

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

Georgia

12 September 2023



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

Prepared by:

SDG 6.5.1 focal point/facilitator: Nika Gogatishvili,
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
together with GWP Georgia

Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

With financial support from the "SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme" A consultation workshop was organized with the different stakeholders from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and its sub-agencies and other state agencies, NGOs, regional projects, such as EU4Environment:Water Resources and Environmental Data, and Climate Change expertise, Gender and Vulnerable Group expertise, under the guidance of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by Global Water Partnership (GWP) in collaboration with the GWP country representative.

The stakeholder consultation meeting was coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. To ensure the meeting's effective facilitation, the National Focal Point had received online, self-paced, specifically for 6.5.1 reporting, facilitation training under, a program designed and made available by GWPO via Cap-Net's Virtual Campus in order to understand the specifics of the mentioned survey and the peculiarities of presenting the questionnaire to the audience. Appropriate calculation methodology and practical advice for the meeting within the framework of monitoring. Prior to the workshop, significant efforts were made to ensure that attendees engaged in a thorough and constructive ways. The preliminary 6.5.1 Indicator report was translated into Georgian from its original English version. As a result, this translated report was widely shared among the intended participants, allowing them to critically examine its contents. Participants were urged to provide their views, comments, and remarks ahead of time in order to facilitate a comprehensive and well-informed discussion. Furthermore, participants were given fact sheets (Visual Summary of progress, which was translated into Georgian before the meeting), outlining Georgia's previous reportings – 2017 and 2020 years, which provided relevant context and insights into previous outcomes and findings.

The facilitator provided guidance on the procedures and protocols related to capturing and disseminating photographs prior to the meeting, and this guidance was received without any objections from the participants.

The proceedings of the stakeholders' consultation workshop began with a welcome from the representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, as well as their counterparts from GWP Georgia. The Ministry delegates expressed profound gratitude to the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) and GWP Georgia for their significant assistance and support throughout the reporting process.

The 6.5.1 Indicator focus point took on the role of workshop facilitator, conducting the deliberations with accuracy. Each topic, along with its accompanying score, was thoroughly examined and discussed, with participants exploring thoroughly into the criteria and reasoning behind the issued scores. Notably, a consensus-driven process arose

in which certain preliminary scores, as indicated in the draft report, were appropriate to change. These changes comprised score raises and score decreases, as well as remaining the same based on participant consensus and perception.

At the start of the meeting, the Focal Point emphasized the questionnaire's role as a self-assessment tool. This mandatory explanation served as a crucial reminder to all participants of the inherent importance of equal and active engagement. The Focal Point underlined the need of each participant's equal participation in order to ensure a thorough and meticulous assessment process, prohibiting the removal of any critical details or insights. This instruction reiterated the group's unanimous responsibility and commitment to a comprehensive and inclusive review process. It is important to emphasize that stakeholders contributed significantly to the discussion by providing additional information and insights, particularly when they felt that additional details should be included under specific questions, thus enriching the overall content and depth of the deliberations.

Focal Point's presentation was preceded by months of preparation and consultation with numerous public and private organizations. Online *Feedback Survey for Participant* has been sent to the meeting participants by E-mail after the Consultation.

The stakeholder consultation workshop convened a gathering comprising 38 participants. The meeting witnessed the participation of 23 women and 15 men. The demographic distribution of the participants' ages was categorized as follows: 10 individuals belonged to the age bracket of 18-35 years, 20 individuals were in the age group of 36-65 years, and 8 participants were aged 66 years or older. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the facilitator/Focal Point presiding over the proceedings was 23 years of age.

Participants were representing a diverse spectrum of stakeholders from various sectors. Notably, the participants included esteemed representatives from **key government institutions**, specifically: (1) Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; (2) Ministry of Finances of Georgia; (3) Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; (4) Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia; (5) Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; (6) Parliament of Georgia. In addition to government entities, the workshop also welcomed active participation from **civil society**, featuring representatives from organizations such as: (1) The National Water Partnership of Georgia; (2) Green Movement / Friends of the Earth Georgia; (3) Georgian Environmental Outlook; (4) International Center for Environmental Research. Furthermore, the **private sector** was represented by: (1) Georgian Water and Power (gwp); (2) Georgia Global Utilities Group; The workshop's inclusivity extended to encompass the perspectives and expertise of the youth sphere, with representation from the Georgian Youth Forum. Additionally, the representatives of **international organizations and projects** were attended by: (1) EU4Environment - Water Resources and Environmental Data Program; (2) USAID Economic Governance Program; (3) UNDP Project representatives; **The academic and research community** made significant contributions through the participation of (1) Representatives from academia / research institutes; (2) Independent researchers and

experts; (3) University lecturers. This broad and multi-sectoral participation emphasized the workshop's importance as a venue for engaging a diverse range of stakeholders in meaningful discussion and assessment.

The meeting's input and views were noted and documented in the meeting report, which was created in Georgian. These significant observations and comments were subsequently incorporated and expanded upon in the final version of the 6.5.1 Indicator survey instrument for Georgia. This methodical process of incorporating stakeholder feedback guaranteed that the survey instrument appropriately reflected the collective wisdom and expertise acquired throughout the consultation workshop, boosting its comprehensiveness and relevance for Georgia's specific environment.

Several significant barriers to the efficient implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in Georgia were identified during the stakeholder engagement session. These difficulties were mostly related to financial resource limitations, monitoring capacity limitations, and human resource problems. Notably, there was a thorough examination of the difficulties presented by climate change-related hazards. A notable concern that arose was the limited availability of *financial resources* dedicated to IWRM initiatives. Participants at the workshop noted that this budget limitation might possibly affect the successful implementation of water resource management programs and initiatives “*Exactly how much is being spent on water resources management really needs a study on this, otherwise we will not understand how to deal with financial problems*“ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant].

Participants highlighted the importance of improving monitoring capability within the context of IWRM. They emphasized the need of effective *monitoring systems* in accurately analyzing water resource consumption and environmental conditions, allowing for informed decision-making. During the discussion, it was clear that the government needs to significantly increase the incorporation of new technologies into the monitoring process. „*Strengthening of relevant bodies related to monitoring should be developed as much as possible, in the background of climate change, quite a lot of ecological disasters have been accelerated, which requires constant monitoring*“ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant]. This growth is critical for improving the efficiency of data collecting and processing, as well as for developing accurate and thorough forecasts.

While the questionnaire initially highlighted gender issues and water resource management as a part of second section of Participation and Institution, it is noteworthy that substantial discourse emerged pertaining to the concept of *gender mainstreaming*. In this section, a comprehensive evaluation was undertaken, emphasizing the important need for an in-depth analysis of the gender-related dynamics within integrated water management, with specific reference to the context of Georgia. Furthermore, it is vital to underscore the urgency of enhancing the active participation of women in the decision-making processes, particularly within the framework of river basin management, besides it was emphasized that „*The presence of women in such a high-level meeting does not mean*

that the same thing happens at local levels’ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant].

Aside from the previously mentioned aspects, the issue of *engaging youth*, which is a concern in many correlated areas, was strongly emphasized. Notably, the gathering was led by a young facilitator who had an intense commitment to his work. This emphasizes the need of incorporating young people in improving process effectiveness and quality. The young facilitator's competent and professional behavior during the meeting demonstrates to the valuable contributions that youth may offer to such missions.

Another critical issue discussed extensively throughout the stakeholder consultation session was the importance of promoting *stronger collaboration among various institutions*, particularly those with competing interests. The complex exploration of stakeholder involvement, which evoked diverse viewpoints on its definition and the extent to which stakeholder engagement could be perceived as genuine engagement, was central to these conversations. Finally, agreement was gained, resulting in the creation of a clear framework for evaluation.

The issues that have been highlighted were subject to in-depth discussions during the workshop, reflecting a comprehensive exploration of their complexities. These matters will be further examined and elaborated upon in the relevant thematic sections of the report. The completed survey instrument can be found in a separate document (file name - **EN_6_5_1_IWRM_Survey_Georgia**).

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

Within the framework of the legal and strategic framework, various challenges have been put forward during the meeting. The effective implementation and enforcement of vital policy frameworks such as the Fourth National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP-4) and the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement face ongoing challenges, particularly in the area of water resource management. Despite the execution of the above-mentioned legal and strategic frameworks have been started, the process is complicated by a lack of institutional capacity, which includes both technical experience and financial resources, presenting a substantial barrier to the successful implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools. Divergent interests among stakeholders, such as industries, communities, and government agencies, can also restrict collaboration and the adoption of integrated approaches to water resource management. Furthermore, a lack of suitable water infrastructure slows effective water resource management, demanding significant investments and modifications in this area.

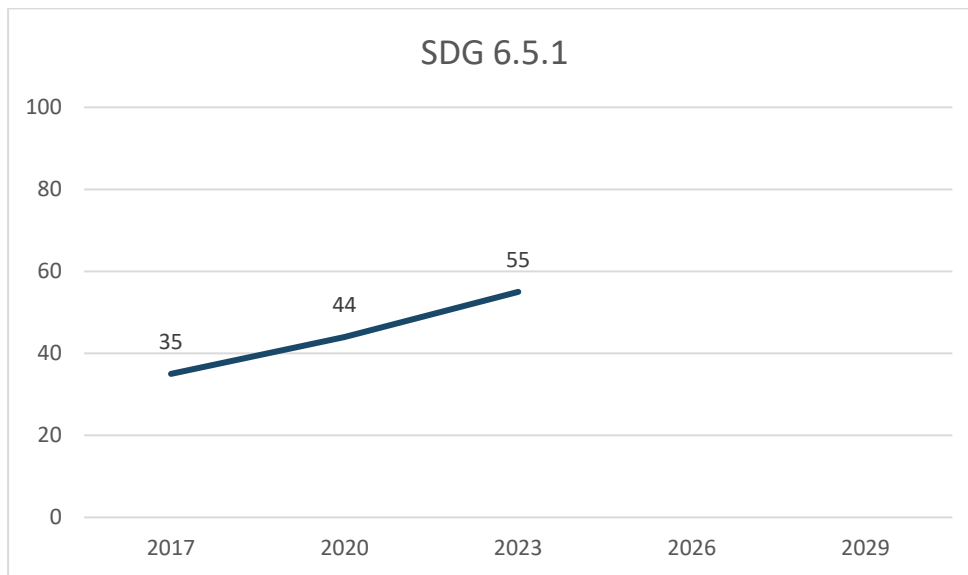
Addressing the major obstacles involves enhancing policy execution through enhanced regulatory processes and allocating resources for programs such as NEAP-4 and the EU-

Georgia Association Agreement. It is also necessary to invest in capacity building by increasing technical skills and knowledge, as well as obtaining financial resources, in order to improve institutional capacity for successful water resource management. Furthermore, it is critical to encourage inclusive communication among varied stakeholders in order to balance competing interests and reach consensus on water management policies. Finally, prioritizing infrastructure improvements, such as water supply and wastewater treatment facilities, is critical to ensuring optimal use of water resources. In addition to the national-level debates, the roundtable discussions focused heavily on the topic of transboundary arrangements. Participants were given important information and a brief summary of the reporting procedure in accordance with the 6.5.2 Indicator. The discussion included an examination of current actions and future plans for water resource management alongside with neighboring countries. Following the extensive discussion, a consensus was achieved regarding the grading for this specific question. This emphasizes the need of cross-border collaboration in tackling water-related concerns and promoting sustainable water resource management in the context of the larger regional context.

The adoption of the new "Law on Water Resources Management" is a significant step forward in Georgia's alignment with EU standards and promotion of sustainable water resource management. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of its implementation will determine the rate of progress. The formation of a preparatory phase for the new legal framework until September 1, 2026, demonstrates a longer-term commitment to attaining high implementation, with the effective completion of essential tasks during this period being critical. National (interim) target setting may be required to provide clear milestones and assure progress toward high implementation by 2030, with additional details to be addressed in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme.

The Focal Point indicated during the final grading and summary that Georgia has made "Stable progress" toward IWRM implementation, as shown by an upward slope that is steadily trending upward. *(Please find the graphic provided below, which was presented by Focal Point at the conclusion of the consultation meeting)*

Despite the significant progress made during our conversations, it is important to note that certain subjects in this section sparked debate among the participants. The appropriateness of the score provided to river basin management plans was a prominent source of debate. Many participants thought the score was inappropriately optimistic, especially given that the underlying laws had just recently taken effect and the real implementation of these plans had yet to begin. In response to this difference of opinion, the Focal Point appropriately requested clarification from the relevant individual responsible for the scoring, and a consensus was gained as the scores were later altered to line with a more accurate evaluation of the situation. „If we go immediately to 60 points after 20 points, it will be a huge increase; I believe it is best not to significantly underestimate the progress in this section“ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant], This highlights the significance of open debate and thorough scrutiny in guaranteeing the validity and dependability of our evaluation.



An important theme that surfaced clearly in this part was the necessity for strategic documents and action plans to include a broader range of issues that are closely related to the country's specific challenges and peculiarities. While significant progress has been made, it is nevertheless critical that these texts not only address broad concepts, but also embrace and prioritize the resolution of more nuanced and pressing concerns that are particularly pertinent to the country's special situation and reality. This highlights the significance of customizing policies and strategies to the unique demands and difficulties of the local environment, resulting in a more effective and context-sensitive approach to sustainable development.

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

The greatest barriers to advancement in the country in terms of Institutions and Participation involve numerous key areas. Sufficient personnel and financial resources must be allocated for effective implementation, while improved cooperation across agencies and stakeholders is required for simplified efforts. Furthermore, cross-sectoral coordination is required to further integrate water and climate policies and programs. Improving public engagement, particularly at the municipal level, is an ongoing problem, as is guaranteeing the active participation of vulnerable groups and addressing their specific needs. Furthermore, increased focus is required for the effective integration of gender considerations into water resource management. Significant emphasis was placed on improving relevant organisations personnel' capacity to appropriately prepare for river basin management implementation. This emphasizes the need of providing above-mentioned organisations' staff with the required skills and knowledge to successfully

oversee and manage river basins. „*If the empowerment of young people at the local level is not done, then the implementation of the river basin management model may face great challenges*” [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant].

Addressing the main challenges necessitates a diverse approach. First and foremost, adequate human and financial resources must be allocated to ensure effective execution. The formation of a coordinating agency for river basin management is critical for improving coordination. Water and climate stakeholders can strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration by improving information exchange and decision-making procedures. Increasing public engagement requires delegating decision-making authority to local communities, notably at the municipal level. To address concerns about inclusivity, comprehensive programs and action plans should be designed to actively incorporate disadvantaged groups, including training activities. „*If the process of participation becomes more inclusive and people feel at all levels that their voice is important, then very good changes will develop*” [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant]. Besides, the important initiative through the participation and institutional capacity may be the gender mainstreaming in the river basin context, for instance, during the meeting, one of the participant mentioned that women’s engagement and its broadening as a distinct stakeholder’s group in the river basin management level should happen, in order to empower women to a local level, „*in any river basin district, even in all, that a group of women should be trained to participate and be empowered in this regard*” [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant]. Despite, it was emphasized by the several participant of the meeting that if we want to implement IWRM fully and not only river basin management practice in Georgia, we should take into consideration all the principles of Dublin. Hence, as it is outlined in the new “Law on Water Resources Management,” All five directives should be properly implemented in practice. Furthermore, the ongoing endeavor to incorporate gender issues into water resource management, particularly in district water management plans, should be maintained.

Although progress has been made, ensuring complete implementation by 2030 may demand more efforts. Adoption of the new "Law on Water Resources Management" represents a significant step toward increased implementation. The creation of national interim objectives may be advantageous in the route toward 2030 goals to enable effective progress tracking and accountability. Participants at the discussion underlined that effective stakeholder engagement goes beyond just participating in decision-making processes; it also depends on timely information and awareness-raising activities to allow informed engagement. As a result, this segment of the conversation focused on various ongoing and future actions connected to information availability and access.

Some stakeholders argue that the suitable score for participation in decision making process is excessively high in light of current legislation and a lack of implementation, because „*Proper involvement of the population should take place at the stage of policy formulation, and not at the end, when the draft of the legislation is already ready*” [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant]. Furthermore, there are differing views on the

importance of improved collaboration among water and climate stakeholders. Disagreements also emerge on the extent of public participation and inclusivity, particularly the inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Several more notable points were raised during the conversation. For efficient regional water resource management, participants underlined the necessity of collaboration with neighboring countries, transboundary agreements, and coordinated monitoring activities. It was emphasized that legal frameworks, such as the UNECE Convention on Access to Information and Public Participation, play an important role in directing and supporting public participation. Furthermore, the concepts of inclusivity and equal representation of men and women in decision-making processes, as embodied in relevant laws and policies, were emphasized. The continued attempts to incorporate gender issues into water resource management indicate the sector's determined commitment to gender mainstreaming.

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

The main challenges for advancement in the country are divided into numerous categories. Expanding the monitoring network, particularly for groundwater resources, is critical, but it is restricted by human resource and capacity constraints. The lack of standardized techniques for deciding on water abstraction licenses presents a considerable challenge. Furthermore, the unregulated discharge of untreated wastewater from urban and agricultural sources onto surface water bodies contributes to pollution, which requires immediate attention. Another major challenge is ensuring compliance with environmental standards and efficiently resolving infractions. Additionally, comprehensive flood risk assessments and flood risk maps are critical for preparedness for disasters. Finally, increasing hydrometeorological monitoring infrastructure is critical for boosting forecasting precision and reducing weather-related risks.

Addressing these challenges would necessitate a diverse strategy. It entails boosting staff and investing more resources to expand the monitoring network, as well as designing and executing procedures for informed water abstraction permit decision-making. As it was clearly pointed out by meeting's participant, the implementation of a permit system for water abstraction and discharge is critical for successfully regulating water resource consumption while also focusing on improving wastewater treatment to reduce pollution in surface water bodies. Otherwise, Environmental standards must be enforced more effectively, with fines imposed for violations. Furthermore, comprehensive flood risk assessments and maps, as well as improved hydrometeorological monitoring infrastructure, are required to increase forecasting accuracy and catastrophe readiness. „*Due to climate change, it is especially necessary to strengthen our country to deal with ecologic catastrophes and natural disasters*” [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant].

Progress has been made in terms of increasing the monitoring network and improving water resource management. Implementing a permit system carries the potential of better

regulation. With persistent efforts, achieving high or very high implementation levels by 2030 is considered achievable. The stakeholders agreed that reaching a very high level of implementation for the indicator within "management instruments" is doable, provided suitable financing and capacity building measures are in place. „*In this part, it will be more possible to see the result in a short period of time, since technical strengthening and physical readiness happen sooner*“ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant].

Stakeholders have disagreed on a number of crucial areas. There is a need for further research and consensus on procedures for making decisions about water abstraction licenses. Second, the difficulty of establishing a balance between commercial interests and environmental protection in water resource management has resulted in diverse views among stakeholders. Third, there has been discussion on the effectiveness of methods to ensure compliance with environmental regulations, as well as the appropriateness of fines. Finally, disagreements have occurred among stakeholders on the extent and stringency of wastewater treatment requirements, highlighting various perspectives within this field of water resource management.

Several important points were raised during the discussion. First of all, considerable developments in hydrometeorological observing infrastructure have significantly enhanced forecasting capabilities, which are critical for disaster preparedness. Secondly, participants acknowledged the critical role that legislative frameworks and regulations play in guiding water resource management and environmental protection initiatives. Furthermore, there was agreement on the importance of expanding monitoring networks and improving data collecting in order to provide useful insights for informed decision-making in the field of water resource management. Finally, the significance of ongoing capacity-building and training activities in the domain of water resource management was stressed, emphasizing the need for stakeholders to continuously improve their skills and knowledge. Hence, participants pointed out some trainings and workshops that their organisations are conducting and the focal point noted them in order to reflect the full information in the survey.

To summarize the section of Management instruments and the relevant following actions it was said that to effectively manage resource use, it is critical to continue developing the monitoring network for both surface and groundwater resources, develop and execute techniques for water abstraction permit determinations, and enforce a permit system for water abstraction and discharge. Prioritizing wastewater treatment upgrades to reduce surface water pollution, enhancing environmental regulation enforcement, and advancing flood risk assessments and mapping activities are all critical first measures. Additionally, improving hydrometeorological monitoring infrastructure for more precise forecasting, as well as guaranteeing continued capacity-building and training activities, will be critical for sustainable water resource management.

4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

The greatest challenge to advancement in the country is a lack of funds for water resource development. Funds are allocated across numerous budget categories and investment agreements, resulting in fragmentation and inefficiencies. Existing finances are considered "insufficient" for effective water resource development. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for a thorough evaluation of allotted funds to determine their suitability and compatibility with the aims and requirements of water resource development, that also was mentioned by the focal point.

Addressing such problems requires a diverse strategy. To begin, strengthening financial capability is critical to ensuring the successful implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and River Basin Management (RBM). *„Activities related to water resources are quite large, so it may seem impossible in the near future, but a separate large organization is needed to work in this regard“* [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant].

Since Long-term sustainability requires integrating financial resources with water resource development, *„it is important to have relevant financial allocation plan which will depict all the cost related to IWRM“* [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant]. Furthermore, large sums must be mobilized to support the provisions of the new Water Resources Management Law. Furthermore, successful water resource management and climate adaptation require the coordination of water and climate financing. Finally, building synergies among key players while optimizing cooperation between them is required for efficient fund management, as is strengthening financial governance structures and procedures.

One of the representatives from the Ministry of Finances of Georgia has presented the current situation in Georgia regarding the state budget and water resources management costs and the relevant data from 2020 to 2023. The mentioned representative preliminary was informed about this by focal point in order to provide exact data.

The role of financial governance structures and systems in optimizing fund management was acknowledged. The coordination of water and climate finance to achieve resilience goals was emphasized, highlighting the interconnectedness of these two critical areas.

The focus is on synchronizing sectoral strategies, budget allocation, and spending patterns with climate-related goals and targets. This strategy emphasizes the significance of aligning plans across sectors with climate-related goals, as well as prioritizing climate resilience and sustainability in budget allocation and expenditure patterns.

5. Next steps

The results of the “IWRM implementation level” indicates significant progress compared to the baseline reporting. Notably, crucial advancements have been made in establishing the key legislative framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) management at all levels. This progress is exemplified by the adoption of the new law “Water Resources Management”. Additionally, the implementation of the main sectoral strategic program, NEAP-4, is currently underway, representing the core IWRM activities. These developments signify a positive trajectory in the journey towards effective water resource management.

The consultation process emphasized the importance of doing a thorough analysis of financial resources and their compatibility with water resource development goals. Mobilizing appropriate finances, improving coordination between water and climate finance, and strengthening financial governance are critical steps toward expediting Integrated Water Resources Management implementation and meeting global commitments by 2030. Continuous monitoring and collaboration among stakeholders will be required in the future to measure development and make informed decisions.

A diversifying approach is required to address cross-cutting concerns in water resource management. The key difficulty noted is the distribution of funds for water resource development across several budget categories. To address this, it is critical to strengthen financial capability in order to effectively execute Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and therefore River Basin Management (RBM). In order to increase capacity, dedicated structural units, laboratories, and departments for geological monitoring and environmental impact assessments must be established.

Water and climate finance must be coordinated for effective water resource management and climate adaptation strategies, highlighting the importance of improving the integration and coordination of financial systems between these domains.

Since there is intensified migration from Georgian local municipalities and currently country is transforming to the river basin management mechanism, it is important to note that this two uncorrelated fact are having significant impact for the future of Georgia. It should be emphasized that the Focal Point who facilitated the whole meeting pointed out that *„youth are perceived as a vulnerable group in the context of water resources management”*.

While the general activities pertaining to IWRM are reflected in NEAP-4 and other important sectoral strategies, it is important that the law has been adopted and currently Georgia is having transformational phase.

6. Annexes

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Annex 4: Photos

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants¹

Name	Organisation	Position	Email address
Maia Javakhishvili	Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Deputy head	Maia.Javakhishvili@mepa.gov.ge
Mariam Makarova	Water Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Head	mariam.makarova@mepa.gov.ge
Nika Gogatishvili	Water Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Senior Specialist, 6.5.1 Indicator Focal Point	Nika.Gogatishvili@mepa.gov.ge

¹ The stakeholder consultation workshop convened a gathering comprising 38 participants. The meeting witnessed the participation of 23 women and 15 men. The demographic distribution of the participants' ages was categorized as follows: 10 individuals belonged to the age bracket of 18-35 years, 20 individuals were in the age group of 36-65 years, and 8 participants were aged 66 years or older.

Davit Advadze	Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Promotion Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development.	Head	dadvadze@moesd.gov.ge
Nana Gabriadze	Department of Environmental Health, Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories of Georgia, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Protection, L.S.P. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health.	Head of Department	gabriadzenana79@gmail.com
Elena Chichua	Department of Environmental Health, Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories of Georgia, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Protection.	public health specialist	elenechichuaa@gmail.com
Marine Zukhbaia	Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.	Environmental Division Head	marinezukh@gmail.com
Maia Lavrinenko	Fiscal Management Department,	Risk Senior Specialist	M.Lavrinenko@mof.ge

	Ministry of Finances.		
Maka Goderdzishvili	Permits, Environmental Protection and Social Affairs Department. United Water Supply Company Ltd.	Head	m.goderdzishvili@water.gov.ge
Nikoloz Kakhidze	Geoinformation Systems and Asset Management Department, United Water Supply Company Ltd.	Head	n.kakhidze@water.gov.ge
Erasti Maghradze	design department, internal projects service, United Water Supply Company Ltd.	invited specialist	e.maghradze@water.gov.ge
Giorgi Dzamukashvili	Global Water Partnership Georgia	Chair	george.dzamuka@gmail.com
Zurab Jincharadze	EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data	-Country representative	z.jincharadze@eu4waterdata.eu
Nino Chkhobadze	Green Movement / Friends of the Earth Georgia	Co-Founder, Chair	nino.chkhobadze@gmail.com
Akaki Fanchulidze	Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University	Associate Professor	evkalipti2000@gmail.com
Giorgi Mamulashvili	Georgian Youth Forum	Project Coordinator	g.mamulashvili2016@gmail.com
Giorgi Mtchedlidze	Green Movement / Friends of the Earth Georgia	Specialist	gio.mtchedlidze1@gmail.com

Nino Malashkhia	Georgian Environmental Outlook	Project Manager/Senior Environmental Expert	nino.malashkhia@geo.org.ge
Tamar Gugushvili	Georgian Environmental Outlook, Environmental Expert	Project Manager/Senior Environmental Expert	gugushvili.tamuna@gmail.com
Grigol Abramia	International Center for Environmental Research	Director	gia_abramia@hotmail.com
Mariam Bakhtadze	USAID Economic Governance Program	Advisor on Water Resource Management Reform	mbakhtadze@egp.ge
Ekaterine Otarashvili		lawyer, expert	ekaterine.otarashvili@gmail.com
Nino Sulkhaniashvili	Integrated Management System, Georgia Global Utilities Group	Head	nsulkhaniashvili@gwp.ge
Eliso Barnovi	UNDP Project representative	Expert	ebarnovi@gmail.com
Tinatin Karanashvili	Department of Hydromelioration and Soil management, hydromelioration division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Senior Specialist	Tinatin.Karanashvili@mepa.gov.ge
Mikheil Kobakhidze	Economic Research and Data Analysis of the Policy	Senior Specialist	Mikheil.kobakhize@mepa.gov.ge

	Coordination and Analytics Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia		
Kristine Tordia	Department of international relations and eurointegration, Coordination with Donors division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Senior Specialist	Kristine.Tordia@mepa.gov.ge
Nato Ormotsadze	Sustainable Development Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Senior Specialist	Nato.Ormotsadze@mepa.gov.ge
Nino Gokhelashvili	Sustainable Development Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Head	Nino.Gokhelashvili@mepa.gov.ge
Aleksandre Mindorashvili	Water Division, Environment and Climate Change	Senior Specialist	Aleksandre.Mindorashvili@mepa.gov.ge

	Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia		
Nana Gogitidze	Committee of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Parliament of Georgia	Chief specialist of the committee's office	ngogitidze@parliament.ge
Ioseb Kinkladze	Hydrometeorology Department, National Environment Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Deputy Head	Ioseb.Kinkladze@nea.gov.ge
Nana Kitiashvili	Hydrogeological Monitoring and Technical Support Division, Department of Geology, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Head	Nana.Kitiashvili@nea.gov.ge
Marina Arabidze	Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and	Head	Marine.Arabidze@nea.gov.ge

	Agriculture of Georgia		
Elina Bakradze	Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Deputy Head	Elina.Bakradze@nea.gov.ge
Avtandil Mikaberidze	Planning and Development Service, Agency of Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Chief Specialist	a.mikaberidze1@gmail.com
Tamaz Kereselidze	Water Resources and Energy Management Service of Georgia, Georgian Amelioration, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Head	Tamaz.Kereselidze@ag.ge
Nino Tabatadze	Center for Environmental Information and Education, Department of Education Projects, Ministry of Environment Protection and	Head	nino.tabatadze@eiec.gov.ge

	Agriculture of Georgia		
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Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs provided
Vazha Trapaidze	TSU/Associate Professor, Department of Hydrology, Oceanology and Meteorology	vazha.trapaidze@gmail.com	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 2 - Institutions and participation: 2.1.e.
Gizo Chelidze	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia - Head of Hydro-melioration and Land Management Department	gizo.chelidze@mepa.gov.ge	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 1 - Enabling Environment (1.1.a) and Section 3 - Management Instruments: 3.1.b.
Salome Nozadze	Senior Specialist of Protected Areas Division, Biodiversity and Forestry Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Salome.Nozadze@mepa.gov.ge	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 3 - Management Instruments: 3.1.d.
Maia Tskhvaradze	United Nations Climate Change Secretariat	mtskhvaradze@gmail.com	Questions under part 2 (The Survey), All sub-questions where Climate Change Considerations was included.

Ekaterine Sanadze	Head of Hydromelioration Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Ekaterine.Sanadze@mepa.gov.ge	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 1 – Enabling Environment (1.1.a) and Section 3 – Management Instruments: 3.1.b.
Gvantsa Sivsivadze	Senior Specialist at Water Division Environment and Climate Change Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. 6.5.1 Indicator Focal Point. GWP CACENA Regional Council member	Gvantsa.Sivsivadze@mepa.gov.ge	Questions under part 2 (The Survey), Section 1 – Enabling Environment – 1.1.a,b,c. 1.2.a,b,c.
Sophio Devdariani	Integrated Management Systems Department - IMS Georgia Global Utilities JSC	sdevdariani@gwp.ge	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 2 - Institutions and participation: 2.1.b,c,d.
Guranda Bagrationi	Specialist at Department of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Adjara	ggbagratiioni@gmail.com	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 3 – Management Instruments: 3.1.c.
Salome Shakarashvili	Head of the Strategic Planning Division, Department of International Relations and Strategic Development, Ministry	sshakarishvili@mes.gov.ge	Questions under Part 2 (The survey), Section 2 - Institutions and participation: 2.1.e.

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this Annex is supplemented by information in Annex E of the SDG 6.5.1 survey, which reflects on the level of engagement from different stakeholder groups.

Annex 2: Agenda

Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
6.5.1 Indicator (Degree of integrated water resources management implementation)
consultation meeting

Biltmore Hotel, Tbilisi, 29 Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi
September 12, 2023

Agenda of the meeting

10:00-10:30 registration, coffee/tea

10:30-11:00 Welcome

- Official opening of the meeting
- Purpose of the meeting

11:00-11:15 Sustainable Development Indicator 6.5.1 (Level of Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management) - Overview

- Goal 6 of sustainable development (clean water and sanitation)
- Overview of indicator 6.5.1 of the 6th objective (level of implementation of integrated management of water resources)
- Review of 2020 reporting

11:15-13:00 review and discussion

Questions in Part I and II of the Report: "Enabled Environment" and "Institutions and Participation"

- Overview (11:15-11:45)
- Discussion (11:45-12:30)
- Reconciliation of scores (12:30-13:00)

13:00-14:00 lunch

14:00-16:00 Review and discussion

Questions in parts III and IV of the report: "Management tools" and "Financing"

- Review (14:00-14:30)
- Discussion (14:30-15:15)
- Reconciliation of scores (15:15-16:00)

16:00-16:15 coffee break/Networking

16:15-17:00 Summary and closing of the meeting

- Future steps
- Summary
- Closing the meeting

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

To make the process more efficient, each unit or department was invited to appoint a relevant representative to manage and coordinate the survey based on specified subject areas. The scope was quite broad, requiring massive information interchange. If any entity had difficulty completing the questionnaire or had language obstacles translation were made available to help them get involved in filling survey. The feedback and comments acquired during this process were carefully noted in the workshop report, which was initially created in Georgian and served as a reference for merging these notes into the final product.

The feedback and comments received during this process were properly recorded in the workshop report, which was initially created in Georgian and used as a reference for combining these remarks into the final survey and providing extra information as needed.

A draft survey was provided to stakeholders well in advance of the meeting, translated from English into Georgian. This advance provision gave stakeholders enough time to examine the information and rankings, allowing them to offer comments and remarks before to the meeting or deliver them during the session. The draft was distributed in advance to ensure that stakeholders were well-informed and could participate substantively. Furthermore, stakeholders were given the chance to offer additional material to complement certain inquiries from the survey, which were then reviewed during the workshop.

During the conference, the draft survey was presented using MS PowerPoint, with each slide containing a specific survey question, its assigned score, and notes of explanation. Also, during the discussion several questions have been divided into two parts because the amount of information.

Furthermore, each slide featured clear information, including a status summary and a plan of action, expressed in bullet points. This approach aided meeting attendees' comprehension, allowing them to immediately grasp material, scores, and engage in relevant discussions. The discussion was organized in this way to encourage engaged discussion and lively debates. Online module for facilitators of SDG 6.5.1 was really helpful.

Participants from many fields of expertise were present at the conference, ensuring a thorough analysis of the survey questions. This diversity was especially beneficial because it provided expertise in areas of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) that the focus point was unfamiliar with.

The stakeholders' consultation workshop provided an important forum for presenting the current state and developments in the field, as well as encouraging in-depth conversations on several areas of concentration. These conversations included proposals for changing certain parts while keeping others unchanged. The introduction of the basin management

mechanism, with special emphasis on its specific qualities and the challenges it presents in the Georgian setting, was a primary focus of the conversation.

A diversified method was used to achieve a thorough and well-rounded consultation process. This strategy required active participation from numerous key agencies and their representatives. It expanded its reach to include members of the academic and expert communities, and it used a variety of communication channels such as Zoom meetings, face-to-face contacts, phone calls, and email correspondence. A questionnaire was also completed collaboratively during a focused group discussion that included members from the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. This open forum allowed for broad discussion of the current state of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and individual project initiatives. Therefore, before the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, wide range of information was consolidated in the survey.

As the meeting's facilitator, I want to draw attention to major recommendations and perspectives that have informed both the design of the questionnaire and my personal interpretation of the talks. „*We have undoubtedly made progress in the country's water management efforts,*“ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant], one participant noted, „*but there remains a pressing need for further enhancement and greater inclusivity across the entire water management process*“ [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant] While participants were clearly aware of the ongoing water reform, there was a heavy emphasis on determining which critical Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) features will be implemented with the passage of the new legislation. „*More agencies should be involved in this process and coordination should be strengthened, because integrated management is a close coordination of different agencies*” [12th of September, 2023, Stakeholder Meeting Participant], was noted by one of the meeting participant and after this speech they appreciate this platform because it was great opportunity for networking with the relevant field experts and policy makers.

In addition, I would like to take an opportunity to address the survey itself. It has come to my attention that both responders and participants who were actively involved in the process but were unable to attend the meeting regularly expressed their opinion that the questionnaire is very complex and covers a wide range of features. They appreciated the availability of an English-to-Georgian translation as part of this process since it helped their understanding.

I have had several discussions about the evaluation system related to the survey, which is definitely complex and all-encompassing. During the conference, I made a key observation: the questionnaire serves as an example of a road map. It is well-suited to guiding our country's effective implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Annex 4: Photos















