

Project “Development and Implementation of Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan for Dariali HPP



Blue Rivers™
Environmental Consulting

Draft Report

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Disclosure Plan



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Introduction: goals and requirements to stakeholder engagement

“Dariali Energy” JSC is developing the Dariali Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) Project (further – Project) in the Kazbegi municipality district of Georgia. The plant will comprise a run-of-river, 108 MW-capacity hydropower facility. The relevant Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as well Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been already developed for the Project. The public disclosure procedure has been already held.

During 2015, Blue Rivers™ has been developing and implementing Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan, focusing on identification of baseline conditions in the Tergi River prior the HPP commencement and development of the recommendations on the HPP operation. According the the “Dariali Energy” JSC, the operation of the HPP is expected in March-April 2016.

The SEP to be developed in frame of the current ToR is the update of the SEP, developed in 2014. It is aimed to ensure public engagement during the Project implementation and external reporting. According to the EBRD 2014 Environmental and Social policy *“the client will provide information to identified stakeholders, on an ongoing basis, appropriate to the nature of the project and its adverse environmental and social impacts and issues, and the level of public interest throughout the life of the project”*. It means process of disclosure of the information gained in frame of the development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan by the Client.

1. Project stakeholders and their concerns

During 2015, a number of the meetings with stakeholders, mentioned in the SEP (2014) and new ones were held. During the interviews the following questionnaire was used (see Annex 2). The following main stakeholders were identified (for the contact details see Annex 1).

1. Administration of Kazbegi municipality

Background:

The Project is being implemented in the Kazbegi Municipality district of Georgia, so administration of the district is one of the main stakeholders to be considered.

Needs:

- To ensure additional jobs for the local people and revenue into the budget;
- To get informed about the current environmental and social impact of the HPP.

Answers to the needs:

- The implementation of the Project significantly contributes and will contribute to socio-economic development of Kazbegi Municipality. During construction of the HPP, construction materials from local resources are used, which encourage the activity of building material producers. The positive impact of local population employment is also noteworthy: at construction stage 300 people are employed, while at the operation stage – 50 people¹. After the HPP is commenced, the power system will generate additional revenues into the local budget. The importance of the HPP for the economy is confirmed by the fact that financing deal for the Dariali Hydro Power Plant was named as the best transaction for 2014 in the water category, respectively, in Central and Eastern Europe within the EMEA Finance Magazine's annual Project Finance Awards programme².
- The Administration will be informed about the outputs of the development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan through the Company's web-site, leaflets and public meetings.

2. Administration of Kazbegi national park

Background:

At present, the park totals 9,030 hectares and includes Mt. Kazbegi. Only 35% of the park is covered by forest, the rest is snow-covered peaks, jagged basalt rocks and alpine pastures that are home to the east Caucasian tur and chamois as well as endemic bird species such as the Caucasian grouse and snowcock. The park does not include Tergi and its valley, but neighbouring to the Dariali HPP area. **At present, the Ministry of Environment of Georgia plans to increase the area of**

¹ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, 2011 – p. 158.

² <http://ir.tbcbank.ge/?site-lang=en&site-path=news/press/&now=1&id=437&site-session=49bd363d5f3a166c35d893f4a9da2a1b>

the Kazbegi national park. In addition, a new structure - Kazbegi national park friends association, which will act as a regional development fund, is being established. It will deal with the protection of the fish population as well.

Needs:

- To develop the mechanism of interaction with Kazbegi national park friends association.

Answers to the needs:

- The Administration will be informed about the outputs of the development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan through Company's web-site, the leaflets and public meetings;
- To plan the meeting with Kazbegi national park friends association.

3. Schools in Stepantsminda

Background:

There are two schools in Stepantsminda, one of which is Stepantsminda's Ilia the Righteous Gymnasium-Boarding School. Pupils of the both schools were really interested to get more information about the hydropower energy production, its pros and cons and trout population and in general.

Needs:

- To get informed and involved about the HPP operation in general and the trout community.

Answers to the needs:

- To provide them with the brochures about the HPP operation and the results of the field researches;
- To conduct open lessons / excursions to Dariali HPP regarding its operation and impact on fish (visit to fish pass);
- **Optional:** in order to engage emotionally into the brown trout conservation and hydropower development, to develop the sculpture of the Tergi brown trout and to place it the Tergi river bank in frame of the Dariali HPP commissioning (Kazbegi municipality promised to provide the support with the sculpture development).

4. Local fish farmers

Background:

There were two fish farms identified in the Project area. One is located in the Sno basin, the second one – in the mouth of Tibaistkali. Both farms grow local brown trout as well as rainbow

trout. Fish farmers on their own will introduce some of the trout into the rivers to support the trout population.

Needs:

- To get informed about the impact of the HPP on the trout population.

Answers to the needs:

- The fish farmers will be informed about the outputs of the development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan through the Company's web-site, leaflets and public meetings
- **Optional:** to develop a cooperation scheme with fish farmers on reintroduction of the local trout into the rivers as a compensatory action.³

5. Environmental NGOs "Green Alternative" and "Stepantsminda"

Background:

Both NGOs have quite negative attitude towards the Dariali HPP. In 2012, they led a number of protests in Stepantsminda⁴. Since 2012 they have filed a number of complaints against the company⁵ and as a result, Green Alternative failed to win the cases in all the instances. Both NGOs are not local, but based in Tbilisi.

Needs:

- Additional studies of aquatic biodiversity and hydrological regime of Tergi;
- Proof of the fish pass efficiency and need of public information regarding fish protection devices;
- Need of post-commissioning monitoring of the flow distribution between Tergi and the HPP.

Answers to the needs:

- The contract for development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan (including assessment and confirmation the likely impacts of the HPP scheme as implemented and the effectiveness of the mitigation measures proposed, monitoring any changes of the physical habitat and downstream flows against baseline conditions etc.) was signed with Blue RiversTM and is being implemented. In frame of the contact additional information about aquatic biodiversity and hydrological regime of Tergi, efficiency of fish pass and fish protection devices, the further trout migration protection downstream the Dariali and Larsi HPPs is being collected and analysed. The NGOs will be informed about the

³ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report – p. 198.

⁴ <http://www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/209950/>

⁵ <http://www.ebrd.com/documents/comms-and-bis/dariali-complaint-final-.pdf>

outputs of the development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan through the web-site, leaflets and public meetings;

- Need of post-commissioning monitoring of the flow distribution between Tergi and the HPP will be allocated through the automatic flow monitoring stations which will measure the water levels and relevant discharges in real time upstream and downstream the HPP. The flow data will be made available to the public at the company's website, as required by Environmental and Social Action Plan (Action 6.1)⁶.

⁶ Environmental and Social Action Plan, Dariali HPP, 2014 – p. 6.

2. Summary of previous stakeholder engagement activities

The following stakeholder engagement activities have been conducted:

1. Public disclosure of all ESIA related documents

Since January 20, 2014 all ESIA related documents, namely:

- [Environmental and Social Action Plan](#)
- [Expert Advice on Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation, Land Take and Compensation Report](#)
- [Analysis of Cultural Heritage Related Activities and Study Performed in Dariali HPP Designed Corridor](#)
- [Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report \(Non-Technical Summary\)](#)
- [Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report](#)
- [Dariali HPP Construction Impact on Dariali Gorge and Tergi Aesthetic Worth](#)
- [Impact Assessment of Dariali HPP on Kazbegi National Park Traditional Use Zone](#)
- [Expert Advice on Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#)

are available at the JSC "Dariali Energy" web-site <http://www.darialienergy.ge/en/angarishi> and web-site of EBRD <http://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/dariali-hpp.html>

Besides the uploaded documentations, disclosure documents are available at the following addresses:

- Printed Version - JSC "Dariali Energy" local office: Georgia, Kazbegi Municipality, Construction Camp of Dariali HPP, located near Larsi customs checkpoint;
- Printed Version - JSC "Dariali Energy" central office: 4 Besiki str. Tbilisi, Georgia, 0108
- Printed Version - Administrative building of Kazbegi Municipality: Village Stepantsminda, 1 Kazbegi St.;
- Printed Version - The office of scientific-research firm "Gamma": 17a Guramishvili ave, Tbilisi,
- Printed Version - EBRD Regional office- 6 Marjanishvili str. (Green Building, 4-5 floor), 0105, Tbilisi;
- Printed Version - EBRD London Business Information Centre, One Exchange Square, London, EC2A, 2JN.

2. Feedback on ESIA material

Within 60 days after publishing reports, JSC "Dariali Energy" was ready to receive and consider public comments and suggestions, submitted in written form. The deadline for submitting comments was March 10, 2014. No written comments / suggestions were received.

3. Establishment of complaint mechanism

JSC "Dariali Energy" has developed several methods for the public to lodge a complaint / request for information:

- Web-site www.daralienergy.ge
- Locating box for complains in the reception of the local office – address: Kazbegi Municipality, construction camp of Dariali HPP located near Larsi customs checkpoint;
- “Hot line” - +99532 2510-500⁷.

This mechanism showed its efficiency in case of complaint from the NGO “Green Alternative”.

4. Revision and updating the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

This task was included in the contract **“Development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan”**. In its frame the project leaflet was prepared (see Annex 3). This report actually is a revision and updated of the SEP, developed in 2014.

⁷ Stakeholder Engagement Plan, 2014 – p. 24.

3. Future stakeholder engagement activities

#	Activity	Target group	Means	Timetable
1.	Inform about the outputs of the development and implementation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan	All above mentioned stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company's web-site - Leaflets - Public information meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior the Dariali HPP trial commencement - In beginning of each year, showing the results of monitoring at previous year (starting from January 2017)
2.	<p>Hold a public event (inauguration) on the Dariali HPP commencement.</p> <p>It can optionally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the fish pass and fish protection devices; - Questions and answers regarding the Dariali HPP operation; - Open lessons / excursion for pupils to Dariali HPP regarding its operation and impact on fish (visit to fish pass); - Opening of the sculpture of the Tergi brown trout as an additional tourist attraction 	All above mentioned stakeholders, environmental authorities, media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public event 	At Dariali HPP commencement
3.	Place the automatic flow monitoring stations which will measure the water levels and relevant discharges in real	All above mentioned stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company web-site 	At Dariali HPP commencement

#	Activity	Target group	Means	Timetable
	time upstream and downstream the Dariali HPP. The flow data will be made available to the public at the company's website, as required by Environmental and Social Action Plan (Action 6.1) ⁸			
4.	To support further complaint mechanism	All above mentioned stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company's web-site - Mail box - Hot line 	All the time
5.	In case of the Park enlargement and hiring of a specialist on trout to exchange the data on the trout redds found and to coordinate the further monitoring programme and to develop the mechanism of interaction with Kazbegi national park friends association.	Kazbegi national park, Kazbegi national park friends association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports on ecological monitoring 	Annually
6.	To update text on Dariali HPP in Wikipedia (as far as it is the first link appearing if to search for Dariali HPP and currently uploaded text is biased) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dariali_Hydropower_Plant	English speaking stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dariali HPP page in Wikipedia 	Once

⁸ Environmental and Social Action Plan – p. 6.

Annex 1. Contact list of stakeholders

#	Organization	Contact person	Contact details
1	Administration of Kazbegi municipality	Shalva Eloshvili, head	Address: 1 Al. Kazbegi St., Stepantsminda Tel. (+995 245) 52 -489
2	Administration of Kazbegi national park	Otar Tsamalaidze, head	Address: 62 Vazha-Pshavela St., Lower Stepantsminda Tel: 577 961 188 E-mail: otsamalaidze@apa.gov.ge http://apa.gov.ge/en/protected-areas/cattestone/yazbegis-erovnuli-parkis-administracia
3	Stepantsminda's Ilia the Righteous Gymnasium-Boarding School	Bishop Yegudiil	Address: 14 Tbilisi St., Daba Tsepantsminda Tel: (599) 73 70 11, (599) 70 01 96 E-mail: xeviseparqia@gmail.com
4	NGO "Green Alternative"	Manana Kochladze	Address: Palioshvili 27-29 St., Tbilisi Tel: (+995 32) 2292773; 2223874 Fax: (+995 32) 2223874 E-mail: greenalt@greenalt.org http://greenalt.org/home/
5	NGO "Stepantsminda"	Shota Buchukuri. head	Tel: (599) 321 170 eco_shota@yahoo.com
6	Kazbegi National park Friends Association		Address: Nikoloz Baratashvilis Kucha, Stepantsminda Tel. +995 599 09 02 07 https://www.facebook.com/KNPFA/

Annex 2. Questionnaire used

1. Name and position of the interviewed person

2. Have you ever heard about the Dariali Hydropower project?
(if yes, go to question 3, if not, description of the project)

3. What are main advantages of this Project for you and your group?
(open question, if no answer, the possible answers will be proposed to be confirmed: economic benefits for the Kazbegi district: new job places, allocation into the district budget etc.)

4. Which possible threats do you see related to the Project implementation?
(open question)

5. What kind of mitigation measures do you see in case the threats are identified?
(provision of the information about from Development & Implementation of Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan, aimed at biodiversity conservation).

6. Would you be interested to get more information about the development of the Aquatic Biodiversity Action Plan?

7. If yes, in which form would it be preferable for you?

Annex 3. Project leaflet prepared



საჯარო განხილვა

დარიალის ჰესის შესახებ

პროექტი ითვალისწინებს დარიალი ჰესის მშენებლობას, განვითარებასა და ექსპლოატაციის განხორციელებას ეს იქნება დერივაციული ტიპის ჰიდროელექტროსადგური, რომელიც მდებარეობს ჩრდილო აღმოსავლეთ საქართველოში, ყაზბეგის რაიონში, მდინარე თერგის 1729 მეტრის ხიშხულზე. პროექტი მოიცავს 13 მ. კაშხალს მარჯვლადობრივი რეზერვუარით, 2 კმ სადერივაციო მილსადენს, 5 კმ მიწისქვეშა დერივაციულ გვირაბს. მიწისქვეშა ჰესის შენობას 36 მგვრ სიმაღლის 3 ტურბინით და 500 მ. წყალსადენს გვირავს.



წყლის ბიომრავალფეროვნების სამოქმედო გეგმის ამოცანები და მასწავლა

წყლის ბიომრავალფეროვნების კონსერვაციისათვის აუცილებელია საბაზო პირობების ზუსტი წარმოდგენა მდინარე თერგის იმ მონაკვეთზე, სადაც დაიგეგმილია პროექტის იმპლემენტაცია, აგრეთვე ჰესის ოპერირების შედეგად წარმოშობილი ცვლილებების შედარება არსებულ საბაზო პირობებთან.

წყლის ბიომრავალფეროვნების გეგმა შემუშავდება ეკოლოგიური ხარჯის და ფიზიკურ ჰაბიტატებზე მონიტორინგის შედეგების საფუძველზე. იგი მოიცავს მშენებლობის წინა და შემდგომი პერიოდის წყლის საბაზო ველის პროგრამას და ჰესის ოპერირების ფაზისათვის ადაპტური მენეჯმენტის გეგმას.

გეგმის შემუშავებასთან დაკავშირებული სამუშაოთა მოცულობა მოიცავს სამ ამოცანას:

- ამოცანა 1: მშენებლობის წინა და შემდგომი პერიოდის წყლის საბაზო ველის პროგრამის შემუშავება და იმპლემენტაცია.
- ამოცანა 2: ჰესის ოპერირების ეტაპზე, საბაზო მონაცემების ანალიზი და ადაპტური მენეჯმენტის გეგმის შემუშავების შედეგის რეგულარული სტრუქტურული (მაგალითად, კალაშოტის ადგილების დონისმიებები) ისე საექსპლოატაციო (მაგალითად, ჰესის მართვის რეჟიმის) დონისმიებებს, რაც მიზნად ისახავს იდენტიფიცირებული წყლის ბიომრავალფეროვნების კონსერვაციას.
- ამოცანა 3: მონიტორინგი, ადაპტური მენეჯმენტის გეგმის რეგულირება და აშკარისებვა.

გრაფიკი

2015 წელი მიეძღვნება საბაზო პირობების იდენტიფიცირებას, ხათ მონის მულტი სეზონური, წინა საექსპლოატაციო პერიოდის, დინების მონიტორინგის, თევზის არსებობის (თევზის სრული ველვა) და კაშხლის ზემო და ქვემო დინებასთან არსებული ჰაბიტატის კარტოგრაფიის ჩათვლით. 2015 წლის ბიოლოგიის მიღებული იქნება შემდეგი რეზულტატი:

- ანგარიში საბაზო პირობების მონიტორინგის შედეგების შესახებ;
- წყლის ბიომრავალფეროვნების სამოქმედო გეგმა, ჰესის ოპტიმალური ოპერირებისათვის;
- მშენებლობის შემდგომი პერიოდის საანგარიშო და მონიტორინგის გეგმა.

დაკუმულაციის პროექტი წარუდგინება სასოფლიო-სამეურნეო განხილვებზე, რაც ორგანიზებული იქნება ჰესის განხორციელების (დასილოებით, 2015 წლის იანვარ-აპრილში).

ასევე შემუშავდება დაიბეჭდებულ მხარეთა ჩართულობის გეგმა და საჯარო აშკარისების გამოცემა.

წინამდებარე საინფორმაციო წერილი წარმოადგენს პირველ ნაბიჯს წესდამის დაინტერესებულ მხარეთა ჩართულობის პროცესში.

2016 წელი მიეძღვნება მშენებლობის და ოპერირების შემდგომი პერიოდის საპროექტო ტერიტორიის მონიტორინგს, დარიალი ჰესის თევზსაყლის ეფექტური მონიტორინგის ჩათვლით. ასევე ჩატარდება ქართველი სპეციალისტების ტრენინგი მონიტორინგის მდგრადი განვითარების უზრუნველყოფის მიზნით.

შემსრულებელი

წყლის ბიომრავალფეროვნების სამოქმედო გეგმის შემსრულებელს პლუ რივერს ტმ გარემოსდაცვითი კოლსანტინგი (უერაბა, კიევი).

