Stakeholder involvement in the planning of river basin management and its implementation in Armenia

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Outline

• Role of the Water Committee
• Development of RBMPs in Armenia
• Public participation in RBMP development
• Linkage with other processes
• Lessons learned and remaining challenges
## Role of the Water Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorized agency</th>
<th>Management and protection of water resources</th>
<th>Regulation of tariffs</th>
<th>Management of water systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources Management Department</td>
<td>Monitoring and allocation of water resources, strategic management and protection of water resources</td>
<td>Regulation of tariffs for noncompetitive water supply and discharge services in drinking, household, and irrigation water sectors; Protection of consumer’s rights</td>
<td>Management of water systems under the State ownership; support to establishment of WUAs and FWUAs; Arrangement of tenders on management of water systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Committee</td>
<td>Public Services Regulatory Commission</td>
<td>Water Committee</td>
<td>Water Committee</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enforcement tool</th>
<th>Water use permits</th>
<th>Water system user permits</th>
<th>Lease contract</th>
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Role of the Water Committee

• Management of state-owned water systems
  • Irrigation
  • Water supply and sanitation
  • Drainage
  • Hydrotechnical systems

• General political task/goal
  • Management of state-owned water systems and ensuring safe use
  • Ensuring implementation of the national water program
  • Development and implementation of investment policy of water systems, and organizations of expertise of investment programs
Development of RBMPs in Armenia

• EUWI+ (2016-2021)
  • Sevan RBMP, officially adopted in December 2022
  • Hrazdan RBMP, officially adopted in December 2022

• EU4Environment Water and Data (2022-2024)
  • Northern RBMP (expected adoption, fall 2024)
Public participation in RBMP development

• Requirements of the Armenian legislation
  • Water Code
    • Article 5 (Basic principles of management, use and protection of water resources and water systems) recognizes the importance of public participation and awareness in the process of management and protection of water resources
    • Article 20 (Public participation) requires that draft RBMPs are subject to public notice
    • Article 106 (Participation of NGOs and citizens in protection of water resources and water systems) defines the role of public participation in protection of water resources and requires decent consideration of recommendations of public organizations and citizens in water management
    • Requires that while designing RBMPs public participation is ensured through public hearings and discussions, and communicating respective information through mass media
Public participation in RBMP development

• Requirements of EU WFD
  • Article 14 of the EU WFD
  • Guidance document 8 “Public participation in the context of EU WFD”
• Two public consultation meetings in RBMP development process
  • Significant pressures and their impact, main issues in the basin
  • Program of measures
Linkage with other processes

• Law on EIA and Expert Examination, 2014
• Four rounds of public hearings while RBMPs undergo EIA and expert examination
  • Preliminary assessment of RBMP
  • Application of preliminary assessment
  • Public notification and hearing on environmental impact strategic assessment of the RBMP
  • Final hearing
Lessons learned and remaining challenges

• Significant progress in public participation in RBMP development

• Role of public participation in RBMP implementation is still very weak, practical mechanisms of public involvement should be elaborated
Thank you for your attention!

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