



ENVSEC:

An Environment Agenda for Security and Cooperation in Europe

**First regional meeting on Environment and Security in Central Asia
20-21 January 2003 – Ashgabad, Turkmenistan**

Consolidated Summary

The ENVSEC programme launched by OSCE, UNDP and UNEP is a process whereby three leading political, development and environment organizations identify and mobilize cooperation around shared environmental concerns as a means for strengthening good governance and reducing tensions between and within countries.

In its first phase (December 2002- May 2003) it aims through participatory regional consultations in South East Europe (SEE) and Central Asia (CA) to:

Identify environmental sources of stress between communities, regions or countries, in particular where these have the potential to undermine social and economic stability and contribute to the outbreak of conflict.

Develop tools and devise approaches that can be used to bring about or strengthen cooperation and good governance between communities, regions and countries such that environmental problems are adequately addressed, social and economic stability is reinforced and conflict is avoided.

Mobilize international and domestic support for action on these links, through the mapping and presentation of these concerns and opportunities.

The first phase of the programme will conclude by a presentation of the programme concept at the occasion of the Ministerial Conference on 'Environment for Europe' in Kiev and via video link at the OSCE Economic Forum in Prague, in May 2003, which will include mapping out in graphic form selected environmental concerns with potential security implications in the South Eastern European and Central Asian regions.

Not solely a policy document or academic exercise, this initiative will build upon the key issues identified in this first phase to mobilize action in a multi-year effort to strengthen cooperation and

good governance in the regions. Based on our consultative analysis of environmental pressures, weak or absent governance structures and social/economic indicators, we hope to mobilize responses in each of the environmental, security and development spheres, including through:

- Strengthening of international political and environmental cooperation,
- Enhancing natural resource governance (through capacity building, legislation, etc)
- Reducing sources of environmental pressure
- Mobilizing international economic support
- Awareness building

More than 40 participants representing the governments and civil society of the countries of the region (Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) as well as international experts, attended the first regional consultation on January 20-21 in Ashgabad.

The aims of the Regional Consultation were to:

- Agree upon on the goals of this initiative.
- Arrive at regionally appropriate descriptions (or interpretations) of the links between environment and security, enabling identification of concerns and opportunities for cooperation of greatest relevance.
- Catalog and prioritize these for the purpose of mapping.
- Identify constraints related to data and to political realities, and means for addressing these.
- Explore means to communicate the results amongst civil society groups, government authorities, regional and international institutions, and donor governments.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Makhtumkuly Akmuradov, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan followed by Harald Neitzel, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Jaco Tavenier, Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, and by brief presentations by UNDP, OSCE and UNEP representatives.

Regional Overview of Issues and Hotspots of Concern

Issues identified by participants as regional concerns of priority

- Water and groundwater pollution, quantity and distribution, impacting on economic development and public health:
 - Caused by energy generation, agricultural production and leakage from hazardous waste dumps
- Legacy and industrial development, impacting on health:
 - Toxic and radioactive waste
 - Transboundary environmental impacts of oil & gas production
 - Aging powerplants
- Land degradation and desertification, salinity and wind erosion, resulting in population migration
- Depletion of natural resources, deforestation and erosion in mountain areas, impacting on migration and poverty
- Environmental disasters (landslides and earthquakes) including human-induced ones and their potential interaction with other risks impacting on migration (e.g. Lake Sarez)

Hotspots identified by participants as regional environment & security priorities

- Pamir mountains in Tadjikistan,
- Karakalpakistan
- Amu Darya and Syr Darya
- Fergana Valley
- Semipalatinsk, Actau and surroundings
- Caspian Sea
- Aral Sea and surrounding region
- Karakum Kanal
- Cheleken Field
- Irtysh (Kazakhstan, Russia)
- Kokshetau (ecological migration)
- Vilef and Sogdiyskaya oblast, reservoir (Tadjikistan)
- Maili Suu: dumping site for radioactive waste
- Opolzni mountains between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan: marshlands forming due to melting of glaciers

Criteria by which these issues and hotspots were selected included the role of these environmental concerns in:

- Generating environmental migration
- Insecure access to resources for basic needs (water, soil, air and energy)
- Undermining agricultural productivity
- Undermining energy security
- Widespread impacts on public health
- Undermining economic development

At the *national level*, relevant priorities already identified in the respective countries' national environmental strategies include:

Tajikistan:

- Protection and sustainable use of water resources
- Development of modern technologies for water treatment

Kyrgyzstan:

- Hazardous waste treatment and storage
- Development of water management facilities

Uzbekistan:

- International co-operation on environmental protection
- Soil degradation (including Aral Sea protection and reduction of biodiversity loss)

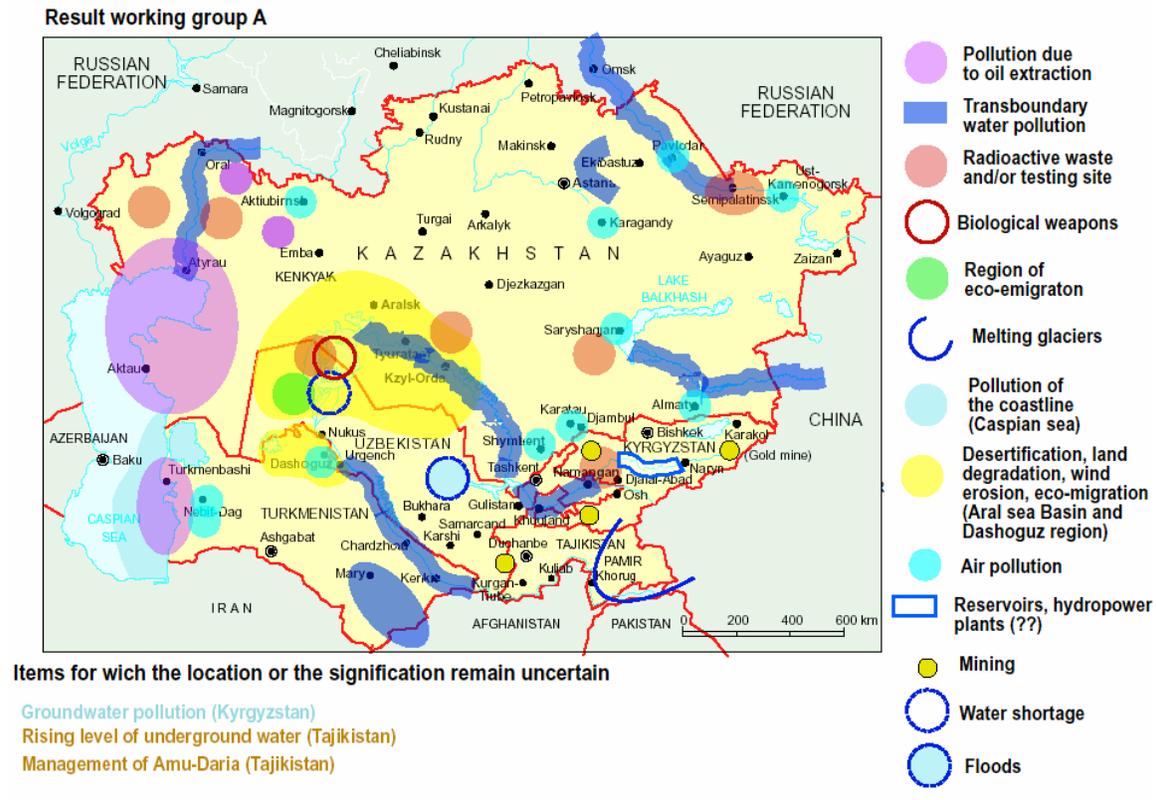
Turkmenistan:

- Water quantity and quality protection
- Land/soil degradation (including Aral Sea)

Kazakhstan:

- Governmental control over environmental protection
- Greening of national policies

Participants were divided into two separate working groups to identify and graphically represent these concerns on maps.



Working group B



Items for which the location or the significance remain uncertain

Water supply (Kazakhstan)

Water discharge (Kazakhstan)

Air pollution (Turkmenistan)

Kara-kum channel (Turkmenistan)

Disagreement on water management
(Uzbekistan with neighbouring countries)

Drinking water quality (Uzbekistan)

Use of groundwater (Uzbekistan)

Groundwater pollution (Kyrgyzstan)

water discharge (Kyrgyzstan)

Mis-use of water (Kyrgyzstan)

Water reservoirs (pollution? management?) - Tajikistan

Landslides mountain area (Tajikistan)

What Means are Available to Resolve these Problems, and How Effective have they Been?

Most participants felt that the necessary legislative basis and environmental policy programmes needed to address these links already exist, at global, regional and domestic levels, even if these could be made more efficient.

Reasons for the gap between the available policy processes and their implementation included difficulties related to:

- lack of coordination and cooperation, between governments and between donors
- difficulties generating political will both internally (to take action) and internationally (to cooperate)
- lack of funding and internal capacity
- incomplete implementation of laws, and difficulties ensuring rule of law
- lack of technological capacities, monitoring & data management systems
- lack of international and regional experience in these issues
- lack of policy integration across policy spheres (industrial development, foreign policy, agriculture, environment)

Participants noted that in order to address the socio-economic aspects of environmental problems, and particularly those of resource scarcity, migration and social tensions, integrated approaches that takes political, economic, social and environmental dimensions into consideration are needed. Examples might include mechanisms to integrate:

- the poverty-environmental degradation linkage into environmental policy; and
- environmental concerns in poverty reduction strategies.

What Additional Efforts are Needed?

- Water resource and water facility management capacity should be strengthened (including distribution and allocation)
- Aging hotspot sites should be refurbished or remediated to restore environmental equilibrium and reduce migration: mines, hydro facilities, refineries etc.
- Transboundary cooperation could be reinforced through local-level pilot projects, and by extending existing regional collaborative schemes into other areas (e.g Commissions on Water Management)
- Transnational policy learning between C Asian states and donor countries should be enhanced, and could focus on experiences that have worked in the past (e.g. successful river basin management commissions)
- Monitoring and enforcement capacities should be improved, and government capacity reinforced, particularly at sub-national level
- Legal provisions should be improved and further clarified, to tackle the specific problems outlined above; and international legislative harmonization pursued
- Participatory decision-making mechanisms and civil society capacity should be strengthened to enhance transparency and reinforce implementation
- A regional focal point for coordinated and integrated responses to these problems should be established or reinforced e.g. building on the Regional Environmental Centre (REC)
- Funding should be increased to address environment and security issues, while more effectively utilizing existing funds (e.g. Aral Sea Funds)

Conclusions

In a statement presented on behalf of the meeting participants by Makhtumkuly Akmuradov, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan (full statement in Annex II), the participants:

1. Noted that more sustainable and equitable management of the environment can be a cost-effective means for building peace, and reducing vulnerability both of individuals and nations.
2. Welcomed the 'ENVSEC' programme initiated by UNEP, UNDP and OSCE, which lays the basis for collaboration between security, environment and development institutions in the region.
3. Acknowledged the importance of the programme as a contribution to the Environment for Europe process and understand its complementary to other regional programmes, such as the UNECE Environment, Water and Security initiative.
4. Called upon the partner organizations to develop a plan for further action.
5. Committed to a continued and deepening cooperation in the development and implementation of the ENVSEC programme in the region.

The government of Tadjikistan further offered to host the next regional consultation meeting in Tadjikistan.

On behalf of UNEP, OSCE and UNDP, Frits Schlingemann of UNEP thanked the attendees for their very active participation in two full days of effort, and the Government of Turkmenistan for hosting this meeting. He outlined the responsibility of the ENVSEC organizers to remain in communication with the participants, and welcomed their ongoing involvement in the ENVSEC activities.

Annex I Agenda

Monday, January 20, 2003

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:00 Plenary Session

Introduction to Programme

Chair: Frits Schlingemann

Makhtumkuly Akmuradov, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan

Brief presentations from UNDP, OSCE

Harald Neitzel, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Jaco Tavenier, Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

Brief Presentation – Alexander Carius, Adelphi Research:
Rationale for linking Environment & Security.

Tour de Table: Introduction of Participants

Question and Comment Period

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee

10:30 – 12:00 Working Groups I:

What Key Environmental Pressures?

Facilitators:

Alexander Carius, with rapporteur
Saule Ospanova, with rapporteur

What are key environmental pressures with significant impact on security, drawing from your own experience ? How do you address these issues/linkages ?

12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH

1:30 – 3:00 Plenary Session

Chair: Andrej Steiner, UNDP

Report back from facilitators.

Discussion

Presentation - Philippe Rekacewicz, GRID Arendal

What are the advantages and disadvantages of different graphical and mapping presentation techniques? What should we map ? What should we present through other means ?

3:00 – 3:30 Coffee

15:30 – 17:00 Working Groups II:

How to visualize environment and security linkages? What Key Messages ?

Facilitators:

A- Philippe Rekacewicz (GRID), (with Saule Ospanova)
B- Ieva Rucevska (GRID), with OSCE/UNDP rapporteur

17:30 Organizers' Debriefing

Tuesday, January 21

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary Session

Chair: Marc Baltes, OSCE

Report from Working Group Facilitators

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Working Groups III:

How to Address Key Environmental Pressures with Security Implications ?

Facilitators:

A- Alexander Carius

B- Saule Ospanova

How are the environmental pressures identified in WG I being addressed ?

What has worked and why ?

What has not worked, and what have proven to be key constraints ?

12:30 – 2:00 LUNCH

2:00 – 4:00 Closing Plenary

Chair: Frits Schlingeman

Report back from facilitators.

Discussion

Facilitators' concluding thoughts.

Presentation: Hossein Fadaei, UNEP and/or Gianluca Rampolla, OSCE

Description of Kiev presentation and thoughts on process beyond Kiev. How input from meeting feeds into overall project. Identify responsibilities of project partners (follow up activities – meeting summary, maps/report, Kiev) and desired role of participants in remaining part of process through Kiev and beyond, reviewing and circulating outputs.

Discussion

Chairman's Conclusions

Annex II ENVSEC Central Asia: Message from Participants

21 January 2003 (final)

We the participants to the first meeting of the ENVSEC programme in Central Asia, held in Ashgabad on January 20-21, 2003:

Are aware that more sustainable and equitable management of the environment can be a cost-effective means for building peace, and reducing vulnerability, both for individuals and nations. As Secretary General Kofi Annan reported to the United Nations Security Council (7 June 2001), “comprehensive and coherent conflict prevention strategies offer the greatest potential for promoting lasting peace and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development”.

Welcome the ‘ENVSEC’ programme initiated by UNEP, UNDP and OSCE, which lays the basis for collaboration between security, environment and development institutions in the region. The programme seeks action to promote security and confidence building in the regions of South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Acknowledge the importance of the programme as a contribution to the Environment for Europe process and understand it is complementary to other regional programmes, such as the UNECE Environment, Water and Security initiative.

Suggest that the programme will, through participatory consultations with stakeholders from the countries of these regions:

Identify the main environmental sources of stress between communities, regions or countries, in particular those which can constitute a threat to sustainable development.

Develop tools and devise approaches that can be used to bring about or strengthen cooperation and good governance between communities, regions and countries such that environmental problems are adequately addressed, social and economic stability is reinforced and conflict is avoided.

Mobilize international and domestic support for action on these links, through the mapping and presentation of these concerns and opportunities.

Agree that the first phase of the programme will conclude by a presentation of the programme concept at the occasion of the Ministerial Conference on ‘Environment for Europe’ in Kiev and OSCE Economic Forum in Prague, in May 2003, which will include mapping out in graphic form selected environmental concerns with potential security implications in the South Eastern European and Central Asian regions.

Call upon the partner organizations to develop a plan for further action.

We, participants at this meeting, commit to a continued and deepening cooperation in the development and implementation of the ENVSEC programme.

Presented by: Makhtumkuly Akmuradov, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan

Annex III List of Delegations

Uzbekistan Delegation

1. Mr. Ravshan Khakimov, PhD in Law, Chairman of the Uzbek Association of International Rights
2. Ms. Dilbar Zaynutdinova Director, Environmental Public Advocacy Centre “Armon”

Kazakhstan Delegation

1. Ms. Larisa Gusseva - Chief Scientist, Foreign Policy Department, Kazakstan Strategic Research Institute under the President of Kazakhstan
2. Mr. Alexander Polyakov - Public Foundation "XXI Century", President
3. Mr. Primkululy Kerim -, Committee on Environment of the Parliament, Chief
4. Mr. Bekniyazov Bulat -, Prospective Development and Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Nature Protection, Chief
5. Mr. Kusainov Dauletbek – Multilateral Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Third Secretary

Tojikiston Delegation

1. Mr. G. Vosiev - Deputy Head, Committee on social affairs, health and ecology, Parliament
2. Mr. Kh. Shonazarov, Legal Department, Ministry of Nature Protection
3. Mr. Firuz Kataev- Third secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Mr. Inom Normatov, Director of the Institute of Water Resources and Ecology in Academy of Science, Head of NGO "BIO"
5. Mr. Hatam Murtazaev, Khujand State University, director of the NGO "Ecology and Scientific Technical Progress", expert on radioactive waste.

Kyrgyzstan Delegation

1. Mr. Abdimomunov Alisher – Committee on International Affairs, Zhogorku Kenesh, Chairman
2. Mr. Tohtohodjaeva Zamira – UN and International Security Department of MFA, Advisor
3. Djanuzakov Kanat – Ministry of Environment and Disaster Management, Deputy Minister
4. Mr. Kasiev Sapash – Bio-soil Institute, Director, member of Academy of Science of Kyrgyzstan
5. Ms. Bortsova Svetlana – “Independent Ecological Expertise”, NGO

Turkmenistan Delegation

1. Mr. Akmuradov Mahtumkuly – Ministry of Nature Protection, Deputy Minister
2. Mr. Esenov Esen – Member of the Committee on Science, Education and Culture, Member of the Parliament
3. Mr. Seidov Bayram – Science Department, Chief, Ministry of Agriculture
4. Mr. Orazov M.– Department on Management and Coordination of International Programmes, Chief
5. Mr. Paltamed Esenov – National Institute of Desert, Flora and Fauna, Director a.i.,

OSCE

1. Mr. Nodir Hudaiberganov, OSCE, Uzbekistan
2. Mr. Douglas Tookey, OSCE, Uzbekistan
3. Mr. Armands Pupols, OSCE, Kazakhstan
4. Ms. Izabella Michalak-Malekzade, OSCE Tojikiston
5. Mr. Joep Cuijpers – OSCE Kyrgyzstan,

Resource Persons

1. Mr. Jason Switzer, Project Officer, International Institute for Sustainable Development
2. Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP
3. Mr. Hossein Fadaei, Interagency Officer, UNEP
4. Mr. Michael Williams, Information Officer, UNEP
5. Mr. Jacobus Jan Tavenier, UNEP, Officer Global Environmental Policy Division
6. Mr. Harald Neitzel, Deputy Director, Federal Ministry for the Environment
7. Ms. Ieva Rucevska, UNEP-Grid Arendal
8. Mr. Philippe Rekacewicz, UNEP-Grid Arendal
9. Mr. Andrej Steiner, UNDP CTA, RSC
10. Ms. Smirl, Lisa, UNDP, Regional Advisor on Crisis Prevention and Recovery
11. Mr. Mark Baltés, OSCE, Deputy Co-ordinator
12. Mr. Gianluca Rampolla del Tindaro, OSCE, Economic and Environmental Officer
13. Dr. De Wispelaere, Science for Peace, Programme Director, NATO
14. Mr. Alexander Carius, Director of Adelphi Research organization
15. Ms. Saule Ospanova, University of Michigan, International Institute for Sustainable Development