LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN WATER MANAGEMENT OF ARMENIA

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Outline

• First generation reforms
• Current state of reforms
• Achievements
• Follow-up steps
First generation reforms

- Legal reforms
  - Over 200 legal acts to support implementation of the Water Code, including new Surface Water Quality Norms (2011), Outline of the Model RBMP (2011, supported by the NPD)
  - WFD compliant legislation in water sector, including application of the river basin planning principle
**First generation reforms**

- **Institutional reforms**

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<th>Authorized agency</th>
<th>Management and protection of water resources</th>
<th>Regulation of tariffs</th>
<th>Management of water systems</th>
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<td>Water Resources Management Agency and its 6 BMOs</td>
<td>Public Services Regulatory Commission</td>
<td>State Committee on Water Systems</td>
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<th>Main functions</th>
<th>Monitoring and allocation of water resources; Strategic management and protection of water resources</th>
<th>Regulation of tariff for non-competitive water supply and discharges</th>
<th>Management of water systems under the state ownership; Support to WUAs</th>
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<td>Enforcement tools</td>
<td>Water use permits</td>
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Current state of reforms

• Second generation reforms to further support decentralized management of water resources
  – Development of river basin management plans
  – Strengthening the role and capacities of BMOs

• Strengthening surface and groundwater quantity and quality monitoring, and compliance assurance

• Technical refurbishment of the State Water Cadaster Information System

• Further harmonization with the EU WFD principles and adoption of EU WFD methodologies
Current state of reforms

- Further development of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to address priority issues in water sector
  - e.g. protection and efficient use of groundwater resources in Ararat Valley; reduction of water losses, and etc.
Achievements

• Further amendments in the Water Code, National Water Program, adoption of 20 legal acts in the last two years

• Development of BMPs:
  - BMP for Ararat RBD formally adopted (Government Resolution No 338-N, March 31, 2016)
  - Southern BMP - submitted to the Government;
  - Akhuryan BMP – circulated among the stakeholders;
  - Northern BMP draft

• Revision of the law “On Nature Protection and Nature Utilization Payments”, supported by NPD
  — Increase in the water abstraction fees for fish farms from 5% to 50% of overall abstracted volumes in the Ararat valley
Achievements

• Water use amount reductions and or regime limitations have been introduced in the existing water use permits and new quotas have been determined, thus saving annually 618.8 mln. m³ of water

• Liquidation, conservation and valve regulation of illegal, abandoned and emergency well, thus saving annually 701.5 mln m³ of water

• In total **1320.3 mln m³ per/year** of water savings were possible in **Ararat valley** due to implementation of the above mentioned measures
Achievements

• Concrete steps towards formal introduction of WFD compliant monitoring in the country
  — Expansion of the groundwater monitoring network of Armenia from 70 monitoring wells and springs to 128 (Government of Armenia Protocol Session Resolution No 43 of October 16, 2014)
  — Increase of the groundwater monitoring budget by 2.5 times

• Development of preliminary ecological status classification scheme in Debed pilot river basin, based on the macroinvertebrates (supported by EPIRB project)

• Draft environmental flow methodology with differentiated seasonal minimum environmental flows and taking into consideration the need for aquatic species (supported by USIAD CEW Program)
Follow-up Steps

- Protection and efficient use of groundwater resources in Ararat Valley:
  - Introduction of automatic centralized system
- Further development and adoption of RBMPs, implementation of the program of measures
- Reduction of water losses:
  - Introduction of modern technologies (closed or semi-closed) at fish farms,
  - Introduction of drip irrigation systems,
- Further strengthening of water quality and quantity monitoring system, introduction of biological monitoring
- Technical refurbishment of the State Water Cadaster Information System (software, hardware)
- Strengthening of the WRMA and the BMOs, capacity building and technical refurbishment
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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