



Pilot project in Belarus and Ukraine on post-project analysis of environmental impact in a transboundary context

4th meeting of the Working group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

27 May 2015, Geneva

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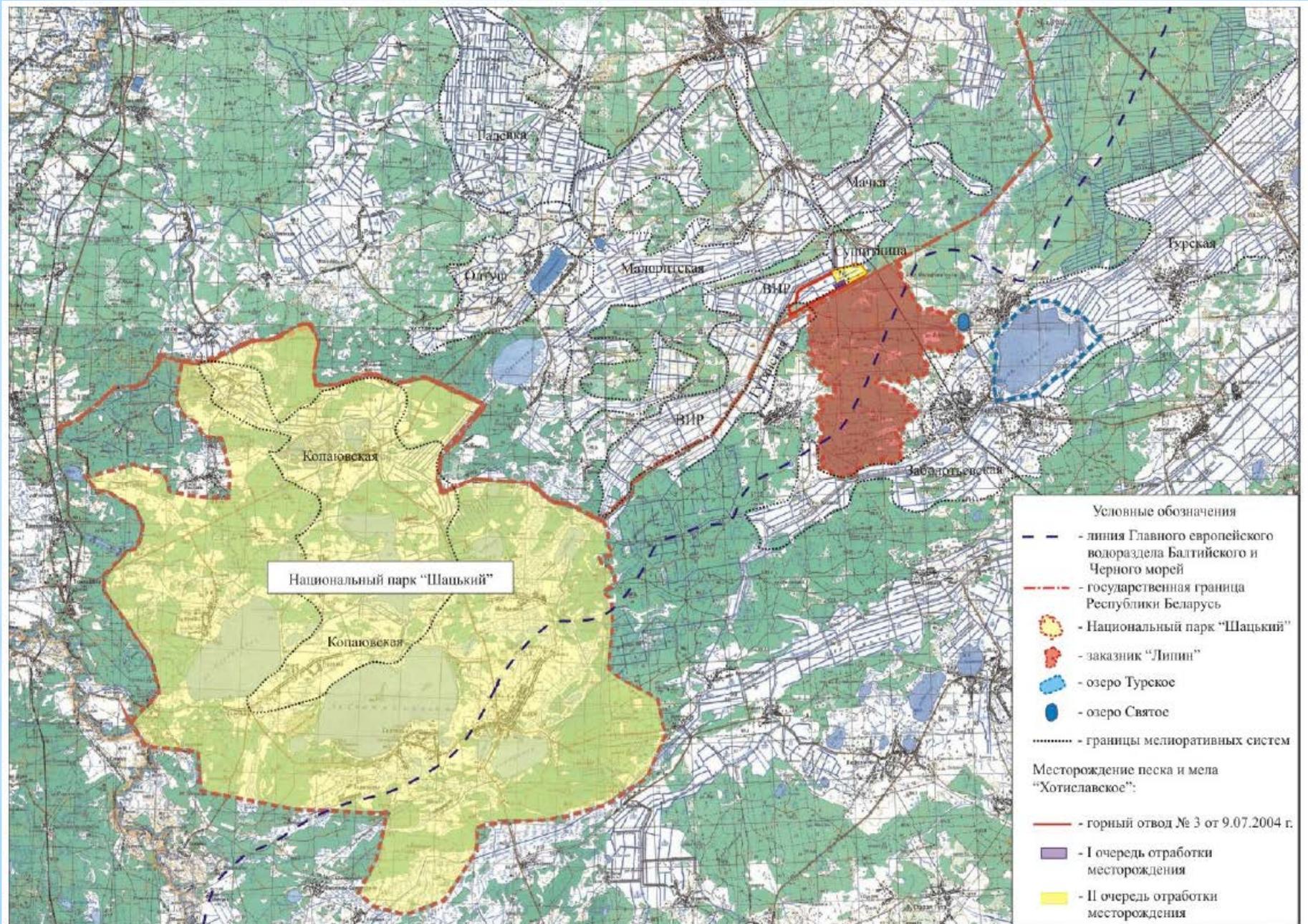
Background information

The pilot project was part of the project “Linking Environment and Security in Belarus” implemented through the “Environment and Security” Initiative (ENVSEC) by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Aims and objective

- To promote environmental sustainability in Belarus taking into consideration the security aspect and having a particular focus on regional cooperation and application of regional environmental instruments (such as United Nations environmental conventions).
- To build administrative capacity and enhance legal and institutional development for applying the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures to projects, subject to environment and security challenges in Belarus and - where there is a transboundary context - Ukraine, and to foster stakeholder dialogue and access to information in relation to projects with transboundary environmental impacts.

Location



EIA procedure for exploitation of the chalky deposits “Khotislavskoye”, second phase, in Brest oblast, Belarus

- In the framework of transboundary EIA procedure in June 2009 a notification about planned chalk extraction in “Khotislavskoye” quarry, including public notification of planned activity and an EIA report were sent to Ukraine;
- Bilateral consultations about accomplishing procedures according to the Espoo-Convention in regard to the project of chalk extraction in Khotislavskoye quarry took place in January 2010;
- Public discussions of EIA report with experts from Belarus took place in February 2010 in Lutsk, Ukraine. Protocol of public hearings, public comments of Ukrainian side and Ukrainian experts were received, as well as answers were given

EIA procedure for chalk extraction in Khotislavskoye quarry, in Brest oblast, Belarus

- A permission decision for the implementation of the project and extract from the state ecological expertise conclusion about architectural project “Expansion of chalk and sand quarry in Khotislavskoye, Maloritskyi region, Brest oblast” were sent in June 2011.
- Belarus experts prepared Monitoring Program for underground waters in the area of possible impacts by development of the II phase of the Khotislavskoye quarry. During bilateral consultations in Kyiv in 2011, the sides agreed on satisfactory process of events realisation set in the process of previous consultations. The parties also agreed on the Monitoring Program, decided on establishing a common working group for carrying out monitoring in the zone affected by the project.

Start-up workshop under the pilot project

- * 9-10 April 2013, Brest, Belarus;
- * Participation: Belarus, Ukraine, Poland NGOs, international organizations, international expert;
- * Aim of the workshop was to agree on the time schedule for the pilot project and on practical arrangements, and to familiarize participants with the pilot project and its objectives such as:
 - Composition and work plan of the bilateral working group and task force;
 - Monitoring programme
 - Procedure of exchange of information.

BILATERAL WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT MONITORING IN THE REGION OF KHOTISLAVSKOYE QUARRY

- * Established in April 2013 and has been working for 6 months;
- * Operated under the direction of the UN Environment Program within the framework of “Linking Environment and Security in Belarus” project within the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative;
- * In cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic Belarus, The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Secretariat of the Espoo-Convention, and UNDP.

BILATERAL WORKING GROUP

* Aims of the Working Group

- Studying the process of monitoring and assessment of actual impact from the mining in the quarry;
- Assessment of monitoring results and efficiency of applied mitigation measures;
- Preparing recommendations for improving the monitoring and the EIA in the countries.

* Composition of the Working group

- Representatives of *Belarus* from: State geological corporation; Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources; State research and practice association “Research and Practice centre on bioresources of the Republic of Belarus”; National Academy of Science of the Republic of Belarus; BELGORKHIMPROM Ltd;
- Representatives of *Ukraine* from: Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecological Problems; Volyn hydrogeological party; State Ecological Academy of Post-Graduate Education and Management; national joint stock company “Nadra Ukrainy”.

Tasks of the Working group

- * Outcome analysis of local and regional monitoring of surface and underground waters in the region of Khotislavskoye quarry;
- * Outcome monitoring analysis of waters' conditions in Volyn oblast (Ukraine), including conditions of water and environment of Shatsky lakes in Ukraine;
- * Defining parameters and objects for monitoring in both countries
- * Methodology comparison of monitoring of underground waters in both countries;
- * Carrying out field works. Outcome analysis of field work;
- * Performance evaluation of environmental protection measures;
- * Review of the system of information and monitoring results exchange between the countries and providing data for public;
- * Preparing recommendations for a more effective implementation of programs on transboundary monitoring.

Working plan

- * During the implementation period of the monitoring part of the project, experts of the Working group exchanged information, gathered and analysed research data of the past years, and discussed received results of the current year.

Meetings of the working group

- * First meeting, 10 April, 2013, Brest, Belarus:
 - Defining composition and administration of the working group;
 - Developing technical requirements of the working group;
 - Plan for future working group meetings.

- * Second meeting, 27 June, 2013, Kyiv, Ukraine:
 - Discussion on the Working plan of bilateral monitoring program within the project framework (for the period of 6 months);
 - Carrying out field work;
 - Information exchange and publication of monitoring results.

- * Third meeting, 24 October 2013, Minsk, Belarus :
 - Results of field work in the region of Khotislavskoye quarry and Shatsky lakes;
 - Draft report of the working group on monitoring within the project framework;
 - Draft recommendations of the working group on monitoring;
 - Draft recommendations on post-project analysis.

Results of the work

- * For the period 2011-2013, monitoring systems are studied and the monitoring results are discussed.
- * Joint field works were carried (background data).
- * Working group report was developed (in English and Russian), published on the websites of the project and responsible ministries.
- * Recommendations on carrying out monitoring and post-project analysis were prepared.

Accomplishments

- * A dialogue between countries' specialists in monitoring and environmental impact assessment was organised.
- * Countries' specialists exchanged information and monitoring results, discussed environment conditions on the studied territory. This promoted openness and higher trust level between the parties.
- * Specialists had an opportunity to compare monitoring ways, research laboratory methods.

Evaluation of the pilot case and development of draft recommendations for the post-project analysis

- * Establishment of Task force - 17 December 2013
 - Belarusian and Ukrainian officials and other experts;
 - Supported by international and national experts on EIA.

- * Task force evaluates the results of the pilot case.
 - Develops recommendations for transboundary PPA.
 - Prepares recommendations for PPA, including both project specific and more general procedural recommendations, e.g. related to public participation.
 - Develops recommendations for an addendum on post-project analysis to the bilateral agreement being negotiated between Belarus and Ukraine.

Workshop on public participation and post-project analysis

- * On February 21, 2014, a Workshop on public participation and post-project analysis was held in Hotislav, Maloryta district, Brest region, Belarus.
- * The aim of the workshop was to provide the public a possibility to review and comment on the draft recommendations developed for post-project analysis including the recommendations for public participation and access to information.
- * The workshop was also aimed at general awareness rising of the public, mass media and profile specialists about post-project analysis and the results of the pilot case "Hotislavskoe" as well as about the current efforts of Belarus and Ukraine to develop practice in and common approach to transboundary EIA.

Workshop on public participation and post-project analysis

- * The workshop addressed the following key topics:
 - General presentation of the role of post-project analysis in transboundary EIA.
 - Transboundary EIA process in Belarus, with focus on post-project analysis.
 - Transboundary EIA process in Ukraine, with focus on post-project analysis.
 - Draft recommendations for post-project analysis including public participation and access to information (for details, please see the Agenda in Annex 1 of this report).

Subregional conference to disseminate the results of the project

- * April 2014, Minsk, Belarus
- * Participants: Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Russian federation, Slovenia, Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, International organizations, International consultants and experts.
- * The conference disseminated the results of the project including:
 - Final report of the bilateral working group on environmental monitoring
 - Information on monitoring of surface and ground waters on the territory of chalky deposit "Khotislavskoje". Results of the activities carried out by the joint Belarusian - Ukrainian monitoring group
 - The results of monitoring and evaluation of the actual impact of the development of deposits of chalk "Khotislavskoye" on the environment in Ukraine
 - Recommendations for good practice on post-project analysis and on transboundary EIA, including for public participation and access to information
 - Draft assessment of the pilot project on post-project analysis
 - Addendum on post-project analysis to the bilateral agreement between Belarus and Ukraine for the implementation of the Espoo Convention

Thank you for the
attention!