

EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE PLUS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP



EaP | Eastern
Partnership 

NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY FOR AZERBAIJAN

BAKU, 4 JULY 2018

NEED FOR INTEGRATED APPROACH

- ❖ Environmental issues are covered through infrastructure and social development programmes of united territorial units.
- ❖ 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 .

INTEGRATION

- ❖ Water as environmental resource
- ❖ Strategic planning (Ministry of Ecology, Water Agency, etc)

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



Need for linking these processes
towards a comprehensive strategy

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”

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

❖ 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)



NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY: THE MISSING FRAMEWORK



- ❖ In 2017, Azerbaijan started negotiations on a new agreement with the EU. However, the regulatory framework has received less attention. There is a need to reform water sector policies and improve the existing regulatory and institutional frameworks. The priority for the country is to have a long-term vision - **National Water Strategy**.
- ❖ A number of strategic frameworks has been developed, which set up long-term priorities for the water sector of the country. A strategic roadmap for 2016-2020 and a development concept “Azerbaijan 2020: the vision of the future” mention a sustainable use of natural resources, including water, comprehensive reforms in the area of the access of the country’s population to water supply and sanitation services. However, a comprehensive water strategy has not been developed and adopted yet.



LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



- ❖ The EU WFD principles of water resources management are not properly embedded in the Water Code of Azerbaijan, despite the provision that an approach combining hydrological and administrative-territorial principles for water resources management should be applied.
- ❖ Another issue, which needs to be properly addressed, is the economic aspects of water management through introduction/revision of a number of economic instruments for water resources management.
- ❖ Water allocation rules should be also further developed and incentives for water use efficiency identified and implemented, using a mix of policy instruments. In 2017, by the order of the Cabinet of Ministers an Interagency Working Group was established to develop and regulate water use rules; this platform can be considered as an important step towards a better coordination of water use by different sectors.



SECONDARY LEGISLATION IN SUPPORT OF APPROXIMATION TO THE EU WFD AND UWWTD

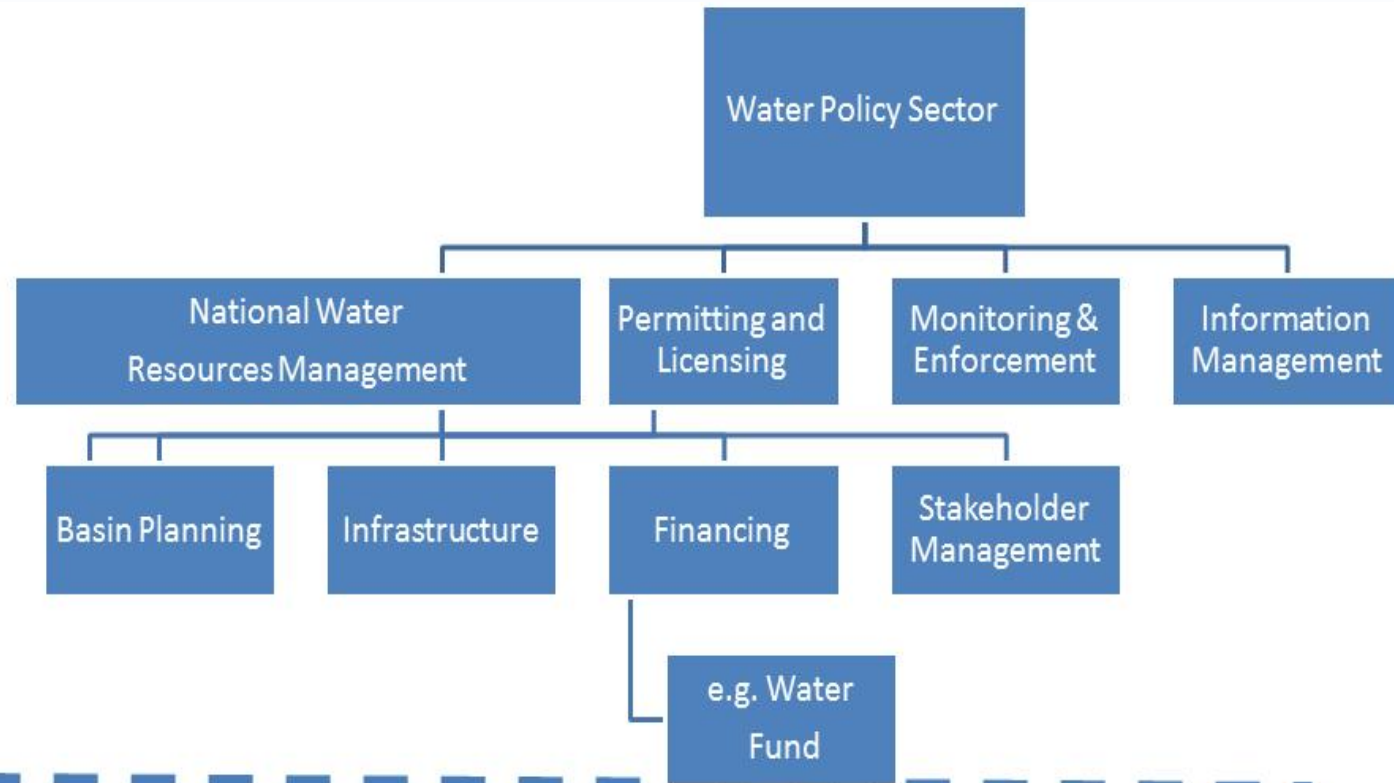


The institutional framework needs to be clarified, with current overlap of fragmentation of responsibilities resolved. This work will be done within the National Water Strategy in below phases :

1. Identification of institutional responsibilities for the application of IWRM principles at the national level and the application of WFD and recommendations for institutional reform.
2. Development of mechanism for application of the Basin Approach as indicated in Water Code of Azerbaijan Republic according to principles of EU WFD and preparation of a draft Decree of Government/or relevant authority on adoption of the mechanism
3. Development of a proposals on institutionalizing of IWRM principles and basin approach at national and basin level through creation and operation of structure responsible on water management according to these approach at national level and also responsible bodies in the basins.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

National
Level

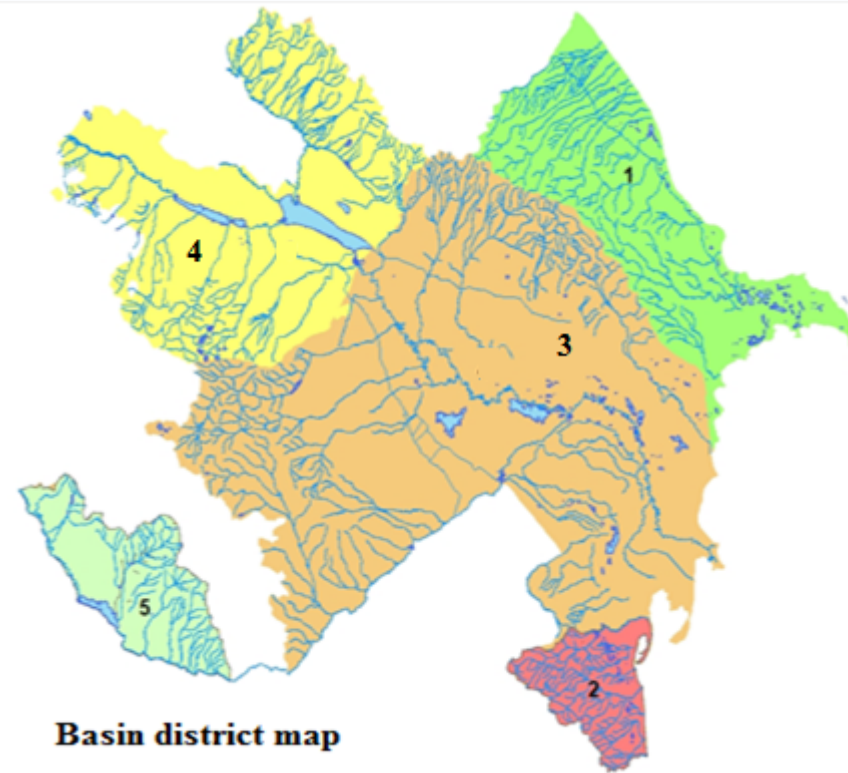


Basin
Level

Basin Management Organisations
/ water management sectors in
regional MENR offices

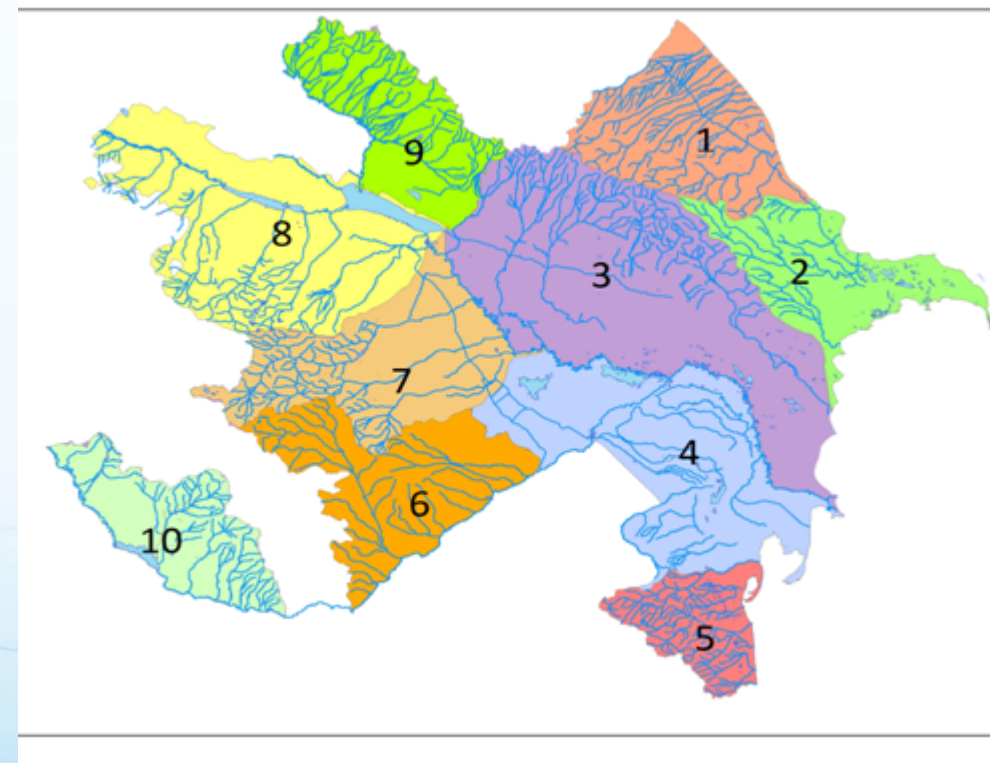
RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS

№ п/п	Area, sq.km	Basin Districts	International river basins	Sub basin(Basin)
1.	13375	Northern-Eastern Slope Greater Caucasus	Samur(Russia)	
2.	3515	Lankaran	Astara(Iran)	Caspian Sea
3	44865	Lower Kur –Araz	Araz(Iran,Armenia)	Kura(Caspian Sea)
4.	19345	Kura upper Mingechavir Water Reservoir	Kur(Georgia) Khrami(Georgia) Qabirr(Georgia) Jogazchay(Armenia) Agstafachay(Armenia) Akhinjachay(Armenia), Tovuzchay(Armenia)	Mingechavir Reservoir
5	5500	Araz-Nakhchivan-	Araz(Turkey, Iran, Armenia) Arpachay(Armenia)	Araz



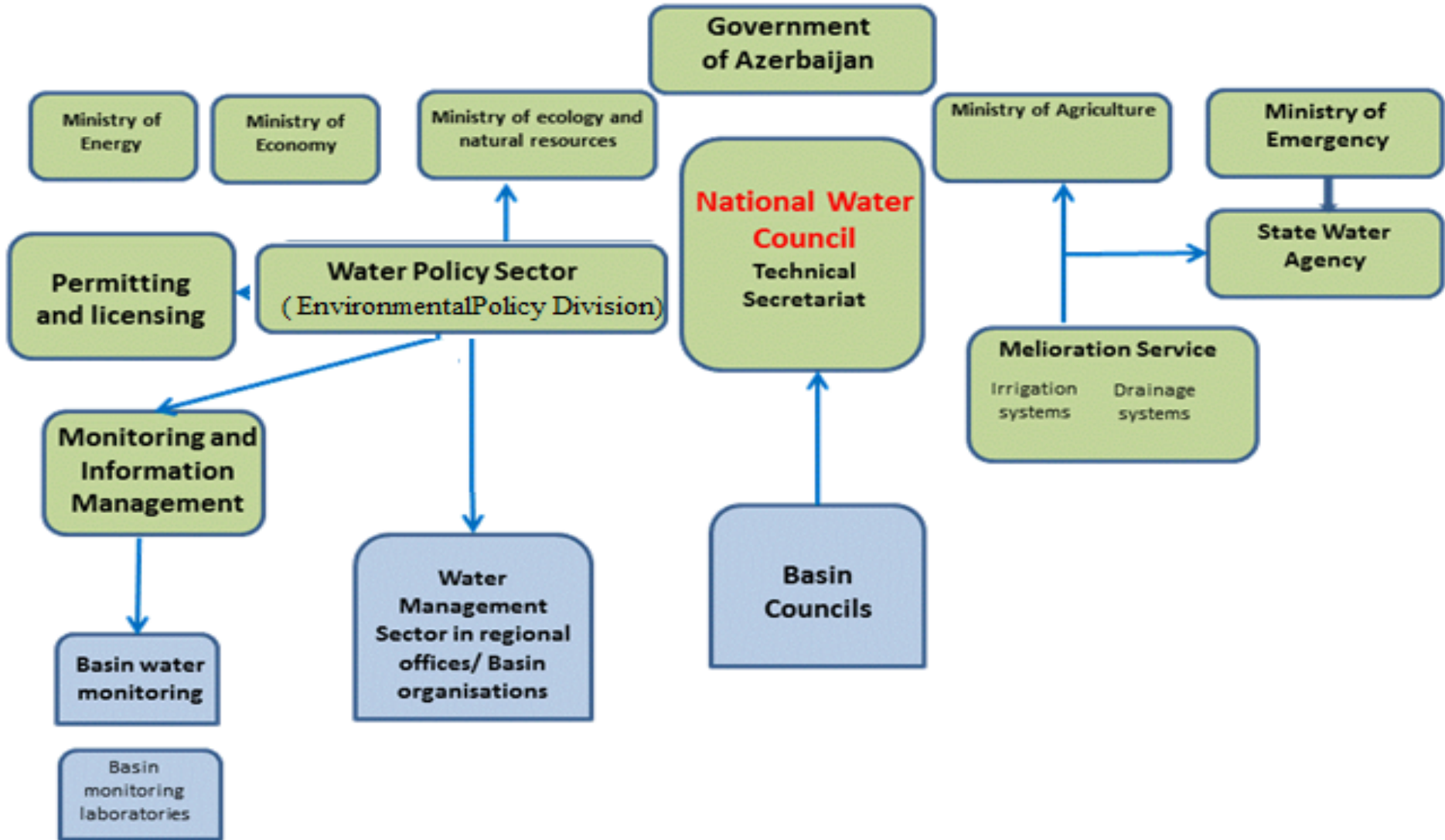
SUB BASINS

N	Area, sq.km	Sub basins	Basin district number	International river basins	Sub -Basin
1.	7125	Guba-Khachmaz	1	Samur(Russia)	
2.	6250	Absheron	1		Caspian Sea
3.	16820	Shirvan	4		Caspian Sea
4.	11795	Kur -Araz confluence	4		Kur
5.	3515	Lankaran	2	Astara(Iran)	Caspian Sea
6.	7610	Lower Araz basin	4	Araz(Iran,Armenia) Okhchuchay(Armenia) Bargushad(Armenia)	Araz(Kura)
7.	8640	Lower Kur (Left tributaries)	4		Kura
8.	13100	Ganja-Gazakh (Central Kur)	3	Kura(Georgia) Khrami(Georgia) Qabirr(Georgia) Jogazchay(Armenia) Agstafachay(Armenia) Akhinjachay(Armenia), Tovuzchay(Armenia)	Kura
9.	6245	Ganikh(Azer -bajjan section)	3	Ganikh(Georgia)	Ganikh(Kura)
10.	5500	Nakhchivan-	5	Araz(Turkey, Iran, Armenia) Arpachay(Armenia)	Araz(Kura)





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TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL WATER ALLOCATION POLICY AND ECOSYSTEM FLOW METHODOLOGY



- ❖ Over abstraction of water from rivers as a result of lack of proper planning and inefficient use of water
- ❖ Lack of regulatory normative act requiring development of water allocation plans balancing ecosystem water needs, available water yields and rules on water distribution among users
- ❖ Currently there is no any acting methodology on assessment of ecosystem flow of rivers to be applied
- ❖ Development and application of an ecosystem flow methodology is part of the ongoing water sector reform in AZ and an important step for implementation of the National Water Strategy
- ❖ A new normative act on this subject will be developed as part of the Water Strategy Action Programme with support of the EUWI Plus (Component 1).



ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND INCENTIVES



- ❖ The National Water Strategy for Azerbaijan reflects a new dimension to the water pricing policy implied by the EU water acquis. The EU-WFD introduces economic principles and clearly integrates economics into water management and policy-making.
- ❖ AZ endorsed the "polluter pays" principle in its environmental legislation. It requires existing and/or potential users of wastewater infrastructure to contribute to all investment, operation and maintenance in proportion to their pollution load and wastewater flow rate. To implement the WFD principles, AZ has to develop an understanding of the “environmental and resource costs” associated with damage or negative impacts to the aquatic environment. In this context, the strategy stresses the need to develop the methodology on payment for discharge of waste waters to water bodies.
- ❖ Harmonisation with the EU WFD requires the use of economic instruments, including water pricing, to cover the costs of water services. The National Water Strategy supports developing economic mechanisms which would provide incentives for sustainable water use by the various user groups and provide the financial resources needed for the management of national water resources. In this context, AZ needs to develop rules for paid water uses and ensure its enforcement



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2016–2020**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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