

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Best Practice -17 - REC Caucasus - Environmental Protection of International River Basins
Project title	“Environmental Protection of International River Basins”
Project acronym	“EPIRB”
Project centre	REC Caucasus
Associated programme	In cooperation with GREENTECS, lead implementer Hulla&Co Human Dynamics KG Funding: EU
Begin date	05.02.2014
End date	N/A
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Adjara, Georgia
Area Type	Rural mainly
Sea-area	Yes
River Zone	Chorokhi-Adjaristskali River Basin District
DESCRIPTIONS	
<i>Best Practice Summary</i>	<p>The overall goal of the project is “to improve water quality in the trans-boundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus.” This long-term goal will be achieved by attaining two specific objectives: i) to improve availability and quality of data on the ecological, chemical, and hydro-morphological status of trans-boundary river basins including groundwater and; ii) to develop River Basin Management Plans for selected river basins/sub-river basins according to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p> <p>Expected results of the EPIRBP are: 1. Increased capacities of the respective national authorities for hydro-biological, chemical and hydro-morphological monitoring of water quality including groundwater; quality assurance procedures in laboratories in place and; 2 Increased technical capacities by means of development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans for selected rivers.</p> <p>Chorokhi-Adjaristskali River Basin Management Plan was developed by REC Caucasus based on participatory approach according to WFD requirements, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary water status classification of water bodies based on available biological and chemical data;</li> <li>• Identification of pressures and impacts and water bodies at risk. Aligned to the EC IMPRESS WFD guidance</li> </ul>

document, risk criteria will be established for to identify the significance of pressures and the related possible risks of each water body to fail the WFD environmental objectives. (Article 5, Annex II);

- Achievement of environmental objectives (WFD Article 4);
- Design of surveillance and operational monitoring programme and network (work to be undertaken by EPIRB team) (Article 8, Annex V) to be included as an Annex to the RBMP;
- Identification of gaps in data availability and design of investigative monitoring programmes and network (to be undertaken by EPIRB specialist team assisted by contractor);
- Assessment of water status (surface water and groundwater) using available biological, chemical and quantitative data;
- Revision of water body status based on outcomes of investigatory monitoring (JFS);
- Initial economic analysis consistent with WFD guidelines (WFD Article 5, Annex III);
- Development of national and basin-wide confined Programmes of Measures (WFD Article 11, Annex VI); and
- Preparation of a River Basin Management Plan in accordance with WFD and national requirements (WFD Article 13, Annex VII).

This is the first case in Georgia, when River Basin Management Plan was elaborated according to WFD. Moreover, draft version of Chorokhi-Adjaristskali River Basin Management Plan was presented to main stakeholders for their comments and proposals. The draft RBMP was discussed in details and a few very important issues were stressed.

During the discussion of prioritization of measures workgroup suggested several changes in the priority list: 1) review of permitting conditions – from medium to high; 2) introduction of the new methodology for environmental flow calculation– from medium to high; 3) reduction of water loss in Batumi water supply system – from low to medium.

Fourth issue discussed by the working group was possibility of involvement of different organizations in the process of implementation of identified measures. Workgroup has recommended creating an initiative group by the government of Georgia where CSO's will participate and contribute to the process of planning and implementation of RBMP activities.

Fifth topic discussed by the group was financial sources to fund

	RBMP activities and measures. Working group members mostly consisted by NGOs, have suggested their possible contribution to the process with initiation and implementation of water saving programs, advocating and lobbying of RBMP activities in local and central budget planning.
<b>Keywords</b>	<i>Water Framework Directive requirements, River Basin Management Plan, water quality, trans-boundary, data.</i>
<b>Data theme</b>	<i>Improvement of quality, Cross-border Area, Soil and Water Pollution.</i>
<b>CENTRE- INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project centre</b>	<i>REC Caucasus</i>
<b>Role of research centre</b>	<i>To ensure transfer of knowledge and information about the requirements of the WFD regarding the integrated water resource management through elaboration of the River Basin Management Plan;</i>
<b>Other partners and countries</b>	<i>GREENTECS</i>
<b>Contact(s)</b>	Sophiko Akhobadze Address: 150, Aghmashenebeli Ave, Tbilisi, Georgia E-mail: <a href="mailto:sophiko.akhobadze@rec-caucasus.org">sophiko.akhobadze@rec-caucasus.org</a>  Tel: +995 577 79 77 59  <a href="http://www.rec-caucasus.org">www.rec-caucasus.org</a>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
<b>Completed by</b>	<i>Keti Jibladze</i>
<b>Collating-centre</b>	<i>REC Caucasus</i>
<b>Latest-update</b>	<i>04.04.2015</i>