



First Trainings Report Of the UNDP/GEF EU Kura Aras IWRM Academy

Spring 2012

The first round of trainings for the UNDP/GEF EU IWRM Academy was held 2-4 April in Baku, 5-7 April at Lake Bazaleti in Georgia, and 12-14 in Tsaghkadzor in Armenia. The trainings were conducted for 62 IWRM Academy Participants over three days. Participants, interested to learn how IWRM can be used at the national and regional level, enthusiastically received the interactive trainings, and are eager to participate in the next two blocks of trainings.

The first block of trainings addressed (1) the basics of IWRM including an introduction to IWRM, conditions and principles for IWRM; (2) water quality management for IWRM decision making; and, (3) IWRM data management and integration for surface and ground water. Throughout the trainings the EU WFD was stressed as an important component for IWRM, based on the methodology and approaches used in the directive. The linkages between IWRM and the EU WFD were discussed as part of each training module. The informational brochure and agenda is attached below in Annex 1. The full list of participants, including titles, organizations and contact information is attached in Annex 2.

As a means to gauge the participants' baseline level of understanding and gains in understanding after the trainings, baseline surveys were conducted. Participants completed an overall survey with 40 questions, to be repeated at the end of the final session of block 3, in September 2012. Daily surveys were also given, to help instructors understand the baseline levels on each subject as well as how much improvement could be measured based on the days' trainings. Identical questions were given first thing in the morning and last thing in the day. In most cases the daily surveys showed a notable increase in understanding of the fundamentals of the IWRM process. Full analysis of these surveys will be conducted at the end of all trainings.

The assessment of the instructors was that the participants were generally aware of IWRM but for the most part at the outset they did not fully appreciate the benefits and level of planning required to establish a workable IWRM Plan. Many of the participants were eager to hear about how other countries both within the region, but also within the experience of the instructors, addressed various challenges. The lecture and discussions sessions were designed to be flexible so that these questions could be answered. The participants all remarked that this was very helpful and informative. The atmosphere of the training encouraged questions from participants and was quite successful. Presentations are available at: http://www.kura-aras.org/Digital_Library.html

Instructors and participants are eager to resume the next block of trainings in May/June 2012.



UNDP/GEF EU KURA ARAS PROJECT: IWRM Training Program 2012

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

First Training Courses and Schedules

April, 2-4, 2012-Baku, Azerbaijan

April 5-7, 2012- Tbilisi, Georgia

April 12-14, 2012- Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

UNDP/GEF Kura Aras Project:

Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura-Aras River Basin

EU Project:

***Trans-boundary River Management for the Kura River basin Phase III –
Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan***



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.





Host Organizations: UNDP/GEF Kura Aras Project, EU Kura Basin Project Phase III, and Ministry of Environmental Protection of Georgia, Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia, and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan

Dear Participants of IWRM Academy training courses,

UNDP/GEF Kura Aras Project *“Reducing Degradation in the Kura Aras River Basin”* and the *“EU Project: Trans-boundary River Management Phase III for the Kura River basin – Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan”* offers training courses for raising awareness of strategic importance of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in line with the EU Water Framework Directive. Trainings are specially designed for persons qualified to participate in future decision making processes for water management in key sectors. Courses shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the country. In this brochure you will find information on the specific objectives for this particular program, its content and structure.

The IWRM Academy will cover a series of nine topic modules and aims to provide key stakeholders with a strong foundation in all the primary issues for IWRM in line with international best practices and the EU approach to water resources management. These modules will address key issues of IWRM, including how information can be most effectively used for decision making, how to address sectoral specific issues of climate change as it relates to water availability, and economics of IWRM in support of sustainable growth. Top international and national experts will lead the trainings, addressing the specific needs and challenges of IWRM in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The sponsored training recipients for the IWRM Academy will be drawn from relevant Ministries and sectors involved in various aspects of water resource management, focusing primarily on junior level staff who show promise to become decision makers in specific sectors related to water resources management in the country within the next 5-10 years. The multi-sectoral trainings for sponsored participants in the IWRM Academy will build an extended network through the other participants and resource persons from international and regional experts.

Each topic module is covered in one day, three modules are conducted in blocks over 3 days, with the first block to be in April 2012, the second block of 3 modules in late May/early June, and the third block of 3 modules in September. The preliminary agenda for the April, 2012 IWRM training modules is attached. Participants who successfully complete the Academy Modules will receive a certificate of completion. We look forward to your participation.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Matthews
Chief Technical Advisor / Project Manager
UNDP/GEF “Reduction of transboundary degradation in the Kura-Aras river basin”
Tel: +995 322 294933; E-mail: mary.matthews@kura-aras.org



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PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objective of the training is to introduce and stimulate the application of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the countries in line with EU Directives, and to encourage the participants to involve in and contribute to networking on IWRM.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

After the training, the participants should have:

- increased understanding of IWRM and its relation to sustainable development;
- increased knowledge about international, national and local IWRM management processes and application tools through international best practices and the EU Directives;
- built an extended network through the other participants and resource persons from international and regional experts.

TRAINING APPROACH

The training program will use a participatory, multi-disciplinary approach to develop the capacity of participants in understanding, introducing, implementing and improving IWRM in their respective river basins.

TRAINING METHODOLOGY

The training methodology includes demonstrations and lectures, round table discussions, and group work.

TARGET GROUP

The program is primarily aiming at the following target groups:

- future policy and decision-makers in the water resources area or with strong connection to water resource management
- subject matter specialists involved in planning, implementation and management of water related activities, both from the public and private sector

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

During the course of training, translation in to national languages will be provided. The teaching language will be English, but participants fluent only in national languages will be equally comfortable

FACULTY TRAINERS FOR THE ACADEMY

Dr. Mary M. Matthews, PhD serves as the Chief Technical Advisor for the UNDP/GEF Kura Project. She has a back ground in institutions for IWRM, transboundary coordination and EU WFD methodologies. She has worked in the Caucasus since 1992.

Dr. Anatoly Pichugin, PhD serves as the Team Leader for the EU Kura Projects Phases II and III. His experience is in water quality and river basin management and he specializes in the EU WFD implementation.

Eng. Tim Hannan serves as the Senior IWRM Expert for the UNDP/GEF Kura Project. He is an internationally respected authority in IWRM plan development with experience throughout the Caucasus.

Eng. Ahmed Abou Elseoud is the Senior Environmental Expert for the UNDP/GEF Kura Project. He specializes in IWRM application, environmental management, and approached to decision-making.

ELIGIBILITY

Only candidates with an official nomination by an appropriate authority or organization will be accepted. We will sponsor promising junior level professionals in the water sectors from government, university and private organization.

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE AND EXEMPLARY COMPLETION

All participants who complete the training will receive a Certificate of Completion.

DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION

March 23, 2012

CONTACT

Dr. Mary Matthews
Chief technical Advisor / Project Manager
Tel: +995 322 294933; E-mail:
mary.matthews@kura-aras.org

Mr. Seiichi Sasaki
International IWRM Coordinator
Tel: +995 599 775613; Email:
seiichi.sasaki@kura-aras.org

IWRM TRAINING COMPONENTS

IWRM courses in April 2-13, 2012

Block 1 – IWRM Basics

- ***Introduction to IWRM – Why it matters and how it helps***
- ***Water Quality - Reaching Decision Makers***
- ***Data Management - Making it Matter and Helping it Flow***

IWRM courses in May/June, 2012

Block 2 – IWRM and the environment

- River Ecology and Environmental Flows – Maintaining river system health
- Flood, Drought and Risk Management – Preparation essentials
- Climate Change, Adaptation and IWRM

IWRM courses in September, 2012

Block 3 – IWRM and the human components

- Economics and Financing of Water Resources Management – The benefits of IWRM for economic development
- Gender, Public Health and Public Awareness – the human side of water management
- Policy, Law and Enforcement in IWRM – keeping the processes going

Block 1 – IWRM Basics

Overall Water Resources Management – Integration from theory to Practice
Surface and Ground Water Quality Management – Tools for decision making

Course Subject 1: Overall Water Resources Management – Integration from theory to Practice (Lead by Dr. Mary Matthews, Chief Advisor/Project Coordinator)

Objective: It is critical to clarify what IWRM is, how it works when it works well and what institutions are needed to support it and sustain it. The objective of this module is to provide an overview of IWRM including models of effective and sustainable IWRM

in practice. The emphasis will be on Integrated Water Resources Management and the development of EUWFD River Basin Management Plans.

Course Subject 2: Surface and Ground Water Quality Management – Assessment tools for better decision making (Lead by Ahmed Abou Elseoud, Sr. Biomonitoring and Environmental Flow Expert UNDP/GEF Project, with Dr. Anatoly Pichugin Team Leader for EU Kura Project and National Experts)

Objective: This course will provide the critical link between water quality management and decision making processes. Throughout the region there are considerable efforts and resources are put into monitoring water quality but the data generated must be used effectively by decision makers in support of water quality management for effective IWRM. This course is intended to create the link between monitoring and actions that will improve the water quality and river ecology.

Course Subject 3: Data Management for Generating Useful Information for Water Resources Managers and Decision Makers (Lead by Tim Hannan, Sr. IWRM Expert UNDP/GEF Project)

Objective: This module is intended to strengthen the understanding of the data requirements for water resources management to ensure that the right information is provided to water managers and other decision makers. A good understanding of what information is needed for effective decision making, planning and management allows informed development of monitoring and data management programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the project web pages:

UNDP/ GEF <http://www.kura-aras.org>
EU Kura <http://www.kuraarasbasin.net>



AGENDA: IWRM Academy Training Courses

April, 2-4, 2012- Baku, Azerbaijan

April 5-7, 2012-Tbilisi, Georgia

April 12-14, 2012-Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

Day One

Overview of Integrated Water Resources Management – Integration from theory to Practice:

Time	Subject	Speaker / Facilitator
10:00-10:15	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of IWRM training courses Quick information survey (quiz) 	Dr. Mary Matthews, UNDP/GEF Chief Technical Advisor/Project Coordinator
10:15 - 11:30	Overview of IWRM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IWRM as a best practice approach to water resources management Definition of “integration” in theory and practice How IWRM relates to the EU WFD River Basin Management Plans 	Dr. Mary Matthews Dr. Anatoly Pichugin, EU Kura Project Phase III, Team Leader
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 - 13:30	Technical Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are three most important aspects to know about the topic For each aspect, review and explanation of issues as related to IWRM and river basin management 	Dr. Mary Matthews
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30-16:30	National issues related to the topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institution and governance for water resources management Roles and responsibilities of the main stakeholder institutions in an IWRM process 	Dr. Mary Matthews National IWRM Experts AZ: Mr. Rafiq Verdiyev GE: Mr. Ivan Tsiklauri AR: Ms. Lilith harutyunyan
16:30-16:45	Coffee Break	
16:45-17:45	Discussion Putting Theory into Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of IWRM process, relating international experience and its adaptation to South Caucasus region What we’ve learned, why it is important and how we use it 	All participants and all trainers
17:45-18:00	Q and A, Summary and Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick information survey (quiz) 	All participants and all trainers
18:00	Wrap-up and Next Steps	

Day Two

Water Quality - Reaching Decision Makers:

Time	Subject	Speaker / Facilitator
10:00-10:15	Brief review of yesterday's session and why that information is important to today's topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick information survey – what do you know about this topic? 	Ahmed Abou Elseoud, UNDP/GEF Senior Biomonitoring and Environmental Flow Expert
10:15 - 11:30	Overview of Water Quality Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated management of surface water and groundwater quality, and land use Contemporary issues and methods of surface and groundwater quality management How IWRM (water quality management) relates to the EU WFD River Basin Management Plans National IWRM Plans in a transboundary waters context 	Ahmed Abou Elseoud Dr. Anatoly Pichugin, EU Kura Project Phase III, Team Leader
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 - 13:30	Technical Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are three most important aspects to know about the topic For each aspect, review and explanation of issues as related to IWRM and river basin management 	Ahmed Abou Elseoud
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30-16:30	National Issues related to the topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary methods of assessing chemical, hydro-morphological and ecological status of surface and groundwater quality Data to decision makers – what they need to know about water quality and why 	Ahmed Abou Elseoud National Water Quality Experts: AZ: Ms. Matanat Avazova GE: Ms. Elina Bakradze AR: Mr. Seyran Minasyan
16:30-16:45	Coffee Break	
16:45-17:45	Discussion Putting Theory into Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategic importance of water quality management, relating international experience and its adaptation to South Caucasus region What we've learned, why it is important and how we use it 	All participants and all trainers
17:45-18:00	Q and A, Summary and Conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick information survey (quiz) 	All participants and all trainers
18:00	Wrap-up and Next Steps	

Day Three

Data Management - Making it Matter and Helping it Flow:

Time	Subject	Speaker / Facilitator
10:00 - 10:15	Brief review of yesterday's session and why that information is important to today's topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick information survey – what do you know about this topic? 	Tim Hannan, UNDP/GEF Kura Project Senior IWRM Expert
10:15 - 11:30	Overview of Data Management : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main issues in surface and groundwater data management in the South Caucasus Purpose of hydrological data collection – why you are collecting this information Contemporary issues and mechanisms for collecting and managing groundwater data How IWRM relates to the EU WFD River Basin Management Plans 	Tim Hannan Dr. Anatoly Pichugin, EU Kura Project Phase III, Team Leader
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 - 13:30	Technical Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are three most important aspects to know about the topic For each aspect, review and explanation of issues as related to IWRM and river basin management 	Tim Hannan
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 – 16:30	National Issues related to the topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing monitoring programs for developing information for water resources management for decision makers How to present data to water resources managers and decision makers and how it informs the water management process 	Tim Hannan National GIS Experts AZ: Mr. Adishirin Alakbarov GE: Mr. Nick Arevadze AR: Mr. Aram Gevorgyan Hydrologists: AZ: Mr. Ahmad Mammadov GE: Mr. Vakhtang Geladze AR: Mr. Benyamin Zakaryan
16:30-16:45	Coffee Break	
16:45-17:45	Discussion Putting Theory into Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategic importance of water quality data and flow management, relating international experience and its adaptation to South Caucasus region What we've learned, why it is important and how we use it 	All participants and all trainers
17:45-18:00	Q and A, Summary and Conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick information survey (quiz) 	All participants and all trainers
18:00	Wrap-up and Next Steps	

List of Participants
List of IWRM Training Participants in ARMENIA

Name	Position	Ministry/Institution	CONTACT/E-mail
Artyom Mkhitarian	Deputy Head	Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection	artyom-mxitarian@mail.ru
Gayane Hovsepyan	Leading Specialist	Cadastre and Monitoring Division, Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection	hovgayush@list.ru
Hasmik Poghosyan	Chief Specialist	Division of Management and Monitoring of International Program, Department of Strategic Programs and Monitoring, Ministry of Nature Protection	mnppoghosyanhamik@mail.ru
Harutyun Yerevamyanyan	Leading Specialist	Division of Monitoring of National Network of Freshwaters, Hydrogeological Monitoring Center, Ministry of Nature Protection	yeremanharut@mail.ru
Gayane Shahnazaryan	Head of Water	Monitoring Program, Environmental Impact Monitoring Center, Ministry of Nature Protection	gayane_shahnazaryan@yahoo.com
Karine Sargsyan	Chief Specialist	Department of Irrigation and Collector-Drainage Systems of the State Committee on Water Systems, Ministry of Territorial Administration	sargsyankara@yandex.ru
Edgar Misakyan	Head of Hydrography and Hydrometry,	Armenian State Hydro meteorological Monitoring Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations	armstate@meteo.am
Nerses Grigoryan	Director of Armavir Expertise Center	State Hygiene and Anti-Epidemiological Inspectorate, Ministry of Health	nersesgrigoryan@mail.ru
Nazik Margaryan	Chief Specialist	Renewable Energy Division, Development Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	nmargaryan@minenergy.am
Christina Hakopian	Lecturer	Yerevan State University, Department of Physical Geography and Hydrometeorology, Faculty of Geography and Geology	chakopian@ysu.am
Vardan Asatryan	Researcher	National Academy of Sciences, Scientific Center on Zoology and Hydroecology, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology	gabrielb@sci.am
Lilit Grigoryan	Junior Researcher	National Academy of Sciences, Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies	lilogri@mail.ru
Varduhi Margaryan	Lecturer	Yerevan State University, Department of Physical Geography and Hydrometeorology, Faculty of Geography and Geology	vmargaryan@ysu.am
Syuzanna Yesoyan	Master's Student	Yerevan State University, Department of Ecology and Nature Protection, Faculty of Biology	s.yesoyan@yandex.ru

Samvel Askandaryan	Master's Student	Yerevan State University, Architecture and Construction, Faculty of Hydrotechnics and Urban Economy	samask2010@mail.ru
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List of IWRM Training Participants in AZERBAIJAN

Name	Position	Ministry/Institution	Contact (email)
Pasha Kərimov	Head hydrologist	National Geological Exploration Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	hidrogeo@mail.ru
Azer Kerimov	Chief of Party	National Geological Exploration Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	hidrogeo@mail.ru
Aynur Mahmudova	Lead Consultant	National Hydrometeorological Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	aynur_mr@rambler.ru aynur_mr@mail.ru
Tesmire Babayeva	Engineer Hydrologist	National Hydrometeorological Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	tesmire@mail.ru tesmire@rambler.ru tesmire@box.az
Vuqar Hesenov	Engineer	Caspian Complex Monitoring Administration, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	vuqar_hasanov78@yahoo.com
Refi Veliyev	Head Consultant	Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	No email
Ulvi Məmmədov	Consultant	Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	ulvi75@rambler.ru
Ayten Yusifova	Head of Sector	Department of Ecology and Environmental Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	a_yusifova@yahoo.com
Arzu Semedova	Engineer	Department of Ecology and Environmental Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	arzu-s@mail.ru
Suleymanova Natella	Lead Consultant	National Environmental Monitoring Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	ulkereko@mail.ru
Mushfiq İbadov	Head Consultant	National Environmental Monitoring Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	lbado_v_mushviq@mail.ru
Eli Memmedov	Head Consultant	State Ecology Expertise Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	ali.ekspert@mail.ru
Hikmet Nesirov	Engineer Hydrologist	Agency on Water Resources, Ministry of Emergency Situations	hikkimet@mail.ru
Emil Sultanov	Engineer Hydrologist	Agency on Water Resources Ministry of Emergency Situations	sultanli77@hotmail.com
Samir Abbasov	Engineer Hydrologist	Agency on Water Resources, Ministry of Emergency Situations	samir.abbasov@yahoo.com
Reshail İsmayilov	Engineer Hydrologist	JSC Azersu	rashail83@rambler.ru
Asgarov İntiqam	Engineer on Land-	Water User's Associations	intiqam717@gmail.com

	Reclamation		
Gurbanov Ali	Engineer on Land-Reclamation	Water User's Associations	safsu@mail.ru
Khudu Mammadov	Lecturer	Ministry of Education	x.mamedov@mail.ru
Rustam Rajabov	Lecturer	Baku State University	rajabov_r_f@mail.ru
Anar Nuriyev	Lecturer	Baku State University	anar_nuri@yahoo.com

List of IWRM Training Participants in GEORGIA

Name	Position	Ministry/Institution	Contact (email)
Nana Totibadze	Chief specialist	Division of Legal Acts Preparation and Expertise, Legal Department, Ministry of Environment Protection	n.totibadze@moe.gov.ge
Nino Chikovani	Senior Specialist	Environmental Policy and International Relations Department, Ministry of Environment Protection	ninotchikovani@gmail.com
Ekaterine Mikadze	Chief Specialist	Hydrometeorology and Climate Change Division, Environmental Integrated Management Department, Ministry of Environment Protection	ekaterine24@gmail.com
Irakli Phirtskhalaishvili	Chief Specialist	Division of Permits, Ecological Expertise and Inspection Department, Ministry of Environment Protection	irakliphirtskhalaishvili@gmail.com
Eka Imerlishvili	Head of the Division	Division of Wastes and Chemicals Management, Integrated Environmental Management Department, Ministry of Environment Protection	e.imerlishvili@moe.gov.ge
Toma Dekanaidze	Head of the Development Service	Agency of Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment Protection	tomadtd@yahoo.com
Besik Kavtaria	Chief Specialist	Hazardous Hydrometeorological Events Management Division, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection	b.kavtaria@yahoo.com
Otar Kurtsikidze	Senior Specialist	Division of Hazardous Processes and Engineering Geology, Geological Hazards Management Department, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection	okurtsikidze@yahoo.com
Levan Papachashvili	Head of the Division	Environmental Technological Impact Assessment, Environment Pollution Monitoring Department, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection	levan_papacha@yahoo.com
Elene Cherkezia	Project Academic Coordinator	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Applied Biosciences	echer2003@mail.ru
Nino Archvadze	Project Study Process Coordinator	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Applied Biosciences	archvadze_nino@yahoo.com

Nino Inasarideze	Program Leader	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Applied Biosciences	ninasaridze@yahoo.com
Maia Chkhobadze	Main Specialist	Ministry of Energy and Natural Recourses	maya_chkhobadze@yahoo.com
Ema Barkalaia	Specialist	Ministry of Energy and Natural Recourses	emmamiqadze@mail.ru
Giorgi Metreveli	Specialist	Ministry of Energy and Natural Recourses	g.metreveli77@yahoo.com
Nugzar Gigiashvili	Chief Specialist	Department of Melioration Policy, Ministry of Agriculture	gigiashvili@moa.gov.ge
Nana Gabriadze	Senior Specialist	Department of Non-Communicable Diseases, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Ministry of Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia	gabriadzenana@yahoo.com
Jimsher Kerkadze	Faculty Member	Technical University, Faculty of Environmental Protection	jimkerk@mail.ru
Konstantine Khazalia	Faculty Member	Technical University, Faculty of Hydro Engineering	kotek hazalia@yahoo.com
Evgenia Mekhtieva	Project Assistant	Regional Environmental Center Caucasus (REC Caucasus)	evgenia.mekhtieva@rec-caucasus.org
Ketevan Jibladze	Project Assistant	Regional Environmental Center Caucasus (REC Caucasus)	keti.jibladze@rec-caucasus.org
Zaal Azmaiparashvili	Faculty Member	Technical University, Faculty of Examination of Measuring Techniques and Quality Management	z.azmaiparashvili@gtu.ge
Elene Kakabadze	MSc Student	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences; Applied Biosciences	e.kakabadze@gmail.com
Tamuna Kristesiashvili	MSc Student	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Applied Biosciences	tamuna-1989@list.ru
Irma Iromashvili	MSc Student	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Applied Biosciences	nadvali@yahoo.com
David Chokoshvili	MSc Student	Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Applied Biosciences	x_dato@yahoo.com



Joint Press Release

Integrated learning for integrated management!

April 23, 2012

The UNDP/GEF EU Kura Aras IWRM Academy focusing on the Integrated Water Resources Management, (IWRM) held its first set of courses 2-4 April in Baku, 5-7 April at Lake Bazaleti in Georgia, and 12-14 in Tsaghkadzor in Armenia. The EU co-sponsored trainings focusing on the important challenges facing water resources in each country and across the Caucasus, including climate change, data exchange and water quality management. The participants in each of the National Academies drew from rising decision makers in ministries focusing on environment, emergency services, health, development, agriculture and amelioration, and energy. In each country the trainings were well received and participants are eager for the next blocks to be held in May/June. The main topics will be river ecology, flooding and drought risks and climate change in IWRM.

Senior Experts in IWRM Tim Hannan, Mary Matthews, Anatoly Pichugin and Ahmed Abou Elseoud conducted the first round of trainings. The IWRM Academy emphasizes how IWRM must link with each country's unique national priorities, and the EU Association Agreements including the EU Water Framework Directive. For more information, including copies of the EU Directives in national languages and all presentations from the first block of trainings, please visit our web pages: <http://www.kuraarasbasin.net> and <http://www.kura-aras.org>

For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Matthews at mary.matthews@kura-ars.org



