plan on the website of the project;
- Stakeholder consultation meeting was held on the significant water management issues document (“Pressures and Impact Analysis”), document published for comments in May 2014 at: (www.blacksea-riverbasins.net) ;
- Project newsletter “In the Flow” (6) and brochure on Significant Water Management Issues in Central Kura Basin District have been published and distributed among stakeholders as well as placed on the EPIRB project website (www.blacksea-riverbasins.net) ;
- The draft Central Kura Basin District RBMP entered the public consultation phase from April 24 2015 until August 31 2015, including a public consultation meeting and possibilities for submitting comments.

The opportunity to participate in the consultations was promoted by: direct notification mass-emails; relevant NGO networks; news items on the EPIRB project website (www.blacksea-riverbasins.net); the regularly published project newsletter “In the Flow”, and targeted media announcements (e.g. www.ganjanews.az, local newspaper etc.).

The stakeholder consultation meeting on the significant water management issues was held in Baku on 2 September 2014. It targeted water practitioners, different key stakeholders from different sectors etc. It had the main aim to present the necessary background information and the preliminary overview of the important water management issues for the river basin, as well as to collect stakeholders’ feedbacks concerning the identification of the most important water management issues. The summary of the discussions can be accessed on the EPIRB project website at: (www.blacksea-riverbasins.net).

The public consultation meeting “Shaping the future of the Central Kura Basin District” was held in Ganja city on 23 April 2015. It had the main objectives to present the draft RBMP and the planned Programme of Measures, and to discuss and receive feedback, comments and proposals on the draft RBMP, including the planned measures. The meeting gathered 35 participants, representing a broad range of stakeholders such as: relevant state water management organizations, joint stock companies, representatives of water users, municipalities and NGOs. The one day event gave short introduction to the draft RBMP, as well as provided opportunity for feedback and comments through interactive discussion organized within two working groups. The group discussions were guided by independent facilitators, and the outcomes of the discussions were shared in the plenary session by selected rapporteur. The minutes of the meeting can be accessed on the EPIRB project website at: (www.blacksea-riverbasins.net).

After the public consultation meeting article was published in local Newspaper in Ganja and summary of discussions of the meeting has been broadcasted by Kapaz TV of Ganja city. Short film was produced about the meeting and distributed in DVD format among stakeholders as well as among students in Baku State University.

Besides the public consultation meeting, opportunity to submit written comments to the draft RBMP was open until 31 August 2015. A total of 5 written comments were received.

All the comments requesting changes to the draft RBMP received during the consultation meeting(s), as well as in written form have been collected and processed by the consultants developing the RBMP in close cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic. In order to ensure transparency a summary report has been prepared which gives an overview on the original comments received and the responses and actions taken, whether it resulted in changes in the draft RBMP etc. The summary report can be found at: (www.blacksea-riverbasins.net) and main comments and responses to them are given in tables 1 and 2 below



Table 1. List of comments received in written and responses

Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
Water Agency(WA)	Summary(Page 6)	nautical mile	Express in m	YES
-	Text above table on page 8	Four lake water bodies are located on the territory of the pilot basin	Three lake water bodies are located on the territory of the pilot basin	Yes
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	3.Economic and fiscal measures	“Amelioration JSC	Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	Yes
-	3.Economic and fiscal measures	Provision of penalties / fines for over abstraction	Provision of penalties / fines for over abstraction and other economic instruments	yes
MENR	3.Economic and fiscal measures	Establishment of system of water abstraction management to control fulfillment of environmental flow requirements	Establishment of system of water abstraction management and control to supervise fulfillment of environmental flow requirements	Yes
WA	3.Economic and fiscal measures	Water Resources State Agency	Water Resources State Agency of MOES	YES
-	4. Emissions control	issue permits for discharges and enforce the terms of licenses and control compliance with the provisions of the waste water discharge	issue permits for discharges and enforce the terms of licenses and control compliance with environmental requirements	No

¹ Please ask respondents whether the name of their organization can be published, if not feasible the sector to which they belong should be included: agriculture, industry, civil society etc.

² Chapter of the draft RBMP



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Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
		permits		
MENR	2.1. Natural conditions	<p>The Central Kura RBD is located in the Ganja-Gazakh Economic Region at western part of Azerbaijan and covers Agstafa, Dashkesen, Gadabay, Goranboy, Khanlar, Gazakh, Samukh, Shamkir, Tovuz administrative regions, cities like Ganja and Naftalan. Economic region has suitable economic – geographical location. It is located on the North – eastern slope of Lesser Caucasus mountain ranges, has border with Armenia in South – West and with Georgia in the West and North of the region.</p> <p>Region covers the area of 12 500 km² (14.4 % of the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic). The territory of the region can be divided into 4 (height?) zones considering its landscape characteristics: sloppy plains, foothill zone, middle highland (1000-2000 m a.s.l.) zone and alpine zone (more than 2000 m a.s.l.).</p>	Repeated (p.21)	Yes
MENR	3.2.4.2.Drinking water abstraction	Waste waters are treated in WWTP located near Poylu village and used for irrigation purposes after treatment.	Waste waters are treated in WWTP located near Poylu village and used for irrigation og greenes after treatment.	YES



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Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
-	.3.5.2.1 Urban waste water	Domestic and industrial wastewaters of Ganja are discharged to vineyards located in Garayeri field in nearly 18 km distance in the north-east of the city, used for their irrigation after biological treatment. It was considered as a problem solution according to former USSR regulations. In reality vine trees have been watered throughout the year and those waters are not useful for any purpose because of their quality.	Domestic and industrial wastewaters of Ganja are discharged to vineyards located in Garayeri field in nearly 18 km distance in the north-east of the city, üas used for purpose of irrigation after biological treatment	Yes
MENR	5.2.1 Existing Groundwater Monitoring network	Twelve artesian monitoring wells are flowing.	Twelve artesian monitoring wells are pressured	Yes
	<i>Table 29</i>	Hydrogeological Expedition	the Complex Hydrogeological Expedition	YES
WA	7.3.1 National and regional development programs	The State Agency for Water Resources	The State Agency for Water Resources of MOES	YES
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	-7.3.1 National and	Amelioration JSC	Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	YES



Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
	regional development programs			
AZERSU	7.3.2. National Water supply and Sanitation Program	Waste waters will be treated at WWTP located in Dagkasaman village og Akstafa raion and will be used for irrigation	Waste waters will be treated at WWTP located in Dagkasaman village og Akstafa raion and will be used for irrigating of green areas	Yes
AZERSU	7.3.2. National Water supply and Sanitation Program	Waste waters are treated in WWTP located near Poylu village and used for irrigation after treatment .	Waste waters are treated in WWTP located near Poylu village and used for irrigating of green areas after treatment .	Yes
WA	-7.3.6. Flood protection measures	Construction of new residential settlements in territories where floods are taking place every five years is forbidden in several countries	Construction of new residential settlements in territories where floods are taking place every five years is forbidden in several countries it üould be important to strengthen the lagal basis in Azerbaijan in this field	YES



Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
	<p>7.3.7. Solid waste management</p>	<p>Information is lacking</p>	<p>Information and Data gathering. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk study on Existing Conditions • Data collection with the following information <u>relative to each districts in the region</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste generation data. • Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Service Characterization. • Institutional Responsibilities and Capacity. • Existing Budgets and Financial Resources. • Waste Characterization Studies/surveys. <p>Deficiencies Assessment – Based on the above activities, a deficiencies analysis which will include consideration of existing SWM deficiencies associated with 1) service</p>	<p>-Yes</p>



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Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
			provision, management and technical deficiencies, 2) economic/financial deficiencies and 3) institutional and capacity deficiencies will be conducted.	
MENR	7.3.8 Forestry	7.3.8 Forestry	Forestry related measures	yes
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	8.3.2 Economic assessment of irrigation water use services	Amelioration JSC	Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	YES
WA	Reference	Jesper Ansbaek, Anatoli Pichugin, Peter Roncak, Vafadar İsmayılov, Farda İmanov and Rafiq Verdiyev. Pilot River Basin Management plan of Ganjachay basin. Baku, 2011	Repeated(Deleted)	Yes
MENR	PoM	There is need to install automatic hydrological gauging stations to collect and transfer data to relevant centers to develop forecast and flood early warning system	This should be done by Hydromet in cooperation with created basin units	Yes
MENR	PoM	There is need to apply EU flood Directive in Central kura	EPIRBP project is planning to fund relevant pilot project	Yes
MENR	PoM	PRBMP should consider development of joint action plans with Georgia to collect and share hydrological information in upstream of Kura	This should be part of full Kura(upstream of Mingechavir reservoir) transboundary river basin plan	Yes



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Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
MENR	PoM	There is no need to prepare inventory of pollutants in Central Kura and also on Georgian part of Kura	In Ventral Kura some projects included into PoM considers this and in future there will be need to do same for upstream of Kura in cooperation with Georgia	Yes
MENR	PoM	There is need to develop water monitoring strategy and classification system	This is being done by EPIRB project	Yes
MENR	PoM	There is need to rehabilitate Gazakh laboratory of MENR	EPIRB project is planning to support MENR for laboratory rehabilitation on stepwise approach	Yes
MENR	PoM	There is need to conduct monitoring of ground waters near areas of surface WBR	Should be added to list of PoM	Yes
MENR	PoM	<i>Supervision of existing groundwater monitoring points and repairing any unfit points;</i>	This should be done by Ministry in cooperation with created basin units	Yes
MENR	PoM	<i>Establishment of new groundwater monitoring stations in the areas with surface water at risk;</i>	This should be done by Ministry in cooperation with created basin units	Yes
MENR	PoM	<i>Preparation of studies/assessment of protected areas for protection of drinking water sources, in line with relevant EU directive;</i>	This is partly included into PoM and needs to be addressed deeply when basin entity starts to implement RBMP	Yes
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	PoM	<i>There is need to conduct study on construction of reservoirs on Ganjachay , Zayamchay and some other rivers where there is no water regulation</i>	There will be study pilot within in PoM is On necessity of construction of such reservoirs	Yes



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Institution/ Organization ¹	Reference ²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
		<i>to improve water management and keep environmental flow</i>		
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	Pom	<i>There is need to add measure on Climate Change impact assessment on water economy in future</i>	This is partly included into PoM and needs to be addressed deeply when basin entity starts to implement RBMP	Yes
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	Pom	<i>There is need to develop IWRM plan taking into account climate change, and increase of water demand</i>	This is partly included into PoM and needs to be addressed deeply when basin entity starts to implement RBMP	Yes
Azerbaijan Amelioration JSC	Pom	<i>RBMP should be implemented together with developed IWRM plan which includes also use of all waters in the area by different hydrotechnical infrastructure , including Kura itselve</i>	This is partly included into PoM and needs to be addressed deeply when basin entity starts to implement RBMP	Yes
AZERSU	Pom	<i>There is need to assess situation on Water Supply and Sanitation for rural areas and develop programs on improvement of these sustems there</i>	This is partly included into PoM and needs to be addressed deeply when basin entity starts to implement RBMP	Yes
AZERSU	Pom	<i>There is need to study on construvtion of Ganjachay water reservoir to provide dringing water to Ganja and Zayamchay water reservoir to provide local water supply and keep</i>	There will be study pilot within in PoM is On necessity of construction of such reservoirs	Yes



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Institution/ Organization¹	Reference²	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
		<i>environmental flow in rivers</i>		

Table 2. List of comments received during the public consultation meeting and responses

Reference ³	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
General comments	<p>The plan was considered to be very ambitious and important.</p> <p>The RBMP should reflect the influence of the Korchay River on the Central Kura River, as well as the impact of legal and illegal fishponds (e.g. in Korchay region during the Soviet Union many small reservoirs for fisheries were established). Also, gaps related to protected areas were signalled, as in Korchay there is a 5000 ha preservation area.</p>	<p>Korchay is small and no monitoring data about its status, It may impact Kura river directly but it has no impact on Central Kura basin rivers</p>	No
	<p>Results of the on-going World Bank supported programme focusing on waste water management in small and medium settlements should be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Yes this is included into supplementary pilot project within the PoM</p>	Yes
	<p>Groundwater terminology from aquifers should be distinguished, as in case of farmers and of representatives of municipalities, this refers to groundwater situated close to the surface, and more exposed for pollution, while for water supply artesian water is used.</p>	<p>Yes terminology is distinguished in RBMP</p>	Yes
5. Monitoring Programme for SWB and GWBs in the Central Kura Basin District	<p>Establishing a monitoring system which is able to track possible pollution elements coming from neighbouring countries.</p> <p>Regarding the frequency of the monitoring, it was proposed to increase and to have it not less than 4 times per year.</p> <p>Regarding pesticides, the data one time within 6 years, doesn't give representative data. Same proposal was given regarding groundwater, namely, to have samples more often, as seasons are changing and influencing the</p>	<p><i>Monitoring is very expensive, and monitoring programs should be designed to be cost-effective with just as much monitoring as needed to identify problems. There are three levels of monitoring: a screening monitoring (general monitoring), operation monitoring (monitor those water bodies at risk or bad or less than good status), and an investigatory monitoring program. Frequency of screening monitoring is 1-2 years, just to make sure that the water bodies remain in good status or better than good status. The operational monitoring, -if it</i></p>	Yes partly

³ Chapter of the draft RBMP

Reference ³	Comment	Response/Action	Comment has been integrated in the RBMP [YES/ NO]
	<p>groundwater. The EPIRB project has very beneficial results but it would be appreciated, if during the extension of the project these gaps could be addressed.</p> <p>Regarding monitoring of pesticides, the RBMP should include a note that laboratories need to be established or extended, as well as properly equipped. This would enable the government to do the required investments, as soon as the necessary resources are available.</p>	<p><i>can be afforded, -should happen 4 times per year, and it includes ecological, chemical and hydro-morphological monitoring as well. Regarding pesticides and other organic substances, the problem is the capacity to do the analysis, as it is very complicated and very expensive, and at the moment the laboratories do not have such capacities. These elements have to be built in in the next 6 years to be able to monitor not just DDT, but all the pesticides. Usually the pesticides are monitored in spring and autumn, as they are washed off the land. Pesticides are locked in the sediments, so by monitoring sediments, a history of pesticides use can be obtained. With regard to groundwater monitoring, we talk about the level of groundwater (quantity) in case of daily monitoring, and not the quality. Automated data loggers can be obtained with continuous output.</i></p> <p>This will be done in future when developing transboundary RBMP for Kura jointly with Georgia</p> <p>Regarding pollution from Armenia this issues is actual currently</p>	

Further Steps for Formal Adoption of the River Basin Management Plan

As Water Code of Azerbaijan Republic considers basin approach as one of tools to manage water resources therefore developed RBMP can be considered to be in compliance with Azeri water legislation.

Lack of mechanism complicates the ways of application of WFD compliance RBMP in relevant river basins of Azerbaijan. Therefore by EPIRB project was prepared relevant legal document on steps of application of EU WFD in Azerbaijan which currently is being considered by the government for adoption. After adoption of the document it seems that implementation of CK basin district RBMP will be easy from legal and institutional perspectives .

Currently below steps are being considered in this sphere:

- ⊙ Submission of final draft to MENR May 2015
- ⊙ Review of RBMP by MENR –May-June2015
- ⊙ Circulation of RBMP to relevant organizations (By MENR or by request of MENR through CabMin) June –July 2015
- ⊙ Adoption of RBMP by government(August-September 2016)