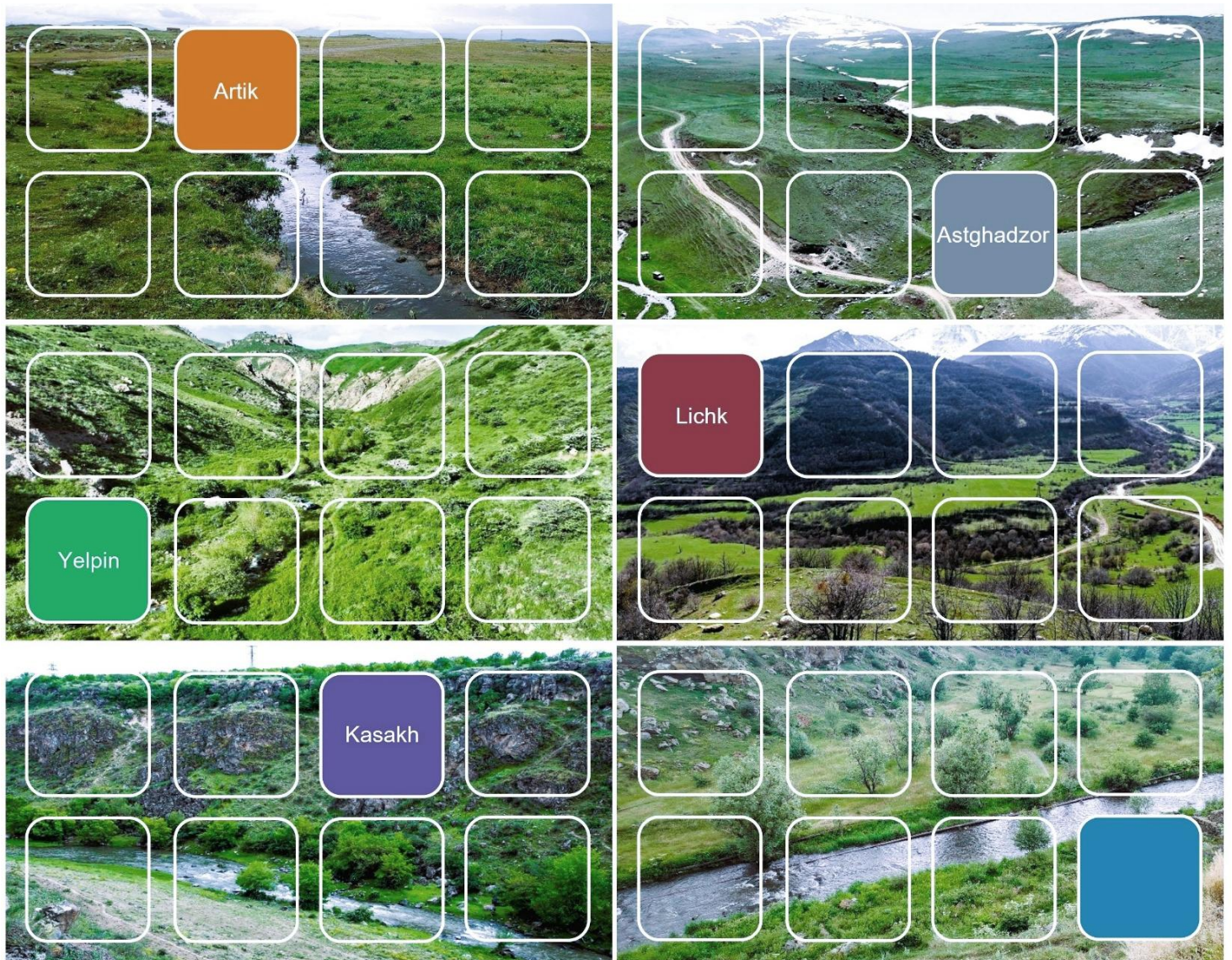




Source: Photos taken by the Consultant during the site visits

WATER RESERVOIRS PROJECT - ARMENIA

ESIA for the Reservoirs Construction Project

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

September 2026

Prepared for:
European Bank for Reconstruction
and Development
and
Water Committee under the Ministry
of Territorial Administration and
Infrastructure of the Republic of
Armenia

 **ATMS**
Solutions
www.atms.am

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Prepared by:



ATMS Solutions Ltd. (Armenia)

Director: Dr. Artak Ter-Torosyan

1, 11 Griboedov str.,

0051, Yerevan, Armenia

Tel.: +37499 109495

E-mail: artak.ter-torosyan@atms.am

www.atms.am

and



Ecoline International Ltd. (Bulgaria)

Director: Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku

Tel.: +380 951 100 727

+ 359 876 63 0522

E-mail: mgachechiladze@ecoline-int.org

www.ecoline-int.org

List of Abbreviations

BAP	- Biodiversity Action Plan
CHMP	- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
EBRD	- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	- Environmental Impact Assessment
ESAP	- Environmental and Social Action Plan
ESIA	- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	- Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESP	- Environmental and Social Policy
E&S	- Environmental and Social
FGD	- Focus Group Discussion
ME	- Ministry of Environment
MTAI	- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
PR	- Performance Requirement
Q&A	- Questions and Answers
RA	- Republic of Armenia
RF	- Resettlement Framework
WUA	- Water Users Association

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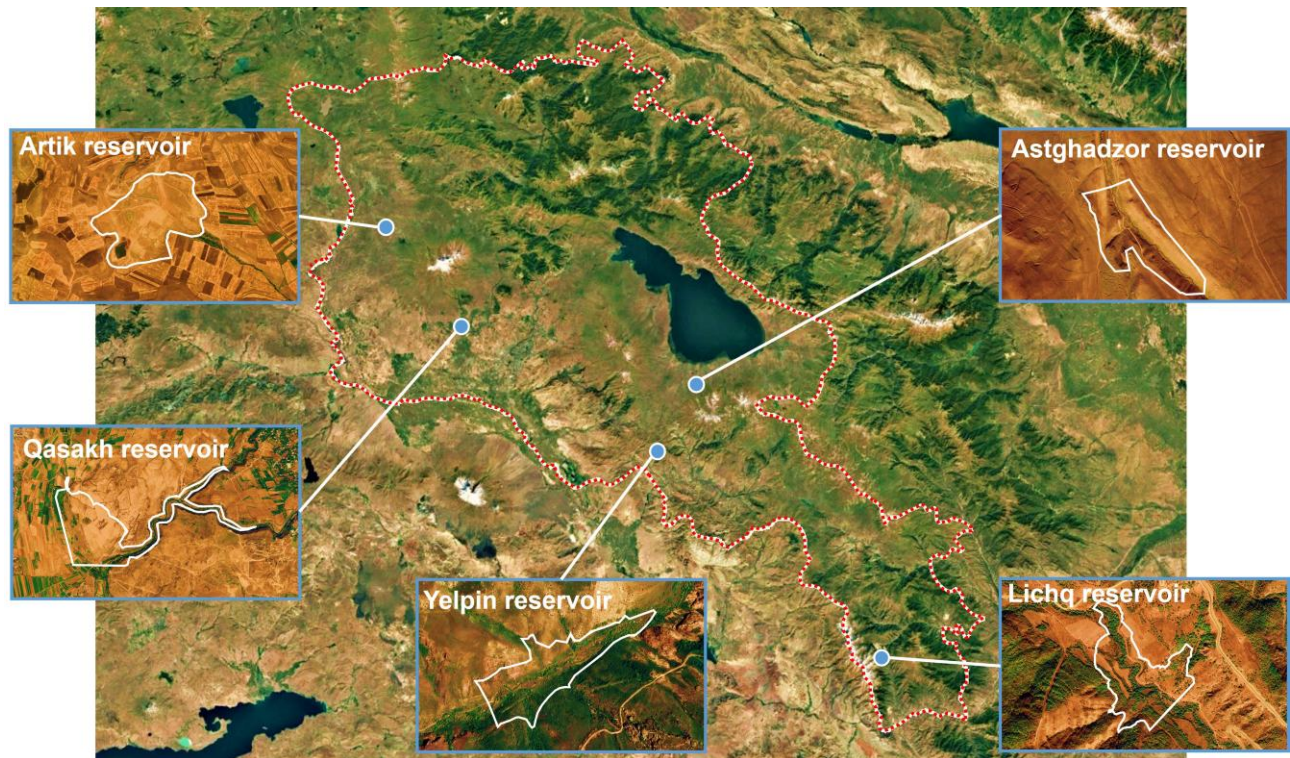
1. Background

The Government of the Republic of Armenia ('RA') plans to construct 17 reservoirs within the EU support initiative 'Recovery, resilience and reform: post 2020 Eastern Partnership priorities' to the Government of Armenia to enhance the water and food security level in the country. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development ('EBRD' or the 'Bank') is considering provision of a loan to the GA to finance the construction of five water reservoirs in different regions (Marzes) of Armenia (the Project):

- Artik Reservoir - capacity 1.152 mln. m³ (Shirak Marz¹).
- Astghadzor Reservoir - capacity 1.55 mln. m³ (Gegharkunik Marz),
- Lichk Reservoir - capacity 3.76 mln. m³ (Syunik Marz),
- Yelpin Reservoir - capacity 0.93 mln. m³ (Vayots Dzor Marz),
- Kasakh Reservoir - capacity 10.0 mln. m³ (Aragatsotn Marz),

The locations of the Project reservoirs are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1. Map of the Project reservoirs



The Project's implementing agency is the Water Committee under the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure ('Client' or 'Water Committee' or 'WCRA').

The EBRD has categorized this greenfield project as 'A' in line with its Environmental and Social Policy ('ESP') (2019) because it may cause significant environmental and social impacts. This means that a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ('ESIA') report and associated documents must be elaborated, followed by their public disclosure for a minimum period of 120 days.

In accordance with the Bank's ESP, a formalized and participatory Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process was carried out for the Project by the Consortium² led by ATMS Solutions

¹«Marz» means «Region» in Armenian

²Consortium of ATMS Solutions Ltd. (Armenia) and Ecoline International Ltd. (Bulgaria)

Ltd. (the 'Consultant'). During this process, the draft ESIA report, along with supporting documents, were prepared and disclosed on 19 May 2026 for a period of 120 days and, 7 public consultations meetings held with institutional stakeholders, NGOs and Project-Affected Peoples. . In line with the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), this Public Consultation Report (PCR) has been prepared to document and summarize the feedback from stakeholders received and engagement activities conducted during the ESIA stage and the disclosure period.

2. Consultations during the ESIA Disclosure Period

2.1 Overview of the ESIA Disclosure Documents and Arrangements

The Project's ESIA disclosure package includes the following documents, each in the Armenian and English languages:

1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports for Artik, Astghadzor, Lichk, Yelpin and Kasakh reservoirs,
2. Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for Artik, Astghadzor, Lichk, Yelpin and Kasakh reservoirs,
3. Non-Technical Summary (NTS),
4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP),
5. Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP),
6. Resettlement Framework (RF),
7. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) for Artik, Astghadzor, Lichk, Yelpin and Kasakh reservoirs.

The ESIA disclosure package (in Armenian and English languages) was published on the official website of the Water Committee under the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) on 19.05.2026 (**Annex 1**) <https://water.mtad.gov.am/վոնքո-և-վիճիկ-ընամբարաների-փաստաթղթեր>.

In parallel with this, the EBRD published the Project disclosure on its website at <https://www.ebrd.com/home/work-with-us/projects/psd/54673.html#customtab-e7771b6fd3-item-03134d2a77-tab> on 19.05.2026 (**Annex 2**). The disclosure page includes the addresses of the Project affected communities (Areni, Artik, Martuni, Meghri, Ashtarak and Khoy³) where the full ESIA documentation is available for public review, as well as the contact details of the community heads and the Water Committee, to whom environmental and social enquiries may be submitted.

Hard copies of the ESIA package were sent by postal service to the Project affected communities of Areni, Artik, Martuni, Meghri, Ashtarak, and Vagharshapat on 21.05.2026. In addition, hard copies of the Project NTS were distributed to all Project affected settlements on 27.05.2026 (**Annex 3**).

3.1 Overview of the Consultations during the ESIA Disclosure

Seven consultation meetings were held during the ESIA disclosure period from 14.09.2026 to 18.09.2026 (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Summary of EIA-stage public discussion events

No	Location	Meetings / Events	Time	Participants	Notes
1	Yerevan, Conference hall (Tufenkian hotel)	Public consultations summarizing all five reservoirs ESIA	14.09.2026 16:00	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, interested state bodies	

³Following the latest amendments to the RA Law on Administrative-Territorial Division, the Khoy community has been included into the enlarged Vagharshapat community

No	Location	Meetings / Events	Time	Participants	Notes
2	Yelpin rural settlement	Public consultations for the Yelpin Reservoir ESIA	15.09.2026 16:00	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, affected population, WUAs	
3	Lichk rural settlement	Public consultations for the Lichk Reservoir ESIA	16.09.2026 11:30	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, affected population, WUAs, Zangezur Biodiversity Complex	
4	Astghadzor rural settlement	Public consultations for the Astghadzor Reservoir ESIA	17.09.2026 14:00	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, affected population, WUAs	
5	Amberd rural settlement	Public consultations for the Kasakh Reservoir ESIA	18.09.2026 10:00	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, affected population, WUAs	
6	Voskevaz rural settlement	Public consultations for the Kasakh Reservoir ESIA	18.09.2026 12:00	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, affected population, WUAs	
7	Nor Kyank rural settlement	Public consultations for the Artik Reservoir ESIA	18.09.2026 16:00	Water Committee, EBRD, ESIA consultant, affected population, WUAs	

The planned consultations were announced through official invitation letters issued by the Water Committee to relevant state authorities and letters sent by the Consultant to the heads of the affected communities. In parallel, the Consultant sent invitations by email to key NGOs specializing in biodiversity, encouraging them to participate in the public consultation meetings described above.

Each public consultation meeting lasted approximately one hour and followed the agenda below:

- **Opening of the meeting:** introduction to the Project, its background and objectives, the purpose of the disclosure-stage public consultations, the agenda, and the key speakers.
- **Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA study**, including:
 - Project overview and the technical characteristics of the reservoirs and associated components, command areas,
 - Overview of the Environmental and Social (E&S) studies undertaken,
 - Main E&S impacts and benefits expected during the construction phase,
 - Cultural heritage and biodiversity issues relevant to the Project,
 - Expected benefits of Project implementation,
 - Proposed E&S mitigation measures.
- **Questions and Answers (Q&A):** a dedicated Q&A session, with some questions also raised and addressed during the presentation.
- **Closure:** a reminder that the Project ESIA package is available in Armenian and English on the websites of the Water Committee and the EBRD, and that comments on the ESIA may be submitted throughout the 120-day disclosure period and subsequently using the contact details provided on the relevant websites.

The summaries of the seven public consultation events conducted during the Project ESIA disclosure, between 14.09.2026 and 18.09.2026 are outlined below.

1) Summary public consultations covering the ESIA for all five reservoirs in Yerevan

Date and time: 14.09.2026, 16:00

Place: Yerevan, conference hall of the Tufenkian Hotel

Number of participants (women): 18 (4)

Representative of the biodiversity division under the the Ministry of Environment	1
Representative of the Environmental Impact Expert Examination Center (EIEEC) under the the Ministry of Environment	1
Representative of the Water Resources Management Division under the Ministry of Environment	1
Representatives of the "Sevan" National Park under the Ministry of Environment	3
Representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport	2
Archaeologist of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography	1
Director of the Seismic Protection Service under the Ministry of Internal Affairs	1
Representative of the Ministry of Economy	1
Representative of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	1
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Rudik Tadevosyan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan
Project Biodiversity expert	Karen Aghababyan

Opening of the meeting:

Rudik Tadevosyan (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. He noted that four rounds of public consultations had already been conducted for each reservoir during the national EIA process, while the current meeting was being held as part of the ESIA public disclosure and consultation process under the EBRD requirements. He also outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) outlined the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies. She noted that relevant comments and recommendations would be reflected in the next stages of the Project, including through their incorporation into the Project's Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP), which will form part of the EBRD loan agreement. She also noted that the Project's E&S performance will be regularly monitored by the Bank and its consultants throughout the construction and operational phases.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the five reservoirs and their associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. The presentation highlighted the key anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the main biodiversity and cultural heritage

considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for local communities and agriculture, and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Answers
What measures are envisaged to avoid or mitigate the Project's impacts on cultural heritage assets located within areas to be permanently occupied by the reservoirs, dams, and other associated infrastructure?	A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) will be developed for the Kasakh and Astghadzor reservoirs, where impacts on cultural heritage assets are anticipated. The CHMP will be implemented prior to the commencement of construction and will define measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts on cultural heritage throughout Project implementation.
Have relevant hydrological studies been conducted to assess whether the Astghadzor River has sufficient water resources to fill the reservoir while maintaining adequate flows to support biodiversity along the riverbed? Will the required environmental flow be maintained following Project implementation?	Hydrological studies were conducted during the Project design stage, and the capacity of the planned reservoir was determined based on their results. In addition, as part of the ESIA, the EBRD engaged a specialised company to undertake a water availability assessment using specialised hydrological modelling software. The measures recommended in this assessment will be incorporated into the Project's ESAP. The flow of the Astghadzor River is seasonal; following the snowmelt period, the riverbed is generally dry. Local aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems have adapted to this naturally seasonal flow regime. Maintaining the environmental flow is required under national legislation and will therefore be treated as a priority and duly ensured throughout Project implementation.
In low-water years, will the pumping station be used to supply irrigation water from Lake Sevan to agricultural plots in Astghadzor and nearby settlements? Is the pumping station planned to be dismantled?	These decisions will be determined by the relevant state authorities and therefore were not considered as part of the ESIA study.
Has the economic feasibility of the reservoir been assessed?	The results of the feasibility studies are presented in the Project design documentation and have served as the basis for the further development and implementation of the Project. The Project also aims to promote the use of water-saving technologies, improve the efficiency of water use and green economy transition.
Does the Project provide for water protection zones around the reservoirs, and can the areas surrounding the reservoirs be used for recreational purposes?	Water protection zones have been defined by the Project designers and generally range from 30 to 100 m. Certain restrictions apply to activities within these protection zones. The use of areas around the reservoirs for recreational purposes would therefore need to comply with the applicable restrictions and requirements governing the water protection zones.

Questions	Answers
Are fish passes required for the Kasakh and Astghadzor reservoirs?	A fish pass is required for the Kasakh Reservoir. No fish pass is considered necessary for the Astghadzor Reservoir, as no fish species have been identified in the Astghadzor River within the Project area.
Several endangered insect species have been identified in the Astghadzor area. Are these species addressed in the ESIA study? The Ministry of Environment has several questions regarding these species.	The biodiversity sections of the ESIA reports include detailed baseline surveys and impact assessments covering relevant species and habitats. Based on these assessments, Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been prepared for all reservoirs, including appropriate avoidance, minimisation, mitigation, and offset measures. The Ministry of Environment may submit its specific questions to the Consultant or the Water Committee for further consideration and response. However, it is likely that most of these questions relate to the national EIA reports rather than the ESIA study.

Feedback from participants

The implementation of the Project will enhance the irrigation capacity of rural communities, positively contribute to crop production and the agricultural economy, and improve the well-being of the local population. Environmental impacts during the construction phase will be minimised and mitigated through the implementation of appropriate management and monitoring plans, as well as effective construction supervision practices.

2) Summary public consultations for Yelpin reservoir

Date and time: 15.09.2026, 16:00

Place: Yelpin settlement, House of culture

Number of participants (women): 19 (4)

Administrative Head of Yelpin rural settlement	1
Residents	11
Representative of Water Users Association	1
Representative of Irrigation division of Water Committee	Qochar Martirosyan
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Rudik Tadevosyan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan

Opening of the meeting:

Rudik Tadevosyan (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. He also outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) outlined the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the Yelpin reservoir and its associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. He also highlighted the key anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the main biodiversity and cultural heritage considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for Yelpin and Chiva settlements and agriculture, and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Answers
Are there any trees that will need to be cut within the planned reservoir area?	Only some bushes and shrubs will be removed from the site. No valuable or mature trees will need to be cut.
How long will the tendering process take, and when are the construction works expected to start? Will one construction contractor be selected, or will there be several contractors?	There are some time-consuming procedures required by the Bank. If everything proceeds as planned, the construction contractor is expected to be selected by the end of next year. Only one main construction contractor will be selected. However, the main contractor may engage several local subcontractors to carry out specific works.
What is the estimated budget for the construction of the Yelpin Reservoir?	The total budget for the construction of the five reservoirs is approximately USD 300 million. The specific budget for the Yelpin Reservoir is not currently available, but the estimated project cost is included in the Project Design Documentation and can be obtained upon request.
Is it possible to conduct a tree-planting campaign somewhere in the region to help improve local environmental conditions?	No such measures are currently envisaged in the Project Design Documentation. However, the possibility of implementing such an initiative could be considered separately, if appropriate.
Is the rehabilitation of the irrigation channel planned as part of the Project Design?	Yes, the rehabilitation of a section of the irrigation channel is included in the Project Design Documentation.
Will the availability of irrigation water change the types of crops cultivated in the area? What types of fruit are currently grown here?	Yes, improved availability of irrigation water may allow local farmers to cultivate higher-value crops and fruit. The climatic conditions in the area are favourable for growing a wide range of fruit crops. In addition, the availability of irrigation water will provide opportunities for the local population to expand the area of land under cultivation.
Can water-saving irrigation technologies be applied in the Yelpin settlement?	If a reliable water supply is secured, the local population is expected to adopt water-saving irrigation technologies and practices, such as drip irrigation and other efficient irrigation methods.

Questions	Answers
	This could help increase the cultivated area and generate additional income.
Are there any refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh living in the Yelpin rural settlement?	No, there are no refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh currently residing in the Yelpin rural settlement.
Does the local population have access to agricultural loans?	Yes, commercial banks provide agricultural loans to the local population; however, interest rates are relatively high, at around 15-20%. The Government also provides support to farmers who wish to adopt drip irrigation and other water-saving technologies.
Which support the and information local population expects from the Bank during the project implementation process?	We only need the information that reservoir will be constructed.
Can fish be cultivated in the Yelpin Reservoir?	No, fish farming is not specifically envisaged. However, if fish enter the reservoir naturally from the Yelpin River, their presence in the reservoir would be possible.

Conclusion:

The construction and operation of the Yelpin Reservoir are strongly welcomed by the local community and are considered very important for the development of rural settlements in the region. The project is expected to create new business opportunities, improve the well-being of the local population, and increase household incomes. It may also contribute to attracting and retaining young people in the village by creating better economic opportunities and supporting local development.

3) Summary public consultations for Lichk reservoir

Date and time: 16.09.2026, 11:30

Place: Lichk settlement, Office of the Administrative head of Lichk settlement

Number of participants (women): 19 (3)

Administrative Head of Lichk rural settlement	1
Residents	9
Director and chief forester of Zangezur Biosphere Complex	2
Representative of «Syunik» Water Users Association	1
Representative of Irrigation division of Water Committee	Qochar Martirosyan
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Rudik Tadevosyan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan

Opening of the meeting:

Rudik Tadevosyan (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. He also outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) outlined the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the Lichk Reservoir and its associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. He also highlighted the anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the key biodiversity and cultural heritage considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for the Lichk settlement, and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Answers
There is a gas pipeline that may potentially pass through the planned reservoir area. Has this been taken into consideration in the Project design and related studies?	As per the Project design document, the gas pipeline is located outside the Project footprint.
Have seismic risks been assessed as part of the Project studies?	Yes. Seismic risks have been assessed, and the results are presented in the Project design documentation.
It is understood that some trees within the reservoir footprint will need to be felled. Could the resulting timber be made available to vulnerable households as fuel for heating during the cold season?	In principle, this may be possible; however, the arrangements for allocating the timber will need to be discussed and agreed upon during Project implementation, in accordance with the applicable requirements and procedures.
Will the Project extend into the territory of Arevik National Park?	No. The reservoir boundary will be located approximately 300 m from the boundary of Arevik National Park; therefore, the Project will not extend into the National Park.
Will compensatory tree planting be carried out?	Approximately five times as many trees will be planted as the number of trees that will be removed.
Could you provide information on the biodiversity measures planned as part of the Project?	The contact details of the representatives of the Zangezur Biosphere Complex were provided to the Consultant for further follow-up and communication.
When will construction of the reservoir commence, and how long is the construction period expected to last?	According to the Project design documentation, the construction period is expected to last approximately 45 months. The land acquisition procedure and applicable mechanisms, including the grievance mechanism, were also presented and explained to the participants. It was also explained that construction activities cannot commence in areas subject to land acquisition until the affected persons have received the compensation to which they are entitled and the applicable land acquisition requirements have been fulfilled.

Conclusion:

The availability of water from the Lichk Reservoir and the additional irrigation water volumes are expected to encourage residents of rural settlements downstream of the reservoir to cultivate higher-value crops, such as pomegranates, persimmons, and figs. It will also support the local population in adopting water-saving technologies, such as drip irrigation and other efficient irrigation practices. The implementation of the Project is also expected to create employment opportunities for residents of Lichk settlement.

4) Summary public consultations for Astghadzor reservoir

Date and time: 17.09.2026, 14:00

Place: Astghadzor settlement, Office of the Administrative head of Astghadzor settlement

Number of participants (women): 55 (5)

Administrative Head of Astghadzor rural settlement	1
Residents	48
Representative of Vagharshapat municipality	3
Representative of «Gegharkunik» Water Users Association	1
Representative of Irrigation division of Water Committee	Qochar Martirosyan
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Rudik Tadevosyan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan

Opening of the meeting:

Rudik Tadevosyan (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. He also outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) outlined the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the Astghadzor Reservoir and its associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. He also highlighted the anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the key biodiversity and cultural heritage considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for the Astghadzor settlement, and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Answers
Will the environmental flow be maintained during dry years? Is it also planned to operate the pump station to transfer water from the Sevan River for irrigation of agricultural land?	Yes. The required environmental flow will be maintained downstream of the reservoir, including during dry years, in accordance with applicable requirements and the Project's water

Questions	Answers
	management approach. Maintaining the environmental flow is a priority. The operation of the pump station will be subject to decisions by the relevant state authorities. The Project is primarily designed to use a gravity-fed irrigation system; however, the pump station may serve as a backup option if required.
It is important to ensure water availability for the residents of Astghadzor settlement; however, the construction of new irrigation channels may be required. Is this envisaged under the Project?	The construction of new irrigation channels is not currently envisaged under the Project. However, once the construction contractor is selected, he will review the design documentation. At that stage, proposals from the community may also be considered and, where feasible, incorporated into the design.
The reservoir is considered vital for the settlement, and even if the Project is not implemented, the residents of Astghadzor have expressed their intention to construct the reservoir using their own resources. When is the reservoir expected to be constructed?	The Government of Armenia initiated the Project recognising the importance of ensuring a reliable supply of irrigation water for the settlement. The reservoir is planned to be financed through a Bank loan, with an additional grant component. The timing of construction depends on the completion of the necessary assessments of the technical, socio-economic, and environmental risks associated with the Project.
It is requested that construction of the reservoir commence as soon as possible.	Before construction of the reservoir can begin, all land plots within the reservoir footprint must be acquired from their respective owners. This is a relatively lengthy process and has also been delayed due to recent amendments to the RA Law on Expropriation of Property for the Provision of Overriding Public Interests. Around 54 land plots shall be acquired of which 35 land-plots are private. The procedure for land-plot cost calculation and land acquisition was explained to the participants.

Clarifications:

Bossan Annayeva

She noted that the participants in the public consultations have been very active and engaged, which is highly appreciated. She explained that the Bank's approach is focused on improving the well-being of the local population and ensuring that the Project complies with applicable technical, environmental, social, and safety requirements.

She further noted that the reservoir site and its technical components have been selected and designed with the aim of avoiding and minimising potential negative impacts as far as practicable. With regard to land acquisition, it will be ensured that all affected persons are appropriately compensated in accordance with the applicable legal and project requirements. The land acquisition process will be continuously monitored, together with the environmental and social performance of the Project.

She asked the participants to remain patient and emphasised that the detailed assessment and careful consideration of the Project at this stage are intended to support its successful implementation in the future.

She also noted that participants seeking more detailed information about the Project, including the grievance mechanism can visit the Water Committee and Martuni Community websites, where the relevant Project documents and information are available.

5) Summary public consultations for Kasakh reservoir

Date and time: 18.09.2026, 10:00

Place: Amberd settlement, Office of the Administrative head of Amberd settlement

Number of participants (women): 21 (4)

Administrative Head of Amberd rural settlement	1
Administrative Head of Aygeshat rural settlement	1
Residents	9
Representative of Vagharshapat municipality	3
Representatives of «Ejmiadzin» Water Users Association	2
Representative of Irrigation division of Water Committee	Qochar Martirosyan
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Karine Lalafaryan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan

Opening of the meeting:

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. She outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

She also described the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the Kasakh reservoir and its associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. He also highlighted the anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the main biodiversity and cultural heritage considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for the rural settlements located downstream the reservoir and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Answers
The irrigation channel system is in poor condition, and there is a risk of flooding of residential houses. Is the rehabilitation of the irrigation system also planned under the Project?	The rehabilitation of the irrigation system, including the Lower Hrazdan Canal, is not envisaged under the Project. However, the construction of the reservoir is expected to take approximately five years, providing sufficient time for the affected communities to submit a request

Questions	Answers
	to the Water Committee or the Government to initiate the rehabilitation of the irrigation system.
Will a water protection zone be established around the reservoir, and will recreational activities or businesses be permitted in the area surrounding the reservoir?	A water protection zone will be established around the reservoir in accordance with the applicable national legislation. The types of activities that may be permitted within the water protection zone will be determined based on the applicable legal requirements and restrictions. Recreational activities or businesses may be considered, provided that they comply with the relevant environmental, water protection, land-use and safety requirements.
Will the Project provide designated areas where domestic animals can access and drink water from the reservoir?	The Project does not currently envisage dedicated watering areas for domestic animals. However, the need for and location of such areas may be considered during the detailed design stage.
Are protective fences along the irrigation channels planned in the Project design, particularly in areas located near residential properties?	The need for protective fencing along the irrigation channels, particularly in areas located near residential properties, has been considered and is addressed in the ESIA and relevant management plans.
It is important to prevent wastewater from being discharged into water bodies used for irrigation purposes.	This impact is assessed within the ESIA study and included into the relevant management plan.
During the previous public consultations, it was stated that a production facility for dried fruits would be established to provide employment opportunities for women and other vulnerable groups.	The Project does not envisage the establishment of a dried-fruit production facility specifically for women or other vulnerable groups.
Which materials will be used for the construction of the dam and reservoir?	The main construction materials will include crashed stone, pebbles and clay.
Is a fish pass planned for the reservoir?	Yes. The construction of a fish pass is envisaged as part of the Project design.
Will an environmental flow be maintained downstream of the reservoir?	Yes. The Project will ensure the provision of the required environmental flow downstream of the reservoir, in accordance with applicable national requirements.

Clarifications:

Bossan Annayeva

She outlined the land acquisition and resettlement process, the mechanism for submitting grievances, and where interested parties can access and review the Project's ESIA package and related documents.

6) Summary public consultations for Kasakh reservoir

Date and time: 18.09.2026, 12:00

Place: Voskevaz settlement, Office of the Administrative head of Voskevaz settlement

Number of participants (women): 18 (3)

Administrative Head of Oshakan rural settlement	1
Administrative Head of Voskevaz rural settlement	1
Residents	7
Representative of Ashtarak municipality	3
Representative of «Aragatsotn» Water Users Association	1
Representative of Irrigation division of Water Committee	Qochar Martirosyan
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Karine Lalafaryan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan

Opening of the meeting:

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. She outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

She also described the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the Kasakh reservoir and its associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. He also highlighted the anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the main biodiversity and cultural heritage considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for the rural settlements located downstream the reservoir and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Answers
What is the current status of the land acquisition process?	Currently, the land acquisition process has been temporarily suspended due to recent amendments to the Law on Expropriation of Property for the Provision of Overriding Public Interests. Under the amended legislation, each affected person is entitled to select an independent property valuer, with the cost of the valuation covered by the Government. In addition, a lawyer will be provided to support affected persons throughout the land acquisition process.
When will the land acquisition process be resumed? The issue is that landowners would like to cultivate their land plots located within the	Landowners can continue to cultivate their land plots, including planting and maintaining perennial crops. If the land acquisition process is

Questions	Answers
future reservoir area. However, given the planned reservoir project, they have refrained from doing so.	subsequently initiated, they will be eligible for compensation not only for the land but also for any eligible crops and other losses, in accordance with the applicable legislation and the Project's land acquisition and compensation procedures. Where perennial crops or trees are affected, compensation will also take into account the time required for the landowner to replant and establish new trees and to reach a level of crop production equivalent to that which existed prior to land acquisition, in accordance with the applicable compensation procedures.
When is the construction of the reservoir expected to start?	The Bank's procedures are comprehensive and involve a detailed assessment and management of all relevant risks, as well as a thorough process for selecting the most suitable construction contractor for the Project. Construction works will commence only after all affected persons have received the compensation to which they are entitled in accordance with the applicable legislation and the Project's land acquisition and compensation procedures. Once the Project is formally approved by the Bank's Board of Directors, it will also need to be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, the EBRD is strongly committed to the successful implementation of the Project. We are particularly concerned about ensuring the safety of the dam and reservoir and about promoting the sustainable and productive use of the irrigated land. We are also keen to support local communities in cultivating higher-value crops and improving the overall productivity and economic benefits of the irrigation system.
It is very important to start storing water in the reservoir as soon as possible, as this will help us improve irrigation and cultivate higher-value crops.	We have spent considerable time assessing the Project's potential impacts and risks. While this process is time-consuming, it is essential for collecting the necessary data and information to support the Project's review and approval process.
Are there additional water resources, beyond the 10 million m ³ allocated for the Project, that could be used to construct a reservoir upstream of the Kasakh Reservoir?	This issue is outside the scope of the Project.

Clarifications:**Bossan Annayeva**

The public consultations held during the disclosure period are very important, as they provide an opportunity to hear your concerns and receive your feedback. Your input will help us further improve the Project and strengthen its implementation.

Yasemin Uyar

The Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework is available on the websites of the Water Committee and Ashtarak Municipality. Everyone is welcome to review the document to understand the principles and procedures governing the land acquisition and compensation process.

Conclusion:

Administrative head of Voskevaz settlement

The local communities are very grateful for the implementation of this Project and recognise the importance and value of water resources. We are also very supportive of the Project's objective of storing water for subsequent use in irrigation, enabling local farmers to cultivate higher-value crops and improve agricultural productivity.

7) Summary public consultations for Artik reservoir

Date and time: 18.09.2026, 16:00

Place: Artik settlement, Office of the Administrative head of Nor Kyanq settlement

Number of participants (women): 37 (19)

Administrative Head of Nor Kyanq rural settlement	1
Residents	24
Director of school	1
Director of art school	1
Member of Artik community council	1
Representatives of Artik municipality	3
Representative of «Shirak» Water Users Association	1
Representative of Irrigation division of Water Committee	Qochar Martirosyan
Environmental and social specialist of Water Committee	Marina Vardanyan
Representatives of the EBRD	Karine Lalafaryan Bossan Annayeva Yasemin Uyar
Project Coordinator of the ESIA component	Artak Ter-Torosyan

Opening of the meeting:

Bossan Annayeva (EBRD) provided an overview of the Project, its background and objectives, and the activities undertaken to date, including the technical design and ESIA studies. She outlined the next steps for Project implementation within the EBRD procurement framework.

She also described the EBRD's environmental and social requirements and the surveys undertaken as part of the Project ESIA. She explained the objectives of the ESIA disclosure stage consultations and emphasised the importance of hearing and considering the recommendations and concerns raised by representatives of the participating state bodies.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the Project ESIA:

Artak Ter-Torosyan (Consultant) presented an overview of the Project, including the technical characteristics of the Artik reservoir and its associated infrastructure, and summarised the E&S

studies undertaken as part of the ESIA. He also highlighted the key anticipated E&S impacts and benefits during the construction phase, outlined the main biodiversity and cultural heritage considerations, described the expected long-term benefits of the Project for Artik enlarged community and agriculture, and presented the proposed measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Q&A session:

Questions	Aswers
The Artik Reservoir will provide irrigation water to rural settlements located downstream of the reservoir, namely the villages of Nor Kyanq, Vardaqaq, Panik, Meghrashen, Anushavan, Pemzashen, and Tufashen. Therefore, the Project is vital for these settlements and expected to have a positive impact on Nor Kyanq and the downstream command area.	The Project ESIA also proposes the implementation of water-saving irrigation technologies and practices, such as intensive irrigation and drip irrigation, to improve water-use efficiency and reduce water losses.
There is another reservoir, Vardaqaq, located downstream of the Artik Reservoir site. It is planned that both reservoirs will be supplied from the same water source. What measures will be implemented to minimise water losses and ensure sufficient water availability to fill both the Vardaqaq and Artik reservoirs?	Water from the Artik River will be conveyed to the Artik Reservoir through dedicated pipelines, which will help minimise water losses during conveyance. Hydrological surveys and modelling were conducted as part of the ESIA study, confirming that sufficient water resources are available to supply the Artik Reservoir while maintaining adequate water availability for the downstream Vardaqaq Reservoir. These concerns have been taken into account in the Project design documentation and are supported by the relevant hydrological calculations. It is also important to note that the Vardaqaq Reservoir is partially supplied by the Mantash River. The Vardaqaq and Artik reservoirs are not intended to compete for water resources; rather, they are designed to complement each other. During dry periods, they can help optimise the available water resources, while during high-water years, the system can accommodate excess water and help prevent excessive inflows that could adversely affect the safety and operation of either reservoir.
The availability of water in the reservoir does not, by itself, guarantee an effective irrigation system. With optimal management of water resources, it may be possible to significantly increase the total irrigated area. Furthermore, the construction of new irrigation channels is expected to reduce water losses compared with the existing irrigation system. The use of pipelines will further improve the efficiency of water conveyance and irrigation.	There will be at least three years before the construction of the Artik Reservoir is completed to rehabilitate or improve the existing irrigation water supply channels, reduce water losses and improve efficiency of irrigation water use. These measures can be implemented through community budgets and/or government subsidies.

Clarifications:

Bossan Annayeva

1. During the Project design and ESIA stages, comprehensive technical, environmental, socio-economic, and water availability studies were undertaken, including hydrological data analysis and modelling. Based on the findings, several measures have been proposed, including the installation of water meters prior to the commencement of construction and the implementation of appropriate measures to minimise water losses from the reservoir and its dam and bottom structures.
2. An additional irrigation specialist will also be engaged by the Bank to provide technical support to the Water Committee and Water Users' Associations. The Bank will further conduct regular monitoring during the construction of the reservoir to ensure that the relevant measures are properly implemented.
3. Although I am not a technical specialist, I can say that the ESIA Report for the Artik Reservoir is publicly available on the websites of the Artik Municipality and the Water Committee, and it includes all the preliminary design measures.
4. However, the construction contractors to be selected will review the designs and, where appropriate, propose the most suitable technologies and technical solutions to ensure the safety and efficient operation of the reservoir. An irrigation specialist will also provide support to help ensure the efficient and sustainable use of irrigation water.
5. During consultations in all the affected communities, we heard that the construction of the reservoirs is considered very important by the local population. Once the disclosure and consultation process has been completed, we will discuss internally how the Project can further enhance its benefits for the local communities.

Annex 1

**Water Committee**
Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia

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Small and Medium Reservoirs

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Annex 2

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Armenia Water Reservoirs Phase I Project

Overview

Project Summary Document

Environmental and Social documentation

Procurement

Complaints

Project ID

54673

Status

Passed Final Review, Pending Approval

Location

Armenia

Industry Sector

Energy

Notice Type

Private

Environmental Category

A

Annex 3

