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ASTANA, 21–23 September 2011



Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

**Astana, Kazakhstan
21–23 September 2011**

**Astana Water Action (AWA): a compilation of actions
by countries and organizations**

**Submitted by UNECE on the basis of inputs from countries and
organizations**

INFORMATION DOCUMENT



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Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda

Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems

Sustainable management of water and greening the economy

Astana Water Action (AWA): a compilation of actions by countries and organizations*

**Note by the secretariat on the basis of inputs from countries and
organizations**

Summary

The Astana Water Action (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/5) — a collection of possible actions for improving the status of water and water-related ecosystems through their more sustainable management — was approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Environmental Policy at its special session as an outcome of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011).

This initiative was developed by the Chair of the Bureau of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), assisted by the Bureau of the Water Convention, the Water Convention secretariat and a drafting group composed of members nominated by the Committee on Environmental Policy.

Countries and other stakeholders were invited to commit to implementing some of the actions and to report on their progress at the future meetings of the Committee.

The present compilation contains all actions submitted by countries and organizations to the UNECE secretariat as of 16 September 2011. All actions are also posted on the website <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/documents.html>. All actions are included as they were sent by their authors, they were not formally edited¹.

* This document was not formally edited.

¹ Due to a technical problem several actions submitted by countries and organizations do not refer to the final correct paragraph number of the official document on the Astana Water Action (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/5). This will be corrected after the conference.

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Actions by countries

Actions by AUSTRIA

Ambitious urban waste water treatment and drinking water supply nationwide in place
(AWA paragraphs 12b, 12c, 12d, 13h, 15d, 15e, 15f, 15g, 15i, 15j, 15k)

Description of the action

Centralized networks for urban waste water collection and treatment as well as drinking water supply are established for all agglomerations in Austria based on stringent pollution reduction targets respectively stringent limit values for drinking water. In case of very small and scattered settlements appropriate individual systems are in place. Therefore water quality of Austrian rivers is in general good. Key to success was the continued financial state support system for more than 3 decades. Remaining efforts are focusing on maintenance and upgrading of the systems.

Expected outcome

Prevention of waterborne diseases.
Improvement of water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Partners

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
9 Federal provinces (Länder), municipalities

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Country: AUSTRIA

Implementation of IWRM; Improvement of ecosystems by restoration of river continuity and habitat connectivity (AWA paragraph 14b, 14d)

Description of the action

As ambitious waste water treatment (including removal of nutrients) is in place throughout the entire Austrian territory, water quality of rivers is in general good; the main remaining challenge is – in line with the findings of the national IWRM plan - to improve aquatic ecosystems by restoring longitudinal and lateral connectivity of river habitats. An action program is implemented according to a three step time table until 2015/2021/2027 based on an ecological prioritization approach. For all new water constructions, environmental flows in rivers as well as ecological continuity have to be ensured. In addition financial incentives are provided for measures necessary to improve the situation in place. Legal basis for these measures are the National River Basin Management Plan and the Austrian Water Act.

<http://wisa.lebensministerium.at/article/archive/27019>

<http://wasser.lebensministerium.at/article/articleview/71957/1/5662/>

Expected outcome

Improvement of aquatic ecosystems

Partners

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

9 Federal provinces (Länder)

E-Business (hydropower sector)

Contact points

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Country: AUSTRIA

Enhancement of renewable energy production - Refurbishment program for small hydro power plants

(AWA paragraph 14d, 14e)

Description of the action

The Refurbishment Program aims at 2 objectives: to increase hydro power production of small hydroelectric power plants and at the same time to adapt them to stringent environmental standards (e.g. installation of fish-passes and appropriate residual water to ensure environmental flows). Cornerstones for the success of this program running in 2 Länder (provinces Upper Austria and Lower Austria) were free advisory services to assess the viability of a potential refurbishment and financial incentives for the investments.

<http://www.esv.or.at/foerderungen/oekostrom/kleinwasserkraft/>

<http://www.noe.gv.at/Umwelt/Energie/Kleinwasserkraft.wai.html>

http://www.alpconv.org/documents/Permanent_Secretariat/web/WG/WP_Annex1.pdf

Expected outcome

Refurbishment of small hydroelectric power plants in order to

- increase overall hydropower production
- while meeting at the same time new stringent environmental standards.

Partners

Federal provinces (Länder) Upper Austria and Lower Austria

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

E-Business (hydropower sector)

Contact points

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Actions by Azerbaijan

Development of National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan

Description of the action

For the first time and with support from UNECE and EU under the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) is being developed National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan based on the leading International experience in the field of water management and taking into consideration IWRM approach in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive and UNECE Water Convention requirements.

Expected outcome

New Water Strategy will be developed with short, medium and long term actions plans up to 2030

Partners

It will be supported by UNECE, EU, OSCE and other organizations

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Actions by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Adoption of the Sava River Basin Management Plan, Programme of Measures (Paragraphs 19(e), 20 (b))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

BiH is a member of The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) which is coordinating platform to compile basin-wide issues of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The overall objective of the whole *Sava RBM Plan* preparation is to facilitate the approximation to the EU environmental acquis, especially in the field of water management.

Based on the Sava River Basin Management Plan and the Danube River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015), BiH have to start with development of water management plans at the national level which will be in compliance with above mentioned.

It is assumed that the *Sava RBM Plan* will be adopted by the Parties **by the end of 2012**, upon proposal of the ISRBC. It is a prerequisite for implementation of the agreed measures.

<http://www.savacommission.org/index.php>

Expected outcome: Adopted Sava River Basin Management Plan, Programme of Measures and preparation of National Water Management Plans.

Partners: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations BiH, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina-Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, Republic of Srpska-Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Agencies for Water.

At international level : The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)

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Actions by BULGARIA

Invest in environmentally friendly sanitation and wastewater treatment, appropriate operation and maintenance. (AWA Paragraph 15f)

Description of the action:

Bulgaria is implementing Operational Programme Environment 2007 – 2013 (OPE).

Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013 sets the country strategic objectives and priorities in environment sector. One of the main priorities of the programme is the improvement and development of water and wastewater infrastructure.

<http://ope.moew.government.bg/en/priorities>

<http://www.moew.government.bg>

Expected outcome:

Improvement of water and wastewater infrastructure in Bulgaria.

Partners:

Municipalities, water companies and water associations.

Contact points:

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Actions by CZECH REPUBLIC

Promoting of concept of integrated water management (AWA Paragraphs 9 (a), (b), (c), 10 (a), 11 (e), 12 (b), (c), and 15 (d),(e)).

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic as an EU Member State implements principles of integrated river basin management according to the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (WFD). On the national level it has been transposed into the Water Act 254/2001 Coll. The implementation includes monitoring and assessment of water bodies status, identification of significant water management issues and their solution through the Water Management Plans and their Programmes of Measures with the aim to achieve established environmental objectives. Part of Plans and Programmes is identification of protected areas, river continuity interruptions, and disconnected wetlands and floodplains and their restoration, enhancement and protection. The use of GIS in the process is inevitable. The process encompasses participation of different sectors and institutions as well as public.

Important links:

www.ikse-mkol.org, www.icpdr.org, www.mkoo.pl – plans on the international level of the Elbe, Danube and Oder river basins (level A)

www.mzp.cz/cz/voda - plans for the national parts of the Elbe, Danube and Oder international river basins (level B)

www.pmo.cz, www.pvl.cz, www.pla.cz, www.poh.cz, www.pod.cz, www.mze.cz – plans for the national river basin districts (level C)

Expected outcome:

Implementation of the first Programme of Measures 2010, development of the second River Basin Analysis 2014 and second River Basin Management Plans 2016.

Partners:

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regions, municipalities, River Basin Authorities, water services providers, water users, water polluters, etc.

Contact points:

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC**Water quality and quantity protection (AWA Paragraphs 10 (b), (c), (d) and 11 (f), (g), (h), (l), 13 (f), (i))****Description of the action:**

The Czech Republic implements WFD, the Decision 2455/2001/EC to this Directive establishing the list of priority substances in the field of water policy, the Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/11/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into aquatic environment of the Community, Directive 91/676/EC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, Directive 2006/44/EC on the quality of the fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, and others. Hence, legislatively embedded emissions and imissions pollution limits and required regularly updated permissions for all water management measures influencing quality/quantity of surface and ground waters, water protection zones around water abstraction facilities and vulnerable zones with relevant action programmes for protection against nutrient pollution have been introduced (Government Decrees 61/2003 Coll. and 108/2008 Coll.).

Expected outcome:

Final aim of these regulations is surface and groundwater status as defined in the WFD and in other EU directives.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regional and local water authorities, water users and polluters.

Contact points:

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC

Water quality and quantity monitoring and assessment (AWA Paragraphs 11 (a), (b), (d), and (j))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

In line with the WFD the Czech Republic developed and implements Framework Monitoring Programme for surface and ground waters. The Programme contains monitoring of quantitative, qualitative and ecological status of waters and monitoring of reference ecological conditions. The laboratories involved are tested and must have relevant certificate.

Expected outcome:

Monitoring data serve to the assessment of the water bodies status, to evaluation of the Programme of Measures implementation process and to development of updated approaches and policies. The results of the monitoring are being regularly published on the web of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.

<http://hydro.chmi.cz/isarrow/>

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, River Basin Authorities, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, public.

Contact points:

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC

Guarantee of minimum environmental water flow in streams (*AWA Paragraphs 11 (k) and 12 (d)*)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic has regulation for the minimum river flows designation, which is going to be updated and will be legislatively embedded in the next year (2012).

Expected outcome:

Legislation regarding minimum environmental water flow designation. Healthy ecosystems along the whole river streams.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, River Basin Authorities, regional and local water authorities, hydropower operators.

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC

Application of user-pays and polluter-pays principles (AWA Paragraph 13 (c))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

According to the Czech Water Act 254/2001 Coll. the surface and ground water withdrawal is charged with exception of small amounts for individual uses. Legal or private person discharging waste water to surfaces waters pays fees for concentration and mass pollution amount and for volume of discharged water in the case that legislatively stated limits are exceeded. Discharge to the ground water is charged but permitted only in the specific cases. Remission of fees or their part can be rendered to the polluter who invests into the upgrade of the treatment technology. The Czech law also stipulates fines for breach of it regarding the surface or ground water pollution.

Expected outcome:

Financially sustainable water management. Fees for surface water abstraction use the River Basin Authorities for maintenance and protection of rivers and streams. Fees and fines for waste water and pollution discharges into surface waters are income of the State Environmental Fund. State Environmental Fund receives also 50% of fees for ground water withdrawal and the remaining 50% are income of regions, that can use it only for water infrastructure measures. Discharges into groundwater are exceptionally permitted and payments are income of the relevant municipality.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, River Basin Authorities, regional and local water authorities, Czech Environmental Inspection, State Environmental Fund, municipalities, users, polluters.

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC

Access to save water supply and sanitation and its sustainable pricing (AWA Paragraph 13 (d), (e), (j), (k))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

93,1% of Czech inhabitants are supplied by the save drinking water from public supply systems and 81,9% of inhabitants are connected to public sanitation systems. The water supply and sanitation facilities are private and their services are duly charged (the Act on public water supply and sanitation systems 274/2001 Coll. and Act on Prices 52601990 Coll.). The prices are affordable for public.

Expected outcome: Financially sustainable water services.

Partners

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, municipalities, providers, public.

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC

Climate change adaptation and IWRM (<i>AWA Paragraphs 15, 16</i>)
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Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic prepares cross-sectional Strategy for climate change adaptation, part of which will be devoted to water issues. Concrete water related adaptation measures will be part of the water management plans and related programmes of measures developed in line with the EU WFD and the Flood Directive 2007/60/EC.

Expected outcome:

Strategy for climate change adaptation, second phase of water management plans (level A - international, B – national, level C – local).

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regional authorities, river basin authorities, stakeholders.

Country: CZECH REPUBLIC

Transboundary cooperation and IWRM (AWA Paragraphs 17, 18)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic is contracting party to the UN ECE Water Convention ratified by the CZ in 2000, its amendments ratified in 2008 and the Protocol on Water and Health ratified in 2001. Moreover it concluded bilateral agreements with neighbouring states (DE, PL, SK, and AT) on cooperation on trans-boundary waters and is contracting party to the conventions on cooperation in the international river basins of the Elbe, Danube and Oder rivers. The main part of agenda of the last two groups of agreements and conventions consists of IWRM, namely the implementation of the EU WFD on bilateral and multilateral level (development of the joint Monitoring Programmes, River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures). Into the second EU WFD planning phase, beside water, also other topics (ecosystems, groundwater, sediments, climate change, flood protection, accident prevention, etc.) and sectors (navigation, hydropower, fishery) have been integrated.

Expected outcome:

Joint Monitoring Programmes, River Basin Management Plans for the whole river basins of Elbe, Danube and Oder rivers and relevant Programmes of Measures.

Partners

Bilateral commissions for trans-boundary waters, commissions for protection of river basins: ICPER, ICPDR, and ICPO RaP, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture

Contact points:

Actions by ESTONIA

Improvement of hydro-morphological situation and ecological status of the surface waters (AWA paragraphs 12a, 14b and c)

Description of the action

Estonia started to improve ecological conditions of surface water and to apply environmental flow at all valuable rivers. Relevant governmental programmes were adopted for the time period of 2009-2013. The main attention is drawn on rivers with potential migratory fishes such as wild Salmon, suitable fishways are planned and has construction started (www.envir.ee, <http://www.envir.ee/vooluveekogud>, <http://www.keskkonnainfo.ee/main/index.php/et/meist/koostoeoe>). Also other rehabilitation measures are planned.

Expected outcome

Good ecological status of surface waters, improved surface waters ecological quality by 2015.

Partners

Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Information Centre, local authorities, private sector

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Actions by FINLAND

Promoting the efficiency of water use in production and consumption (*AWA paragraphs 11i, 21k, 22c, 22d*)

Description of the action and if possible target date

Finland will investigate the use of water labeling and water foot print including virtual water to be used in increasing the water efficiency in production, consumption and in international trade in connection to the Resource-efficient Europe initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy and the assessment: Blue-print to safeguard Europe's Waters.

Expected outcome

Guidelines for water labeling and water efficiency.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Environment Institute, Finnish Water Forum, VTT

Contact points

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Country: FINLAND**Promoting the national policy dialogues on IWRM and WSS in EECCA countries. Support to the pilot project on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins of the EECCA countries (AWA Paragraphs 10h and 15g).**

National Policy Dialogues are the main operational instrument to implement Finland's water sector support in the EECCA countries under the Wider Europe Initiative (FinWaterWEI –program). Finland has supported the UNECE and OECD in their work on implementing the NPDs on IWRM and WSS in EECCA countries. The NPD processes in EECCA countries are still in progress and need international support. Finland's financing and expert support to the NPD process in EECCA countries will continue.

Climate change contributes to water instability, flooding and water scarcity in the EECCA region. Finland has supported and is going to support the future pilot projects aimed at promoting cooperation on adaptation to climate change under the UNECE Water Convention in EECCA countries.

Expected outcome

Continuation of Finland's support to the EECCA countries for accession to and implementation of the UNECE Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health (into national laws). Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change realized and data exchange between transboundary countries organized, joint river basin commissions established.

Partners

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the FinWaterWEI programme, Finnish Environment Institute, Governments and authorities of EECCA countries, international organizations and international and national NGOs.

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Country: FINLAND**Promoting integrated water resources management especially climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessment (AWA paragraphs 15a, 15b, 15c, 15d, 15e, 16b)****Description of the action**

Finland will establish Flood Risk maps and Flood Risk Management Plans and update River Basin Management Plans by the end 2015. These support climate change adaptation measures and also restoring activities of hydro-morphologically altered rivers. Moreover, during the planning process more emphasis is given to the vulnerability assessment and integration of water issues to land use planning.

Finland will continue the development of the national warning system of natural disasters. Hydrological watershed models have been developed for operational use in Finland and they cover today 95 % of the land surface. They are used for example for flood forecasting and for studying adaptation to climate change. Finland will also update the dam safety guidelines and continue developing of the hydrological watershed models as an essential part of the national warning system of natural disasters.

Public water and wastewater works will prepare and update their contingency plans. The plans will become obligatory after the amendment of the Act of Water Services.

Expected outcome

Flood Risk Management Plans, updated River Basin Management Plans, updated Dam Safety Guidelines, Warning System of Natural Disasters, updated Contingency Plans of Water Supply and Sewerage Plants.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Regional Centers of Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finnish Water and Waste Water Works Association, Department for Rescue Services etc.

Contact points

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Actions by GEORGIA

Country: Georgia/ Ministry of Environment Protection

Development Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities of Georgia (AWA paragraphs 15 a, b, c, d, e and 16b).

Description of the action

Georgia is implementing water-related disaster risk management project/action in the basin of the largest river in Western Georgia Rioni with its tributaries. The action is directed to deal with frequent floods and flash-floods with consequent landslides and mud-streams causing considerable damage on economy and social levels. The project is to be implemented under a project submitted to the Adaptation Fund in 2012-2015 tentatively.

www.moe.gov.ge

Expected outcome

Non-structural (bioengineering) methods of adaptation along with existing structural ones implemented, new land-use regulations, practices introduced and early warning system established, protecting the population living along the river and around from water-related disasters. The action will serve as a pilot action for the similar action for Eastern Georgia.

Implementing agency

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Executing agency

Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia (MoEP) through its National Environment Agency

Partners

Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (MRDI) and local municipalities

Contact points

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Country: GEORGIA

<p>Enhanced Preparedness of Georgia against Extreme Weather Events</p>

<p>(AWA paragraphs 15 d and 16c).</p>

Description of the action

Georgia is implementing the project for a mitigation of the negative impacts of extreme weather events on the population, the public and private property in Georgia. New automatic meteorological hydrological stations (gauges) are to be installed. The first automatic system of processing meteorological and hydrological data in Georgia **and** meteorological and hydrological database are to be developed.. The project is to be realized in 2011-2014 tentatively.

www.moe.gov.ge.

Expected outcome

Improvement of the social conditions of the population vulnerable to weather conditions and sensitive to the disasters of weather and water origin; reduction and/or mitigation of probable material losses from natural disasters in Georgia.

Implementing agencies

National Environmental Agency (NEA) of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia (MoEP), Czech Development Agency of the Czech Republic.

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Country: GEORGIA**National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management** (*AWA paragraphs 9 d, c and 10h*).**Description of the action**

Georgia with UNECE support is conducting the National Policy Dialogue to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and according to Millennium Development Goals (MDG 7, Target 10) to promote to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The Dialogue is to be conducted in 2011-2012.

www.moe.gov.ge.

Expected outcome

Improvement of the regulatory and administrative frameworks and setting country priorities regarding IWRM,

Implementing agencies

UNECE, Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia (MoEP)

Partners

Ministry of Health (MoH), other key ministries, private sector, non-governmental organisations

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Actions by GERMANY

Training and Competence Centre Karlovac
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Country/ organization: Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety/ German Water Partnership e.V.

Title of the action

German-Croatian Partnership for the establishment of the 'Training and Competence Centre Karlovac – TCC Karlovac' (*AWA Paragraph 11 d, e*)

Description of the action and if possible target date

The German-Croatian project contributes to the capacity building in the Croatian water and waste water sector. The approaching EU entry of Croatia requires the modernization and new construction of pipe and sewage infrastructure in order to reach EU standards. Through the cooperation between German companies, the Karlovac water utility and polytechnical university, the TCC will address the present lack of qualified staff through trainings and the development of curricula and material.

http://www.germanwaterpartnership.de/images/pdf/presse/PMs_gwp/gwp_pm_10-11.pdf

Expected outcome

Training of qualified staff and improvement of the education opportunities in the Croatian water sector; to also serve as an example for other regions and states

Partners

Croatian Ministry for Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, Karlovac water utility, Karlovac polytechnic university, German companies of the German Water Partnership

Contact points

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Country: GERMANY

Climate Change adaptation strategy for the Danube River Basin
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Country/ organization

Germany/ Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Title of the action

Danube Study - Climate Change Adaptation, "Study to provide a common and basin-wide understanding towards the development of a Climate Change adaptation strategy in the Danube River Basin" (*AWA paragraph 18 d*)

Description of the action and if possible target date

The study, conducted by the Department of Geography at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (Prof. Dr. Mauser), seeks to set the foundations for a basin-wide climate change adaptation strategy by i) compiling the existing data and results from various national and regional research projects, ii) analyzing the findings with regard to common agreements, overlaps, gaps and contradictions, iii) identifying requirements for adaptation and iv) suggesting a basin wide strategy until 30/11/2011.

<http://www1.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Danube>

Expected outcome

The acquired basin-wide understanding about required and potential integrative climate change adaptation measures will serve as a basis for the development of a Danube adaptation strategy in 2012 to be integrated in the River Basin Management Plan 2015.

Partners

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Department of Geography Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Contact points

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Country: GERMANY

<p>Regional Dialogue on transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe</p>
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Country/ organization

German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in co-operation with Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the World Bank, GEF IW-LEARN, UNECE and Global Water Partnership Mediterranean.

Title of the action

Activities in support of the Regional Dialogue on transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe under the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process (*AWA paragraph 19 g*)

Description of the action and if possible target date

The Regional Dialogue Process under the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process started in December 2008 with a high level round table in Berlin where themes and priorities were identified. In December 2011 a similar roundtable will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, with the support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and GEF IW:Learn to take stock of the achievements and identify priorities for further activities in the coming two years. Activities will mainly be focused on targeted capacity building workshops and facilitating trans-boundary multi-stakeholder river basin dialogues.

Expected outcome

Enhanced transboundary water management cooperation in South Eastern Europe

Partners

Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the World Bank, GEF IW-LEARN, UNECE and Global Water Partnership Mediterranean

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Actions by HUNGARY

National Remediation Program of Contaminated Sites (AWA Paragraphs 11 f, g, 13c,d,g)

The Hungarian National Remediation Program as a part of the National Environmental Program aims to survey and inventorise the historically contaminated sites caused by past environmental damages, and also collects and publicises all of the related information for decision makers, authorities, stakeholders and public. The Program co-ordinates all of the projects aiming to eliminate or reduce the harmful effects of the identified contaminated sites falling under the liability of state. Remediation tasks (site investigation, technical intervention, monitoring) are implemented in the framework of 15 subprograms.

Expected outcome

Inventory of pollutions sites, remediation technologies for special pollution cases, cleaner environment. Reduction of impacts of pollution sources endangering groundwater (e.g. abandoned, uncontrolled wells, industrial, agricultural, service activities resulting in the discharge of dangerous substances, nutrient load of agricultural origin).

Partners

ministries, environmental authorities, water directorates, VITUKI Plc., etc., environmental services

Contact points

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Country: HUNGARY**National Program for the Protection of Drinking Water Sources***(AWA Paragraphs 13 i, 14 c)*

The aim of the national drinking water source protection program in Hungary is the protection of vulnerable drinking water sources from contamination originated from human activities, preservation of natural (good) quality of waters in wells of water works and the sources which will be used for drinking water supply in the future (prospective drinking water source), introduce and enforce the delimitations of water protection zones around water abstraction facilities and implementation (completion) of the monitoring system. The program started in 1997 and involves more than 600 drinking water sources. So far around 90% of the total capacity of the vulnerable sources has already been secured by delineation of protection zones. According to the WFD the protecting zones and vulnerable aquifers will have to be the subject of special attention in the River Basin Management Plans. The drinking water source protection programme and implementation of the necessary measures which serve the protection of water quality is continuing in the frame of the Environment and Energy Operational Programme (EEOP) and from the other EU funds.

Expected outcome

prevention of potential pollution and better and cleaner environment in the delimited protection zones, higher protection level of aquifers used for drinking water supply, cost effective drinking water supply and higher protection level of the supplied drinking water

Partners

ministries, environmental authorities, environmental and water directorates, Central Directorate for Water and Environment, water associations, local governments and water supply services

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Country: HUNGARY**Introducing non-structural and more sustainable measures in the Hungarian flood risk management (AWA Paragraphs 15 c, d,e)**

In line with the EU Floods directive and with the aim of decreasing flood risk Hungary will elaborate new building and technical regulations for the flood plains. The aim of the new regulations is to increase flood safety and decrease number of inundations through laying down stricter rules for placing building and structures in river beds and flood plains and also will set stricter rules regarding crossing bridges and public utilities and for land use and forestry. A new approach will be used in case of structural measures, too. Instead of increasing the level of dikes we will prefer decreasing flood levels by more sustainable flood reservoirs.

Expected outcome

Decreasing flood risk, clearer and more transparent scope of the competent authorities.

Partners

Central Environmental and Water Directorate, regional environmental and water directorates, municipalities, regional development councils, national parks

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Country: HUNGARY

Management and utilisation plan supporting ecological baseline studies along the River Danube in the Gemenc and Béda-Karapanca Region (2006-2011) (AWA Paragraphs 9b, 11a, j, k, l and 12b).

Description of the action

Water quality parameters were studied in the function of spatial and temporal changes together with their effect on the community structure and diversity of the zooplankton. Water quality changes during floods were studied with the “flood-pulse” concept approach. Ichthyological surveys revealed characteristic habitat dependent structure of fish communities. Repeated, detailed analysis of macrophyton stands in two oxbow lakes of different character were also made together with the evaluation of limnological situations.

Expected outcome

Strategic planning of rehabilitation activities for Danubian river-floodplain ecosystems and mitigation measures with regard to negative impacts of traditional river engineering.

Partners

Danube Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Karlsruhe

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Country: HUNGARY**Upgrading bilateral transboundary water agreements (AWA Paragraphs 19d, 19 e, 19a)**

The aim is to continue upgrading of the long time existing bilateral transboundary water agreements with our neighbour countries (e.g. with Slovakia, Serbia). Bilateral legal basis of transboundary water cooperation is in place in Hungary with our all 7 neighbours but most of the agreements are in need of upgrading taking into account the provisions of the international water and environmental law developments (e.g. UN ECE Water Convention, Danube Protection Convention, EU WFD, etc.) and other related requirements. Just to mention as an example the geographical scope which should be based on river basin approach. The field of activity of the transboundary water commissions should also be adjusted accordingly.

Expected outcome

proper and up to date legal and organizational framework for bilateral transboundary river basin management

Partners

ministries in charge of water issues of Hungary and of the neighboring countries

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Country: HUNGARY**Monitoring of wetland habitats and their communities** (AWA Paragraphs 11d, e, l, m; 12b)**Description of the action**

Monitoring activities operating in the frame of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System (HBMS). The mission of the HBMS is the long-term surveillance of status and trends of biological diversity in Hungary. This project is the second one within the eleven projects. Within each project, appropriate components (such as habitats, communities, populations of species) have been carefully selected to achieve the objectives set out. A detailed guidance (standard protocols) has been prepared to each component. The actually used sampling methods for fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates have been developed using practical experiences of several years of research and in line with the requirements of the European Union.

Expected outcome

The character of the wetlands has been significantly modified by river regulations and other human activities, but they still hold important natural assets. The main goal of the project is to observe changes and trends in the populations of selected species and in their communities in order to assess the status of habitats.

Partners

research institutes (in the field of hydrology, ecology, forestry), museums (natural history departments), universities (faculty of nature sciences), experts

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Actions by ITALY

Upgrade existing nationwide water monitoring networks in Italy

Reference action

Establish and/or upgrade existing nationwide monitoring networks based on a set of indicators for water quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater bodies to evaluate the effectiveness of water management policy and guide further decision-making on possible setting or revision of water targets (*AWA paragraphs 13 a*)

Description of the action

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) requires monitoring programmes in order to establish a coherent and comprehensive overview of water body status. For surface waters such programmes shall cover: (i) the volume and level or rate of flow to the extent relevant for ecological and chemical status and ecological potential, and (ii) the ecological and chemical status and ecological potential. For groundwaters such programmes shall cover monitoring of the chemical and quantitative status. Assessment of ecological status requires an innovative approach based on a set of biological indicators, chemical-physical parameters and hydro-morphological parameters. Italian Regions, in cooperation with the Regional Environment Protect Agencies, are improving the existing water monitoring programmes, in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements, expanding the existing monitoring networks and the list of monitored biological indicators and other relevant parameters. In order to contribute to this complex work, promote the exchange of practical experiences, discuss operational difficulties, compare monitoring results expert groups were set up under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment supported by the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) and the National Research Institutes (CNR IRSA, CNR ISE, ISS and ENEA).

Target date : end of 2013.

www.sintai.sinanet.apat.it/view/index.faces

Expected outcome

Upgraded water monitoring network according to the requirements of the WFD and comprehensive, updated assessment of water status in preparation of the review of river basin management plans due in 2015.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), National Research Institutes (CNR IRSA, CNR ISE, ISS and ENEA), Regions, Regional Environmental Protection Agencies, River Basin Authorities.

Contact points

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Country: ITALY

Define and monitor environmental flow in the Po river basin district and Arno river basin

Reference action

Define and monitor environmental flow for rivers, deltas and wetlands, and specify environmental flow for years of different water availability with a view to ensure their sustainability; (AWA: II A2, 13k). *This action also combines actions 11 b) and c), 14 d*

Description of the action

According to the Italian legislation Water Balance Plans shall be prepared at River Basin level. Provisions concerning water balance, rational water use and minimum ecological flow are set out in the Italian Environmental Law (d.lgs. 152/06). Specific criteria are defined in the "Italian Guideline for the definition of water balance, ecological flow and regulation of abstraction and impoundment (Ministerial Decree 28th July 2004)". The preparation of the water balance plan is a key measure of the River Basin Management Plan.

The Po river Basin Authority is preparing a "Water resources balance plan", implementing a specific measure of the Po River Basin Management Plan, published in February 2010, which sets out the following objectives:

ensure an adequate availability of water resources at river basin scale to fulfill environmental needs and to support water demands the different uses,
design measures and actions for a sustainable use of water resources.

In the "Water resources balance plan" the minimum ecological flow for rivers in the Po river basin will be reviewed for improving compliance with WFD environmental requirements, and in order to adapt to and manage different conditions concerning water resources availability. Tests to evaluate a better management of site-specific minimum ecological flow are already on-going, and their results will contribute to the preparation of guidelines on the application of minimum ecological flow for all rivers included in Po Basin.

The Arno river Basin Authority has already published for consultation the project of the "Water resources balance plan" for the Arno river basin, which belongs to the Northern Apennines river Basin District. In this plan the minimum ecological flow (according with WFD environmental requirements) has been defined for significant rivers cross-sections. The result of the public consultation under strategic Environmental Assessment according to Directive is currently under assessment.

<http://www.adbpo.it/on-multi/ADBPO/Home/PianodiBilancioldrico.html>

[http://www.adbpo.it/on-](http://www.adbpo.it/on-multi/ADBPO/Home/PianodiBilancioldrico/Informazioneconsultazioneepartecipazione.html)

[multi/ADBPO/Home/PianodiBilancioldrico/Informazioneconsultazioneepartecipazione.html](http://www.adbpo.it/on-multi/ADBPO/Home/PianodiBilancioldrico/Informazioneconsultazioneepartecipazione.html)

<http://adbpo.hortus.it/Home.asp>

http://www.adbarno.it/arnoriver/testo_ar.php?id=1

<http://www.adbarno.it/cont/testo.php?id=98>

Target date: Po River basin "Water Resources Balance Plan" : 2013

Expected outcome

A Water Balance Plan at River Basin level (Po, Arno rivers) with specific measures for a sustainable water uses management in the long term.

Guidelines to manage minimum flow for rivers in compliance with WFD requirements.

Partners

River Basin Authorities, Regional Authorities;Stakeholders: drainage and irrigation waterboards, associations of hydroelectric power producers, environmental associations, water and sewerage service companies., citizens associations, etc....

Experts

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Country: ITALY

<p>Improve utilization of water resources in the agricultural sector in the Po river basin district</p>
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Reference actions

To involve stakeholders (e.g., water users and NGOs) in water development plans, programmes and management in basins, including in river, wetland and lake restoration; (AWA I 11c)
 Create and support water user associations to manage water demand locally; (AWA: III A23a)
 Adapt agriculture to the local climate and water availability, including by growing less water-consuming crops; (AWA: III A23h)
 Improve water accounting in the agricultural sector, such as through metering and water volume payment systems in irrigated agriculture, if needed with some state support/incentive/subsidy for the equipment; (AWA: III A23j)

Description of the action

Po River Authority is preparing the Water Balance Plan at River Basin level as one of the measures planned in the River Basin Management Plan adopted in 2010. In the Water Balance Plan the Po River Authority is identifying specific actions concerning water use in agriculture aimed at:

- adoption of a “Water Resources Conservation Plans” by Water Irrigation Consortia in order to improve management of local water demand,
- development of adaptation strategies to climate change in the agricultural sector,
- evaluation and improvement of water volume metering and payment systems in the agricultural sector.

Target date: preparation of the “Water Resources Balance Plan”:2013.

<http://www.adbpo.it/on-multi/ADBPO/Home/PianodiBilancioldrico.html>

Expected outcome

“Water Resources Conservation Plans” at the level of Irrigation Water Consortia)
 Set up of an Observatory at Po river basin district level on water use in agriculture, involving local stakeholders and aiming at saving water resources in agricultural sector.

Partners

Po river basin Authority, Regions of the District, Ministry of Environment, Ministry for Agriculture, Stakeholders: Drainage and Irrigation Waterboards, Environmental Associations, citizens associations, etc. Experts

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Actions by the Republic of MOLDOVA

Improvement of landscapes role in formation of water regime. Protection of the Lower Dniester and Lower Prut wetland ecosystems by creation of the “Lower Dniester” National Park and Lower Prut biosphere reserve and initiation of creation of the Lower Dniester transboundary protected area with Ukraine.

Ministry of Environment will promote the establishing of the Lower Dniester National Park on the territory of actual international Lower Dniester wetlands of international importance, which permit to improve the territory management and better wetlands restoration. On the territory of current Lower Prut Nature Reserve will be formed the biosphere reserve. Because this territory has a border with the Ukrainian natural park “Lower Dniester”, we will propose to Ukraine the creation of a transboundary protected area from these territories.

Description of the action

Elaboration of the Management plan the Lower Dniester Ramsar site, preparation and establishing of the national park on territory about 51,000 ha – by 2014. The area of water protection belts and zones will be raised on 30400 ha by 2018. Negotiations with Ukraine on joint concept of the Lower Dniester transboundary nature protected area.

Expected outcome

National park and biosphere reserve have been created and its functioning improves water quality, also in transboundary aspect. The creation in nature of the water protection zones and belts along the rivers will permit to improve the hydrological regime in conditions of climate change.

Responsible and Partners

Ministry of Environment, Apele Moldovei Agency, local public authorities, Forestry Agency, NGOs and their associations.

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Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

<p>Elaboration of the integrated water resources management river basin plan (in Russian)</p>
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Республика Молдова продолжает разработку политики и национального законодательства в области комплексного управления водных ресурсов по принципам Водной рамочной Директивы ЕС. **Для этого до декабря 2011 года Парламент одобрит Закон о Воде**, в котором отражены права и обязанности всех заинтересованных в водных отношениях на основе принципов Водной рамочной Директивы. В рамках закона предусмотрены разработка всевозможных механизмов для внедрения закона. Кроме того мы должны приступить к практическим действиям по разработке планов менеджмента по бассейнам рек, что требует больших усилий знаний, средств и опыта. В этой работе под руководством Министерства будут проводиться работа по информированию общественности и его привлечения к принятию решений по управлению водными ресурсами.

Description of the action

До 2013 года на основании закона мы планируем разработать ряд документов, механизмов для внедрения принципов Водной Рамочной Директивы, включительно: Положения о выдачи разрешений на спецводопользование, Положение об учете разрешений на воду, Методологию об идентификации водных тел.

До 2015 года планируем создать информационную систему в области водных ресурсов, и электронную систему выдачи разрешений

Идентифицировать водные тела по 2 подбассейнам Прута (как пилотные проекты).

До 2015 года планируем разработать План менеджмента по р. Прут.

Expected outcome

Создание механизмов для внедрения КУВР в Молдове.

Responsible

Министерство Окружающей Среды, Водное Агентство «Apele Moldovei», Министерство Регионального Развития.

Partners

Проект «Реформирование ирригационного сектора», НПО и др.

Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Ensuring Implementation and maintenance of strict target settings of reduction of the pollution from municipal industrial sources and discharge permits (in Russian)

Республика Молдова при разработке целевых показателей по Протоколу «Вода и здоровья» приняла конкретные цели по сокращению загрязнений путем повышения уровня очистки сточных вод, путем строительства новых очистных сооружений, путем строительства ливневой канализации и установок очистки и сокращения сброса в водоем неочищенных стоков.

Description of the action

До 2020 года выполнить строительство очистных сооружений по очистке дождевых стоков с урбанизированных территорий в 2 городах,
До 2015 года очистить стоки до нормативов на сбросе в 4 городах и 8 селах
До 2015 года разработка стратегии по дождевым водам

Expected outcome

Повышение уровня качества поверхностных вод.

Responsible

Министерство окружающей среды, МОВ, Водное Агентство «Apele Moldovei»

Partners

Местные органы Власти, Операторы водоканалов

Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Improvement of action plans of the emergency situations in industrial accidents. (in Russian)

В рамках двухстороннего Соглашения о трансграничном сотрудничестве по водным ресурсам с нашими соседями Румынией и Украиной относительно предотвращения загрязнений водных ресурсов, имеются наши обязательства по соблюдению этих требований, но мы считаем что у нас должны быть более тесные связи для сотрудничества в рамках двух конвенций по воде и по авариям.

Description of the action

Предлагаем продолжить работу по предотвращению аварий в рамках двухстороннего сотрудничества, Развивать и обновлять планы реакции в случае аварий .

Предлагаем нашим странам работать над оценке нашим национальным потенциалом по Протоколу о гражданской ответственности к Водной Конвенции, это поспособствует принятию правильных решений при авариях с воздействием на водные ресурсы.

Expected outcome

Предотвращение загрязнения трансграничных вод от промышленных аварий.

Responsibility

Министерство Окружающей Среды РМ. предлагается, Украине и Румыния принять наше предложение.

Partners

Секретариат Конвенции по Авариям и Водной Конвенции.

Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Water policy dialogues (in Russian)
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Республика Молдова была первой страной , которая внедрила у себя Национальный Политический Диалог в пользу Интегрированного управления водных ресурсов. У нас имеются результаты, поэтому мы считаем этот механизм надежный для внедрения и проведения политики в области внедрения Водной рамочной Директивы, реформ в водном секторе, поэтапному повышению тарифов на воду для покрытия существующих затрат в секторе и поведения реформ в системе услуг, созданию ассоциаций по воде и других действий , что поспособствует успешному внедрению современных политик по воде.

Description of the action

Планируем продолжить работу по Диалогу на национальном уровне по Внедрению Протокола Вода и Здоровья,

Планируем внедрение механизма Диалога для реформы сектора Водоснабжение и канализации,

Предлагаем обмен нашим опытом по диалогу с другими странами.

Expected outcome

Усиление сотрудничества в области водных ресурсов со всеми заинтересованными, включая неправительственный сектор посредством диалога. Проведение политики по внедрению Диалога во всех

Responsibility

Министерство Окружающей Среды

Partners

Агентство «Апеле Молдовой», Министерство Здравоохранения Местные органы Власти, проект ВЕРД « Водоснабжение 6 районов Молдовы»

Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health (in Russian)
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Республика Молдова посредством Механизма помощи к Протоколу получила поддержку от Швейцарского Правительства для разработки целевых показателей по Протоколу. Сейчас эта работа продолжается по разработке и принятия Плана действий по внедрению Мероприятий для целевых показателей.

Description of the action

Планируем продолжить работу по внедрению Протокола в рамках принятых целевых показателей по всем областям Протокола в указанные сроки

Предлагаем обмен нашим опытом с другими странами.

Expected outcome

Улучшение дел в области качества питьевой воды и здоровьем. Использование нашего опыта для интенсификации внедрения Протокола Вода и Здоровья.

Responsibility

Министерство Окружающей Среды, Министерство Здравоохранения.

Partners

Местные органы Власти, НПО

Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Continuation of the implementation of pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins and use of the experience exchange platform on Water Convention (in Russian)

Начиная с 2006 года Республика Молдова внедряет совместные проекты с Украиной по улучшению двустороннего сотрудничества по управлению вод Днестра. Проекты были под эгидой ЕЭК ООН и ОБСЕ. В рамках проектов Днестр-1 и Днестр-2, Днестр-3 были изучены проблемы управления и предложен План действий по улучшению сотрудничества, в том числе и разработка нового соглашения по Днестру основанная на управления вод в соответствии с Водной Рамочной Директивы ЕС.

Description of the action

Продолжить внедрение плотного проекта с Украиной по Днестру, ЕЭК. ООН, ОБСЕ по адаптации к изменениям климата.

Expected outcome

Улучшение сотрудничества по трансграничным рекам в области адаптации к климатическим изменениям, разработка ГИС для бассейна Днестра с указанием зон уязвимых к наводнениям.

Responsibility

Республика Молдова и Украина

Partners

ЕЭ/К ООН , ОБСЕ, НПО

Country: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Ratification of the new bilateral agreement on transboundary cooperation with Ukraine on the management of Dniester basin waters (in Russian)

В рамках проектов ЕЭ/К ООН и ОБСЕ б ДНЕСТР-2 и Днестр -3 были пересмотрены институциональные органы по управлению водных ресурсов бассейна р. Днестр с Украиной, в рамках существующего Соглашения 1994 и была разработано новое соглашение в этом направлении.

Description of the action

Подготовить процедуру и подписать Соглашение о сотрудничестве с Украиной по управления вод бассейна Днестра. Призываем Украину подписать соглашение .

Expected outcome

Институциональные основы для внедрения КУВР.
Улучшению управлению качеством и количеством вод бассейна.

Responsibility

Республика Молдова и Украина

Contact points for all of the above actions

Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment Republic of Moldova, salaru@mediu.gov.md
Guvir Tamara Guvir@mediu.gov.md focal point Water Convention.

Actions by MONTENEGRO

Drin Basin/Drin Dialogue: Montenegrin National Consultation Meeting for the management of the Drin Basin.

Description of the action

Consultation process for the establishment of a Shared Vision for the management of the extended Drin Basin. It will be held in Montenegro, Podgorica, on 28 September 2011.

Expected outcome

The aim of the Drin Dialogue is to develop a Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin and to explore ways towards enhancing trans-boundary cooperation in this regard, in compliance with the provision of the UNECE Water Conventions and other related multi-lateral Agreements, as well as the EU Water Framework Directive.

Partners

Drin Dialogue is organized with the support and collaboration of:

Montenegrin Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Montenegrin Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development.

Financially supported by the:
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Within the frameworks of:
UNECE Water Convention and Petersberg Phase II/ Athens Declaration Process

Contact points

GWP – Med Secretariat (Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean)
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro

Actions by PORTUGAL

Country: Portugal

Project on Environmental Quality of International Water Courses Natural Reserves (AWA Paragraphs 9a, 9c, 9d, 12 a; 12b, 12c, 12d)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

To develop and implement actions towards the maintenance and improvement of the good conservation state of the rivers Trancoso and Laboreiro, with a view to its recognition and declaration as international water course natural reserve. Project under the framework of the 2007-2013 Portugal-Spain Transboundary Cooperation Operational Programme – Galiza-North of Portugal.

Expected outcome:

Maintenance of ecological conditions of the water courses
Dissemination and environmental education on the scope areas
Creation of the area as an International Water Course Natural Reserve

Partners:

Portuguese Agency for Environment, Water and Climate Policy

Contact points:

Office for International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning
gri.ambiente@dpp.pt

Country: Portugal

Common Integrated Water Resources Management Document between Portugal and Spain (AWA Paragraphs 9b, 10a, 12d, 17e, 18b, 18d).

Description of the action and if possible target date:

Elaboration of a common document between Portugal and Spain integrating the main outcomes of the National Hydrologic Plans of each country, as a way to contribute to the implementation of environmental goals set out by the EU Water Framework Directive.

Expected outcome:

Elaboration of a Common Integrated Water Resources Management Document

Partners:

Portuguese Agency for Environment, Water and Climate Policy

Contact points:

Office for International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning
gri.ambiente@dpp.pt

Country: Portugal

Drought Warning and Management System (AWA Paragraphs 9b, 15c, 16a, 20a)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

Conception of a Drought Warning and Management System, which will provide users with a tool to foresee the potential effects of drought events, so that they can implement mitigation measures to minimize the consequences and impacts of such phenomena.

Expected outcome:

Creation of a Drought Warning and Management System

Partners:

Portuguese Agency for Environment, Water and Climate Policy

Contact points:

Office for International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning
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Actions by ROMANIA

Country: Romania, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Improvement of water resources quality by reducing nutrients discharges into water bodies (AWA Paragraphs 12 f, 13 f, 16 d)

Description of the actions

Romania is implementing "Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project" with the aim: to reduce over the long term the discharge of nutrients into water courses leading to the Danube River and Black Sea through integrated land and water management; to promote behavior change through strengthened institutional and regulatory capacity and demonstrated commune-based actions and, hence, support the Government of Romania to meet the EU requirements in the field of water protection. Target date :2013.

<http://www.mmediu.ro>; <http://www.inpcp.ro/ro/page/13/welcome.html>

Expected outcome

Communa-based Investments in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones : construction of manure storage and management facilities at the commune level; investments in water sewerage and treatment plants in localities where manure communal storage and handling systems are implemented. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building: updating the legislation on water and soil protection in line with EU regulations related to EU Nitrates Directive and Water Framework Directives; the acquisition of equipment for groundwater wells and mobile and in-situ sampling and laboratory equipment. Training program for the staff of relevant national, regional and county level agencies members of the EU Nitrates Directive working groups. Public Awareness and Replication Strategy: Carrying out of public awareness activities at the local, river basin, national and regional levels, to introduce the Project and its benefits, to promote improved rural sanitation in nitrate vulnerable zones and implementation of good agricultural practices, and to promote replication of the activities under the Project in other counties as well as in other Black Sea riparian countries and EU candidate countries.

Partners

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Administration « Apele Romane », County Councils, Communas Councils.

Contact points

Technical Contact point

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"Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control" Project

Ministry of Environment and Forests

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Country: ROMANIA

<p>Implementation of the provisions of the bilateral transboundary waters agreement (AWA Paragraphs 19 d, e, 20 a,b)</p>

Description of the actions

In 2010 an agreement on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the Prut and Danube rivers has been signed with our neighbour country, Republic of Moldova. The agreement is based on the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention, Convention on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the Danube River, as well as EU Water Framework Directive. The transboundary waters Joint Commission is in place. Further implementation of the provisions are required.

Expected outcome

constitution of specific subcommissions and development of their regulations of function (tasks, organisations,etc), approving the regulation of the joint Commission, development of technical regulations (on protection against floods, on exchange of hydrometeorological data, on water protection and procedure in case of accidental pollutions of waters; upgrading the 1985 Regulation on the maintenance and operation of the Hydrotechnic Knot Stanca-Costesti on the Prut river.

Partners

Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Administration « Apele Romane », National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, National Administration of Meteorology and Ministry of Environment of Republic of Moldova.

Contact points

Technical Contact point

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Actions by SERBIA

Country/ organization: Serbia, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management

Negotiations on trans-boundary water management agreements with neighboring countries (AWA paragraphs 19 and 20)

Description of the action

Republic of Serbia is contracting Party to the UNECE amended Water Convention since 2010. Agreements on Cooperation on trans-boundary waters with Romania and Hungary are signed in 1955, by-lateral commissions were established. Negotiations on new agreement with Romania started in 2010. We expect that negotiations with Hungary and Croatia will start in 2012. Negotiations finalized, agreements with Romania, Hungary and Croatia signed and ratified in 2013.

Expected outcome

New trans-boundary water management agreements signed, ratified and implemented.

Partners

Ministries and institutions responsible for water management and/or environment in neighboring countries; Serbian ministries responsible for water management, environment, foreign affairs, infrastructure and public water management companies.

Contact points

UNECE Water Convention focal point: Aleksandar Prodanovic, director, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water

Country: SERBIA

Preparation and implementation of the national Danube River Basin Management Plan
(AWA paragraphs 11 and 12)

Description of the action

Water Law in accordance with WFD is adopted in 2010. National Danube River Basin Management Plan is expected to be finalized and adopted by the Government in 2012.

Following the adoption of the first Plan, the implementation of the Programme of Measures will start and the 2nd cycle of RBM planning will be launched.

Expected outcome

The national Danube RBM Plan, as a detailed account of how the environmental objectives of the EU WFD are to be reached, accompanied with the Programme of Measures, where further steps toward the achievement of good ecological status of surface waters and good chemical status of groundwater will be elaborated.

Partners

Ministries responsible for Water Management and Environment, Public Water Management Companies, Institutes, towns and municipalities, water users, water polluters.

Contact points

UNECE Water Convention focal point:

Aleksandar Prodanovic, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water.

Country: SERBIA

Preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (AWA paragraphs 17 and 18)

Description of the action

By signing the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), the Parties (BA, HR, RS and SI) committed themselves to develop a common Sava River Basin Management Plan (Sava RBM Plan), in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive. Based on the successful preparation of the characterization report in accordance with Article 5 of the EU WFD, the first Sava RBM Plan is being developed with financial support of the European Commission and under the coordinating role of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC). The Plan is expected to be finalized and adopted by the Parties in 2012.

Following the adoption of the first Plan, the implementation of the Programme of Measures will start and the 2nd cycle of RBM planning will be launched.

Expected outcome

The Sava RBM Plan, as a detailed account of how the environmental objectives of the EU WFD are to be reached, accompanied with the Programme of Measures, where further steps toward the achievement of good ecological status of surface waters and good chemical status of groundwater will be elaborated.

Partners

Ministries of the Parties, responsible for water management and/or environment

Contact points

UNECE Water Convention focal point:

Aleksandar Prodanovic, director, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water

Actions by Switzerland

Country: Switzerland

Promoting the concept of integrated water management (AWA Paragraphs 9a, b, c and 10a).

Switzerland is implementing integrated water management within the catchment area as management and planning space, using the "Watershed Management – Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland" as a policy framework for water managers in cantons, regions, syndicates and communes and by developing a code of practice and pilot projects.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01576/index.html?lang=en>

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/wasser/01444/08981/index.html?lang=en>

Expected outcome

Code of practice on Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland. Pilot projects.

Partners

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes

Contact points

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Country: SWITZERLAND**Water quality: Mitigating micropollutants from point and diffuse sources** (AWA paragraphs 11f and g)

The largest wastewater treatment plants (over 100 wastewater treatment plants /700) are to be upgraded with an additional treatment step to mitigate point-source pollution by micropollutants. The corresponding legal basis including the development of financing solutions is being established. The understanding of the origins and pathways of diffuse pollution from micropollutants (originating from transport, urban areas, agriculture) are further researched as a basis for determining appropriate mitigation strategies.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/gewaesserschutz/01308/index.html?lang=en>

http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/countries/ch/soertopic_view?topic=freshwater).

Expected outcome

Legal basis for mitigating point-source pollution from micropollutants and financing. Research on origins and pathways of diffuse pollution from micropollutants

Partners

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

Contact points

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Country: SWITZERLAND**Remediation of hydromorphological alterations: Strategic planning by the cantons**
(AWA paragraphs 12b, c, d and 15e)

To respond to the hydromorphological pressures due to river corrections, flood control measures and hydropower production, an amendment of the Swiss Water Protection legislation (including, in support, a financing scheme of the Confederation) has entered into force in 2011. Until 2015, the cantons must develop their strategic planning of rehabilitation activities for rivers and of mitigation measures with regard to hydropower production. Strategic planning of restoration activities for lakes must be finalized by 2018.

<http://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=38964>);

[http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/medieninformation/00962/index.html?lang=fr&msg-](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/medieninformation/00962/index.html?lang=fr&msg-id=38964)

[id=38964; http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01916/index.html?lang=de;](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01916/index.html?lang=de)

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01916/index.html?lang=fr>)

Expected outcome

Cantonal strategic planning of rehabilitation activities for rivers and of mitigation measures with regard to hydropower production by 2015. Cantonal strategic planning of restoration activities for lakes by 2018.

Partners

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

Contact points

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Country: SWITZERLAND

Climate change adaptation: Adaptation strategy for Water Management (AWA Paragraphs 15a, 16a, b, d and 21h).

An Alpine country, Switzerland is strongly affected by climate change. However, due to its abundance of water, its economic power and its high level of policy, technical and scientific know-how, the effects on society and economy can be minimised. Integrated water resources management (see Action 1), the enforcement of the revised Water Protection Act (see Action 3) and transboundary cooperation within the international river and lake commissions to which Switzerland belongs are essential elements for the successful implementation of the climate change adaptation strategy for water management.

Source

Aschwanden et al. 2011 (cited in the UNECE Assessment Report, Rhone basin). The adaptation strategy in the field of water described in the paper is part of a wider initiative "Adaption to Climate Change in Switzerland – The National Strategy" (working title), under preparation.

Expected outcome

Implementation of the climate change adaptation strategy for water management.

Partners

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

Contact points

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Country: SWITZERLAND**Integrated Flood Prevention (AWA Paragraphs 9 a, b and c).**

Flood risk prevention in Switzerland is based on the integrated risk management and underlined by the following principles: **Know your risk** by completing and regularly update hazard and risk assessment and maps; **reduce your vulnerability** by holistic planning of protection measures combining land use planning, biological and technical measures; **be prepared** by managing the residual risks through organisational measures, monitoring and warning, information dissemination; **reducing damage potential** by short-term damage mitigation measures and evacuation; **speed up recovery** by contingency planning, insurance; **learn from past events** by monitoring and evaluating the process.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/00804/index.html?lang=en>: Flood control at rivers and streams, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, 2001)

Expected outcome

Through the flood risk prevention policy : ensure adequate protection of areas vital to human livelihoods and economic development, limit economic damage, improve the handling of uncertainties and residual or remaining risks, and understand rivers and streams as essential linking elements in landscapes and nature.

Partners

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

Contact points

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Actions by Uzbekistan

Country: Uzbekistan

Establish of the new Ramsar Site Kuyumazar reservoir on the territory of Uzbekistan (AWA Paragraphs 14a)
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Description of the action and if possible target date:

Within the framework of the Small Grand Fund of the Ramsar Convention Uzbekistan is implementing the project for inclusion of the Kuyumazar reservoir in the Ramsar Sheet of Wetlands of International Importance.

Analyze of field work in Kuyumazar reservoir to define ecological characteristic, determining main threats and data for preparing Ramsar Information Sheet. Submit the Ramsar Information Sheet and site map to the Ramsar Secretariat by the November 2011.

Expected outcome:

New Ramsar Site on the territory of Uzbekistan

Partners:

Small Grand Fund of the Ramsar Convention

Contact points:

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Ramsar Convention:

Actions by organizations

Actions by the EAP Task Force

Note by the OECD Secretariat

This submission is based on a preliminary agreement, reached by delegates from countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), on possible elements of a post-Astana programme of work for the EAP Task Force regarding water management issues. Should the Astana Ministerial Conference agree to an extension of the EAP Task Force's mandate, the secretariat will further elaborate the proposed actions based on discussions with countries involved in this work. The implementation of proposed actions is contingent upon resource availability. The proposed actions will be implemented, in great part, together with the European Union's Water Initiative EECCA Working Group.

The overall objective of the EAP Task Force's work on water issues is to support on-going reforms of water policies in EECCA countries. The expected outcomes of this work include: (i) contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation, so that good quality water and sanitation services are delivered reliably, sustainably and at least cost to the population; and (ii) systematic use by EECCA countries of economically, financially and environmentally sound practices of water resources management, including adaptation to climate change.

Country scope: Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Strengthening the economic and financial dimensions of water management, including adaptation to climate change (AWA Paragraphs 9a, b, c and 10a).

This action supports policy dialogues on water policy reforms. Policy dialogues are a political process, where stakeholders meet to explore policy options, supported by robust analytical work. This instrument has proved useful to develop realistic and sound water policies in a number of EECCA countries, and to facilitate implementation.

This action comprises two sets of policy dialogues: one on the economic and financial analysis of water management policies and water resources management plans, the other focused on financing strategies for water supply and sanitation.

Economic and financial dimensions of water resource management. EECCA countries are confronted with severe water management issues, exacerbated by climate change and increasing competition between water users. When appropriately designed and implemented, economic instruments (e.g. abstraction charges, pollution charges, payment for watershed services) can enhance the environmental effectiveness and economic efficiency of water policies in general, and of water resource management plans in particular. They contribute to financial realism and facilitate implementation of policies and plans. The EAP Task Force will work with water agencies at both national and river basin levels to enhance the economic efficiency and financial realism of water policies. Part of this work entails the development of a methodology to strengthen economic relevance and financial realism into water management plans.

Economic and financial dimensions of water supply and sanitation. Financing remains a crucial challenge for water supply and sanitation services in EECCA. Despite some progress in the last decades, water supply and sanitation development plans often are unrealistic from a financial perspective: investment plans are not aligned with financing capacities, and operation and maintenance costs are not sufficiently factored in. A more strategic approach is needed to tailor investment to financing resources, and vice-versa. Building on its experience on the development and implementation of financing strategies for the sector, the EAP Task Force will support policy dialogues in this area, and put them in the context of wider water resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Expected outcomes

The following results are expected: i) a methodology to assess the economic relevance and financial feasibility of water management plans; and ii) country specific policy and strategic documents and processes, which result from national policy dialogues.

Organization: EAP TASK FORCE**Strengthening institutions for water supply and sanitation (AWA paragraphs 11f and g)**

This action would aim to make institutions in the water sector work more effective and efficient. National Policy Dialogues will continue to serve as the main mechanism for achieving this objective. The policy dialogues will focus on selected institutional issues where the EAP Task Force has a comparative advantage: private sector participation, overcoming excessive fragmentation of water supply and sanitation systems.

Projects will be undertaken at both national and regional level, as several countries would benefit from experience sharing.

Opportunities for, and obstacles to, private sector participation. The role of private and public actors in the provision of water services and in water management presents opportunities and risks. Should governments wish to explore that option, OECD has developed a Checklist for assessing both, and for helping public authorities to make sure they can make the best out of private sector participation. This work would build on a policy dialogue on this issue that the EAP Task Force organised in Russia, as well as several regional workshops that the EAP Task Force organised with the World Bank. Lessons learned from country reviews, particularly the policy and institutional reforms required, would be shared at regional level. Cooperation with other partners such as the World Bank, EBRD and local PPP Centres would be an important feature of this activity.

Measures to cope with over-fragmentation in the water supply and sanitation sector. Decentralisation of responsibilities for water supply and sanitation in some EECCA countries has made it difficult for utilities and municipalities to fully exploit economies of scale and scope. Moreover, over-fragmentation makes it difficult to retain and develop adequate capacity to manage utilities, and to generate the necessary resources to finance capital investments. The EAP Task Force will help governments determine the appropriate level of (de)centralisation for water supply and sanitation in different contexts and identify measures to reach that level (e.g. various forms of inter-municipal cooperation, or setting up regional water utilities). The work will build on an earlier project in Ukraine, as well as broader international experience.

Expected outcomes

Analytical, methodological, and regulatory documents will be prepared in selected countries.

Organization: EAP TASK FORCE**Assessing the water policies and institutions in EECCA**

(AWA paragraphs)

Building on the previous two types of action, this activity would monitor trends in reforming water policies and institutions in EECCA. It would cover both water supply and sanitation, and water resource management. Particular attention would be placed on identifying and sharing best practices with the goal of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of water policies and institutions of EECCA countries, both individually and collectively.

Expected outcomes

A series of reports on specific issues would be prepared, including progress in achieving the water-related Millennium Development Goals, and progress in the use of economic instruments for water resource management. These would be synthesised, together with other analyses, and presented to the next "Environment for Europe" Ministerial meeting.

Partners

The EAP Task Force's work programme and projects are designed and implemented in cooperation with UNECE and the European Union's (EU) Water Initiative. Other organisations active in the region are consulted and involved as appropriate, including EECCA Regional Environmental Centres, international organisations, multilateral and bilateral donors.

Work is overseen by the Group of Senior Officials for Reform of the Urban Water Sector in EECCA countries and the EU Water Initiative's (EUWI) EECCA Working Group which agreed in Almaty in April 2006 to meet jointly, and to effectively merge their activities and pool resources. The joint meetings bring together high-level officials with responsibility for water policies, including EECCA representatives from Ministries of Water, Environment, Communal Affairs, Construction or Infrastructure, donors, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), NGOs and the private sector.

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Actions by Eco-TIRAS

International Environmental Association of River Keepers

Development of integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans for Dniester River basin with action program (12a, 20c)
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Eco-TIRAS supports the elaboration and implementation of the plans for management of the trans-boundary Dniester River and its tributaries by expertise and wide involvement of environmental NGOs-members into consultation process.

Description of the action

Elaboration of the Management plans for Prut and Dniester rivers is planned in Moldova by 2015 and 2017 correspondingly. Eco-TIRAS will support these actions by involvement of its NGOs-members and organization of the consultations with the public and will involve the Transdnister region public servants and a wide public to water cooperation.

Expected outcome

River basin management planes improved and supported in the result of consultations.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Apele Moldovei Agency, NGOs-members of Eco-TIRAS association.

Contact point

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Organization: ECO-TIRAS**Promotion of regular biomonitoring of natural waters, based on macroinvertebrates/algae, for rapid, cost-effective assessment of quality of water bodies (13d)****Description of the action**

Eco-TIRAS recently supported the elaboration and publishing of the guide on waters biomonitoring. Through its NGOs – members we will follow-up the implementation of biomonitoring practices on NGOs level in the scale of the transboundary Dniester River and its tributaries, including for elaboration of sub-basin action plans.

Expected outcome

Biomonitoring is widely using on local communities' level to determine the water classes and sources of pollution as well as for elaboration of sub-basin management plans.

Partners

NGOs-members of Eco-TIRAS association.

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Organization: ECO-TIRAS

Application of the principle of environmental flow in rivers, ensuring the ecosystem needs/health. Development the use of payments for ecosystem services (14d, e; 17a, d; f; 20a; 23 f).

Eco-TIRAS will support the evaluation of the role of forests, including their quality, in formation of water resources and modernization in this respect of land planning in favour of the revision of land use to adopt the adaptation measures to climate changes (coming aridization in the Dniester River basin).

Description of the action

Eco-TIRAS will develop the research and wide public discussion on the adaptation measure to coming aridization of the Northern Black Sea area and necessary measures, including on transboundary level. We treat the forestation of the territory and raising of forests' quality as an important measure of adaptation.

Expected outcome

Raise of forests area, inclusion of specific land planning measures to governmental space development programs, wide public awareness in field of climate change adaptation measures dealing with ecosystems.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Apele Moldovei Agency, NGOs-members of Eco-TIRAS association.

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Organization: ECO-TIRAS

Implementation of Dniester River transboundary cooperation (19 a, d, e; 20 a-c).

Eco-TIRAS will support the signing and functioning of the Dniester River basin agreement, as well as participation in river commission and its working groups.

Description of the action and if possible target date

Eco-TIRAS will participate in creation of the river commission for Dniester and its working groups with a scope to promote IRBM to take into consideration the public interests dealing with conservation and optimal functioning of water-related ecosystems and water and health issues.

4. Expected outcome:

Sustainable decisions, improvement of the river status, public awareness in river management issues and the Commission activities.

Partners

The Ministries of Environment of Moldova and Ukraine, NGOs-members of Eco-TIRAS association, other stakeholders.

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Actions by the INBO

Organization: International Network of Basin Organizations and Regional Networks of Basin Organizations

Preparation of a “Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in Transboundary Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers” (A 1, D1, D2, D3, D4)

Inbo with other partners is developing a new Handbook about the water resource management in the transboundary water context, based on the experiences of the existing Transboundary Basin Organizations around the world.

A first similar handbook on “IWRM at basin level” has been successfully developed in 2008 and presented in WWF 5 in Istanbul in 2009.

As much as possible, the handbook will address the practical and concrete issues for getting a better management of water shared by several countries.

Description of the action

During Astana Conference, a brief presentation of the handbook framework could be done, mainly for pushing the partners to provide relevant case studies.

It is expected to launch the Handbook during the next World Water Forum in March 2012.

Expected outcome

Practical handbook for professional, managers ...

Partners

UNESCO, AFD, GEF, UNECE, GWP, SIC-ICWC, EVREN

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Actions by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Note

The commitments submitted by UNECE are based on ongoing activities, in particular those carried out in the programmes of work under the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. Such activities have been endorsed by concerned countries (both Parties and non-Parties). The implementation of proposed actions is contingent upon resource availability and continued support by countries concerned.

Promoting cross-sectoral cooperation with the health, environment, agriculture, forestry, energy, industry and housing sectors (Actions I, b and II, D, a)

Description of the action and if possible target date

UNECE promotes the integrated management of water resources by developing activities in close cooperation with international and national actors active in other policy sectors. It is crucial to ensure that the impacts of sectoral policies, such as land management, construction, agriculture, and energy on water resources are taken account of and reflected in coordinated policy making and implementation. The interactions of water with other ecosystems such as forests and wetlands need to be taken into account to implement an ecosystem approach to water management.

UNECE therefore commits to continuing and further strengthening cooperation between its water programme and:

- Its other environmental activities and its other sectoral activities;
- International partners active in the region, in particular through UN Water and the ENVSEC Initiative

Expected outcome

- Increased number of joint activities with other sectors/partners, including projects on the ground and joint capacity building activities
- Increased number of outreach and awareness raising activities in cooperation with partners

Partners

UNECE Environment Conventions and UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy

Other UNECE sectoral committees in particular the Timber Committee, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy

UN bodies and UN family organizations, in particular WHO, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP,

Other international multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD,

Other, including NGOs

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Organization: UNECE

Development of transboundary water cooperation in the Dniester, Drin, Kura and Central Asian transboundary waters (Actions II. D. 19 d), e) and g))

Description of the action and if possible target date

UNECE supports countries sharing waters (both Parties and non-Parties to the Water Convention) to strengthen their transboundary cooperation through the development of new agreements or the revision of existing ones and the development of the institutional frameworks for cooperation. The Action focuses on the development of cooperation on the Dniester basin, the Drin basin, the Kura basin, the Chu and Talas rivers, and between the Central Asian countries on dam safety, water quality, as well as on modernization of regional institutions.

UNECE is committing itself to further support to the implementation and development of the legal and institutional frameworks in these basins and the implementation of the new agreements and work of new/reformed institutions.

Expected outcome

Strengthened transboundary water cooperation on the Dniester, Drin, Kura and transboundary waters in Central Asia on the basis of an enhanced legal and institutional framework.

Partners

OSCE, UNDP, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

Responsible authorities in Albania, Azerbaijan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (UN administered territory), Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

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Organization: UNECE**Promoting transboundary cooperation in adaptation to climate change (Actions II. C. 1. b) and g))****Description of the action and if possible target date**

UNECE promotes cooperation on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins through action on the ground in the form of pilot projects in specific basins as well as a global platform for exchanging information, experience and lessons learnt on this topic. The pilot projects aim to jointly assess climate change impacts and vulnerability and develop and implement adaptation strategies in transboundary basins jointly by all riparian countries.

UNECE commits itself to continue promoting adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context by fostering concrete action on the ground and exchange of experience.

Expected outcome

- Increased availability and exchange of information on how to jointly adapt to climate change, within the UNECE region and beyond
- At least 10 river basins where riparian countries have jointly developed a transboundary adaptation strategy by 2015

Partners

Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) partners, in particular OSCE, UNDP, REC, UNEP Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, PR of China, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, The Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and other UNECE and non/UNECE countries

WMO, IWAC, UNFCCC, European Commission, IPCC
GWP, Zoï etc.

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Organization: UNECE

Promoting the achievement of water related MDGs through the reform of the water sector and the development of concrete targets and target dates (Actions I, b and II, B, 1, a)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

Improving access to water and sanitation and the application of IWRM requires tackling the many related problems at their roots, including the difficulties in developing integrated strategies and the coordination with other sectors.

The National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) under the EU Water Initiative are a tool to support the development of “policy packages” (legislative acts, strategies, ministerial orders, implementation plans) on specific water-related challenges in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Protocol on Water and Health compels Parties to set concrete targets and target dates in the whole water cycle, addressing the nexus with water and other related policies.

Many countries in which NPDs are ongoing have recognized the advantage of the Protocol on Water and health and of using the NPD framework to ensure its implementation, in particular to set targets and target dates through a process involving all concerned stakeholders.

UNECE commits itself to further support countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their National Policy Dialogues and in their efforts to accede and implement the Protocol on Water and Health.

Expected outcome

- Increased number of policy packages (legislative acts, strategies, ministerial orders, implementation plans) developed in the framework of the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues
- Increased number of countries setting targets and target dates under the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health

Partners

UNECE member states, in particular countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
EU, OECD, WHO/Europe

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Organization: UNECE**Promoting the role of the UNECE Water Convention beyond the UNECE region at the global level (II. D. 1. b) and c))****Description of the action and if possible target date**

The importance of the UNECE Water Convention as a unique framework for transboundary cooperation is recognized also beyond the UNECE region. Especially neighbouring countries e.g. from Asia, Northern Africa and the Middle East have shown interest in the Convention and the experience and approaches gather under it. Many non-UNECE countries participate in the Convention activities. The entry into force of the amendments opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region is urgent and with all likelihood will occur by 2012.

UNECE commits itself to continue promoting the entry into force of the amendments, to promote the Convention and its principles outside the UNECE region and to prepare for the enlargement to countries outside the UNECE region.

Expected outcome

- Increased participation of non-UNECE countries in activities under the UNECE Water Convention
- Increased understanding of the Convention and capacity to apply it outside the UNECE region
- Extension of membership outside the region
- Promotion of transboundary water cooperation at the global level, and deriving increased stability and environmental protection

Partners

Parties to the Convention, in particular Bureau members

UN Water members and partners, in particular UNESCO, other regional commissions, GWP, WWF, IUCN, and others

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