



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

***UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
Task Force on Remote Sensing led by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan***

and with the financial assistance of the European Community



***Second Workshop on
REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENTS***

3-4 November 2003, Baku, Azerbaijan

Background

Remote Sensing (RS) techniques can provide an important contribution to monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment, providing assessments of large-scale and long-term conditions, over the regional to continental range, and over the entire seasonal cycle. In order to fully exploit the potential of this technique, RS data must undergo several levels of processing – requiring special facilities and expertises – to derive suitable indicators, before reaching the end-user. The UNECE Task Force on RS is developing a proposal for a pilot programme for environmental assessments of the Eurasian region that would identify and map a key set of indicators derived from RS data. The programme – involving the co-operation of end-users and including a set of complementary measures, such as an opportunity awareness campaign for potential end-users, capacity building activities, such as a suitable set of training activities, and an application demonstration exercise – aims at developing capabilities to exploit RS techniques for environmental reporting, in the Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The present workshop series is a forerunner of the planned complementary measures, to be detailed in a specific project proposal.

The 1st Workshop of the Task Force on RS was held at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, in Ispra, Italy, on 19-20 May 2003, to discuss the theme of Remote Sensing Applications for Environmental Monitoring. The event was attended by 22 experts from EECCA countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Russian Federation and Uzbekistan), UNECE, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Joint Research Centre's Institute for Environment and Sustainability (JRC IES), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). International and some national organizations delivered a series of keynote presentations on RS techniques and EECCA experts made national contributions on requirements and expertises available in the same field. These presentations were followed by discussions leading to a plan for further actions to draft a joint project proposal.

Objective of the 2nd Workshop

The 2nd Workshop will consider a proposal for a draft project proposal prepared by the JRC in cooperation with UNEP, UNECE and REC CEE. It will review the structure and individual components of the project proposal, role of national institutions, partners, time schedule and costs. The Workshop will finalize a joint project proposal for submission to prospective donors. The proposal will concentrate on issues ranging from local scales to regional/basin scales and to (quasi) continental scales. At local scales, the main focus will be essentially on the problems linked to anthropogenic pressure on the environment (e.g. urban sprawl, transportation corridors, “hot” spots). At regional or basin scales, the attention will focus on water issues and water resources, from coastal and marine management to monitoring of lakes, snow cover and glaciers. At continental scales, land use/cover and land degradation (e.g. desertification) will receive the greatest attention. Following an established EEA approach, the proposal will concentrate on the use of (already identified) indicators derived from policy-relevant, timely and affordable data sets and (whenever possible) time series.

Agenda

Monday, 3 November 2003

09:30 – 09:55 Opening

Mr. Gussein Bagirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
Vittorio Barale, JRC, Chair of the UNECE Task Force on RS
Yaroslav Bulych, UNECE

09:55 – 13:00 SESSIONS 1: INTRODUCTION OF THE DRAFT PROJECT PROPOSAL ON REMOTE SENSING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Moderator - Ron Witt, UNEP

09:55 – 10:30 Project proposal on remote sensing for environmental monitoring

Presentation by Vittorio Barale, JRC

10:30 – 11:00 Contributions to the draft project proposal

Presenters: Jerome Simpson, REC CEE
Lubos Kucera, ETC/TE

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 13:00 Discussion and finalization of Title, Introduction and parts 1 to 2.2 of the project proposal

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 – 18:00 SESSION II: WP 1. METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Moderator - Jerome Simpson, REC CEE

14:30 – 15:05 The current use of RS data for environmental reporting in EEA, including a list of indicators derived from RS data currently used or suggested by EEA

Presentation by Lubos Kucera, EEA – ETC/TE

15:05 – 15:35 Contributions to the methodology issues

Presenters: Vittorio Barale, JRC
Niall McCormick, JRC

15:35 – 16:05 Comments on the methodology issues

Discussants: experts from EECCA countries

16:05 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 18:00 General discussion and finalizing the WP 1: Methodology development

Tuesday, 4 November 2003

9:00 – 11:00 SESSION III: WP 2 OPPORTUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Moderator - Niall McCormick, JRC

09:00 – 10:00 **Contributions to the WP 2 issues**
Presenters: Vittorio Barale, JRC
Ron Witt, UNEP
Jerome Simpson, REC CEE
Lubos Kucera, EEA-ETC/TE
Yaroslav Bulych, UNECE

10:00 – 10:30 **Comments on the WP 2 issues**
Discussants: experts from EECCA countries

10:30 – 11:00 General discussion and finalizing the WP 2: Opportunity awareness campaign

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 13:00 SESSION IV: WP 3 APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION EXERCISES

Moderator - Lubos Kucera, EEA-ETC/TE

11:00 – 12:00 **Contributions to the WP 3 issues**
Presenters: Vittorio Barale, JRC
Niall McCormick, JRC
Ron Witt, UNEP
Jerome Simpson, REC CEE
Yaroslav Bulych, UNECE

12:00 – 12:30 **Comments on the WP 3 issues**
Discussants: experts from EECCA countries

12:30 – 13:00 General discussion and finalizing the WP 3: Application demonstration exercise

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 –16:00 SESSION V: PROJECT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Moderator - Yaroslav Bulych, UNECE

14:00 – 15:00 **Contributions to the project management issues**
Presenters: Vittorio Barale, JRC
Ron Witt, UNEP
Jerome Simpson, REC CEE
Lubos Kucera, EEA-ETC/TE

15:00 – 15:40 **Comments on the project management issues**
Discussants: experts from EECCA countries

15:40 – 16:00 **Conclusions, summary of future plans & closure**

16:00 – 18:00 *Excursions to the old town followed by the reception*