

Suggestion for integrated water resource management planning, future perspectives in Turkmenistan

Harry Liiv

Ashgabad, 5. April 2013

Contents

- General issues about IWRM planning
- Legal aspects, new Code
- Elements of IWRM in Water Management Plans
- Responsible organizations
- Similar activities in EU and some outcomes

IWRM principles in river basins

- **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**, which aims to ensure the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources by maximizing economic and social welfare - without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.
- *In 2012 UNECE EPR recommended - "Develop a national integrated water resource management plan with involvement of relevant water users in the planning process"*
- **River basin principle** - more possibilities to manage water, taking into account basin natural hydraulic and environmental conditions.

Legal situation with river basin approach

- Current Water Code of Turkmenistan, art 102, 103:
- General and **basin** (territorial) **schemes of complex use and protection of waters** define the basic water economic and water security actions for preservation of the water fund and satisfy the primary needs of population and economy, keeping in mind water protection aspects
- Planning of use and protection of waters should provide scientifically proved distribution of waters between water users, preventing at the same time water pollution
- Similar plans on international level:
 - National IWRM plans (worldwide UN approach) or
 - River Basin Management Plans (EU practice)

Proposals to improve current Water legislation (1)

- Complex water use and protection schemes (further IWRM plans) on different levels: **general, basin, territorial**
- Goals of IWRM plans are to solve water problems within different sectors of economy and environment
- IWRM plans determine also concrete plan of measures: 1) to maintain/guarantee water fund, 2) to have concrete directions towards perspective water consumption by people and by economy and 3) to protect water and environment against harmful substances
- IWRM plan will be elaborated by competent authority with involvement of special design institutes, together with scientific institutes
- Elaboration of IWRM plans covered by state budget, indications to finance implementation of those plans should be determined

Proposals to improve current Water legislation (2)

- Also some other proposals in sub acts should be determined further, such as:
 - detailed objectives and content of IWRM plans;
 - timeframe of planned activities;
 - organization of elaboration of such plans;
 - procedures about public participation in process of elaboration of IWRM plans

Competent authorities – institutions and organizations

- Competent authorities: Cabinet of ministers, relevant ministries
- River Basin Organizations (RBOs) with River Basin Administrations; and
- River Basin Councils.

Competent authority, Cabinet of Ministers, MoWE,(National Water Commission)

- **develop state policies** on integrated use of water and protection of water resources for the purposes of irrigation, municipal use, industrial use, generation of hydropower, tourism and recreational use, environment protection , etc;
- **develop relevant state programmes** in the sphere of effective usage and protection of water resources;
- **develop State investment policies** for water resources development, usage and protection;
- **develop policies to mitigate the impact of climate change** on the use and protection of water resources; and
- **supervise development and implementation** of river basin management plans, the rational usage of water resources for irrigation, municipal, industrial, hydropower, and recreational uses, and setting the norms and limits of water use by water users,

River Basin Organizations (RBOs), (1)

According to recommendations at different level and also in new draft Water Code RBO should be:

- (1) responsible in the governance and lead water management of the respective basins water fund, through their activities based on IWRM Plans (so far complex schemes of water use and water protection);
- (2) coordinate activities of water users with the idea achieve sustainable water management;
- (3) control water users about their effective use and protection of water resources in accordance with law;
- (4) carry out state monitoring of water objects and keep water cadastral together with other relevant organization;
- (5) coordinate and harmonize relevant water permits, also other permits, documentation and project of different economic sector activities, such like cable lines, pipelines, constructions forest works, etc;

River Basin Organizations (RBOs), (2)

- (6) detemine limits for water use between different water;
- (7) participate in elaboration of IWRM plans, River Basin Management Plans;
- (8) coordinate, consolidate and protect water users interests in the River Basin, contribute to solving problems of water users with regard to access to and distribution of water resources in the River Basin;
- (9) guarantee the increase of public awareness on water management problems of the river basin and current situation in the water management sphere;
- (10) take into account contribution of Union of water users to solve water management problems across the river basin with regard to delivery, allocation and distribution of water;
- (11) solve conflict situations and issues among water users, and between River Basin Organization and water users.

River Basin Council (RBC)

- Proposal in draft new Water Code is to have possibility to establish Basin Councils
- Tasks:
 - providing consultative services and advice to concrete Basin water management issues,
 - serve as a platform for water users to have a voice in basin planning and management activities and decision-making processes.
- Composition:
 - representatives of government agencies and local authorities responsible of water and land resources in concrete basin, also farmer organizations and NGOs

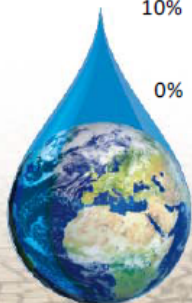
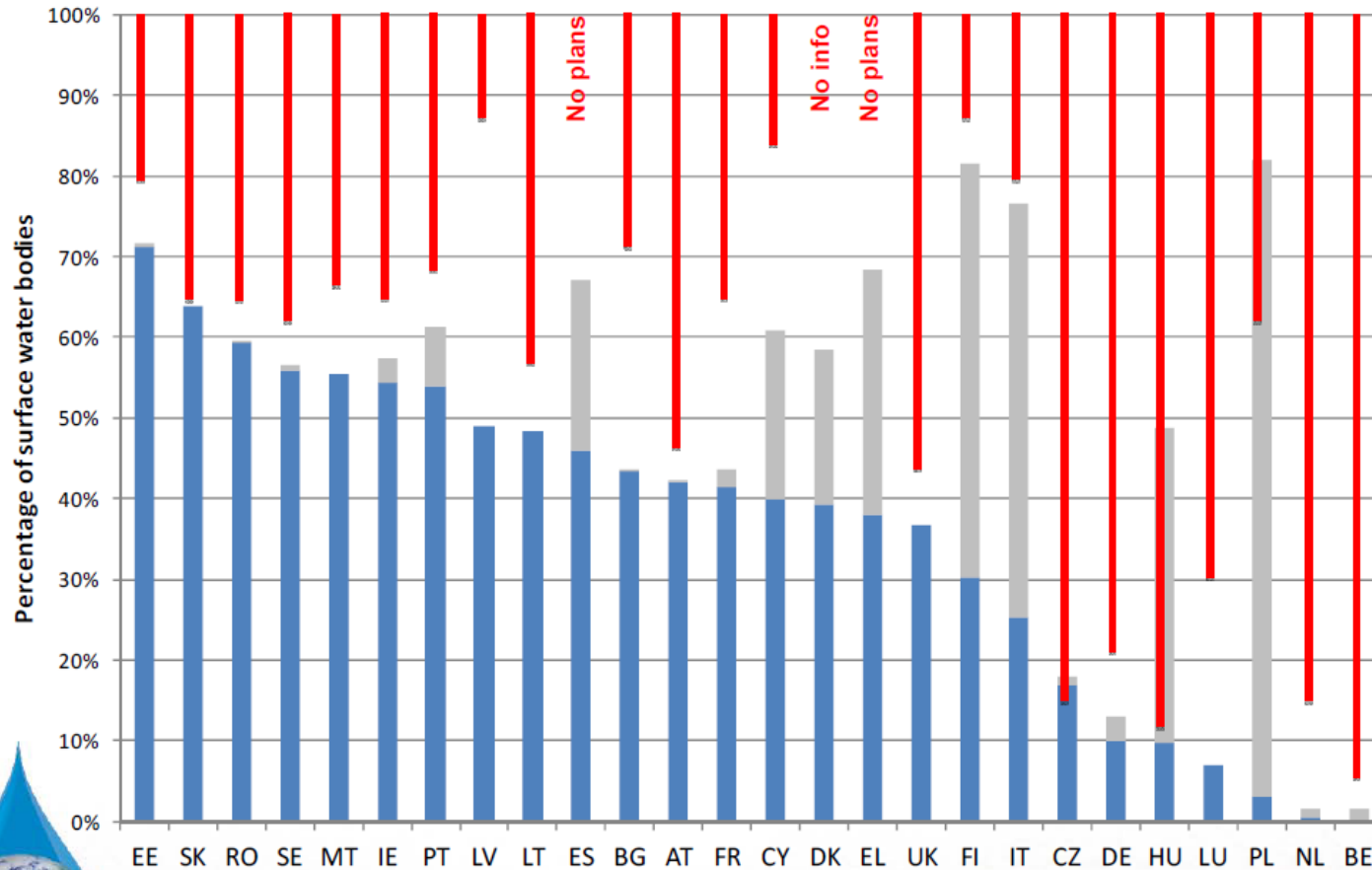
Expected timeframe and way forward

- Proposals to fine-tune or improve legal documents, laws and regulations, 2013-2015
- Proposals to prepare relevant programmes and financing, 2014-2016
- Communication between different parties is important, participation of the private sector in water resource management activities can be taken into account

Conditions and outcomes of water management reforms in many new EU states

- The political context
 - In general positive political support
 - Weak opposition against reforms
 - Scientific disputes to support the implementation of reforms
- Stakeholder involvement
 - Increased by environmental awareness
 - General acceptance of reforms
- The influence of reforms
 - High administrative burden for legislators, strong international support
 - Quickly and constantly changing regulations
 - Lack of financial and administrative resources
- Expected outcomes
 - Almost clear and structured water management system
 - Meeting deadlines and achieving the objectives
 - Well managed infrastructure

Status of water



THE WATER CHALLENGE
EVERYDROP COUNTS
 Green Week - Brussels, 22-25 May 2012

■ Good Ecological Status
 ■ Unknown Ecological Status
 ■ Exemptions

Source: WFD Reporting

Main elements in EU River Basin Management Plans

- an analysis of Basin characteristics;
- a review of the impact of human activity on the status of waters and an economic analysis of water use;
- establishing programs for monitoring the status of surface waters and groundwater and protected areas;
- taking action to prevent or reduce the impact of accidental pollution incidents;
- prohibiting the direct discharge of a list of dangerous substances into groundwater.
- developing and implementing program of measures included in River Basin Management Plans;

Main theme - water and land

- A year ago we said
- that IWRM is *'the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources ...'*.
and
- Water without land can be as pointless as land without water
- ...that is still valid and that will be main theme in future

Thank you !