



United Nations Development Programme
UNDP Georgia

PROJECT SUMMARY

Reducing Transboundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin

Budget Summary

Total Budget	USD 1,562,755
GEF	USD 698,328
UNDP	USD 125,000
Government	USD 145,000
Other (Sida)	USD 594,427

Project Period : 2004-2007

Management Modality : Agency Execution (UNOPS)

Brief Description

The Kura-Aras river system is a principal source of water for industry, agriculture, residential uses and energy in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey. The rivers cross and form many of the borders and both are seriously degraded in places. Water quality and quantity are significantly impacts the river ecosystems. Integrated, inter-country efforts are urgently required to evaluate the degradation of these river ecosystems and to take action to halt and reverse damaging trends. The proposed project aims to ensure that the water quality and quantity of the Kura-Aras river system is sustainably managed. The project will achieve its objectives by: fostering regional cooperation; increasing capacity to address water problems; demonstrating improvements; initiating policy and legal reforms; prioritizing investments and; developing sustainable management and financial arrangements.

During the PDF B (planning) phase, the proposed project will prepare a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a draft Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The SAP will provide a solid framework for a long-term, regional, fully integrated and comprehensive approach to the management of the Kura-Aras Rivers. The SAP will be supported by coordinated National Action Plans (NAPS) which will reflect the prioritized national and regional concerns, and provide linkages throughout the region for addressing these together. This will be implemented in coordination with other international projects functioning in the region to avoid redundancy and increase collaborative efforts of donors and countries alike.

The project proponents are the riparian governments of the Kura-Aras Basin. The governments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have confirmed their full commitment to participating in this project and implementing the SAP. The Lead Agencies are: Armenia: Ministry of Nature Protection; Azerbaijan: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; Georgia: Ministry of Environment; Islamic Republic of Iran: Ministry of Energy. The Implementing Agency will be UNDP Bratislava, and the Executing Agency will be UNOPS. While the UNDP Bratislava will have the main implementation responsibility and substantive oversight, UNDP CO Georgia will be the Lead CO and charged with administrative/financial support. A parallel component of UNDP/Sida will work in close collaboration with this project.

The Chief Technical Officer (CTA) of the UNDP-GEF component will have responsibility for the day-to-day management of the GEF project and coordination with the UNDP-SIDA component, reporting to the UNDP Bratislava office, the Georgian UNDP country office, and the Project Steering Committee. The CTA will oversee the Technical Task Team and the SAP Formulation Team and coordination between the two (Sida and GEF) project components. With the exception of Iran, coordination of the project at the country level, including preparation of the National Action Plans, will be the responsibility of the UNDP-Sida component through the established project offices in Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan. A fourth project office will be established in Tehran supported by the UNDP - GEF component. The UNDP-Sida component will also take the lead in delivering in-country capacity building in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The UNDP-GEF will support Iran in the development of its NAP and participation in all the UNDP-Sida component activities, including the IWRM capacity development.