



EUWI-EECCA Component

National Policy Dialogue in Armenia related to Integrated Water Resources Management

- Baseline, issues and roadmap with proposed objectives, schedules and distribution of tasks as of 30 July 2007-

NPD/AM/SG/2007/1
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Introduction

In April 2006, Armenia expressed its interest in conducting a water-related National Policy Dialogue (NPD) and its willingness to start the NPD process as soon as possible. This was confirmed in a letter from Mr. Khachatryan, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of Water System (SCWS) of Armenia to Mr. Peter Gammeltoft, Head of the Water Unit at the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission.

A mission to Yerevan of representatives of the EUWI EECCA component¹ was conducted on 12-14 December 2006. The objective was: (a) to discuss and agree with Armenian stakeholders the main elements of the National Policy Dialogue process; and (b) to launch the NPD in Armenia.

This mission resulted in a “Common Understanding of the State Water Committee and the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia on a National Policy Dialogue on water-related issues in Armenia”, signed on 12 January 2007.

According to the “Common Understanding”, one of the objectives of the NPD in Armenia is to facilitate the implementation of the *principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and relevant conventions* and other international agreements with an *emphasis on financial issues*. This could include *pilot basin* activities.

The “Common Understanding” provides the objectives of the NPD related to the IWRM pillar of the National Policy Dialogue as well as the general composition of the Steering Committee on the entire NPD tasks (water supply and sanitation, integrated water resources management). At that time, details on the IWRM pillar were still to be developed.

At the meeting of the Steering Committee on 2 July 2007, draft proposals for a work plan 2007-2009 have been considered. Based on the outcome of this meeting, a representative of the UNECE secretariat has held consultations with major stakeholders during a mission to Yerevan on 22-24 July 2007 in order to further elaborate the work plan.

The present document is the outcome of this mission. It will be submitted to the next Steering Committee meeting in October 2007 for consideration and approval.

¹ Representatives of the European Commission, the OECD EAP Task Force Secretariat, UNECE and an OECD consultant (Institute of Applied Environmental Economics, TME)

I. PRINCIPLES OF THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION AND THE EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The National Policy Dialogue should facilitate the implementation of principles of IWRM in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and relevant conventions. These principles are summarized below.

For the first time, principles of transboundary cooperation within river basins were laid down in a convention under international law, the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). The Water Convention:

- Applies to all transboundary waters (surface waters and groundwaters);
- Promotes a river basin approach to water management and recognizes the river basin as the natural unit for water management;
- Aims to achieve good status for waters and related ecosystems, taking into account the specificity of river basins;
- Promotes a “combined approach” to pollution control through simultaneous setting of emission limits and water-quality objectives;
- Promotes the involvement of all stakeholders, including the public, in the decision-making process;
- Establishes a framework (common approach, joint objectives, common principles and basic measures) to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact as tasks of riparian countries and joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation.

Based on experience gained and lessons learned, the European Union undertook in 2000 a decisive step towards integrated river basin management by adopting the Water Framework Directive. The key principles and objectives of the Water Framework Directive are:

- Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwaters;
- Achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline;
- Water management based on river basins: mandatory coordination and cooperation within shared river basins;
- "Combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards
- Water pricing for water-related services (drinking water and wastewater) reflecting cost recovery;
- Getting local communities, citizen and stakeholders more closely involved.

Conclusion 1:

Both instruments complement each other and advocate a single system of water management, namely management by river basins rather than by administrative or political boundaries. They stipulate that water resources should be managed in an integrated manner with the aims of linking social and economic development to the protection of natural ecosystems and of relating water-resource management to regulatory measures concerning other environmental mediums. Such an integrated approach should apply across the whole of a basin), whether transboundary or not, including its associated coastal

waters (where applicable), and the whole of a groundwater aquifer. For each river basin, a "river basin management plan" should be drawn up and regularly updated.

Any water-related activity under the IWRM policy process (for details see Chapter IV) should include both surface waters and groundwater bodies, although the responsibility for protection and management may rest with different governmental organizations.

II. WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN ARMENIA THAT CALL FOR POLICY PACKAGES UNDER THE NPD

A. Hydrology

Armenia is part of the Kura River basin (188,000 km²), which is also shared by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran and Turkey.² The Armenian part covers 29,743 km² (15.8%) of the basin.

Armenia is a typical highland country with an average altitude of 1,850 metres. It has a 23,000 km long network of around 9,480 rivers, including 379 rivers above 10 km length. The average density of the river network is 0.8 km/km² with a maximum of 2.5 km/km².

Armenia is generally considered as moderately rich in water resources. However, the resources are unevenly distributed throughout the territory. 200,000 people (about 6 per cent of the population) live in areas where the shortage of water seriously hampers economic development. The climate in Armenia is continental with hot dry summers and cold winters. Precipitation occurs essentially in winter, as snow, and in spring. Hot summer temperatures (above 35°C) lead to a high seasonal use of water for irrigation, cooling and other purposes at a time when precipitation is scarce. In response, reservoirs store water during the wet season, and release it over the vegetation period.

Renewable surface water and groundwater resources average 8 billion m³/year or about 3,000 m³/capita/year.

B. Water management issues

The National Policy Dialogue should not only facilitate the implementation of the principles of IWRM in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and relevant conventions and other international agreements; it should also emphasise financial issues and it could include pilot basin activities. To develop policy packages, it may therefore be useful to recall major water management issues that may require solutions.

Recently, the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention has carried out, jointly with representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, an analysis of the status of transboundary watercourses (rivers, lakes, groundwaters) in the Kura River basin.³ This analysis has revealed the main pressures and possible policy and management responses to

² The Russian Federation is usually not considered as a basin country, as its territory in the basin is far below 1% of the total basin area.

³ Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region, UNECE, forthcoming

counteract degradation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems and achieve good status of these water bodies.

Main issues in Armenia	Possible water management responses ⁴
Flooding	Climate change adaptation, holistic approach to flood management (combination of non-structural and structural measures)
Water scarcity and/or abstraction pressures,	Climate change adaptation, conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters, licensing groundwater use
Pressures due to hydrochemical processes	Climate change adaptation, non-structural measures
Pressures by nutrients and pesticides from agriculture	Coordination of objectives, coordination of measures and combined approach for pollution control from agriculture (e.g. good agricultural practice, agri-environmental measures, payments for ecosystem services), improved groundwater monitoring
Pressures by organic matter and bacteriological pollution	Inventory of existing and potential polluters, coordination of objectives, coordination of measures and combined approach for pollution control from municipal wastewater treatment plants (at least biological treatment or equivalent processes)
Pressures by specific substances from manufacturing industries	Inventory of existing and potential polluters, coordination of objectives, coordination of measures and combined approach for pollution control from industrial installations (e.g. best available technology for hazardous substances, pollution reduction through installation of closed water systems)
Pressures by specific substances from mining	Inventory of existing and potential polluters, wastewater treatment, coordination of objectives, coordination of measures and combined approach for pollution control from mining industry (e.g. best available technology for hazardous substances, pollution reduction through installation of closed water systems, control and operation of tailing dams)

For Armenia, this assessment was largely based on data and information from the existing, well-developed systems for monitoring the chemical status of surface waters. Deficiencies still exist on biological monitoring needed to assess the ecological status, as well as sediment monitoring. Although the analysis focused on transboundary surface waters, the principle conclusions also apply to internal waters.

⁴ Terminology according the Water Framework Directive

As concerns groundwaters, the ongoing UNDP/GEF project⁵ on “Reducing transboundary Degradation in the Kura-Araks basin” states the following issues on a preliminary basis: hydro-geological zoning, re-estimation of usable groundwater volumes for aquifers and the country in total, rehabilitation of the groundwater monitoring system, assessment of the quality and quantity of transboundary groundwater resources, introduction of groundwater use licensing system, inventory of existing and potential groundwater polluters, and development of a scheme of integrated (conjunctive) use of surface and groundwaters.

Conclusion 2:

A number of the above issues are already being dealt with in Armenia and response measures are being implemented. This first and foremost refers to pressure factors from agriculture, mining, manufacturing industries and the municipal sector. Whether these response measures are sufficient enough to achieve good status of waters in Armenia is still to be examined (see Chapter IV, section C). Meetings under the National Policy Dialogue should become a forum for the design and implementation of related policy packages.

Conclusion 3:

Other issues, particularly those related to climate change adaptation and groundwater management are not yet fully understood, both in Armenia and other countries in the Kura basin. However, Armenia was recently put as a priority country under the Water Convention’s activities on climate change adaptation (including flood issues) and groundwater management (a joint project driven by UNECE, UNESCO, UNDP and OSCE in the Caucasus and Central Asia). Thus, the National Policy Dialogue could at least become a platform for the design of related policy packages (see Chapter IV, section A).

C. Legal and institutional frameworks

The active participation of Armenia in UNECE activities on transboundary water management and the prevention of adverse impact of industrial accidents on transboundary waters proves that Armenia strongly realizes that integrated water resources management is the only way of ensuring environmentally safe and economically vital use of water resources in the country.

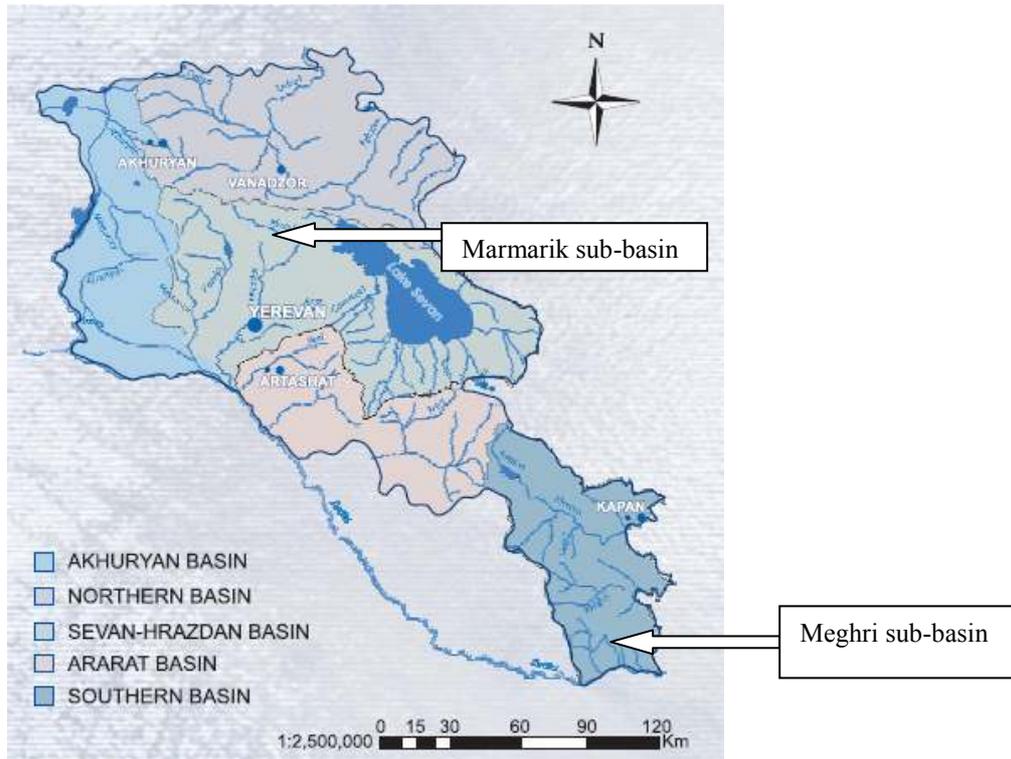
A number of legislative acts and institutions have been established, most noticeable the following:

- In 1999-2000, the Integrated Water Resources Management Programme has been drawn up, which was at the root of fundamental policy development, legal and institutional reforms, and new planning mechanisms.
- In February 2001, the Water Resources Management Agency (WRMA), a body under the Ministry of Nature Protection, was set up. As its main task, it controls the use of water resources by issuing water use permits (water withdrawal and pollution discharges);
- On 4 June 2002, a new Water Code was adopted as the basis for the water sector’s water management activities;

⁵ UNDP/GEF, draft of April 2007

- In September 2002, the National Water Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, was established as a forum for major inter-agencies' water-related activities. Its members include ministers and senior officials from the water, land, environment and economic sectors;
- In October 2002, the National Commission for Transboundary Water Resources, chaired by the Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, started its activities;
- In December 2006, the Parliament adopted the National Water Programme.

To manage Armenia's water, five water basin management authorities have been set up.



Source of the map: *An introduction to the Armenian water sector, USAID, October 2006.*

Water Basin Management Authority	River basins/sub-basins	Area
Akhuryan	Akhuryan , Metsamor	5,029 km ²
North	Debed , Aghstev , other small Kura tributaries	7,185 km ²
Sevan-Hrazdan	Lake Sevan, Hrazdan, <i>Marmarik</i> , Kasakh, Amberd	8,790 km ²
Ararat	Azat, Vedi, Arpa	3,896 km ²
South	Vorotan , Voghji , <i>Meghri</i> , other small Araks tributaries	4,481 km ²

Note: Rivers indicated in bold are transboundary rivers. The sub-basin of the Marmarik River (indicated in italics) has been chosen as pilot basin for the National Policy Dialogue and the Meghri River (also indicated in italics) for the USAID-led programme on integrated planning.

Conclusion 4:

Obviously, Armenia has the necessary legislative basis and institutional framework for further introducing IWRM principles, particularly those laid down in the Water Framework Directive and the Water Convention. However, this cannot be achieved in the short term, as the water management institutions are new bodies that still require a long period of capacity building to develop the necessary expertise and capabilities on IWRM. There is also a need for better coordination between key sectors (e.g. those responsible for land use management and those for water management), and the necessity of sharing information among major stakeholders (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Nature Protection). The National Policy Dialogue, if properly planned and managed, can contribute to developing these capacities.

III. POTENTIAL POLICY PACKAGES RELATED TO IWRM IN ARMENIA

Given the brief description of water management issues in Armenia (chapter II), potential policy packages on integrated water resources management (IWRM) may refer to one or more of the following pillars of IWRM.

A. Enabling environment and institutional frameworks⁶

These two pillars of IWRM cover:

- Policies and strategies as well as legal and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the implementation of the IWRM principles and compliance with obligations under bilateral and multilateral water agreements; and
- Institutional arrangements to facilitate the implementation of IWRM principles.

Conclusion 5:

Over the last decade, Armenia succeeded in putting in place, with the help of international assistance programmes, a package of policies, strategies and legislation as well as the institutional framework for integrated water resources management. On the one hand, these instruments seem to be all embracing, with the exception of issues related to: (a) adaptation to climate change; (b) national legislation to comply with the provision of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Water Convention; and (c) improving the system of licensing groundwater use. The latter three issues could be addressed through policy packages (see Chapter IV, section A). On the other hand, the implementation of tasks under “management instruments” (see below and Chapter IV) may call for adaptation of the existing legal/regulatory and institutional frameworks.

⁶ Правовое поле (Политика и законодательство); Институциональная структура

B. Management instruments⁷

The third pillar of IWRM deals mainly with:

- Policy support for developing water management instruments needed for the implementation of the IWRM principles.

With the help of international assistance programmes, work continues on developing “management instruments”. These include: (a) the USAID programme on management of transboundary waters in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia); (b) the USAID programme on developing model guidelines (a set of tools based on the water Framework Directive) on integrated planning in the Meghri River basin; (c) the forthcoming EU Tacis project on transboundary river management for the Kura River (EUROPEAID/119860/C/SV/multi); and (d) the ongoing UNDP programme on reducing transboundary degradation in the Kura-Araks basin.

Conclusion 6:

All these programmes address, to a various level of detail (mainly due to the different size of the area covered) IWRM issues. It is of advantage that the national coordination of these activities rests with the Water Resources Management Agency, and more specifically its Deputy Head, who is at the same time Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee on the NPD in Armenia. This helps to avoid duplication and facilitates streamlining of activities of the international bodies involved in project implementation.

C. Crosscutting issues⁸

The fourth pillar of IWRM covers:

- Awareness-raising, stakeholder information and consultation, and capacity-building; and
- Financing aspects related to the above pillars of IWRM under the National Policy Dialogue.

There are two main reasons for an extension of public participation in Armenia: The first is that the decisions on the most appropriate measures to achieve the objectives in the river basin management plan will involve balancing the interests of various groups.⁹ The second reason concerns enforceability. The greater the transparency in the establishment of objectives, the imposition of measures, and the reporting of standards, the greater the care countries will take to implement the legislation in good faith, and the greater the power of the citizens to influence the direction of environmental protection, whether through consultation or, if disagreement persists, through the complaints procedures and the courts.

Some of these issues are already addresses in the ongoing policy dialogue process related to water supply and sanitation. However, the Water Framework Directive and the Water

⁷ Инструменты управления

⁸ Межтематические вопросы

⁹ The economic analysis requirement is intended to provide a rational basis for this, but it is essential that the process is open to the scrutiny of those who will be affected.

Convention incorporate the above-mentioned specific provisions as to the extension of public participation in integrated water resources management, which could result in specific policy packages.

Conclusion 7:

The National Policy Dialogue on IWRM introduces a “local¹⁰ dimension” with the requirement that the implementation of the principles of IWRM “could include pilot basin activities”. In particular, the Steering Committee, which is currently mainly composed of “national level” representatives, needs to be adapted to the “local dimension”. Whether to extend the composition of the present Steering Committee to put more emphasis on participation of local stakeholders or to set up additionally a “local Steering Committee” needs still to be investigated. In any case, activities would focus on the pilot basin rather than on countrywide considerations.

Financing, as a cross cutting issue, is most likely one of the major challenges of the policy dialogue on integrated water resources management. Therefore, the objective of the NPD in Armenia puts much emphasis on financial issues. Obviously, adequate water pricing acts as an incentive for the sustainable use of water resources and thus helps to achieve the environmental objectives under the Water Framework Directive. Countries will be required to ensure that the price charged to water consumers - such as for the abstraction and distribution of fresh water and the collection and treatment of waste water - reflects the true costs. Whereas this principle has a long tradition in some countries, this is currently not the case in others.

Conclusion 8:

Most likely, policy packages on financing needs strong involvement of experts from countries with market economies that have made financial analysis under the Water Framework Directive and/or to support implementation of national legislation. Specific requirements will be drawn up under when implementing the activities set out in Chapter IV, section C.

IV. ACTIVITIES TO DRAW UP AND IMPLEMENT POTENTIAL POLICY PACKAGES

A. Enabling environment: policies, strategies, legislation

At the moment, no policy packages are foreseen under the pillar. The outcome of activities under section C (task c) may require adaptation of existing policies, strategies and legislative acts.

The provision of assistance on potential policy packages related to “adaptation to climate change” and “national legislation to comply with the provision of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Water Convention” will be duly considered in autumn 2007, noting the

¹⁰ “Local” refers to all levels of State below the “national” level.

offer of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health.

B. Institutional framework

At the moment, no policy packages are foreseen under the pillar. The outcome of activities under section S (task c) may require adaptation of existing institutional frameworks.

C. Management instruments

Rationale

Policy packages to be developed correspond to the objectives of the NPD in Armenia, namely to facilitate the implementation of the principles of IWRM in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and relevant conventions and other international agreements with an emphasis on financial issues. Preferably, this should be done in a pilot basin.

Essentially, activities could be split into four major elements: (a) baseline conditions; (b) identification of desired conditions for water uses and functions; (c) analysis/coordination of measures (involving an analysis of the legal, institutional frameworks as well as social analysis, on the one hand, and affordability analysis, on the other); and (d) river basin management planning.

Policy packages

(a) Recommended practices on establishing baseline conditions

Work to be undertaken: Concise analysis of the baseline conditions for IWRM in the basin of the Marmarik River (hydrological and morphological characteristics, water quantity, water quality, hydrological balance, etc.) and concise analysis of pressures on water resources (pressures from natural sources, agriculture, industry, communal sector, tourism/recreation, etc.; pressures from hydromorphological changes (e.g. river regulation by dams and reservoirs; expected pressures from climate change; water use/demand by sectors in quantitative and qualitative terms (surface waters and groundwaters), water demand for the maintenance of ecological functions of the basin; water management balance). Drawing up of recommended practices.

Time frame: August – March 2008, with intermediate results in October 2007

Lead agency: Water Resources Management Agency

(b) Recommended practices on identification of, and preliminary agreement on, desired conditions for water uses and functions

Work to be undertaken: Identification of desired conditions for water uses and functions (e.g. maintenance of ecological functions; maintenance of irrigational, industrial and communal water supply; development of tourism/recreation; conditions for wastewater treatment; etc.) and preliminary agreement (pending the outcome of tasks under (c) below) on these conditions in consultation with relevant stakeholders, both at the national and local levels. Drawing up of recommended practices.

Time frame: August 2007 – March 2008, with intermediate results in October 2007 and January 2008

Lead agency: Water Resources Management Agency

(c) Recommended practices on analysis and coordination of measures

Work to be undertaken: Affordability analysis of measures¹¹ that would be needed to achieve the requirements of the desired use, provided the current conditions fall short of the requirements. This involves analysis of the legal/regulatory framework, the institutional framework and technical measures, such as the construction of municipal and/or industrial wastewater treatment plants, measures to address pollution from agriculture (good practice, agri-environmental measures, payments for ecosystem services) and other non-point pollution sources, closing down of polluting enterprises, upgrading industrial processes, cleaning of areas adjacent to the water body, establishment of protection zones, etc. It also involves social considerations as to poverty reduction and the general requirements to achieve the relevant Millennium Development Goals. Drawing up of recommended practices.¹²

Time frame: January 2008 – October 2008 with intermediate results in April 2008 (on the occasions of the Steering Committee meeting)

Lead agency: Water Resources Management Agency

¹¹ This is also linked to the tasks under sections D and E.

¹² Obviously, this is a time-consuming and resource-intensive activity under the NPD, but it is linked to the NPD objective "...with emphasis on financial issues" (see tasks under section E below). Moreover, the public is to be involved in almost all of the needed activities (see tasks under section D below).

(d) Recommended practices on introducing principles of river basin management planning in the Marmarik basin

Work to be undertaken: Having assigned a target use class to the existing surface and groundwater bodies in the basin, a plan of implementation (including target dates) is the next step. The policy dialogue will focus on the principles of developing and implementing such plans of implementation, drawing inspiration from the USAID project on developing model guidelines on integrated planning in the Meghri River basin.¹³ To comply with the principles of IWRM it is important to consider the need of linking the management plan for the basin with water safety plans for a recharge area of a given drinking-water source.¹⁴ Drawing up of recommended practices.

Time frame: September 2008 – October 2009 with intermediate results in April 2009 (on the occasions of the Steering Committee meeting)

Lead agency: Water Resources Management Agency

D. Crosscutting issues: awareness-raising and stakeholder information

Rationale

It is essential that all interested parties in Armenia are fully involved in the discussion and indeed the preparation of analyses as explained under “management instruments”. Given the practical application in a pilot basin, there is a particular need of involving stakeholders from the local level, i.e. those involved in water management in the Marmarik basin.

Policy packages

(a) Recommended practices on public involvement in decision-making

Work to be undertaken: Public hearings and other forms of consultations with the stakeholders at the local level (Marmarik basin) and at the national level (Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue) will be held, starting from November 2007. Drawing up of recommended practices.

Time frame: November 2007 - October 2009 with intermediate results on the occasion of the Steering Committee meetings

Lead agencies: Water Resources Management Agency and NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

¹³ Obviously, this is again a time-consuming and resource-intensive activity under the NPD and requires public participation.

¹⁴ There is, however, not yet experience in Armenia on such an undertaking.

(b) Web-based policy dialogue

- Work to be undertaken: A web-based discussion forum will be initiated to allow interested stakeholders to exchange their views and experience with the Steering Group, thus contributing to, and profiting from, the National Policy Dialogue.
- Time frame: - November 2007 – February 2008 for establishing a web site;
- March 2008 - October 2009 for web forums and exchange of experience on the occasion of the Steering Committee meetings
- Lead agencies: Water Resources Management Agency and NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

E. Crosscutting issues: financing aspects related to the IWRM pillar of the national policy dialogue

Rationale

The objective of the NPD in Armenia puts much emphasis on financial issues. Specific activities under this pillar still requires in-depth discussion with the Steering Committee, based on the outcome of the activities under “management instruments”. From the outset it is obvious that the implementation of this policy packages also requires involvement of experts/organizations from Western Europe. To this end, terms of reference for one or more assistance project will be drawn up.

Policy packages

Policy packages will refer to specific issues to be dealt with under an affordability analysis of measures (see task c under section C above). These activities will be specified at the Steering Committee meeting in April 2008.

Annex

Work plan April 2007-October 2009 based on priority selections of policy packages				
Activity under the NPD	Timing of Steering Committee (SC) activity or meeting dates	Responsibility of the Chairman of the Steering Committee and/or UNECE	Responsibility of EU countries and EUWI partners	Outputs
Baseline, issues and roadmap with agreed objectives, schedules and distribution of tasks	April – October 2007	UNECE in consultation with representatives of the Water Resources Management Agency, Armenia, and other stakeholders	Take note of developments Advise on themes for the work plan Agree on inputs from EU countries in the implementation phase	Document adopted by Steering Committee at its meeting in October 2007
Revised roadmap covering the period November 2007 – October 2009	Subject to resources' availability and conclusion of new Grant Agreement between EC and UNECE			
Policy packages				
Recommended practices on establishing baseline conditions	August 2007-March 2008 (with intermediate results in October 2007)	Provide guidance in analysing baseline conditions and drafting the recommended practices' document	Take note of developments, advise on updating	Recommended practices' document
Recommended practices on identification of, and preliminary agreement on, desired conditions for water uses and functions	August 2007-March 2008 (with intermediate results in October 2007 and January 2008)	Provide guidance in identifying/agreeing on desired conditions and drafting the recommended practices' document; secure public consultation on the document	Take note of developments, advise on updating	Recommended practices' document
Recommended practices on	January 2008- October	Provide guidance in affordability	Take note of	Recommended practices' document

Work plan April 2007-October 2009 based on priority selections of policy packages				
Activity under the NPD	Timing of Steering Committee (SC) activity or meeting dates	Responsibility of the Chairman of the Steering Committee and/or UNECE	Responsibility of EU countries and EUWI partners	Outputs
analysis and coordination of measures	2008 (with intermediate results in April 2008 on the occasion of the SC meeting)	analysis and drafting the recommended practices' document; secure public consultation on the document	developments, provide expert advise particularly related to financing issues	
Recommended practices on introducing principles of river basin management planning in the Marmarik basin	September 2008 - October 2009 (with intermediate results in April 2009 on the occasion of the SC meeting)	Provide guidance in drafting the recommended practices' document; secure public consultation on the document	Take note of developments, provide expert advise particularly related to linking IWRM with water safety plans	Recommended practices' document
Recommended practices on public involvement in decision-making	November 2007 – October 2009 (with intermediate results on the occasion of the SC meetings)	Provide guidance in drafting the recommended practices' document; secure public consultation on the document	Take note of developments, advise on best practice	Recommended practices' document
Web-based policy dialogue	November 2007 – February 2008 (website), March 2008 – October 2009 (web forum with exchange of experience on the occasion of the SC meetings)	Provide guidance in the design of the Web site and the running of the discussion forum	Take note of developments, advise on best practice	Web-based dialogues held
Meetings under the NPD, including participation of stakeholders in national meetings under the Global Water Partnership (GWP)				
Meeting of the Steering Committee (The SC meeting is organized)	October 2007	Preparation of meeting documents with assistance of local consultant	Participation of EUWI Technical Secretariat and/or Chair of	Approved work plan (according to the present document)

Work plan April 2007-October 2009 based on priority selections of policy packages				
Activity under the NPD	Timing of Steering Committee (SC) activity or meeting dates	Responsibility of the Chairman of the Steering Committee and/or UNECE	Responsibility of EU countries and EUWI partners	Outputs
under the auspices of OECD)			EUWI/EECCA	
1 st meeting of core group on IWRM ¹⁵	October 2007 in conjunction with SC meeting	Advise on further drafting of the recommended practices' documents to be considered at the SC meeting in April 2008	n.a.	Draft documents for April 2008 SC meeting
2nd meeting of core group on IWRM	February 2008	Advise on further drafting of the recommended practices' documents to be considered at the SC meeting in April 2008; advise on themes and organization of the April 2008 Seminar on IWRM	n.a.	Draft documents for April 2008 SC meeting
Meeting of the Steering Committee (The SC meeting is organized under the auspices of UNECE)	April 2008	Preparation of meeting documents with assistance of local consultant	Participation of EUWI Technical Secretariat and/or Chair of EUWI/EECCA	Adopted policy packages (Recommended practices on establishing baseline conditions; recommended practices on identification of, and preliminary agreement on, desired conditions for water uses and functions)
1 st Seminar on IWRM in the Marmarik River basin	April 2008 conjunction with SC meeting	Follow up the outcome of the seminar, particularly as to the time table and activities under the NPD activities for 2008	Participation as lecturers at the seminar; Financial support by EU countries and EUWI partners to the participation of selected EECCA countries; participation of EUWI Technical Secretariat and/or Chair of	Experience on implementation of IWRM principles shared among stakeholders, particularly those from the Marmarik River basin

¹⁵ The core group will include major SC members; its composition will be agreed upon at the October 2007 Steering Committee meeting.

Work plan April 2007-October 2009 based on priority selections of policy packages

Activity under the NPD	Timing of Steering Committee (SC) activity or meeting dates	Responsibility of the Chairman of the Steering Committee and/or UNECE	Responsibility of EU countries and EUWI partners	Outputs
			EUWI/EECCA	
Multistakeholder meeting of the Global Water Partnership/Armenia (GWP/Armenia)	April 2008 conjunction with SC meeting	Sharing information on aims and activities under the National Policy Dialogue related to IWRM	Take note of developments, advise on topics of further meetings	Common understanding between GWP and SC on mutual support of both bodies' IWRM activities
3 rd meeting of core group on IWRM	June 2008	Advise on further drafting of the recommended practices' documents to be considered at the SC meeting in October 2008; advise on themes and organization of the October 2008 Seminar on IWRM; advise on activities from October 2008 onwards	n.a	Draft documents for October 2008 SC meeting
Meeting of the Steering Committee (The SC meeting is organized under the auspices of UNECE)	October 2008	To be specified after the June 2008 meeting of the core group		
2 nd Seminar on IWRM in the Marmarik River basin	October 2008 conjunction with SC meeting			
4 th meeting of core group on IWRM	October 2008 conjunction with SC meeting			
5 th meeting of core group on IWRM	February 2009			
Meeting of the Steering Committee (The SC meeting is organized under the auspices of UNECE or OECD)	April 2009	To be specified after the February 2009 meeting of the core group		

Work plan April 2007-October 2009 based on priority selections of policy packages

Activity under the NPD	Timing of Steering Committee (SC) activity or meeting dates	Responsibility of the Chairman of the Steering Committee and/or UNECE	Responsibility of EU countries and EUWI partners	Outputs
3 rd Seminar on IWRM in the Marmarik River basin	April 2009 conjunction with SC meeting			
6 th meeting of core group on IWRM	April 2009 conjunction with SC meeting			
Final meeting of the Steering Committee (The SC meeting is organized under the auspices of UNECE or OECD)	October 2009			