

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a unique multi-agency partnership that encourages cooperation to address most important environmental problems as a mean to promote peace and security



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ENVSEC in Central Asia expresses its gratitude to everyone supporting its work and welcomes new cooperation opportunities.

Status of the Work Programme for Environment and Security (ENVSEC) in Central Asia in 2009-2012

The ENVSEC Work Programme in Central Asia was approved by the ENVSEC Regional Coordination Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 20 April 2009.

ENVSEC work in Central Asia began in 2002 with the identification of geographical hotspots and major linkages between environmental and security issues. Since then, ENVSEC partners with participation of different stakeholder, have undertaken detailed participatory assessments of environment and security in the Ferghana Valley, East Caspian and Amu Darya River basin, and have implemented several projects addressing specific issues, paying particular attention to the Ferghana Valley. While the order of priority varies between areas, key environmental issues threatening human security in the region are the growing demand for water coupled with increased pollution, changes in hydrological regimes as well as industrial and agricultural practices. At the same time, the countries need to adapt to environmental changes, increase co-operation in the field of the environment and guarantee development of cleaner production.

ENVSEC activities in the 2009-2012 are based on priorities set up by the countries during the period of ENVSEC assessment reports' preparation in Central Asia, results and lessons learned from implementation of the Ferghana Valley Programme, ENVSEC comparative advantages (including funding), and will address issues in four groups listed below.

1. Dialogue and cooperation on shared resources;
2. Reduction of risks to security and stability from hazardous practices;
3. Increased resilience to security impacts of climate change;
4. Raising awareness and strengthening capacities and participatory mechanisms on environment and security issues.

Cluster	Status	Q-ty
Dialogue and cooperation on shared resources	Completed	2
	Planned	2
Reduction of risks to security and stability from hazardous	Ongoing	2
Increased resilience to security impacts of climate change	In preparation	1
	Completed	3
	Ongoing	1
Raising awareness and strengthening capacities and participatory mechanisms on environment and security issues	In preparation	1
	Ongoing	4
Total		20

The ENVSEC projects have already been implemented under all priority areas. On the 3rd of December 2009 the ENVSEC Management Board approved the following projects for inclusion into ENVSEC Work Programme in Central Asia:

- Geo-environmental security of the Toktogul Hydroelectric Power Station (NATO)
- A comprehensive study on glacial melting in Central Asia (UNDP and UNEP)
- Adaptation to climate change in Chu-Talas River basin (inception phase) (UNDP and UNECE)
- Support for Aarhus centers in Central Asia (OSCE)

On 31 May 2010, the ENVSEC Management Board approved the project “Planning of energy security and sustainability in Central Asia” (UNEP and UNDP) for inclusion into the ENVSEC Work Programme in Central Asia.

To receive a copy of the Work Programme for Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative in Central Asia in 2009-2012, including description of goals and results of each project’s group as well as descriptions of ongoing projects, please contact Ajiniyaz Reimov, ENVSEC Regional Desk Officer, at ajiniyaz.reimov@undp.org.

Projects results

Dialogue and cooperation on shared resources

Environment and security initiative in cross border areas of the Ferghana Valley - Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Partners: UNDP Tajikistan / Status: completed



The project goal was to reduce the risks of conflicts arising from competition over natural resources or potential natural hazards among communities of the two Fergana Valley states - Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. In addition, the project sought to establish a mechanism to track and monitor the potential risks and to address them. The objectives have been achieved through implementation of the three main activities: (1) data collection and analysis in the pilot zones; (2) problems solving

through joint Tajik-Kyrgyz Commissions; and (3) awareness raising of the local population. The project was implemented with financial support of Germany.

The project was implemented in seven pilot regions of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which were selected on the basis of their vulnerability to social, economic and environmental risks with possible transformation into internal and external conflicts.

Results Achieved

Result 1: Data collection and analysis in the pilot zones.

- A mechanism for regular collection of data on environment and security has been established and teams of experts on monitoring and project analysis have been formed;
- Training of experts on data collection has been conducted;
- A number of analytical reports on water and land resources, grasslands, forests and natural disasters have been prepared and submitted to the Joint Commission and Working Group for consideration and decision making.

Result 2: Problems solving through joint Tajik-Kyrgyz Commissions.

- Co-operation between UNDP Kyrgyzstan and UNDP Tajikistan for project implementation has

been established;

- Local authorities of both countries at local and municipal levels have been involved in the project, implemented by the established Joint Commission and Working Group;
- 6 joint round tables have been organised for discussing transboundary issues;
- To support the priorities identified by the Joint Commission, the Local Small Grants Fund with USD 80,000 has been established and 4 out of 20 priorities have been identified for receiving grants.

Result 3: Awareness raising of the local population.

- On the initiative of communities and authorities of both countries, a festival celebrating Nawruz has been organised, that gathered more than 2,000 local residents from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan;
- 7 groups of "Green Patrol" have been created and trained on environmental issues during a summer camp at Kairakkum resort. Upon return the groups have organised campaigns to clean-up territories in their communities supported by UNDP;
- Four campaigns to raise awareness about 2,000 people on ecological transboundary issues have been organised.
- Capacity of local authorities, civil society groups and local monitors have been increased through the training tour to the Gissar Valley, where another UNDP project on biodiversity was being implemented.

New initiatives on development

- ◇ As a result of the meeting in November 2009 in Bishkek, 5 high officials from the border regions of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have signed a joint memorandum on establishment of the Association of municipalities.
- ◇ The Government of Norway has supported a new project on transboundary cooperation based on the recommendations and results of the ongoing project and aiming at solving the problems of access to land and water resources and minimizing the risks of potential conflict in the Ferghana Valley.

Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase II)

Partners: UNECE / Status: Ongoing

In recent years in Central Asia the interest of safe operation of more than 300 large dams and other regulating waterworks, located mostly on transboundary rivers, has considerably increased. Technically aging dams and their inappropriate maintenance, alongside with population growth in flood plains located downstream of dams, have led to increased risks to human health and life, their property and environment. Abnormal termination of dams' work may have disastrous consequences to areas and countries located downstream the rivers.

The project aims to help Central Asian countries to set up or revise national dam safety regulatory frameworks, to achieve their harmonization and to promote sub-regional cooperation for information exchange and notification in case of accidents or emergency situations related to hydro-technical infrastructures.

The project is being implemented by UNECE in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), with major financial support from the Government of Finland.

Phase I of the project was accomplished in 2006. The results of the first phase of the project are reflected in the UNECE publication "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation"

(http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Water_Series_Publication5_r.pdf). Phase II of the project has been started in late 2007 and will continue until May 2011.

An international training course for high-level officials and experts from Central Asia took place in Moscow from 16 to 20 August 2010. During the week-long training, delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan had the opportunity to find out about the experience of the Russian Federation with regard to the maintenance and management of hydro-technical installations in that country, as well as learned about recent scientific developments in this area. The training programme was developed in close cooperation with the Russian Research Centre on the Safety of Hydro-technical Installations under the Scientific and Research Institute of Energy Facilities.

The course is a timely response to the need to ensure safe exploitation of large hydro-technical facilities in Central Asia, in particular large dams. Countries of Central Asia have a developed water infrastructure which includes hundreds of dams and reservoirs built 40 to 50 years ago. This infrastructure is of great importance for the economy of the region – it contributes to seasonal and long-term regulation of river flows for drinking water supply, industrial water uses, irrigation and hydropower. It also serves as an efficient means to address floods and droughts. However, ageing dams and lack of funding for their adequate maintenance, coupled with population growth in flood plains downstream from the dams, represent increased risks to life, health, property and the environment. The eventual failure of a dam could have disastrous consequences in downstream regions and countries.



The project has already resulted in the development of a model law on dam safety and a draft regional agreement to facilitate cooperation in this area. The training course in Moscow complements these efforts by strengthening cooperation between the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries and promoting exchange of knowledge and expertise.

For further information please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/damsafety.htm>.

Planning of energy security and sustainability in Central Asia

Partners: UNEP, UNDP / Status: Planned

Under the project framework it is planned:

- To evaluate and visualize the environmental effects of the region efforts in addressing energy security problems under current trends and possible scenarios;
- To contribute to consideration of environmental problems associated with adoption of strategic decisions in energy sector, in particular by making recommendations for adjusting energy plans, based on the above analysis through conducting extensive consultations with stakeholders and based on the best available information;
- To raise awareness and strengthen national capacity to conduct environmental assessments of sustainable energy policies and programmes.

Reduction of risks to security and stability from hazardous practices

Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context: Pilot project in Central Asia
Partners: OSCE, UNECE / Status: Completed



The EIA in transboundary context is an important prerequisite for sound neighbourly co-operation on water and environmental issues between Central Asian countries. The project demonstrates an effective conducting of a full EIA procedure in a transboundary context between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan that are contracting parties to the UN Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (The Espoo Convention). Close cooperation between government agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in both countries was provided by the project content. Financial support to OSCE was provided by the Government of Norway.

The project's overall objectives were to improve dialogue and cooperation and involve stakeholders and the public in the development and assessment of major projects in Central Asia that have a potential cross-border impact on the environment. The Espoo Convention was the main instrument used to achieve these objectives. The immediate objective of the pilot project was to demonstrate an effective implementation of the Convention in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan through conducting a full EIA procedure in a transboundary context on a specific planned project in Kyrgyzstan, with the involvement of Kazakh authorities and the public. In this particular case, the object was a new copper and gold mining operation proposed by a mining company seeking a license in Kyrgyzstan.

The proposed mine was situated very close to the Kazakh border. Natural carriers such as water could be affected by pollution and carry it further downstream. On the basis of the experience from the pilot project, national implementation mechanisms were developed and human capacities increased, inter alia, through training sessions in both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

In summary, the project sought to provide assistance to the Central Asian countries in the implementation of the Espoo Convention through:

- Improving cooperation and establishing dialogue, and involving stakeholders and the public in the planning and execution of projects with possible transboundary impacts on environment in Central Asia;
- Demonstrating the effective application of the Convention in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and testing the Guidelines on conducting an environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for the countries of Central Asia.

To present the project results to the Central Asia countries, a sub-regional seminar on the "Practical application of the Convention in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan" took place in Bishkek on 26 -27 January 2006, with the participation of international experts and the Espoo Convention Secretariat.

The project achieved the following goals:

- The procedure for conducting a transboundary EIA was tested and further developed;

- National procedures for the practical application of the Convention were developed in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan;
- Project participants increased their capacity and skills with respect to procedures in the application of a transboundary EIA, as well as regarding other dimensions of the Espoo Convention;
- An updated version of the Guidelines for Conducting Transboundary EIA in the Central Asian countries was prepared and discussed.

One of the most important results of the project was the experience of successful cooperation and interaction between the authorities of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in conducting a transboundary EIA. Furthermore, the project demonstrated that the Espoo Convention is an important instrument in terms of promoting cooperation among its Parties through the joint discussion of problems, establishment of contacts, and finding ways to prevent and resolve possibly conflicting views between the neighbouring countries.

It is also worth noting that the collaboration between OSCE, its field presences and the Espoo Convention Secretariat ensured appropriate technical, political and practical project implementation.

The project report in English and Russian languages could be downloaded from:

http://www.osce.org/documents/eea/2010/02/42814_en.pdf

http://www.osce.org/documents/eea/2010/02/42814_ru.pdf

Setting up a project formulation and coordination support group for sustainable transboundary management of radioactive waste in Central Asia

Partners: UNDP / Status: Ongoing

Problem of uranium tailings and toxic industrial wastes in the countries of Central Asia has remained very serious, and potential consequences of inadequate attention paid to it may affect millions of people and cause delay in finding of its solution for many decades.

More than 800 million tons of waste produced from processed radioactive ore is disposed on uranium tailings piles and slag-heaps of operational and closed uranium mines in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. About 440 million tonnes or 54% of the total mass of radioactive waste are distributed on the surface of the tailings piles. Most of these tailings piles are located in the water catchment areas, frequently in the transboundary river basins and valleys, and most part of them are located in areas exposed to earthquakes, landslides and floods. People make excavations on the territory of the uranium tailings in search for metals and possible effect of these metals on their health is not known. There are no qualitative and systematic exchanges of information neither within the countries nor in the region.



This project has been developed in accordance with the Joint Declaration adopted at the high-level International Forum “Uranium Tailings in Central Asia: Local Problems, Regional

Consequences, Global Solution”, held in Geneva on 29 June 2009. The Joint Declaration calls for a coherent approach in addressing threats to population and environment from hazardous radioactive waste. The project will contribute to transform scientific knowledge and political will into development and implementation of prioritized interventions that include:

- i) strengthening of regulatory, legislative framework and capacity for sustainable management of radioactive wastes;
- ii) special initiatives for cleaning up and restoration of selected sites;
- iii) initiatives for community development, including raising public awareness and attraction of social, environmental and economic investments;
- iv) promotion of partnership between public and private sectors for recycling waste tailings.

Expected outputs of the project:

- establishment of effective coordination mechanisms between the countries;
- development of a project proposals portfolio under the four priorities identified by the countries.



Currently the projects database, that includes starting and ongoing projects, has been updated and prioritization and elaboration of project proposals have been started. A regional film is under production that will be used to attract the attention of donors, private sector, decision makers and NGOs. In order to improve co-ordination and synergy, the meetings with representatives of the IAEA, ENVSEC, OSCE in all four countries have been organised.

After conducting an expertise and ranking of project documents, the development of project proposals will be initiated. In November a meeting of the Project Board will be organised in order to discuss the results of the project proposals' ranking and finding joint solutions of problems of transboundary management of radioactive waste in Central Asia.

On 16 November 2009, at the UN House in Bishkek a discussion of the regional project "Setting up a project formulation and coordination support group for sustainable transboundary management of radioactive waste in Central Asia" took place. The participants of the round table included representatives of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, as well as ministries and agencies, NGOs and Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.

On 19 August 2010, in Bishkek a round table was organised that conceded the project proposals portfolio and discussed criteria for selection of developed project proposals for uranium tailings problems. These criteria, once finalized with taking into account comments and suggestions received from participants of the round table, will be used for selection of projects in all four Central Asian countries, as it is essential to implement the most effective and strategically important projects due to limited financial resources.

More information is available at the website www.uranium.kg. This site also hosts interactive map "Radioactive and Toxic Tailings in Kyrgyzstan" - <http://tailing.uranium.kg>.

Increased resilience to security impacts of climate change

A comprehensive study on glacial melting in Central Asia
Partners: UNDP, UNEP / Status: Ongoing

The project is a part of the UNDP umbrella initiative “The Central Asian Multi-country Programme for Climate Risk Management” that aims at supporting integrated approaches to reduce natural disasters caused by climate change, and adapt to the impacts of climate change in Central Asia. The Programme will enhance adaptive capacity of the Central Asian countries, promote early actions on adaptation measures and lay down the basis for long-term investments in strengthening resilience to climate change in the region.



Expected outputs of the project:

- 1) Analysis of the available information on melting of glaciers in Central Asia;
- 2) Using available information to develop the simulation scenarios of impacts on water supply of glaciers melting caused by climate change in the main river basins of Central Asia for the period 2009-2010 (this will be based on modelling techniques that are used in other projects on water resources management in Central Asia);
- 3) Identification of gaps in knowledge, capacity for monitoring and financing. Facilitating implementation of the required actions to address identified gaps and estimation of required financial resources;
- 4) Development of a number of cost-effective recommendations for improving access to the data and capacity of the monitoring systems relevant to the glaciers in the region;
- 5) Increasing awareness among the public at large, especially among decision-makers in key water sectors that would be affected by hydrological changes resulting from the degradation of glaciers.



Фото- В.Новиков

It is planned to conduct an in-depth study on changes in status of the glaciers in Central Asia in two phases: Phase I - information gathering (synthesis of information on glaciers melting, workshop on monitoring systems, assessment of needs of organizations involved in scientific research and monitoring), Phase II - implementing activities.

A Workshop “Monitoring of glacier melting in Central Asia: Challenges and potential solutions” was held in Almaty

on 24-25 June 2010. The meeting was attended by representatives of interested institutions from

The participants discussed the following issues:

- i) condition of the monitoring systems and data sharing: available data and information on changes in status of the glaciers in Central Asia, condition of the monitoring systems, data exchange and its use, key sources of information, access to information for end users, knowledge gaps, etc.;
- ii) identification of priorities in regard to the existing information gaps and coordination of the most urgent actions to be taken to address these gaps as well as priorities to improve monitoring systems for melting of glaciers and enhance the analysis of the state of water resources linked to these changes.

Promoting cooperation to adapt to climate change in Chu-Talas transboundary basin (inception phase)

Partners: UNECE / Status: Ongoing

Climate change may threaten livelihoods, economic development, human health, water resources, and hence security. Possible impacts vary greatly from region to region and include increased frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, intensified erosion and risks of landslides, decline of glacier and snow cover, sea level rise, salinisation, impacts on water quality as well as on ecosystems as a whole.



Water resources will be directly affected by climate change through changes in the hydrological cycle. Moreover, such impacts on water resources will have a cascading effect on other sectors such as agriculture (decreased availability of water for irrigation, coupled with increased demand), energy (reduced hydropower potential and cooling water availability), recreation (water-linked tourism), fisheries and navigation. This will affect countries whose economies heavily depend on one or more of the above sectors.

The project was presented and endorsed by the Chu-Talas bilateral Kazakh-Kyrgyz Commission in June 2010. The Chu-Talas basin is selected for this project for two reasons. Firstly, the bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the field of transboundary water resources management (including bilateral Committee <http://chutalacommission.org/committee.php>) is well developed. In addition, the basin can be used as a showcase of successful adaptation to climate change for the other transboundary basins, located in the region and beyond.

Project objectives:

- Modelling of possible changes in water resources of the Chu-Talas basin associated with climate conditions;
- Elaboration of possible scenarios for the situation development;
- Preparation of a joint vulnerability assessment, focusing on selected areas/sectors of importance for the work of the Committee,
- Development of a package of possible adaptation measures and relevant procedures for the Committee, which may contribute to decreasing potential tensions over changing hydrological regimes. Such procedures and measures will be built into the regular Committee's operations and policies, where appropriate.

Project phases:

Inception phase - data collection and getting all partners on board, contacts with other initiatives and donors, proposals on modelling and content of vulnerability report/scenarios. Starting modelling activities (depending on available data and other conditions).

Implementation phase - all detailed technical operations (such as modelling and scenario development) will be discussed and incorporated into current procedures and programmes.

Raising awareness and strengthening capacities and participatory mechanisms on environment and security issues

In-depth assessment of environment and security linkages and impact in the Amu Darya River basin

Partners: UNEP, UNDP / Status: Ongoing

Under the project framework during 2006-2010 the situation analysis for the Amu Darya River basin has been prepared in order to determine the real situation, linkages between the status and factors of impacts on the environment and various aspects of human security, for identifying mechanisms and areas for cooperation in the river basin. Preliminary results of the assessment provide deeper understanding of aspects of linkages between security and water resources management, problems of pollution and environmental degradation. Moreover, the results indicate the necessity to take measures and solve certain issues.



ФОТО- В.НОВИКОВ

The results of the assessment are at the stage of experts' revision, illustrations are being finalized and certain sections of the report are being reviewed in accordance with comments received from Uzbekistan.



ФОТО- В.НОВИКОВ

The most important stages in the assessment included: field work (April-July 2008) with participation of Afghanistan; in the upper part of the Amu Darya River basin, mainly in Tajikistan; and in the lower part of the basin, mainly in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. A draft report was prepared in December 2008, during 2009-2010 it was further corrected and updated.

Publication of the Assessment Report is planned for the second half of 2010. The Report is a part of assessments conducted by the Environment and Security Initiative in Central Asia since 2005.

Outputs of the project:

- Joint work of experts and organizations from 4 countries and international organizations, established working relations and cooperation;
- Coverage of critical environmental issues of the Amu Darya River basin in local and international mass media and at the Central Asian Festival of Environmental Journalism (2008);
- Open discussions of “problematic” environmental and safety issues, their field verification, independent assessment, analysis of coinciding and distinct interests, finding of acceptable solutions;
- Definition of a series of issues requiring further capacity building and actions aimed at solution of the environmental and safety problems in the Amu Darya River basin.

Process:

- Work in the Amu Darya River basin started in 2006 through establishing the dialogue and consultations;
- Targeted work in the four countries was held in 2007-2008, including two field assessments, two regional workshops and series of bilateral consultations;
- Four revisions of the Assessment Report have been carried out;
- List of the priority areas and potential projects for ENVSEC have been identified;
- It is necessary to finalise the assessment in the second half of 2010 for dissemination of the obtained results, exchange of information and practical implementation of projects under ENVSEC.

Support for Aarhus Centres in Central Asia in 2010

Partners: OSCE / Status: Starting

Since 2002, OSCE has been supporting establishment and functioning of Aarhus Centres and Public Environmental Information Centres in several countries of Central Asia, Southern Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and South-Eastern Europe. The primary purpose of these centres is to support governments in implementing the Aarhus Convention.

The goal of this project is to facilitate collaboration between Government and civil society in the field of environmental protection and safety by the use of Aarhus Centres and further strengthening their capacities, through:

- Targeted trainings for the Aarhus Centres’ staff and their stakeholders on priority environment and security issues;
- Support for active involvement of Aarhus Centres in local and national environmental initiatives, particularly those under ENVSEC (climate change, uranium waste, mining industry, etc.);
- Networking and information-sharing among Aarhus Centres.

Aarhus Centres in Central Asia have formed a large network that can implement regional, state and local activities and can be an effective tool in actions for implementation of the Aarhus Convention at all levels, including transboundary context. In most countries, the Aarhus Centres serve as a platform for dialogue and co-operation between governmental bodies, NGOs and the public at large. After establishment of Aarhus Centres in Atyrau and Astana, their network in the region have expanded to six centres. Their work is aimed at raising public awareness on environmental issues, education, organization of public hearings, development of environmental legislation and supporting legal environmental rights of the public.

At the meetings of Aarhus Centres’ representatives on 27 - 29 January 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey, and on 22 June 2010 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, it was noted that it is necessary to increase information exchange networks between the Aarhus Centres, raise awareness on environmental protection issues and promote participatory approaches in environmental decision-making within the framework of the Aarhus Convention principles, as well as possibility of using the potential of the Aarhus

Centres to implement ENVSEC projects and inform the public on ENVSEC activities.

Recent ENVSEC meetings

Regional Meeting of the ENVSEC Initiative in Central Asia - 23 June 2010, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The Regional Meeting of the ENVSEC Initiative in Central Asia took place on 23 June 2010 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting gathered more than forty participants - representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and international organizations that gathered to discuss achievements and future activities of ENVSEC in Central Asia.

The main purposes of the meeting were:

- to update participants on the progress under the ENVSEC Work Programme in Central Asia for 2009-2012; and
- to discuss opportunities for further ENVSEC interventions in the region.

The meeting was a combination of plenary presentations and discussions in groups. The participants of the meeting were informed on changes in ENVSEC, status of implementation of the ENVSEC Work Programme in Central Asia, and results of ENVSEC projects



in Central Asia. During the group session, the participants discussed relevance of priorities of the ENVSEC Work Programme in Central Asia, potential project ideas and proposals for further improvement of the ENVSEC work in the region.

During the meeting a very fruitful discussion took place. The participants learned about reforms in ENVSEC and received detailed information on the status of implementation of the ENVSEC Work Programme for Central Asia for 2009-2012. The participants also had an opportunity to learn about results of ENVSEC projects from presentations delivered by respective project managers, and discuss possibilities for cooperate within implementation of the ENVSEC Work Programme.

Discussions revealed that ENVSEC efforts to increase national ownership and visibility of ENVSEC, improve cooperation between all partners and effectiveness of its work are supported by concerned stakeholders and the National Focal Points. The participants also proposed to consider the expansion of ENVSEC work to other countries (Afghanistan, China) and urged the Initiative to present its work at upcoming high-level meetings, e.g. the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Astana in 2011.

Useful links

The ENVSEC Initiative has its own web-site - www.envsec.org, where you can find publications, reports and other documents on ENVSEC activities in four regions.

A virtual workspace for ENVSEC in Central Asia has been created at <http://ws.undp.sk/enveng+envsec>. This workspace facilitates professional interactions, information management through sharing of documents, discussions, conferences and joint development of content online.

ENVSEC Central Asian Newsletter

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At this workspace we are uploading all the relevant documents. Please contact us if you would like to become a member of this workspace.

In addition, exchange and dissemination of information and experience in the field of environmental protection on key environmental issues is provided by the regional information portal www.caresd.net.

The Regional Portal of Knowledge for Water and Environmental Issues in Central Asia (www.cawater-info.net) contains information on water resources of the Aral Sea basin (developed under the CAREWIB project).

The regional website “Uranium Tailings: Local Problems, Regional Consequences, Global Solution” (www.uranium.kg) has been created.



ENVSEC contacts in Central Asia

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About ENVSEC

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is an inter-agency partnership which facilitates co-operation on critical environmental issues as a way to promote peace and security in four regions: Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe. Recognizing that environmental problems do not stop at national borders, the ENVSEC partners (OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, REC, UNECE, and NATO as an associate partner) have developed a platform that turns the potential for conflict between states into opportunities for confidence-building and co-operation.

ENVSEC primary objectives are:

- 1) To contribute to the reduction of environment and security risks and strengthen cooperation among and within countries;
- 2) To provide multi-stakeholder-based analysis of environment and security risks;
- 3) To support a process whereby the identified risks are systematically addressed through strengthening policies, institutions and capacities.

ENVSEC has been active in Central Asia since 2002 when the initial assessment of environment and security risks was conducted. The assessment identified geographical hotspots where these risks and opportunities manifest themselves in growing environmental degradation and negative impact on human security. These hotspots are: the Ferghana Valley, Eastern Caspian coast, Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site and the Aral Sea basin and tributaries. ENVSEC activities on the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site have been ceased since Kazakhstan has taken a more active role in the area. The ENVSEC partners, in close collaboration with national governments, are currently implementing a Work Programme consisting of projects and activities, having an objective to build inter-state cooperation in order to address priority issues in the other three hotspots and in the region as a whole.



We would be very grateful if you could notify us of any mistakes or inconsistencies so we could correct them for the next edition of the Newsletter. ajiniyaz.reimov@undp.org