

# **THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA**

## **Creation of Enabling Environment for Integrated Management of the Kura-Aras Trans-boundary River Basin: Case of Regional Co- operation on IWRM In South Caucasus**

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# Regional environmental center for Caucasus (REC C)

- The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) is an independent, regional organization, established to assist countries of the South Caucasus in solving environmental problems
- The mission of the REC Caucasus is determined as “to assist in solving of environmental problems in the Caucasus region through the promotion of co-operation at national and regional level among NGOs, governments, business, local communities, and all other environmental stakeholders, in order to develop a free exchange of information, in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention;
- REC C has been established by European Union and Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in 2000, within “Environment for Europe” process,
- REC Caucasus serves as a “bridge” between the public and governments, assists its stakeholders in capacity building through provision of information, advice, and expertise and to encourage dialogue, cooperation and public participation in environmental decision-making.
- REC Caucasus plays an active role in inter-agency cooperation, too. The organization together with active environmental NGOs and the ministries of environment promotes the idea of environmental protection and sustainable development in the South Caucasus countries.



# Background of undertaken efforts

- **Existence of common problems within the sector of IWRM and necessity to improve the existing situation with protection and use of trans-boundary river basins is recognised by all countries of South Caucasus**
- **Created information database and experience gathered during implementation of several projects was a significant source for:**
  - (i) further promoting advocacy and policy dialogue;**
  - (ii) supporting aid coordination and management;**
  - (iii) undertaking initiatives targeted to better cooperation in the area of trans- boundary water management**
- **Application of harmonised regional approach toward sustainable management of trans-boundary river basin is necessary in addition to countries' individual reforms and actions**



# Common goals

- **National Policy Dialogue for facilitating the implementation of the principles of IWRM in line with the EU Water Framework Directive in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia coordinated by UNECE as main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI)**
- **Commitments of all three countries regarding WFD principles implementation in the ENPI Action Plan**
- **Necessity to gain consensus-based agreement between the three South Caucasus countries, donor organisations and other concerned parties on further steps towards improved and sustainable cooperation and coordination for integrated management of the Kura-Aras transboundary rivers basin, including a need for establishment of a Regional Coordination Body**



# Practical Way of Improvement

- The introduction of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) could be a way to prevent water resources scarcity, industrial pollution, mining activities and the tensions related to water works.
- Common activities for Introduction of EU FWD
- Institutionalisation option towards coordination of international aid



# **REC C: sustainable solution for promotion of water co-operation**

- **REC C is the only existing legal regional organization established by the Governments of all three South Caucasus States and European Union**
- **Has mandate provided from the governments to work on solving environmental problems in the south Caucasus region despite of political conflicts**
- **Recognized regional institution to provide a gateway for dialogue, networking and cooperation among environmental stakeholders and partners at global, regional, national and local levels**
- **Unique instrument for promotion of confidence building in the region in the current political situation**



# Results of the project

- **Country profiles on the state of introduction and implementation of IWRM were developed for three countries and presented**
- **Assessment of the results of the projects implemented since 2000 on the basis of the Road Maps completed. Based on assessment results comparative analysis was conducted (national policy and EU WFD requirements ), National road maps were developed and submitted to the Governments of three countries for approval**
- **Based on national pre-figuration Regional road map was developed Roadmap was elaborated for sustainable management of the Kura-Aras river basin in light of introduction of EU Water Directives for coming years.**
- **Institutional setup option for the Regional Body was developed and presented to the governments**
- **REC C has started negotiations with Governments on Protocol /Memorandum of agreement on co-operation on IWRM and RCB**



# RECC: facilitation and strengthened support to the regional cooperation

- **Countries recognize the importance of basin management principles and protection of transboundary water resources**
- **Commitments regarding EU Water Framework Directive principles implementation in the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan;**
- **To use National Road Map and Regional Road Map for the implementation of IWRM in the Kura-Aras River Basin as a tool to assess steps and progress of countries in implementation of IWRM principles as well as an initial checklist toward coordination of activities at regional level.**
- **To recognize the REC Caucasus role of facilitator in the regional environmental development processes and institution supporting coordination of the regional cooperation in the area of Trans-boundary River Basin Management, including introduction of EU WFD directives and IWRM in the Kura-Aras basin (information and expertise exchange, serving as Secretariat for organization of work of technical expert working groups, of elaboration of common approaches and implementation of joint activities)**

# Thank you for attention!

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