



Monitoring of heavy metal pollution in surface waters from Aries River, Romania

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Mining activities have a long history in the Aries catchment. The extraction of precious metals containing ores culminated in the mid 20th century and then decreased continuously. The mining industry created a beneficial economic development of the region but the negative environmental impact due to acid mine drainage combined with heavy metal pollution of surface waters still remains, after most of the mining operations were closed. This study presents the results of a monitoring surveillance of heavy metal concentrations in surface waters from 12 monitoring stations along the Aries River, during March-October 2008. The results showed that downstream of mining activities an increase of all metal concentrations in surface waters was observed, but the water quality improved with the distance from contaminant sources due to the dilution effect of less polluted tributaries.