



Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project

Contract No. 2011/279-666



This project is funded by
The European Union

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1st National Coordination Committee (NCC) Meeting for Georgia
07 March, 2013, Conference-Hall, Hotel 'Ambadori'
13 Shavteli Str., Tbilisi 0105, GEORGIA

Agenda

Agenda of the 1st NCC meeting is attached to the minutes

Participants

NCC Members and Representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP)

- **Ms Mariam Makarova**, Head of Water Resources Management Division, Department of Integrated Environmental Management
- **Mr Alexander Mindorashvili**, Deputy Head of Water Resources Management Division, Department of Integrated Environmental Management
- **Ms Nino Chikovani**, Chief Specialist, Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations
- **Ms Marine Arabidze**, Head of Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department, National Environmental Agency, MEP
- **Mr Jemal Dolidze**, Deputy Head, Department of Hydrometeorology, National Environmental Agency, MEP
- **Mr Giorgi Komakhidze**, Head of the Black Sea Monitoring Division, National Environmental Agency, MEP
- **Mr Archil Guchmanidze**, Chief Specialist, the Black Sea Monitoring Division, National Environmental Agency, MEP

Governmental Institutions

- **Mr Mamuka Salukvadze**, Chief Specialist, Division of Civic Infrastructure and Municipal Services, Office of Economic Policy, Tbilisi City Hall
- **Ms Nana Gogitidze**, Advisor to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Parliament of Georgia
- **Ms Nana Gabriadze**, Head of Department, National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health
- **Mr Grigol Kakauridze**, Head of Agency of Technical and Construction Supervision, Ministry of Economy

Non-Governmental and Private Organizations

- **Ms Nino Kezevadze**, Adviser to Chief Executive Officer, Georgian Water and Power, Ltd.
- **Mr Aleskandre Rusetski**, Coordinator, South Caucasus Institute for Regional Security
- **Mr Malkhaz Dzneladze**, National Expert, WWF Caucasus Programme
- **Ms Nino Chkhobadze**, Executive Director, Greens' Movement of Georgia
- **Mr Giorgi Dzamukashvili**, Coordinator, Global Water Partnership - Georgia



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International Projects and Organizations

- **Ms Mary Matthews**, Chief Technical Advisor and Project Coordinator, UNDP/GEF Kura-Aras Project
- **Ms Tamar Gugushvili**, National Coordinator, UNDP/GEF Kura-Aras Project
- **Ms Eliso Barnovi**, Project Deputy Director, USAID/GLOWS Project - Integrated Natural Resources Management in Watersheds of Georgia
- **Mr Bo Libert**, Regional Adviser, Division of Environment, UN Economic Commission for Europe
- **Mr Peep Mardiste**, Environmental Affairs Officer, Division of Environment, UN Economic Commission for Europe

Human Dynamics/Contractors

- **Ms Ivelina Dilovska**, Project Director
- **Mr Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader (KE2)
- **Mr Giorgi Mikeladze**, Director, Information Engineering Centre, HD/EPIRB Contractor

Summary of Discussions

Introduction and Opening

The EPIRB NCC meeting was organized jointly with the IWRM National Policy Dialogue for Georgia that is a part of the EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Europe (EUWI EECCA) and is being implemented in Georgia by the UNECE Environment Division. The meeting was opened by **Ms Mariam Makarova**, Head of Water Resources Management Division of Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia (MEP). Welcoming remarks were made by **Mr Bo Libert**, Regional Advisor on Environment of Environment Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and **Mr Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader of Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB), an EU funded project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium, where they focused on the overall objectives of the meeting and expected outcomes of it.

Session 1: Legal and Institutional Framework of Water Resources Management in Georgia

The first session of the meeting was dedicated to the activities and results of the EUWI NPD support to the Ministry of Environment for on-going water legislation reforms and institutional and legislative frameworks of water resources management in Georgia. In the beginning of the session **Mr Peep Mardiste**, Environmental Affairs Officer of UNECE Environmental Division presented overall process of the National Policy Dialogues for Integrated Water Resources Management (NPD/IWRM) under the EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and progress in this regard achieved by the countries, including activities undergoing in Georgia. Following to this introduction of EUWI's support to Georgia implemented by the UNECE, **Mr Malkhaz Dzeladze** and group of Georgian experts working on a Concept for New Water Law of Georgia presented the legal and institutional water initiatives and recommendations for implementation of EU WFD principles. After briefly introducing the EU WFD and required by it management and planning of water resources in the EU Member States, Mr Dzeladze has focused on some WFD elements that would be beneficial for Georgia to implement. This first of all is related to a basin management



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principle and integrated approach of water use by different sectors of economy. He also outlined the role of the Ministry of Environment Protection in structural and institutional arrangement of a basin management to be based both on hydrological catchments and territorial/administrative units to simplify and make it cost effective in the beginning.

The following to the presentation discussion session proved very high interest of the workshop participants towards the proposed new water law, particularly to the involvement of other water related sectors in overall water resources management and specifically to a drinking water supply & sanitation, as well as to a basin management approach Georgia has to introduce. The questions also followed regarding practical procedures of basin management planning, such as rules and supportive normative documents for identification of surface and groundwater objects and specific water bodies, monitoring program, assessment methodology, design of RBMPs and implementation of identified program of measures.

Session 2: EPIRB National Coordination Committee for Georgia

The second part of the workshop was dedicated to the EPIRB National Coordination Committee (NCC) meeting for Georgia that, together with the Regional Steering Committee (RSC), represents advisory mechanism for close cooperation of the project team to the beneficiary institutions to oversee achievement of the project goals and objectives. The National Coordination Committee for Georgia was established by Ministerial Order in May 31, 2012 and their members were involved in number of national and regional events organized by the project, including 1st RSC meeting in Kiev, WFD compliant monitoring workshop in Batumi, field visits at pilot basin, regional laboratory training and workshop in Tbilisi, etc.

The Session-2 was opened by **Mr Zurab Jincharadze**, by presenting the project objectives and results of activities undertaken from the beginning of the project (Inception Phase) to the first reporting period (August 2012 - January, 2013). He summarized the outcomes of the Inception Phase, including findings of the existing monitoring systems in the beneficiary countries, as well as the selection and confirmation of the project pilot basins in the project countries. He specifically outlined the reasons for selecting the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali River basin as a pilot area for Georgia. Further Mr Jincharadze presented in details activities and achievements of the Implementation phase, including conducted training course for WFD compliant monitoring and assessment (regional workshop in Batumi, October 29-31); training course on Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC) for the national monitoring laboratories in Tbilisi and Batumi; first phase of capacity building assessment of the physical-chemical monitoring program for Georgia; fact finding field missions in the pilot area resulting in River Basin Analysis (RBA) for the selected pilot basin of the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali River. In his presentation Mr Jincharadze above all praised role of the beneficiary institutions for providing access to the existing (although scarce) data and information necessary for turning the RBA study to a primary source for subsequent phases of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the pilot basin.

Mr Giorgi Mikeladze, Director of Information Engineering Centre and EPIRB contractor for the RBA study, in his presentation described major steps of development River Basin Analysis for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot area. He outlined main findings of the RBA and described in details the following four chapters developed as a result of this activity: general and hydrological characterization of the basin; human activities in the basin; identification of pressures and impacts by four major groups of the driving forces (i. water abstraction and



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flow regulation; ii. diffuse sources of pollution; iii. point sources of pollution, iv. physical and morphological changes of water objects) and monitoring practice in the pilot area. Mr Mikeladze also presented number of supporting visual materials, including GIS maps developed for the RBA study based on the data provided by beneficiary institutions. In addition Mr Mikeladze answered to number of questions from an audience related to the technical details of the RBA study.

Second presentation of **Mr Jincharadze** was dedicated to the ongoing activities of the Second reporting period (February-July, 2013) and plans for a future. He particularly focused on the following up of the RBA studies **Activity 2.2** - Identification and typology of water bodies - that has already started in the Caucasus region, as well as to the **Activity 2.3** - Analysis of baseline situation, including Preliminary classification of Identified by Act 2.2 Surface and Groundwater water bodies (WBs) and **Activity 2.4** - Joint field Surveys to cover the gaps. By explaining the design and detailed mechanisms of these activities, Mr Jincharadze also answered the questions raised during the RBA presentation regarding overall WFD methodology and required steps for RBMP development that would be very good opportunity for Georgia to pilot such activities with the help of EPIRB in one of its potential Basin Districts (to be proposed by the new Water Law of Georgia).

Discussion session after the presentations session led the meeting to the valuable comments and updated information that the team will take into account and reflect in the RBA study that will be available in electronic (on the EPIRB website) and printed versions for the beneficiaries and general public in two languages - Georgian and English.

At the end of the workshop **Ms Mariam Makarova** on behalf of MEP summarized the workshop results, highlighting the importance of hosting joint workshops funded by EU and implemented by different organizations and projects. She appreciated productive discussions and outcomes of the meeting and expressed optimism that the new Georgian water law will be finalized soon enough to allow the Ministry and other interested stakeholders review and comment on the draft document that should be ready for submission to the national parliament for endorsement by early September, 2013. **Mr Libert** on behalf of UNECE and **Mr Jincharadze** on behalf of EPIRB have also summarized the results and their expectations towards the joint meeting. Mr Jincharadze mentioned about a proposal from the EPIRB to support the MEP after adoption of the new water law on development of specific normative documents related to the rules and design of RBMP, including identification of water bodies, assessment of methodology, implementation program of measures, other basin management principles.