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**MONITORING**

**Building capacity for WFD-compliant monitoring and improving the availability and quality of data**

One of the key areas of EPIRB support was the training of specialists on WFD-compliant monitoring through both formal and informal courses, as well as practical on-site trainings during field surveys. Joint field surveys (JFS) included surveying, monitoring, sampling, equipment programming and evaluation. The information obtained was used to fill in data gaps, improve the classification of water bodies, and assess the degree to which designated uses have an impact on water.

**RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

**Increasing knowledge on the development and implementation of RBMPs**

The draft RBMP for the Akhuryan River Basin District was developed following a detailed planning exercise carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and key beneficiary institutions. Stakeholders were involved at various stages of the planning process through a variety of communication channels.

The final draft plan describes the river basin district and investigates the pressures that pose a threat to its water environment. The plan demonstrates the impact of these pressures on the state of the waters; identifies possible improvements; and recommends specific actions to ensure that the combined efforts achieve the improvements needed in the Akhuryan River Basin District.

**PILOT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Groundwater monitoring well in Aknashen**

A new groundwater monitoring well was constructed in the settlement of Aknashen in Ararat Valley, and a telemetric station and automated monitoring equipment were installed at the new well. The well complements currently operating monitoring wells in collecting information on the lowering of the level of artesian water, which is affecting Lake Aknalich.

**Water use monitoring in Metsamor River basin**

A system for the automated, centralised, online control of actual water use was developed in the Metsamor River basin in order to improve water resources management and ensure efficient water use. The data collected from the three pilot locations will make possible a continuous record of actual water use that is accessible to all stakeholders.

**Monitoring springs in Akhuryan River Basin District**

Ten groundwater monitoring springs were refurbished in the Akhuryan River Basin District in order to provide more accurate information and improve decision making on water allocation. The springs are part of the recently extended network of groundwater monitoring points of the Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia.
About the EPIRB project

The Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB) project aimed to improve the quality of water in transboundary river basins in the wider Black Sea region and Belarus, including Armenia.

EPIRB activities in Armenia

MONITORING

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PILOT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Improving water quality and promoting efficient water management

EPIRB at a glance

- Duration: 2012–2016
- Funded by: European Union
- Geographical coverage: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- Partners: Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG (lead); Regional Environmental Center (Hungary); H.P. Gauff Ingenieure GmbH & Co. KG-JBG; CES Consulting Engineers Salzgitter GmbH; Crimean Republic Association Ekologiya i Mir (GRAEM); Ukrainian national environmental NGO “Mama-86”

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