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Conference Services

**Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 2:
“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the
OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management”
Prague, 21 - 23 May 2007**

**Special Event
Launching of ENVSEC Assessment Report for Eastern Europe**

Please find attached the contribution by Environment Security Programme.

Environment and Security initiative

EASTERN EUROPE: BELARUS • MOLDOVA • UKRAINE



ENVSEC REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

Update per May 2007

Overview

ENVSEC work programme is based on a participatory assessment of issues, risks and interactions on the interface between security and the environment. The assessment carried out in 2005-2006 has suggested several clusters of activities to address various environment-security dimensions by focussing on:

- Management of shared natural resources;
- Identification and reducing cross-border risks from pollution and waste;
- Addressing environmental aspects of security policies;
- Promoting environmental action, dialogue and awareness in areas of conflict, instability and social vulnerability; and
- Strengthening governance and capacities in the environment-security domain on the country / regional level.

Project activities have been identified in each cluster, as presented in the table below and in per-project summaries. For some projects, ENVSEC discussions and consultations with donor agencies have already resulted in available and allocated funding and a full detailisation of project implementation modalities. For others fund mobilisation and, respectively, detailed project specification, are going on.

ENVSEC work programme for Eastern Europe reflects issues and needs expressed by the countries throughout the assessment process. It also takes into account capacities of the initiative's partner agencies and the fact that a large array of related work has been carried out or planned by governmental as well as non-governmental institutions within the countries, or through international mechanisms. The initiative therefore has given priority to situations where gaps still remain and ENVSEC can offer ideas, solutions and capacities, wherever and to the extent possible in cooperation and synergy with other players.

At the same time ENVSEC programming is a dynamic process trying to respond to changing priorities, new opportunities and emerging concerns. In consultation with the countries concerned, the initiative intends to initiate and support within its capacities and available resources further activities to address concerns on the environment-security interface.

Summary of first-line project activities 2007-9

Focus areas and projects	Implementation		ENVSEC pillars			
	Lead organisations	Countries of operation	Assessment	Cap. building	Policy development	Risk reduction
Management of shared environmental resources						
Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin	UNECE OSCE UNEP	MD, UA	*	*	*	
Real-time monitoring and decision support systems for international rivers: the Dniester and Prut rivers	NATO	MD, UA, RO	*	*		
Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drysviaty / Druksiai lake basin	UNEP REC	BY with LT, LV	*		*	
Cooperative flow and flood management in the upper Pripyat / Dnieper - Bug canal basin	UNEP OSCE (BY) UNECE	BY, UA		*	*	*
Joint research related to activities with transboundary impact in the Danube delta	UNECE, OSCE, UNEP	UA, MD, RO		*	*	

Mitigating security risks from sources of pollution and waste						
Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in transboundary basins and near-border areas	NATO OSCE (MD)	MD, BY		*		*
Development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention	UNECE	BY, UA	*	*		
Mapping and analysis of distribution and flows of radionuclides around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	NATO	BY with UA	*	*	*	
Strengthening capacities to assess and prevent risks from hazardous activities	UNECE	MD with UA, RO	*	*	*	*
Addressing environmental aspects of security policies						
Assessing environmental implications of energy development policies and trends	UNDP UNEP UNECE	BY, MD, UA	*		*	
Training, awareness raising and institutional support to address environmental effects of defence activities	OSCE (UA)	UA with BY, MD		*	*	
Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange)	OSCE (UA)	UA	*			*
Integrated approach to areas with overlapping environment-security problems						
Needs assessment, technical, institutional and legal strengthening of environmental cooperation in Transnistria	OSCE UNEP REC	MD	*	*	*	
Environmental assessment of development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea	UNDP UNEP	UA	*	*	*	
Assessment and capacity-building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Soligorsk regions	UNEP	BY, UA	*	*	*	
Strengthening institutions in the environment and security domain						
Public participation and exchange of information on hydropower development on the Neman and Zap. Dvina rivers	UNEP	BY with LV, LT		*	*	
Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border and environmental authorities	OSCE (UA) UNEP	UA with BY, MD		*	*	
Development of Moldovan national environmental security programme	UNEP OSCE	MD		*	*	
Awareness, public participation and education on environment and security risks and linkages	UNEP OSCE REC	BY, MD, UA		*	*	

Project summaries

Management of shared environmental resources

Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin

Countries: Ukraine, Moldova
Implementing agencies: UNECE, OSCE, UNEP

Duration: 3 years
Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- National Ministries of Environment Protection
- National Water, Hydrometeorology and Sanitary services
- Research institutes and NGOs



Project vision / goals The project builds upon ENVSEC's previous activities in the Dniester basin by institutionalising bilateral cooperation (joint secretariat with a regular work programme) and fostering exchange of environmental and health data among respective authorities.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Functional bilateral secretariat for Dniester basin cooperation
- System for regular cross-border exchange of environmental and health monitoring and assessment information
- Public and political promotion of the above

Activities

- Regular support to the secretariat
- Series of working group meetings
- Capacity development for exchange of information and monitoring data
- Publicity and awareness raising

Real-time monitoring and decision support systems for international rivers: the Dniester and Prut rivers

Countries: Ukraine, Moldova, Romania
Implementing agencies: NATO

Duration: ongoing
Funding: available

Local and other partners

- National and basin Water and Hydrometeorology authorities
- Research institutes and consultancies (Águas de Gaia, Portugal; European Topic Centre for Inland Waters, UK)
- Suppliers of equipment (Phoenix Instrumentation Ltd, UK)



Project vision / goals To enhance the development of a common framework for data exchange required for sustainable management of the rivers Prut and Dniester shared by Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Four automatic water-monitoring stations measuring 6 basic parameters purchased and put into sustainable operation at the two rivers (sites Tudora, Sireuti, Naslavcea and Valea Mare)
- Data are freely shared with interested parties

Activities

- Procurement, training and maintenance support (one year)
- Coordination with the emerging framework for Dniester basin information exchange

Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drisviaty / Druksiai lake basin

Countries: Belarus with Lithuania, Latvia
Implementing agencies: UNEP, REC

Duration: 2 years
Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- Ministries / Agencies of Environment Protection
- Research and non-governmental organisations



Project vision/ goals Starting the preparation of an integrated basin management plan as well as environmental information management and exchange system for the Druksiai / Drisviaty lake catchment basin as building blocks for a transboundary resource management system (NB: the lake is a cooling reservoir for the Ignalina nuclear power station; it drains into the Daugava / Zap. Dvina river)

Deliverables and outcomes

- Assessment and pilot electronic resource database
- Set-up for the development of an Integrated water resources management plan and follow-up
- Improved local capacities and cooperation for transboundary resource management

Activities

- Joint project planning, local consultations with stakeholders, data collection
- Workshops on lake basin conditions and management, information exchange and awareness raising
- Development of management plan, follow-up proposal, information management system

Cooperative flow and flood management in the upper Pripjat / Dnieper – Bug canal

Countries: Belarus, Ukraine
Implementing agencies: UNEP, OSCE (BY), UNECE

Duration: 6 months
Funding: not yet available

Local and other partners

- Ministry of the Environment of Belarus
- State Water Committee of Ukraine
- EU representation & Pripjat project offices



Project vision / goals The project will a feasibility study to explore and detail needs and realistic options of cooperative flow management in the Ukrainian part of the Pripjat basin to improve flood control / early warning on both sides of the border, support navigational levels in the Dnieper – Bug canal, and coordinated use of shared water resources in the basin (in particular related to the use of the Belaye / Bile lake waters). Activities will be closely coordinated with the EU-supported Trans-Boundary River Basin Management project, Phase II.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Feasibility study for cooperation and joint management options
- Ukrainian – Belarus working / expert group
- Recommendations for follow-up

Activities

- Expert meetings
- Development of, and consultations upon, a feasibility study

Joint research related to activities with transboundary impact in the Danube delta

Countries: Ukraine, Moldova, Romania
Implementing agencies: UNECE, OSCE, UNEP

Duration: 2 years
Funding: not yet available

Local and other partners

- Water, Environment, Transport authorities
- Research institutes and NGOs
- ICPDR



Project Vision / Goals To promote and strengthen information sharing and cooperation between the countries regarding the construction of the Bystre canal and other projects with possible transboundary impact. The project is a follow-up to the work by the Inquiry Commission under the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Results of bilateral research of key activities with transboundary impact
- Strengthened cooperation, common understanding and exchange of information

Activities

- Joint research and policy workshops
- Joint research activities

Mitigating security risks from sources of pollution and waste

Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in transboundary basins and near-border areas

Countries: Moldova, Belarus
Implementing agencies: NATO, OSCE (MD)

Duration: ongoing
Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- National and local Environmental authorities, Ministry of Defence (Moldova)
- World Bank
- Research institutes / universities, non-governmental organisations



Project vision / goals To continue analysis, repackaging and disposal of obsolete pesticides in Moldova, (possibly extending activities to the Transnistrian region). To investigate pesticide-related risks, needs and disposal options in near-border regions of Belarus (Brest and Gomel oblasts). To support development of technological solutions for pesticide destruction in Belarus.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Support to inventory and repackaging of pesticides in Moldova
- Field, analytical and feasibility studies for selected locations and depots in Belarus
- Research and development on plasma technologies for pesticide destruction in Belarus

Activities

- Repackaging and disposal (Moldova)
- Studies of pesticide composition, status and associated risks, disposal options (Belarus)

Development of capacities for application of the UNECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Countries: Belarus, Ukraine
Implementing agencies: UNECE

Duration: 1 year
Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- Ministries of Environment Protection
- Industrial developers (Belarus)
- Research organisations



Project vision / goals To implement a pilot project to clarify procedures and mechanisms and strengthen capacities in Belarus in relation to the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The project will address a concrete case of economic development in the Polesie region.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Improved implementation capacities in Belarus
- Increased cooperation among the countries
- Addressing of a specific case of cross-border impact
- Publication of results of the transboundary impact assessment

Activities

- Start-up meeting, concluding regional conference
- Assessment of the selected development project
- Notification and Espoo procedures in the two countries

Mapping and analysis of distribution and flows of radionuclides around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Countries: Belarus with Ukraine
Implementing agencies: NATO

Duration: 3 years
Funding: under consideration

Local and other partners

- Ministries of the Environment, Emergencies of Belarus
- Research institutes in Belarus and Ukraine
- Polesie State Radiation-Ecological Reserve (Belarus)
- University of Life Sciences, Radiation Safety Authority (Norway)



Project vision / goals To obtain comprehensive up-to-date information about radioactive contamination and flows in the territory surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, with a particular emphasis on transuranic elements.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Maps and analyses of distribution and flows of radionuclides
- Stronger awareness of current and prospective risks among authorities and the general public

Activities

- Field studies and joint workshops
- Modelling and mapping
- Publication and awareness raising

Strengthening capacities to assess and prevent risks from transboundary accidents

Countries: Moldova with Ukraine, Romania

Duration: 3 months

Implementing agencies: UNECE

Funding: available

Local and other partners

- Ministries of Environment Protection, Emergency Response, Industry



Project vision / goals To help assess and manage risks of transboundary impacts of industrial accidents by training and increasing capacities of national and local authorities. The project is linked to the capacity-building programme of the UNECE Convention on the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Improved understanding and capacities on the national level and among the three countries

Activities

- Regional policy workshop in Moldova

Addressing environmental aspects of security policies

Assessing environmental implications of energy development policies and trends

Countries: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine
Implementing agencies: UNDP, UNEP, UNECE

Duration: 3 years
Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- Ministries / Agencies of Environment, Energy, Industry
- Research organisations, NGOs
- European Environment Agency



Project vision / goals To promote consideration of environmental issues in energy related strategic decision-making, in particular to help governmental fully consider the environmental dimensions of energy planning using the tools of strategic environmental assessment (SEA). On the regional level the project will analyse and visualise environmental implications of the region's response to energy security challenges under current trends and various development scenarios.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Increased awareness of, and capacities to systematically consider environmental implications of energy security policies for improved energy planning the region
- Region-wide analysis of environmental dimensions of energy trends and scenarios

Activities

- SEA capacity building and demonstration in selected countries
- Support to policy development
- Regional-scale research and awareness raising

Training, awareness raising and institutional support to address environmental effects of defence activities

Countries: Ukraine with Belarus and Moldova
Implementing agencies: OSCE (UA)

Duration: 2 years
Funding: not yet available



Local and other partners

- Ministries of Defence
- Ministries of the Environment

Project vision / goals To provide facilities and programme for systematic training of defence personnel in assessing and managing environmental risks; to support production of information on environmental impacts of Ukrainian defence activities and infrastructure (database of areas and facilities at risks; public reports on environmental impacts of armed forces). Eventually to lay ground for strengthening institutional basis for managing environmental risks by the Ukrainian armed forces (standards, practices, legislation).

Deliverables and outcomes

- Environmental training centre and training programme in Ukraine
- Increased capacities of military personnel in Ukraine and neighbouring countries
- Information products in public domain, increased awareness of military impacts on the environment

Activities

- Institutional development, establishment of the training centre and training programmes
- National and regional training
- Support to information production and publication

Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange)

Countries: Ukraine
Implementing agencies: OSCE

Duration: ongoing
Funding: partly available



Local and other partners

- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project vision / goals To help mobilise resources for the disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange) stored at 7 locations in Ukraine.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Mobilisation of funds
- Institutional and political support

Activities

- Public tender for the disposal
- Targeted fund-raising activities
- Organisational support where needed

Integrated approach to areas with overlapping environment-security problems

Needs assessment, technical, institutional and legal strengthening of environmental cooperation in Transnistria

Countries: Moldova

Implementing agencies: OSCE, UNEP, REC

Duration: 2 years

Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- Ministries of the Environment, Reintegration of Moldova
- de-facto authorities of the Transnistrian region
- NGOs



Project vision / goals To foster cooperation with Transnistria through needs assessment, institutional and legal support for addressing general and specific environmental issues

Deliverables and outcomes

- Needs assessment
- Operational cooperation mechanism (working groups or similar; updated and adopted protocols on environmental cooperation)
- Proposals and support for specific actions

Activities

- Desk and field assessments
- Joint meetings
- Legal drafting, scoping, resource mobilisation for follow-up activities

Environmental assessment of development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea

Countries: Ukraine

Implementing agencies: UNDP, UNEP

Duration: 2 years

Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- Crimean regional authorities
- local planners and community representatives, research organisations, NGOs
- UN Habitat, University of Geneva



Project vision / goals To promote implementation of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in Crimea as a recognised tool for integrated sustainable development planning and conflict prevention. The project will be linked to and support the implementation of the Crimea Integration and Development Programme of UNDP. The project will also help implement a mechanism for monitoring environmental and natural resource aspects of conflict and security situations, with a particular focus on land-related issues and conflicts, as an add-on to existing security monitoring by UNDP and land resource activities of UN Habitat.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Built capacity of local stakeholders in SEA application in regional development planning
- SEA applied in 2 districts to become part of the planning process
- Design of environment-security monitoring, with regularly disseminated situation analyses
- Inputs to regional decision-making and planning processes

Activities

- Production and publication of SEA training materials
- Meetings and training events
- SEA application / demonstration
- Design of monitoring criteria and techniques
- Publication and consultations with decision-making bodies of Crimea

Assessment and capacity-building for managing environment and security risks in the Donbas and Soligorsk regions

Countries: Belarus, Ukraine
Implementing agencies: UNEP

Duration: 2 years
Funding: partly available

Local and other partners

- Ministries of the Environment and regional environmental authorities
- Research organisations
- NGOs



Project vision / goals To support regional environmental management and governance in socially-stressed areas. In particular the project will assess and help mitigate environmental risks related to unsustainable mining practices (i.a. bringing in best European practices of administering the environmental aspects of sustainable mining and mine closure), and increase transparency over environmental issues and decision-making through supporting environmental awareness activities with city / regional authorities (to provide to the public easily accessible environmental information), the media and NGOs (i.a. supporting the implementation of the Aarhus convention on the local level). The project will build upon ENVSEC's 'mining for closure' experience in SE Europe, and UNEP's GEO-cities activities in the Donetsk oblast.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Assessment of risks and opportunities associated with mining
- Targeted support to the administrations for environmentally-efficient mine management and closure (improved practices, rules, regulations)
- Strengthened transparency and communication capacities of environmental authorities (more and better information on-line and in-print), as well as the mass media and NGOs

Activities

- Desk and field assessments and consultations
- Policy and capacity-building workshops for authorities, media and NGOs
- Strengthening local environmental information policies and systems

Strengthening institutions in the environment and security domain

Enhancement of public participation in decision-making and exchange of information on hydropower development on the Neman and Zapadnaya Dvina rivers

Countries: Belarus with Latvia, Lithuania
Implementing agencies: UNEP

Duration: 1.5 years
Funding: not yet available

Local and other partners

- Ministries / Agencies of Environment Protection, Energy
- Research organisations
- NGOs



Project Vision / Goals To help increase public awareness and access to information for decision makers and the general public on the implications of the hydropower plants planning and construction on rivers Neman / Nemunas and Zapadnaya Dvina / Daugava.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Improved communication of information to the public
- Increased cooperation among stakeholders
- Recommendations for improvement of existing public participation procedures

Activities

- Round-table tri-country discussion on environmental risks and benefits of hydropower energy and power plant construction

- Focus-groups on hydropower plant construction in Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus
- Public hearings on hydropower plant construction

Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border, customs and environmental authorities

Countries Ukraine with Moldova, Belarus

Duration 10 months

Implementing agencies OSCE (UA), UNEP (Basel conv.)

Funding partly available

Local and other partners

- Environmental, sanitary, customs, border authorities
- National experts
- 'Green customs' initiative



Project vision / goals To strengthen capacities of authorities to monitor and prevent illegal traffic of hazardous materials waste, i.a. with reference to international practices and legal instruments such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Training will also produce recommendations on further capacity-building needs and actions.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Increased understanding of issues and relevant procedures among public authorities
- Follow-up recommendations

Activities

- Meeting on legislation and enforcement procedures
- Training workshops
- Preparation of follow-up recommendations

Development of Moldovan national environmental security programme

Countries: Moldova

Duration: ongoing

Implementing agencies: UNEP, OSCE

Funding: available

Local and other partners

- Ministry of Environment Protection
- Other Ministries, research organisations, NGOs



Project vision / goals To support Moldova in the development and implementation of a comprehensive Environmental security programme and action plan i.a. reflecting upon and furthering issues and priorities raised through the ENVSEC assessment and further consultations on the national / local level.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Environmental security programme and action plan developed through an inter-agency process and endorsed at the appropriate level
- Initial activities are triggered and coordinated with ENVSEC regional work programme
- Capacities built at the Ministry of Environment Protection to monitor the plan's implementation

Activities

- Programme preparation
- Inter-agency consultations
- Monitoring and updating on a regular basis

Awareness, public participation in decision-making and education on environment and security risks and linkages

Countries Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine

Duration 3 years

Implementing agencies UNEP, OSCE, REC

Funding not yet available

Local and other partners

- Ministries of the Environment, sectoral agencies
- NGOs and media organisations, educational organisations
- Canadian International Development Agency (PROGINT project)



Project Vision / Goals To support all ENVSEC activities by raising awareness of environment and security issues, 'hot spots' and linkages within the countries and in the region. Project activities will target mass media, NGOs and public authorities and use approaches already successfully tested in other ENVSEC regions.

Deliverables and outcomes

- Enhanced media coverage of environment and security issues, 'hot spots' and linkages
- Strengthened capacities of public authorities, civil society and mass media to raise public
- Awareness of the respective issues and activities
- Improved flow of official information on environment and security issues to the general public
- Customised educational materials for schools

Activities

- Support to environmental information centres and facilities
- Training of media, authorities and NGOs, media tours to 'hot spots' and project areas
- Customising and publishing information and educational materials

ENVSEC contacts for Eastern Europe

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Budgetary situation per ENVSEC project in Eastern Europe (May 2007)

Project	Estimated budget (‘000 EUR)	Availability of funds (‘000 EUR)	Current gap / needs (‘000 EUR)
Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin	750	<i>170</i>	580
Real-time monitoring and decision support systems for international rivers: the Dniester and Prut rivers	400	400	0
Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drysviaty / Druksiai lake basin	120	30	90
Cooperative flow and flood management in the upper Pripyat / Dnieper - Bug canal basin	50	0	50
Joint research related to activities with transboundary impact in the Danube delta	100	30	190
Development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention	120		
Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in transboundary basins and near-border areas	3 700	1200	2 500
> Moldova	<i>700</i>	<i>700</i>	
> Belarus			
Mapping and analysis of distribution and flows of radionuclides around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	450	450	0
Strengthening capacities to assess and prevent risks from hazardous activities	20	20	0
Assessing environmental implications of energy development policies and trends	250	85	395
Environmental assessment of development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea	230		
Training, awareness raising and institutional support to address environmental effects of defence activities	200	0	200
Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange)	7 700	200	7 500
Needs assessment, technical, institutional and legal strengthening of environmental cooperation in Transnistria	100	0	100
Assessment and capacity-building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Soligorsk regions	230	40	190
Public participation and exchange of information on hydropower development on the Neman and Zap. Dvina rivers	110	0	110
Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border and environmental authorities	70	15	55
Development of Moldovan national environmental security programme	10	10	0
Awareness, public participation and education on environment and security risks and linkages	100	0	0

NB: Figures are rounded. Figures in *italic* are under discussion / consideration