

EECCA Environment Strategy. Second Wind (View of the EECCA Regional environmental Centres)

EECCA region has undergone radical transformation during the last 15 years. It was expressed in triple transition of each formed union republic: from soviet state to democracy (at least to its certain attributes): from centrally planned economy to the market one; and from one unified country to independent states.

National self-identification became the main political challenge of each new independent state. At the same time, EECCA countries did not make a choice in favor of isolation but rapidly joined the world economic system. Differentiation of countries by levels, rates and models of growth deepened. We have identified three types of sub-regional development: migration, industrial and resource one.

Each type of development produces its own environmental problems and requires individual approach for addressing them. At the same time, increased expectations of active population of EECCA and openness of post-soviet space predetermine extreme determinism in changing of political and economic conditions. Therefore, emerging of new environmental initiatives and changes in the compositions of partnerships at the sub-regional level should be expected. It is highly probable that some national environmental programmes and projects will exploit new territories.

In this regard we believe that:

EECCA Environment Strategy should be able to adapt general provisions to sub-regional and national levels with the account of specific features of the development. Dynamism of the development of the EECCA region will increase requirements for the EECCA Strategy not only as a document, but primarily as a process of negotiations. The demand for international organizations as mediators and facilitators of negotiations will grow. In this regard the network of EECCA Regional Environmental Centres possesses unique potential.

EECCA states actively try to be included in the international political and economic system. Recognizing and sharing common values, such as Millenium Development Goals, sustainable development principles, provisions of the Earth Charter, EECCA countries face problems in making them concrete and adapting them to the rules of the procedure for various sectors of the society. Stimulation of creation of a system of corporate environmental liability in private sector as the most active part of the civil society in EECCA at present might serve as an example. We believe that there also is a big field of activity for the EECCA Environment Strategy in case it is adequately modified and adjusted to the new challenges.

EECCA Environment Strategy that reflect the nature and scale of changes occurring in the region itself, can not be limited only by implementing typical pilot projects without the account of increasing role of big investment projects, including projects of transboundary nature.

Protection of the rights of citizens and public participation in environmental assessment of projects get special importance at the current stage of EECCA countries development.

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With regard to unification of efforts of the EAP Task Force and EECCA RECs on the development a of a Joine Programme of Work we seriously rely on the attention and support of the countries of the region and donor community for providing a "second wind" for the EECCA Environment Strategy.