

**Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management – NGO
Forum**

Workshop for Environmental NGOs in the Kura-Araks/Aras Basin

**Gudauri, Georgia
November 13-16, 2005**

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**UNDP/GEF Project on
Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura – Aras River Basin**

And

**Reducing Trans-boundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin through
Public Involvement and Stakeholder Inclusion in Governance**

Autumn, 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2005, 30 NGOs from the South Caucasus convened in Gudauri, Georgia, as part of the GEF Environmental Governance project “Reducing Trans-boundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin through Public Involvement and Stakeholder Inclusion in Governance”. This was co-hosted with The Eurasia Foundation, which had hosted an initial NGO Forum meeting in June 2005.

Objectives of meeting:

- To give the NGOs an opportunity to form a formal NGO initiated NGO Forum for Water Issues in the Kura Aras River Basin
- To give partner NGOs from different countries an opportunity to meet and refine their pre-proposals
- To give NGOs an opportunity to present their pre-proposals to the UNDP/GEF and Eurasia Foundation staff, and receive feedback on project ideas

The NGOs in attendance submitted applications for project pre-proposals with partner NGOs to address issues of concern regarding improved civil society involvement in transboundary water management. Selected NGOs in attendance were from Armenia (9), Azerbaijan (8), Georgia (8), and Iran (5).

Meeting components:

Creation of an NGO Forum

Together, these NGOs discussed and took steps to initiate an NGO Forum for the Kura Aras Basin that will serve to support the UNDP/GEF Project as well as additional international efforts in the region. This Forum will be governed and under the responsibility of the NGOs, and they have agreed to develop the charter, governance, communication and activities strategy for the organization. The NGO CENN (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network) and Women’s Society Against Environmental Pollution West Azerbaijan – Iran have agreed to take the lead in facilitating this effort after much discussion.

Presentation of Donor Community

The UNDP/GEF Project and the USAID Water IQC (Indefinite Quantity Contract) for the South Caucasus presented their project plans and outlined the role for the NGOs to be involved in project development and implementation. These presentations highlighted the importance of public involvement in both projects. Also a presentation of the initial findings of the stakeholder analysis was presented. This enabled the NGOs to better understand the linkages between projects, and how their efforts can be tailored to work within these projects.

Presentation of Collaborative Project Pre-proposals

The NGOs presented pre-proposals for transboundary projects to the Eurasia Foundation and the UNDP/GEF. These proposals were critiqued by the international donors, with an emphasis on encouraging project development, NGO collaboration and refinement of project ideas. A total of 16 presentations were made, with some projects very well conceptualized and developed, and others in more rudimentary phases. NGOs were encouraged to work closely together to improve their proposals and to draw on the strengths of these proposals by reducing overlap and enhancing use of resources in the region.

Outcomes:

The NGOs have selected a special committee of volunteers charged with supporting the development of the NGO Forum Charter, which will be distributed to all NGOs and the public for comment and revision.

The UNDP/GEF call for proposals for projects will be issued in December 2005, for full development and integration into the SAP large scale demonstration projects as part of the full scale project proposal.

Workshop for Environmental NGOs in the Kura-Araks/Aras Basin

Improving Civil Society Input in to transboundary water management

Introduction

The NGO Forum meeting was the second meeting for this group following a meeting in June 2005, which was sponsored primarily by Eurasia foundation. During that first meeting 32 NGOs were brought together to initiate contacts, discuss priority concerns and to develop partnerships for transboundary project preparation. The June meeting is summarized in the attached report in Annex 1.

Prior to the June NGO Forum meeting it was agreed that the UNDP/GEF would serve as primary sponsor for a second meeting to be held in the autumn. This report provides an overview of the events of that meeting as well as recommendations for future action for the NGO Forum as it pertains to the UNDP/GEF project “Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura Aras River Basin”.

Pre-workshop strategy

Based on the experience and outcomes of the NGO Forum held in June 2005, it was decided that the objectives of the meeting were to be:

- To give partner NGOs from different countries an opportunity to meet and refine their pre-proposals
- To give NGOs an opportunity to present their pre-proposals to the UNDP/GEF and Eurasia Foundation staff, and receive feedback on project ideas
- To give the NGOs an opportunity for form a formal NGO initiated NGO Forum for Water Issues in the Kura Aras River Basin

A Call for Letters of Interest, which include a call for project proposals, was issued through the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, through UNDP Country Offices, and to participants of the June 2005 meeting (Annex 2). The criteria for projects were based on the outcomes of the previous NGO Forum meeting, the needs of the UNDP/GEF project, including specific pilot project pre-proposals, and the findings of the Qualitative Stakeholder Analysis conducted in summer 2005.

Proposed projects were asked to address the following issue(s) within a transboundary context:

- Improved access to drinking water
- Public education about sustainable water management at the home and village/community level
- River health and water issues impacting human populations with stakeholder involvement
- Water management strategies at the local level for pilot projects to include improvement and rehabilitation of local infrastructure
- Public involvement in water monitoring for local and transboundary issues
- Integration of multiple water uses, including irrigation, household use and waste disposal
- Communication and local management strategies for transboundary flood responses and/or healthy river use

Each NGO was asked to submit an application naming partner NGOs in order to ensure full attendance of each partner group. The full application form is included in Annex 2.

A total of 47 applications were received. Of these 31 were accepted. Those that were not accepted either did not have transboundary partners in the region, submitted proposals that were not within the scope of the work of the project and/or were not sufficiently developed conceptually to warrant funding. The final selection of the participant groups was based on the quality of the proposal, the suitability to the projects, and the potential for full project development. In several cases, it was decided that several of the applicants had significant experience and expertise and should be included despite not meeting the criteria of partners for proposals. This decision was made because of the influence that these individuals have in the NGO community, and the known quality of their work. The exception was the Iranian delegates, who were not as involved with the

other regional NGOs, resulting in more lenience being shown in reviewing of their applications. The Eurasia Foundation staff and UNDP/GEF Stakeholder Analyst/Public Involvement Expert reviewed applications, met and finalized the participant list. Selected NGOs were notified.

Following the selection of the participants for the NFO Forum meeting, Eurasia Foundation staff and UNDP/GEF staff met to discuss the agenda for the meeting. It was decided that the NGO Forum would need to be a self initiated process following this meeting and that the NGOs would be asked to come to an agreement regarding their role in the project, as well as their potential role in the international community as a venue for supporting transboundary cooperation in the region. The Agenda was translated into Russian and made available to those who did not read English (See Annex 3).

The meeting was scheduled for 13-16 November 2005, to be held in Gudauri Georgia, with logistics managed by the UNDP-Sida and UNDP-GEF projects in Tbilisi, and UNDP Country Offices in the respective capitals. The workshop was attended by NGOs with a participant ratio of:

- 9 from Armenia
- 8 from Azerbaijan
- 8 from Georgia
- 5 from Iran

Workshop high lights

The first day of the workshop was primarily a time for travel, reintroduction and to give participants an opportunity to meet together.

NGO Forum Development

The second day of the meeting, therefore, was focused entirely on the NGO Forum. An initial presentation was made on other NGO Forums and how they could be emulated, followed by an open discussion about the need for an NGO Forum. The participants were then divided into four separate groups to discuss the potential role and structure of an NGO Forum for the Kura Aras Basin. Following the small group work, another large group session was convened with each group presenting their ideas and continuing their discussion.

The initial presentation was made by Mary Matthews, Ph.D., on the role of the NGO Forum in other GEF International Waters Projects. In this presentation, the priorities were reviewed for improving civil society involvement in transboundary water management, these included:

- Low level of partnership and cooperation between the NGOs in the region
- Lack of defined strategies for sustainability of NGOs in the field of WRM
- Low levels of regional cooperation
- Low level of public awareness, absence of participation in the decision making process
- Insufficient legal mechanisms for making the business sector abide by the environmental standards
- Lack of Government priority for the environment
- Inefficient cooperation with international conventions
- Absence of interstate agreements on the TWR
- Low level of coordination on the stage of planning and implementing the projects by international organizations

A review of these priority concerns suggested that they could be overcome in part by the formation of an NGO Forum in the Kura Aras Basin. A review of other NGO Forums in similar regions was discussed, focusing on the Black Sea Environment NGO Forum, the Danube River Basin NGO Forum, and the Dnipro River NGO Forum. The presentation reviewed how they were established; how they have evolved over time; their missions; who and how benefits from the presence of an NGO Forum in the region. The presentation outlined these NGO Forums have worked with other UNDP/GEF International Waters Projects and the roles they have played in the project development and implementation process. Based on these other experiences and on the self-identified priorities of the NGOs in the Kura Aras, the question was posed: could an NGO

Forum help meet these needs? It was then noted that 85% of participants in the last meeting agreed an ongoing regional NGO Forum on Water Issues would be helpful, and that if this were to happen, it needs to be the responsibility of the NGOs. The group was then asked to consider the formation of an NGO Forum for the Kura Aras, including what would be needed for the structure, communication and membership strategies of such a group.

A discussion of the presentation followed, with an extended question and answer period. Participants were concerned about the funding for such an effort; how an NGO Forum could improve coordination among NGOs in the region; and what role the NGO Forum could realistically play in the projects. Discussion of membership, the role of the existing NGO Coalition for the Kura and Aras, and the realistic necessity for the creation of an NGO Forum were debated by participants. (The existing NGO Coalition does not include Iranian participants, and has limited membership, though it was agreed they could assist in development of a wider NGO Forum) The group over all thought that there is the potential for the project, as well as the NGOs, to benefit from the formation of an NGO Forum.

Based on the decision to move forward, four groups were assigned. Each of the groups was asked to discuss their collective vision of the NGO Forum, including the mandate, charter, structure, funding and communication mechanisms.

In order to maintain language and country balance, the meeting facilitators determined which NGOs would be in which groups. Of the four, two were English speaking only to facilitate input from the Iranian participants. The other two were predominantly Russian speaking groups. Each group had approximately 8 members. The groups were facilitated by the UNDP/GEF National and Local Stakeholder Consultants, who were instructed to provide direction and help the group observe the time limits, but were not to instruct the groups in how to develop their Forum vision..

Following the small group work, the full contingency met together to present and discuss their ideas. Each of the four groups made a presentation, and there was a high degree of similarity between the four group's visions for the Forum.

For the mandate, they felt that the role of the NGO Forum could be information distribution; education and training; consulting; advocacy for environmental concerns; independent monitoring; and lobbying governments and international organizations.

Regarding the charter, they felt that the membership should be open, transparent and flexible; address environmental and water related issues; have working groups on water pollution and water supply; improve cooperation among countries; and provide support to existing organizations. There was a suggestion that only registered NGOs should be eligible for membership. After a short discussion it was agreed that this issue would be tabled until later.

For the structure of the group, there were variations on a generally hierarchical scheme that has been prevalent in use by organizations in the region. There was discussion regarding the formation of a secretariat and a general council, as well as the designation of national level coordinators. A general meeting of members was suggested, as was a more horizontal governance structure. Though nothing final was decided amongst the group as a whole at the time it was agreed that the structure of the Forum is an important issue that is to be considered in the future.

In terms of the funding mechanism, a discussion of potential donors, fees to be paid by members, and other fund raising ideas were suggested. They felt that the international community might be willing to help support their efforts, though they clearly understood that investment of their own, both financially and in-kind, would be required. One group suggested holding a meeting annually to help introduce the international organizations to one another.

For the communication strategy, it was thought that using internet would be the best available option, but that printed materials would also be useful in making this project successful. They agreed that enhanced communication would be important to all groups and there was a tendency to look towards CENN (the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network) to help facilitate this.

The final session of the day concluded with general agreement that an NGO Forum should be supported by the group, and with the realization that more work would be needed in order to make their vision a reality. The organizers decided to give the participants a day to consider and discuss the day's events before suggesting further movement on this issue. There was, therefore, a 40 hour lapse before the group addressed the topic of the NGO Forum again. (During that time, project presentations were developed, finalized and made to the group as a whole.)

The final morning of the conference, the issue of the NGO Forum was addressed again. The NGOs agreed that they were in support of the establishment of the Forum. The Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) was asked by the NGOs to serve as facilitator for the creation of the NGO Forum for the Kura and Aras River Basin. The participants also asked Ms. Madiyeh Pourshad of Iran to assist in facilitating inclusion of Iranian NGOs in the creation of the NGO Forum. The facilitators then asked for a key committee of interested individuals to assist in the formal creation of the Forum. The group is to draft a charter, and a mission statement and, based on the presentations, determine a governance structure. Approximately 3 individuals from each country volunteered to serve on this committee, and agreed to work closely together. One key question to be addressed is whether this will be a formally registered organization and, if so, where it will be registered. This has yet to be decided. At the time this report is written, the group is in the process of designing and translating the charter of the NGO Forum which will be open to the full NGO community for comments by January 2006.

Donor Presentations

The third day of the meeting was set aside for presentations both of and to the donors. The UNDP/GEF Presentation on the status of the project was followed by a presentation by PA Consultants on the USAID Water IQC for the South Caucasus. It was established that these two projects are complimentary with the UNDP/GEF Project focusing on the major river basin, and including the full participation of Iran, while the USAID Project is focusing on the Alazani and Debed river sub-basins and working with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia only.

The UNDP/GEF Project presentation featured a discussion of the project's progress thus far, the components of the project - including the Environmental Governance component and the PDF-B component and a brief review of the UNDP/SIDA component. An overview of the project as it pertains to the TDA/SAP process, the role of the NGO Forum within the TDA/SAP development process and the pending full scale project were discussed. Following this, the Stakeholder Analysis findings were presented, including the major country concerns and overall regional concerns. The presentation concluded with a discussion of what the next steps to be taken in the project are, and a brief over view of the time frame for these actions (See attached Annex 5).

This presentation was followed by a presentation by Sergio Claire, the Chief of Party for PA Consulting for the USAID Water IQC. The over all program goal and results were addressed and the specific objectives for the program were presented. Then the program components were discussed, including: strengthening institutional capacity; development of scientific and analytical capacity and promotion of the use of sound science for management; and strengthening civil society participation to achieve stewardship and measurable results. The anticipated program results were presented, along with counterparts involved in the project and the specific geographic focus of the project (See attached Annex 6).

Following presentations the floor was opened to questions and answers from the participants regarding collaboration between these projects, the time frame for implementation and the potential role for NGOs within both sets of activities.

The NGOs separated into groups and spent several hours preparing and finalizing presentations to be made to the Donors. These presentations were made within a 5 minute time span ,followed by comments and constructive criticism offered by Eurasia Foundation and the UNDP/GEF Project Staff.

In their presentation NGOs identified partners explained the objectives and activities of their project pre-proposals and discussed the expected outcomes of their work. Most proposals had the

NGOs for all 4 listed as project participants, with some NGOs listed on multiple proposals, especially those from Iran.

These presentations included:

- An introduction to methodologies for integrated water resource management in the South Caucasus (attached Annex 7, Russian only)
- Reducing of degradation in the Aras River based on Integrated Water Resources Management (attached Annex 8)
- Increasing the Level of Regional Cooperation in the Sphere of Transboundary Water Resources Management (attached Annex 9)
- Development of mechanisms for public participation in the water resources management process (attached Annex 10)
- Public monitoring for quality of drinking water from transboundary water bodies and standards for water using in the South Caucasus states (Attached Annex 11)
- Landscape Planning of the Kura-Aras Rivers Basin: Mapping sources for pollutants in the rivers basin, especially the impact of agricultural activity (attached Annex 12)
- Studies and Analysis of Agriculture Sector Influence on Kura-Aras River Basin Ecosystem (attached Annex 13)
- Strengthening the management and protection of shallow water lakes and wetlands of international importance in Kura-Aras Basin (attached Annex 14)
- Transboundary small rivers at the Kura-Aras river basin: problems and solutions for better management and protection (attached Annex 15)
- Founding Iranian National NGOs Forum Aras-Kura River Basin (INNF-AKRB), creation of internet network and site of Iranian NGOs and connection to CENN network and possibility building for Persian on CENN site (attached Annex 16)
- Reducing of degradation in the Aras River based on Integrated Water Resources Management (attached Annex 17)
- A Conceptual Method to Evaluate Environmental Flow in Rivers: An Approach to Healthy Rivers. (attached Annex 18)
- Project to draft a book on the Kura-Aras River Basin, the environmental and social challenges in river basin management
- Developing Models of Transboundary River Law for application in the Kura and Aras Basin
- Application of the EU WFD to the Kura and Aras River Basin Countries
- The Impact of Public Awareness on River Basin Management

The quality of the presentations was varied with some very strong, showing strong promise for future development and others in need of clarification of project objectives, and articulation of increased public involvement. Several pre-proposals required serious revision of project objectives to be eligible for consideration for funding opportunities. These pre-proposals will need additional development and support in order to become fully realizable, however, the event did provide the participants with an opportunity to improve their proposals for future consideration based on constructive comments from the donors. Additionally, the NGOs were encouraged to work together to create partnerships that included more than one NGO per country where appropriate, to strengthen proposals and to reduce redundancy of efforts.

At the conclusion of the NGO Forum meeting, evaluations were conducted. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive with strong feedback for the organizers. For the breakdown of the evaluations, please see Annex 19. The final participants list was also assembled, and is presented with contact information for participants, and is also present in groups of applications, based on initial NGO partnerships (Annex 20).

Next steps:

Project proposals

As the meeting concluded it was decided that a call for projects will be issued in December 2005 by the UNDP GEF project. This call will carefully define what is needed to suit the needs of the project, and to enhance the public involvement component of the demonstration projects to be

proposed as part of the full scale project for SAP implementation. It is anticipated that these proposals will also be informed by and developed in concert with the public involvement plan and communication strategy currently under development.

The due date for project pre-proposals will be late January. The proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the SHA/PIE for the project as well as by select Local and National Stakeholder Consultants who are not affiliated with groups submitting pre-proposals. These ranked pre-proposals will then be submitted to the Project CTA and the Project Steering Committee for final selection. Once these project pre-proposals are selected they will be developed in coordination with the large scale demonstration projects under development within the TDA/SAP process.

NGO Forum

As noted above, the members of the meeting decided to meet together, both in person when possible and virtually by e-mail, to decide on a mission, a governance structure and to draft a charter for the Kura-Aras NGO Forum. This work continues to be conducted, with regular updates shared with the UNDP/GEF project. In addition, the UNDP/GEF SHA/PIE has agreed to help identify sources of funding for the next NGO Forum meeting, to be organized by the NGOs themselves. It is anticipated that this meeting will be held in May or June of 2006, if possible. At the time of writing, financial support has been requested from the Eurasia Foundation, the OSCE Environmental Security Initiative and UNDP. Additional funding sources are also being considered.

ANNEX 1

Report on The Eurasia Foundation/ UNDP Workshop, by Mary M. Matthews, Public Involvement Expert and Stakeholder Analyst, UNDP/GEF Project on Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura Aras River Basin

Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management Workshop for Environmental NGOs in the Kura-Araks/Aras River Basin Gudauro, Georgia June 26-30, 2005

Executive Summary:

June 26-30 2005, the Eurasia Foundation and the UNDP/GEF project Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura Aras River Basin co hosted an NGO Forum workshop titled "Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management, Workshop for Environmental NGOs in the Kura-Araks/Aras River Basin". This workshop was attended by 8 NGOs from Armenia, 8 from Azerbaijan, 10 from Georgia, and 6 from I.R. Iran. The meeting was intended to reach the following objectives:

1. Introduction of objectives of the NGO community to the Transboundary River Management projects through Eurasia Foundation, and the introduction of the status, objectives, and role of the NGOs within the UNDP/GEF Transboundary Degradation of the Kura Aras River Basin. Other regional projects were also introduced and/or discussed.
2. Identification of priority issues and challenges for transboundary water management in the Kura and Aras Basin
3. Demonstrations of similar projects, both regionally and internationally that could serve to provide examples for collaborative project development.
4. Facilitating collaboration between NGOs for increased civil society participation in transboundary water management for the Caucasus
5. Support for project proposal development and presentations of pre-proposals

These objectives were accomplished during the period of the meeting, and are described within the body of this report, through the introduction, pre-meeting strategy, meeting highlights, and recommendations for follow on workshop in Autumn and other NGO forums. As a result of this meeting and as per agreements between the Eurasia Foundation and UNDP/GEF project, a second NGO Forum meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in November 2005, with subsequent meetings to be held with the establishment of a regional NGO Water Forum to support existing and future initiatives towards transboundary cooperation, pending availability of funding. The November meeting will allow NGO collaborative projects to be further developed and then presented to a select group of funders working on transboundary water management projects in the Kura and Aras River Basin. This report also includes recommendations for the next meeting and comments that may be useful for the planning of such meetings in other regions, or pertaining to other issues. Attached Annexes and support PowerPoint presentation are included in this report.

Introduction:

During the Inception Meeting for the UNDP/GEF Project Reducing Trans boundary Degradation of the Kura Aras River Basin in February 2005, it was suggested that the Eurasia Foundation and UNDP/GEF project team up to host two NGO Forums on involving civil society in water management, as both organizations has planned to conduct such a workshop, and by combining efforts there would be much needed collaboration within the donor community. It was decided that the Eurasia Foundation would formally host the first meeting in the early summer 2005, with a follow on meeting hosted by UNDP/GEF in the autumn of 2005. These meetings serve as the basis for the organization of a region wide Caucasus NGO Water Forum, which is intended to provide linkages between organizations within the regional NGO community, to facilitate transboundary water management projects and to provide important feedback to the international community on water management issues within the region.

The first workshop was held June 26 – 30 2005 in Gudauro Georgia. 32 NGO representatives were in attendance from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and I.R. Iran. During the workshop NGOs were introduced to the work of the Eurasia Foundation and the UNDP/GEF project on Transboundary Degradation of the Kura and Aras Basins. NGOs were asked to identify the priority challenges for transboundary water management including issues that were most dominant concerns. Following this, the issues were clustered into 9 major themes, and the NGOs then self-selected which they wanted to work on to form transboundary pilot project proposals. At the conclusion of the workshop 7 collaborative transboundary proposals were developed and the groups agreed to work further towards development of the projects. Evaluations of the

workshop were conducted and have been analyzed by the Eurasia Foundation staff. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 2005.

This report provides an overview of the pre-workshop preparation strategy, a review of the workshop including the outcomes and objectives, and summaries of the initial projects developed by the NGOs at the workshop. This is followed by a set of recommendations for the second meeting, and other such fora, to be formally hosted by the UNDP/GEF and Environmental Governance component.

Pre-workshop Strategy

The pre-workshop strategy was developed in coordination between Tim Turner, Rob O'Donnovan, Mary Matthews.

The dates were settled upon, a rough agenda was developed, and calls for letters of interests were distributed for the FSU Caucasus and a separate letter for IR Iran, due to USAID support for the workshop. (See Annexes 1a and 1b).

The criteria for selection were based on the qualifications outlined within the Call for Letter of Interest. These were ranked according to letters, criteria and previous involvement in Eurasia Foundation Activities. The criteria for NGOs from the 3 FSU countries were based on a 100 point scale ranking outlined in the criteria, (See Annex 2) and were decided upon by Eurasia Foundation Staff and Mary Matthews in the second week of June. Responses from I.R. Iran were sparse so NGOs were nominated by the NFP for inclusion in this workshop.

The rejection rate of applicants was fairly low, with most organizations applying being issued an invitation. Also, in several cases organizations who had not applied were invited to join because organizers felt that they would make a substantial contribution to the meeting. In total there were 8 NGOs from Armenia, 8 from Azerbaijan, 10 from Georgia, and 6 from I.R. Iran.

The subsequent week the meeting agenda was finalized by Rob O'Donnovan, with assistance from Mary Matthews and other Eurasia Foundation staff. (See Annex 3) Discussion between Rob and Mary were conducted, as co-facilitators on the expectations, objectives and strategies for each section of the meeting.

Workshop Highlights

The workshop commenced the morning of 27 June in Gudauri Georgia. Introductory presentations were made by Rob O'Donnovan, John Hansen (USAID) and Mary Matthews. Participants introduced one another following a brief introductory exercise. (see Annex 4 for participant list.)

There were 5 objectives to be achieved during the workshop. These were:

1. Introduction of objectives of the NGO community to the Transboundary River Management projects through Eurasia Foundation, and the introduction of the status, objectives, and role of the NGOs within the UNDP/GEF Transboundary Degradation of the Kura Aras River Basin. Other regional projects were also introduces and/or discussed.
2. Identification of priority issues and challenges for transboundary water management in the Kura and Aras Basin
3. Demonstrations of similar projects, both regionally and internationally that could serve to provide examples for collaborative project development.
4. Facilitating collaboration between NGOs for increased civil society participation in transboundary water management for the Caucasus
5. Support for project proposal development and presentations of pre-proposals

These objectives were reached within the scope of the workshop and with a general degree of success. This section will review how these objectives were met, the outcomes, and additional comments as necessary.

1. *Introduction of objectives of the NGO community to the Transboundary River Management projects through Eurasia Foundation, and the introduction of the status, objectives, and role of the NGOs within the UNDP/GEF Transboundary Degradation of the Kura Aras River Basin. Other regional projects were also introduces and/or discussed.*

This objective was met through the introduction of the projects, complimentary projects and related projects. In the first session, John Hansen of USAID joined the meeting and gave a brief introduction to the group about the upcoming USAID Water IQC that will compliment the UNDP/GEF project and work in the Debed and Alazani River Sub basins. Rob O'Donnovan and EF staff presented the Eurasia Foundation's South Caucasus Cooperation Programme (SCCP). Mary Matthews presented the UNDP/GEF project, as well as the UNDP/GEF Environmental Governance Project, the TDA/SAP process and the role of the NGOs and pilot projects within these. (See attached PowerPoint presentation "UNDP_TDA SAP presentation EF mtg.ppt")

Additional projects were discussed, and a presentation was made the final day by the Environment and Security Initiative presentation on the ENVSEC Initiative for the NGOs by Annica Carlson, Environmental Advisor, OSCE Secretariat.

These presentations were generally well received. The participants asked several questions, though generally were glad to get the information. The ENVSEC presentation drew consternation from the Iranian participants when they announced that the UNDP/GEF project fell under the auspices of their umbrella initiative. This was clarified by Mary Matthews during the presentation that these projects were collaborative, but that the ENVSEC project did not have precedence above the UNDP/GEF project.

2. Identification of priority issues and challenges for transboundary water management in the Kura and Aras Basin

This objective involved asking the participants to identify the issues that they feel are most pressing and challenges to effective transboundary water management in addressing these issues. Three groups were assigned to ensure variation among nationalities of NGOs. Each group discussed and debated these with the Eurasia Foundation staff facilitating each group, while Rob and Mary circulated among the groups to keep them on track and to answer questions. The groups were also asked to rank these as high, medium or low priorities, and present them to the full group. The groups identified about 17 issues and challenges each, for a total of approximately 50. Each of these were translated into Russian and English and presented to the full group.

Once these were identified there was a tendency among some members of the group to want to debate the legitimacy of several of them, however due to time constraints the facilitators decided to focus on the clustering the concerns, as many were similar and redundant.

Upon reflection it may have been preferable to give the full group time to discuss these issues. However it was not feasible because presentations had taken longer than anticipated, and in the facilitators felt that it was more important to move on to identification of clusters of concerns, which were completed independently by Mary Matthews. (See Annex 5 Clusters of Concerns)

It should be noted that the concerns listed by the NGOs were not those identified within the initial qualitative stakeholder analysis for the UNDP/GEF project. The NGOs were much more focused on macro level, policy and epistemic concerns, rather than those which local stakeholders articulated as top priorities. The primary difference was a lack of attention to access to drinking water supplies and clean water. This incongruity will be more fully addressed in the forthcoming qualitative stakeholder analysis report.

This discrepancy should be addressed in the next NGO Forum, both in the Calls for Letters of Interests and within the meeting itself, by asking for NGOs to submit pre-proposals that focus on local water management issues in a transboundary context, and through presentation of the qualitative SHA findings at the meeting.

3. Demonstrations of similar projects, both regionally and internationally that could serve to provide examples for collaborative project development.

During the course of the workshop, the Eurasia Foundation funded SCCP projects presented their completed project and served on a panel to discuss the biggest challenges and biggest successes they experienced while working on these projects. They also took questions from other workshop participants about their projects.

An additional presentation was made regarding transboundary water management and river law by Mary Matthews. This presentation was to couch the work being done here within the larger context of these efforts, and to provide cases for comparison. (See attached PowerPoint presentation "International Rivers and Management Practices.ppt")

These presentations were rated as generally helpful by the workshop participants, and could be repeated in similar contexts, perhaps expanding beyond the earlier presentation to further provide both guidance and inspiration to potential projects.

4. Facilitating collaboration between NGOs for increased civil society participation in transboundary water management for the Caucasus

A key objective of the workshop was to help NGOs develop linkages for transboundary projects. This was accomplished through holding the meeting, creating circumstances for mixing groups and incentives for their cooperation and collaboration. In a number of cases these pending partners were already familiar with each other through other workshops, activities and even collaboration during the Soviet era. As a result it was quite a positive experience for working together.

Once the clusters of concerns were identified, as discussed above under objective 2, groups self selected to work together on different issues. Over all there was wide variation among group membership and they were eager to develop transboundary ties. In some cases, projects that had already begun the process added NGOs, especially in the case of the members of the Iranian delegation who were welcomed into the other groups.

As an aside, there were several NGO representatives who were not included in groups with whom they had previously been affiliated and were therefore encouraged to establish new linkages. Others were not clear that project pre-proposals to be developed were for realistic and feasible projects. As such, it may be noted that for future meetings this should be spelled out even more explicitly. In the case of the autumn NGO forum, calls for Letters of Interest should explicitly ask for pre-proposal drafts, with the understanding that these will be presented to potential donors at the end of the meeting.

5. Support for project proposal development and presentations of pre-proposals

As a result of the incentives for collaboration, the NGOs worked closely over the time frame of the workshop to develop an initiate pre-proposal of their project ideas. These followed the outlines provided by CENN (Caspian Environmental NGO Network) and Eurasia Foundations SCCP staff. Seven presentations were made the final day of the meeting by groups eager to further develop their ideas for future funding possibilities. Briefly, these projects were:

- a. Expansion of a Radio Bridge Project, consisting of national radio stations from the Caucasus and now including Iran, to feature water management issues, interviews, news stories and other public awareness building efforts.
- b. Working towards harmonizing legislation to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive with creation of basin councils.
- c. NGO cooperation on publication of A Journal of Water Management in the Caucasus, with intention to appeal to both an academic and expert audience, and a supplementary publication aimed at a wide audience that focuses on increase stakeholder awareness and activities.
- d. Increasing the level of regional cooperation in water management through increasing local capacity, expansion of CENN informational centers to all 4 countries, creation of a data base of information on the Kura and Aras river and stakeholder analysis, and expansion of further cooperative efforts.
- e. Bring local stakeholders into transboundary reservoir management in the Aras basin with active educational components for coastal zone residents.
- f. Increase public involvement in Kura and Aras river protection through increased civil society involvement, legislative acts, information gathering, public awareness building, and film making.
- g. Project on wetland protection and meeting the standards for Ramsar Convention through increased public involvement and training to include working with farmers on agrochemical uses, development of cartoons for children, films highlighting public involvement, and alternate approaches for increasing public involvement identified through research
- h. Identification of means to involve public in Integrated Water Resource Management through examining actual conditions, holding round table discussions with stakeholders, involving international experts etc.

The workshop concluded with an evaluation to be completed by the participants. (See Annex 6)

The evaluations were largely positive and constructive. Future workshop will incorporate these comments in the initial planning stages.

Recommendations for follow on workshop in Autumn and other NGO forums:

- The Azeri delegation requested that we hold next meeting after Azerbaijan elections Nov. 6. This was generally, though informally agreed to.
- Liaise with USAID, Eurasia Foundation, ENVSEC, OSCE, perhaps EU, GTZ, and others to ask what types of water projects with NGOs they are interested in supporting.
- Put out call for Letters of Interest through CENN and others including USAID umbrella organizations, UNDP Country Web pages, and other donor communities, as possible. As much lead time as possible will be needed for this in order to allow groups to prepare projects, submit proposals and for workshop organizers to review materials.
- In the Call for Letters of Interest address specific concerns based on SHA, and UNDP/GEF project needs such as:
 - Drinking water
 - Public education about water management at the home and village level
 - Public health and water issues
 - Water management strategies at the local level for pilot projects
- In the Call for Letters of Interest ask for developed pre-proposals to be refined during second meeting to include:
 - Organizations involved in the project with contact information and CVs for each
 - A brief, 1 paragraph description of the proposed project
 - A clear set of objectives and activities to meet these objectives, including time frame and estimated budget
 - A list of current or potential funding sources
 - A paragraph on how this project will meet the requirements of the funding projects.
- Suggested agenda items for the November/autumn meeting
 - NGO Forum charter and possible sources for future funding
 - NGO linkages and national NGO water groups
 - Extending to include other organizations at the national level (what types etc.)
 - Possible topics to be addressed? Working with media, finding support, concerns of funders regarding NGOs and NGO management etc.
 - Projects database and project review support
 - Lessons learnt
 - Session on how to prepare proposals (winning proposals)
 - Proposal reviewers panel
 - What types of grants are available (micro grants) etc.
 - Strengthening CVs
 - Proposal development strategies
 - Session on project proposal presentations with critique from others
 - Proposal refinement
 - Presentation to group based on comments (tighter presentation)
 - Final afternoon, presentation to UNDP, USAID, Eurasia Foundation and perhaps other organizations as appropriate.

Conclusion

The workshop over all was felt to be quite successful. There were some areas where timing was tighter than perhaps it should have been to allow for participants to have open full group discussions about issues and challenges of water management. However, the full evaluations were quite positive from both the NGO participants and the workshop organizers. Such workshops may be conducted in the future beyond the November meeting and should perhaps at that stage be done in conjunction with the Eurasia Foundation, and perhaps other organizations seeking to improve transboundary water management.

The author wished to thank the staff of the Eurasia Foundation for their excellent support, collaboration and input into this effort, including compilation of the evaluations, and culminating in this report.

(Additional Annexes from this report available upon request to mary.matthews@tethysconsultants.com)



Call for Letters of Interest

The UNDP/GEF “Reducing Transboundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin” project and the Eurasia Foundation’s South Caucasus Cooperation Program (SCCP) call for letters of interest to participate in a second international workshop entitled “Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management – NGO Forum” is detailed in this document. The workshop will serve to further facilitate transboundary cooperation in project development for NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and I.R. Iran.

This meeting follows an initial NGO Meeting held in June 2005, and participants from that workshop are encouraged to apply to further strengthen the partnerships created there or since then. In addition, new transboundary NGO Partnerships are also encouraged to apply, with 2, 3 or 4 country cooperative project proposals. Each NGO should submit an individual Letter of Interest that clearly indicates partner organizations, project title and project objective. A brief cover Letter of Interest, less than 1 page in length, should accompany the completed application form (attached below). Applicants should also submit a copy of their CV with the letter of interest and application form.

The workshop will take place in Gudauri, Georgia, on 13-16 November, 2005. The working languages of the workshop will be English with simultaneous translation into Russian provided. The expenses of the participants, including travel, accommodation, and meals, will be covered by UNDP.

During the workshop participants will be updated on the progress of the cross-border projects that the UNDP/GEF Project “Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura and Aras River” and the Eurasia Foundation’s South Caucasus Cooperation Program (SCCP) are seeking to support in the area of management of transboundary water resources in the South Caucasus. We will also share innovative approaches to raising public awareness of environmental issues and stakeholder involvement in International Waters Projects, as part of a global study on public participation in international water projects.

Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the draft charter for the future “Kura-Aras NGO Water Forum” and take part in a follow-on plenary discussion of venues for NGO involvement in managing transboundary water resources in the Kura-Aras river basin. Discussions will include the establishment of the NGO forum, management and rules of procedure, and financing strategies.

Workshop participants will have an opportunity to meet together to further refine their collaborative efforts on proposed projects and given support in proposal development, with the aim of seeking additional funding for full proposal development. Accepted project pre-proposals will feature increased public awareness and local stakeholder involvement in transboundary water resource management. It is anticipated that selected pilot projects will be implemented in the next phase of the project, with support through the UNDP/GEF project development and/or SCCP.

Proposed projects should address the following issue(s) within a transboundary context:

- Improved access to drinking water
- Public education about sustainable water management at the home and village/community level
- River health and water issues impacting human populations with stakeholder involvement
- Water management strategies at the local level for pilot projects to include improvement and rehabilitation of local infrastructure
- Public involvement in water monitoring for local and transboundary issues

- Integration of multiple water uses, including irrigation, household use and waste disposal
- Communication and local management strategies for transboundary flood responses and/or healthy river use

Representatives from non-governmental organizations from throughout the Kura Aras River Basin with activities in the sphere of environmental protection or related water resource management are invited to submit letters of interest.

Please clearly indicate the other NGOs you intend to work with, and encourage them to apply individually. It is important that we receive applications from each partner NGO in order to make best use of our available funds. Section B of the application form may be duplicated among project partners.

Electronic versions of letters of interest and CVs should be submitted to mary.matthews@tethysconsultants.com, with copies (cc) to: Julie@eurasia.org.ge and mariam.shotadze@undp.org

For program questions, please contact: mary.matthews@tethysconsultants.com, and rodonovan@eurasia.org.ge

For logistical questions nestan.khuntsaria@undp.org, mochigava@kura-aras.ge with cc to: mariam.shotadze@undp.org

The deadline for submitting letters of interest is 5 pm on Friday, 28 October, 2005. Participants will be notified of their acceptance by 4 November, 2005.



Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management – NGO Forum

Workshop for Environmental NGOs in the Kura-Araks/Aras Basin

**Gudauri, Georgia
November 13-16, 2005**

- Attending:** Representatives of Environmental NGOs from Kura-Araks/Aras River Basin Countries
- Date:** November 13-16, 2005
- Location:** Gudauri, Hotel Gudauri, Tel: +995 (32) 20-29-00
- Working languages:** English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation
- Organizers:** UNDP Reducing Transboundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin – Environmental Governance Project
The Eurasia Foundation's South Caucasus Cooperation Program
- Participants:** Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, and Iranian NGOs

Program:

Saturday, November 12

Travel Schedule

- 03:20 Iranian participants depart Tehran
- 05:10 Iranian participants arrive Baku
- 10:30 Iranian participants depart Baku on AZAL flight
- 11:50 Iranian participants arrive Tbilisi on AZAL flight
- 12:30 Iranian participants arrive at Hotel VIP Victoria, Tel. +995 (32) 29-18-77
- 20:25 Azerbaijan participants (Group 1) depart Baku by train

Sunday, November 13

Travel Schedule

- 06:00 Armenian participants depart Yerevan on minibus
- 08:00 Azerbaijan participants (Group 2) depart Baku on AZAL flight
- 09:20 Azerbaijan participants (Group 2) arrive Tbilisi on AZAL flight
- 10:30 Azerbaijan (Group 2), Georgian and Iran participants meet at Hotel VIP Victoria (3 Arakashvili 1st Alley) and depart for Gudauri by bus
- 11:00 Azerbaijan participants (Group 1) arrive Tbilisi on train, depart directly from train station in minibus for Gudauri (Arrival time approximate)
- 13:00 All participants arrive Gudauri, Hotel Gudauri

Check into rooms and have lunch

Time available for project groups to meet together informally

- 17:00 Welcome and opening of workshop
- Mary Matthews, Public Involvement Expert and Stakeholder Analyst, UNDP Transboundary water project
 - Rob O'Donovan, Regional Director, South Caucasus Cooperation Program, Eurasia Foundation
- 17:10 Overview of meeting agenda and expectations, Mary and Rob present
- 17:20 Introduction of participants, Rob facilitates
- 18:00 Introduction of projects, Mary facilitates
- 19:00 Presentation on program of UNDP Reducing Transboundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin – Environmental Governance Project, Mary presents
- 19:20 Day 1 wrap-up
- 19:30 Dinner

Monday, November 14

- 10:00 NGO Forums in International Waters Projects, Mary presents
- Case studies of the Black Sea, Danube and Dnipro NGO forums
- 10:30 Open discussion of NGO Forum mission and objectives, Mary and Rob facilitate
- 11:30 Small group discussion of NGO Forum, potential topics for discussion:
- Mandate and potential activities for NGO Forum in Kura-Araks/Aras river basin
 - NGO Forum charter or other founding document
 - Possible structures of NGO Forum Secretariat
 - NGO linkages and collaborative national NGO water management groups
 - Funding of an NGO Forum
 - NGO Forum communication strategies
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 NGO Forum small group discussions continue
- 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:30 Presentations of working group ideas and discussion, Rob facilitates
- 17:50 Day 2 wrap-up
- 18:00 Dinner

Evening – Optional recreational time in the Hotel Gudauri Night Bar

Tuesday, November 15

- 10:00 International Organization Presentations, Rob facilitates
- Findings from Qualitative Stakeholder Analysis for UNDP/GEF Kura-Aras Project, Mary presents

- Presentation of USAID Trans-boundary Integrated Water Resource Management project, Sergio Claire of PA Consulting presents
- 11:00 – 15:00 Participants break into project groups to further develop project proposals
- Participants break for lunch between 13:00 and 14:30 when it's convenient for their project group
 - Informal project consultations available from UNDP Stakeholder Consultants and Eurasia Foundation staff
 - Proposal refinement (groups break out to make amendments to proposals – written and presented format)
- 15:00 Project presentations
- 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:30 Project presentations continue
- 18:00 Day 3 wrap-up
- 19:30 SUPRA

Wednesday, November 16

- 10:00 NGO Feedback, Mary facilitates
- Next steps for the NGO Forum
- 11:50 Day 4 wrap-up
- 12:30 Depart Gudauri

Travel Schedule

- 12:30 Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iran participants depart Gudauri by bus
Armenia participants depart Gudauri by minibus
- 14:30 Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iran participants arrive Tbilisi by bus at Hotel VIP Victoria
- 16:40 Azerbaijan participants (Group 2) depart Tbilisi on AZAL flight
- 18:00 Azerbaijan participants (Group 2) arrive Baku on AZAL flight
- 18:45 Azerbaijan participants (Group 1) depart Tbilisi by train
- 19:30 Armenia participants arrive Yerevan by minibus

Thursday, November 17

- 11:00 Azerbaijan participants (Group 1) arrive Baku by train
- 16:40 Iran participants depart Tbilisi on AZAL flight
- 18:00 Iran participants arrive Baku on AZAL flight
- 22:00 Iran participants depart Baku
- 23:00 Iran participants arrive Tehran

**Application Form – please return with your Letter of Interest
 “Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management – NGO Forum”**

Section A	<u>A.1 Project Title:</u>	<u>A.2 NGO and Country:</u>
	<u>A.3 Partner NGOs and Countries:</u>	<u>A.4 Contact information for NGO:</u>
Section B	<u>B.1 Issue(s) addressed:</u>	
	<u>B.2 Description of the proposed project with emphasis on <i>transboundary</i> components:</u>	
	<u>B.3 Objectives:</u>	<u>B.4 Activities to meet these objectives:</u>
	<u>B.5 Time frame:</u>	<u>B.6 Estimated budget:</u>
	<u>B.7 How will this project meet the requirements of the funding projects, for enhanced civil society involvement and public participation in transboundary water management?</u>	

For Annexes 4 through 18, please see Attached ZIP File PowerPoint Presentations:

ANNEX 4, NGO Forums in International Waters Projects.

ANNEX 5, Presentation on UNDP GEF and SHA for NGO Forum.ppt

ANNEX 6, USAID South Caucasus Water Program WP Presentation 11.15.05.ppt

ANNEX 7, CWP-Armenia.ppt

ANNEX 8, FINAL IRAN PROP.1.doc

ANNEX 9, Increasing the Level of Regional Cooperation in the.ppt

ANNEX 10, kura araks.ppt

ANNEX 11, Presentation1.ppt

ANNEX 12, Presentation of Farida's project.ppt

ANNEX 13, Presentation.ppt

ANNEX 14, ramsar.ppt

ANNEX 15, Transboundary small rivers at the Kura Araz river.ppt

ANNEX 16, Creation of Natinoly Forume of Iranian.ppt

ANNEX 17, Aras-.ppt

ANNEX 18_NGO-1st Project-Yasi.ppt

Please contact Mary Matthews for Zip Files of presentations.

E-mail: mary.matthews@tethysconsultants.com



THE EURASIA
FOUNDATION



**Involving Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resource Management
Workshop for Environmental NGOs in the Kura-Araks/Aras River Basin
Gudauri, Georgia
November 13 - 16, 2005**

Results of Evaluation Questionnaire

Respondents, by country of origin: Armenia: 6
Azerbaijan: 7
Georgia: 5
Iran: 6
Not indicated: 6

Number of respondents, total: 30

On a scale of 1 – 5 with 5 being the strongest agreement and 1 being the weakest, please indicate your opinion of this event:

2. The event met my expectations.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.65	0	0	2	4	24	30

3. The facilitators were helpful to the process.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.26	0	1	3	11	15	30

4. There was enough time to meet and speak with colleagues.

Average	1	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.39	0	0	5	8	17	30

5. The presentations of the donor projects was helpful to me.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.37	0	1	5	6	17	30

6. I would like to participate in a similar event in the future.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.87	0	0	1	3	26	30

7. I feel an ongoing regional NGO Forum on Water Issues would be helpful.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.71	0	0	2	7	21	30

8. I have made new contacts that will be helpful to my work in the future.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.64	0	1	1	9	19	30

9. On the whole, the workshop logistics were well organized.

Average:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total:
4.67	1	0	2	7	20	30

10. Which of the sessions during this event was most useful? Why?

- Presentations of projects
- Meeting in the night bar
- commentary on projects from Mary and Rob
- whole meeting
- Presentation of USAID tranboundary water problems
- presentations by Mary
- Introduction of projects
- meetings between the sessions at breaks
- Connection to other NGOs and donor
- presentations of projects
- presentations of project much new and important
- 15 Nov presentations of international organizations
- Presentation in UNDP and presentation on project
- Everything was great
- Presentation of proposals, comments on the revision of the proposals
- Presentation of the projects because of diversity of problems
- Presentations of projects
- Participants and groups were very constructive workshop
- Session presented with donor organizations was most useful, work carried out presented in a detailed way, future plans on so on
- Presentations of projects and new information
- Presentation on UNDP and comments on project
- Presentations on projects, This was very important to discuss problems in all regions with water ecology and resources
- Everything was great
- Presentation of all project and work of Mary and Rob
- Session on establishing NGO Forum

11. Which of the sessions during this even was least useful? Why?

- NGO Forum and small group discussion
- group work
- organization and translation at the Supra
- Group discussions because of shifting from English to Russian
- presentation of proposals
- I find it difficult to define the most useful events during the workshop as all meeting is most exclusively useful with new information and contacts

ANNEX 20

NGO FORUM PARTICIPANTS LIST

1.	Sustainable Water Environment, Armenia	Arevik Hovsepyan*	swe_hasmik@yahoo.com , alriva@web.am
2.	Sustainable Water Environment, Armenia	Alice Savadyan	social@parliament.am
3.	International Scientific-Research Centre on Water, Climatic and Recreational Resources	Trahel Gerasim Vardanian	tvardanian@ysu.am ; isrc_wcrr@ysu.am
4.	Association "For Sustainable Human Development", Armenia	Knarik Hovhannisyan	aquaec@web.am , argev@web.am
5.	Environmental Public Advocacy Center (EPAC) NGO- Armenia	Aida Iskoyan**	<epac@arminco.com>
6.	NGO “Environmental Survival”	Dr. Susanna Hakobyan	esu@sci.am
7.	Greens Union of Armenia (Armenia)	Madlena Babayan	armgreen@ipia.sci.am
8.	All Armenian Union of Women	Inessa Gabayan	inessa_gabayan@yahoo.com
9.	Sociological Association of Armenia	Gevorg Pogosyan	gevork@sci.am
10.	Ecolex-Azerbaijan	Samir Isayev	chairman@ecolex-az.org
11.	Azerbaijani Agri-Input Dealers Association	Nizami Garayev	aktivta@baku.az
12.	“Society of Regional Studies of Azerbaijan”	Aydin Eyvazov	aydineyvazov@yahoo.com , aydint@azeronline.com
13.	Ruzgar	Ayyub karimov	IMustafaev@iatp.az
14.	“Azerbaijan Greens Movement”	Farida Huseynova	azgrem@mail.ru
15.	“Caspian – Partnership for the Future”	Rustam Mamedov	rustam38@azeronline.com , rustam-mamedov59@box.az
16.	Ecological Stability (ECOS) NGO - Azerbaijan	Aytan Poladova	aytanpoladova@yahoo.com
17.	TETA “Khazri”, Azerbaijan	Lidiya Mikhailovna GULUZADA	lidiya@bakinter.net ; teta-xazri@rambler.ru
18.	Little Town- Georgia	Gigoria Zamukashvili	dgeorge@yandex.ru
19.	Association “Caucasus Meridian” -- Georgia	Alex Tsukilashvili	alex_tsuk@yahoo.com
20.	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)	Irina Kitiashvili	info@cenn.org
21.	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)	Nana Janashia	info@cenn.org
22.	“Academy of Ecological Sciences of the Georgia”	George Kordzakhia	g.kordzakhia@web-sat.com
23.	The Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth	Rusudan Simonidze	info@greens.ge
24.	International Center for Environmental Research	Grigol (Gia) Abramia	icfer@icfer.org
25.	International Scientific-Research Centre on Water, Climatic and Recreational Resources, Armenia	Guram Grigolia	hydro_tgu@yahoo.com
26.	“Rural Investment Support”	Besarion Partskhania	lalibatadze@mail.ru
27.	Gordian agricultural production cooperation IRAN	Hashem Sadrmousavi	Hashem_sadrmousavi@yahoo.com
28.	Student Society of Water Engineering, Urmia University, Iran (SSWE-UU-IR).	Mehdi YASI (Mr.)	m_yasi@yahoo.com
29.	Scientific Board Society of Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (SBS-RIFR)	Ali SALAHI (Mr.)	ali.salahi@rifr-ac.ir

30.	Women Society Against Environmental Pollution West Azerbaijan - Iran	Mehdieh MOSTAFAPOUR SHADLOUISOFLA (Ms.)	m_pourshad@yahoo.com
31.		Behrouz SEYYEDI VAFAEI (Mr.)	behrouz_sv@yahoo.com
32.		Saeid TAMANNA (Mr.)	said_tam2003@yahoo.com
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37.	UNDP/GEF Stakeholder Consultant AZ	Teyyub Ismayilov	teyyubismayilov@yahoo.com
38.	Eurasia Foundation, Regional Director, South Caucasus Cooperation Program	Rob O'Donovan	rodonovan@eurasia.org.ge
39.	Eurasia Foundation, Program Coordinator, South Caucasus Cooperation Program	Lela Ksovreli	lela@eurasia.org.ge
40.	PA Consulting/ Chief of Party USAID Water IQC	Sergio Claude	Sergio.Claude@PAConsulting.com
41.	Project Manager, UNDP/GEF Kura Aras Project	Malkhaz Adeishvili	madeishvili@caucasus.net
42.	Project Coordinator, UNDP/Sida Kura-Aras Project, Georgia	Maia Ochigava	mochigava@kura-aras.ge
43.	Translator	Ivane Menteshashvili	ivanem@posta.ge
44.	Translator	Micheal Mishnianidze	lingvoexpress@hotmail.com

** unable to attend due to health concerns

Participants by NGO collaborative project pre-proposals

Country appl #	Project Title	NGO Prop	NGO Contact
AZ.5	Cooperation in South Caucasus for harmonization of water legislation	"Caspian – Partnership for the Future"	Heydar Gambarov
GE.1	Cooperation in South Caucasus for harmonization of water legislation	Association "Caucasus Meridian" -- Georgia	Alex Tsukilashvili
IR.4	Women Society Against Environmental Pollution West Azerbaijan - Iran		
AR.1	Development of Mechanisms for Public Participation in Water Resources Management Process	Sustaiaable Water Environment, Armenia	Arevik Hovsepyan
AR.1	Development of Mechanisms for Public Participation in Water Resources Management Process	Sustaiaable Water Environment, Armenia	Alice Savadyan
IR.2	Evaluation of Sediment Transport Capacity of Main Rivers Discharging to the Aras River from the Iranian Side.	Student Society of Water Engineering, Urmia University, Iran (SSWE-UU-IR).	Dr Mehdi Yasi
AR.6	Improved access to drinking water	Environmental Public Advocacy Center (EPAC) NGO-Armenia	Aida Iskoyan

AZ	Improved access to drinking water	Ecolex-Azerbaijan	Contact forthcoming
GE	Improved access to drinking water	Little Town- Georgia	Contact forthcoming
AR.7	Increasing the Level of Regional Cooperation in the Sphere of Transboundary of Water Resources Management	NGO “Environmental Survival”	DR. SUSANNA HAKOBYAN
AZ.12	Increasing the Level of Regional Cooperation in the Sphere of Transboundary of Water Resources Management	“Society of Regional Studies of Azerbaijan”	Aydin Eyvazov
GE.2	Increasing the Level of Regional Cooperation in the Sphere of Transboundary of Water Resources Management	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)	Irina KITIASHVILI
AR.2	Public monitoring for quality of drinking water from transboundary water bodies and standards for water using in the South Caucasus states.	Association "For Sustainable Human Development", Armenia	Knarik Hovhannisyan
AZ.9	Public monitoring for quality of drinking water from transboundary water bodies and standards for water using in the South Caucasus states.	TETA “Khazri” , Azerbaijan	Lidiya Mikhailovna GULUZADA
GE.4	Public monitoring for quality of drinking water from transboundary water bodies and standards for water using in the South Caucasus states.	“Academy of Ecological Sciences of the Georgia”	George Kordzakhia
IR.5	Public-Environmental inventory of pollution sources of Aras River and organizing of public movement for its protection	Initiative group leader: Dr Behrouz Vafaei	
AZ.2	Public-Environmental inventory of pollution sources of Araz river and Organizing of public movement for its protection	Ruzgar	Islam Mustafayev and Fexreddin Mamedov
IR.3	Scientific Board Society of Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (SBS-RIFR)	ali.salahi@rifr-ac.ir	
AR.8	River Kura-Araks Basin and South Caucasus	Greens Union of Armenia (Armenia)	
GE.5	River Kura-Araks Basin and South Caucasus/“River Kura-Araksi and South Caucasus “	The Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth	Rusudan Simonidze
AZ.6	River Kura-Araks Basin and South Caucasus/The Issue of Transboundary Mountainous Small Rivers, their Protection and Management	Ecological Stability (ECOS) NGO - Azerbaijan	Aytan Poladova
AZ.1	Strengthening the management and protection of shallow water lakes and wetlands of international importance in Kura-Araks Region	Azerbaijani Agri-Input Dealers Association	Nizami Garayev
GE.6	Strengthening the management and protection of shallow water lakes and wetlands of international importance in Kura-Araks Region	International Center for Environmental Research	Grigol (Gia) Abramia
GE.9	Studies and analysis of agriculture sector influence on Kura-Aras River Basin ecosystem	“Rural Investment Support”	Lali Tabatadze
AZ.3	Studies and analysis of agriculture sector influence on Kura-Araz River Basin ecosystem	“Azerbaijan Greens Movement”	Farida Huseynova
AR.9	Studies and analysis of agro sector influence on Kura-Aras river basin ecosystem	All Armenian Union of Women	Inessa Gabayan
IR.1	Gordian agricultural production cooperation IRAN		
AR.10	The Issue of Transboundary Mountainous Small Rivers, their Protection and Management	International Scientific-Research Centre on Water, Climatic and Recreational Resources, Armenia	Trahel Gerasim Vardanian
GE.7	The Issue of Transboundary Mountainous Small Rivers, their Protection and	International Scientific-Research Centre on Water,	Guram Grigolia

	Management	Climatic and Recreational Resources, Armenia	
IR.6			Saeid TAMANNA