



Ministry of Natural Resources  
and Environmental Protection  
of the Republic of Belarus



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**Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project**

**ADOPTION PROCEDURES OF THE UPPER DNEIPEP RIVER  
BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN IN BELARUS**



Prepared by

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With assistance of  
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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CRICUWR</b>	Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (Minsk, Belarus)
<b>EPIRB</b>	EU-funded project “Environmental Protection of International River Basins”
<b>HYDROMET</b>	Republican Center on Hydrometeorology, Control of Radioactive Pollution and Monitoring of Environment, Belarus
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>MNREP</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
<b>RBMP</b>	River Basin Management Plan
<b>RCAC</b>	Republican Center on Analytical Control in the field of Environmental Protection, Belarus

## **INTRODUCTION**

The presented Report on Deliverable 4, containing steps undertaken for the country adoption procedures and additional public consultation meetings organised is prepared by CRICUWR with assistance of its partners HYDROMET and RCAC, under the contract for additional assistance in development of final draft River Basin Management Plan for the upper Dnieper pilot basin in the Republic of Belarus for the needs of EU funded project “Environmental Protection of International River Basins” (Service Contract Nr. ENPI/2011/279-666, EuropeAid/131360/C/SER/Multi) implemented by consortium led by Hulla and Co. Human Dynamics KG.

The presented report concludes short overview of the water management legislative framework in the Republic of Belarus serving the ground for the upper Dnieper RBMP development and content and timing of the further its adaptation procedures.

## **CHAPTER 1 CURRENT NATIONAL LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF WATER MANAGEMENT**

The main legislative document in the field of water management in Belarus is Water Code of the Republic of Belarus. This law was developed by the MNREP in 2013. After the adoption by the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and approval by the Council of Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in the April of 2014 the President of the Republic of Belarus 30 April 2014 signed the new version of the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus. The law comes into force 21 May 2015.

The main innovations of the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus 2014 are following:

- Usage of “River Basin Management Principle” in the form of advisory rivers basin councils with their secretariats on the base of territorial bodies of the Ministry of National Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus;
- Development of “River Basin Management Plans” for 5 main rivers basins (Dnieper, Pripyat, Zapadny Bug, Nieman, Zapadnaya Dvina);
- Ecological state (status) assessment of surface waters using hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators.

In accordance with the **article 3 “Main principles of water protection and water use”** water protection and water use are based on the following principles:

- rational (sustainable) use of water resources;
- integrated water resources management;
- improve the ecological status of surface water bodies;
- prevent pollution of water;
- basin-wide management of water resources;
- public participation in decision-making in the field of water protection and water use.

**Article 6 of the Water code of the Republic of Belarus "Ecological state (status) of surface water objects (their parts)"** defines:

1. Ecological state (status) of surface water objects (surface water bodies) is determined on the basis of hydrobiological indicators, using hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators.

2. Hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators are determined during monitoring of surface waters in the National System of Environmental Monitoring in the Republic of Belarus.

3. Ecological state (status) of surface water objects (surface water bodies) is classified as excellent, good, moderate, poor and very poor.

4. The ranging of surface water objects (surface water bodies) with classes of ecological state is carried out by the MNREP in the established order, in accordance with appropriate secondary legislative acts.

**Article 12 of the Water Code** defines the competence of the Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus in the field of water protection and use, as the main authority of water management.

The MNREP in the field of water management:

- takes measures to implement a unified state policy;
- organizes the monitoring of surface water and groundwater monitoring;
- sets the water quality standards of surface water bodies;
- specifies requirements for establishment of standards for permissible discharges of chemical and other substances in the wastewater;
- organizes the development of draft management plans for river basins and water balances of projects with the participation of interested state bodies (organizations), and establishes requirements for their design, drafting and design;
- establishes the procedure of classifying the surface water objects (its part surface water bodies) to classes of ecological state (status) and assignments to the appropriate class of ecological state (status);
- approves the list of regulated pollutants in the wastewater;
- approves the content of the river basin councils;
- carries out the supervisory control over protection and use of waters in accordance with the legislation requirements;
- ensures application of the requirements arising from international treaties of Belarus.

The development and application of river basin management plans is governed by **article 15 of the Water Code "River basin management plans"**:

1. River basin management plans are developing to provide preservation and restoration of water bodies, as well as integrated use of water resources for the following river basins: Dnieper, Pripyat, Zapadny Bug, Nieman and Zapadnaya Dvina.

2. River basin management plans are developing taking into account data of State water cadastre, State cadastre of subsoil, Surface water monitoring and Groundwater monitoring, Recommendations of basin councils.

3. River basin management plans include:

3.1. evaluation of quantitative and qualitative indicators of the status of waters within the river basin;

3.2. measures to define ecological status of surface water objects (surface water bodies) in case, if their state (status) is not defined;

3.3. determination of environmental problems of the river basin and ways of their solutions;

3.4. the scheme of observation stations location at the state monitoring network surface water and groundwater;

3.5. the results of studies on the prospective use of water resources;

- 3.6. the water economy balance;
- 3.7. measures aimed to improvement of ecological status of surface water objects (surface water bodies), timing and expected indicators of their realizations.
4. River basin management plans are developing for the period from 5 up to 10 years.
5. The MNREP organizes the development of river basin management plans with the participation of interested state bodies (organizations) and obtain free of charge information necessary for their development from state bodies (organizations) and water users.
6. River basin management plans are approved by the joint decision of Regional (and Minsk) Executive Committees, on whose territory the relevant river basin is located.
7. Requirements for the development, drafting and design of river basin management plans are determined by the MNREP.

The upper Dnieper river basin in Belarus is located at the following regions of the republic: Vitebsk region, Minsk city, Minsk region, Mogilev region, Gomel region.

Accordingly, the upper Dnieper river basin management plan should be approved by a joint decision of the regional (Vitebsk, Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel) and Minsk city Executive Committees on the proposal of the MNREP.

Earlier until 2015 there were no structures of river basin management in water legislation framework in Belarus.

**Article 19 of the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus "River basin councils"** defines the functions of the basin councils in the republic:

1. River basin councils are created in order to develop recommendations for the protection and rational (sustainable) use of water resources for the following river basins: Dnieper, Pripyat, Zapadny Bug, Nieman and Zapadnaya Dvina.

2. River basin councils are interagency and inter-territorial consultative body. Decisions formulated by river basin councils are advisory and forwarded to the relevant local executive and administrative bodies, the MNREP.

Decisions of the river basin councils are taken into account while development of the river basin management plans, as well as in the development of programmes in the field of protection and use of waters within the boundaries of the river basins.

3. The river basin councils include representatives of state bodies, local authorities, water users, public associations and scientific organizations.

4. The order of the activities of river basin councils shall be determined by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

The content of the river basin councils is approved by the MNREP.

Nowadays secondary legislation acts in the field of river basin management plans is absent (developing).

## CHAPTER 2 PLANNED ADOPTION PROCEDURES OF THE UPPER DNEIPER RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN IN BELARUS

Under the contract on *Additional assistance in development of final draft River Basin Management Plan for the Upper Dnieper pilot basin in the Republic of Belarus* implemented by CRICUWR and its partners, draft upper Dnieper river basin management plan was developed and presented at EPIRB Project Steering Committee 17 February 2016. The Steering Committee approved the presented plan and recommended a number of minor adjustments to the program of measures and to submit a revised plan to the Dnieper river basin council.

The upper Dnieper river basin management plan was presented and discussed in details at the first meeting of the Dnieper river basin council in Mogilev 3 March 2016. Dnieper river basin council was created by the decision of the MNREP from 25 February 2016, N41-OD.

The Dnieper river basin council approved the presented RBMP and recommended to make small adjustments and send document to the MNREP.

Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources sent it to MNREP the final version of the upper Dnieper RBMP and its short resume 29 April 2016. CRICUWR also held consultations with representatives of the MNREP upon the further timing of the upper Dnieper RBMP approval (table 1).

Table 1 - Timing of the upper Dnieper RBMP approval

<i>Nº</i>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible organizations</i>
1	Consideration of the final version of the draft upper Dnieper RBMP	April - May 2016	- MNREP, Department of managing impacts on the atmospheric air and water resources
2	Distribution of the draft upper Dnieper RBMP to the regional level: Vitebsk, Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel Regional Committees (and Minsk City) Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. Consultations and adjusting in accordance with comments.	May - June 2016	- MNREP, Department of managing impacts on the atmospheric air and water resources - Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources

<i>N<sup>o</sup></i>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible organizations</i>
3	Consultations and submission of the draft upper Dnieper RBMP to the governmental institutions (Ministry of Transport and communications, Ministry of Communal Housing and etc.) and obtaining of its approval	July - August 2016	- MNREP, Department of managing impacts on the atmospheric air and water resources - Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources
4	Consideration of the approved draft upper Dnieper RBMP at the second Dnieper river basin council in Minsk	September 2016	- MNREP, Department of managing impacts on the atmospheric air and water resources - Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources
5	The submission of the draft upper Dnieper RBMP to the Regional Executive Committees (Vitebsk, Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel regions, Minsk city) and its approval	September 2016	- MNREP, Department of managing impacts on the atmospheric air and water resources
6	Consideration and final approval the draft upper Dnieper RBMP at the Board of the MNREP	September - October 2016	- MNREP

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The main legislative document (law) in the field of water management in Belarus is the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus. It contains main principles of the development and application of river basin management plans in the republic. The MNREP is the main state institution in the field of water management.

The first river basin council as a form of basin-wide water management in Belarus is the Dnieper river basin council. It was created by the decision of the MNREP and 3 March 2016 held its first meeting. The draft upper Dnieper was presented, discussed in details and approved at the meeting of the first Dnieper river basin council.

Timing of the further adoption of the draft upper Dnieper RBMP was proposed by CRICUWR after the consultations with MNREP and cover the period until October 2016.