

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a partnership of six international organizations (the OSCE, REC, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, and NATO as an associated partner) that aims at identifying and reducing interlinked environment and security risks through strengthening cooperation among and within countries in four regions: Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, and Southern Caucasus. Specific regional developments during the reporting quarter include the following:

Central Asia

In Central Asia, ENVSEC promoted regional cooperation in addressing climate change issues by supporting the organization of a workshop in Kazakhstan on "Modern problems of glaciology and prospects of scientific cooperation." Over 30 scientists, experts and representatives of international organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan met on 15 November to discuss the state of knowledge on glaciology, observation systems and general research priorities in Central Asia. One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the establishment of the Central Asian Regional Glaciological Center of Category II, supported by the Government of Kazakhstan, which is expected to be operational in early 2011. ENVSEC partners also assisted the Central Asian governments to organize a regional meeting of government representatives, NGOs and

the private sector on a regional action plan on radioactive waste management in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. In addition, a national seminar with 60 participants was held on 19 October in Astana, Kazakhstan, to discuss harmonizing national legislation on dam safety, which resulted in an outline for improving national legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical installations. In November 2010, finally, the parliament of Tajikistan adopted a national law on dam safety, based on the model law developed under the ENVSEC project.

South Caucasus

On 5-6 October 2010, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) organized the ENVSEC Regional Coordination meeting for the South Caucasus in Tbilisi. The meeting provided a platform to review the ENVSEC South Caucasus Work Programme and discuss regional priorities for the coming years. On 9-10 November, within the framework of CASE (Civic Action for Security and Environment), practitioners from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan representing government agencies, CASE grantee NGOs, UNDP and OSCE field missions, came together in Vienna to exchange experiences and lessons learned in implementing the first phase of the CASE Programme and plan the next phase. In Georgia, the OSCE and UNEP organized a training course in December 2010 on sustainable urban planning, sustainable housing, energy, sustainable transport, and climate change. The training was attended by 39 participants representing Tbilisi City Hall, Tbilisi City Assembly, central government agencies, NGOs, Aarhus Center and international organizations.



As part of the remediation work undertaken by ENVSEC at the abandoned mining site of Rreshen, Albania, the tailing dam front has been reshaped and a water drainage system has been installed to avoid destabilization of the dam structure

South Eastern Europe

At a conference on “Illegal Logging and Environmental Crimes” organized by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) on 24-25 November in Budapest, Hungary, concrete steps towards the implementation and enforcement of natural resource and forestry legislation, as well as combating environmental crimes, were taken as Ukraine and the South Eastern European countries including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia and Kosovo agreed to set up a regional network on illegal logging and environmental crimes (THEMIS). During the reporting period, UNEP and UNDP also completed joint remediation work on two non-active mining sites in Reps and Rreshen, in Albania. Technical and capacity-building support was provided to more than 40 experts from all six Western Balkan countries in environmental risk reduction and the planning of physical risk reduction measures. The outcomes of the remediation work were presented on 6-8 October at a Regional Workshop on “Environmental Risk Reduction at Abandoned Mining Sites in South Eastern Europe,” which was organized by UNDP and UNEP in Tirana, Albania.

Eastern Europe

Within the framework of the project “Sustainable management of shared water resources in the upper Pripjat basin” implemented by UNEP and UNDP an historic agreement on the management of a major freshwater resource between Belarus and Ukraine was brokered as the operation rules for the Beloozerskaya water-feed system were officially signed by the Plenipotentiaries in Lutsk on 24 November 2010. The rules were developed at the request of both governments, thanks to the two-year ENVSEC project, which involved extensive fieldwork, analytical and modeling studies, and consultations involving water, environment and transport authorities and experts from Belarus and Ukraine. These new rules were considered as a critical prerequisite for addressing the unresolved issues of ownership and joint management of water management infrastructure where the river meets the border between Belarus and Ukraine. In addition, a kick-off meeting of a new ENVSEC project on “Joint environmental

monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta Region” was held in Odessa on 20-21 December 2010, bringing together representatives and experts from Ukraine, Romania and Moldova. The project aims at developing a Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis as the necessary step to a Management Plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin; at strengthening joint monitoring, information exchange and communication in the basin, as well as improving public participation in water and environmental decision-making at the regional level.



ENVSEC helped to broker an historic agreement on the management of the Pripjat River, a major freshwater resource shared by Belarus and Ukraine during the reporting period

* The newsletter is prepared on the basis of the UNEP Disaster and Conflict Quarterly Progress Report 4/2010.

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