



## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Advise to Governments on the development of strategies for the protection of freshwater ecosystems in the South Caucasus

Updated: January 2015



Kura River in the Lesser  
Caucasus.

Source: WWF

**Target country/region:** Armenia,  
Azerbaijan, Georgia

**Duration:** 10/2014 – 01/2016

**Beneficiary:** Ministries for Agriculture  
and Nature Protection, Ministries for  
Energy, Ministries for Economy

**Implementing organisations:** WWF  
Germany via WWF Caucasus Pro-  
gramme Office, together with WWF  
Armenia & WWF Azerbaijan

**Project number:** 47184

## Background

A network of more than 43.000 rivers and numerous freshwater lakes and wetlands build the basis of the diverse and species-rich ecosystem of the South Caucasus. Freshwater ecosystems represent highly important areas for biodiversity conservation and play a vital role in human livelihoods as they provide important ecosystem services. Environmental pollution and wastewater from human settlements, industry, agriculture, as well as overfishing and infrastructure development have a devastating effect on the local freshwater ecosystems.

## Project details

The project contributed to the conservation of the freshwater ecosystems in the South Caucasus by means of specifically targeted consultation of political decision makers. It demonstrated opportunities of how a sustainable use of water resources and how this can be realized through a consistent legal framework. The knowledge gained from the project will feed into the regional and national nature conservation planning and thus provide a basis for sustainable management of natural resources in the Caucasus. The project analysed the relevant legal framework for freshwater ecosystems, including the relevant international conventions. Recommendations for improvement and implementation aiming at enhancement and harmonization of environmental legislation were elaborated and developed. A central element of the project aimed on the regional networking of governmental and non-governmental actors in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Enhancing inter-sectoral and regional cooperation is of special relevance for trans-boundary ecosystems such as the Kura-Aras River Basin.

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