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6TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE WATER SECTOR OF GEORGIA

SETTING UP LONG-TERM PRIORITIES FOR THE WATER SECTOR TO OVERCOME EXISTING AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

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Hotel Ambasadori, Tbilisi

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NEED FOR INTEGRATED APPROACH IN FORMULATION OF WATER STRATEGY

- Environmental issues are covered through infrastructure and social development programmes of municipalities/ regions
- International support is more focused to address very specific needs. But generally this fragmentary support only stresses the need for a comprehensive environmental and economic development strategy
- There is a need to apply an integrated approach to planning of natural resources use

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INTEGRATION

- Water as environmental resource
- Strategic planning (Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, Regional Development, etc.)

- Water through infrastructural needs
- Water as part of regional /socio-economic development programmes

Need for linking these processes towards a comprehensive strategy

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VISION

- To ensure a:

  - Comprehensive approach to management of water resources
  - Contributing to sustainable development of territories
  - Socio-economic development and green growth
  - Respecting water as an environmental resource……

"Water for Territorial Development"

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PROCESS

1. To develop a strategy – ownership and agreed steps are the key elements of planning
2. What are the main challenges (agreed)
3. Vision (water for territorial development –overarching approach for the strategy to combine basin and territorial-administrative principles)
4. Content structured to address the priorities

Critical Links…..

-Link to roles and responsibilities

-Link to other reforms in the country

-Link to interface with other ministries

SCOPE: BUILDING BLOCKS

- Change of practice
  - Philosophy of water resources management based on basin principle
  - Overarching national water resources planning practice linking sub sectorial plans
  - Move towards innovative water use practices and support to promote water use efficiency
- Sharing knowledge and stakeholder involvement
- Infrastructure for economic development
  - Rehabilitation and proper maintenance of existing water infrastructure
  - New solutions: green infrastructure, local solutions, etc.
  - New investments (extension of service areas, rural vs. urban)

PREREQUISITES OF FORMULATION WATER STRATEGY - OVERALL PROCESS

- Process of development (formulation) of Water Resources Strategy normally involves identifying all possible constraints that may affect sustainable management of water resources
- It shall include relevant government policies, information on financial and human resources, institutions and action plans existing prior to the 'formulation'
- A key objective of this process is to identify effective, scientific, sustainable and ***consensus-based*** mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of action-oriented initiatives and programmes

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PREREQUISITES OF FORMULATION WATER STRATEGY - OVERALL PROCESS

- In general, the process of water policy review and water strategy formulation have many overlapping issues and are quite closely related
- There are multiple techniques and methods for strategy formulation, advocated by different think-tank organizations, or international donors
- However, it is up to the specific conditions, set targets and priorities of a given country to decide on the exact elements that shapes National Strategy

WATER STRATEGY FORMULATION: POLICY TO ACTION

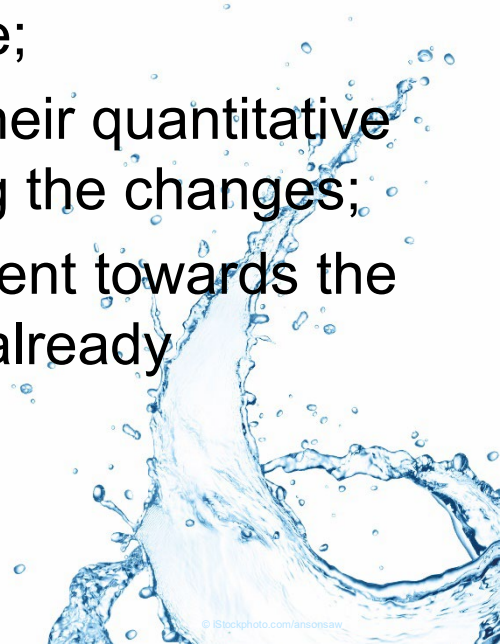
- **Strategy is a tool for translating *Policy* into *the Action***
  - Practical application of development Water Resources Management Strategy varies from country to country and region to region
  - In some countries *the strategy* is considered as a tool **to cover every aspect** of water resources management, from formulating national policies to defining roles and responsibilities for implementation of priority objectives
  - In other cases *the strategy* is rather seen as a master-plan, or action programme for specific projects and initiatives, taking care of water segment for implementation of these projects and initiatives

WATER STRATEGY FORMULATION: STEPS TO FOLLOW

- ***Policy Review:***
  - Define importance of the water for national economy and sustainable development
  - Identify major problems and critical issues that need specific attention
  - Rank pressures and risks on the water resources
- ***Strategy Formulation:***
  - Identify options to estimate, monitor and mitigate
  - Formulate a water strategy and implementation steps
  - Define action programme, implementation schedule and costs associated with that

CONCEPT PAPER TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF WATER STRATEGY

- *Review of water policy, currently undertaken by the Government of Georgia (schedule)*
  - Analysis of contextual information and reference documents reflecting the current situation in water policy of Georgia;
  - Description of legislative and institutional framework and international cooperation in transboundary water basins;
  - Description of key water uses by sectoral segments of the national economy, trends of changes over the past decade;
  - Review of surface and ground water resources, their quantitative and qualitative characteristics and factors causing the changes;
  - Process of changing the existing water management towards the European Directives; new regulatory documents already approved, or under the approval process



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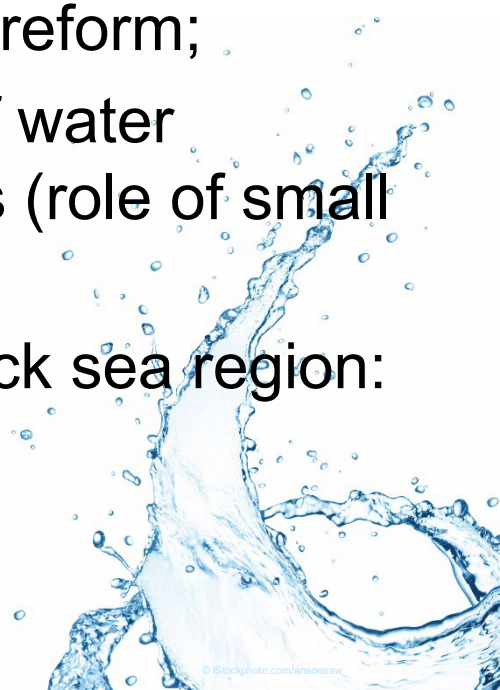
- *Identification of prerequisites for the water reform and key focus areas of the future national water strategy in Georgia*

  - Legislative and governance (institutional) changes required in the water sector of Georgia, including implementation of an economic instruments reform;
  - Modern technologies and sustainable use of water resources by agricultural and energy sectors (role of small HPPs);
  - Cooperative coastal management in the Black sea region: towards a marine strategy



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Status of Georgia's Water Sector: Surface Waters, Availability

- Georgia is reach with freshwater resources
  - Mean annual precipitation - 1,338 mm
  - Average annual volume - 93.3 km^3
  - Total amount of renewable freshwater resources from rivers and groundwater - 63,330 $mil.m^3$/year
  - Renewable freshwater resources per person - 14,000 m^3
- However, resources are distributed not evenly between the Eastern (the Caspian Basin) and Western (the Black Sea Basin) parts:
  - 75 % of the renewable freshwater resources (42.5 billion m^3) are generated in the Black Sea basin
  - 25 %, or 14.4 billion m^3 - in the Caspian Sea basin (Eastern Georgia)
  - Generated amount of water per ***sq.km/year*** is about 1,340,000 m^3 in the Western Georgia, while in the East is only 370,000 m^3

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Annual precipitation
1 000 mm
750 mm
500 mm
250 mm
Sukhumi
Abkhazia
Kodori
Inguri
Nenskra
Khudoni
Gali
Inguri
Zugdidi
Tsageri
Rioni
Kutaisi
Shaori
Tkibuli
Poti
Samtredia
Rioni
Adjara
Batumi
Shuakhevi
Koromkheti
Borchka
Hopa
Artvin
Deriner
Trabzon
Rize
Ardahan
Chorokhi
Lake Childir
Bayburt
Ashkale
Erzurum
Horasan
Aras
Agri
Kars
Akhurian
Vagharshapat
Yerevan
Artashat
Over exploitation of groundwater resources in the Ararat valley
Gyumri
Vanadzor
Debet
Akhalkalaki
Akhaltsikhe
Tbilisi
Rustavi
Kura
Gori
Tskhinvali
South Ossetia
Dariali
Zhinvali
Sioni
Telavi
Dalimata
Qazax
Samkir
Samkir
Mingachevir
Mingachevir Res.
Ganja
Yevlax
Barda
Sarsang
Tartar
Agcabadi
Xankandi (Stepanakert)
Nagorno-Karabakh
Goris
Nakhchivan
Lake Sevan
Vardenis
Hrazdan
Lesser Caucasus
Caucasus
Samur
Alazani
Iori
Kura
Shaka
Mingachevir
Yevlax
Baku w
Vast water abstracti in the Kura-Aras Dep
Aras
Nalchik
Tyrnyauz
Karachayevsk
Prokhladny
Grozny
Vladikavkaz
Terek
Sulak
Kizilyurt
Makhachkala
Kaspiysk
Gergebil
Derb
RUSSIA
GEORGIA
ARMENIA
AZER

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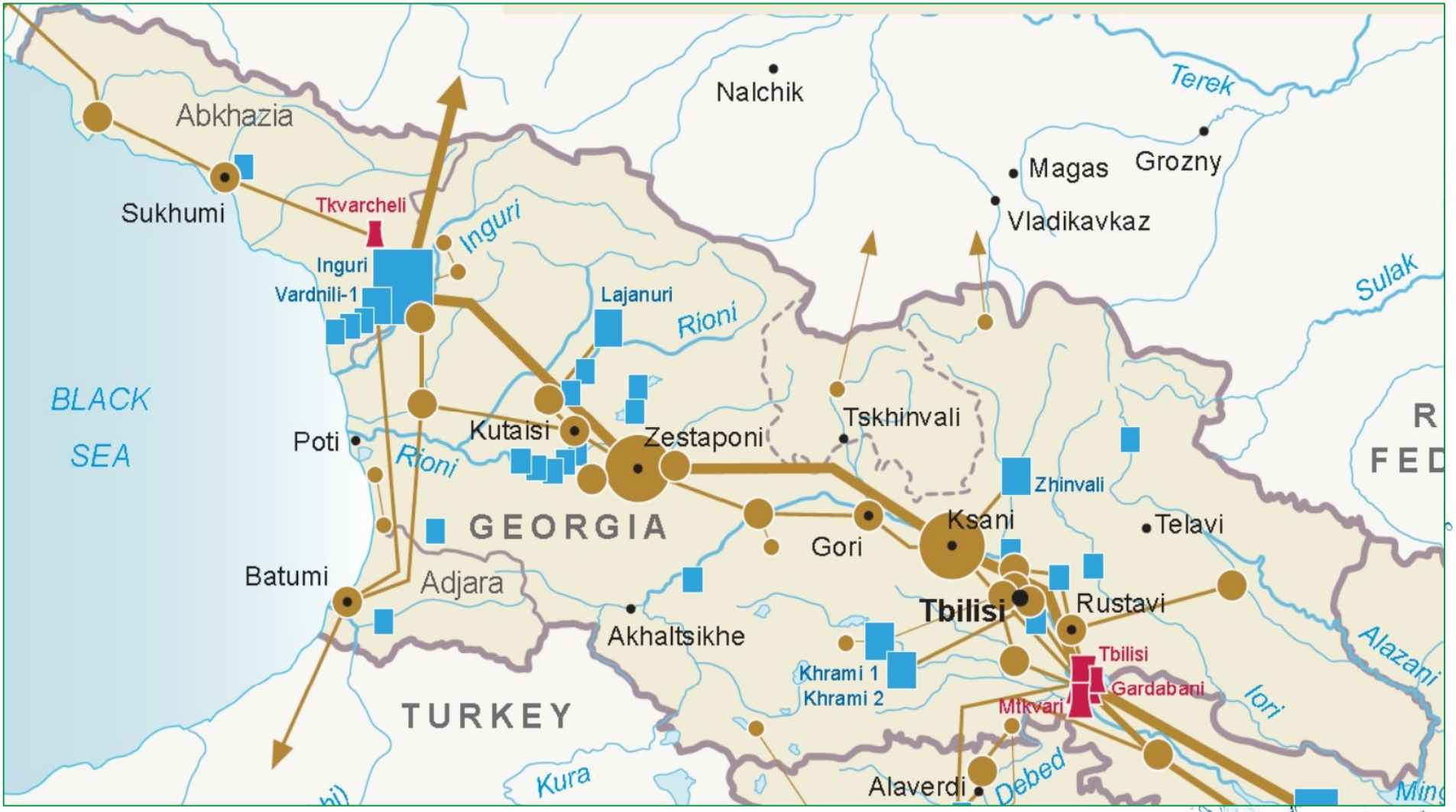
Hydro-power Generation



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Policy Principles Defining Water Strategy in Georgia

- Development and management of water resources shall be undertaken in a holistic, systematic manner, relying on IWRM
- Utilization of water resources should be as much sustainable as to ensure conservation and protection of the environment
- Economic efficiency and social equity shall guide water resource development and management
- Participation of stakeholders groups and interested party active in the sector shall establish the basis for water sector development
- Water resources shall be managed in accordance to the RBMP principles, taking WFD and other EU Directives as a main approach and transposing them to the national water legislation

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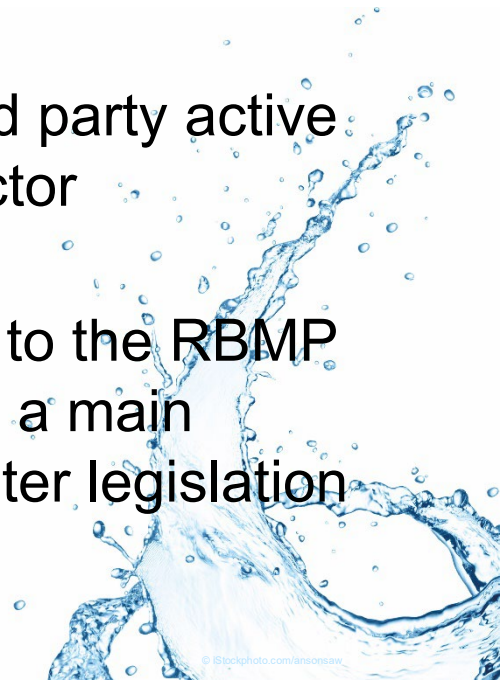

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Specific Objectives for Strategy Implementation

- Provide access to a safe and reliable drinking water supply and sanitation to ensure health and safety for rural and urban population
- Increase agricultural production to ensure food security, by providing adequate quantity and quality of irrigation water
- Make effective use of the country's abundant hydropower resources to satisfy increasing national energy demand and to address the **SDG** targets for climate resilience and clean energy production

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Specific Objectives for Strategy Implementation (cont.)

- Address the needs of the industrial sector and other sectors of the national economy
- Protect and maintain good status of freshwater ecosystems, groundwater aquafers and coastal and transitional waters, and sustain the biodiversity of natural habitats, in accordance to **WFD** principles and other EU Directives and International Standards
- Prevent and mitigate results of Climate Change, particularly water-induced disasters, including floods, flesh-floods, landslides, mudflows, etc.

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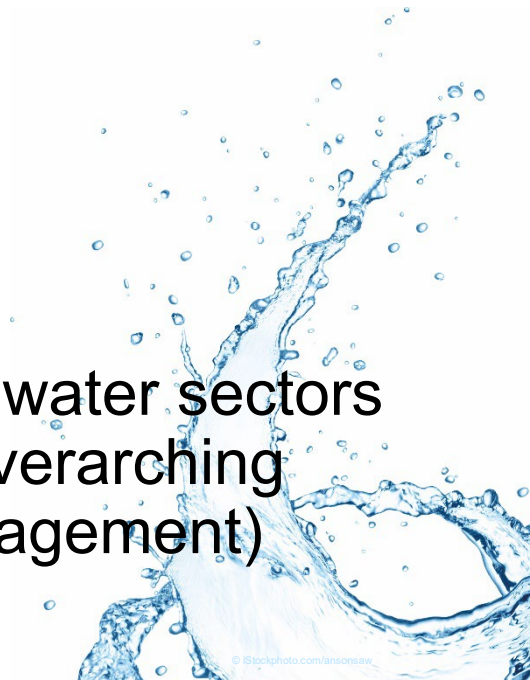
CONCEPT PAPER TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF WATER STRATEGY

Major Goals of the Water Strategy in Georgia

1. Support water sector reforms
   - Shift towards River Basin Management Planning
   - Maximise social-economic and environmental benefits of water use
   - Achieve economic and financial sustainability of the water sector
2. Contribute to economic sustainability through ensuring water for energy, food and health security
3. Cope with the future water related risks
   - Climate change
   - Pollution
   - Drought
   - Flood risks
4. To ensure policy coherence between different water sectors and players through improved coordination (overarching planning mechanism for water resources management)



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Floods and Avalanches

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Landslides and Mudflows

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Sea level rise, storm surges and increase of water temperatures due to climate change

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Questions for Discussion:

1. Short-, mid- and long term priorities that should be determined by Water Strategy
2. Country based *vs.* River Basin based approach for identification of sectoral priorities of water use
3. Mechanisms to avoid conflicts between different Sectors & Water Users
4. Upcoming challenges in the implementation of short-term and long-term River Basin Institutional settings
5. Roles and responsibilities of the governmental institutions in the process of development of the Strategy Document

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