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Mission Report

RBA Groundwater Mission to Gianjachai-Shamkirchai-Tovuzchai-Agstafachai Pilot River Basins, Azerbaijan

Dates: 16-21 September, 2012

Venues:

- 1) Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources;
- 2) Hydrogeological Expedition;
- 3) Baku State University;
- 4) Gianja, Tovuz and Agstafa river basins;

Participants:

EPIRB Project Team and Partners

Mr Zurab Jincharadze, KE2-River Basin Management Expert / Deputy Team Leader

Mr Bernardas Paukstys, KE5-Groundwater Expert

Mr Rafiq Verdyev, Deputy Director of IHPA

Mr Rustam Rajabov, CWM for Azerbaijan

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

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

Hydrogeological Expedition

Mr Karalov Bachtiar Asad Ogly, Director

Mr Pasha Kerimov, Chief Hydrogeologist

Baku State University

Mr Farda Imanov, Director of NGO International Hydrological Program Association (IHPA)

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

Objectives: Objective of the mission was to evaluate the level of existing groundwater information for the River Basin Analysis (RBA), discuss cooperation with the local institutions and on-going water related activities in the region, collect some field information from groundwater monitoring wells and visit the Gianjachai-Tovuzchai-Agstafachai Pilot River Basins, 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.

17.09.12

10:00 - 11:30 Visit to Hydrogeological Expedition

12:00 – 12:30 Visit to Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

14:00 - 15:30 Visit to Baku University

18.09.12

13:00-19:00 Travel to Gianja region.

19.09.12

8:30-17:00 Visit to Gianja river basin. Installing water level meter in the monitoring well No. 18 at Duzgingli village. Measuring field parameters (coordinates, pH, temperature, electric conductivity and total dissolved solids) in monitoring wells No. 18 and No. 610.

Drive to Tovuzchai- Agstafachai river basins, Qazakh region.



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Measuring field parameters (coordinates, pH, temperature, electric conductivity and total dissolved solids) in monitoring wells No. 6/1 and No. 6/2 and in the Agstafachai river.

20.09.12

8:30 - 18:00 Reading groundwater monitoring data from automatic water level meter and collecting the sensor from the well No. 18.
Drive to Ganja. Looking at kyariz (water supply installation) and artesian water supply wells near Ganja.

21.09.12

07:00 - 14:00 DTL travel to Tbilisi, KE5, CWM Azerbaijan and Chief Hydrogeologist travel to Baku.
16:25 Departure of KE5 from Baku airport

3. Results from the mission

Meetings/field visits:	Findings/results:
Azerbaijan	
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	DTL and KE5 have informed Mr Mutallim Abdulhasanov on the activities of RBA and planned field visits to the pilot river basins. DTL has also asked the Ministry to nominate participants from Azerbaijan to Batumi WFD training workshop. Mr. Abdulhasanov provided some names from the Hydromet institute and Hydrogeological Expedition.
Hydrogeological Expedition at the Ministry Ecology and Natural Resources	The expedition is responsible for groundwater monitoring of Azerbaijan. The purpose of the mission was to discuss data availability for the groundwater characterisation analysis. Director and Chief Hydrogeologist agreed to share groundwater information which is stored in the archives of the Expedition.
Baku State University, IHPA	Participation of local experts in data collection for the RBA was discussed. DTL has also mentioned some project management problems which need to be solved by the CWM of Azerbaijan.
Ganjachai, Tovuzchai and Agstafachai river basins	Groundwater data collection from the monitoring wells located in the pilot river basins has started. KE5 has brought automatic water level meter, pH-temperature and EC-TDS meters. This equipment was used to measure field parameters in groundwater monitoring wells and also to demonstrate to local water experts the benefits of using modern groundwater monitoring equipment.

4. Recommendation / Proposed next steps

It has been found during the mission that groundwater information in hard copies (in Azerbaijan and Russian languages) is available at the Hydrogeological Expedition. This information will be processed and used for characterisation of aquifers and human activities of the pilot river basins. Important outcome of the mission was learning that the local responsible institutions are willing to support the project and data collection activities. The project team and the partners have planned for the next steps to digitize existing geological and hydro-geological paper maps in GIS format scale 1:500,000 and 1:200,000. The list of necessary groundwater information was discussed and deadlines agreed.



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Photos



Meeting at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources



Meeting at the Hydrogeological Expedition



Installation of water level meter in the monitoring well



pH, temperature, EC and TDS meters

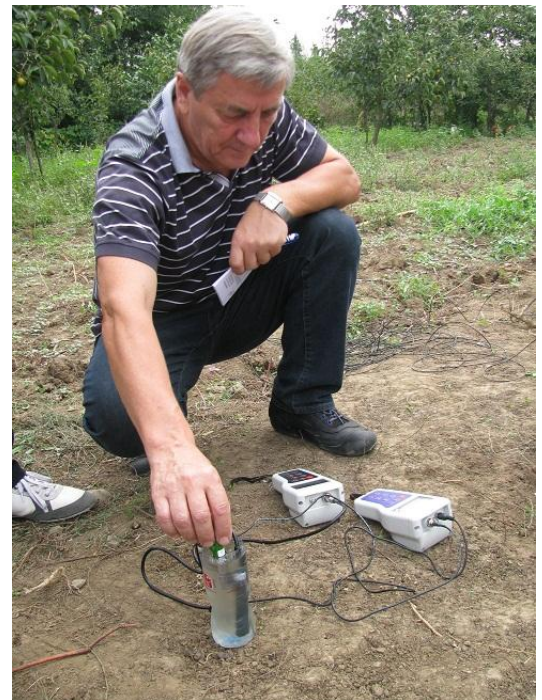


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Automatic water level meters



Measuring field parameters in the groundwater sample

**Photos by Bernardas Paukstys and Zurab Jincharadze*