

EUWI+ supports

River basin management plan

ALAZANI-IORI RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

in Georgia



Alazani-Iori River Basin District

12,038 km² Total catchment area

2 rivers

314,700

Inhabitants in Kakheti
(8.4% of total population)

80%

inhabitants live in rural areas
9 urban settlements, 333 villages
villages in Kakheti are densely populated

22%

arable land
315,499 ha of total agriculture land is irrigated

9

small and medium-sized HPPs with
ongoing construction of 6 HPPs



198970 ha Protected areas

6 strict nature reserves

2 national parks

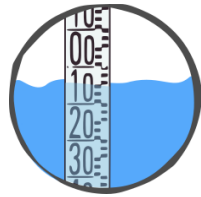
3 nature monuments

5 managed reserves

1 protected landscape in Kakheti region



Water Quantity



357.6

million m³ abstracted per year

from surface water sources : 93.25%
from groundwater sources: 6.75%

48%

of communities supplied with drinking water

The rest are self-supplied

83% of drinking water is abstracted from
groundwater bodies

2 largest water users

1) Hydropower sector is the largest
92% of water abstraction in 2016,
water demand is increasing:

9 small and medium-sized operational HPPs
construction of additional 20 HPPs planned by 2050

2) Irrigation sector is the second largest

 **50%** water loss from the irrigation system

The main irrigation method is surface irrigation
via canals and ditches. Part of the irrigation
systems is out of order and needs rehabilitation

Water Quality



90%

of the population have **no access** to the sewer system



none of the sewer system is equipped with wastewater treatment plants: sewage is directly discharged either onto agricultural lands or into the River Alazani and tributary rivers.

5

water quality monitoring stations

3 in the Alazani basin
2 in the Iori basin

4 main sources of pollution

Untreated wastewater (about **90%** of total volume discharged into surface waters is untreated)



Agriculture is the main source of diffuse pollution. An area of 895.25km² (89,525 ha) is affected by diffuse agricultural pollution (crop production), and possibly as much as 1,252.56 (125,256 ha) km².

Landfills in the Alazani-Iori river basin. None of the landfills are equipped with leachate and storm water collection systems (drainage systems) or treatment plants



Sand and gravel mining are major economic activities in all the municipalities of Kakheti

Main issues identified

WATER QUALITY

- pollution from absence of sewage network in the region
- pollution from absence of wastewater treatment plants
- diffuse pollution from agriculture (fertilizers, manure)



AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

- Disturbance of environmental flow due to absence of norms and standards.



WATER QUANTITY

- Poor condition of irrigation systems
- Poor condition of drinking water supply system

Every drop counts



Lack of monitoring data on the quality and quantity of water.



RISKS

- landslides
- mudflow
- erosion



WATER GOVERNANCE



Proposed Measures

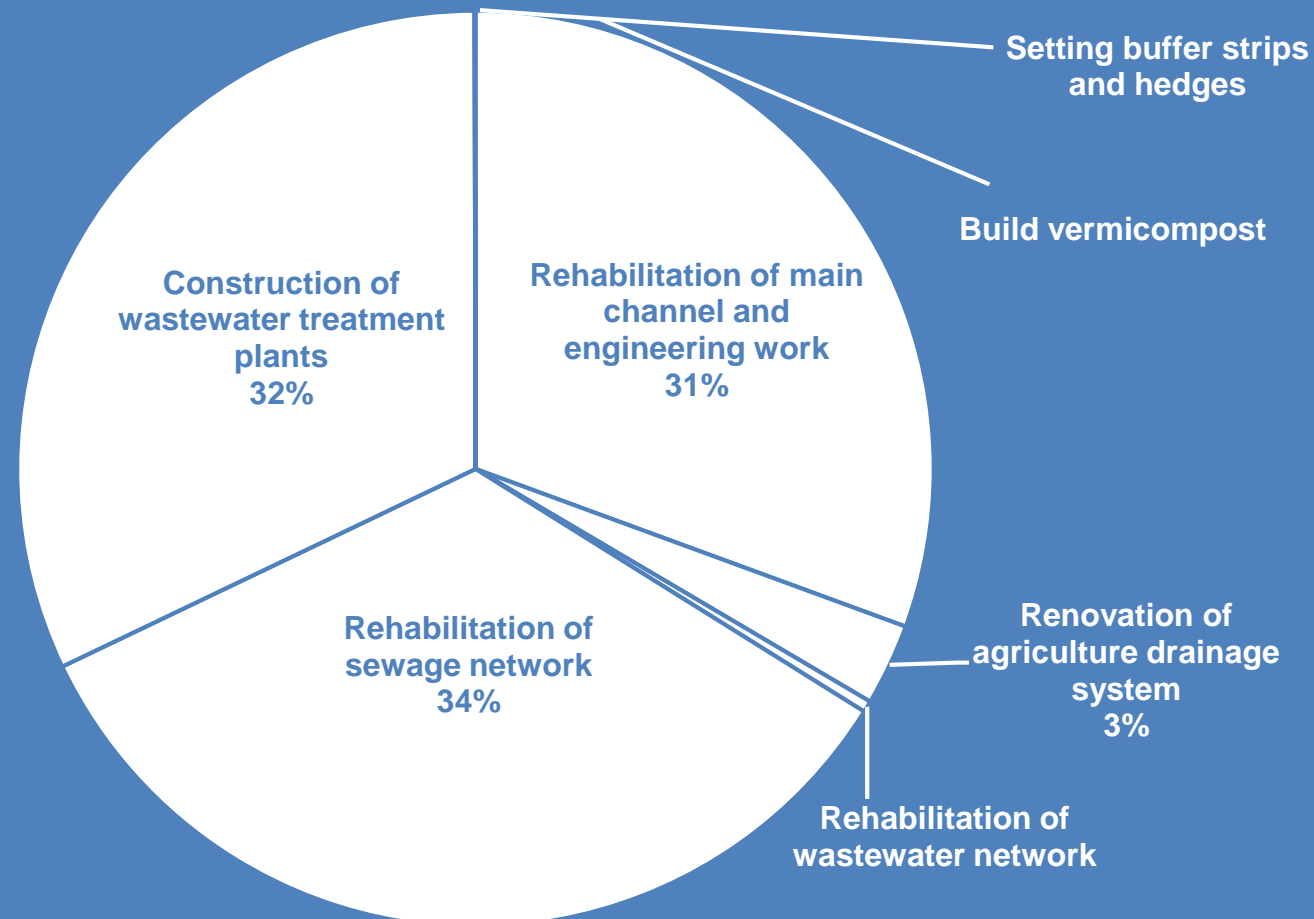
Basic Measures

- Rehabilitation of sewage network
- Construction of wastewater treatment plant
- Implementation of water monitoring programme
- Renovation of agriculture drainage system
- Installation of buffer strips and hedges
- Establishment of vermicompost
- Rehabilitation of main channel and engineering work

Supplementary Measures

- Implementation of water monitoring programme
- Monitoring of sand-gravel enterprises
- Controlling of water volume
- Training of farmers to use water efficiently
- Public campaigns promoting efficient water use by domestic customers
- Creation of sanitary protection zones
- Monitoring of illegal landfills
- Strengthening of hydrological monitoring system
- Research to assess current and potential climate change impact on water bodies

COST ESTIMATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC MEASURES



River Basin management Plan in Georgia



Balance between Georgian regulations and the European Water Framework Directive (WFD)

A river basin management plan = an operative document featuring all information on water, water uses, pollution, objectives and programme of measures



Characterisation
of the River basin



WFD working method



River Basin Management Plan
(RBMP)



EUWI+ supports Georgian water Institutions to elaborate and update their river basin management plans with

- ★ Latest EU methodologies
- ★ Accredited equipment for laboratories
- ★ Capacity building of experts and stakeholders
- ★ Knowledge transfer and regional exchange of practices.

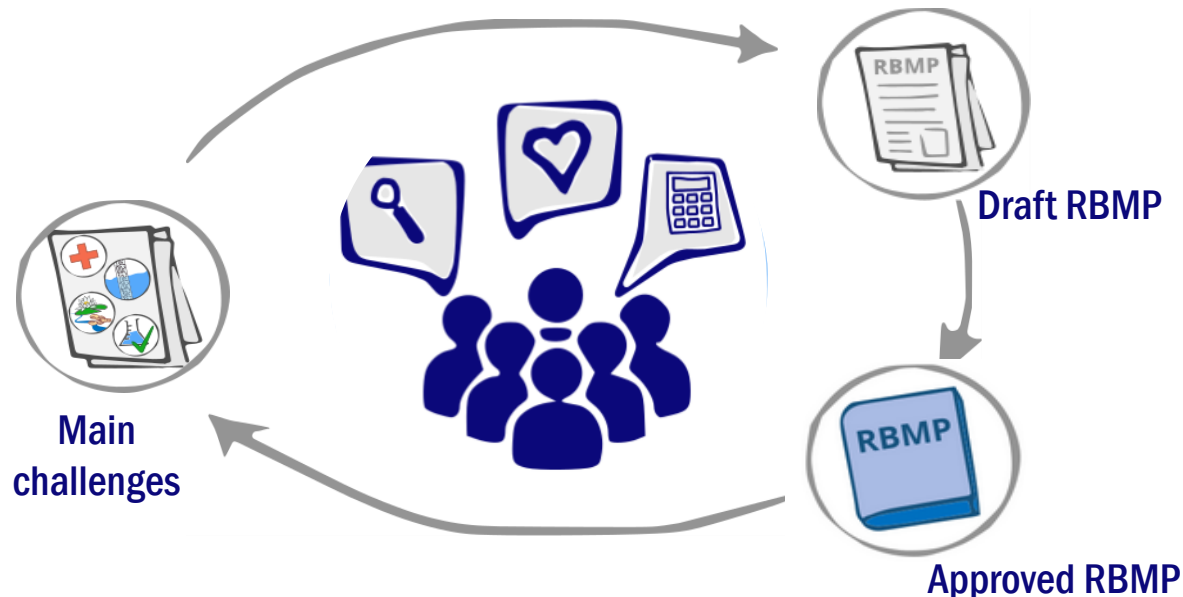
You are concerned as well!

March 2019

1st public consultation
on main issues & work programme

June- July 2020

2nd public consultation on
draft River Basin Management Plan



Who is consulted?

- All players concerned, including NGOs and local communities involved in water management activities.

Alazani-Iori River Basin Management involves representatives from:

- Ministries
- Water users,
- Research centres and scientific academies
- Public associations & NGOs
- International programmes

Why? To plan investment and achieve long-term environmental objectives



Save the dates!

River basin management plan timeline

**2020 -
2026**

1st cycle of river basin management plan established with the support of EUWI+

By 2020, two additional River Basin Management Plans ready for adoption

**2026 -
2032**

Update of the river basin management plan: 2024-2026

Implementation of the 2nd plan



WFD introduces a six-year cycle of river basin management planning, updated every six years thereafter.

Next cycle...

European Union Water Initiative for Eastern Partnership EUWI+

support Water Policy Reforms
to improve Water Resources Management
with the Water Framework Directive (WFD)



- ★ European Water Framework Directive, an innovative approach to water protection
- ★ Water resource management through a river basin management plan
- ★ Active participation of all players concerned, including NGOs and local communities involved in water management activities.

6

countries



ARMENIA



AZERBAIJAN



REPUBLIC
BELARUS



GEORGIA



REPUBLIC
MOLDOVA



UKRAINE

10

River Basin districts

30

million inhabitants

Sep. 2016 – Feb. 2021



Alazani-Iori River Basin Factsheet - Georgia



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