



Environment and Security Consultations in South Eastern Europe

Skopje, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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List of Acronyms

ANPA	Alpine Network of Protected Areas	www.alparc.org
CCMS	Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society	www.nato.int/ccms
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas	www.carpathians.org
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network	www.eionet.eu.int
EnvSec	Environment and Security	www.envsec.org
EU	European Union	http://europa.eu.int/
FYR of Macedonia	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
GEF	Global Environment Facility	www.gefweb.org
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	www.icpdr.org
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management	
IUCN	World Conservation Union	www.iucn.org
MEPP	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, FYR of Macedonia	www.moep.gov.mk
MEPPPC	Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Croatia	www.mzopu.hr
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	www.nato.int
NGC	National Co-ordination Group	
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan	www.nepa.gov.jm
NFP	National Focal Point	
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation	
NSEP	National Strategy for Environmental Protection	
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	www.osce.org
PDD	Public Diplomacy Division	

PHARE	(Pre-accession Instrument Financed by the EU)	
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride	
REC	Regional Environmental Center	www.rec.org
REReP	Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme	www.rec.org/REC/Programs/REREP
ROE	UNEP's Regional Office for Europe, UNEP	www.unep.ch/roe
SAP	Strategic Action Plan	
SEE	South-Eastern Europe	
SNS	Strategy for National Security	
STS	Security Through Science	www.nato.int/science
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis	
UK	United Kingdom	
UN	United Nations	www.un.org
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	www.undp.org
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	www.unep.org
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	www.unesco.org
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	www.unitar.org
USA	United States of America	

Opening Speech

HE Ljubomir Janev, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Co-operation in the area of natural resources and environment protection is the most efficient tool towards the establishment of political co-operation, both in the Region and in a trans-boundary context, as well as a good basis for prevention of certain potential conflicts.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) has esteemed bilateral co-operation as an important part of its work programme. Protection, improvement and sustainable development of the three natural lakes and border massifs shared by the Republic of Macedonia with its neighbours are imperative for bi- and tri-lateral co-operation.

Bilateral environmental co-operation has been institutionalized with all neighbouring countries - Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia and Montenegro. In the wider Region, bilateral co-operation has been established with Croatia, Russia, and the Czech Republic. Joint bilateral programmes have been initiated with Hungary, Slovenia and Ukraine. Parties to the above agreements will perform the envisaged co-operation in the following domains:

- Development and implementation of programmes in the field of sustainable energy production, conservation and efficiency;
- Exchange of information and experience concerning new technologies and renewable energy sources;
- Exchange of information on environmental impact assessments referring to construction works and other activities, especially those performed in an area under jurisdiction of one state, that may affect an area under jurisdiction of another state;
- Development and promotion of environmentally sound national policies in industry, energy, transport, agriculture and tourism;
- Co-operation and undertaking of adequate measures to prevent industrial accidents that may lead to trans-boundary effects, responding to environmental incidents caused by natural disasters;
- Protection in the field of hazardous chemical substances posing threat to the environment;
- Co-operation in terms of regulation and control of international trade in industrial and toxic waste, dangerous substances and secondary raw materials, as well as in endangered species of flora and fauna.

In this context, establishment of trans-boundary environmental monitoring and early warning systems is key for obtaining relevant and timely information on state of the environment for policy makers.

Detailed synthesis and analysis of data, in accordance with pre-defined criteria, should form basis for decision-making and elaboration of measures for action. The initiatives of this kind, applying regional approach to the addressing environmental "hot spots", technically and financially supported by international institutions, deserve the support and efforts for their implementation.

Welcoming Words

Consuelo Vidal Bruce, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP

The Environment and Security (EnvSec) Initiative is a joint initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is active in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and is today being launched in South-Eastern Europe (SEE).

EnvSec is designed to address issues of environmental degradation which contribute to human vulnerability. At the same time, the Initiative promotes regional co-operation through cross-border management of natural resources.

Why link environment and security?

- The management of natural resources use and extraction can have very real and concrete impacts on human health and vulnerability, both at the regional and local levels. Often the impacts of environmental degradation are disproportionately borne by poor and marginalized groups;
- Disputes over natural resource use and management between countries can fuel existing regional tensions. At the same time, environmental issues can often offer a "soft" entry point for regional co-operation when other topics and issues are too politically sensitive for collaborative efforts.

The partnership of UNEP, UNDP and OSCE on environment and security is a significant component of UNDP's over-all work to address human security.

In FRY of Macedonia, for example, UNDP is working to improve the management of the region's biological resources in the Prespa lakes region, (shared between three countries), and to promote the creation of sustainable livelihoods, which in turn will reduce anthropomorphic stress on the natural resource base in the region.

Frits Schlingeman, Director of the Regional Office for Europe (ROE), the Chair of the EnvSec Board:

Following requests, OSCE, UNDP and UNEP, founders of the EnvSec Initiative, met with stakeholders from SEE, late 2002, in Belgrade. A map was drawn up of environmental problems which, according to the stakeholders, pose security risks, hamper and frustrating co-operation between the countries of the region. Outstanding among the problems identified were the environmental impacts of mining practises, and the management of shared natural resources, in particular shared rivers and lakes.

The maps were as you know, presented to "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Kyiv, May 2003, where the EnvSec Initiative was officially launched. After Kyiv, consultations continued and the ideas of how to address the problems were further developed. And today we come back to you in the region requesting your collective views and guidance for the work ahead. We are happy and grateful to see such an impressive representation from all relevant parts of society of the countries of SEE. We also highly appreciate the presence of important international counterparts and partners in

the EnvSec Initiative, such as the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Already the composition of the meeting makes us confident that its outcome will be substantive and to the point.

We are bringing experts who will give their opinion on the problems identified and will solicit views and reports of their counterparts in the countries. We will ask you to create a network of national counterparts to work with us on preparing and promoting solutions for the problems identified. And we hope and expect to depart from this two day meeting with a clear programme and work plan for the work ahead.

I. Introduction

The EnvSec is an Initiative for Central Asia, Caucasus and SEE of three partners organisations UNEP, OSCE and UNDP. This Initiative intends to facilitate a framework for co-operation on environmental issues across borders and promote peace and stability through environmental co-operation and sustainable development.

During the first (assessment) phase was prepared a regional overview of the environment and security problems and “hot spots” in SEE and Central Asia. After the Kiev "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in May 2003, the EnvSec Partners further developed priority fields of action and related projects in SEE.

Representatives from the Governments¹, international organizations, academia and the civil society attended the “EnvSec Consultations in SEE”, on 23-24 September 2004 in Skopje, the FYR of Macedonia.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Ljubomir Janev, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, FYRoM followed by speakers from UNDP, OSCE and UNEP. Participants heard presentations on the three identified fields of action, and presented their views on trans-boundary natural resources co-operation and trans-boundary risks of hazardous activities. The terms of reference to appoint National Focal Points (NFPs) and National Co-ordination Group (NCG) were discussed and agreed.

Finally, the project concepts presented by the partner organizations were discussed and endorsed and benchmarks were presented to monitor the development of the Initiative.

II. Introduction of the EnvSec Initiative

1. Basics and Concept of EnvSec, Progress of EnvSec in Other Regions

Presentation by Marc Baltès, OSCE

The EnvSec Initiative intends to assess environment and security challenges in a participatory way involving governments, academia and civil society. Through mapping, research, cross-border field work, and targeted outreach: visualize, prioritize and draw the attention of politicians and people to situations and hot spots where risks are high and environment and security linkages are important.

Two pilot regions, Central Asia and SEE were covered in the first (assessment) phase, South Caucasus was added in the beginning of the 2004 and the Initiative hopes to extend to Eastern Europe in 2005.

The end product for the two pilot regions - compelling cartographic representations of the links between environment and security with supporting text, and the network and shared vocabulary of its participants – were presented at the fifth Ministerial Forum “Environment for Europe” in Kiev and at the OSCE Economic Forum in Prague. Both events took place in May 2003.

¹ Representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the FRY of Macedonia, Kosovo (territory under United Nations (UN) administration), Romania and Serbia and Montenegro were invited.

The maps show both key issues and key areas from an environment and security perspective. The intention behind this somewhat simplified visualisation of risk factors in maps is to raise the awareness of the issues, put them higher up on the political agenda and provide a foundation in the regions concerned for further co-operative action and empowerment around environmental concerns.

As an example, the issues identified as potential threats to security in Central Asia during the EnvSec first (assessment) phase included:

- Water supply and contamination;
- Soil degradation, salinization and desertification;
- Industrial, municipal and hazardous waste.

Several key areas and “hot spots” were identified during this phase in these areas.

In the South Caucasus, an EnvSec Regional Assessment has been carried out in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The priority areas and issues identified so far include:

- Environmental degradation and natural resource access in areas of frozen conflict;
- Environmental management in trans-boundary areas;
- Population growth and unstructured development in the capital cities.

Based on the regional assessment the partner organisations develop regional, national and sub-national projects that strengthen social and institutional capacities to address threats to human security, triggered or accelerated by environmental stress.

In the beginning the Initiative consisted of three distinct but interlinked pillars, dealing with:

- Vulnerability assessment and monitoring;
- Capacity building and institutional development; and
- Policy development and implementation.

During the first (assessment) phase was identified the fourth pillar, called “Infrastructure Development, Restructuring and Remediation”, which is dealing with damaged or at risk water and irrigation infrastructure, hazardous chemicals disposal, obsolete industrial sites etc.

OSCE, UNDP, UNEP and NATO will assess needs and seek assistance of donors and organizations with the financial, technical and field capacity for the implementation of such projects.

2. NATO's Contribution to EnvSec – SEE

Presentation by Susanne Michaelis, NATO

One of NATO's non-military co-operation programmes is the Security Through Science (STS) Programme established by the NATO Science Committee and managed by the Public Diplomacy Division (PDD). The foundation of the NATO Science Programme goes back to 1958 (46 years ago) when foreign ministers tasked NATO to enhance the co-operation between the scientific communities of the Alliance. In 1991, the Programme allowed the participation of NATO's Partner countries and 8 years later it changed into a programme exclusively supporting NATO-Partner country co-operation. Since January 2004 the Programme is focusing on security aspects and changed the name to STS.

Other committee, the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS), has been launched in 1969, is an intergovernmental forum that initiates nationally funded short and long term studies.

The programmes of both committees include environmental security.

In order to join forces with other international organizations and to contribute to priority issues in the regions, NATO associated recently with the EnvSec Initiative. As a first step, EnvSec selected from the list of NATO's on-going environmental projects those that respond to the needs as identified through the EnvSec assessment procedure carried out—in consultations with the EnvSec stakeholders.

III. Update on EnvSec Progress in SEE, Identified EnvSec Fields of Action in SEE and Related Projects

1. Background of the EnvSec in SEE, Co-ordination with Other Regional Initiatives

Presentation by Otto Simonett, UNEP

Since the first EnvSec Consultations in Belgrade in December 2002 almost two years have passed. The outcome of the Belgrade Consultations were presented at the Kyiv "Environment for Europe" Conference in May 2003 and were also published in the then launched EnvSec report covering both SEE and Central Asia.

For SEE, two concrete clusters of priorities in the EnvSec nexus were identified, which still are valid today:

- Managing and reducing transboundary risks of hazardous activities, in particular related to mining and industrial "hot spots"; and
- Management of transboundary natural resources.

Many of these issues are being addressed both nationally and internationally, in particular under the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) as the main environmental component of the Stability Pact. Nevertheless, the EnvSec initiative aims at

providing added value to on-going activities through its unique focus on the security aspects of transboundary environmental issues.

The main aims of the Skopje EnvSec Consultations were thus straightforward:

- Endorse the regional EnvSec priorities for SEE;
- Find a consensus on priority action in the various areas.

In addition there was also a more practical component:

- Discuss responsibilities of official EnvSec focal points and agree on a joint sub-regional presentation in the framework of the Environment for Europe process.

2. Managing and Reducing Trans-boundary Risks of Hazardous Activities

Presentation by Philip Peck

UNEP had prepared a draft desk study assessment to identify, delineate and catalogue mineral resource related sites that pose substantial risk to the environment, public health and safety, and / or regional socio-political stability in the SEE, and to provide information required to support work for risk and hazard reduction – particularly where such risks are of a trans-boundary nature.

Despite a number of chronic and acute contamination pathways from sites of mining and mineral processing activity, it is the release of mine tailings waste through the effects of wind and water, particularly in the form of catastrophic releases to waterways that remains the most pressing issue related to minerals activity. A large number of warning “vectors” are present in the region – ranging from waste types with high environmental toxicity, through an absence of adequate maintenance and monitoring, to the geographical and seismic conditions in the region. It was indicated that over 150 major sites or resource extraction and downstream processing had been catalogued for the region, and that roughly 30% of these had been identified as “candidate hot spots”.

The benefits of proactive risk reduction activities as well as community and neighbour awareness and emergency preparedness are vital to reduce the cost of living with mining legacies – and vital for “licence to operate” for future mining activities. The trans-boundary nature of risks required that such activities must involve trans-boundary co-operation.

3. Management of Trans-boundary Natural Resources

Presentation by Keith Shawe, UNDP

The Prespa lake region, which consists of two connected lakes (Micri and Macro Prespa) and their surrounding watershed, includes territory in three different countries: Albania, Greece and FYR of Macedonia. The beauty of the landscape and the uniqueness of the flora and fauna, has been recognized by the Prime Ministers of the three Governments, who in February 2000 declared the establishment of the international Prespa Park. This was the first step in a long process to manage and protect the environment in the area through

improved co-operation between the three countries and harmonization of management objectives.

Trans-boundary co-operation on natural resources management has been hindered by four main factors:

- Different legal and regulatory frameworks in each country;
- The lack of effective enforcement of existing laws and regulations;
- Different, often conflicting, environmental and natural resource management goals in each country;
- Institutions in each country that often have very different roles and responsibilities, and different degrees of autonomy.

The development of alternative tourism in the region provides a practical example of how these factors affect local economic development. Future tourism development is likely to be constrained by water shortages in summer, the highly visible solid waste problem around the lake, and the fact that two of the international border crossings within the watershed are closed making it necessary to make a large detour outside the region in order to travel around the lake.

Lack of awareness at the local level is as much a problem as ineffective institutions and poor co-operation between countries when dealing with such problems. A good example is the fishing industry. Fishing is an important source of income to some of the villages around the lake and although there are controls in place, including bans on fishing during the spawning season and the use of nets with inappropriate mesh sizes, there is no effective enforcement or control over the volumes harvested. This has led to a decline in the abundance or size of some fish species including some of the endemic species found in the Prespa lakes. Without proper enforcement and effective awareness raising, there is no incentive for fishermen to harvest in a more sustainable manner.

Human relationships and effective stakeholder involvement are probably the most important factors in effective cross-border natural resources management. Overall, there is a need for a common vision and harmonized management goals affecting cross border natural resources management. This will require greater transparency particularly at the local government and institutional levels, collaboration between organizations, capacity building, effective enforcement, and the harmonization of existing and future legislation and policy.

In conclusion, the real challenge in improving the trans-boundary management of natural resources seems to be the need for improved co-operation and finding incentives for change, especially in areas that are economically depressed. Collaboration in country can be as much a challenge as international collaboration, and a lack of enforcement combined with the poor economic situation in the Prespa region has led to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

IV. Roundtable Session on EnvSec Fields of Action (Country Reports)

1. Albania

Presentation by Sajmir Hoxha

Albania has adopted several environmental laws and bylaws to set up a basic legislative framework for environmental protection. "Hot spots" such as, ex-chemical plants for agriculture, ex-polyvinyl chloride (PVC) factory, oil refinery, oil drilling fields and several mines all over Albania are considered very problematic for the environment and for public health.

Furthermore, there are three big natural resources shared with neighbouring countries:

- Shkodra lake shared with Montenegro;
- Ohrid lake shared with FYR of Macedonia; and
- Prespa lakes shared with FYR of Macedonia and Greece.

There is a site rich in biodiversity shared with Montenegro and Kosovo (territory under UN administration), for which there is an interest of establishing a Peace Park.

There are several projects for cleaning up the polluted environment, and for better management of natural resources. In this regard there are several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between Albania and neighbouring countries (Greece, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro) for sustainable development and integrated ecosystem management of those natural resources.

Implementation of Lake Ohrid Conservation Project can be taken as a model for other bilateral and trilateral projects in the region.

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Presentation by Azra Rogovic

The EnvSec Initiative was considered as very important and relevant for regional co-operation in SEE and for Bosnia and Herzegovina. It contributes to institutional strengthening and capacity building. Indeed, the first successful co-operation between entities after the war 1992 – 1995 was in the field of environment.

The key ministries in charge of environmental issues in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are the Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment, and in the Republic Srpska, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology.

Current work in progress are as follows:

- Preparation of working material for Law on Environmental Protection at State level;
- Preparation of feasibility study for establishment of Environment Agency; and

- Creation of National Environmental Monitoring and Information System (as per European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) structure).

“Hot spots” are already defined in 2002, at the Belgrade EnvSec Consultations, and the following “hot spots” are to be added:

- Minefields; and
- Natural park / protected areas of Hutovo Blato (Ramsar site) and Blidinje.

In the area of natural resources management, the successful regional co-operation was established on the following projects:

REReP project in Neretva River Delta (between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina);

Planned GEF project on protection and sustainable management of Neretva and Trebisnjica ecosystem (between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina); and

The Strategic Plan for the IUCN SEE Programme, May 2004, that has been proposed for consideration as basis for regional co-operation in management of trans-boundary protected areas.

Moreover, Bosnia and Herzegovina will very soon become a party of Danube River Protection Convention.

3. Bulgaria

Presentation by Nikolay Kenanov

Bulgaria has established and maintained close co-operation with SEE countries in the field of environmental protection, including management of the shared natural resources and addressing risks posed by potentially hazardous activities.

The joint Bulgarian - Romanian air quality monitoring system for detection of dangerous emissions established under the European Union Pre-accession Instrument Financed by the European Union (EU PHARE) Program was presented and the positive results from its functioning were emphasized.

The Bulgarian Chairmanship of the OSCE particularly appreciates that environmental co-operation in SEE within the framework of the EnvSec Initiative contributes to strengthening stability and security not only in the region and in the target countries, but also among the local communities and the civil society.

4. Croatia

Presentation by Natasa Kacic Bartulovic

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has undertaken decisive steps in setting up a comprehensive legal framework for management of natural resources and risks management in protection of environment, sea, water resources, forests and agricultural activities. The key responsibility over management and monitoring of certain environmental

media lies with the Ministry for Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction (MEPPPC), which has the Contingency Plan on environmental protection. The State Directorate for Protection and Rescue has been set up to establish a system of protection of population, property and other assets in case of disaster.

The most relevant national policies are:

- The Strategy for National Security;
- The National Strategy for Environmental Protection and National Environment Action Plan (NEAP).

Croatia ratified a number of international treaties regulating issues related to trans-boundary management and co-operation.

One of the best examples of international water management is the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, that aims at trans-boundary co-operation and sustainable development between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia. This international instrument takes into consideration the Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Danube River (Sofia, 1994), ratified by the Republic of Croatia in 1996.

The procedure in line with the Espoo Convention has been carried out with Republic of Slovenia for two projects and with Republic of Italy for one project has been carried out as well and for another is still in progress. Procedure with Republic of Hungary is still underway for one project.

This environmental trans-boundary co-operation foster sustainable development as a tool for confidence building and contributes to the regional stability.

5. Kosovo (Territory Under UN Administration)

Presentation by Nezakete Hakaj

The main points of co-operation can be summarized as follows:

- Trans-boundary co-operation on the first Balkan Peace Park between Albania, Kosovo (the territory under UN administration) and Montenegro;
- Establishment of regional monitoring systems for air, soil and water for environmental protection and risk prevention;
- Creation of network of environmental institutions, health institutions, academic and science entities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other relevant stakeholders.

6. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Presentation by Teodora Grncarovska Obradovic

The co-operation in the area of the protection of natural resources instead of being reason for future conflicts can be the easiest way to establish political co-operation in trans-boundary issues and very easy can be promoted as a tool for bringing together people and establishing closer political communication between countries sharing natural resources.

The regional co-operation is essential in the cases of the three natural lakes and border massifs shared by the FYR of Macedonia with its neighbours. Detailed data synthesis and analysis should form a basis for decision making and policy planning, built onto the detailed review and existing preliminary studies. Establishment of trans-boundary environmental monitoring and early warning systems is one of the ways to obtain relevant and timely information on state of the environment.

7. Romania

Presentation by Radu Cadariu

Among the natural resources shared by Romania with its neighbours the most important is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve shared with Ukraine. This area belongs to the natural world heritage under the special protection of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and, at the same time, protected by many international and bilateral agreements. The participant presented the details of Ukraine-Romanian negotiations on the Danube – Black Sea navigation canal and the Bystroe canal of the Chilia Branch of the Danube. The Ukrainian authorities failed to meet the legal obligations on operations with trans-border impact in the border area between Romania and Ukraine.

After repeated demarches of the international community and international organisations, Ukrainian side has not provided complete information according to the relevant provisions of Espoo Convention. According to the international community and international organisations (European Commission, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), United States of America (USA), Germany, France etc.) the Ukrainian side should comply with the international procedure in construction of the Bystroe canal.

8. Serbia and Montenegro

Presentation by Aleksandar Vesic

Serbia and Montenegro, needs to establish:

- Trans-boundary environmental monitoring and early warning systems; and
- Interconnection of the systems in protection and rescue from elementary hazards, chemical accidents and other major accidents.

In the Republic of Montenegro following “hot spots” are identified, in the field of hazardous activities:

- Mojkovac (flotation land field with trans-boundary influences on the Tara river);
- Pljevlje (termoplant);
- Podgorica (aluminium factory);
- Niksic (steel factory); and
- Coastal zone (communal waste water treatment).

Shared natural resources with Albania (Management of Ecosystems, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) World Bank) are:

- Skadar lake; and
- River Bojana.

In the Republic of Serbia, the priority areas include:

- Bor / Majdanpek (mining area flotation land field);
- Obsolete facilities, or lack of facilities for purification of communal waters; and
- Outdated facilities of oil derivatives processing technology (sulphur and heavy metals).

In trans-boundary natural resources, the priority “hot spots” are:

- Cursed mountine / Prokletije (interest of establishing Peace Park);
- Old mountaine / Stara planina (there is already established co-operation with Bulgaria and there are UNESCO conditions for entitling protected area).

9. Summary of the Roundtable session on EnvSec Fields of Action

Moderated by Philip Peck and Keith Shawe

The following four recurring themes in the country presentations were indicated:

- Apparent role of environment, and specific environmental projects as “Flagship Projects” for co-operation for neighbouring countries. Such co-operation is not only taking the form of trans-boundary MoUs, but also through co-operative action in monitoring, planning for remediation work, and joint emergency planning. The point was also made by several speakers that environment appeared as the easiest and first area where co-operative work could be conducted;
- Process of institutional development and learning – particularly that required for the accession process to the EU, constituted an enormous drain upon limited personnel resources and capacity, while it was clear that many of the areas addressed are vital to the institutionalisation of responsible environmental practices;

- Link of the environment to other issues of trans-boundary co-operation. Real political will and commitment to environmental improvement is required in order to maintain co-operation;
- Real tensions lie beneath the surface – in environment as in other areas. It is clear that co-operative work between countries is uncovering, and shall continue to uncover areas where countries disagree to some extent, or where one party considers itself as suffering environmental harm.

V. EnvSec Methodology and Follow-up

1. Implementation of EnvSec Project on National Level: National Focal Points and National Co-ordination Groups

Presentation by Inkar Kadyrzhanova, UNDP

The EnvSec Initiative intends to set up a framework for co-operation on environment and security issues, and promote inter-agency exchange and collaboration at implementation stage in each country. Appointment of two NFPs from the Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs will be requested in a letter. The NFPs will act as liaison staff, advise on national and trans-boundary priorities and identification of areas for intervention, monitor project implementation and facilitate inter-agency exchange of information on environment and security programming.

Over a period of time, the NFPs will form a pool of experts, who will be involved in different EnvSec activities and will form a NCG. It is suggested that the NCG membership will be widened to include representatives of different stakeholder groups. UNDP and OSCE country offices will provide assistance in organizing regular meetings of the NFPs and NCG.

2. Presentation of Project Concepts - Managing and Reducing Trans-boundary Risks of Hazardous Activities.

2.1 Reducing Environment and Security Risks from Mining in SEE

Presentation by Otto Simonett, UNEP

The first EnvSec Consultations for SEE (Belgrade, December 2002) have assigned high priority to the issue of mining. The region has already a history of serious mining accidents, due in part to the widespread neglect of environmental safety and human security issues at existing sites resulting from the past change in economic and political circumstances in the subject countries.

The project will provide a first assessment of the extent of the problem in the designated countries, the location of sites presenting serious public and environmental risks, and an estimation of the likely impacts, in particular impacts that may cause transboundary tensions and security risks. Discussion with national authorities and international partners will identify some practical options for risk reduction, both at the community level and through the application of national policy and cross-border co-operation.

The second part of the project will work towards implementation of the most promising options through demonstration at selected sites, and through an evaluation and testing of possible policy changes and transboundary co-operation mechanisms. At the same time, some first actions to build national as well as local capacities in hazard identification and risk reduction will be proposed. It is also envisaged that better awareness of the risks and options will be built through national meetings and workshops, and that the key outcomes may be brought together at a regional conference.

The project may identify further follow-up capacity building options for national authorities.

2.2 Feasibility Study for Lojane Mine

Presentation by Anita Kodzoman, UNDP

Lojane is a closed antimony and chromium mine, which is a source of heavy metals and toxic compounds contamination of surface and underground water, soil and air. In the past decades, several mine accidents occurred causing enormous economic cost, detrimental impact on the environment and fuelling hostilities and conflicts. According to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning the dump site holds over one million tons of tailings containing arsenic, antimony and other hazardous substances. A soil sample taken at the edge of the dump during the UNEP mission found 8,093 mg/kg of arsenic which is over 50 times greater than the German threshold for arsenic in industrial soil.

The main objective of the project is to carry out a comprehensive environmental investigation, and recommend a short-term risk reduction and long-term remediation and environmental protection measures for the Lojane mine. The project will focus on the assessment and determination of the quality of water, soil and air, as well as the chemical composition of the deposited mining tailings.

A comprehensive investigation and sampling program will include:

- Hydro-geological and hydro-chemical analyses of the surface and underground waters;
- Geochemical analyses of the soil;
- Analyses of the impact of the mining dust to the air quality;
- Analyses of the physical and chemical composition of the deposited mine tailings and the mining dust.

Comparative analyses of the identified remediation solutions / measures will be carried out, accompanied by the cost analyses related to each of the proposed solution / measures. Based on the national consultation with the relevant institutions and experts, the most appropriate measures will be selected. Furthermore, a closure plan for the mine will be developed.

2.3 Cross-border Environmental Monitoring and Early Warning Systems

Presentation by Anita Kodzoman, UNDP

Albania, Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro and share the natural resources base and hold joint responsibility for management of trans-boundary rivers, lakes, national parks, etc. Poor natural resource management increase the likelihood of environmental "hot spots" in the border areas, and this implies a continuous danger to the human safety and the environment.

The main project objective is to assess the possibilities for establishment of a cross-border environmental monitoring and alarm systems for a number of Balkan countries. Such systems would provide good quality information of the status of the environment, and at the same time lower the scale of environmental degradation by providing timely and accurate information to decision makers in the neighbouring countries. Human vulnerability and security assessment would be also a very important element because it is a valuable tool for integrating environmental concerns into evaluations of livelihood security and sustainable development in the region.

Long term vision of the project is to establish a Cross-border Early Warning Systems Network as an information system designed to identify problems which can potentially lead to environmental damages and degradation in the Balkan countries.

2.4 Managing Trans-boundary Risks (River Monitoring and Seismic Risk Prevention)

Presentation by Susanne Michaelis, NATO

A majority of activities at NATO Headquarters are of political or non-military co-operative nature. One such non-military co-operation activities is NATO's Security Through Science (STS) Programme that brings together the civilian populations of NATO and Partner countries for enhancing the understanding, the confidence building and the conflicts prevention. The STS Programme includes environmental security projects, some of which are of trans-boundary nature. In order to join forces and to focus on priority issues, NATO has been associated with EnvSec. Several NATO projects have been embedded into EnvSec Initiative.

In order identify the main sources of pollution in e.g. the river Prut (Romania and Moldova), the contamination levels of 4 heavy metals (Cd, Cu, Pb, Zn) have been studied. The project allowed the acquisition of analytical equipment in Moldova and Romania. Scientists from both countries have been trained in NATO country laboratories to ensure sustainable quality analysis and monitoring of the river. Results have been reported at international conferences as well as to the local authorities.

NATO project dealing with the seismic risk prevention will try to harmonise hazard prediction, risk assessment and hazard mapping. This project is initiated in co-operation with Stability Pact / DPPI.

3. Presentation of Project Concepts - Management of Trans-boundary Natural Resources

3.1 Tisza River Basin IWRM

Presentation by Otto Simonett, UNEP / Ms. Megan Falvey, UNDP

The Tisza river system is an internationally significant river system, which is seriously degraded and continues to be threatened. Integrated, multi-country, trans-boundary responses are necessary to address the threats to the river system and to address the underlying causes.

The goal of the project is to ensure that the land and water resources of the Tisza river basin meet the long and short-term requirements for the communities in the region. The project will build on what has already been achieved through the EU accession process and the EU and GEF support of the ICPDR in implementation of the Water Framework Directive, and on the UNDP sustainable development initiatives in the basin. It will bring to find together a common ground for major initiatives in the river basin, working closely with the ICPDR.

The project will include:

- A detailed basin stakeholder analysis to identify the stakeholders and articulate their concerns;
- Establishment of stakeholder groups at regional, national and (where appropriate) local levels;
- Establishment of inter-ministry committees (including finance) to direct the planning process.
- Synthesis of the available data and information on trans-boundary issues in a Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA);
- Identification of priority trans-boundary issues and drafting of a long-term vision for the basin;
- Development and endorsement of national action plans to address priority issues (with attached budgets);
- Development of a regional endorsement for a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the basin;
- Development of trans-boundary demonstration project concepts and plans;
- Implementation of small-scale pilot project to demonstrate advantages of Integrated Water Resources Management (IRBM).

3.2 Network Development of Local Actors from the Sava River Basin on Water Resource Management

Presentation by Raul Daussa, OSCE

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro signed the International Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin in December 2002. The main objective of the agreement is to foster co-operation of the parties on a navigation regime, a sustainable water management, and prevention of hazards to water.

OSCE has supported the Sava Initiative, and identified the establishment of strong links between local administrations, the civil society and the communities of the Sava river basin as a priority. Consequently, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the OSCE jointly developed a project proposal to establish a Network of Local Actors on Water Resource Management, in order to promote information exchange and collaboration, identify the role played by local actors in river basin management, and encourage the public in general to participate in the decision making process.

The Network will be established through national workshops and a regional workshop, that will assess the situation of the municipalities and, based on the knowledge management methodology, will develop action plans and project proposals. Once the Network will be established, it is expected that observer status to the International Sava Commission could be granted.

The first national workshop will take place in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17- 20 October 2004. The topic discussed will be "Ensuring the Quality and Quantity of Fresh Water in the Sava River Basin". The project is expected to last until December 2005.

3.3 Reducing Agriculture Impacts on Prespa Lake

Presentation by Megan Falvery, UNDP

The Prespa park region is situated in the Balkan Peninsula and encompasses parts of Albania, Greece and FYR of Macedonia. The area is a high altitude basin that includes the interlinked Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa lakes and their surrounding mountains. It is considered to be an ecosystem of global significance and has been identified as one of Europe's 24 major trans-boundary "ecological bricks".

The project will be implemented under the framework of the UNDP-GEF co-financed project "Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Trans-boundary Prespa Park Region". By working co-operatively with farmers on both sides of the lake, the project will minimize the impact of intensive agricultural production on the biodiversity, ecosystem function and water quality in the Prespa region. UNDP will work with local communities and farmers groups to build agricultural extension services which will promote rational water and chemical input use and strengthen existing agricultural associations.

The project will include:

- Capacity building in farmer association planning, outreach and advocacy;
- Assessment on impacts if agrochemical use in the area;
- Assessment of impacts on current water use practices in the area;
- Establishment of an advisory group on agrochemicals and on irrigation / water use;
- Training on monitoring of fertilizer inputs and on appropriate application of pesticides;
- Demonstration training on optimal approach to drip feed irrigation and on monitoring of water inputs.

3.4 Sustainable Management of the International Waters – Prespa Lake

Presentation by Susanne Michaelis, NATO

One of the NATO's projects embedded to the EnvSec Initiative is dealing with the Prespa lake. NATO in co-operation with few countries: Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Greece and United Kingdom (UK) united their forces, in order to:

- Harmonize the water monitoring;
- Model water quantity and quality changes;
- Predict the future changes.

3.5 Enhancing Trans-boundary Biodiversity Management in SEE

Presentation by Otto Simonett / Jasmina Bogdanovic, UNEP

Uncontrolled industrial and economic activities, such as agriculture, building, hunting, overgrazing, deforestation (illegal logging) and collection of medicinal plants, have been causing negative environmental impacts in the region of SEE.

Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro share important natural resources, such as the outstanding trans-boundary mountain ecosystems of the Balkans, e.g.:

- Livadhi I Harushes – Tethi – Valbona and Gashi Rivers, in the western part of Albania, bordering with Montenegro. This region has been proposed for the enlargement of protected areas in Albania;
- The trans-boundary region between the FYR of Macedonia and Albania, containing the Ohrid and Prespa lakes, represent important water resources and sources of tourism revenue;
- Kosovo's (territory under UN interim administration) only declared national park Sharr / Sara mountain national park – bordering FRY of Macedonia;
- The Bjeshket e Nemuna / Cursed mountains / Prokletije situated in the border between Albania and Serbia and Montenegro, is in the process of being declared a national park. This region is highly representative of European biodiversity and

attempts to establish an international trans-boundary "Peace Park" are on-going between the concerned countries.

The project is designed to encourage regional co-operation for the development of integrated management plans for trans-boundary protected areas as well as development of a network of protected areas for the region. The agencies involved would act as facilitators, using similar experiences such as the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ANPA) and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), and support on-going co-operative initiatives.

4. Cross-cutting Issues (Awareness, Information, Education, etc.)

4.1 Postgraduate Course on Environment, Security and Diplomacy

Presentation by Raul Daussa, OSCE

The course could comprise the following modules:

- Environmental diplomacy (policies and politics, tools and mechanisms for conflict early warning and prevention);
- Environmental risks and co-operation opportunities (natural resources - management as a tool for conflict prevention and as a cause of political instability; hazardous activities - management and adoption of cleaner production and technology);
- Trans-boundary environmental co-operation (understanding of environmental multilateral agreements, including water, natural protected areas, pollution prevention, etc.);
- Environmental crisis management and remediation (hazardous substances including chemical and biological threats: rescue co-ordination respond, chemical accidents respond, protection against adverse effects of toxic hazards, natural disasters including floods, fires, integrated risk management system, crisis management, conflict resolution, remediation, recovery and reconstruction).

The next steps will include a feasibility study to assess the actual situation of "Postgraduate Courses on Environment, Security and Diplomacy" in the project countries (SEE), searching for potential University partners and definition of the target group (beneficiaries).

VI. Closing Session

1. The Way to the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Belgrade 2007

Presentation by Otto Simonett, UNEP

In the year 2003, the EnvSec Initiative was first presented to the interested public by the EnvSec partners at the Fifth Environment Ministers Conference "Environment for Europe", attracting considerable attention and interest, as well as generating broad political support. The Sixth Environment Ministers Conference "Environment for Europe" will be held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, in 2007. Therefore, this Conference will be not only of major pan-European importance, but also be of significance for the region.

A presentation and report of the progress achieved since the launch of EnvSec in all pilot regions will be made at the Belgrade Conference. In addition, tangible outputs of the EnvSec Initiative in the SEE region could possibly include regional activities, which have come up or been discussed during the consultation process. Such proposed outputs could include, amongst other, a regional joint declaration / charter on EnvSec in SEE, a Regional Programme on the management of mining risks, a South East European Mountain Convention, well as a SEE Network of Mountain Protected Areas (including the establishment of proposed transboundary Peace Parks in the region).

VII. Conclusions

Participants stressed the importance of:

- Further developing co-operation between partners (local partners – government representatives and international agencies);
- Generating additional financial support to the projects;
- Obtaining long-lasting capacity building;
- Welcomed and reconfirmed objectives and priority fields of action;
- Welcomed the proposed Work Programme and recommended its further development; and
- Agreed on establishing the institutional support arrangements i.p. NFPs and NCG.

Annex I

ANNOTATED AGENDA

23 September 2004, Thursday (day one)

08:00 Registration

09:00-10:30 Opening Session

Opening address

*HE Ljubomir Janev, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning,
FYRoM*

Ms. Consuelo Vidal, Deputy Resident Representative (UNDP)

Chairman: Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Director and Regional
Representative, UNEP-Regional Office for Europe (UNEP)

Session 1: Introduction of the EnvSec Initiative

Basics and Concept of EnvSec, Progress of EnvSec in Other Regions

*Presentation by Mr. Marc Baltés, Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities (OSCE)*

NATO's Contribution to EnvSec – SEE

Presentation by Ms. Susanne Michaelis (NATO)

Discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee/tea break

**11:30-13:00 Session 2: Update on EnvSec Progress in SEE, Identified EnvSec Fields
of Action in SEE and Related Projects**

Background of the EnvSec in SEE, Co-ordination with Other Regional
Initiatives

Presentation by Mr. Otto Simonett (UNEP)

Keynote Presentations of the Identified Fields of Action:

Managing and Reducing Trans-boundary Risks of Hazardous
Activities

Presentation by Mr. Philip Peck

Management of Trans-boundary Natural Resources

Presentation by Mr. Keith Shawe (UNDP)

Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Session 3 (part I): Roundtable Session on EnvSec Fields of Action

Country reports and discussion

Identification of trans-boundary risks of hazardous activities

Moderated by Mr. Philip Peck

16:00-16:30 Coffee/tea break

16:30-18:00 Session 3 (part II): Roundtable session on EnvSec Fields of Action

Short presentations (of each country) and discussion

Identification of priorities of co-operation for trans-boundary natural resources

Moderated by Mr. Keith Shawe (UNDP)

24 September 2004, Friday (day two)

09:00-11:00 Session 4 (part I): EnvSec Methodology and Follow-up

Chairman: Mr. Marc Baltés (OSCE)

Implementation of EnvSec Project on National Level: National Focal Points (NFPs) and National Coordination Group (NCG)

Presentation by Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova (UNDP)

Discussion on setting-up of NFPs in countries and establishing a functioning network

Moderated by Mr. Otto Simonett (UNEP)

Presentation of progress in project concepts;

Identified Fields of Actions:

Managing and Reducing Trans-boundary Risks of Hazardous Activities

- Reducing Environment and Security Risks from Mining in SEE (Mr. Otto Simonett, UNEP)
- Feasibility Study for Lojane Mine (Ms. Anita Kodzoman, UNDP)
- Cross-border Environmental Monitoring and Early Warning Systems (Ms. Anita Kodzoman, UNDP)
- EnvSec embedded projects by NATO – Managing Trans-boundary Risks (River Monitoring and Seismic Risk Prevention) (Ms. Susanne Michaelis, NATO)

Management of Trans-boundary Natural Resources

- Tisza River Basin IWRM (Mr. Otto Simonett, UNEP / Ms. Megan Falvey, UNDP)
- Network Development of Local Actors from the Sava River Basin on Water Resources Management (Mr. Raul Daussa, OSCE)
- Reducing Agriculture Impacts on Prespa lake (Ms. Megan Falvey, UNDP)
- Sustainable Management of the International Waters – Prespa Lake (Ms. Susanne Michaelis, NATO)
- Enhancing Trans-boundary Biodiversity Management in SEE (Mr. Otto Simonett / Ms. Jasmina Bogdanovic, UNEP)

Cross-cutting Issues (Awareness, Information, Education, etc.)

- Postgraduate Course on Environment, Security and Diplomacy (Mr. Raul Daussa, OSCE)

11:00-11:30 Coffee/tea break

11:30-12:30 Session 4 (part II): EnvSec Methodology and Follow-up

Discussion on the project development, next steps

Moderated by Ms. Megan Falvey / Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova (UNDP)

12:30-13:00 Closing Session

The Way to the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Belgrade 2007
Presentation by Mr. Otto Simonett (UNEP)

Closure of the Meeting

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Individual Meetings on projects

Representatives of EnvSec Partners available for Q&A sessions

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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