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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

Deliverable 3: Organisation of a National workshop at which to agree on strategy principles, objectives and programme of measures.



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

According to contract objectives of PERIOD LLC in this phase is to produce the Deliverable 3 report : Organisation of a National workshop at which to agree on strategy principles, and approaches to finalise the process of development of National Water Strategy based on proposals prepared by expert group in relation to combining of 2 draft Water Strategy (WS) Documents prepared by support of UNECE and ADB. Aim of the workshop was to discuss the main proposed principles for Combining of 2 WS document for submission to relevant stakeholders for comments. It is supposed that after receiving and responding to experts comments the draft WS document can be submitted to second National Workshop on WS to be conducted in first half of July 2016. It is expected that after discussions and suggestions of the second National Workshop draft WS document can be finalized for submission to relevant organizations for approval.

Therefore Deliverable 3 Report summarizes above mentioned discussions during the National workshop and its outcomes. In the workshop was proposed to prepare combined WS document taking into account the recommendations of the workshop and after discussion it with stakeholders submit finalized draft to the second workshop. Summary of the workshop is described below.

Summary of National meeting on development of National Water Strategy for Azerbaijan

14 June 2016, Baku, Azerbaijan

The meeting took place at the meeting venue Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan

Address: 100-A B. Agaev Street, Baku

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Agenda

Agenda of the First National Workshop on development of NWS is attached in Annex 1.

Participants

List of Participants in the meeting is attached in Annex 2

Summary of Discussions

Main discussions in first National Workshop on development of NWS were about Status of Development of National Water Strategy presented by Mutallim Abduljasanov, Head of Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), Arif Akhundov, Head of Department, Water Resources State Agency, Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), Farda Imanov and Vafadar Ismayilov Experts of PERIOD LLC and Rafiq Verdiyev, CWME, EPIRB project

At a 14 June 2016 meeting in Baku, key stakeholders of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) Steering Committee of Azerbaijan agreed to finalize the draft State water strategy based on 2 draft proposals(prepared by support of UNECE and ADB) and after discussing of with stakeholders submit to second National Workshop. The long-debated strategy, once finalized, will lay the ground for the adoption of the key principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and initiate the process of relevant changes in national legislation, bringing it into line with the European Union Water Framework Directive.

19 representatives of different stakeholders attended the meeting in Baku.

Introduction and Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Division, Environmental Protection Policy Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.



Mr Abdulhaanov made welcoming speech and thanked SC NPD members for their participation in the meeting. He briefly informed them about the importance of development of National Water Strategy(NWS) within the NPD for Azerbaijan based on 2 draft proposals(prepared by support of UNECE and ADB), which considers variety of actions in the sphere of harmonisation of National water resources monitoring, assessment and management practises to internationally accepted practices. He specially stressed NWS 's significant contribution in the sphere of strengthening of capacities of national water management institutions

and application of Integrated Water Resources Management(IWRM) based on basin approach according to the principles of EU Water Framework Directive(WFD).

Mr Arif Akhundov Head of Department, Water Resources State Agency, Ministry of Emergency Situations(MES) welcomed participants of the SC NPD meeting and expressed high importance of the NPD for integration of water management practices . He informed that adoption and implementation of NWS can play important role in improvement of water management in Azerbaijan. It was noted that in future there will be discussions about creation of some relevant working groups to develop water strategy action plan.

Mr Abdulhasanov then noted that now it is necessary to continue work towards NWS development in Azerbaijan, mainly finalise NWS based on 2 draft document and submit to the government for approval.

Then Mr Abdulhasanov thanked EU EPIRB project for support to finalise NWS and also said it would be important also to get some support for development of NWS action plan.

Then Mr Rafiq Verdiyev , CWME, EPIRB project noted that it is planned by support of the project to finalise WS development and noted that it is good that the NPD IWRM in Azerbaijan focuses on the development of a governmental strategy for management of water resources based on the principles of international water law and to EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

He also noted that it would be good to develop NWS action plan as well.



Then Mr Farda Imanov and Vafadar Ismayilov, experts of PERIOD LLC informed participants about main directions of combining of above 2 WS documents into one final draft.

In the end main discussions were about next steps. It was decided to continue work in the direction of

development of NWS and setting and realization of national targets under the Protocol on Water and

As result of discussions it was noted to meet in July to discuss finalized strategy document and submit it to government for approval taking recommendations of the second national workshop

Annex 1. FINAL AGENDA

09.30-10.00	<i>Registration and coffee</i>
10.00-10.30	<p>Opening. Adoption of the agenda. Opening: Mr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Subdivision in Environmental Protection Policy Unit of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
10.30-11.30	<p>Status of Development of National Water Strategy presented by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), , • \ Arif Akhundov , Head of Department, Water Resources State Agency, Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) . • Rafiq Verdiyev, CWME, EPIRB project • Farda Imanov and Vafadar Ismayilov, PERIOD LLC
11.30 – 12.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12.00 – 12.45	<p>DISCUSSION OF THE NEXT STEPS OF THE NPD IN AZERBAIJAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of final draft Water Strategy and submission of it to government for approval • Further steps towards development of Water Strategy action plan
12.45 – 13.00	Closing of workshop

ANNEX 2.List of participants

Name	Organization	Position/Department	Type/Level	Contacts	
				Tel	E-mail
1.Mutallim Abdulhasanov	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)	Head of Division, Environmental Policy Department	National Authority	+994503154153	mabdulhasanov@gmail.com
2.Matanat Avazova	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)	Deputy Head of National Environmental Monitoring Department	National Authority	+994557465162	mavazova@mail.ru
3.Asif Verdiyev	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)	Chief Hydrologist National Hydrometeorology Department	National Authority	+994503941223	asifverdiyev@mail.ru
4.Sahib Hasanzade	Water Agency of Ministry of Emergency Situations	Head of Unit	National Authority	+94 50 3521883	sahib540@mail.ru
5.Arif Akhundov	Water Agency of Ministry of Emergency Situations	Head of Unit	National Authority	+94 50 6345705	arif-axundov@mail.ru
6.Zulfali Hasanov	National Academy of Science	Scientific Researcher	Science	+994124382900	
7.Shamil Huseynov	National Parliament	Head of Division	National Parliament	+994503742142	shh_azinas@yahoo.com
8.Farda Imanov	IHPA (Association on International Hydrological Programme)	Head	NGO	+99450-3462686	farda.imanov@kura-aras.org
9.Rafiq Verdiyev	CWME AZ - EPIRB and IHPA (International HCH and Pesticides Association)	CWME /Deputy Head	NGO	+994503495884	rafiq2000@mail.ru
10.Vafadar Ismayilov	Period LTD	Head	Stakeholder -National	+994125680261	is_vafadar@mail.ru
11.Farid Garayev	Sadig Consulting Company	GIS Specialist	Stakeholder -National	+994557335511	faridgarayev@mail.ru
12.Sabit Mustafayev	Arhus center	Head	NGO	+994125680261	togrul02@gmail.com

13. Gulnar Aliyeva	IHPA	Public Awareness Specialist	NGO	+994503729792	n.a
14. Ramil Ibrahimov	Period LTD	Head	Stakeholder - National	+994125680261	ibrahimov_ramil@inbox.ru
15. Asger Bayramov	Saig LTD	Head	Stakeholder national	+994505267731	sadig-llc@mail.ru
16. Teymur Osmanov	Amelioration JSC (SRMI)	Senior Expert,	National authority		Ahliman.verdiyev@mail.ru
17. Elman Ruffullayev	Amelioration JSC (SRMI)	Senior Expert,	National authority		Ahliman.verdiyev@mail.ru
18. Bariz Mehdiyev	REC Caucasus , Baku, NGO	Head	NGO	+994502100766	issa.aliyev@rec-caucasus.org
19. Shovkat BAKIROV	MENR	Head of Division	National Authority	+994125381521	shovket.bekirov@gmail.com