



# Reducing Trans-boundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin

**UNDP/Sida**

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**

**Presented by:**

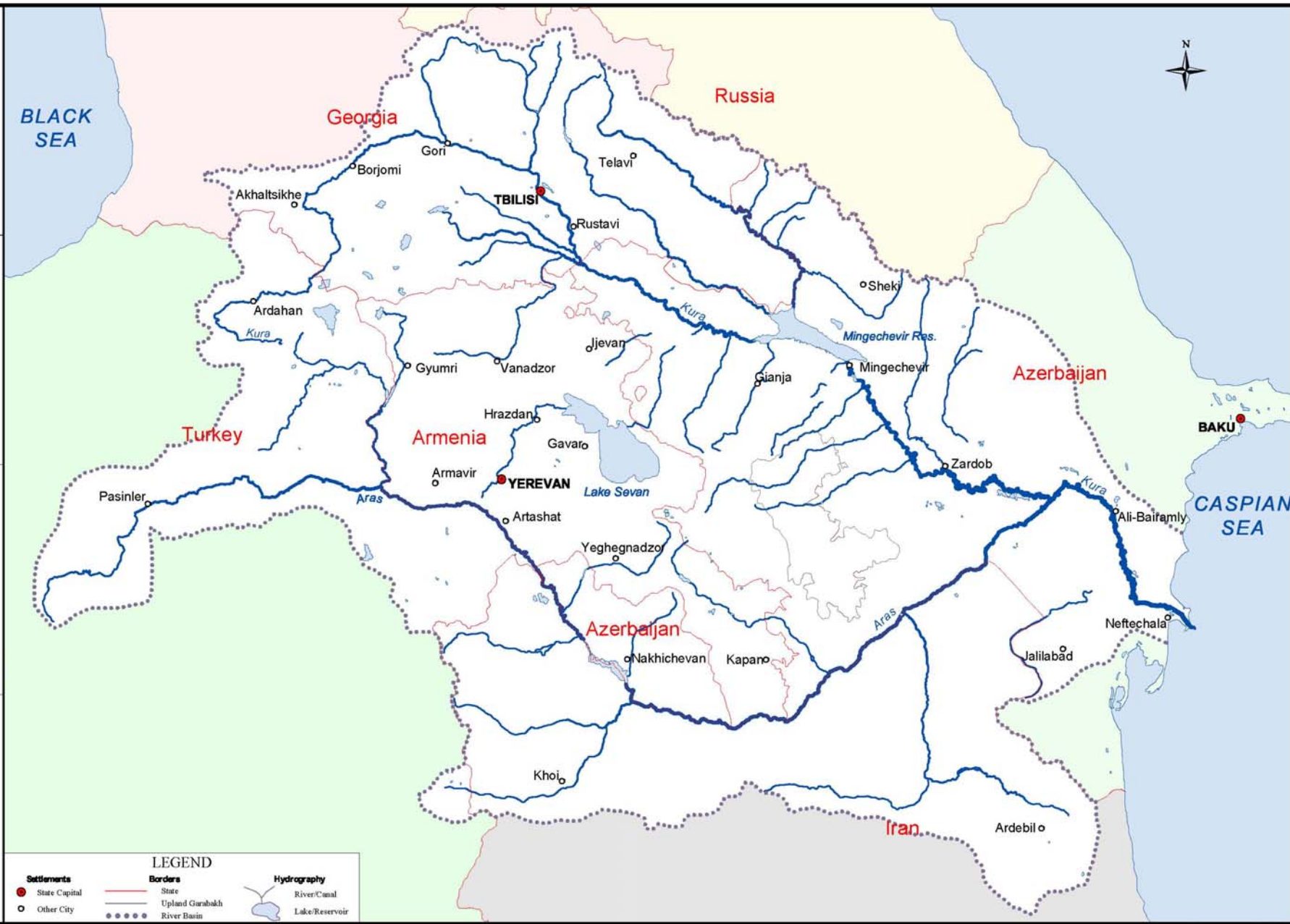
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# Reducing Trans-boundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin



- The Kura-Aras river system is the principal source of water for industry, agriculture, residential use and energy in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as sizeable population of Iran
- The total length of the Kura River is 1,515 km and the total area of the Kura-Aras drainage basin is 188,000 km<sup>2</sup>, occupying the greater part of the South Caucasus Region.
- The Kura River has a mean annual inflow into the Caspian Sea of 16,600 M m<sup>3</sup>
- The basin population amounts approximately 7 million.



**LEGEND**

- |                    |                       |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Settlements</b> | <b>Borders</b>        | <b>Hydrography</b> |
| ● State Capital    | — State               | — River/Canal      |
| ○ Other City       | - - - Upland Garabakh | ■ Lake/Reservoir   |
|                    | ••••• River Basin     |                    |



# Reducing Trans-boundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin



- A multi-component regional initiative of UNDP – carried out since October 2003
- The overall objective is to ensure that the quality and quantity of water resources of the basin meets the short and long-term requirements of the ecosystem and of the communities using the ecosystem
- The immediate objectives of the programme are:
  - to foster regional co-operation;
  - to increase national and regional capacity;
  - to address water quality and quantity problems;
  - to promote changes in the economic sectors causing pollution, water shortages and habitat degradation



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- Current phase of the project is comprised of two components:
  1. **UND/GEF** component funded by Global Environmental Facility - responsible for undertaking Stakeholder Analysis (SHA), producing Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and Ecological Quality Objectives
  2. **UNDP/Sida** component funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – responsible for providing technical assistance to the GEF component at National level with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and developing National Action Plans (NAPs)



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- The Project comprises of three phases:
  - Phase I, the Design Phase;
  - Phase II, the Planning Phase; and
  - Phase III, the Implementation Phase
  
- Currently the Phase II of UNDP/Sida component is underway. It started in January, 2004 and is expected to finish in November, 2005



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- UNDP/Sida component focuses to address the following key technical and policy issues :
  - identify institutional needs for trans-boundary management of the basin;
  - build national capacities for Integrated River Basin Planning and Management (IRBP&M);
  - develop Kura-Aras National Action Plans (NAPs) for three South Caucasus Countries



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## ■ Total Project Budget – USD 1,562,75

- UNDP/GEF - USD 698,328
- UNDP/REGP - USD 100,000
- UNDP/TRIB - USD 25,000

## Co-funding:

- SIDA - USD 594,427
- National Governments (in kind) - USD 145,000





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## Other basin wide studies - completed:

- DAI/USAID Water Resources Management Project in the South Caucasus, focused on water quantity and quality data management and data exchange issues, building capacities for integrated river basin planning at the trans-boundary sub-basin level – **operated from 2000 to July 2004;**
- The EU TACIS Trans-boundary Water Management Project, focusing on water quality monitoring issues - **ended at the end of 2003;**
- OSCE and NATO support South Caucasus River Monitoring project dealing with improved water quality sampling and analysis techniques – **ended in early 2005;**



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## Other basin wide studies - on going or coming:

- Supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety: "Development of the trans-boundary cooperation for hazard prevention in the Kura-river basin", a pilot project focusing on development of early warning model and prevention system for industrial accidents in the Kura-river Basin. The project will run through **2006**;
- Upcoming USAID Regional Programme: Transboundary Integrated Water Resources Management in the South Caucasus (Kura-Aras River Basin) to be started from **October, 2005**.



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## Progress Achieved under the UNDP/Sida Component:

- Policy, Legal and Institutional needs for Integrated River Basin Management on the National levels has been identified and task reports produced in English and Russian;
- Pre-cursory gender study in the water resources management has been conducted and the task report produced in English and Russian;
- Background material on the Basin has been collected and technical study reports for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia developed in Russian and translated in English;



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## Progress Achieved under the UNDP/Sida Component:

- National objectives for IRBP&M have been identified and prioritized through national consultations with Advisory Committee members and expanded groups of stakeholders during the national Seminars in each country;
- Identification of national and regional needs and priority studies for IRBP&M has been conducted through comprehensive Route Cause Analysis (RCA);
- The study of optimal institutional model for regional management of the basin has been conducted;



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## Progress Achieved under the UNDP/Sida Component:

- Development of National Action Plans (NAPs) for IRBM&P is underway;
- Study Tour for 14 national representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Iran was arranged in May, 2005 in the Danube River Basin to learn multilateral cooperation within the international river basins;