

PROJECT INFORMATION

Assistance in safety improvement of Tailings Management Facilities in Armenia and Georgia

Updated: March 2020



TMF in Lori region of Armenia

Source: NGO Eco Peace, Armenia

Background

The failure of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) is an enormous challenge worldwide and can lead to major catastrophes with trans-boundary impact. UNECE *Safety guidelines and good practices for TMFs* (2008) raise the minimum safety level of TMF within the UNECE region. A user-friendly checklist methodology, which has been developed by UBA, facilitates the implementation of the safety guidelines and is used for trainings for inspectors and operators. Additionally, a meanwhile established *Tailings Hazard Index (THI)* can be used to prioritise a large number of TMFs for detailed assessment, to draw up inventories of TMFs and to achieve an easy overview to high risk sites within the UNECE region by mapping.

Project details

The main objective of the project was to analyse the legislative and administrative situation in Georgia and Armenia regarding the safety of TMFs. Other countries were invited as guests or as members of an advisory board to join the project activities. For Georgia, the project team developed an implementation of TMF safety issues within the frame of the EU-Waste Directive. TMF inventories and respective maps were drawn up for all participating countries according to the THI classification. International experts provided training activities regarding the TMF-methodology for competent authorities and TMF operators. The transboundary contingency planning was analysed at the Debet River catchment. The overall project goal was an increased level of preparedness and response capacities of national authorities and of operators, an improved safety level at TMF facilities and an effective management of disasters caused by accidents. The long-term goals were to anchor the TMF methodology and THI classification throughout the UNECE region, to harmonize the management of TMF mapping and risks and to decrease their failures.

Target countries: Armenia, Georgia

Duration: 11/2017 – 03/2020

Beneficiaries: Armenia: Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Nature Protection; Georgia: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Mining enterprises and local communities in Armenia and Georgia, other UNECE countries

Implementing organisation:

Eco Peace (NGO, Armenia)

Project number: 83392

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)
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