









Women in Water Diplomacy Network After Action Report South Caucasus Inception Workshop¹

April 26-27, 2024 | Tbilisi, Georgia



























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¹ This Women in Water Diplomacy Network After Action Report was authored by Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager, International Programs, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network with review and inputs from co-convening partners Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University, and Dr. Jeanene Mitchell, Senior Transboundary Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management.











Engagement Summary

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) in partnership with Utrecht University with the support of the Dutch Research institute (NWO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program (SCRWM), convened the 'Women in Water Diplomacy Network South Caucasus Inception Workshop,' April 26-27, 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The workshop was attended by 28 participants in-person and 8 online participants including co-convener representatives. Care was taken in the outreach to foster a balanced group taking into consideration nationality, formal (government) and informal (non-government) water diplomacy related professional roles as well as age and experience. Details and relevant resources including the workshop presentations can be found online at: https://www.eli.org/events/women-water-diplomacy-network-south-caucasus-armenia-azerbaijan-georgia.

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network was initiated in 2017 to improve gender equality in high-level decision making in transboundary basins with focus on women's leadership in regional dialogues around shared waters. The Network was developed in the Nile Basin and later adapted and replicated in other water regions including Central Asia-Afghanistan (since 2021), North America (2023), the Orange-Senqu (2024). All of the regional and basin branches of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network are guided by the Network Global Strategy 'A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security,' leveraging the intersecting 'water, peace and security' and 'women, peace and security' agendas. While each new Network's inception and development process takes unique approaches reflecting co-creation with key stakeholders and regional priorities, lessons learned from development processes undertaken in the last years have enabled best practices to emerge and can help guide future basin/regional engagements, including this South Caucasus inception workshop.

The two-day 'Women in Water Diplomacy Network South Caucasus Inception Workshop' brought together women water experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Though there have been other water-focused dialogue initiatives in the region, many participants noted that they were joining such an initiative for the first time. The workshop took place at a challenging moment in regional relations, with peace negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan ongoing and border demarcation changes announced just days prior to the workshop. A number of Armenian participants were unable to join at the last minute due to social unrest restricting safe travel related to ongoing peace negotiations and impacts on border communities. Several participants joined online. Many of the participants noted in their comments throughout the workshop that the opportunity to exchange with professional counterparts from the neighboring countries was extremely rare with several participants indicating that this was the first time they had met professional peers and counterparts from the neighboring country.

Outreach and identification of invited participants was undertaken primarily by **Dr. Róisín Burke**, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University with recommendations from co-convening partners, experts, and stakeholders. Participant group details and distributions are available in **Annex 1: Workshop Evaluation Results** and the collected short biographies of participants and partner representatives are included in **Annex 4: Collected Participant Biographies**.

The Women in Water Diplomacy South Caucasus Inception Workshop aimed to examine the interconnections of women, water, peace, and security in the South Caucasus and consider avenues to directly support and improve women's participation in transboundary and intra-state water-related











decision-making processes at various levels. Specifically, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network South Caucasus Inception Workshop served as an opportunity to:

- Improve understanding of the barriers and opportunities for women's, including young women's, meaningful participation in water and climate dialogues, and decision-making and management of transboundary waters in the South Caucasus.
- Connect women water security experts from the South Caucasus with one another.
- Foster dialogue around water security, its gender dimensions, and women's participation.
- Identify opportunities to support women's participation in this space.
- Discuss inception and development of a regional Women in Water Diplomacy Network branch in the South Caucasus, including foreseen benefits and challenges.

The full program is available in **Annex 3: Workshop Program** and was designed to enable shared learning, experience exchange and informal collaboration among participants. Presentations for the full workshop are available in the complete **Workshop Slidedeck** available at: https://www.eli.org/events/women-water-diplomacy-network-south-caucasus-armenia-azerbaijan-georgia.

The first day of the program began with welcoming remarks from the Annie Steed, Deputy Director of the Economic Growth Office at USAID Georgia, who emphasized the interconnectedness of regional peace and sustainable water management. She highlighted the recent release of the 'Water and Conflict: A Toolkit for Programming' USAID publication which provides guidance for implementing partners, USAID staff, and other stakeholders to better understand connections between water management and key risk factors associated with conflict, address those links, and incorporate conflict integration into water security, sanitation, and hygiene programming.² She expressed the United States' 'enthusiastic support for this Network' and remarked that the 'Network has the potential to make a real difference' in the region. Eric Viala, Chief of Party, USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management program (SCRWM) followed, ardently welcoming all participants, and expressing pride that the Women in Water Diplomacy Network inception workshop was the first event in the newly launched SCRWM program. Building on the linkages between water and peace, Eric remarked that if developed, the Network can serve as a 'fantastic entry point to bring people together.' He noted that when people see the benefits of cooperation, this spurs further cooperation. Eric drew from his own career experience, sharing with the participants the importance of inclusive water governance and bringing together water professionals with a diversity of professional expertise, including at a municipal level. Elaborating on the importance of directly supporting women in the water sector he reflected that 'we really need you in the water sector, and I tend to believe that women are more adapt at putting their egos on the side and getting to solutions.'

Following the motivating opening remarks, **Dr. Burke** led participants in an interactive exercise to enable participants to begin to get to know each other. During the course of the introductions participants shared early reflections on the uniqueness of the workshop, 'I am overwhelmed by seeing so many women water experts,' 'never have I met so many women water professionals before,' 'I hope this will continue and that I can take part in this new Network,' and 'this is the beginning of a strong Network – good luck to us all!' among other inputs.

² Toolkit and related resources are available here: https://www.globalwaters.org/resources/assets/water-and-conflict-toolkit-programming-0











After a coffee break in which participants were able to continue conversations informally, **Dr. Burke**, kicked off the first content focused session of the workshop on 'The intersections of women, water, peace, and security processes.' During this session, Dr. Burke provided a short overview of the development of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. Elevating the linkages between gender equality and peacebuilding, Dr. Burke shared that 'gender inequalities are everywhere but more visible when countries are under stress,' 'gender vulnerabilities are compounded during conflicts.' She then expanded outlining the growing and wide-spread water insecurities faced by communities around the world and shared experience around opportunities to leverage environment-based dialogues as 'an entry point for cooperation.' Dr. Burke drew from the experience of her native Ireland in expressing the foundational value that women have played during peace negotiations. Dr. Burke then facilitated a discussion on the role of climate and water in Women, Peace, and Security National Action Plans and provided space for the participants to share their knowledge on the status of WPS NAPs in the South Caucasus.

After a group lunch Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager at the Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Tais Reznikova, Program Manager for both the Mentoring and Career Development Programme for Women in Water and Blue Peace Central Asia Secretariat at the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia gave a detailed presentation on the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. This session served to share experiences on the varied approaches taken to develop the Global Network and its regional/basin branches beginning with the Nile (since 2017), Central Asia-Afghanistan (since 2021), North American (2023) and the Orange-Sengu (2024). Furthermore, the session served to illustrate the collaborative governance of the Network with both Global Network experts and regional coordinating partners – like CAREC in Central Asia. Tais shared details on the evolution of the Network in Central Asia and some of the challenges they have faced as a community. Tais remarked that there are currently only three remaining RECs, in Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, and should the Network be developed in the South Caucasus this might be an opportunity for inter-REC experience exchange, particularly given their region's shared challenges and opportunities. Elizabeth and Tais then took numerous questions from the participants who were keen to understand the objectives and actions of the Network as well as how the Network has responded to major events and conflicts including in Afghanistan and Sudan. At the close of this session, all workshop participants were awarded the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's 'A Rising Tide' clip symbol and encouraged to wear it with pride at national, regional and international water policy dialogues.

Following a lively coffee break, **Dr. Susanne Schmeier**, Head of the Water Governance Department and Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy at IHE Delft in the Netherlands gave a concise overview presentation on 'The role of international water law and water governance organizations in supporting and sustaining transboundary water cooperation.' Dr. Schmeier provided explanations of the key instruments of international water law and some regional level instruments, elaborating on the balance and interaction between principles. She then shared evidence and experience regarding the important role of water governance organizations play in conflict mitigation or de-escalation of conflicts as they arise.

Following Dr. Schmeier's presentation she invited case study presentations from two expert river basin organization representatives, both involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, including **Tanja Miškova**, Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in Slovenia and **Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov** from the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). Both Ambassador Miškova and Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov provided the workshop









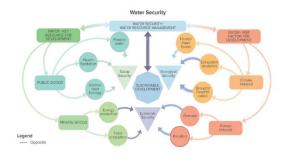


participants with a snapshot of their respective basin organizations, the legal instruments and approaches that guide regional water governance, key water cooperation milestones and some impacts of the Sava and Danube Commissions on peacebuilding.

The first day of the workshop closed with inspiring remarks from **Lilit Baghdasaryan** from the Armenia Water Partnership, who encouraged participants to embark on this important mission together despite the challenges. Reflecting on how water knows no borders and there is power in unity she encouraged the women water experts to overcome the political divides in the region and invest in peacebuilding through water.

The second day of the workshop began with an interactive session led by **Jeyhuna Mammadova**, a Hydrologist and Water Resources Management expert from Azerbaijan, who got everyone out of their chairs and moving around the room to share key take-aways and reflections from discussions from the first day of the workshop. Participants shared that the first day was important to enable everyone to connect and get to know each other, 'even in the most difficult times – we women can come together.' One participant elevated how 'the time is ripe for this Network in the South Caucasus.'

The warmup session was followed by a detailed presentation on the newly launched USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management (SCRWM) Program and opportunities that SCRWM has to support the development of a South Caucasus Women in Water Diplomacy Network. **Eric Viala** provided context on USAID programming and engagement in the region and the motivation for this new program focused on water as an entry point for cooperation. Eric walked through



SCRWM's objectives putting focus on their first objective to 'Strengthening/creating regional forums/platforms/networks that discuss water/environmental/climate change issues.' **Ara Nazinyan,** SCRWM's Armenia Country Director presented the USAID understanding of water security and a diagram of the interacting elements in water security. **Salome Kobalava,** Gender Equity & Social Inclusion Specialist then provided further context to SCRWM's strong focus on integrating gender equality and social inclusion throughout all its engagements. Finally, **Dr. Jeanene Mitchell,** SCRWM's Senior Transboundary Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, presented <u>SCRWM's regional grant making program</u> which aims to foster and support collaborative efforts and innovative solutions towards improved water security, improved water resource management and effective environmental cooperation within the South Caucasus region. Grants are being made on a rolling basis to regional non-governmental organizations for 50,000 USD over one-year periods for the coming five years. Dr. Mitchell encouraged workshop participants to consider applying for the grants and to reach out if they have any questions.

Following a coffee break, **Elizabeth A. Koch** led an Interactive Exercise 'Envisioning a South Caucasus Women in Water Diplomacy Network.' Elizabeth explained two methodologies for co-creating programs with large groups that they would be leveraging during the interactive exercise including the 'Purpose-To-Practice (P2P) Approach' and the '1-2-4-All Method.' Participants were divided up in groups of four. For each heading in the P2P participants took 1-minute for self-reflection on the question, 2-minutes for discussion in pairs, 4-minutes for discussion in the group of four and took turns presenting the outcome of their deliberations back to the plenary. The session was extremely well received by participants who











were able to work collaboratively to consider key questions related to the inception and development of a potential branch of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus. Inputs generated during the workshop for the P2P categories are summarized below. Full texts of inputs from workshop participants are included in **Annex 2: Purpose-to-Practice Network co-creation**. The outcomes of this workshop, together with inputs received in the close of workshop evaluation, provided direct input and insights to the inception and development of a potential Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus.

The first round of the P2P method focused participants attention on *Purpose*: *Why is supporting women water diplomats in the region important to each participant <u>and</u> the <i>larger community?* Participants focused on the need to engage women experts actively and visibly in water diplomacy to enhance transboundary water cooperation, to collectively voice women's water knowledge and experience, enhance women's opportunity to contribute their perspectives, and to support environmental sustainability, peace, and security in the region.



The second round of the P2P asked participants to consider **Principles:** What values and guiding principles must we support to succeed in achieving our purpose? Participants expressed a wide range of suggestions with emphasis on the need to foster diverse, respectful, and cooperative inclusion. Participants highlighted the need to build a sustainable community that was mindful of the region's complexity and adaptable in a dynamic region.

The third round of the P2P asked participants to consider who should be involved going forward – Participants: Who can contribute to achieving our purpose and must be included? Reflecting earlier emphasis on values of diverse inclusion the participants identified a broad range of stakeholders which a potential Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus would benefit from engaging, including women formal government officials and water related decision-makers, local authorities, civil society representatives, academics and researchers, male allies, as well as private sector representatives and development partners.

Given limited time it was decided to come back to a discussion about **Structure: How must we organize to achieve our purpose?** and move on directly to a final round discussing **Practices: What are we going to <u>do</u> together?** Participants had a wealth of suggestions with several groups highlighting the need to convene recurrent workshops, conferences, and events to enable experience exchange, networking, and skills/capacity building across the Network and with other regional/basin Women in Water Diplomacy Networks.



Engaging in water policy processes at the regional and international levels and creating a regional women's experts pool were elevated alongside conducting joint research and shared communications.











Following a final group lunch and group picture, **Dr. Schmeier** led a session on 'The role of water in tensions within and between countries.' During her presentation she highlighted some of the challenges of governing shared waters and unpacked what is meant by conflict in different contexts and scales. Dr. Schmeier presented several contemporary case studies on the intersections of water and conflict/cooperation. Dr. Schmeier concluded by emphasizing that despite some prevailing



rhetoric, cooperation is more common than conflict regarding water, and that while water is often a threat multiplier it is not normally the sole source of violent conflict. She encouraged the participants to embark on joint projects together, such as the study of benefits of water cooperation in the South Caucasus.

The final session of the workshop was facilitated by **Dr. Burke** and gave space to several participants to share their regional and/or country level experiences and knowledge around 'Climate change and preparing for an uncertain future.' Mariam Makarova, the Head of Water Division in the Department of Environment and Climate Change at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia presented on the integration of gender into water governance in Georgia. Dr. Lusine Hambaryan, Associate Professor at Yerevan State University and Senior Researcher, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology NAS RA in Armenia presented on 'The Role of Women in Water Diplomacy and Empowering Change for Sustainable Water Management.' During her presentation she unpacked several ideas around the specific value that women water experts may typically bring to water negotiation processes, noting that 'Female ambassadors tend to focus on underlying factors of larger problems, bringing issues such as poverty, family structures, health care and the lack of safe drinking water into discussions....women are willing to consider options more carefully for a longer period of time until the right way is finally found.' Hajar Huseynova, Energy and Environmental Policy Researcher and Project Management Specialist at the Institute for Development and Diplomacy in Azerbaijan then shared her perspective on 'Climate Change and preparing for uncertain future' including reflection and impacts of climate change on Azerbaijan's water resources and related sectors. Lastly, Nino Rostomashvili, Gender and Social Engagement Officer at the Regional Environmental Center in the Caucasus highlighted efforts taken in the region to improve water management in line with the European Union Water Framework Directive – particularly for Georgia as a required framework for EU accession. Nino also elevated the importance of understanding women as a diverse community and encouraged the group 'to pay special attention to rural communities' and reminded all that 'efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change must consider intersectional factors such as socio-economic status, gender and education to ensure equitable outcomes for all.'

Following a round of thanks to all the organizers, development partners, and workshop participants certificates were awarded, and all participants asked to complete a workshop evaluation survey (see Annex 1: Workshop Evaluation Results for details).











Annex 1: Workshop Evaluation Results

Monitoring and evaluation are critical aspects of all Women in Water Diplomacy Network engagements and Network engagement After Action Reports often feature a full run-out of anonymous participant reflections. The inclusion of this extensive information serves to encourage co-creation of Network engagements and spotlight the expert participant reflections *in their own words*. We greatly encourage workshop participants and interested partners to read participant responses in full as an opportunity to *listen* to women water diplomats. Please note that a small number of open responses were redacted to ensure anonymity of respondents or edited for English language clarity.

The workshop was attended by 28 number of participants including co-convening partner representatives, 23 of whom submitted the workshop evaluation at the close of the workshop. The evaluation was completed using an online Microsoft Office 'Form' using the participants personal phones to access the evaluation via a QR code. The Form was enabled to allow responses in English, Georgian, Turkish and Russian. Armenian and Azerbaijani are of yet unavailable. All responses were received in English. All respondents were made aware that aggregate response data as well as individual statements may be quoted *anonymously* in external communications and activity reports such as this After-Action Report. Responses received were well distributed with 6 responses from Armenians, 8 from Azerbaijan and 9 from Georgians. All respondents identify as women and just over a quarter of respondents are young professionals (Figure 1).

About half of participant/respondents indicated that they serve in a formal capacity related to water diplomacy in their country, with most of the other half of the group indicating that they are engaged in water diplomacy from either a civil society organization or academic institution. There was a well-balanced distribution between those at the early stages of their career and those with many years of experience (Figure 2).

A near plurality of respondents indicated that they either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that workshop was relevant and applicable to their professional work (Figure 3). A complete plurality of respondents indicated that they either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that workshop's agenda provided sufficient space and opportunity to raise questions and comment on the sessions' content (Figure 4) as well as sufficient space and opportunity to share their views, experience, and knowledge (Figure 5). Participants widely indicated that they had opportunity to 'make new professional connections' at the workshop. Many also indicated that they had the opportunity to 'gain new ideas for elevating women in water related processes,' 'Increase my professional knowledge', and 'Gain new insights on specific regional water challenges' (Figure 6).

When asked to consider possible benefits of establishing a Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus, opportunity to 'contribute to providing professional support to future women water decision makers in the region' was identified slightly more than other options (Figure 7). One respondent elaborated, sharing, 'As an academic representative and knowledgeable in water conservation and wise use of water resources, I will be able to provide professional support to future women decision makers in the region.'











Figure 1: Participant Age Distribution:

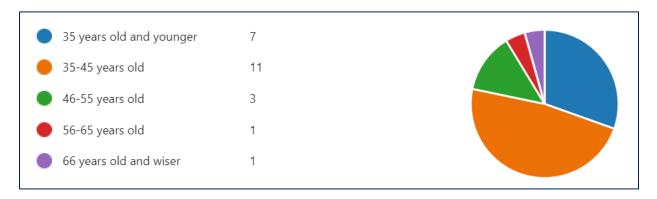


Figure 2: Years of Experience related to transboundary water cooperation:

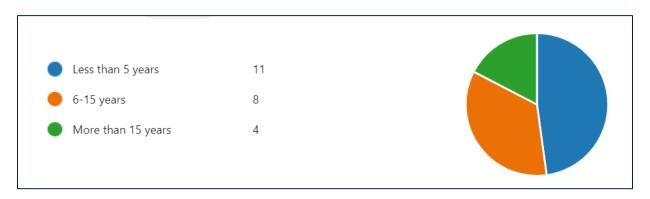


Figure 3: The South Caucasus Inception Workshop was relevant and applicable to my professional work:

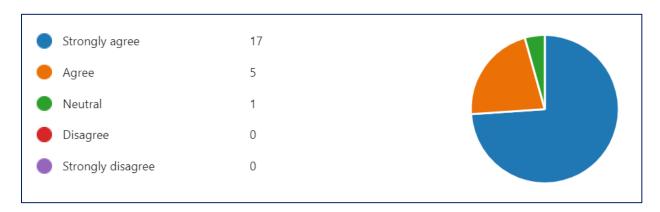












Figure 4: The event's agenda provided sufficient space and opportunity to raise questions and comment on the sessions' content:

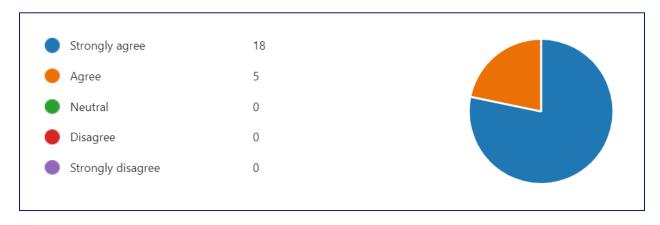


Figure 5: The event's agenda provided sufficient space and opportunity to share my views, experience and knowledge:

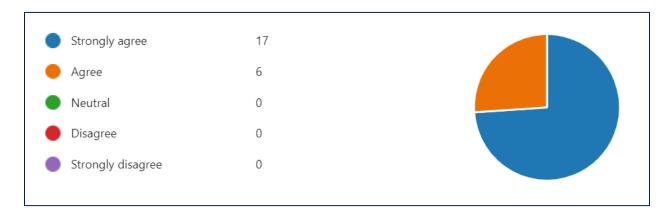
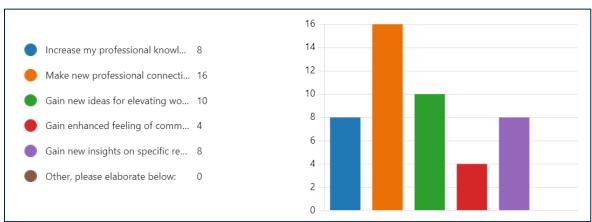


Figure 6: At the April 2024 South Caucasus Inception Workshop, I had the opportunity to:



Full text of options in Figure 4 above: 'Increase my professional knowledge', 'Make new professional connections,' 'Gain new ideas for elevating women in water related processes,' 'Gain enhanced feeling of community and shared mission,' and 'Gain new insights on specific regional water challenges.'



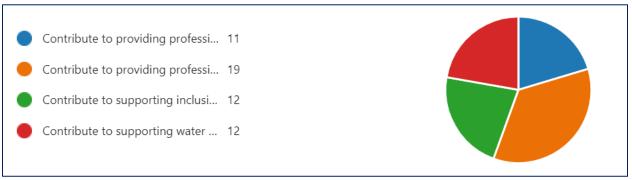








Figure 7: Do you think that establishing a Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus would contribute to (check all that apply). Please elaborate your thoughts below.



Full text of options in Figure 7 above: Blue: 'Contribute to providing professional support to current women water decision makers in the region,' Orange: 'Contribute to providing professional support to future women water decision makers in the region,' Green: 'Contribute to supporting inclusive water governance at the national level,' and/or Red: 'Contribute to supporting water governance at the regional level.'

Participants were asked to consider 'What challenges would you foresee in developing a Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus?' Answering in their own words:

- 'Lack of willingness to cooperate from the political level.'
- 'Motivation and dedication to do so.'
- 'Political situation may impact the work.'
- 'Lack of funding, conflict situation in the region.'
- 'Existing gender stereotypes influencing the process.'
- 'In my opinion, it will be interesting to create experience sharing opportunities with the group, all
 the strong women can take part in some important project which will be connected to water
 diplomacy.'
- 'Lack of necessary education and skills for women to be able to lead.'
- 'Lack of willingness to follow up.'
- 'Political situation in the region.'
- 'Main challenges: disadvantage of financial opportunities for the implementation of planned important events, the slow progress of development of water diplomacy in South Caucasus.'

Participants were asked to share any suggestions for how challenges identified in the previous question might be overcome. Answering in their own words:

- 'Have more projects on cooperation.'
- 'More communication and workshops to create a sense of shared responsibility and motivation.'
- 'Resilience! Encouraging women in the South Caucasus countries to participate despite the perceptions.'
- 'The start all of challenges is negotiation.'
- 'Provision of incentives for young women to join academic programs on water management.'
- 'Online follow up meeting could be a quick way to remind ourselves why we spent these wonderful two days together.'
- 'Find ways to stop the conflicts in the region.'











Participants were asked how the Network can best support young women water professionals in the South Caucasus. Many identified training and capacity building as particularly valuable. Answering in their own words:

- 'Capacity building activities, involving in projects as junior experts.'
- 'Resources, best practices and knowledge exchange.'
- 'Encourage them.'
- 'Knowledge and experience sharing.'
- 'For instance, public lectures, local workshops, training modules.'
- 'Capacity development.'
- 'Through offering experience sharing sessions, sharing resources. and opportunities.'
- 'Via trainings, workshops.'
- 'Provision of capacity development programs, identifying common spheres and encourage collaboration through common projects.'
- 'Inviting to international platforms. Experienced mentors could be assigned.'
- 'Continue to give the floor to women to raise the water related issues and develop specific relations to find solutions.'
- 'Conduct special thematic training, participation in projects.'

Participants were asked to consider what types of activities they would like to see a potential Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the region organize. Answering in their own words:

- 'Regular meetings, workshops.'
- 'Events, Workshop, Training.'
- 'Study tours.'
- 'Workshop roundtables discussion.'
- 'Workshops, seminar in person are the best ones.'
- 'Events, workshops and experience exchange.'
- 'Study tours and side events.'
- 'In person workshops.'
- 'I would underline joint research and project development as well as different workshops.'
- 'Research cooperation.'
- 'Side events, in-person workshops, study tours, dialogue/exchange with other regional networks, meetings with decision makers.'
- 'Study tours and exchange programs.'
- 'Exchange study tours. In person workshops. Research cooperation.'
- 'Study tours, side events, in-person workshops and exchanges would be very helpful for building women's water network and capacity building.'
- 'In my opinion research cooperation would be great.'
- 'Field survey water sampling tours
- 'Most importantly capacity building initiatives. Additionally, exchanges with other regional networks would be more than welcome, as it is crucial to hear their how they managed to be successful.'
- 'Research cooperation is the most effective, since it not only improves the academic skills but also brings considerable input in understanding each other's situation of water sector and induces collaboration.'











- 'Online and in person workshops, side events are also good idea, intersectional perspective could be applied when conducting researches.'
- 'Capacity building events, research cooperation, study tours, workshops.'

Participants were asked to share any suggestions on how a potential Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the South Caucasus could support women water professionals working in at rural and municipal levels. Answering in their own words:

- 'Capacity building training about the daily life.'
- 'They can involve local communities.'
- 'By creating national networks for further communication.'
- 'Organizing campaigns related water issues.'
- 'At least have the representatives from local community organizations included to hear their voices.'
- 'Through trainings and capacity building activities (preferably, in-person).'
- 'I think it will be good if they have more training connected this issue.'
- 'Inviting them to working meetings, maybe do small questionnaires to incorporate their perspectives.' 'Allocate small grants.'
- 'Any of the women from Water Diplomacy Network can organize event at local rural and municipal level to share the insights and the expertise gained from the Network.'
- 'It's necessary to gain the trust of listeners ,talk about specific urgent problems and possible ways to solve them.'

Participants were asked to identify water diplomacy themes they would like to learn about in potential following activities. Answering in their own words:

- 'IWRM, Ecosystem services.'
- 'Transboundary water.'
- 'How women's networks contribute to better water governance practical examples and guidelines which can be modified to fit the needs of our region.'
- 'Connections to sea water.'
- 'Role of water in women's economic empowerment; where are LGBTI+ community in water diplomacy?'
- 'Case studies on water diplomacy at specific areas and methodologies and tools that have been incorporated.'

Participants were asked to share any water diplomacy themes they would like share expertise and knowledge about in potential following activities. Several responded with the below:

- 'Water conflicts.'
- 'LGBTI+ community perspectives; impact on economic empowerment on women, peace, and security; water in prisons.'
- 'Activities that have been implemented at local level.'

Participants were asked to describe the best/most appreciated/most enjoyed aspect of the workshop in their own words, responding:

- 'Networking, amazingly friendly environment.'
- 'All presentations, presenters were amazing.'











- 'Good atmosphere for working and communication.'
- 'New information, especially related to water and conflict.'
- 'Most enjoyed aspect was the group activities.'
- 'The shared experiences from already existent groups and the possibility to get ot know so many smart women devoted to water issues.'
- 'Teamwork activities.'
- 'What I appreciated was how organizers encouraged informal interactions between participants.'
- 'Interactive/group activities.'
- 'I particularly appreciated the presentations on environmental law of transboundary water courses. This is the type of capacity needed for a woman to navigate in water diplomacy issues.'
- 'Wonderful, full of care, interesting; safe space.'
- 'Willingness to collaborate and openness. Really meaningful presentations.'
- 'Most of preseasons were interesting, working in groups allowed us better understanding the mission of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.'

Participants were asked to identify something that could be improved next time. Several responded:

- 'More days.'
- 'Everything was OK.'
- 'All was quite well! Maybe the agenda can be spread over more days to allow for more time and energy.'

Participants were asked to provide any additional comments or issues they would like to elevate to the organizers. Responding:

- 'Thank you!!'
- 'Good luck'
- 'Increase days of seminars.'
- 'Thank you for the nice event!'
- 'Thanks for great event A '
- 'Thanks to organizers for this interesting and fruitful workshop! Looking forward to see you in the future!'
- 'None, thank you very much for an amazing workshop!'
- 'Thank you tremendously for arranging this event, I'm hoping to have more of this movement and networking happen in future.'
- 'Thank you so very much! You inspired us a lot!'











Annex 2: Purpose-to-Practice Workshop Session Outcomes

Inputs from participations collected during the 'Envisioning a South Caucasus Women in Water Diplomacy Network' using the Purpose-to-Practice approach are included in full for reference.

Purpose: Why is supporting women water diplomats in the region important to each participant <u>and</u> the larger community?

- 'Involve women in water diplomacy'.
- 'Build security and peace'.
- 'Networking'
- 'Share experience and best practices'.
- 'Enhance transboundary cooperation'.
- 'Provide sustainability.'
- 'Within the region support communication, common issues and come up with solutions that meet a common vision with inclusion of women experts in water management and make the sector more accommodating to women's needs.'
- 'To promote women's participation in water diplomacy and voicing the challenges faced by women in the South Caucasus Countries.'
- 'We need facilitation to arise at water related priorities. We have women in diplomacy and related sectors such as water supply, water governance, non-government organizations, Ministries, research institutions. We need water diplomats working with water engineers to raise our voice in large community. As women are the main consumer of water and face water-related issues even more than men in their daily lives. Take into consideration traditional, cultural aspects.'
- 'Share experience on water resources and increase women's opportunity to contribute their perspectives for the sustainable use and management of water resources.'
- 'Empowering more diverse women's voices to increase water safety, security, protection of water and contribute to peace.'
- 'To increase women's voice/agency in water management because they are the main water users inside each household.'

Principles: What values and guiding principles must we support to succeed in achieving our purpose?

- 'Respect of diversity'
- 'Healthy environment'
- 'Equal representation of all parties' interests'
- 'Water for all'
- 'Water for peace'
- 'Make the invisible, visible.'
- 'Involve women of diverse categories.'
- 'Don't generalize be mindful about country specific issues such as gender.'
- 'Political willingness to achieve peace in the region through initiation of a dialogue taking the water sector as a starting point.'
- 'Do no harm'
- 'Be an initiator.'
- 'Be cooperative.'
- 'Be respectful.'











- 'Experience and knowledge sharing.'
- 'Constant reflection and evaluation.'
- 'Empathy.'
- 'Do no harm to any gender.'
- 'Sustainability shouldn't stop consider long-term impacts.'
- 'Adaptability'
- 'Collaborate working with teams, consider all sections of society.'
- 'Involve women (and men?) from all geographies, incomes, social backgrounds, ethnicities, livelihoods, professions and ensure all receive tangible benefits and outcomes from participating.'

Participants: Who can contribute to achieving our purpose and must be included?

- 'Women of bordering communities and conflict affected areas.'
- 'NGOs'
- 'Local governments'
- 'Initiative groups'
- 'Children and youth'
- 'Academics'
- 'Male allies'
- 'Government/ specialized agencies'
- 'NGOs, academic institutions, researchers'
- 'Private sector'
- 'Local communities'
- 'Donor organizations'
- 'Media'
- 'Parliamentary representatives'
- 'Expert groups, that include all water stakeholders'
- 'Government bodies'
- 'Rural representation'
- 'Water service providers'
- 'Environmental NGOs'
- 'Academic institutions'
- 'Donors'
- 'Government agencies'
- 'Foreign Affairs, social development, health and hygiene, agriculture, water users' associations, statistics committee, NGOs and CSOs. Religious establishment groups, media and celebrities, private sectors (industries), sponsors, academia – both universities and schools, innovative startups.'
- NGOs
- State Women's Committee
- 'Women and men active community members'
- 'Relevant water partners'
- 'First off, we should involve decision makers. After that academician and local communities to take
 account of their experience. Local municipality representatives and other stakeholders related to
 water including energy, tourism, agriculture sector and industry.'











Practices: What are we going to do together?

- 'Activities related to water: Participation in water policy processes, discussions, meetings, joint events like world water day, children's exhibitions and content.'
- Establish environment women network who live in transboundary regions'
- 'Shared research/ projects.'
- 'Regional newsletter'
- 'Mentorships for younger women in water sector.'
- 'Experience exchange.'
- 'Organize skill building programs for women in South Caucasus involved in the water sector.'
- 'Organize skill-building programs for rural women across South Caucasus in water resource management and self-advocacy. Providing them with the skills to lobby the water related issues at decision maker level.'
- 'Active inclusion into the Global Network.'
- 'Workshops- organize workshops to enhance skills in water management and negotiation.'
- 'Network events organize networking events, regional conferences, forums to connect women in water diplomacy.'
- 'Campaigns to raise awareness on water related issues.'
- 'Youth Engagement- engage young women.'
- 'Involve professional water experts.'
- 'Enhance the networking between women experts.'
- 'Conduct research and create database in related area to water resources management.'
- 'Conduct research in our own countries related to river basins.'
- 'Seek sponsorship to cover interstate research projects.'
- 'Provide trainings of expertise/ capacity building'.
- 'Information sharing/ best practices/ experiences'
- 'Networking, workshops, coordination meetings.'
- 'Create a pool of experts.'
- 'Identify major problems and work towards resolving them.'
- 'Joint projects/ social, research, monitoring.'
- 'Analysing the legal framework and perspectives for cooperation.'
- 'Public awareness, empowerment.'
- 'Create common agenda.'
- 'Using social media for information sharing.'
- 'We can work together on women's participation in transboundary fresh water including groundwater monitoring.'
- 'Discuss similar water issues and exchange best practices to advise issues at all levels.'











Annex 3: Workshop Program

All times in this program are local Tbilisi time/ UTC+4.

UTC+4	Friday, April 26, 20244
8:30 - 9:00	Registration All participants are invited to sign-in, collect your name tag, and greet your fellow participants as they arrive! Hard copies of the program will be available.
9:00 - 9:45	Welcome and Introduction Objectives and program overview; participant and partner introductions. Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University
	 Welcome remarks from partners: Michelle Koscielski, Economic Growth Office Director, USAID Georgia Eric Viala, Chief of Party, USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management
9:45 - 10:45	Interactive participant introductions Facilitated by: Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University; with an interactive activity led by Moreta Bobokhidze, LLM Criminal Justice and Penal Change, University of Strathclyde, Consultant in Gender Sensitive Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Gender mainstreaming
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break 555
11:00 - 12:00	The intersections of women, water, peace, and security processes Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University
11:00 - 12:00 12:00 - 13:30	The intersections of women, water, peace, and security processes Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute
	The intersections of women, water, peace, and security processes Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University
12:00 - 13:30	The intersections of women, water, peace, and security processes Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University Group Lunch for all participants Experience exchange with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead, Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Tais Reznikova, Program Manager, Mentoring and Career Development Programme for Women in Water, and











	 Invited short case study experience exchange presentations: Tanja Miškova, Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov from the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Interactive discussion with participants in the room
16:30 - 17:00	Wrap Up and Closing Reflections from participants Facilitated by Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University and Lilit Baghdasaryan, Country Water Partnership, Armenia
18:30 – 21:00	Group Dinner

UTC+4	Saturday, April 27, 20244
9:00 - 9:30	Morning welcome and participant reflections Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University, Jeyhuna Mammadova, Hydrologist and Water Resources Management and Dr. Elina Bakradze, Deputy Head of Department, National Environmental Agency
9:45 - 10:45	Introduction to the USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management (SCRWM) Program and opportunities to support South Caucasus Women in Water Diplomacy Network Eric Viala, Chief of Party Dr. Jeanene Mitchell, Senior Transboundary Stakeholder Engagement Advisor; and Salome Kobalava, Gender Equity & Social Inclusion Specialist USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	Interactive Exercise: Envisioning a South Caucasus Women in Water Diplomacy Network Breakout groups to identify prioritized engagements for South Caucasus Women in Water Diplomacy Network Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead, Women in Water Diplomacy Network
12:30 - 14:00	Group Lunch for all participants
14:00 - 14:15	Group Picture











14:15 – 15:30	The role of water in tensions within and between countries
	Dr. Susanne Schmeier , Head of the Water Governance Department, Associate
	Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy, IHE Delft
	' '
	Invited participant discussant responses
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break 555
15:45 – 17:00	Experience Exchange: Climate change and preparing for an uncertain future
	Dr. Róisín Burke, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Netherlands Institute
	of Human Rights, Utrecht University
	,
	With Expert Participant Panelists
	Marian Makarova, Head of Water Division, Department of Environment and
	Climate Change, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
	Dr. Lusine Hambaryan, Associate Professor, Yerevan State University; Senior
	Researcher, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology NAS RA, Armenia
	Hajar Huseynova, Energy and Environmental Policy Researcher and Project
	,
	Management Specialist, Institute for Development and Diplomacy, Azerbaijan
	Nino Rostomashvili, Gender and Social Engagement Officer, REC Caucasus
17:00 - 17:20	Awarding of Participation Certificates
17.00 - 17.20	Awarding of Participation Certificates
17:20 – 17:45	Next Steps, Workshop Evaluation and Closing Remarks
	USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program representative











Annex 4: Collected Participant Short Biographies

Alphabetical order by first name:

Ara Nazinyan (Armenia) USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program (SCRWM) Country Director, Armenia.

Astghik Spartak Hakobyan (Armenia) is the Community Leader (Mayor) of Berd community in Tavush region, a social worker and civil society advocate. - social worker and NGO activist. Astghik graduated with honors from the Department of Merchandising of the Yerevan Trade and Economics Technical College, majoring in commodity science. She holds a qualification from YSU Faculty of Sociology, Department of Social Work, majoring as a social worker. Over the years she has worked with culture, youth, the arts, children and social work with national and international organisations and NGOs, including UNICEF, Save the Children.

Elizabeth A. Koch (United States) serves as the Senior Manager for International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and leads the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Process Support Team, supporting the Network's development since inception. Elizabeth has over 15 years of experience supporting water diplomacy engagements in conflict sensitive basins on behalf of ELI, SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme, the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation, and EcoPeace Middle East. Elizabeth holds a MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.

Eric Viala (France, United States) is Chief of Party of the USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program (SCRWM). He is a French/American civil engineer with 35 years of international experience in water resource/irrigation engineering. An experienced Chief of Party/project director/team leader, Eric has worked in over 40 countries including long-term positions in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tajikistan for different donor agencies (USAID, World Bank, European Union, French Aid).

Dr. Elina Bakradze (Georgia) is an EU4Dialogue expert and Deputy Head of Department at National Environmental Agency. Elina is a dedicated professional with extensive experience as an environmental quality expert, professor, manager, with demonstrated expertise in research, teaching, and leadership roles. She has a proven track record of improving water, air, and soil quality through innovative strategies and effective management. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science. She is an Associated Professor in Environmental Science, Water Quality Management at San Diego State University. She has published more than 80 scientific articles and more than three books. She has more than 17 years of experience and success in environmental monitoring projects and grants, performing fieldwork and studies, and advancing environmental research. She is an expert in water quality, atmospheric air and soil quality, quality assurance, data evaluation and analysis delivering interpretations of findings based on scientific experimentation and existing knowledge.

Emma Anakhasyan (Armenia) holds an MD degree from Yerevan State Medical University, graduated in 1990, and an MPH degree from the American University of Armenia, completed in 2005. With a background in epidemiology and public health, she has extensive experience in water and sanitation policy, project implementation, and monitoring. Prior to joining Armenian Women for Health and Healthy











Environment NGO (AWHHE) in 2003 as the Head of the Environmental Health Department, Emma served as an epidemiologist and later as the Head of the Epidemiological Department at the Sanitary-Epidemiological Surveillance Center of Kotayk province in Armenia from 1990 to 2003. Throughout her career, Emma has collaborated with various international organizations such as WHO, FAO, WB, UNECE, UNDP, WRI, ARCADIS Belgium and SEI, among others, on projects related to water issues. Her expertise and contributions have earned her the role of an International Expert on Water and Sanitation. Additionally, Emma Anakhasyan serves as the Honorary Secretary of the Women for Water Partnership, based in the Netherlands, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing water-related initiatives on a global scale.

Gulnar Aliyeva (Azerbaijan, participating online) graduated from the Azerbaijan Melioration and Construction University and Baku Medical College with diplomas in Melioration and Water farm engineer, and medical sciences. She has about twelve years of experience in the field of management of water resources and environment protection, including supporting capacity building and awareness rising and stakeholder coordination for various partners/projects such as the EU, UNDP, OECD, UNECE, UBA(Austria), EaU (France), World Bank and other donor supported projects from 2012 till 2024. She worked for EPTISA/Spain company during 2012-2015 and assisted company in the implementation of the World Bank project on Communication Strategy Development for Solid Waste Management in Azerbaijan, also at the same time organized a range of activities on stakeholder communication strategy development and implementation for Kura TACIS project in Central Kura River basin managed by EPTISA. Gulnar also provided assistance during development RBMP for Ganjachay and Alazan/Ganikh rivers and cooperated with EU EPIRB and EUWI+ projects as a communication assistant for stakeholder coordination strategy development for pilot RBMPs in Kura upstream of Mingachevir reservoir basin district. Currently, Gulnar is the coordinator of a UNECE supported project, named "Identification of Alternative Water Sources to Increase Resilience of Communities of Regions of Azerbaijan to Climate Change."

Gunay Hasanova (Azerbaijan) is a seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience in environmental sustainability, water management, and energy generation from water resources. She has held key roles in various esteemed organizations, showcasing her expertise and commitment to driving impactful change. With a background in hydrology and climatology from Baku State University, Gunay's academic journey laid a robust foundation for her career. Gunay's professional journey encompasses significant contributions across diverse sectors. From her tenure at Azerenergy Joint Stock Company, where she played a pivotal role in ensuring the efficient operation of Azerbaijan's electricity system, to her work with the Ministry of Ecology, where she contributed to shaping environmental policies and initiatives. During her time at the University of California, Davis, as a Hubert H. Humphrey fellow, Gunay focused on sustainable water resource management. This experience further enriched her understanding of global environmental challenges and solutions. As an Expert in Sustainability at the Azerbaijan Tourism Board, Gunay leverages her expertise to promote eco-friendly practices within the tourism industry, contributing to the country's broader sustainability goals. Her involvement in projects such as the UNDP GEF Kura Project underscores her dedication to environmental advocacy on both national and international levels.

Guntakin Mammadova (Azerbaijan) is a Water Supply Engineer with over seven years of experience in the field. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, solidifying her expertise in water supply engineering. Currently, she holds the position of Project Engineer at the "Sukanal" Scientific-Research and Design Institute. In her role, Guntakin is











responsible for project planning and implementation, particularly focusing on water and sewage lines for several villages in the Ismayilli district, Basqal town, Neftchala city, and Tovuz district. Her work involves meticulous attention to detail, ensuring that water supply systems are designed and executed efficiently to meet the specific needs of each community. With her extensive experience and educational background, Guntakin plays a vital role in ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities for the communities she serves. Her dedication to her field contributes significantly to the improvement of infrastructure and quality of life in various regions of Azerbaijan.

Hajar Huseynova (Azerbaijan) is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Development and Diplomacy (IDD) specializing in energy and environmental policy, green energy and climate change, sustainable development, and water resources management. She is an independent consultant of UNDP and GIZ on water resources management and integrating ecosystems services into development planning. She is a former Regional Project Analyst for the UNDP-GEF Kura II Project. Hajar has conducted a comprehensive policy research on Azerbaijan's renewable energy potential and water-energy nexus published at the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung. She has also worked as a Research Assistant at the Caspian Center for Energy and Environment and Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI) where she has contributed to the policy and academic research on energy, environment and political trust. Hajar holds MA degree in Diplomacy and International Affairs from ADA University.

Hélène Masliah Gilkarov (Austria) has served as Technical Expert for Public Participation and Communication with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) located in the UNOV in Vienna since 2016. Hélène is in charge of the technical support for ICPDR Contracting Parties on issues related to public participation as well as the coordination of all Communication Activities on behalf of the ICPDR Secretariat. On her agenda with the ICPDR, she develops communication and outreach projects well as actively supports the Public Participation Expert Group and ICPDR's international endeavors in the Danube River Basin and beyond. A political scientist and specialist of international relations trained in international universities in France, the US and Israel, and with a background in political science and international relations, she is also a strong advocate for public participation. She thrives for experience and values such as service for others that are close to her heart.

Inga Ashlarba (Georgia) is a Senior Specialist within the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Biodiversity of the National Environment Agency, in the Division of Aquatic Biodiversity. She holds a master's degree in biology with specialization in hydrobiology. In parallel with her studies, she participated in various professional and cognitive trainings and courses related to water resources management, aquaculture, water quality, aquatic organisms. Recently she was involved in the "Connecting Kura-Araks River Basin Youth for Water and Peace" workshop. She has undertaken several internships including with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara in 2021 and with the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, the National Agency of the Environment in 2022. From April 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023, she worked at the Laboratory Research Center of the Ukrainian State University, in the microbiology laboratory before taking up her current position.

Iskuhi Mirzoyan (Armenia) works at the "NGO Center" Civil Society Development NGO. Iskuhi Mirzoyan has been working in the public sector for about 8 years. She managed projects aimed at the realization of the rights of vulnerable groups, now she is involved in community development projects at the NGO Centre as a project coordinator. Iskuhi Mirzoyan is a political scientist by profession, specialized in the











field of public policies, has participated in many courses, is actively involved in formal and informal educational programs.

Dr. Jeanene Mitchell (United States) is a Senior Transboundary Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for the USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program (SCRWM). She has over 20 years of experience in the South Caucasus and Turkey on water, energy, gender, and sustainable development topics. Previously, Jeanene directed stakeholder engagement for a UNDP-Global Environment Facility transboundary water management project in the Kura River Basin. She has also worked in research at the Columbia University Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy. Jeanene holds a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Studies and a Certificate in International Development from the University of Washington, an MA in International Affairs from Columbia University, and a BSFS in International Politics from Georgetown University.

Jeyhuna Mammadova (Azerbaijan) is a seasoned hydrologist and water resources management professional with over a decade of experience in the field. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Hydrology from Baku State University and a Master's degree from Baku Engineering University. Throughout her career, Jeyhuna has worked in various capacities, including as an engineer at the Service of Navigation and Oceanography of the Naval Forces, where she conducted water quality assessments and environmental impact evaluations. She later transitioned to roles at "Azersu" OJSC, focusing on strategic research and fresh water supply planning. Currently, she serves as an engineer at the "Sukanal" Scientific Research and Design Institute, specializing in hydrological research and water supply analysis. Additionally, she has volunteered with Nature Friends NGO, contributing to projects promoting environmental awareness and youth development Jeyhuna has actively participated in international projects with organizations such as UNDP, EUWI+ and the European Union, demonstrating her expertise in the field. With a Ph.D. focused on hydroecological issues, Jeyhuna continues to contribute to the advancement of sustainable water management practices.

Lala Mamyan (Armenia) works at the Community Center for Development" Territorial Cooperation NGO (CCD). Lala is part of the "Smart Noyemberyan" project team. The project is funded by USAID and implemented by the "Community Center for Development" Territorial Cooperation NGO (CCD NGO). Her experience encompasses work in human rights, capacity building, and issues related to youth and women's rights. While working for the CCD NGO, she has also completed several projects aimed at infrastructure development in the settlements of the Noyemberyan Enlarged Community.

Lilit Baghdasaryan (Armenia) is a projects management specialist at Country Water Partnership (CWP). She is deeply committed to harnessing the power of women's leadership in resolving water-related conflicts and fostering sustainable water management practices globally. With a background in Psychology and a passion for gender equality, she has dedicated her career to addressing the intricate nexus of water scarcity, environmental degradation, and socio-political tensions. Drawing on her expertise in conflict resolution and mediation, Lilit has pioneered innovative approaches that integrate gender perspectives into water governance frameworks, thereby fostering inclusive and equitable solutions. Through her work, she has had the privilege of collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and grassroots communities, to develop tailored strategies that address the unique challenges faced by women and men having health issues. Whether facilitating capacity-building workshops for female water entrepreneurs or advocating for gender-











sensitive policies at the highest levels of government, she has remained steadfast in her commitment to advancing the principles of women's empowerment and sustainable development.

Dr. Lusine Hambaryan (Armenia) is an Associate Professor at Yerevan State University and Senior Researcher at the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology NAS RA hosted at Yerevan State University. Lusine has many years of experience researching freshwater phytoplankton in aquatic ecosystems of Armenia.

Lusine Taslakyan (Armenia, based in US, participating online) is a Ph.D. candidate in Water Resources at the University of Idaho, USA where her doctoral research is focused on Life Cycle Assessment and Techno-Economic Analysis for novel water treatment technology, analyzing the operations and performance, technology design upgrade potential, and carbon footprint. She has over 25 years of experience in aquatic ecology, water quality, water policy, climate change, international water law, and transboundary cooperation. She has worked in national and transboundary water management projects implemented through USAID, UNDP, and EU in Armenia and the Southern Caucasus. Lusine earned a M.Sc. in Water Science, Policy and Management from the University of Oxford, UK, a M.Sc. in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho and a MSc in Biology and Ecology from the Armenian State Pedagogical University in Yerevan, Armenia. She also completed a post-graduate course at the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia conducting research on benthic macroinvertebrates in Lake Sevan Basin rivers.

Manana Devidze (Georgia) is the Director of the Foundation Caucasus Environment. She is a specialist in drinking water quality and bacteriological pollution of the wells in the villages of western Georgia; harmful algal bloom event in the Black Sea coastal waters; eutrophication of lakes; new legislation for the development of fish farms and fisheries in Georgia; biolearn about the biodiversity in the water ecosystems and wetlands.

Mariam Makarova (Georgia) is the Head of Water Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Mariam is an engineer-chemist by profession, graduating from the Georgian Polytechnical Institute. She has more than 30 years of experience working in the field of water resources management. In her current role she oversees the functions of the division, namely: participation in the development and implementation of state policy in the field of water resources management, development of projects of normative acts in the field of water resources management, participating in the implementation of obligations of the Association Agreement between EU and Georgia.

Mariam Tsetskhladze (Georgia) serves at the National Environmental Agency within the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Biodiversity in Georgia. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Health Care. Since 2016 she has been working at Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Biodiversity at the National Environmental Agency under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Her primary duties involve hydrobiological sampling, ensuring the proper preservation and transportation of samples, and employing biological indicators to comply with the EU Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Additionally, she actively participates in field expeditions related to department initiatives, conducting both primary and laboratory processing of hydrobiological samples. One of her key contributions is in conducting quantitative-qualitative assessments of macrophytes,











synthesizing findings into comprehensive reports and scientific articles. Leveraging geographic information systems (GIS) methods, she contributes to mapping and analyzing aquatic ecosystems, particularly within the aquaculture domain, focusing on Allocated Zone for Aquaculture. Furthermore, she is deeply involved in international collaborations, engaging in projects, conferences, and training sessions to exchange knowledge and best practices.

Marika Makharadze (Georgia) works at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture's National Environmental Agency within the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Biodiversity. Marika has a background in marine biology, aquaculture, environmental protection, and education. She holds a master's degree in marine biology and hydrobiology from Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. In her work she spearheads ichthyological research and stock assessment while actively contributing to marine resource conservation efforts. Furthermore, she is actively involved in the Black Sea Young Ambassador Bridge Program underscores her commitment to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards. Through active participation in conferences, workshops, and educational events, she remains steadfast in her pursuit of knowledge dissemination and collaboration within the scientific community. As a teacher, Marika passionately advocates for the promotion of science subjects in academic institutions, instilling in her students a profound sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship.

Medina Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan) is the Head of Environmental Management Unit at SOCAR Headquarters and an experienced water management expert. Medina Hajiyeva holds a master's degree in Environmental Engineering specializing in water management from University College London. She is an expert in environmental management and water resource optimization, with a strong focus on driving efficiency and sustainability initiatives. Currently serving as the Head of Division of Environmental Management at SOCAR Head Office, she leads efforts to increase the efficiency of water usage, demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and resource conservation. With a background in senior project management, Medina Hajiyeva brings invaluable expertise to her current role. During her tenure at Mekorat, the national water company of Israel, she played a pivotal role in preparing the Azerbaijan Water Masterplan in collaboration with the Azerbaijan State Water Agency. Additionally, she conducted a feasibility study for the construction of a major desalination plant on the Caspian Sea, aiming to address the potable water needs of the population. As the Delivery Manager of the Electro-chlorination Plant for disinfection of potable water at major water treatment and pumping stations of Azerbaijan at SUEZ, Mrs. Hajuyeva demonstrated exceptional leadership in ensuring the quality and safety of potable water supply systems. Furthermore, she served as the Boyukshor Lake Rehabilitation Project Manager, where she coordinated detailed design preparation and conducted technical assessments, showcasing her dedication to environmental restoration and sustainable infrastructure development. Medina Hajiyeva remains committed to driving positive change and advancing environmental sustainability through innovative projects and strategic leadership, making significant contributions to water management and environmental conservation efforts.

Michelle Koscielski (United States) is the Economic Growth Office Director for USAID/Georgia. Prior to this, she was assigned to the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where she received an MA in Strategic Studies. Michelle also served in Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, South Sudan, and Uganda. Before joining USAID in 2010, she was an economic analyst with the U.S. Department of Commerce and then the U.S. International Trade Commission. Michelle attended DePaul University for her undergraduate studies and then received an MA in Economics and in International Relations from Syracuse University. She is originally from Chicago, Illinois.











Moreta Bobokhidze (Georgia) is a consultant engaged in programmes related to Women Peace and Security (WPS), Gender Sensitive Leadership, and Conflict Resolution. Moreta has 20 years' experience working in the criminal justice sector with significant focus on human rights, corrections, gender equality, and anti-discrimination. In 2019-2022 Moreta was a Torture Prevention Expert of the National Prevention Mechanism under the Ombudsman of Georgia. Moreta is an experienced election observer, amongst other countries, she observed presidential elections in United States in 2020. Ms. Bobokhidze works as a Gender Expert, develops policies, recommendations on gender mainstreaming, evaluates budgets with gender lenses and conducts training on various aspects of gender equality. Moreta is the co-author of manuals for prison and probation system and has published articles on women's economic empowerment.

Nana Kitiashvili (Georgia) is the Head of Hydrogeological Monitoring and Technical Maintenance Division, Department of Geology at the LEPL National Environmental Agency (NEA) in Georgia. Nana is a hydrogeologist by profession. During her studies at the higher education institution and then, during her professional career, she had the opportunity to directly participate in the field and office work carried out for the purpose of hydrogeological, engineering-geological, and geo-ecological data collection in different regions of Georgia. Since 2013, she has taught courses at the Technical University of Georgia related to Geology, Mining and Geoengineering and Archaeology including "Drinking, mineral, thermal and industrial waters of Georgia," "Hydrogeochemistry", "Geological environmental protection", Geoecology." Since 2016, in parallel with scientific-pedagogical activities, she has worked in the Geology Department of the LELP National Environmental Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Dr. Natavan Jafarova (Azerbaijan) is a Senior Science Researcher at the Institute of Geography in Azerbaijan. She has extensive experience in water issues in Azerbaijan. In 2000-2004, she graduated with honors from the Faculty of Geography of Baku State University. In 2004-2006, she graduated with honors from a master's degree in "Regional planning and management" at the Faculty of Geography of Baku State University. In 2006-2009, she was a PhD student at the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Institute of Geography. On June 27, 2013, she defended her dissertation on the topic "Development of an information base of social and economic conditions of the Azerbaijani coastal zone of the Caspian Sea by using GIS technologies" for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geographical Sciences. Since 2012, she has been working as a senior researcher at the "Economic-social and Political Geography" department of the Institute of Geography. Since 2015, she has been working as a teacher at the Geography Faculty of Baku State University. Natavan Jafarova is also an expert in several international projects. The main research method is GIS technology and aerospace research. Experience in international projects: 2016present time, include: Country expert in international project sound: Strengthening Adaptive Capacity in the Caucasus" Mountain regions; GIS expert in international project "Preparation of the atlas of zoonotic infections in South Caucasus"; Participant in the project "HORIZON2020" Expert from Azerbaijan; UNEP project named "Mountain ADAPT" -climate change adaptation and mitigation. During her scientific work, she studied the problems of water resources, the main factors that influence the scarcity and quality of water resources.

Nino Kokoshvili (Georgia) is a dedicated professional with a diverse background encompassing both library science and human capital management. With a certification in librarianship, she spent four years working within the unique environment of a women's prison, utilizing her expertise to facilitate access to











information and educational resources, the resocialization and rehabilitation of women inmates. Transitioning into the realm of Human Capital Management, she has have accrued seven years of experience, excelling in roles that involve the strategic management of an organization's most valuable asset - its people. She has a passion for fostering inclusive workplaces and promoting diversity. Beyond her professional endeavors, she is deeply engaged in supporting women's rights, gender equality, and national and international security with a keen interest in dialogue and inclusive decision-making processes.

Nino Malashkhia (Georgia) holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Academic Degree (equivalent to the M.Sc.) in Biology. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of environmental policy analysis, project development and management. She has 7 years of professional engagement at international level and 13 years at national and sub-regional levels (in the South Caucasus). Over the past 20 years she worked for international organizations (OSCE and UNDP) and designed and managed various national and regional projects focusing on water resources management & transboundary cooperation, climate change and security, hazardous waste management, environmental governance; supported organization of the high-level policy events related to environment and security. Nino has provided expert backstopping for various projects regional and national projects; she has also worked closely with UNEP, UNECE, UNDP and REC on the implementation of joint regional and sub-regional projects. Currently she works on a part time basis as the Senior Environmental Expert and Project Management at Georgia's Environmental Outlook and is providing expert backstopping for various technical assistance projects in Georgia and beyond.

Nino Rostomashvili (Georgia) is a Gender and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist with a specific focus on integrated water resource management. Her contributions are aimed at shaping inclusive development strategies for sustainable river basin management within the country. Collaborating closely with water resource management officials as well as sectoral experts in Georgia, she has taken part in the formulation of River Basin Management Plans, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder engagement and inclusivity. Currently, her work is particularly focused on the incorporation of gender considerations into policy development processes, promoting more equitable approaches in the water resource management sector and beyond.

Nune Stepanyan (Armenia) is the Head of Scientific-technical Cooperation and Capacity Development Unit of Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center of the Republic of Armenia. She graduated from the Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia and Yerevan State University. Nune holds a Master's degree in Political Science. She is also alumna of Diplomatic School of Armenia, LUND University ("Innovation in Governance for Urban Nature-based Solutions") and Dresden University of Technology, Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management ("Nature-based Solutions to Emerging Water Challenges"). Nune had more than 15 years of working experience in public administration, more than 5 years in NGOs. She was also a Lecturer at Public Administration Chair of the Faculty of International Relations of Yerevan State University. With over 12 years of working experience at the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, she has a strong track of record of delivering successful projects in sphere of DRR and DRM. In addition to project management experience, she has extensive experience in concept development. 15+ years of experience in the field of: Development (mainly, Official development assistance (ODA)); International cooperation (South-South Cooperation, North – South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation); and Capacity development (2018-2020 Nune was EU Union Civil Protection Mechanism Training Programme Focal point of the Republic of











Armenia). 10+ years of experience working on donor-funded project (JICA, JICS, EU, UNDP, UNICEF, OSCE, WB, GIZ, SDC, U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation, USAID).

Dr. Róisín Burke (Ireland) is an Assistant Professor of Public International Law with the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights. Róisín's present and past work, publications and teaching have cut across the areas of international criminal law, international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights law, women peace and security (WPS), peace operations, international security law, rule of law programming in conflict-affected states, legal pluralism, and public international law. She is leading an NWO project related to WPS, transboundary water security and environmental peacebuilding in the South Caucasus. She has been a consultant on projects related to gender, human rights, IHL, and peace-building with NGOs, and international and regional bodies. Previously, she was a Senior Law Lecturer (above the bar) at the University of Canterbury and worked as Political Advisor to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN. She holds a doctorate from the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law, University of Melbourne, a LLB in Law and European Studies (UL), an LLM in International Human Rights Law (Irish Centre for Human Rights) and is admitted as an Attorney in New York State.

Ruzan Harutyunyan (Armenia) works at the Community Center for Development" Territorial Cooperation NGO (CCD). Lala is part of the "Smart Noyemberyan" project team. The project is funded by USAID and implemented by the "Community Center for Development" Territorial Cooperation NGO (CCD NGO). Her experience encompasses work in human rights, capacity building, and issues related to youth and women's rights. While working for the CCD NGO, she has also completed several projects aimed at infrastructure development in the settlements of the Noyemberyan Enlarged Community.

Salome Kobalava (Georgia) works with USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program where she is responsible for integrating gender equity and social inclusion principles into the program's efforts in fostering regional dialogue in water security and water resources management in the South Caucasus. As a trained social researcher whose work is rooted in feminist political ecology, her interests are at the nexus of nature, society, gender, sustainability and more than human sociality. Before arriving on a career path in international development, Salome worked across media, civil service, and NGO sectors on environmental, climate neutrality and energy technology, open governance, and social justice advocacy projects. She holds master's degrees in Sociology and Social Anthropology from Central European University (Austria) and in Media and Communication Studies from Lund University (Sweden). She has conducted in-depth research related the gender dimensions of extractive activities and their social impacts on Georgia's Azerbaijanis in Bolnisi and explored how mining of precious and non-ferrous metals, extraction of riverine gravel and uneven distribution of irrigation water reinforces gender hierarchies in Georgia's largest ethnic minority group in rural Kvemo Kartli.

Dr. Shahnaz Amanova (Azerbaijan) received a Ph.D. degree in Physical Geography, biogeography, soil geography, geophysics and geochemistry of landscapes in 2018. Currently, she is about to defend her doctorate in geographical sciences. She is an Azerbaijan program associate at the Environmental Health and Pollution Management Institute. She is the computer developer of the geography atlas for secondary schools, 1:600,000 scale physical and political wall maps of Azerbaijan, physical and political wall maps of the world. She conducts research in the direction of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing, monitoring vegetation and environment by processing satellite images. She has analyzed and mapped renewable energy sources in the western part of Azerbaijan, especially the potential of solar energy, based on modern methods. She is the author of more than 60 scientific works.











Sofia Manukyan (Armenia, online) is a researcher at Green Armenia NGO. Her specialization is in the field of human rights impacted by the private sector. She is particularly interested in how private interests impact the environment and socio-economics. She holds a degree in human rights from the University of Essex. In Armenia, she is engaged in promoting environmental protection and labour rights.

Dr Susanna Hakobyan (Armenia) is Head of Laboratory of Hydrobiology at the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology Scientific at the Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, National Academy of Science of Armenia. Her experience in the field of hydrobiology spans 46 years. She studied the meiobenthos of Lake Sevan, which became the topic of my dissertation. Later, she began to study the macrozoobenthos community of Lake Sevan and other lakes, reservoirs and rivers of Armenia. She took part in a wetland management course in Lelystad (Netherlands), which greatly helped her expand her knowledge in the area of wise use of water resources. Her areas of interest include biodiversity conservation, scientific principles of management and conservation of hydroecosystems, wise use of natural resources, environmental influences on the life cycles of aquatic invertebrates, biomonitoring. Susanna is the NGO Coordinator of the CEPA program of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971). Her last training took place in Portugal within the framework of the European project Erasmus+ AFISHE, the development of master's programs in aquaculture in Armenia and Ukraine.

Dr. Susanne Schmeier (Germany) is the Head of the Water Governance Department and an Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy at IHE Delft. Her research, teaching and advisory activities focus on the legal and institutional dimensions of water resources governance at both the (sub-) national and the transboundary levels, the role of agreements and basin organizations, negotiation and conflict resolution processes and tools, as well as the sustainable management of ecosystems linked to water resources (including the management of mountain eco-regions and source-to-sea approaches as well as biodiversity).

Tais Reznikova (Kazakhstan, participating online) is a water resources management specialist with a focus on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), environmental management, and policy. She currently coordinates the Mentoring and Career Development Programme for Women in Water and serves as the Blue Peace Central Asia Secretariat at the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Tais has over 7 years of practical experience in project implementation across Central Asia, specializing in basin management, planning, and water diplomacy. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from Central European and Lund Universities, and another in IWRM from Kazakh-German University. Tais has been actively involved in nurturing the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since its establishment in 2021.

Ambassador Tanja Miškova (Slovenia, participating online) is Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia. During her diplomatic career she served as Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, as head of Department for Emerging Challenges, as Ambassador to Egypt (non-resident to Jordan, KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman), as Diplomatic Adviser to the President of Slovenia and as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Slovenia to Israel. In her current work, she is focusing on the priority areas of the Slovenian water diplomacy: water & peace nexus, transboundary water cooperation, and water & climate change nexus. She also serves as a Deputy Commissioner of Slovenia to the International Sava River Basin Commission.











Tarana Jafarova (Azerbaijan) is a gender specialist, researcher and sociologist with proven experience in development, gender, women and social issues, assessment and capacity building of government and civil society organizations. Currently, as a Gender Specialist, Tarana provides technical support with practical tools and knowledge on how to integrate gender perspectives and dimensions into policies, policy interventions, projects, state statistics and climate change adaptation strategies and priority sectors of the country such as energy, agriculture, health and coastal zone. As a Gender Researcher, she conducts gender analysis and developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) along with gender targets and indicators and prepared GAP Implementation Plan and oversaw the implementation of the GAP in projects such as land degradation neutrality, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, fisheries and aquaculture implemented by the UN FAO in partnership with relevant ministries of Azerbaijan. Currently, she is supporting the Asian Development Bank, as national gender expert undertaking Azerbaijan's Country Gender Assessment. In addition, as a gender expert hired by UNDP, she prepares and conducts training for decision makers on how to effectively mainstream gender dimensions into sectors that represent priority areas in Azerbaijan such as energy, agriculture, water, and health and also prepare the training materials for the Climate Change Adaptation course within the Master's program. Tarana prepared a Practical Guide on Mainstreaming Gender in projects, budgets and state statistics, which was also posted online on the website of the State Committee for Women and Family Affairs of Azerbaijan. Tarana is a strong professional researcher, gender specialist, trainer and coach on women's leadership with a solid academic background from the State University of New York, USA, and the Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Adler International Coaching Federation. Tarana has published her research and articles on gender issues in various international journals.

Annex 5: Resources for ongoing learning

Women in Water Diplomacy Network resources:

- Women in Water Diplomacy Network's <u>Global Strategy 'A Path Forward for Women, Water,</u> Peace and Security'
- Review reports from recent Women in Water Diplomacy Network events such as the <u>After</u>
 <u>Action Report from the 2023 UN Water Conference</u>, the <u>After Action Report from the 2023 Year</u>
 in Review online event (you can watch the recording here as well),
- Women in Water Diplomacy Network LinkedIn page here: https://www.linkedin.com/company/women-in-water-diplomacy-network

South Caucasus regional studies:

- Nationwide survey on climate and environment in Georgia with sex disaggregated responses

 https://www.wfd.org/what-we-do/resources/public-opinion-survey-georgia-about-knowledge-perception-attitudes-and
- Climate change impact on women's vulnerability https://www.wfd.org/what-we-do/resources/climate-change-impact-womens-vulnerability-georgia

Published articles related to women, water, peace, and security:

Oli Brown and Guiliana Altman, <u>A White Paper on the Future of Environmental</u>
 <u>Peacebuilding</u> (Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, International Union for Conservation of Nature,
 PeaceNexus, Environmental Law Institute, Environmental Peacebuilding Association, 2022).











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- CEDAW, <u>General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations</u> (1 November 2013) CEDAW/C/GC/30.
- C. Chinkin & H. Charlesworth, 'Building Women into Peace: the international legal framework' (2006) 27 Third World Quarterly, 937–957.
- DCAF, Women Speak: The Lived Nexus Between Climate, Gender and Security (DCAF, 2022);
- Marisa Ensor, Negar Abay and Kathleen Kuehnast, <u>Women's Participation in Peacebuilding in Contexts of Pervasive Insecurity and Natural Resource Competition</u> (USIP) 3.
- Krampe, Florian, Hegazi, Farah and Vandeveer, Stacy, <u>'Sustaining Peace Through Better Resource Governance: Three Potential Mechanisms for Environmental Peacebuilding'</u> (2021) 144 World Development.
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- OSCE, Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes
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- D. Phillips et al, <u>Trans-boundary Water Cooperation as a Tool for Conflict Prevention and</u> Broader Benefit Sharing (2006) (available through academia.edu).
- <u>Security Council Resolution 1325</u> on Women Peace and Security, U.N. SCOR, 55th sess, 4213th mtg, U.N. Doc. S/RES/1325 (Oct. 31, 2000).
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- M. Tignino and T. Kebebew, 'Access to water and peacebuilding' in Dam-de Jong (ed) Research handbook on international law and environmental peacebuilding (Edward Elgar, 2023).
- Turgal et al, 'Can Water Help Quench the Flames of Hostility?' 43(2) SAIS Review of International Affairs (2023): 69-94 (accessible thorough ResearchGate).
- Jeyhun Veliyev, Tsira Gvasalia, Sofya Manukyan, '<u>The Environment, Human Rights, and Conflicts in the South Caucasus and Turkey: Transboundary Water Cooperation as a Mean to Conflict Transformation</u>' (2018) 3(1) Caucasus Edition: Journal of Conflict Resolution.
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- K. Yoshida, <u>The Nature of Women, Peace and Security: Where is the Environment in WPS and Where is WPS in Environmental Peacebuilding</u> (Working Paper 22, Centre for Women Peace and Security, LSW 2019).