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**Advanced Science & Partnerships for Integrated Resource Development (ASPIRED) Project**

## SUCCESS STORY

### THE SOUTHERN BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE PRESENTED FOR ADOPTION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA



*Sedimentation of Karchevan river due to industrial activity.*

***“The Plan is unprecedented by its depth of analysis and coverage of issues. It will be a master document to follow during the preparation of management plans for other river basins of Armenia,” – said Vahan Davtyan, the Head of the Armenian Water Resources Management Agency, giving credit to the USAID for the high quality of the document.***



*Gold mine on the bank of Meghri river is a source of pollution of the environment.*

The first public hearing on the Southern Basin Management Plan was held by the Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP) in Kapan on March 15, 2016. The Southern Basin Management Plan – a comprehensive document which consolidated the basin management plans for Vorotan, Voghji and Meghri rivers - was prepared by the USAID’s Clean Energy and Water Program and submitted to the Ministry in August 2015.

“The Plan is unprecedented by its depth of analysis and coverage of issues. It will be a master document to follow during the preparation of management plans for other river basins of Armenia,” – said Vahan Davtyan, the Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, giving credit to USAID Armenia for the high quality of the document. The MNP prioritizes the submission of the Plan to the Government of Armenia, which, upon adoption, will be mandatory for execution.

During the public hearing, the WRMA representatives presented the main components of the plan, including the general characterization, pressure-impact analysis and the program of measures to address the critical gaps in the basin. According to the procedure, several public hearings are to be organized as part of the strategic environmental assessment process of the Plan, enabling the stakeholders to provide recommendations before the document goes for adoption. It must be mentioned that the stakeholder participation has also been an important element of the river basin planning process by USAID which had held several regional consultations with the stakeholders and had incorporated their recommendations into the final document.

The Southern Basin is of particular importance due to the extensive industrial activity in the region and numerous economic, social and environmental challenges. The preparation of the Basin Management Plan marks another step forward towards the integrated resource management planning in Armenia that will ensure more sustainable management of the region’s water bodies and minimize negative imprints on the environment.