

# Reporting on the implementation of the Astana Water Action

## Georgia

### I. 1. Country/Organization:

*Please indicate your name, organization and country.*

**Medea Inashvili, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia**

### 2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

*Please indicate the title of the action on the implementation of which you are reporting. Those countries that committed to more than one action please kindly note that a template for reporting should be filled in for each action.*

**Development Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities of Georgia.**

### 3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes /  In progress /  No

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words):*

A project ***Development Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities of Georgia*** for Rioni river (West Georgia) was launched in June 2012, financed from Adaptation Fund. The Implementing Entity is the UNDP country office, accredited by the AF Accreditation Panel. The project covers 6 municipalities along the Rioni till its delta. The project components entail creation of enabling environment (legal, insurance, construction, land use, scientific (hydro-geological) base), varying out of practical adaptation bioengineering measures, capacity building among inhabitants and installation of early warning systems.

Since the project was launched, the manager and the assistant have been selected and (national) experts for GIS and legal affairs, and international expert for hydrology, hired; detailed work plan has been elaborated and research expedition is to be held in the river basin for this spring and summer. Since June an annual report should be prepared and submitted to the AF Board, according to its Operational Rules and Guidelines.

By now the project implementation is following the Plan, 1<sup>st</sup> component being under implementation and technology procurement documentation is under preparation.

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action? What lessons were learned?*

*(up to 250 words)*

Due to innovative approach of the project to flood-fleshflood problem in Georgia, selection of experts was uneasy, and retarded. Technology procurement seems also difficult and likely will take time. That's why though this activity was planned for the next year, a preliminary activity - preparation of a tender documentation for announcement - was begun in advance.

(c) What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?

(up to 250 words)

Further steps will follow the work plan, and the technology procurement will be tendered in parallel.

The project is meant as a pilot for replication in other river basins with similar problems.

#### 4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

As the project document had been prepared before adoption of the AWA, it doesn't reflect the latter, but it will be helpful for the implementation phase..

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree

If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)

...

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes /  No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words)

...

## II.

### 1. Country/Organization:

Please indicate your name, organization and country.

**Dr. George Kordzakhia, the National Environmental Agency (NEA), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia**

**2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)**

*Please indicate the title of the action on the implementation of which you are reporting. Those countries that committed to more than one action please kindly note that a template for reporting should be filled in for each action.*

**Enhanced Preparedness of Georgia Against Extreme Weather Events**

**3. Overview of progress made**

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes /  In progress /  No

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words):*

The project “Enhanced Preparedness of Georgia Against Extreme Weather Events” is supported by the Czech Development Agency (CZDA). The project aims to promote prevention of disasters caused by extreme weather events in Georgia. The project implementation started in 2012 and the project ends this year.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a mitigation of the negative impacts of extreme weather events on the population, the public and private property in Georgia. Its successful realization would prevent losses of lives and reduce the negative economic and material impact on society. Timely deliveries of precise weather forecasts and warnings in case of an extreme weather event are the basic information (for decision makers) for the prevention of, preparedness for, and managing and mitigation of natural disasters.

For the present time the hydrological part of the project is finished i.e.:

The automatic hydrological gauges (7 sets) are installed in various parts of Georgia. These gauges are already in operation and send the information directly to headquarters of NEA. These operation give possibility to NEA timely create in addition to historic data real time and near real time data sets. That’s important not only for the elaboration of hydrological forecasts and early warnings but to create the sufficient scenarios of the water quantity changes in Georgia;

Not less may be more important is that for doing the above mentioned activities the hydrological data processing automatic software is installed in NEA. If earlier the data sets processing, including QA/QC was handmade now the process is automated.

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action? What lessons were learned?*

*(up to 250 words)*

As it was mentioned the project “Enhanced Preparedness of Georgia Against Extreme Weather Events” is supported by the Czech Development Agency (CZDA). The installation of hydrometeorological stations was made perfectly by joint activities of the Czech Republic experts and mainly Georgian experts from NEA. The challenges fixed during this activities was connected with the telecommunication part as the programme software of the equipment was not properly working with the Georgian mobile company’s software.

As in Georgia the hydrological data processing automatic software was not used earlier there was temporal difficulties in training.

(c) What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?

(up to 250 words)

At present in addition to the hydrological part of the project is foreseen to carry out further steps:

Installation of seven automatic meteorological stations and 5 automatic meteorological gauges (5 sets) are installed in various parts of Georgia. Two automatic meteorological stations are already installed and in operation and send the information directly to headquarters of NEA. These operation give possibility to NEA timely create in addition to historic data real time and near real time data sets. That's important not only for the elaboration of meteorological forecasts and early warnings but creation of the sufficient scenarios of the climate change issues in Georgia;

The meteorological data processing automatic software is foreseen to be installed in NEA. Earlier used the software was fully out of dated and at the same time Czech system has a lot of advantages.

All these is mentioned in connection with hydrology as the meteorological data and especially forecasts are needed for hydrological activities.

#### 4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words):*

The project document had been prepared and approved before adoption of the AWA. Anyhow the latter supports the project implementation and especially future projects adoption and implementation.

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree

*If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)*

The joint actions of AWA as well as the European water forum decisions supports strongly the Georgia's obligations, especially towards WMO and EU.

It would be mentioned WMO Integrated System (WIGOS), which alongside with the existing programmes and initiatives is the new programme that is very important for the assessing the modern climate change issues as globally as at regional and national levels.

The European Union Directive implementations that are supported by AWA is very important for the proper management of country's water resources as well as it gives possibility to Georgia for readiness in realization of environmentally friendly policies in water sector and hence for harmonization in mentioned sector.

(c) Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?

Yes /  No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words)

NEA is not creating the policy in water sector in Georgia therefore we are strongly certain that country as well as various governmental and nongovernmental institutions are interested for continuation to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework.

### III. 1. Country/Organization:

Please indicate your name, organization and country.

**Mariam Makarova, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia**

### 2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Please indicate the title of the action on the implementation of which you are reporting. Those countries that committed to more than one action please kindly note that a template for reporting should be filled in for each action.

### **National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management**

### 3. Overview of progress made

(a) Has the action been implemented?

Yes /  In progress /  No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Preparatory work for the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on integrated water resources management was started in November 2010..

To implement the dialogue, the National Coordination Council was established with the participation high level representatives of the ministries, private sector and NGOs.

Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia was signed on 19 October 2011. The Memorandum provides specific terms of reference for the NPD focused on: (1) Institutional reform to approximate national legislation to the EU Water Framework Directive, including through the preparation of a new National Water Law; (2) Improving the water and health situation through development of targets and target dates in accordance with the Protocol on Water and Health; (3) Strengthening transboundary water cooperation with Azerbaijan and supporting Georgian efforts to prepare for accession to the UNECE Water Convention.

For the present time:

Out of the 20 main targets provided by the Protocol on Water and Health, as a result of extensive consultations with different stakeholders, eight areas were chosen and appropriate project proposals for setting targets were developed.

The “Concept of the new Law on Water Resources Management” was developed and approved by Steering Committee. The first draft of the “Law on Water Resources Management” has been finalized.

The draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of Georgia on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Use of the Water Resources of the Kura River Basin<sup>1</sup> has been prepared and the process of negotiations are conducted.

...

*(b) What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action? What lessons were learned?*

*(up to 250 words)*

The limited capacity currently within the national water management institutions. To be fully effective in water management, mechanisms for coordination must be considered in the institutional development and implementation of national water resources management. ....

*(c) What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?*

*(up to 250 words)*

The draft "Law on Water Resources Management" will be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia.

The regulatory documents to the new Georgian Water Law will be developed, as soon as it will be finalised and adopted by the Parliament

The project proposals for setting other 12 targets provided by the Protocol on Water and Health will be developed in case of financial support of international organizations.

#### **4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action**

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

*(a) The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words):*

The project document had been prepared and approved before adoption of the AWA. Anyhow the latter supports the projects implementation and especially future projects adoption and implementation.

*(b) The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree

*If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)*

The Astana Water Action helped Georgia to promote concept of integrated water resources management and to strengthen transboundary cooperation in this field.

It creates a basis for the harmonization of the national water legislation with the EU Water Directives and implementation step-by-step the requirements of the Directives.

*(c) Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

X  Yes /  No

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words)*

The Government of Georgia places high importance on the process of approximation its legislation and practices and is committed to implement actions to enable sustainable water resources management in compliance with international and European principles and water-related directives of the European Union. Also, it gives a good opportunity to identify possibilities with neighbouring countries for enhanced regional co-operation with regard to water issues.