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

Mission Report

Mini workshop on RBA implementation progress for the Central Kura pilot basin in Azerbaijan

Dates: 17-18 December, 2012

Venue:

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan (MENR), the Aarhus Centre Conference Hall

Participants:

EPIRB Project Team

Mr Zurab Jincharadze, KE2 - River Basin Management Expert / Deputy Team Leader
Mr Bernardas Paukstys, KE5 - Groundwater Expert
Ms Tatjana Kolcova, KE4 - Hydro-morphology Expert
Mr Rustam Rajabov CWM Expert for Azerbaijan

MENR

Mr Mutalim Abdulhasanov, Head of Division, Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection Policy

MENR sub-ordinated institutions

Ms Matanat Avazova, Deputy Director, National Monitoring Department
Mr Asif Verdiyev, Deputy Director of Hydrometeorology Forecasting Bureau, National Hydrometeorology Department
Mr Pasha Kerimov, Chief hydro-geologist, Hydrogeological Expedition

Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)

Mr Sahib Hasan Zade, Head of Hydro-technical Devices Exploitation Sector, State Agency of Water Resources, MES
Mr Elnar Sultanov, Head of Hydrological Unit, State Agency of Water Resources, MES

Other NCC Member Institutions

Ms Leyla Talizade, Head of Division of Communal Hygiene, Republican Centre of Hygiene and Epidemiology
Mr Roshan Ismailov, Engineer, JSC Azer-Su (Azerbaijan Water)

RBA Implementation NGO

Mr Farda Imanov, Director, International Hydrological Program Organization (IHPO)
Mr Rafiq Verdiev, Deputy Director, IHPO
Ms Gulnar Alieva, Project Assistant, IHPO

1. Objective and task of the mission, and project activity to which the mission will contribute

Objectives: Objective of the mission was to check the progress and promote on-time implementation of the River Basin Analysis (RBA) for EPIRB pilot basin in Azerbaijan.

Project activities: The mission will contribute to the Activity 2.1.2 – River Basin Analysis

2. Outline the programme of the mission: meetings held, assessment made, workshop provided etc.

17.12.12

10:00 - 17:00 Short workshop in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan with respect to check AZ RBA implementation progress. Program included presentations of the project results and, as a demonstrating good practice, accomplished RBA studies by the EU member states (Latvia, Lithuania) and the project beneficiaries (Georgia)



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18.12.12

10:00 -18:00 KE-s team work with the AZ RBA Chapters 1-3 and the project documents

3. Results from the mission

Meetings/visits:	Findings/results:
<p>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan</p>	<p>Main objective of the workshop was to discuss on-going activities in terms of RBA progress in the Central Kura pilot basin with the National Coordination Committee (NCC) members of Azerbaijan and other relevant experts from different environmental institutions. Mr Mutalim Abdulhasanov, as a member of the project Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and Head of the NCCC in Azerbaijan, was representing main beneficiary of the project - the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.</p> <p>During the workshop current status of the on-going River Basin Analysis was presented by Mr Farda Imanov, Director of the organization implementing RBA in Azerbaijan, as well as by Mr Rafiq Verdiev, Deputy Director of the same organization (IHPO). EPIRB Key Experts Ms Tatjana Kolcova and Mr Bernardas Paukstys presented similar studies conducted in the EU member states by Latvia and Lithuania in the frame of WFD; Chapters 1-3 of the RBA study in Georgia was presented by DTL Mr Zurab Jincharadze.</p> <p>Discussion session designated to the progress of RBA implementation in Azerbaijan emphasized weaknesses of some sections of the study, particularly Ground Water analysis, description and characterization of the existing Protected Areas, analysis of existing and potential Pressures and Impacts in the pilot basin, etc. Level of the English translation for Chapters 1-3 also requires significant improvement. During the consequent discussions the implementing organization (IHPO) has promised to improve the English translation and submit the corrected version of the study by end of December 2012.</p> <p>In addition to the above discussions overall project activities, progress to the date and planned activities for the next year was presented by Mr Zurab Jincharadze; At the end of the meeting the Project Team has discussed with Mr Mutalim Abdulhasanov and Ms Matanat Avazova possible direct involvement of the MENR’s National Monitoring Department in the Activities 2.2-2.3.</p>

4. Recommendation / Proposed next steps

The new version of AZ RBA that has been presented next day of the Workshop, on 18 December still requires significant improvement. In particular the information used for the Human Activity review was repeated again in Chapter 3 “Pressures and Impacts Analysis”, while Chapter 4 is still under development. Therefore the project KEs **could not accept** these deliverables (RBA Chapters 1 to 3) in the present conditions and asked the implementing team (IHPO) and the Project CWME to trigger efforts, follow the new deadline very closely (the latest date for final, clean and approved deliverable was set as **January 20, 2013**) and improve quality of the work as much as possible in accordance of the EC and the project standards.

Important outcome of the mission was to learn that the National Monitoring Department of MENR is willing to support the project with active contribution, data collection, processing and analysis in the terms of Activity 2.2-2.3 “Water Bodies Delineation, Typology and Classification”.



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5. Photos



Head of NCC, Mr Mutalim Abdulhasanov opening the meeting



Workshop participants



EPIRB KEs Team



Discussion session



Mr Farda Imanov presenting RBA implementation in AZ



Mr Rafiq Verdiyev presenting RBA implementation in AZ