



Environment and Security Initiative Annual Report 2013

Final draft

This Annual Report has been consolidated based on information and data contained in the individual project progress reports submitted to the Coordination Unit of the ENVSEC Secretariat and financial reports and statements submitted to the OSCE in its capacity as the ENVSEC Trust Fund Manager (as of 1 January 2013) by the recipient organizations.

In accordance with the contractual arrangements made between and among ENVSEC Participating Organizations with respect to the operation of the ENVSEC Trust Fund, programme/project implementation and management are governed by the regulations, rules and procedures of each ENVSEC Participating Organization and each Participating Organization is responsible for its actions and omissions in relation to the implementation and management of programmes and projects funded through the ENVSEC Trust Fund.

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Abbreviations

AC	Aarhus Center
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AIC	Aarhus Information Center
BAR	Basin Analysis Report
BMP	Basin Management Plan
CA	Central Asia
CASE	Civic Action for Security and Environment
CGULS	Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DAI	Dinaric Arc Initiative
DTD	Detailed Technical Design
EC	European Commission
EC-INSC	European Commission Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation
EE	Eastern Europe
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
EU WFD	EU Water Framework Directive
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FASRB	Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
FYR	Former Yugoslav Republic
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook
GIS	Geographical information system
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IFS	Instrument for Stability
JDDS	Joint Doctrine Development System
MB	Management Board
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MoE	Moldovan Ministry of Environment
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NP	National Park
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant
NSB	National Screening Board
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PA	Protected Areas

PEGiB	Public Environmental Center in Bender
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
RDO	Regional Desk Officer
REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
SC	South Caucasus
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE	South Eastern Europe
SEPA	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TF	Trust Fund
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
WEI	Wider Europe Initiative
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Progress Report, on activities and projects funded under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) has been prepared by the Secretariat of the ENVSEC Initiative and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in its capacity as the ENVSEC Trust Fund Manager.

The report covers the year 2013 and provides narrative and financial information on progress made in the implementation of ENVSEC projects funded through the ENVSEC Trust Fund (TF). The report is submitted to the ENVSEC Management Board (MB) and to the Donors contributing to the ENVSEC TF.

The report has been consolidated based on information and data contained in the individual project progress reports submitted to the Coordination Unit of the ENVSEC Secretariat by the ENVSEC partner organizations and financial reports and statements submitted to the OSCE in its capacity as the ENVSEC TF Manager by the recipient organizations for projects that received funding in 2013 from the ENVSEC TF under the management of the OSCE.

Prior to 2013 the ENVSEC TF was managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and accordingly the currency used was USD. Therefore some project budgets are still presented in USD. This version at hand does not contain financial information for those projects that received funding through UNOPS. UNOPS will issue a separate financial report on the ENVSEC funds that it managed in 2013.

1.2 ENVSEC Trust Fund (under OSCE Management), Partner Organizations and Donor Overview

On 1 June 2012, the ENVSEC MB agreed that as of 1 January 2013, the ENVSEC TF Management function will be performed by OSCE.

During the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the OSCE-managed ENVSEC TF received Donor contributions from the Government of Finland, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). In 2013 the ENVSEC Initiative started collaboration on 'Climate Change in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus' with the European Union Instrument for Stability. The activities and funds for this project are covered in a separate EU-OSCE contribution agreement for which a progress report is produced separately.

UNOPS which has been the Manager of the ENVSEC TF for the years 2010-2012, agreed to retain responsibility (including all existing rights and future rights, liabilities, duties and obligations attributable to the ENVSEC TF) for funds that have been disbursed by UNOPS, as ENVSEC TF Manager, to ENVSEC participating organizations until 31 December 2012, and were remaining unspent by the ENVSEC participating organizations as of 31 December 2012. This commitment by UNOPS was endorsed by the ENVSEC MB, at its meeting in March 2013.

In 2013, the OSCE in its capacity as ENVSEC TF Manager transferred funds to the following ENVSEC partner organizations: OSCE, REC, UNDP, UNECE and UNEP. These transfers to the ENVSEC partner organizations based on the following agreements:

REC and UNECE - Transfers are based on the “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Environment and Security Initiative Participating Organizations Regarding Operational Aspects of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative” signed by OSCE, REC and UNECE in January 2013.

UNEP – Transfers are based on the Agreement Between the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regarding the Operation of the ENVSEC Initiative” signed by OSCE and UNEP in April 2013.

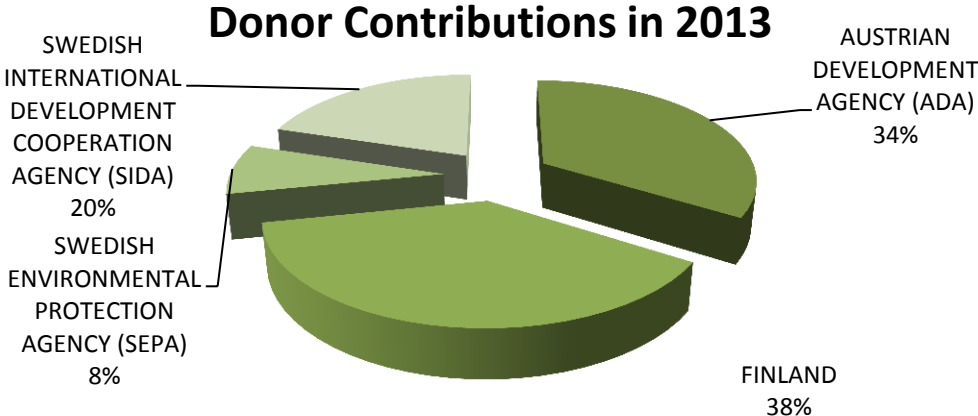
UNDP – Transfers are based on Third-Party Cost-Sharing Agreements between the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, represented by its Secretariat (OSCE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed for each transfer. The Third-Party Cost-Sharing Agreements follow a template agreed between the UNDP and OSCE in February 2013.

As of 31 December 2013, the available budget at the OSCE-managed ENVSEC Trust Fund was EUR 1,723,567.62.

1.3 ENVSEC Trust Fund (under OSCE Management), Financial Performance in 2013

1.3.1 Donor Contributions to the ENVSEC Trust Fund in 2013

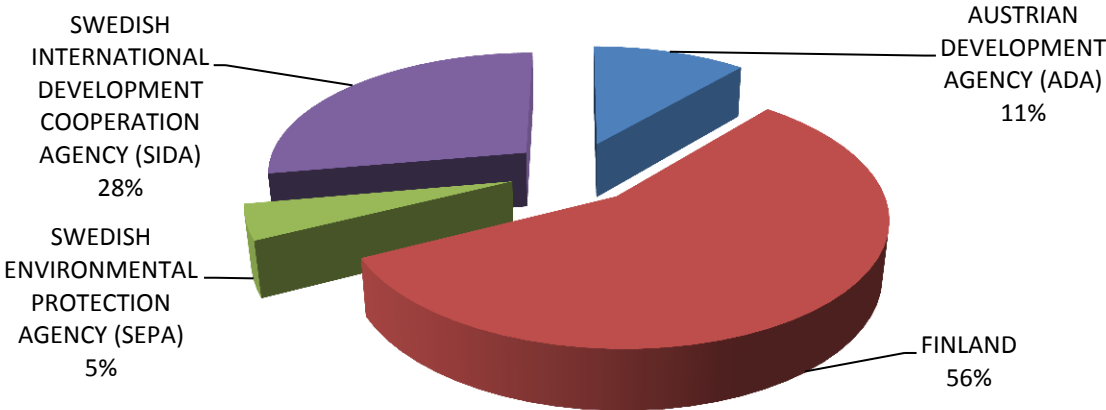
During the period from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013 the Trust Fund received Donor contributions amounting to EUR 2,957,477.48. The largest contribution to the Trust Fund in 2013 was from the Government of Finland with EUR 1,125,000.00 covering 38% of the contributions. ADA transferred EUR 1,000,000.00 (34%), SIDA EUR 596,970.02 (20%) and SEPA EUR 235,507.46 (8%). The contributions were received on the basis of contribution agreements concluded between each individual donor and the OSCE in its capacity as ENVSEC TF Manager.



1.3.2 Balance of the resources available at the ENVSEC Trust Fund as of 31st December 2013

As of 31st December 2013, the available budget at the ENVSEC Trust Fund was EUR 1,723,567.62 with available balance rate of 58%. Most of the remaining resources available have come from Finland EUR 971,735.83 (56%). This is followed by SIDA with EUR 479,247.12 (28%), ADA with EUR 193,845.21 (11%) and SEPA with EUR 78,739.46 (5%).

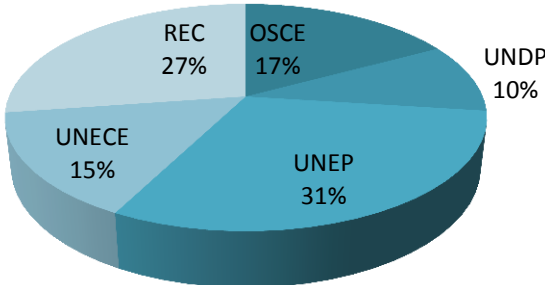
Available Budget as of 31 December 2013



1.3.3 ENVSEC Trust Fund Transfers to Partners in 2013

During 2013, EUR 1,233,909.86 was transferred to the ENVSEC Partners. UNEP received the largest share of the funds EUR 377,559.17 (31%), followed by REC with EUR 336,518.00 (27%), OSCE with EUR 211,514.90 (17%), UNECE with EUR 186,385.27 (15%) and UNDP with EUR 121,932.52 (10%).

Transfers to Partners in 2013

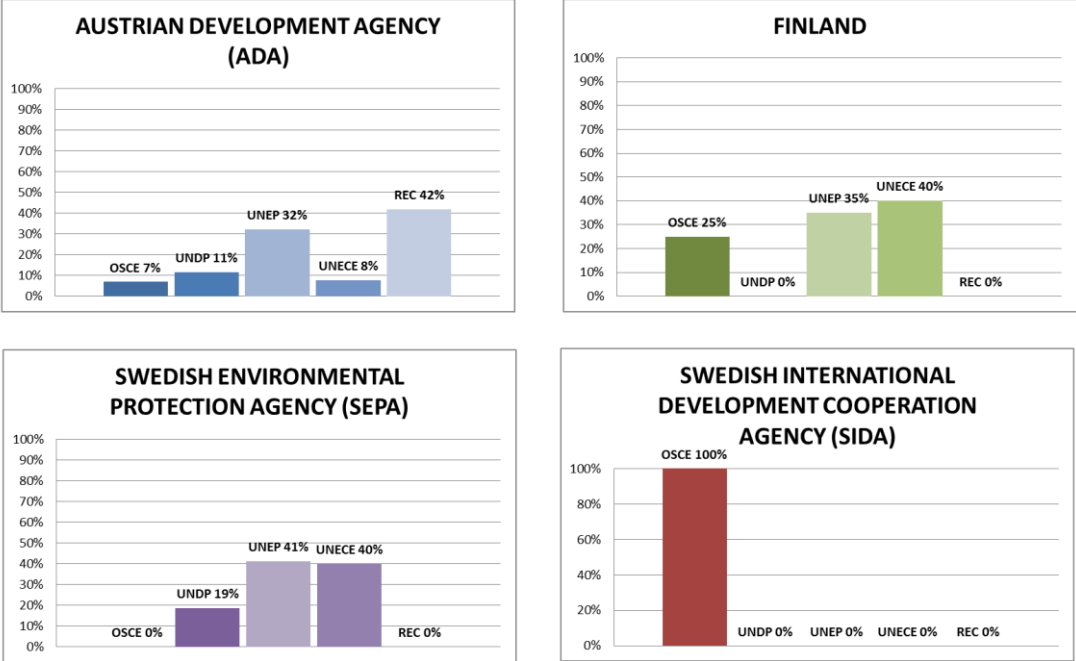


1.3.4 ENVSEC Trust Fund Transfers made in 2013 by Donors and Partners

In regard to the distribution of transfers made in 2013, ADA funds are distributed to all ENVSEC Trust Fund Partners, with REC (42%), UNEP (32%), UNDP (11%), UNECE (8%),

and OSCE (7%). Finnish funds are distributed to UNECE (40%), UNEP (35%) and OSCE (25%). SEPA funds are distributed to UNEP (41%), UNECE (40%) and UNDP (19%). Lastly, SIDA funds are distributed to the OSCE (100%).

Distribution of transfers made in 2013 from ENVSEC Trust Fund to Partners by Donors



2. The ENVSEC Initiative

2.1 Background Information

The ENVSEC Initiative was established in 2003 by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In 2004, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) became an associated member of the Initiative, and since then has coordinated with ENVSEC on its environmental activities which aim at enhancing the security of vulnerable regions, and additionally supports selected ENVSEC projects that are in line with NATO’s geographical and thematic priorities. Since 2006, the Initiative was strengthened by two new members – the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

The ENVSEC partners work to address environment and security risks across four regions: Central Asia (CA), Eastern Europe (EE), South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and the South Caucasus (SC).

The ENVSEC partners recognize that the best way to address environmental and security concerns is through prevention, international dialogue and neighborly cooperation. They therefore assist governments and communities to identify common solutions and

develop joint projects for achieving them. The Initiative works with government institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), stakeholders and experts of relevant ministries (such as environment and natural resources, industry and agriculture, economic development, emergencies, transport and foreign affairs).

2.2 Strategic Framework

The ENVSEC MB is the key decision-making body of the ENVSEC Initiative and is composed of representatives from each of the partner organizations, who chair it in turn. The MB derives guidance on key strategic, policy, and regional issues and on support for the implementation of activities from the annual ENVSEC Partners' meetings, which brings together representatives of key partner countries and agencies of the Initiative.

Day-to-day activities of ENVSEC are coordinated by the ENVSEC Secretariat consisting of a Coordination Officer, an Associate Programme Officer, an Administrative Assistant and four Regional Desk Officers (RDOs) appointed by respective ENVSEC partners. The RDO function for Central Asia is performed by UNDP, for Eastern Europe by UNEP, for South-eastern Europe by REC and for the South Caucasus by the OSCE.. In their respective regions, each RDO is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the regional work programme and sharing information among the different actors. Towards this end, regional coordination meetings are organized by the RDOs once a year. Implementation of each ENVSEC project activity is the responsibility of one or several ENVSEC partner organization(s) designated by the MB, based on the mandates and capacities of the respective organization.

At the country level, the ENVSEC National Focal Points (NFPs) from Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs, as well as focal points from the country and field offices of OSCE, UNDP and REC participate actively in project planning and monitoring, with the support of national agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and research institutes, as appropriate.

The ENVSEC partner organizations aim at a coordinated approach for collaboration with donors who wish to support the implementation of ENVSEC's programme approach. The ENVSEC TF serves as one of the modalities for the receipt and disbursement of funds as well as for programme and financial reporting on ENVSEC activities through one channel. The ENVSEC TF is managed by a Trust Fund Manager who provides administrative and fiduciary management.

As of 1 January 2013, the ENVSEC Trust Fund Management functions are performed by the OSCE based on the ENVSEC MB decision of 1 June 2012.

2.3 Programme management and highlights in 2013

In 2013, ENVSEC continued to work in the countries of South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia in line with the work plan for 2012-2013 as agreed by the partner organizations and governments. Project activities have been implemented through the three main programmes of ENVSEC: the partnership with Fin-

land under the Wider Europe Initiative (WEI) (Phase II), the partnership with Austria and Finland in South Eastern Europe, and the ENVSEC partnership with SEPA and SIDA.

Ms. Marta Bonifert, Executive Director of the Regional Environment Centre, served as the Chair of the Initiative in 2013 for a second consecutive year.

Financial sustainability remains a challenge that the Initiative has continued to address by laying the foundation for a diversified donor base and developing two new partnership programmes; with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, and; with the Government of Switzerland to support the 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship objectives for more reliable management of natural disasters.

A no-cost extension to the ENVSEC-WEI II programme was approved by Finland until the end of 2014.

In 2013, the ENVSEC Initiative has strengthened its thematic focus, programming and financial basis and outreach. The ENVSEC partner organizations have also enhanced the visibility of the Initiative through a number of reports, articles and interviews in prominent journals, websites and networks.

A decade of ENVSEC

The ENVSEC Initiative celebrated its 10th Anniversary of work transforming shared environmental risks into joint management opportunities in the pan-European region in 2013. On the occasion of this anniversary, the 2013 Environment and Security Partners' meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 November 2013. Gathering ENVSEC partners, donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, this public event provided an opportunity to discuss emerging environment and security challenges. The meeting was opened by Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.

The event featured the launch of a new ENVSEC publication: *Transforming risks into cooperation — The Environment and Security Initiative 2003–2013*. The partners prepared the publication to take stock of the first decade of ENVSEC, and document and showcase the key achievements, best practices and lessons learned from ENVSEC for the future.

The event also featured a high-level conference, with a panel debate on the *Risk Nexus - 21st Century Environment and Security Challenges* as well as several presentations by project beneficiaries. Overall, these efforts showed that over the last decade, ENVSEC has worked with around 30 partner countries and over 100 local and international partners. More than 150 projects on environment and security have been implemented in the countries of the ENVSEC regions, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. The experience gained shows that shared environmental risks can be transformed into opportunities for regional and cross-regional cooperation, which lay the foundations for sustainable development. Among the key aspects of the Initiative featured in the publication were its multi-level, cross-border and participatory approaches and its long-term standing for investments in disaster risk reduction and environmental diplomacy.

A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention

In July 2013, OSCE organized the cross-regional workshop: *A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention* (Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters). This meeting brought together over 100 participants including Aarhus Convention National Focal Points, Aarhus Center (AC) managers, NGOs, representatives of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, ENVSEC partners, and international experts. The workshop enabled the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and contributed to networking among the Aarhus Centers within and across regions. The Meeting also included capacity building sessions for the Aarhus Centers on several priority issues related to the Convention. Since its launching, ENVSEC has been one of the major supporters of the Aarhus Centres Network.

2.4 Trust Fund Partner Organizations

During the reporting period the following ENVSEC partner organizations took the lead or partnered with other ENVSEC organizations to implement projects with funds received from the OSCE-managed ENVSEC TF, as well as with funds which have been received from the ENVSEC TF in 2012 (under the management of UNOPS) but had not been spent in 2012:

OSCE: The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as a regional security organization provides its expertise in early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict rehabilitation and offers its network of field missions in several countries.

REC: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe carries out field projects addressing a wide range of environmental concerns and promotes sustainable development in the regions.

UNDP: The United Nations Development Programme oversees the UN's global development network, which seeks to reduce poverty, improve environmental governance and promote the Millennium Development Goals.

UNECE: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe formulates environmental policy and develops international environmental law, including five regional environmental conventions.

UNEP: The United Nations Environmental Programme provides leadership and encourages partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

ENVSEC Implementing Partners

The following implementing partners implemented projects through the UNOPS-managed ENVSEC TF:

ICPDR: International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River works to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of waters and freshwater resources in the Danube River Basin. The ICPDR was appointed by the MB as an implementing partner for one project.

GRID-Arendal: GRID-Arendal is a collaboration of the United Nations Environmental Programme, established by the Government of Finland as a Norwegian Foundation. GRID was appointed by the MB as an implementing partner for one project.

2.5 ENVSEC donors

During the reporting period ENVSEC projects were implemented with the financial support of the following donors that contributed funds to the OSCE managed ENVSEC TF:

- Government of Finland (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

In Tajikistan, President Emomali Rahmon was reelected for his fourth term in October 2013. In the economic sphere, the focus remained on infrastructure development, particularly hydro-power and transport, and in creating an enabling environment for private sector investment.

Turkmenistan experienced rapid economic growth driven mainly by public investment and rising hydrocarbon exports. Uzbekistan is likewise a fast-growing economy, trying to sustain its remarkable economic growth by creating more jobs and attracting foreign investments.

At the regional level, the lack of a lasting agreement on the management and use of the transboundary rivers remains a challenge for relations between upstream and downstream countries. Also other environmental issues, such as pollution, were raised as a concern on bilateral level. Regional co-operation advanced in the sphere of joint infrastructure and transport projects, such as railroads and pipelines linking the countries of Central Asia and their neighbors. China and Russia continue to be important investors and trade partners. Uzbekistan, Central Asia's most populous country and Kazakhstan, its richest country, strengthened their co-operation with a strategic partnership agreement, and also aligned their position regarding regional water issues.

A significant security issue remaining for all Central Asian states is their vicinity to Afghanistan, in particular the situation after the withdrawal of NATO troops in 2014.

3.1.2 ENVSEC 2013 highlights in Central Asia

ENVSEC continued its work in the Central Asia region predominately with the support of the Government of Finland. In 2013, the key areas of ENVSEC work included climate change and transboundary water management, dam safety, raising awareness on environmental and security issues and uranium waste management.

In 2013, the Regional Desk Office, led by UNDP, continued to implement the follow-up activities of the successfully concluded project *Strengthening Coordination of Project Formulation and Mobilization of Resources for Sustainable Radioactive Waste Management in Central Asia*. These activities were closely coordinated with the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS) which was established in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Secretariat. The CGULS has an important role in information exchange, provision of technical advice and coordination to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of efforts in the area of uranium legacy sites management. Several ENVSEC partner agencies are members of the CGULS and have been present at its regular meetings through 2013.

Under the activities of the CGULS, the mapping of existing and planned programs or interventions related to Uranium legacies has been conducted. These findings will be used to update the Uranium tailings database¹. Another requirement of the CGULS was to promote awareness, understanding, and capacity development of stakeholders in support of remediation actions. As a result, a new project concept has been formulated in consultations with the European Commission's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Coopera-

¹ www.uranium-ca.net

tion (EC-INSC) and will be developed into a full project document during the first quarter of 2014. The new project entitled *Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Tailings Remediation in Central Asia* will be implemented jointly by UNDP and OSCE (2014 – 2016), with possible participation from other partner agencies. The main objective of this new project will be to engage and inform stakeholders about remediation of uranium tailings. The Aarhus Centers will also play an important role in the project. The Centers will focus on public awareness and information about remediation alternatives as well as the development of capacities to ensure sustainable stakeholder engagement. Activities of the project will complement those of similar on-going programmes implemented by the EC-INSC.

Regional Coordination

Regional Desk Office representatives attended the Annual Meeting of the REC General Assembly in October 2013 in Szentendre, Hungary. The thematic focus and approach to ENVSEC in Central Asia was presented. The audience consisted of representatives of more than 30 countries and the European Commission.

On October 21-22 2013, the OSCE Secretariat held its 2013 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was attended by more than 120 senior officials from participating States, representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Field Operations, and representatives of international organizations, expert academics, business representatives and NGOs. During its 3rd Session on enhanced co-operation between the participating States, OSCE executive structures and other stakeholders, several case studies of ENVSEC were presented. The Central Asia region was represented by an example of inter-agency cooperation in the thematic area of Uranium Tailings. This example focused on presenting the different roles and complementarities of ENVSEC partner agencies (UNDP, UNEP, OSCE) in the implementation of radioactive waste management activities as well as demonstrating their cooperation with other entities comprising EC-INSC, IAEA and similar.

Project highlights

OSCE continued to support the work of a network of Aarhus Centers (ACs) focusing on the access to information and public participation pillars of the Aarhus Convention. A Regional meeting *Aarhus centers: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention* was organized in Vienna, Austria on 3-5 July 2013. This meeting brought together over 70 participants including representatives from Central Asia. A number of examples of activities conducted by Aarhus Centers in Central Asia are as follows:

In Kazakhstan, the Zhaik-Caspian Aarhus Center supported the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia in the organization of seminars on the *Caspian Green Pack*. In August, the Center organized a round-table on the occasion of the Caspian Sea Day in cooperation with the local municipality. The Osh Aarhus Center in Kyrgyzstan, by organizing a meeting in Kok Tash, provided an opportunity for the local community to exchange views with the representatives of the Kazakmys Gold Company, which is developing the Bozumchak deposit.

The Aarhus Center in Turkmenistan equipped its library with environmental literature, reports, magazines and newspapers and additionally provided free access to the library as well as access to the online Database of Legislation of Turkmenistan² to the visitors of the Centre.

The project *Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia*, implemented by UNECE, continued on its third implementation phase. The main project highlights include the support to the establishment of an international training center on dam safety in the city of Taraz, Kazakhstan. Also the preparation of a text book on dam safety for students and professionals in Central Asia and further development of the bilateral cooperation on the safety monitoring of the Kirov dam, situated up-stream in Kyrgyzstan close to the border to Kazakhstan. A Regional Project meeting took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 19-20 November 2013.

The UNDP-UNECE implemented project *Promoting Cooperation to Adapt to Climate Change in Chu-Talas Trans-boundary Basin* concluded most of its remaining activities during 2013. The final stakeholder meeting to present the results took place at the end of February 2014 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. A draft of the final project report was prepared and the main findings of the project were presented to the Kazakh-Kyrgyz Chu-Talas Commission. A visual summary of the results of the project, including maps and graphics was developed. The lessons learned which came out in the project implementation include strengthening inter-country coordination for basin projects; elimination of the project time fragmentation; raising awareness about the project at all levels; and expanding the cooperation with the researchers of involved countries. The identified possible climate change adaptation measures range from technical – such as rehabilitation of irrigation systems and adjusting river regulation to environmental flow needs, changing land use and crop diversification – to policy and finance measures, including, for example, review of subsidy policy.

In the frame of the project *Transboundary Health and Environmental Pollution in Central Asia* UNEP representatives held a meeting with the heads of the Tajik and Uzbek missions in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2013. Here they agreed on the timing of the mission of an independent consultant to visit both countries to analyze the transboundary industrial pollution situation along Uzbek and Tajik borders. The planned mission was welcomed by both sides and took place during November 2013. The mission report and recommendations are under preparation.

The Central Asia regional project portfolio included three associated projects implemented by NATO. The project *Microbiological safety of drinking water in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan* aims to enhance knowledge in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan about quality assurance for microbiological tests of drinking water quality by international standards. Another project *Sustainable management of toxic pollutants in Central Asia: towards a Regional Ecosystem Model for environmental security* has an objective to conduct a regional study upon the major sources of contamination and actual effects upon environment, and also will study the implications of this for economic, cultural and political relations in the region. The third NATO project *Geo-Environmental Security of the Toktogul Hydroelectric Power Station Region* has been concluded during the year and the final re-

² <http://www.turkmenlegaldatabase.info/>

port was shared with the ENVSEC Initiative in October 2013.

3.2 Eastern Europe

3.2.1 Regional context in 2013

Over the past year, notable events in Eastern Europe have included the construction by Belarus of its first nuclear power plant, which has raised concerns in Lithuania, including through UNECE's Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Aarhus Convention. A disagreement with Russia's Uralkali has affected Belarus's potash industry leader Belaruskali after Uralkali made the decision to cease cooperation.

In March 2013, Moldova experienced a governmental crisis, which resulted in the dismissal of the Prime Minister by parliamentary motion. The crisis ended in May 2013 when the new Prime Minister's cabinet received a vote of confidence.

In August 2013, Russia tightened customs regulations on imports from Ukraine, with the Customs Service of the Russian Federation putting Ukrainian imports on the list of potentially dangerous goods on 14 August 2013, which halted the shipment of goods from Ukraine, and resulted in a US 1.4 billion drop in Ukrainian exports, and a significant decline in industrial production compared to 2012 figures.

In late November 2013, Moldova and Georgia initialed association agreements with the European Union (EU) at a summit dedicated to the European Union's 'Eastern Partnership' countries in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Since November 2013, attention in Eastern Europe has been focused on the situation in Ukraine. Where demonstrations and protests against the government's decision to reject closer ties with the EU in November 2013 has resulted in a sweeping change of government, with the power now resting with the Parliament.

The protests, termed "Euromaidan" (literally Eurosquare) erupted as a response to the governmental decree suspending preparations for the signature of the Association Agreement. In late November when President Yanukovich did not sign the Agreement, and with the government arguing that Ukraine would need compensation from the European market for the drop in industrial production and relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, widespread protests took place, particularly in Kiev, centering on Independence Square. By 2014, the protesters had also brought forward the issues of government corruption and human rights violations in the country.

3.2.2 ENVSEC 2013 highlights in Eastern Europe

The main highlights of ENVSEC cooperation in 2013 included a dialogue which started in the context of the SIDA Belarus cooperation between the experts of Belarus and Ukraine on monitoring and environmental impact assessment. Experts from both countries exchanged monitoring data and information and discussed the state of the environment in the focus areas, which has improved the transparency and level of trust between the

parties. Experts from both countries tested a common approach for monitoring and compared the monitoring methodologies used by laboratories. A bilateral working group for the environmental monitoring of the Khotislavskoye quarry was established. Data on Khotislavskoye quarry for the period of 2011-2013 was collected and analyzed, alongside field work on the Khotislavskoye quarry (Belarus) and Shatsk lakes (Ukraine) by experts from Ukraine and Belarus. On the basis of these findings, a report by the bilateral Working Group for the environmental monitoring of the Khotislavskoye quarry was prepared.

For the Neman river basin, a vulnerability assessment based on the expected impacts of climate change was prepared and discussed with stakeholders from different sectors and regions in Belarus and Lithuania. This includes the preparation of maps for the entire Neman River Basin illustrating the vulnerability assessment results for agriculture, forestry, industry and energy, population, natural resources (ecosystems) and an integrated map. A list of adaptation measures to climate change for short, middle and long-term perspectives for the Neman River basin was completed and a draft version of the strategic framework for basin-wide climate change adaptation in the Neman River Basin was prepared. The internet database³ on Neman River water resources was upgraded.

Project highlights

A new project on climate change and security (as part of the larger project *Climate Change and security in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia* funded by the EU IfS and the Austrian Development Agency) was officially launched in Chisinau, Moldova on 10 July 2013 with high-level representatives of the riparian countries, the international organizations involved, donors and other stakeholders. The project builds on the preceding project *Reducing vulnerability to extreme flood and climate change in the Dniester River basin (Dniester III Flood and Climate)*. Representatives of mass media participated in the event which led to significant media coverage. In 2013, the project developed the first draft of the strategic framework for climate change adaptation in the Dniester River basin, for discussion between Moldova and Ukraine and elaboration in 2014.

With regard to the *Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region* project, ENVSEC support enabled progress with regard to the implementation of key elements of the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD) – the establishment of typology, reference conditions and the designation of water bodies for surface waters and groundwater. The ongoing assessment of the significant pressures on the water environment allows, in combination with monitoring information, the ability to outline the risk of failing to achieve “good status” for the Danube Delta waters, and therefore sets the basis for measures planning in the frame of follow-up activities after finalization of the project.

The assessment and compilation of the results from the *Joint Danube Delta Survey (JDDS)*, a joint survey by ship, comprising of experts from Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova conducted in late 2011 were finalized and summarized in a report. The results are inter alia feeding into the preparation of the Danube Delta Analysis Report, which was devel-

³ <http://cricuwr.by/neman/>

oped based on the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and was in the focus of recent project activities.

Within the project *Prevention of Illegal Cross-border Transport of Hazardous Waste and other Cross-border Environmental Crime (Basel III)* an e-learning course on detection and prevention of environmental crimes at border. Along with the establishment of a mobile group of trainers on prevention of environmental crimes, this has made it possible to reach out to broader audiences in border management and environmental authorities, also outside Ukraine and Moldova where the project is implemented.

In early 2013, ENVSEC also launched a project to *assess environmental risks in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone* paving the way for more safe work of border guards from Belarus and Ukraine in the planned demarcation of the border between the two countries. A field study to sample radioactive contamination of soil and equivalent absorbed radiation doses along the Ukrainian side of the border was conducted in Fall 2013 resulting in several hundreds of measurements to map out radiation risks. A similar effort is planned for Belarus in 2014.

3.3 South Eastern Europe

3.3.1 Regional context in 2013

The renewed consensus on enlargement agreed by the December 2006 European Council is one of the main factors affecting development in the South Eastern European region. The 2013 enlargement of the European Union saw Croatia join the European Union on 1 July 2013 as their 28th Member State. At the same time, the European Council also opened accession negotiations with Serbia. On 17 December 2013, the European Council adopted conclusions on EU's enlargement policy and on the stabilization and association process for the Western Balkans, reaffirming EU's strong support to take the enlargement process forward based on the agreed principles and conclusions.

The European Council also adopted the General EU position on accession negotiations with Serbia, including the negotiating framework, and agreed that the first intergovernmental conference with Serbia would take place in January 2014. The EU integration of the Western Balkans remains the main "driving force" for environmental policies and their enforcement in all countries of South Eastern Europe.

Progress was made in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue under the auspices of the European Union. The Brussels Agreement between the two governments on the normalization of their relations was signed in April 2013, followed up by European Commission officially advising that work should start on an Stabilization and Association Agreement with Kosovo* (UN Administered Territory under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), and accession negotiations began with Serbia. Disputes related to inter-ethnic or social status issues in the Western Balkans, notably in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*, continued to hinder the functioning of institutions, frustrating the reform process, sometimes with even broader, regional implications.

* All references to Kosovo in this text, whether to the territory, institutions or population, should be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

3.3.2 ENVSEC 2013 highlights in South Eastern Europe

In 2013, the Regional Desk Office for South Eastern Europe for the ENVSEC Initiative organized several bilateral meetings with high-level representatives of the ENVSEC beneficiary countries. These representatives included the Minister of Environmental and Nature Protection of Croatia, Mr. Mihael Zmajlovic, the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Kosovo*, Mr. Dardan Gashi, the Minister of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of Serbia, Ms. Zorana Mihajlovic, the Minister of Environment of Romania, Ms. Rovana Plumb, the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia, Mr. Abdilaqim Ademi, and the Deputy Minister of Environment of Albania, Ms. Djana Bejko. All meetings helped to gain political support for ENVSEC in SEE, in addition to identifying new priorities and project ideas and enhancing overall outreach. Two project ideas emerged during these meetings: *Development of Final Technical Documentation for Remediation of Environmental Hotspots of Trepca Mining Company and Raising of Public Awareness in Mitrovica Region* and *Lepenec River protection via Introduction of Integrated Water Management* and were translated into ENVSEC project proposals.

In an effort to maintain and further develop donor relations, as well as to diversify the donor base for ENVSEC in SEE, the ENVSEC Regional Desk Office for SEE organized meetings with SIDA, SEPA, the Stockholm International Water Institute, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building, the Danish Ministry for the Environment, and the Nature Agency of Denmark, as well as with EU delegations and the diplomatic missions of Austria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and USA in the beneficiary region. Further outreach was also made through an ambassadorial briefing with an ENVSEC focus at REC's head office in Szentendre, Hungary in March 2013. Representatives of 30 countries attended the briefing and received up-to-date information about ENVSEC.

Regional Coordination

Following the 2012 adoption of the 11 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in SEE, the SEE 2020 Strategy *Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective* was adopted in November 2013 to ensure the targets are reached by 2020.

SEE 2020 is a regional strategy, but it envisions action at the national level. Its goal is to improve living conditions in the region and bring competitiveness and development back in focus, closely following the vision of the EU strategy Europe 2020. The strategy pursues a holistic development pattern for the region and seeks to stimulate the key long-term drivers of growth within it through innovation, skills and trade integration, centered on a set of interlinked development pillars. The Sustainable Growth Pillar envisages some specific measures and interventions for each the following four dimensions: energy, transport, environment and competitiveness. The environment dimension foresees: an increase in adaptive capacity through awareness-raising and education on climate change adaptation; a twofold increase in the share of integrated agricultural land; increased annual volumes of forestation; advancements in the water, energy and

food nexus; enhanced private sector involvement in water infrastructure development and implementation of Regional Integral Water Management Framework Agreement.

The ENVSEC RDO of SEE was present at the adoption of the strategy, emphasized that all of this entails the transfer of knowledge and best practices, experimental showcase projects and awareness-raising in the fields of agriculture, forestry, water usage, energy usage for individual farmers, cooperatives, public and private companies and operators, local municipalities, community based organizations and associations and the media. In view of the strategy, SEE priorities are relevant and complementary to ENVSEC and can be used as a frame of synergies and a platform for cooperation for ENVSEC.

Project highlights

Under the ENVSEC priority *Management and reduction of trans-boundary risks from hazardous activities*, a series of meetings and field visits were undertaken in Albania to visit environment and security hot spots (i.e. former mine sites and tailing dams). As a result the Fushe-Arrez Mine was selected for further assessment and the development of technical documentation. During the meetings close cooperation was established with the Albanian Ministry of Environment and mining engineers from the National Agency for Natural Resources. In addition, the technical field mission to the Trepca Mining Complex in Kosovo* by mining experts was successfully implemented, and the assessment of the Trepca Mining Complex and the Trepca Industrial Park showed that future remediation steps are necessary. The development of a project to create a cadaster of contaminated land sites in Serbia was discussed and identified as necessary. Additionally, the inception phase, analysis of stakeholders and the planning for the regional dialogue for improving management and reducing environmental risk of active mining sites took place within reporting period.

Activities implemented under the ENVSEC priority *Management of shared natural resources* supported the organization of the first Meeting of the Parties of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin, which took place in May 2013. ENVSEC representatives also took part in the Drin Basin Multi-Stakeholders Conference organized in December 2013 in the frame of a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project. A second trilateral ministerial meeting in the proposed transboundary protected area "Sharr/Šar Planina – Mt. Korab – Dešat/Deshat" was organized in November 2013 when the common vision for the proclamation of the National Park (NP) by three Ministers of Environment was signed. ENVSEC took active participation in two meetings of the Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI) when future synergies were discussed. In the capacity of "DAI Coordination Unit" the UNEP Office in Vienna updated the independent DAI website.

Under the ENVSEC priority *Strengthening regional cooperation on environmental governance through participatory and informed decision-making and implementation processes* activities were mainly carried out in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and at the regional level. Project activities in Montenegro and Serbia were completed in 2012. In Albania, Aarhus Centers were actively involved in promoting environmental activism in the region and in organizing a number of events. Three Aarhus Centers were established in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Tuzla, as part of an EU-funded project, with co-funding from ENVSEC and OSCE. Additionally, training on the Aarhus

Convention was included in the annual curricula of the judicial training centers. Websites were developed for all Aarhus Centers and representatives from several Aarhus Centers participated in a regional meeting celebrating the *Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention*. A sub-regional training session on Environmental Mediation and Conflict Resolution was organized by OSCE and REC in Podgorica, Montenegro alongside training sessions for judges and prosecutors in Kosovo*. ENVSEC produced a master version of a practical public participation toolkit which was later modified for the national needs of the FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and was subsequently translated into the respective national languages.

Under the ENVSEC priority *Adaptation to the impacts of climate change for reducing security risks in SEE*, information on the estimated impacts of climate change on temperature and precipitation across the Sava River Basin, as well as on the water regimes valuable for different assessments both at the river basin and at a national level were provided, while project outcomes were presented at several global meetings. ENVSEC took part in regional discussions on climate change adaptation in SEE and took care of the practical mainstreaming of climate change effects on biodiversity into national documents in SEE. ENVSEC organized national trainings in Montenegro on vulnerability assessments as the central element of the adaptation process. The identification of feasible short-term and long-term adaptation measures was also completed.

3.4 The South Caucasus

3.4.1 Regional context in 2013

In 2013, presidential elections were held in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan were re-elected for another term. In Georgia, the candidate of the opposition coalition received the majority of votes and won the presidential elections.

Protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus remained high on the international agenda. Four rounds of Geneva International Discussions that were held in 2013 addressed the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia. The OSCE, together with the UN and the EU, co-chaired talks involving participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States as well as Tskhinvali and Sokhumi. Discussions took place in two working groups: the two groups addressed respectively the security situation and the humanitarian situation on the ground.

Throughout the year, several efforts were made to negotiate a peaceful settlement for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Violence along the line of contact and on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia has continued resulting in the loss of life. The OSCE Minsk Group, co-chaired by France, the Russian Federation and the United States has continued their efforts to assist the parties in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. On 19 November 2013, the President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsian and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev met in Vienna under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to discuss the way forward. This was the Presidents' first meeting since their January 2012 summit in Sochi, Russia. The Presidents discussed a broad range of issues related to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Presidents agreed to advance negotiations toward a peaceful settlement. They instructed their foreign minis-

ters to continue to co-operate with the Co-Chairs to build on the work to date with the aim of intensifying the peace process. They agreed to meet again in the months ahead.⁴

3.4.2 ENVSEC 2013 highlights in the South Caucasus

In 2013, the ENVSEC Initiative continued to address ENVSEC priority issues in the South Caucasus region. Management of transboundary natural resources, as well as disaster risk reduction, continued to be at the focus of the Initiative. ENVSEC work in the areas of transboundary water co-operation, participatory management of protected areas (PAs), and wildfire management were among the main areas of focus in this respect.

ENVSEC Regional Desk for South Caucasus actively engaged in resource mobilization for the ENVSEC work programme in the South Caucasus region through developing programmes and projects for consideration by several donors, including SIDA and the Government of Switzerland.

Regional coordination

ENVSEC continued its efforts to strengthen national and regional capacities for the implementation of the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements, particularly the Convention on Access to Environmental Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The Initiative also continued its activities in the area of public awareness and capacity building for civil society on environment and security issues, through its support to the Aarhus Centers and the Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) NGO Small Grants Programme. The active engagement and support of partner organizations in the field operations have been a key factor in the implementation of the work programme and in ensuring national ownership of ENVSEC activities in the region.

Project highlights

In 2013, ENVSEC continued its support for the finalization of the bilateral water agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia. The fifth round of bilateral consultations between the two governments was facilitated jointly by OSCE and UNECE. As a result of the negotiations, the fourth draft of the water agreement was developed and submitted to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

Cooperating with the Global Fire Monitoring Centre, ENVSEC continued to lead the capacity building and policy development activities on fire management in the region. In 2013, the second national training was conducted in Armenia. Over 40 representatives from relevant state agencies were trained on forest fire management issues. *EuroFire Competency Standards* in Armenian language, which was translated in the framework of the project in 2012, was distributed to the participants and was used extensively as the basis for the training. Training was followed by the third national roundtable to discuss

⁴ <http://www.osce.org/mg/108551>

the draft policy of the wildfire management in Armenia, which was prepared in the framework of the project. The project also provided opportunity to the representatives of the Ministries of Emergency Situations of Armenia and Azerbaijan and representatives of the Forestry Department of Georgia to participate in the UNECE/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management* that took place on 27-29 November 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In 2013, the Aarhus Center in Georgia with the support of the ENVSEC project continued its active engagement in environmental issues. The Center gained the status of the Legal Entity of Public Law under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia. This is an important factor for the financial sustainability of the Center and its role in fostering the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

The ENVSEC Initiative has continued to support NGO activities targeted in the field of environment and security in Armenia and Azerbaijan through the CASE NGO Small Grants Programme. Since its launch, the CASE programme has supported a total of 47 NGO projects in the region (Armenia: 28, Azerbaijan: 19) which have addressed a wide range of challenges at the interface of environment and security. In 2013, in Armenia, six projects were concluded under the fourth grant cycle. The fifth call for project concepts was announced in March 2013 and the CASE National Screening Board (NSB) awarded small grants for five new projects. In Azerbaijan, one project was concluded under the fourth grant cycle and two new NGO projects were awarded CASE grants in the field of land degradation and sustainable transport. Activities in Azerbaijan featured two capacity building training sessions organized for CSOs and media representatives on issues related to biodiversity conservation and environmental investigative journalism.

In 2013, the UNECE guidelines on the application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Espoo Convention and its resource manual were translated into Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian languages, to ensure improved understanding of the Protocol and facilitate its implementation in the regions.

4. ENVSEC TRUST FUND PROJECTS: OVERVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

4.1 Central Asia

4.1.1 Promoting cooperation to adapt to climate change in the Chu-Talas river basin (implementation phase) CA 3.4

Background

The transboundary nature of water in the Central Asia region entails that risks and challenges are shared and that solutions need to be coordinated. Transboundary cooperation in the development of adaptation strategies is necessary to ensure that measures decided on unilaterally do not have unintended effects in neighboring countries thereby increasing vulnerability and causing controversy over water use. Cooperation on adaptation can therefore prevent conflicts. This project aims to increase the adaptive capacity of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and of the Chu-Talas Commission to ongoing and future

climate change impacts, ensure coordination of adaptation actions in the Chu-Talas basin and thereby help to prevent possible negative effects on regional security.

The Chu-Talas basin was selected for this project as it has the only functioning bilateral transboundary water Commission between the Central Asian states, and because water-sharing agreements and relevant tools for costs compensation have already been agreed upon. These cooperative arrangements might be strained in the future by the possible negative impacts of climate change on water resources in the basin leading towards the need to reconsider the current cooperation.

This project was delayed due to political instability and frequent changes in the administration in Kyrgyzstan.

Leading Agency: UNDP, UNECE

Budget: EUR 248,536 (EUR 75,000 Inception; EUR 173,536 Implementation Phase)

Donor: Finland

Duration: January 2010 – September 2014

Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

Objectives

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

Results

- Modeling of the possible changes in water resources of the Chu-Talas basin associated with climate conditions and the preparation of a joint vulnerability assessment were carried out.
- A draft of the final report of the project was prepared by Kazakh and Kyrgyz national experts. This cooperation has increased understanding of climate change impacts as well as of current and future vulnerabilities in the transboundary basin of Chu-Talas. The report covers physiographic characteristics; analysis of the water resources status and use; economic situation characteristics including water management and projects on research and management of water resources in the basin; current and future vulnerability; expected consumption of water resources and related economic analysis; and preliminary options for types of adaptation measures at the transboundary level.
- A visual summary of the project results including maps and graphics was developed in consultation with the Secretariat of the Chu-Talas Commission.

Highlights

- A working meeting of experts was organized on 30 May 2013 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Here the results of the experts on the national and sector inputs for the vulnerability report were presented, detailed and synchronized. The meeting partic-

ipants agreed upon the way forward for adaptation measures, as well as on recommendations for further steps.

- The project was presented at the Mountain Hazard Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in September 2013, in a session focusing on mountain environments and risk assessment related to climate hazards and adaptation measures.
- Interim results of the project were presented and discussed with the representatives of the Chu-Talas Commission in May 2013.
- Key project experts participated in meetings of the core group of pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary water basins under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Water Convention) in February and June 2013.

4.1.2 Support for Aarhus Centers in Central Asia (CA 4.1)

Background

Since 2002, OSCE with the support of the ENVSEC Initiative has been supporting the establishment and functioning of Aarhus centers and Public Environmental Information Centers in several countries, including those in Central Asia. The Centers assist in implementing the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention by facilitating access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making and by promoting the access to justice in environmental matters. The Centers are flexible in their approach, taking into account local needs and capacities, their geographic location and the specific situational and political climate of the country in which they operate.

In Central Asia, within the framework of this project, the Aarhus Centers have been supported in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Furthermore, the project provides a good platform for furthering the Aarhus Convention's implementation in the region. In addition to the ENVSEC funding, the project received contributions from Norway and USA.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 106,644

Donor: Finland

Duration: April 2010 – December 2014

Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

Objectives

- To support the implementation of the Aarhus Convention through the establishment and strengthening of the Aarhus Centers, by capitalizing on the strengths of the countries and responding to their challenges in relation to the three pillars of the Convention.
- To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Aarhus Centers in enhancing the Convention's implementation and facilitation of efficient dialogue among interested stakeholders in tackling environmental challenges.

Results

- The co-operation between government and civil society is improved in several areas, including in the management of natural resources, environmental protection, amongst others.

- The awareness of civil society and general public representatives on the Aarhus Convention is enhanced as well as their understanding and interest towards ecological information and environmental protection activities.
- Participation of local people in the environmental decision making process has been increased.

Highlights

- In 2013, ENVSEC funded activities were carried out mainly in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.
- A regional event with the participation of Aarhus Centers from the Central Asia region as well as from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus was organized in 2013.
- Project activities in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan were supported through parallel funds.

Kazakhstan

During 2013, the Aarhus Network in Kazakhstan conducted public awareness and public participation activities on environmental rights granted under the Aarhus Convention and targeted various stakeholders throughout the country. More specifically, the following activities were supported:

- Participation of government officials and Aarhus representatives in international conferences on the Aarhus Convention.
- Organization of a round table on the regulatory aspects of implementation of the Aarhus Convention. During the round table, discussions focused on two draft documents which were later presented to the Aarhus Convention Secretariat:
 - A national report on the fulfilment of the Government's obligations in the process of implementation of the Convention in Kazakhstan, and
 - A legal draft on certain regulatory decisions of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, entitled *On some issues of the legal practices applied by courts in disputes in the field of environmental protection in civil cases*.
- As a result of the round table, the recommendations developed by the experts were incorporated into the documents. Moreover, the public discussions allowed civil society to draw the attention of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Environment on the questions of access to review violations of domestic environmental law.

Kyrgyzstan

In addition to its regular activities, the Aarhus in Osh carried out the following activities in 2013:

- A training session was organized on the normative legal acts in the sphere of environmental protection and protected natural areas. During the training, the participants had the opportunity to discuss legislation on environmental protection, subsoil use, protected natural areas, forest code, and more specifically the designation of the Karabuura area as a national park.
- A workshop was organized to discuss the 2013 National Report on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, as prepared by the State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyzstan. The comments and inputs of the workshop participants on the National Implementation Report along with the outcome

of the discussion were later presented to the national authorities at a meeting in Bishkek.

- A number of training sessions were organized to strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders, particularly of local self-governance bodies for the prevention of conflicts between local communities and industry. In particular in the mining areas in Kok-Tash village of Alabuka region, Jany-Bazar village of Chatkal region and Kerben town of Aksy region. The trainings addressed the following:
 - Mechanisms of public participation in decision-making process on projects which have adverse environmental impacts;
 - Procedures and mechanisms for preparing and conducting public hearings;
 - Procedures for making an inquiry to state organizations for information, and;
 - Introduction of the environmental legislation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.
- A training session was organized in the Avletim village of Aksy region of Jalalabat province to build upon local capacities on how to prepare, negotiate and process multi-stakeholder agreements that aim for dialogue and co-operation among local stakeholders in addressing challenges associated with the mining industry.
- A public hearing was organized in the Avletim rural district of Aksy region of Jalalabat province which brought together the local community, local authority and a mining company to inform the participants on the results of the geological investigation of the coal field Itagar and the results of the analysis of the potential impacts of the mining operation on water resources.

Turkmenistan

- The Aarhus Center in Turkmenistan continued to provide free access to the internet for the public, the NGOs and all stakeholders interested in obtaining environmental information. Furthermore, the environmental library has continuously grown and more materials have been made available to the public.
- The Aarhus of Turkmenistan worked in close co-operation with the Ministry of Nature Protection on the development of national environmental plans.
- Free legal consultations were provided to the public, either related to the Aarhus Convention or on national environmental legislation related matters.
- A manual on legal rights connected to the Aarhus Convention was developed and is currently being published for wide distribution.
- Several public discussions were organized with communities to inform them of their legal rights under the Aarhus Convention.

Regional Activities

- Aarhus Centers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the regional meeting *Aarhus centers: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention* organized in July 2013 in Vienna. This meeting brought together over 100 participants from Aarhus Convention National Focal Points, Aarhus managers, NGOs, representatives of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, ENVSEC partners and international experts. Here participants shared experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and worked to enhance networking amongst the Aarhus Centers. The Meeting also included capacity building ses-

sions on several priority issues related to the implementation of the Convention for the Aarhus Centers.

4.1.3 Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia, Phase III (CA 2.3)

Background

In Central Asia, dams and reservoirs are of major importance for the economy and for the future development of the sub region. However, ageing dams and a lack of funding for their adequate maintenance represents a risk to the region's economic, social and physical security by posing a threat to lives, health, property and environment.

In a previous ENVSEC project considerable progress has been achieved. Examples include a draft sub regional agreement and the development of relevant national legislation for their further enhancement in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The need for continued work in this area has been stressed by all countries in the region and as such, ENVSEC Partners were requested to respond to this need. This project fosters cooperation between all five countries in the water sector in spite of the sometimes difficult political relations. The project is crucial to increasing the safety of the populations living in transboundary basins.

Leading Agency: UNECE

Other Agencies: UNDP, OSCE

Budget: EURO 133,265

Donor: Finland

Duration: 01 January 2012 - 31 December 2015

Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

- To build trust between participating countries and to promote economic, social and physical security by regional cooperation on dam safety, including contributing to: improved legislation and institutions at the national level; training on the safe operation of hydro-technical installations; regional cooperation, and safer operations of individual dams.

Results

- Continued support to the development of safety monitoring on the Kirov dam.
- Development of a joint Kazakh-Kyrgyz safety review of the Orto-Tokoi dam.
- Support for a training course in Kazakhstan with the participation of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
- Development of a text book on the safety of hydraulic installations for Central Asia.
- A Regional meeting for the exchange of experiences and planning of further project work.

Highlights

- The joint Kazakh-Kyrgyz safety review of the Orto-Tokoi dam further demonstrates the willingness of both countries to cooperate constructively on the issue of dam safety.

4.1.4 Transboundary Health and Environmental Pollution in the Tajik-Uzbek Border Area

Background

Transboundary airborne industrial pollutants have become a major point of political conflict between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, particularly, in relation to the Soviet-era Tajik Aluminum Company (TALCO) smelter located in Tajikistan close to the Uzbekistan border and some major industrial complexes located near the Tajik border in Uzbekistan, such as the Bekabad Metallurgy Plant, the Almalyk Metallurgy Plant and the Fergana Valley industrial zones. Air and water pollution from these smelters and plants are claimed to have dangerously impacted the environment and health of the population in the nearby Surkhandarya province of Uzbekistan and Sogd region in Tajikistan.

Following a petition from Uzbekistan in September 2011, together with a request for assistance from the international community, UNEP and the ENVSEC Initiative initiated a project to assess the potential effects of TALCO in Uzbekistan as well as the environmental impact of other industry sites on both sides of the Tajik-Uzbek border. While a number of initiatives had previously been launched to address the transboundary pollution issue, available results were too general or scientifically unreliable. The objective of this ENVSEC project was to assess the problems in a scientific and neutral manner, while identifying possibilities of establishing a constructive dialogue between the two countries.

Leading Agency: UNEP

Other agencies: World Health Organization (WHO)

Budget: EUR 40,000

Donor: Finland

Duration: 1 April 2012 - 2014

Countries: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Objectives

- Development of an up to date understanding of the issues surrounding transboundary pollution issues in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Undertaking of integrated scientifically-based technical assessments of the environmental situation (in particular land, water and air), of impacts on human health and ecosystems as well as an identification of the sources of industrial pollution, on both sides of the border.

Results

- An initial report was prepared which includes information on the transboundary pollution issues all along the common border in Tajikistan and on one industrial case, TALCO, in Uzbekistan. The report was based on a review of publically accessible data and information and field visits in both countries, including discussions with authorities at the ministerial level, the regional and community level as well as with civil society and locals. The report will be shared with both countries in April 2014.
- A road map for the way forward was also developed and shared with the two countries, including recommendations for a follow-up project with further assessment and identification of all transboundary pollution sources along the

common border; measuring the magnitude for each identified source and the environmental impact in the surrounding region; establishing a map of pollution emission and impacted areas; and providing short, medium and long term remediation and mitigation action plans.

Highlights

- Tajikistan and Uzbekistan welcomed ENVSEC support in preparing and implementing an independent assessment of the situation on transboundary pollution along the common border. This involved both Uzbek and Tajik stakeholders in the research, data collection, compilation and development of recommendations.
- The two governments are in a dialogue about a further environmental impact assessment of the transboundary air pollution problems under a multi-partite joint assessment-investigation team, including Uzbek and Tajik representatives, international experts, and NGO representatives.

4.2 Eastern Europe

4.2.1 Climate change and security in the Dniester river basin (EE 2.1/2.2/2.3/2.4)

Background

Climate change could potentially lead to increased competition for scarce resources, decreased food production and decreased economic growth. The transboundary nature of the Dniester basin necessitates that risks and challenges are shared and that solutions need to be coordinated. The Dniester River is expected to be heavily affected by climate change, leading to warmer and wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Flooding is a major transboundary problem in the basin and recently the lower Dniester has been significantly affected by drought. Such impacts on water resources can have a cascading effect on the population and sectors such as agriculture (decreased availability of water for irrigation coupled with increased demand), energy (reduced hydropower potential), recreation (water-linked tourism), fisheries and biodiversity. The project is building on the preceding ENVSEC project *Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in Dniester Basin (Dniester III floods and climate)* which has been implemented since 2010 under the ENVSEC initiative by UNEP, UNECE and OSCE.

The project is an integral part of, and will support the implementation of a larger scale ENVSEC project jointly implemented with the EU Instrument for Stability (EU/IFS) entitled *Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus*. A separate report on the implementation of this project will be submitted to the EC and shared with Austria.

Leading Agency: UNECE

Other Agencies: OSCE

Budget: EUR 250,000 funded by Austria, EUR 620,000 in total, incl. co-funding

Donor: Austria and European Commission⁵

⁵ This is a project from the ENVSEC collaboration on 'Climate Change in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus' with the European Union Instrument for Stability. The activities and funds for this project are covered in a separate EU-OSCE contribution agreement for which a progress report is produced separately.

Duration: 2013 - 2015

Countries: Ukraine, Moldova

Objectives

- The project will increase the adaptive capacity of the riparian countries sharing the Dniester River basin through improved transboundary cooperation. This will make communities living across the Dniester River basin more resilient to the negative impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.
- Main results will include the development of a basin-wide transboundary climate change adaptation strategy together with an implementation and resource mobilization plan. In addition, implementation of a few priority measures in the Basin will be supported.

Results

- The first draft of the Strategic Framework for basin-wide adaptation (Adaptation Strategy) was prepared and includes information on the Dniester River basin, climate change and security impacts in the river basin, as well as possible overall adaptation measures. Consultations with national stakeholders started and all relevant national authorities from both countries (ministries, water agencies, hydromet services) provided feedback on the draft.
- A draft list of adaptation measures was prepared and consulted with countries/stakeholders, focusing on the main identified areas: monitoring/information exchange and ecosystem restoration.
- National experts from Moldova and Ukraine have been selected in an internationally competitive process regarding who will support the discussions on the development of the strategic framework for basin adaptation, the development of the implementation plan and resource mobilization strategy. They will also establish links with national institutions, as well as present the outputs of the project in different national meetings.
- The Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation, which is steering the project, was recreated (new nominations were received from the authorities in both countries) and held its 7th meeting in Chisinau, Moldova on 10 July 2013 and its 8th meeting in Kiev, Ukraine on 13 December 2013.
- Cooperation with the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation started and they organized a workshop on risk assessment back-to-back with the Working Group meeting in December 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine.
- Moldova ratified the Dniester treaty in January 2013, Ukraine is in the process of doing so. Consultations were held with national authorities about the progress of the ratification of the Dniester treaty and its eventual implementation at several occasions, in Kiev, Geneva and Chisinau in February, April, September and December 2013 respectively.
- Representatives of the Dniester basin presented the project and exchanged experience with other representatives from the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation, at two meetings held in Geneva in February and June 2013. This network is coordinated by UNECE and the International Network of Basin Organizations. In addition, the project was presented at several additional occasions, including the European Conference on River Restoration in September 2013 in Vienna.

- The contest entitled *Colors of the Dniester: save the climate by conserving the river bank ecosystems*, organized for students of schools and other educational institutions, was supported as one of the priority adaptation awareness measures. Prize-awarded drawings were presented at the 8th meeting of the Working Group on 13 December 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine.

Highlights

- The new project on climate change and security was officially launched in Chisinau, Moldova on 10 July 2013 with high-level representatives from the riparian countries, involved international organizations, donors and other stakeholders. Representatives of mass media also participated in the event which led to significant media coverage.
- Consultations with the representatives of a wide range of sectors, agencies and areas in the Moldovan part of the Dniester basin on 9 July 2013 focused on the sectorial and subnational perspectives of adaptation to climate change. During interactive group exercises, the participants jointly outlined vulnerable areas and sectors in the basin in addition to discussing the prioritization of adaptation measures.
- The Dniester basin is now one of very few transboundary basins worldwide with a draft transboundary climate change adaptation strategy.

4.2.2 Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region (EE 1.1)

Background

Romania and Ukraine share the Danube Delta in close proximity to the frontier with Moldova. Second largest in Europe, the delta is a unique, valuable and vulnerable ecosystem of international importance. It is also a major transport hub connecting the Black Sea routes and the Danube navigation corridor. In August 2004, Ukraine completed the first phase of the *Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal* (the Bystre Canal), and a second phase is underway.

Much of the national and international controversies on the management of the Delta arise from its location. As negotiations to resolve these controversies have been difficult, a common understanding has emerged that a broader context is needed to move cooperation in the region forward. Thus in 2007, the delegations to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) agreed to co-operate to improve the ecological status of the Danube Delta, starting with the preparation of a coordinated Danube Delta Analysis Report leading to the integrated management of the Danube Delta Sub-basin.

Leading Agency: ICPDR

Other Agencies: UNEP, UNECE

Budget: EUR 281,636

Donor: Sweden, Finland

Duration: September 2010 – July 2013

Countries: Moldova, Ukraine, Romania

Objectives

- Developing a Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis as the necessary step to a Management Plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin.
- Strengthening the joint monitoring, information exchange and communication in the basin.
- Improving public participation in water and environmental decision-making in the Delta.

Results

- ENVSEC support allowed for increased progress with regard to the implementation of key elements of the EU Water Framework Directive– the establishment of typology, reference conditions and the designation of water bodies for surface waters and groundwater.
- The ongoing assessment of the significant pressures on the water environment allows, in combination with monitoring information, the ability to outline the risk of failing to achieve “good status” for the Danube Delta waters, and therefore set the basis for measures planning in the frame of follow-up activities after the finalization of the project.

Highlights

- The year 2013 allowed project activities to substantially move forward. The assessment and compilation of the results from the JDDS, a joint ship survey comprising of experts from the three countries conducted in late 2011, was finalized and summarized in a report. Chemical and biological quality elements, alongside hydromorphological parameters were also assessed.
- A specific targeted pilot activity allowed the knowledge gap on hydromorphological pressures specifically in Moldova and Ukraine to further close.
- The results are inter alia feeding into the preparation of the Danube Delta Analysis Report which is being developed based on the requirements of the WFD and is in the focus of recent project activities.

4.2.3 Development of the lake Druksiai /Drisviaty Basin Management Program (EE 1.2)

Background

The transboundary water basin of Druksiai/Drisviaty Lake is shared by three countries: Lithuania, Belarus and Latvia. It has both international and community importance as it is a part of the national park, protected nature reserves and NATURA 2000 network sites, which are fully or partly protected by national laws. The basin was also identified as an environmental security hotspot, especially in the region of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) and its nuclear waste storage and repository facilities and the new Visaginas NPP. The environmental pollution and security issues in the lake basin make it a transboundary object of high concern. Additionally, these national frontiers represent barriers for cooperation, implementation of basin approaches and the integration of various water management aspects.

Leading Agency: UNEP GRID-Arendal

Other Agencies: UNEP, REC

Budget: EUR 102,753

Donor: Sweden, Finland

Duration: November 2010 – September 2013

Countries: Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus

Objectives

- To strengthen water resources assessment and reporting systems in bordering countries.
- Conduct the Druksiai/Drisviaty Lake Basin Analysis Report (BAR) conforming with EU Water Framework Directive.
- Improve the collaboration of the relevant authorities, as well as improving the cooperation at the level of research, awareness raising and public participation regarding environmental and security issues in correspondence with EU water policy.
- Contribute to the establishment of the process for formulating and implementing the Basin Management Plan (BMP).
- Aim to reach technical and political agreement on the content of the BAR and BMP and the implementation strategy.
- Further develop the functional information exchange system and interactive Geographical Information System (GIS) web-based resources hosting the user-friendly database for lake basin management.
- Provide training in water resource management, GIS, public relations and awareness rising.

Results

The main results in 2013 of the Druksiai/Drisviaty Lake BAR were:

- The final draft of the Druksiai/Drisviaty Lake BAR was finalized. The Draft Report was compiled by experts from all three countries. The report identified all main characteristics of the basin, and reviewed water quality and water quantity in accordance to the WFD requirements. Furthermore, the report presented an economic analysis of water use in the basin, and also discussed some of the nuclear energy and accident emergency management issues in the lake basin.
- The results were translated into the Russian language.
- A national peer review was conducted as agreed in the project process. All the Working Group members (representatives from each countries Ministries or Agencies) of the project where officially contacted for the peer review process, and had the draft report sent to them for comments. Some feedback was also received.

Highlights

One of the main highlights in 2013 in the Druksiai/Drisviaty project was a training workshop on *Implementing the Economic Aspects of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)*. The workshop took place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 23 May 2013, and was organized by REC, Hungary, GRID-Arendal, and Norway. Apart from the main objective of the workshop, which was to strengthen the cooperation between the Druksiai/Drisviaty lake basin stakeholders, the main aims of the meeting were to:

- Implement capacity-building training for the officials of the three countries sharing the basin concerning the economic analysis in accordance with the WFD.
- Transfer knowledge and experiences between the EU and non EU countries.

- Provide key tools, methods and lessons learned about other countries in accordance to the economic analysis of WFD.
- Gather participants from all three basin countries (Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus), including government officials, NGO representatives and professional consultants.

4.2.4 Reducing vulnerability to extreme flood and climate change in the Dniester River basin (Dniester III Flood and Climate) (EE 3.1)

Background

The Dniester basin suffers from heavy floods of increasing magnitude, often with trans-boundary impacts. In Ukraine, disastrous floods in July 2008, which were possibly caused or exacerbated by climate change, led to damages, including 30 fatalities and 150,000 persons in more than 1,000 settlements affected. The project on reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change therefore seeks to: contribute to reducing damages and associated security risks due to future flooding events; assess other possible impacts of the changing climate; and contribute to improved adaptation in the basin. The project started in 2010 and is also part of the UNECE- ENVSEC programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins.

Leading Agency: UNECE

Other Agencies: OSCE, UNEP

Budget: EUR 399,500

Donor: Finland and Sweden

Duration: 2010 – 2014

Countries: Ukraine, Moldova

Objectives

The project aims to expand and further strengthen cooperative management in the Dniester River basin in order to address cross-border management of floods, whilst taking into account both current climate variability and long-term impacts of climate change on flood risks. It includes the following specific objectives:

- Scenario and modelling-based studies of climate change impacts with a special focus on extreme floods in the Dniester river basin.
- Vulnerability assessments and production of flood hazard and risk/ vulnerability maps.
- Improved monitoring and data exchange infrastructure, including the installation of new automated flow monitoring stations.
- Enhanced capacities and plans for flood risk communication on the sub-basin / local level.
- Agreement and planning of further measures for flood risk reduction, and, if possible, implementation of selected small measures.

Results

- Vulnerability assessment for the entire Dniester river basin was finalized, including last comments.

- The modelling and mapping of flood risks in selected territories was finalized (Mogylyiv-Podilskyy, Ukraine – Ataki, Moldova, as well as the middle stretch of the Dniester).
- Further modelling of flood risks in the Dniester Delta is ongoing in the area from village Tolmazy, Moldova to the Dniester river estuary, Ukraine, including Turunchuk distributary was identified for modeling.
- The data on river channel cross-sections and dams in the focus area was prepared during the field work (August, 2013).
- GIS processing of collected data is currently under preparation and the final stages of the study, which include modeling and mapping of flood risks zones, are scheduled for May-August 2014.
- Flood communication studies were conducted in the Dniester River Basin, including a series of interviews on flood alerts and flood communication with national and local representatives.
- An overview on flood communication and information exchange in the basin was prepared, in addition to recommendations for the improvement of this communication.
- An international workshop on flood communication was organized in the basin on 27-28 May 2013 in Lviv, Ukraine. More than 60 representatives gathered from key organizations from Ukraine and Moldova, international organizations and external experts from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Poland, as well as the Danube and the Tisza Rivers Basins. Local plans for flood communication for the four communities in the basin were elaborated upon during the workshop. One of these plans will be discussed in detail with local experts in the next workshop (May 2014, Vadul-lui-Vode, Moldova).
- Improved capacities for the monitoring and warning of transboundary floods were created thanks to the installation of automated flow monitoring stations in the upper part of the basin in December 2012.

Highlights

- Project results were published and presented at international events, including the first meeting of the UNECE global network of basins working on climate change adaptation in February 2013 and a global workshop in June 2013.
- The publication *Dniester without borders* and its summary in English and Russian was published, summarizing the results of the Dniester I-III projects and the present project.
- An elaborated model of flood risks for Mogylyiv-Podilskyy, Ukraine – Ataki, Moldova will be used by the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute and its local division in the town of Mogylyiv-Podilskyy for flood forecasts.
- The model of flood risks for the Dniester Delta, which is currently under preparation, will be used by both the Ukrainian and Moldavian Hydrometeorological Centers for better forecasting of floods in the area.

4.2.5. Establishment of an Aarhus Centre in Chisinau and a Public Environmental Information Centre in Bender

Background

Since 2002, OSCE with the support of ENVSEC has been supporting the establishment and functioning of Aarhus Centers and Public Environmental Information Centers in

several countries, including those in Eastern Europe. The Centers assist in implementing the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention by facilitating access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making and by promoting the access to justice in environmental matters. The Centers are flexible in their approach, taking into account local needs and capacities, their geographic location and the specific situational and political climate of the country in which they operate.

In Moldova, this project aims for the establishment and functioning of an Aarhus Center in Chisinau and a Public Environmental Information Centre in Bender to strengthen implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in Moldova and help in building confidence between Moldovan and Transdnistrian communities and thus, promoting a favorable climate to the Transnistrian settlement process. In addition to ENVSEC funding, the project received contributions from Norway through OSCE.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 44, 140

Donor: Finland

Duration: August 2011 - December 2014

Countries: Moldova

Objectives

- Strengthening environmental governance by establishing and supporting the functioning of an Aarhus Center in Chisinau and a Public Environmental Information Centre in Bender and strengthening implementation of the Aarhus Convention principles.
- Contribute to the development of civil society and the confidence building efforts within the framework of the Transnistrian settlement process.

Results

- In February 2013, a Public Environmental Centre in Bender (PECiB) was established on the basis of the Transdnestrian NGO *Pelican*.
- Aarhus Centers in Chisinau and Bender through public hearings, round tables, workshops, public information campaigns as well as other thematic events improved understating of the Aarhus Convention's concepts and environmental governance issues. These events drew the attention of local stakeholders to local environmental problems and raised awareness of rights provided through the Aarhus Convention.

Highlights

- In 2013, the Chisinau Aarhus Center organized a meeting with highly ranked officials from the Moldovan Ministry of Environment on the promotion of the draft law on the Pollutant Release and Transfer (PRTR) ratification. Later on, the Center also organized a seminar on establishing a National Register on PRTR and supported the development of a feasibility study.
- In April 2013, the Aarhus Center in Chisinau conducted four-days of training on Access to Public Participation on Environmental Decision Matters and later that month, a round table on the role of the Aarhus Centers in Moldova was organized. A seminar on the Aarhus Convention was conducted in December 2013.

- In the area of access to justice, the Center in Chisinau conducted a seminar on access to justice on environmental matters. The Center was also involved in consultation activities, as three legal cases were received for investigation and consultation.
- A public consultation regarding the draft Moldovan National Law on Chemicals, followed by a workshop on this topic were organized by the Chisinau Aarhus Center.
- The website⁶ of the Aarhus Center in Chisinau was launched in October 2013.
- The Chisinau Aarhus Center supported the development of a legal study on Moldovan national legislation on waste pesticides management and organized two information campaigns: one on disaster risk reduction and the other on chemical safety.
- In February 2013, a Public Environmental Centre was established in Bender on the basis of the Transdnestrian NGO *Pelican*.
- In April 2013, the PECiB organized a round table on the role of Aarhus Centers in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and launched a website⁷ dedicated to the Center's activities.
- A further round table and public discussions were conducted by the PECiB on the local bill *On introducing amendments and addenda to the Law on Environmental Protection*.
- A series of seminars were organized by the PECiB with the aim to contribute to the strengthening of environmental governance and raising awareness of the local communities on environmental related issues, the seminars included: *Environmental journalism and access to environmental information; The PRTR Protocol as a tool for public awareness and participation in environmental activities; Public participation in the development of Local Action Plans on Environment Protection; and the Sources and forms of access to environmental information*.
- Aarhus Centers from Chisinau and Bender participated in the regional meeting *Aarhus centers: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention* organized in July 2013 in Vienna. This meeting brought together around 100 participants including Aarhus Convention National Focal Points, Aarhus Center managers, NGOs, representatives of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, ENVSEC partners, and international experts - to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and to enhance networking among the Aarhus Centers. The Meeting also included capacity building sessions on several priority issues related to the Convention implementation for the Aarhus Centers.

4.2.6 River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman river basin (EE 1.3)

Background

Transboundary cooperation in the Neman basin, shared by Belarus, Lithuania and the Russian Federation is limited. An agreement between the three riparian countries was negotiated in 2003, however, it is still not in force. Thus, there are currently no institutionalized structures for transboundary cooperation. According to the project findings,

⁶ <http://aarhus.vox.md>

⁷ <http://unioneco.org/eco/>

climate change will bring warmer winters and less snow to the Neman Basin. Temperatures in the basin are expected to rise by 1.4° C–1.7° C on average within the next 35 years, with a 2.0° C–2.8° C increase in winter and 0.7° C–1.1° C increase in summer according to different scenarios of climate change. Other probable impacts include increased precipitation in winter and run-off changes, with an expected increase of winter run-off, decreases in spring and summer run-off, as well as an earlier peak of the dates of spring flooding. These expected impacts require a basin-wide approach to climate change adaptation. The project is part of the ENVSEC-UNECE Water Convention's programme of pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins. While the ENVSEC MB approved the project in May 2011, Belarus-based activities implemented by UNDP could only start after the project's formal registration in December 2011.

Leading Agency: UNECE

Other Agencies: UNDP

Budget: EUR 198,924

Donor: Sweden (and Finland and Switzerland directly to UNECE, not through the ENVSEC TF)

Duration: 2011 - 2014

Countries: Belarus, Lithuania, Russian Federation

Objectives

- Improve integrated river basin management and transboundary cooperation in the Neman river basin in times of a changing climate.
- Support dialogue and cooperation on the design of an adaptation strategy in the transboundary context of the Neman Basin.

Results

- A vulnerability assessment based on expected impacts of climate change for the Neman river basin was prepared and discussed with stakeholders from different sectors and regions in Belarus and Lithuania. This included the preparation of maps for the entire Neman River Basin, illustrating the vulnerability assessment results for agriculture, forestry, industry and energy, population, natural resources (ecosystems) as well as an integrated map.
- A list of possible adaptation measures to climate change for short-, middle- and long-term perspectives was elaborated on for the Neman River basin.
- A draft version of the strategic framework for basin-wide climate change adaptation in the Neman River Basin was prepared.
- The internet database⁸ on Neman River water resources was upgraded.
- The project enabled renewed transboundary cooperation between the three riparian countries.
- A common understanding of climate change impacts among riparian countries was created.
- Input for the revision of the Lithuanian river Basin Management Plan for the Neman was provided by Belarus.
- The project led to growing interest in further cooperation of riparian countries in the Neman River basin.

⁸ <http://cricuwr.by/neman/>

Highlights

- Experts of the project presented the project results at several international meetings, predominately under the Water Convention's programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins.
- Two multi-stakeholder workshops were organized on the discussion of adaptation to climate change in the Neman river basin in Minsk, Belarus and in Vilnius, Lithuania, in March and May 2013. 120 representatives of regional authorities, water-related sectors, enterprises, national and international experts participated in the workshops.

4.2.7. Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in the Transnistrian region of Moldova (EE 2.1)

Background

In April 2008, following a seminar held in Odessa, Ukraine on *Confidence and Security Building Measures in Economic and Environmental Spheres in Moldova*, the de facto Transnistrian authorities requested the ENVSEC Initiative to provide support for the safe disposal of approximately 100 tonnes of obsolete pesticides. The stockpile might include banned chemicals such as Persistent Organic Pollutants, unidentified material and chemicals made unserviceable as a result of age, contamination or chemical breakdown. The Moldovan side supported this initiative and offered its co-operation in developing a project for the disposal of the pesticides.

A project was developed in cooperation with the representatives of the Republic of Moldova and the Transnistrian authorities within the Ecology Working Group set up under an initiative to promote Confidence Building Measures.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Other Agencies: UNEP

Budget: EUR 235,400

Donor: Finland

Duration: July 2012 - December 2014

Countries: Moldova

Objectives

The goal of the project was to dispose of an estimated 105 tonnes of obsolete pesticides, within two implementation phases:

- Phase 1: Removal and destruction of pesticides centralized in Voronkovo village, Rybnița area of Transdnistria (30 tonnes).
- Phase 2: Removal and destruction of the remaining pesticides stored in Transdnistria (75 tonnes).

Results

- The German chemical disposal company SAVA was selected to carry out all phases of the project as Implementing Partner in accordance with OSCE rules and procedures. Additionally, a MoU between the Moldovan Ministry of Environment (MoE) and OSCE was signed on 22 February 2013, as the MoE had to endorse the

move of the pesticides in order to clear customs and international transportation issues.

- The Transnistrian authorities committed themselves to facilitate the removal/disposal process and signed a separate contract with SAVA. Access to the storage site was granted by the Transnistrian authorities only after signature of the contract with SAVA. Along with OSCE representatives, SAVA accessed and evaluated the storage site in Voronkovo (Rybnita district) and found that the real quantity stored there was closer to 105 tonnes rather than the initial estimation of 30 tonnes (Phase 1) as mentioned in the contract. SAVA made a detailed analysis of pesticides samples, repacked the pesticides in proper containers and started the transportation process to Germany in November 2013. A noticeable delay occurred due to the late reception of the international transit clearance. The removal is expected to be completed by the end of March 2014.

Highlights

- Transnistrian authorities committed themselves to facilitate the removal/disposal process and signed a separate contract with SAVA (without financial obligations). The removal process is on track and is anticipated to be completed by late March 2014.
- The overall quantity of pesticides in the Transnistrian region was largely underestimated, and an accurate assessment visit by an international expert as well as further disposal is needed, within the frame of future projects.

4.2.8. Support to the demarcation of the Belarus-Ukrainian state border in radioactively polluted areas

Background

A Belorussian-Ukrainian agreement on border demarcation was ratified in June 2013. The demarcation should be implemented with care, as 120km of the 1400km border runs along the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone which suffered the most following the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Accident in 1986. The project aims at mapping radioactive contamination along the border line in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, which will allow for the development of a health regulation providing clear instructions on safety measures for the personnel working in the region and those involved in the demarcation work.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Other Agencies: UNEP

Budget: USD 240,000

Donor: Finland

Duration: January 2013 - December 2014

Countries: Belarus, Ukraine

Objectives

- Radioecological assessment of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone by identifying and mapping environmental risks in border areas.
- Development of a sanitary regulation for operations in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.

Results

- The terms of reference for field research of the radioactive contamination along the Belorussian-Ukrainian border was developed and agreed among project beneficiaries and participants.
- A geographical route for the research was drawn and agreed upon.
- During the autumn 2013, Ukrainian scientists took 120 soil samples and measured 586 points for equivalent absorbed radiation doses. Results of the field study are currently being analyzed.

Highlights

- A similar study is planned for Belarus in May 2014.
- The current project activities will contribute to the drafting of safety regulations for personnel that are involved in assessments of radioactive contamination.

4.2.9. Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border and environmental authorities

Background

Transboundary trafficking of waste and other environment sensitive commodities is an environmental crime. It is also a significant and increasingly lucrative business resulting in a burden for economies, human health and the environment. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova reported cases of transboundary trafficking of waste at its national borders. To prevent and detect illegal movement of this type, the top recommendation is to ensure that the officers checking cargo at the borders have sound professional skills in this area..

Leading Agency: OSCE

Other Agencies: UNEP

Budget: USD 180,000

Donor: Finland

Duration: January 2012 - December 2014

Countries: Moldova, Ukraine

Objectives

- To raise awareness on the scope of the problem among responsible governmental institutions.
- To support capacity building of national and local authorities responsible for detection and prevention of unauthorized hazardous waste transportation and other environmental crimes at borders.

Results

- An e-learning interactive course on detection and prevention of environmental crimes at borders was designed and developed. It includes three modules devoted to the trafficking of hazardous and other wastes (subject of the Basel Convention), of ozone-depleting substances (the Montreal Protocol) and rare and endangered species (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)). Transfer of the e-course to educational and capacity-building institutions is currently under discussion.

- A mobile group of trainers was established as a result of the international workshop. These trainers represent customs, border guard and environmental authorities. Members of the mobile group of trainers from Ukraine have already conducted two national workshops; those from Moldova will do so in March 2014.
- An English version of the UNEP publication *Vital Waste Graphics-3* was translated into Russian and published (1000 copies).

Highlights

- The e-learning course on detection and prevention of environmental crimes at border was developed.
- A mobile group of trainers was established and the trainers conducted two workshops in Ukraine.
- The UNEP publication *Vital Waste Graphics-3* was translated and published in Russian.

4.2.10. Swedish Strategy for Cooperation with Belarus

Sweden's new strategy for cooperation with Belarus for the period 2011-2014 supports democratic development and increased respect for human rights. It also contributes to strong environmental protection. In agreement with SIDA, ENVSEC during the period 2012-2014, will contribute to this new strategy by: (i) promoting the application of regional environmental instruments (UN environmental conventions, EU directives) and (ii) supporting increased public awareness and participation in Belarus.

Consequently, the SIDA funded ENVSEC programme in Belarus responds to both ENVSEC and Sweden's priorities, and focuses on the environmental component of the strategy (also linking to its other objectives, in particular, through a strong involvement of mass media and NGOs). UNEP is the lead agency for the programme, whilst other ENVSEC agencies are lead agencies for some of the components. Two groups of activities with respective components have been formulated as follows:

- A. Promotion and application of regional environmental instruments (UN environmental conventions, EU directives) for assessing transboundary environmental impacts, management of floods and the prevention of accidents;
 - A1. Analysis of environmental impact in a transboundary context
 - A2. Flood risk assessment and monitoring in the Pripjat basin
 - A3. Environmental safety of oil and gas pipelines

- B. Improving public awareness of regional and global (climate) environment-security challenges and hot-spots, and strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention to support public participation in decision-making.
 - B1. Environment-security issues and hot-spots in mass media
 - B2. Climate change – an emerging challenge and security problem
 - B3. Strengthening security through implementing the Aarhus Convention and promoting its protocol on PRTRs

4.2.10/A1 Analysis of Environmental Impact in a Transboundary Context

Background

Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and SEAs provide institutional frameworks for addressing the concerns of both the public and the governments in relation to new projects and plans and their impacts on the environment, making them proper tools for the reduction of both environment and related security risks. The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) together with its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment set out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities, plans and programmes at an early stage of planning. Belarus accepted the Convention on 10 November 2005 and requested the UNECE Secretariat to support them in being able to fully implement the Convention.

The project's overall objective is to build administrative capacity and enhance legal and institutional development for applying the transboundary EIA and SEA procedures to projects and plans subject to environment and security challenges in Belarus and—where there is a transboundary context—Ukraine. Also to foster stakeholder dialogue and access to information in relation to projects and plans with transboundary environmental impacts. The Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA are used as the main instruments to achieve this.

Leading Agency: UNEP

Other Agencies: UNECE, OSCE and UNDP

Budget: SEK 1,500,000

Donor: Sweden

Duration: 2012-2014

Countries: Belarus

Objectives

- Managing environment and security risks with EIA and SEA.
- A pilot project in Belarus and Ukraine on post-project analysis of environmental impact in a transboundary context.
- Technical advice and training on SEA in Belarus.

Results

- Analysis of the current legislation in Belarus in the application of the UNECE Protocol on SEA was prepared by an international expert with the support of a national consultant. The experts reviewed existing procedures and institutional frameworks, identified gaps in the existing national legislation, and made recommendations on the required improvements.
- Taking into account the results of the legislative review on SEA, Belarus is in the process of developing its legislation either through drafting a separate law on SEA; or incorporating obligations on SEA into the current legislation (the Law on Environmental Protection and/or the Law on State Ecological Expertise) and in parallel is also drafting regulations for detailed procedures on SEA to be adopted by Governmental resolution.

- 50 specialists, representing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, Regional Executive Committees, Regional Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Regional Municipal Public Housing Service Organizations and NGOs were trained on SEA, and were provided a step-by-step guide on the application of SEA as a tool for strategic decision-making at regional and local levels.
- Dialogue between experts of Belarus and Ukraine on monitoring and environment impact assessment was initiated.
- Experts from both countries exchanged monitoring data and information and have discussed the state of the environment in the focus areas, which has improved the transparency and level of trust between the parties.
- Experts of both countries tested a common approach for monitoring, and compared this with the methodologies used by laboratories for monitoring.

Highlights

- The results of the legislative review were discussed with the national authorities and other stakeholders at a round table consultation meeting on 5 September 2013.
- Three provincial workshops on *Implementing the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Belarus* were organized in 2013, 7-9 October in Gomel, 21-23 October in Brest, and 24-25 October in Grodno.
- A bilateral Working Group for the environmental monitoring of the Khotislavskoye quarry was established at the start-up workshop for the pilot project in Brest, Belarus, 9-10 April 2013, and three meetings of the Working Group were organized in Kyiv and Minsk.
- Field work on the Khotislavskoye quarry in Belarus and the Shatsk lakes in Ukraine was conducted by national experts.
- Data on the Khotislavskoye quarry was collected and analyzed, and a report was prepared by the bilateral working group for environmental monitoring.

4.2.10/B3 Swedish Strategy for Cooperation with Belarus: Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol. OSCE project title “Strengthening the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Belarus”

Background

Belarus has been active in implementing and promoting the Aarhus Convention since its ratification. At the same time, the country continues to face a number of challenges in implementation. The findings of the Aarhus Convention’s Compliance Committee indicate that the legal and institutional system in Belarus, especially with regard to decision-making process in environmental matters and access to environmental information, still needs strengthening. Belarus has not yet acceded to the Amendment on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) and has requested technical assistance in these areas. The experience of Belarus in public participation in environmental decision-making is also limited, but this is partly attributed to the lack of critical expertise in this area.

The project aims to address these challenges through raising awareness on the implementation of Aarhus Convention, its GMO amendment and Protocol on PRTRs; organizing a model public hearing on a specific activity; preparing a commentary on practical applications of the legislation on public participation in decision making in environmental matters; organizing a study tour to a country to learn from their best practices in public participation in environmental decision-making; strengthening the capacity of the Aarhus Center in Minsk; and assisting in preparing the required documents and establishing a pilot PRTR.

Leading Agencies: UNECE/OSCE, UNEP

Budget: 2,499,145 SEK

Donor: Sweden

Duration: March 2013 – March 2015

Countries: Belarus

Objectives

- To support the Government of Belarus in strengthening implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention with particular focus on promoting participatory environmental decision-making procedures and processes.

Results

- In the course of 2013, preparations were undertaken for organizing a three days national multi-stakeholder workshop in Minsk on *Advancing Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Belarus*. The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness about recent experiences in the implementation of the three pillars of the Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs. It also aims to address in detail issues such as public participation in international forums and public participation in decision-making regarding GMOs as well as the use of electronic information tools to facilitate access to information and public participation in environmental matters.

Highlights

- The workshop *Advancing Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Belarus* took place in January 2014. The workshop benefitted from the participation of over 50 representatives of various governmental institutions at central and local levels, academia, representatives of environmental civil society organizations, as well as National and Hrodno Aarhus Centers. Through the interactive exercises, the participants explored different measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention and its amendment on GMOs at the national and local levels and discussed the way forward in light of the forthcoming relevant changes of the legislation concerning access to information and public participation. Participants also gained access to the printed publications and materials developed for the workshop that could serve for further capacity-building activities in the country.
- A report of the workshop was developed, which provides a review of issues identified by participants and the recommendations proposed for the implementation of the Convention and its GMO amendment in Belarus.
- Currently the extension of the project is being considered in order to complete other activities under this component of the component *B3: Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol of the Swedish Strategy for cooperation with Belarus*.

Remaining work under components A2, A3, B1, B2 and B3 of the project

Proposals were solicited from external consulting firms, NGOs and other consortia to outsource the provision of technical expertise and logistical support for the implementation of these activities. As a result of the competitive selection process, ZOI Environmental Network was selected as the project contractor. The work under these components is at inception stage and will be carried out in the course of 2014.

4.3 South Eastern Europe

PRIORITY A - Management and reduction of trans-boundary risks from hazardous activities

Mining and mineral processing has played a vital part in the history and economy of the Western Balkans. Richly endowed with mineral resources such as copper, chromite, lead and zinc, it boasts some of the largest deposits in Europe. Capitalizing on such mineral assets will be a priority for SEE in order to boost local economies and attract foreign investment. To secure the environmental, economic and social sustainability of such new or restarted operations, the region will need to build local remediation and risk reduction capacity and to define and enforce the legal framework for sustainable mining practices at a national and supranational level.

The overall objective of Priority A is the prevention and mitigation of trans-boundary environmental risks arising from hazardous pollution hot-spots, in particular from abandoned mines (UNEP and UNDP), tailing dams and chemical sites, in addition to the mapping and assessment of active mining sites and the enhancement of regional dialogue for improved management and reduced environmental risks.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY A - Phase I

4.3.1. Building and improvement of constructions of tailings dams (A 1.1.1)

Background

During 2012, a green technology water treatment facility to treat acid mine water coming from Zuta Prla Mine was constructed, in cooperation with the Mojkovac Municipality. The system was unique in requiring no source of power, therefore eliminating the production of greenhouse gases, and no artificial chemical additives in treating the contaminated mine water. Instead natural materials readily available in the region, such as limestone and organic matter, are used to remove contamination from the water.

This green technology pilot acted as a regional demonstration of eco-friendly water treatment technologies which can be used at similar abandoned mining sites found throughout the Western Balkans. During 2012, it has been visited by a high level Kosovo* Officials, with representatives from the Trepca Mining Company, the Ministries of Environment and Economy and UNDP Kosovo* who were interested in the application of such technology at similar mining problem sites in Kosovo*. The site and the technology were also visited during the UNEP/UNDP hosted regional workshop held in Novem-

ber 2012.

Leading Agency: UNDP

Budget: EUR 43,000

Donor: Finland

Duration: 2010 - 2014

Countries: South-Eastern Europe

Objectives

- Preventing and mitigating local environmental and human health risks arising from hazardous pollution hot-spots in particular from abandoned mines and tailing dams.
- To mitigate environmental and human health risks at the selected mining sites.
- Building and/or improving the constructions at tailings dams in order to prevent dam failure.
- Controlling of water overflow (in cases where tailings dams are still operational), erosion control, pollution control/mitigation acid mine waters to protect the tailings dams or to minimize the levels of contaminated mine water entering the environment.

Results

- A series of meetings and field visits were undertaken in Albania during 2013 to visit environment and security hot-spots (i.e. former mine sites and tailing dams) and select priority locations for the development of technical documentation.
- Close cooperation has been established during these meetings with the Albanian Ministry of Environment and mining engineers from the National Agency for Natural Resources.

Highlights

- The Fushe-Arrez Mine was selected for further assessment. The mine is now privatized, but significant parts of the former mine tailings were owned by the government. The tailing dam has been damaged for some time, causing a severe impact on the adjacent Big Fan River and its downstream waters.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRORITY A - Phase II

4.3.2. Identification and discussion of specific EU accession risk (water directive, mining directive, industrial sites) and needs related to the mining risk sites (by site/country), including support to the implementation of UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and SEVESO II Directive on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (A1)

Background:

The SEE region is mainly affected by heavy, industrial pollution from the mining sector, intensive agriculture with yet uncalculated health impacts, and a lack of water technology and infrastructure.

Multilateral environmental agreements provide governments with necessary guidance for addressing most of these challenges. However, their enforcement in many of the countries of the region is still far from being satisfactory. Their entry into force and implementation demand high political will as well as innovative and swift actions beyond conventional measures, both of which require informed and active civil society engagement as the primary driving force. Montenegro has been a Party to the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents since 2009, yet it still faces challenges in its implementation of the Convention. Since 2008, all assistance activities under the Programme are based on the Strategic Approach. In November, 2012, the 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention decided to invite the country to join the Assistance Programme. As part of this approach, countries analyze their level of implementation of the Convention and identify challenges faced in a self-assessment document, and additionally develop a national action plan to address the challenges identified in the self-assessment.

Activities in Phase I of this project contributed to strengthened national efforts for prevention and mitigation of transboundary environmental risks arising from hazardous pollution hotspots in particular from abandoned mines, tailing dams and chemical sites. Abandoned mines have justifiably been the key hot-spots dealt with in the previous phase, the activities performed have resulted in a wide understanding of the environmental risks which accompany these mines. Joint efforts have proven to be valuable and of great importance on the local and regional scale, whilst knowledge transfer has resulted in tangible outcomes across the countries.

Leading Agency: UNDP, REC, UNECE

Budget: EUR 92,500

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012 - 2015

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia

Objectives

- In order to facilitate Montenegro in the implementation of the Convention and the approximation of its legislation with the Seveso II Directive of the EU, a workshop for representatives of the relevant state authorities, NGO representatives and representatives of Montenegro business and industrial associations is planned. Participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania were also invited to benefit from the workshop. The goals of the workshop are:
 - To introduce the country's authorities to good practices in the implementation of the Convention and provide the country with overview on the links between the Convention and the Seveso II Directive;
 - To share information about good practices in the identification of hazardous activities;
 - Guide the country in using the tools developed under the Industrial Accidents Convention's Assistance Programme.
- The workshop resulted in improved capacity of Montenegro competent authorities in implementing the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the opportunities to benefit from its Assistance Programme.

Results

- The first draft of the Regional Report on EU accession risks posed by industrial and mining hot spots in six Western Balkans countries has been developed. The report provides an overview of environmental legislation in all participating countries; an overview of relevant EU acquis; an overview of the most severe environmental hot spots in all countries; and recommendations for future steps and improvements.
- Since additional funds have been secured by UNDP, through the Czech Trust Fund, a study tour to Czech industrial and mining remediated legacy sites was organized for relevant representatives of ministries, environmental protection agencies, and national environmental institutions dealing with industrial and mining pollution in six West Balkan countries.

Highlights

- Study tour proved to be a very successful learning tool, since the participants were exposed to various learning experiences, including visiting remediation sites with presentations on detailed remediation processes, hazardous and solid waste landfills, laboratories, the biggest waste incinerator in Czech Republic etc.
- Comprehensive study tour report was prepared and distributed to all participants for their future reference.

4.3.3. Development of relevant related technical documentation in preparation for the physical works for partners and beneficiaries (A.2)

Background

Development of relevant technical documentation is a necessary prerequisite for any future works on the remediation of environmental hot-spots. National partners and beneficiaries often lack funds and/or capacities for the development of technical designs, for which project support was essential.

Leading Agency: UNDP

Budget: EUR 28,495

Donor: ADA

Duration: 2013 - 2014

Countries: Kosovo*, Montenegro, Albania

Objectives

- To develop necessary technical documentation for selected priority locations in Western Balkans countries.

Results

- A draft detailed technical design (DTD) for the treatment of acid mine waters in Novo brdo Mine, Artana, Kosovo* has been developed. The design has been sent to the reviewer for comments, after which the final design will be developed.
- A Maintenance Plan for passive treatment systems for acid mine waters from Zuta prla, Mojkovac, Montenegro was developed and submitted to the Mojkovac Municipality.

- A Maintenance Plan for the remediated tailing dam in Rreshen, Albania, was developed and submitted to Albanian Ministry for Environment and Institute for Natural Resources.

Highlights

- Additional funds were secured by UNDP, through the Czech Trust Fund (70.000 USD), because of this the DTD for the Novo brdo Mine, Artana, Kosovo* has been developed as a comprehensive technical document, to be further used by the “Trepca Group of Mines” and the Ministry of Environment.

4.3.4. Mapping and assessment of active mining sites and analysis of possible environmental risks in the management and future closure (Collection of primary and secondary sources of data for the creation of maps) (A3)

Background

Over the last few years, ENVSEC SEE partners have been working to identify and reduce transboundary environmental risks from SEE’s hazardous mining sites that have been out of operation for some time. These initial actions served as an important catalyst for environmental assessments and feasibility studies, which were then followed by targeted small scale remediation projects by other donors, mining companies, and governments who made good use of the previous assessments and studies. Phase II of ENVSEC in SEE will concentrate on mines that are still operating. One of the aspects of this phase will be to map and assess these active and operating mines, including the possible environmental risks they pose.

Leading Agency: UNEP and UNDP

Budget: EUR 21,500

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012 - 2015

Countries: South-Eastern Europe

Objectives

- Conducting an assessment and analysis of active mines in the region and evaluating the possible environmental risks associated to them.
- Increasing knowledge on the environmental risks posed by active mines.
- Developing a source of data for the creation of mining maps.

Results

- The document *A Short Introduction to Environmental Remediation for Mining Legacies: Case Studies from ENVSEC work in South East Europe* was finalized and disseminated online⁹.
- A technical field mission to the Trepca Mining Complex in Kosovo* by mining experts was successfully implemented. The assessment of the Trepca Mining Complex and the Trepca Industrial Park showed that future remediation steps are necessary.
- The project *Development of Final Technical Documentation for Remediation of En-*

⁹ <http://issuu.com/zoienvironment/docs/mining-see-ebook-?e=2725813/4736718>

Environmental Hotspots of Mitrovica Industrial Park and Raising of Public Awareness was prepared

- Contacts were established with the Serbian Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection for the purpose of developing a project to create a cadaster of contaminated land sites in Serbia.

Highlights

- Experience Centers and case studies on Environmental Remediation for Mining Legacies in SEE regions were made available for wider audience use as a result of ENVSECs work.
- The assessment of the Trepca Mining Complex and the Trepca Industrial Park was used as a basis for an expert field visit and the development of new project fiche. The final allocation from phase I was utilized for development of the final technical documentation for the remediation of the Mitrovica industrial park.
- New project ideas for development of a cadaster of contaminated land were generated.

4.3.5. Regional dialogue for improved management and reduced environmental risk of active mine sites (Workshops with public and private sector of mining stakeholder groups for UNEP the creation of framework) (A4)

4.3.6. Public-private partnerships promoted for shared responsibilities and interventions in reducing environmental risk from active mining sites (Stakeholders meeting with public and private sectors) (A5)

As the activities for A4 and A5 are implemented as one large activity, they are grouped in the reporting.

Background

Over the past years, UNEP has fostered dialogue and cooperation in areas of conflict and instability via active cooperation between relevant stakeholders, in particular authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in all priority areas.

While Phase I of ENVSEC Priority A concentrated on non-operating mines, Phase II deals with mines in the SEE region that are active and operating. UNEP will continue to foster regional dialogue as an important tool for reducing the environmental risks of active mines and for improving their management, through workshops with the public and private mining sectors. In turn, an additional aspect of this continuous dialogue is to bring private and public sectors together, allowing increased public awareness on the topic, and bringing the current issues in mining in SEE to the forefront.

Leading Agency: UNEP

Budget: EUR 48,000

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012 - 2015

Countries: South-Eastern Europe

Objectives

- Increasing the added value of regional dialogue.

- Organizing national meetings on the topic of active mines and environmental risks in SEE.
- Organizing workshops on the topic in the region.

Results

- The inception phase is in process and an analysis of relevant stakeholders in the SEE region has been identified.
- Events have been planned out.

Highlights

- Stakeholder analysis was used as a tool for planning the next activities and events that will respond to the needs and priorities of the countries.

PRIORITY B – Management of Shared Natural Resources

Europe, and in particular SEE, is characterized by many borders that cut across ecosystems and areas of high natural value, often dividing the continent along natural barriers like mountain ranges. Border areas are the most favored regions in terms of biodiversity. Natural areas shared by neighboring countries are not only a common treasure, but also a common responsibility as ecological problems occurring in border areas cannot be solved by one country alone, and require transboundary and regional cooperation. This is why one of the aims of the ENVSEC Initiative in SEE is to encourage and facilitate regional cooperation on environmental protection issues, with a particular emphasis on supporting regional and transboundary cooperation, and establishing common transboundary protected areas in border mountain regions. It is perceived as a factor which could mitigate the adverse effects of the past ethnic tensions and create a much stronger sense of a common regional identity. Additionally the need for cross-border and regional dialogue for cooperation on regional sustainable development in partnerships between nature conservation authorities and local communities is encouraged.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY B - Phase I

4.3.7. Service to cooperation on the wider Drin basin; Albania, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo (UN administered territory under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) (B2.1.1)

Background

This project aims to develop a cooperation mechanism among Albania, Greece, Kosovo*, FYR of Macedonia and Montenegro, as well as with the riparian countries and territories of the Drin Basin.

Leading Agency: UNECE (in cooperation with Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean)

Budget: USD 174,691

Donor: SEPA

Duration: 1 February 2010 – 31 December 2013

Countries: Albania, Greece, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo*

Objectives

- Developing a formal cooperation mechanism among the riparian countries and territories in the Drin Basin, Albania, Greece, Kosovo*, FYR of Macedonia and Montenegro, as a contribution to the establishment of integrated management at the Drin Basin level.

Results

- The first Meeting of the Parties of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin took place in May 2013.
- The preparation of the GEF project *Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin* included a Drin Basin Multi-Stakeholders Conference organized in December 2013.

Highlights

- The First Meeting of the Parties of the Memorandum continued to demonstrate the political will to develop closer water cooperation.
- The development of the document for the USD 4.5 million GEF project *Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin* is on track for a start date in the autumn of 2014.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY B - Phase II

4.3.8. Better understanding of economic possibilities in existing or to be proclaimed protected areas (B1)

4.3.9. Improved regional dialogue and cooperation among mountain protected areas (B2)

As implementation of activities of B1 and B2 have a very similar aim and are done in very close cooperation, they will be presented together as one larger activity.

Background

Over the years, the ENVSEC Initiative has provided support in establishing protected areas, especially transboundary ones in SEE. There have been numerous activities such as the feasibility studies on the establishment of the protected areas of "Durmotor – Sutjeska – Tara Canyon", "Prokeletije/Bjeshket E Nemuna Mountains" and "Sharr/Sar Planina – Korab – Desat/Deshat". During ENVSEC Phase I, it was identified that one of the common assumptions in SEE is that the creation of a Protected Area, especially a National Park, might hamper the economic development of the region. This is the main reason why the number of protected areas is still increasing at a slow pace. This part of Europe remains significantly behind other EU countries in terms of the percentage of protected areas. ENVSEC Phase II will be implemented to further identify possible economical instruments for the management of proclaimed protected areas in SEE. Thus continuing the legacy of protected areas sustainability and the betterment of livelihoods in the region.

Leading Agency: UNEP and REC

Budget: 72,500 EUR

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012-2015

Countries: South Eastern Europe

Objectives:

- To develop assessments and/or studies on economic possibilities of protected areas.
- Conducting three field missions to the region to assess the economic possibilities.
- To hold up to three national stakeholder meetings.
- To improve regional dialogue and cooperation among mountain protected areas.

Results:

- A second trilateral ministerial meeting in the proposed transboundary protected area “Sharr/Šar Planina – Mt. Korab – Dešat/Deshat” was organized on 6-7 November 2013. The meeting resulted in the signing of a common vision for proclamation of the National Park by three Ministers of Environment.
- Discussion for the development of a project that will include conservation of biodiversity through establishment of protected areas and national parks in the FYR of Macedonia was initiated.
- The feasibility studies developed by UNEP, on the establishing of a transboundary protected areas “Durmiotor - Tara Canyon – Sutjeska”, “Prokletije-Bjeshket E Nemuna Mountains”, and “Sharr/Sar Planina – Korab – Deshat were disseminated.
- During the inception phase, the most suitable National Park case was identified. One of them is Una National Park in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Initial discussions took place for the organization of a wide stakeholder workshop which will present the Croatian side of the park, “Plitvice”, which has been one of the most successful examples of a well-managed national park from an economic point of view.

Highlights:

- The Ministers of Environment from Kosovo*, the FYR of Macedonia and Albania signed a common vision for the transboundary protected area “Sharr/Šar Planina – Mt. Korab – Dešat/Deshat”.

4.3.10. Improving coordination among the members and enhanced communication to the public on environmental projects and data availability in the region under the Dinaric Arc Initiative (B4)

Background

For the past 10 years, UNEP has been promoting the idea of developing new Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) targeted at the mountain region of the Western Balkans and Dinaric Arc (proposed “Balkan Convention”) at different high-level conferences and meetings. In 2009-2010, UNEP prepared and published a report¹⁰ *Towards the Network of Mountain Protected Areas in the Western Balkans and the Dinaric Arc*. This report summarized the networking experiences in the Alps and the Carpathians, and compared the conditions and legal context for protected area network establishment in the SEE with those of the neighboring mountain ranges, providing guidelines on networking and a provisional database of large-scale protected areas in the SEE. In Phase II,

¹⁰ Available at www.unep.at

UNEP continues to deliver a number of different activities with an aim to strengthen the DAI, including via the appointment of the UNEP Office in Vienna as the Coordination Unit for all activities regarding the DAI. This office will organize meetings twice a year.

Leading Agency: UNEP, REC

Budget: 36,000 EUR

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012 - 2015

Countries: SEE

Objectives:

- To increase communication with ENVSEC Focal Points and raise general awareness regarding the DAI.
- Organize one regional meeting and attend three Dinaric Arc events.
- Update existing, and develop necessary DAI communication materials.
- Act as coordination unit for the DAI.

Results:

- Two meetings of the DAI members were held; April 2013 in Vienna, and September 2013 in Duresh, Albania. The purpose of the meeting was for members to update each other with their activities in SEE, and to look for future synergies.
- The UNEP Office in Vienna was chosen by DAI members to hold the “DAI Coordination Unit” until 2015.
- Development of an updated and independent DAI website: dinaricartinitiative.net

Highlights:

- Creation of a DAI website: dinaricarcinitative.net.
- DAI members will meet twice a year to discuss possible synergies.

Priority C - Support for Aarhus Centers in South Eastern Europe

Priority C within the ENVSEC project focuses mainly on strengthening the capacities of civil society and raising awareness of its role in environmental protection, conflict prevention and resolution, through trainings, stakeholder meetings, public hearings and other tools that facilitate its active participation in environmental decision-making processes. It will also aim at increasing access to environmental information by the civil society and public at large in order to improve dialogue and awareness on the importance of dialogue on environment and security issues. Priority will be given to implementation of the Aarhus and Espoo Convention and their related Protocols, as well as to activities closely related to the management of shared natural resources, the management of risks and pollution, and climate change issues. The overall goal is the strengthening of regional cooperation on environmental governance through participatory and informed decision making and implementation processes.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY C - Phase I

4.3.11. Support for Aarhus Centers in South Eastern Europe – OSCE (C 1.1.1, C 1.2.1, C 1.2.2, C 2.1.1 and C 3.3.1)

Since 2002, OSCE with the aid of ENVSEC has been supporting the establishment and functioning of Aarhus Centers and Public Environmental Information Centers in several countries, including those in South Eastern Europe. The Centers assist in implementing the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention by facilitating access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making and by promoting the access to justice in environmental matters. The Centers are flexible in their approach, taking into account local needs and capacities, their geographic location and the specific situational and political climate of the country in which they operate.

In South Eastern Europe, the project supported the establishment and operation of the Aarhus Centers in Albania (Tirana, Vlora, Shkodra), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Tuzla), Montenegro (Podgorica, Niksic, Berane), and Serbia (Kragujevac, Subotica, Novisad, Nis).

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 248,272

Donor: Finland

Duration: July 2010 – December 2014

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia

Objectives

- To promote participatory mechanisms and partnerships among central and local public authorities, civil society organizations and business communities for addressing environment and security challenges at the local, national and regional levels through supporting the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol.
- Establishment and/or strengthening of the Aarhus Centers in various countries in the South Eastern Europe region.

Results:

- In the South Eastern Europe region, there are currently 13 Aarhus Centers that are operational with the support of the ENVSEC project and OSCE field operations. In 2013, two new Aarhus Centers were established in Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely in Banja Luka and Tuzla.
- The work of the Aarhus Centers in South Eastern Europe has contributed to the building of a close working relationship with both the local and national authorities while also facilitating co-operation with communities. The individual Aarhus Centers have contributed to participatory approaches towards policy-making and legislation review processes.
- The Aarhus Centers have contributed to increased public awareness regarding the Aarhus Convention in the region. This was accomplished by organizing public hearings, round tables, workshops, public information campaigns as well as other thematic events aimed at improving understanding of Aarhus Convention's concepts and environmental governance issues. These events drew the attention of local stakeholders to local environmental problems and raised awareness among citizens on their rights provided through the Aarhus Convention.
- Websites were developed for Aarhus Centers in every country, providing a valuable source of environmental information to the public.

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, training on the Aarhus Convention was included in the curricula of the judicial training Centers for 2013.
- Aarhus Centers have been actively promoting environmental activism in the region.

Highlights

- In 2013, activities were mainly carried out in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and at a regional level. Project activities in Montenegro and Serbia were completed in 2012.

Albania

- The Aarhus Information Centers (AIC) in Shkodra and Vlora in co-operation with the Regional Directorate of Education organized several training sessions for university and school students on environmental issues. Moreover, as a mechanism towards youth inclusiveness in environmental education and awareness, the expansion of the youth eco-clubs initiative was further supported.
- The AIC Vlora organized a round table with local government representatives from the Saranda region which was aimed at promoting and encouraging communication and co-operation between the community and local government.
- The AIC Shkodra, organized a meeting with women from Tropoja and Has Towns to raise their awareness on priority environmental issues such as waste management and forest fires, amongst others. Subsequently, a two-day training session on gender mainstreaming in environmental activities was organized in the Tropoja and Kukes area. The training was attended by 60 women.
- In co-operation with the Albanian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Secretariat, the AICs in Vlora and Shkodra, promoted EITI and the Aarhus principles of accountability, participation and transparency in Pogradec, Kukes and Vlora. 90 local authorities, civil society and private companies were introduced to the EITI principles along with Aarhus Convention principles on public participation.
- Two regional workshops on the PRTR were organized in Shkodra and Vlora for government, private sector and civil society representatives with the support of the OSCE Presence in the country and in co-operation with Milieukontakt Albania and the National Environmental Agency.
- The *Green Election* Initiative originally started in 2011, was replicated during the Parliamentary Election in June 2013, with the support of the US Embassy in Tirana. Implemented in four towns, the aim of the initiative was to integrate environmental projects into the political parties' programmes in the region.
- The AIC Shkodra supported community neighborhoods in the Shkodra region by providing free legal advice regarding a lawsuit against a fish shop which was causing pollution and didn't possess an environmental permit.
- The AICs conducted preliminary research on the impediments on access to justice. As a follow up, the project plans to conduct a study in co-operation with the Union of Albanian Judges regarding the violation of environmental laws in order to develop practical recommendations to improve the access to justice in environmental matters.
- AIC Shkodra organized environmental awareness activities during European Mobility Week with the involvement of some 250 participants from state authorities,

schools, community and citizens. Environmental movies and documentaries were broadcast in co-operation with the EU Information in Tirana.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- The first Aarhus Center was established in Sarajevo in May 2013, followed by two new Aarhus Centers in Banja Luka and Tuzla, as part of an EU-funded project, with co-funding from ENVSEC and OSCE.
- To mark World Environment Day, for which Sarajevo was chosen as the European hub for 2013, the Aarhus Center in Sarajevo, in co-operation with the Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, organized a workshop on GMOs for Sarajevo-based NGOs. A thematic leaflet was prepared and distributed.
- The Aarhus Center Sarajevo was involved in designing and completing the first environmental law clinic for the final year students of law at the University of Sarajevo and East Sarajevo. Proving that these types of activities bring about meaningful inter-entity and inter-ethnic cooperation.
- The Aarhus Centers Network prepared a joint paper on proposed comments on the current Freedom of Access to Information Law. The Bill, which went through parliamentary hearings, acknowledged most of the comments provided by the Aarhus Centers.
- The Aarhus Centers also participated in the development of the Second National Implementation Report on the Aarhus Convention.
- The Aarhus Centers Network developed their Strategic Plan, with the inclusion of short, mid and long term priorities and shared it with respective authorities.

Regional Activities:

- A sub-regional Workshop on *Environmental Mediation and Conflict Resolution* was organized by OSCE and REC in Podgorica, Montenegro in April 2013. Over 25 representatives of the Aarhus Centers and Civil Society Organizations from South Eastern Europe participated in the training. This workshop was aimed at strengthening the skills of participants in mediation, consensus-building, and conciliation. Participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with conflict prevention and resolution techniques. The workshop covered issues related to the designing of the participation process and the facilitation of cooperative and productive dialogue, which is very important in the constituencies where Aarhus Centers operate.
- Aarhus Centers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia participated in the July 2013 Regional Meeting *Aarhus centers: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention* in Vienna. This meeting brought together around 100 participants, including Aarhus Convention National Focal Points, Aarhus managers, NGOs, representatives of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, ENVSEC partners and international experts. Here participants gathered to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and to enhance networking among the Aarhus Centers. The Meeting also included capacity building sessions on several priority issues related to the Convention implementation for the Aarhus Centers.

4.3.12. Public hearings and use of other mechanisms to facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making as well as the EIA/SEA processes (C 2.2.1)

Background

This project aimed at strengthening the national and local capacities for environmental decision-making in the selected countries of SEE. In order to facilitate citizens rights for public access to information and public participation in decision-making on environmental matters. It supports the better implementation of participatory and informed decision-making, and also contributes to better environmental governance and to the reduction of environmental and security challenges. A capacity building programme was developed in cooperation with officials and key stakeholders at local and national levels. This cooperation helps to integrate and apply public participation in decision-making in EIA, SEA and urban planning. The capacity building trainings were linked with an on-going procedure for environmental decision-making and delivered tangible results in implementing the knowledge and skills in practice.

Leading Agency: REC

Budget: EUR 35,000

Donor: Finland

Duration: 2010 - June 2013

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia

Objectives

- To strengthen national and local capacities for participatory and informed planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring processes in relation to environment and security challenges in order to enable an environment for civil society organizations to participate in environmental decision-making and to influence local investments.
- To promote public participation as an integral component of the preparatory process for policies and plans which may have a significant effect on the environment.
- A particular focus was given to help countries in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Espoo Convention alongside their respective Protocols.

Results

- A practical public participation toolkit was drafted as a master version in English.
- This master version was later modified according to the needs of the respective countries (FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, and Bosnia) and translated into their respective national languages.
- The toolkit focuses on the requirements of the second pillar of the Aarhus Convention, and offers a range of practical advice and experiences to the environmental officials, operators and developers who manage development and have responsibility for decision-making.

Highlights

- The toolkit aims to give an overview of how the public participation principles of the Convention are being harmonized in South Eastern Europe countries as well

as providing ideas and advice to the public officials on how meaningful public involvement could be organized and what benefits it could bring.

- The toolkit was designed primarily for public officials but all other concerned stakeholders, such as investors, project developers and representatives of the public or NGOs (who are interested in working for a better environment and a more open and democratic society) can also find something useful in this publication.
- The toolkit offers a range of practical advice and experiences to the environmental officials, operators and developers who manage development and bear responsibilities for decision-making.
- The primary goal is to help officials improve the quality of participatory processes and thereby the quality of the decisions. The toolkit provides guidance on how to organize structured public participation, how to mobilize citizens and ensure that interactions with them are active and participatory, and, finally, how to organize a proper follow-up of the process.

4.3.13. Trainings for legal professionals on national and international environmental legislation and facilitation of access for the public to justice in environmental matters (C31.1)

This project aims at strengthening the national and local capacities for access to justice in environmental matters in the respective countries of SEE, in order to underpin the enforcement of the rights of citizens for public access to information and public participation in decision-making on environmental matters, as well as when national laws related to the environment are violated. Through this, the project supports the better implementation of participatory and informed decision-making, and also contributes to better environmental governance, as well as to the reduction of environment and security challenges.

The project supports the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention, alongside the national legislation related to its better application. Additionally, the project promotes the harmonization of the national legislative framework with the requirements of the EU legislation and other international agreements in Europe, illustrating the legal mechanisms, avenues for justice, the existing jurisprudence and good practices. In addition to the capacity building of judges, prosecutors and the NGOs, the project also enables dialogue among the key actors and stakeholders of access to justice. This dialogue focuses on the progress achieved so far in the respective SEE countries, as well as the still existing gaps and barriers in access to justice, and how these could be removed.

The activities have been implemented in cooperation with the project, *Capacity Building to Put the Aarhus Convention into Action and Support Development of PRTR Systems in Selected South Eastern European Countries*, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and by the German Federal Environment Agency. This cooperation has covered round table meetings and trainings for NGOs and the judiciary in other SEE countries which could not be accomplished in this project due to the limited resources.

Leading Agency: REC

Budget: EUR 30,000

Donor: Finland

Duration: 2010 - June 2013

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia

Objectives

- To enable an environment for civil society organizations and strengthened capacities to participate in environmental decision-making and to influence local investments.
- To strengthen national and local capacities on national and international environmental legislation for effective access for the public to justice in environmental matters (including of the judiciary, legal professionals and NGOs).

Results

- A two-day interactive training session was successfully held for 20 judges and prosecutors, in Prishtina, Kosovo* on January 28-29, 2013. The training contributed to the understanding of the requirements of the Aarhus Convention's access to justice provisions, acquainted participants with the access to justice situation in the country, and how access to justice works in the EU and other countries.
- The training was organized in cooperation with the Kosovo* Judicial Institute and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.
- The training built upon the skills and practical knowledge of the participants on the use of different access to justice mechanisms through analyzing different examples/cases from EU countries and from Kosovo*, and through a simulation of a court trial (moot court trial). The participants also discussed and exchanged experiences relating to the problems, gaps and barriers in the country.

Highlights

- As a result of the training, judges and prosecutors gained increased knowledge and awareness of the Aarhus Convention's third pillar, the related EU directives and national legislation, as well as other means of justice which enables them to improve their further practice.
- The better understanding of the problems, gaps and barriers to the implementation of access to justice requirements contributes to possible improvements regarding the reduction or removal of the existing barriers. Efforts should be further supported and continued in this direction.
- The good cooperation with the Kosovo* Judicial Institute which contributed as partner to the successful organization of the training, providing the training facilities and the translation equipment free of charge, will be continued. Interest has been shown in further similar trainings and including these topics regularly into their curricula.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY C - Phase II

4.3.14. Strengthening access to justice in environmental matters (C3)

Background

While some progress has been made in the implementation of the first two pillars of the Aarhus Convention, including access to environmental information and public partici-

pation in environmental matters in South Eastern Europe, implementing the third pillar of the Aarhus Convention has remained a major challenge. Enhancing effective access to justice in environmental matters needs to be given special priority in this region. This could be addressed through multi-stakeholder dialogues aiming at removing barriers in access to justice on the basis of inclusive participation of all stakeholders.

This particular project component aims at identifying challenges and good practices in the implementation of the access to justice pillar of the Aarhus Convention by analyzing the relevant legislation and practice. It will also help in strengthening regional cooperation on environmental governance through participatory and informed decision-making. Furthermore, it will facilitate a dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to address effective access to justice in environmental matters and remove existing barriers.

Leading Agency: REC

Other Agencies: UNECE, OSCE

Budget: EUR 62,000

Donor: ADA

Duration: 2012-2014

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia

Objectives

- The strengthening of access to justice in environmental matters in South Eastern Europe through country studies and a regional study on the key issues (standing, remedies and costs) of implementing the access to justice pillar of the Aarhus Convention.

Results

- A pool of experts able to carry out the national and regional studies were identified and a questionnaire in English was developed and distributed to the national experts in order to collect necessary information.
- National studies were prepared in English and translated into national languages.
- The NFPs of the Aarhus Convention in the respective countries of South-Eastern Europe in cooperation with the experts and with the support of REC and OSCE organized consultations on the national studies involving the ministry responsible for justice affairs, the highest courts, bar associations, environmental NGOs and other interested stakeholders.
- The studies were amended to reflect the comments of the stakeholders.
- A draft analytical summary with the preliminary findings and conclusions was prepared, discussed at the expert meeting and will be presented at the seventh meeting of the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Justice serviced by UNECE on 24-25 February, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Highlights

- The Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Justice welcomed the progress in the preparation of the study and expressed its gratitude to NFPs and experts as well as to REC and OSCE for their cooperation in carrying out the study and the consultation process on national studies.

- The advance version of the study is expected to be made available before the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

PRIORITY D - Adaptation to the impacts of climate change for reducing risks in South Eastern Europe

Border areas are often the most favored regions in terms of biodiversity, partly as a result of their peripheral location and of past political factors banning the development of areas adjacent to political borders.

Natural hazards, loss of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services as well as degradation of landscape and its implications for the socio-economic sector might cause grave setbacks for the SEE region's economic growth and development. The adverse effects of climate change pose a serious threat to the still weak transboundary collaborations and mutual confidences as well as to the sustainable development of the region.

Five of the target countries have already agreed upon the *South East European Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation*. By recognizing the urgent need to take action in the face of climate change, these countries have shown their determination to further cooperate.

In order to reduce environment and security risks related to climate change through an enhanced knowledge base of climate change impacts and their interrelation with security, a regionally consolidated approach for adaptation together with an applied guidance on adaptation in river basins and shared water resources of the region against extreme impacts of climate change is needed.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY D - Phase I

4.3.15. Pilot project on climate change adaptation: Testing the Guidance document developed under the Water Convention - Building the link between the Flood Risk Management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava River Basin (D2.3.1)

The cooperation of the Parties¹¹ to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) in the field of flood risk management is based on the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB¹². In line with the Protocol, Parties committed to prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) in the Sava River Basin, with the International Sava River Basin Commission as the coordinating body. The likely consequences of climate change on the water regime of the Sava River Basin and the need for effective adaptation measures have been recognized and emphasized in the preamble of the Protocol.

The pilot project provided a strong support to the common activities of the Sava Basin countries in flood risk management in a time of changing climate. It can also be seen to be in line with the Protocol. The activities within the project included;

- Review of national projects and legislation in the field of flood risk management;

¹¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia

¹² signed in 2010, by now ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia

- Assessment of the expected impacts of climate change on the frequency and magnitude of extreme flood events;
- Initial flood vulnerability assessments;
- Preliminary identification of possible adaptation measures,
- Preparation of a draft Program for development of the Sava FRMP (envisaged by the Protocol);
- Assessment of data and information needs for preparation of joint FRMP in the Sava River Basin, and;
- Exchange of experience with other projects in the programme of pilot projects under the Water Convention and the dissemination of results.

Lead agency: UNECE (project mainly implemented by the International Sava River Basin Commission)

Budget: USD 234,471

Donor: Finland

Duration: 2010-2013

Countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia

Objectives

- Address the issues of the transboundary management of floods in the Sava River Basin, while taking into account the impacts of climate change under differing scenarios and the perspective adaptation measures envisaged.
- Prepare the basis for the preparation of the first FRMP in the Sava River Basin.

Results

- Based on the previously defined climate change scenarios and the assessment of their expected impacts on the occurrence of extreme flooding events, an assessment of the future flood vulnerability under long term impacts of climate change was accomplished in 2013.
- Data and data sources for the preparation of the joint FRMP for the Sava River Basin have been assessed.
- All outcomes of the pilot project were discussed at the Consultation Workshop held on 5-6 June 2013, with a broad group of stakeholders from across the Sava River Basin. The reports were amended on the basis of these discussions and the projects resulted in the following final outcomes:
 - A report on already completed or ongoing flood risk management planning projects in the Sava River Basin;
 - A report on the legislation related to flood risk management planning and climate change adaptation (transboundary and national);
 - A simulation of climate models for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on temperature and precipitation in the Sava River Basin and a report on the results;
 - A hydrological model of the Sava River Basin for the assessment of the impact of climate change on the water regimes of the Sava River and a corresponding report;
 - A report on the initial flood vulnerability assessments in the Sava River Basin;
 - A report on climate change adaptation measures for flood protection in the Sava River Basin;

- A draft program for the development of the Sava FRMP was prepared and discussed with countries and stakeholders;
- Data and information needs were assessed for the preparation of a joint FRMP for the Sava River Basin, and a geodatabase for storing data on floods, the areas of potential significant flood risk, as well as flood hazard, vulnerability and risk.

Highlights

- The project represents the basis for the preparation of the first FRMP in the Sava River Basin, one of the main provisions of the Protocol on Flood Risk Management. It will also support the integration of climate change issues in the next cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the Sava River Basin.
- The project provides information on climate change impacts on temperature and precipitation across the Sava River Basin, as well as on the water regimes of the Sava River, which are valuable for different assessments both at the river basin and at a national level.
- The project outcomes were presented at several global meetings, including the meeting of the Global Network of Basins working on climate change adaptation and its related workshop in June 2013. Participation in the meeting enabled an exchange of experiences and lessons learnt between the pilot projects.

ENVSEC South Eastern Europe PRIORITY D - Phase II

4.3.16. Support to long-term country planning on reducing biodiversity loss from climate change effects in the region through regional cooperation and dialogue (D1)

Background

ENVSEC Phase II continues to support the long term country planning on reducing biodiversity loss from climate change which was first established through the ENVSEC Phase I project. This will be achieved first through the stocktaking of available information and data, identification of best practices and experiences, then through the publication of results and information to a wider audience. This will be done via the organization of workshops, which will provide overall knowledge and support the exchange of experiences. The second implementation phase will go further into mainstreaming climate change into a number of strategic documents at national levels including a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in the FYR of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Particular aspects of climate change and its effects on land degradation and biodiversity will also be mainstreamed into currently implemented projects including the development of National Action Plans Aligned to 10 Years of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, The FYR of Macedonia and Montenegro.

Leading Agency: UNEP

Budget: USD 44,300

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012-2015

Countries: South-Eastern Europe

Objectives

- To coordinate and develop experience sharing mechanisms for cooperation with ENVSEC projects dealing with climate change and other related topics.
- To build capacities for impact and vulnerability assessments and raise awareness on adaptation to climate change.

Results

- Attendance at two meetings to discuss climate change adaptation in SEE (April and October 2013). The meetings were also attended by various representatives from hydro-meteorological institutes and ministries from representative countries and international organizations.
- Mainstreaming climate change effects on biodiversity into national documents in SEE, including National Biodiversity Action Plans and National Action Plans Against Land Degradation, aligned to 10 years of UNCCD.

Highlights

- Increased understanding of the climate change adaptation status, needs, current trends and priorities in the SEE region.
- Increased understanding SEE beneficiaries on effects of climate change on biodiversity and their mainstreaming during the national policy planning and drafting.

4.3.17. Experience sharing and coordination mechanisms with the IfS project and other ENVSEC relevant projects in the other regions for mutual learning and full complement (D2)

Background

Within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative, UNEP, with the support of the ZOI Environment Network, prepared in 2012, two regional assessments focusing on climate change adaptation in South Eastern Europe and climate change in the West Balkans. The inception phase of the IfS project *Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus* funded under the EU Instrument for Stability was conducted to an agreed working methodology, which could then be applied in other regions including the SEE region.

Leading Agency: UNEP

Budget: EUR 36,000

Donor: Austria

Duration: 2012-2015

Countries: South-Eastern Europe

Objectives

- Creation of a participatory mapping exercise on adaptation to climate change in the Balkans and South Eastern Europe.
- Highlighting climate change hot-spots in the region.

Results

- Agreement on a shared and replicable working methodology.

Highlights

- Methodology used under the IfS project for assessments focusing on climate change adaptation in other three ENVSEC regions was evaluated as applicable to be used in SEE region.

4.3.18. Building capacities for Vulnerability and Adaptation (D3)

Background

In the SEE region, previous ENVSEC projects on climate change have identified further needs concerning capacity building on adaptation, this is based on the lack of awareness of the potential future impacts of climate change in the region. Additionally there is also a lack of planning for more severe environmental events and a significant demand on decision-making and planning tools for adaptation, as well as a low absorption capacity regarding the EU pre-accession and other types of budgetary assistance, as well as lack of human capacity to implement potential activities related to climate change adaptation. One of the activities within the current ENVSEC SEE project portfolio is to build human and institutional capacities for vulnerability and impact assessment as well as raising the awareness of stakeholders and population on climate change and adaptation. In the last few years, various countries within SEE have implemented projects combating climate change, and developed relevant documents on this topic, nonetheless, there are still gaps concerning institutional and human capacities, to conduct impact and vulnerability studies which need to be addressed. Due to the restricted funding for planned activities and similar targeted audiences and potential stakeholders interested in topics addressed in D3 and D4 projects, various events for both projects are planned to be jointly organized during the period 2014 - 2015.

Leading Agency: REC

Budget: EUR 54,000

Donor: ADA

Duration: 2012-2015

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia

Objectives

- To build capacities for comprehensive quantitative and qualitative vulnerability and adaptation assessments via national trainings.
- To initiate regional consultative processes and dialogue on climate change adaptation and security risks.
- To raise awareness of stakeholders and populations on climate change adaptation via the production of a publication (brochure) on climate change adaptation and security risks in SEE.

Results

- On November 4 2013, REC organized the first national training *Vulnerability assessments addressing security risks connected to adaptation to climate change* in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Highlights

- The training was attended by representatives of central and local authorities, including representatives from National Parks which border with countries that could potentially represent a risk to Montenegro's security, as well as representatives of research institutions and universities.
- The importance of vulnerability assessments as a central element of the adaptation process was highlighted during the training.
- Examples of the assessment of vulnerability in various regions (Africa, Europe and Central America) were reviewed.
- Identification of feasible short-term and long-term adaptation measures was discussed as well as opportunities for Montenegro to access financial resources for climate change adaptation.

4.3.19. Study on ecosystem services as potential adaptation measures (D4)

Background

Mountainous systems are not only extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change but also can easily turn into multipliers of impacts in the ecological and environmental systems at lower altitudes, and in the valleys. Therefore, in order to understand what kind of hot-spots exist in the system of the Dinaric Arc, it is necessary to assess the ecosystem services provided by this mountainous system and how these services could be affected by changing climates.

Leading Agency: REC

Budget: EUR 44,300

Donor: ADA

Duration: 2012-2015

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia

Objectives

- The main objective of Activity D.4 is the enhancement of a climate change adaptation process in the mountainous system of the Dinaric Arc.
- To understand what kind of hot-spots exist in the system of the Dinaric Arc it is necessary to assess the ecosystem services provided by this mountainous system and to discover how these services could be affected by changing climates.
- To analyze the potential impact of climate change and adaptive capacities of the biodiversity of the Dinaric Arc, information should be collected on the ecological networks in the area.

Results

- An internal position paper on the criteria of ecological networks has been prepared. This paper has taken into consideration experiences acquired through the preparation of draft guidelines for mountainous adaptation strategies (ENVSEC 2009-2012) as well as information collected on the Carpathian Mountain Range's ecological networks.
- Internal discussion and prioritization of criteria that should be kept was determined by the judging of past experiences. Information on the ecological networks of the Dinaric Arc has started to be collected based on the list of preliminary iden-

tified criteria.

Highlights

- On the margins of the training carried out under activity D.3 in November 2013, consultation with the biodiversity experts took place.
- The experts strongly supported the idea, suggestions for future directions of the research were also provided. Consulted experts also welcomed the proposal for consultation on the preliminary results of the study in Autumn 2014.

PRIORITY E: South Eastern Europe Regional Cooperation (E1)

The implementation of ENVSEC projects is highly dependent on efficient regional coordination, which consists of the work of the ENVSEC Regional Desk for SEE and regular meetings with country stakeholders.

Coordination meetings have been instrumental for reviewing progress, discussing emerging issues and new ideas and ensuring continuous communication among countries, ENVSEC partners and the donors.

4.3.20. Regional Coordination of ENVSEC SEE Work Programme (Phase II)

In Phase I (funded by Finland under the WEI umbrella) the regional coordination through representation at high-level regional events and working-level meetings in SEE further advanced and reconfirmed the recognition of ENVSEC in SEE as an important regional platform for cooperation.

In Phase II activities in Priority E will include: annual regional coordination meetings held, if possible, back-to-back with a thematic ENVSEC regional event; a semi-annual review through a regional snapshot report; maintaining regular exchange and cooperation with ENVSEC NFPs; as well as the organization, support and attendance at national and regional events and meetings, which are deemed relevant for the scope of ENVSEC.

Leading Agency: REC and UNEP

Budget: EUR 216,100

Donor: ADA

Duration: 2012-2015

Countries: South-Eastern Europe

Objectives

- The organization of national and regional coordination meetings and missions of the regions, synergizing with complimentary interventions in the region.
- The organization, support and attendance at different national and regional ENVSEC and ENVSEC related events, as well as attendance at different bilateral meetings.
- The coordination and implementation of the current programme.

Results

- Facilitation of regular input from the SEE region for the ENVEC Newsletter.

- Regular attendance at the Secretariat meetings for discussion on the work plan and its implementation.
- Regular attendance at the ENVSEC MB meetings.
- Preparation of a regional snapshot report, which includes a presentation of regional activities and a discussion on the implementation of activities in the region.
- Presenting ENVSEC results, and promoting ENVSEC aims and goals in other projects currently implemented, including linking with national biodiversity strategies developed in several countries.
- Keeping regular communication and discussion with donor countries.
- Using World Environment Day in Sarajevo to present ENVSEC activities in the region.

Highlights

- ENVSEC high-level representatives (deputy ministers) as well as several ENVSEC Focal Points and project representatives attended the 10th ENVSEC anniversary event held in Brussels, Belgium. Here they presented ENVSEC examples and achievements in the SEE region.
- Bilateral meetings and internal coordination meetings with ENVSEC NFPs were held on the margins of ENVSEC 10th Anniversary event.
- ENVSEC activities in the SEE region were presented at World Environment Day in Sarajevo.
- The ENVSEC Initiative and its activities in the SEE region were promoted at several regional events. Particularly at the events organized as part of SEE 2020 Strategy Development and Participation on Drin Basin Multi-Stakeholders Conference organized in December 2013 in the frame of GEF project.

4.4 The South Caucasus

4.4.1. Implementation of the UNECE Water Convention: Finalization of an agreement on the management of transboundary watercourses shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan -UNECE/OSCE

Background

Human activities in the second half of the 20th century had a significant impact on the quality and quantity of the water in the Kura-Aras River Basin. The region is also prone to natural disasters such as floods. To address the environmental challenges in the basin, OSCE and UNECE have mobilized efforts to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the basin through international instruments such as UNECE's *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes (Water Convention)*. Implementing the UNECE Water Convention is important for improving water management in the South Caucasus and for enhancing co-operation between countries, which in the long term will prevent the occurrence of any tension over water quality or quantity.

The project has been conceived in recognition of the positive momentum gained as a result of the earlier ENVSEC project *Implementation of the UNECE Water Convention and*

development of an agreement on the management of transboundary watercourses shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan funded by the Canadian International Development Agency during 2009-2012.

Leading Agency: UNECE, OSCE

Budget: EUR 16,810

Donor: Finland

Duration: February 2013 – February 2014

Countries: Azerbaijan and Georgia

Objectives

- To strengthen transboundary water co-operation between Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- To assist the Governments of Azerbaijan and Georgia in finalizing the bilateral agreement on the Kura River basin and to facilitate its signature.

Results:

- The Fourth Draft of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of Georgia on Co-operation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Use of the Water Resources of the Kura River Basin was prepared and submitted to the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs for Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Highlights:

- The fifth round of the bilateral consultations between Azerbaijan and Georgia took place in April 2013 in Tbilisi, Georgia to discuss and further develop the third draft of the bilateral Agreement.
- The draft agreement was revised and a fourth draft of the agreement was developed and submitted the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- Additional clarifications were provided to the Government of Georgia on the selected provisions of the draft bilateral agreement.
- The sixth round of the bilateral consultations between Azerbaijan and Georgia was scheduled for January 2014.

4.4.2. Strengthening Implementation of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in Azerbaijan

Background

The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. In this respect, the Espoo Convention is a key instrument for cooperation to prevent environmental damage. It is also an instrument for increasing access to information and public participation on projects affecting the environment.

Azerbaijan has been a party to the Espoo Convention since 1999. Azerbaijan commenced a process for strengthening the national EIA legislation, which once accomplished, will

contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention. There has been, however, only limited progress in regards to the practical application of the transboundary EIA procedure. Especially in light of the rapid development of Azerbaijan's economy and its growing engagement in the energy sector. There is a need to improve the national EIA legislation and to create an enabling environment for the practical application of the provisions and mechanisms of the Espoo Convention.

Leading Agency: OSCE, UNECE

Budget: EUR 14,008

Donor: Finland

Duration: May 2012- June 2013

Countries: Azerbaijan

Objectives

- To support the implementation of the provisions of the Espoo Convention in Azerbaijan through a comprehensive review of relevant legislation and recommendations on specific actions for further implementation of the Convention.
- To ensure compliance with national legislation, raise awareness and better understanding of the provisions and opportunities of the Convention among relevant ministries and agencies in Azerbaijan; to strengthen national capacities in establishing a new legal framework for both Environmental Impact Assessment and SEA processes.

Results

- National legislation for the application of the Espoo Convention in Azerbaijan was reviewed and recommendations were made to the Government of Azerbaijan and to the Espoo Convention's Implementation Committee regarding areas for legislative amendments and drafting the new legislation, as well as regarding further steps to be taken to strengthen Azerbaijan's capacities to fully comply with its obligations under the Convention.
- The findings of the legal review were generally supported by the environmental authorities in Azerbaijan, and the recommendations for the improvement of the draft EIA law were considered in the further development of the draft law.
- The project assisted in improving awareness of the Espoo Convention and its provisions among relevant Government agencies in Azerbaijan.
- The project delivered the Azerbaijani translation of the UNECE Resource Manuals to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Highlights

- In 2013, the project assisted in the translation of two documents into the Azerbaijani language to support the application of the Espoo Convention protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Azerbaijan. UNECE Simplified Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the extended Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment was submitted to the relevant state agencies for further distribution.

4.4.3. Phase Three- Enhancing national capacity on fire management and wildlife disaster risk reduction in the South Caucasus– OSCE

Background

Statistical data and reports from the last decade indicate that the problem of wildfires is very common in the South Caucasus region. These wildfires do not only pose immediate risk to forests, other vulnerable ecosystems and the population, but can have serious secondary consequences in terms of increased threats of erosion, landslides, mudflows and floods. In addition, if wildfires occur in a politically sensitive area this might become an additional source of contention between countries and have a negative impact on the overall security situation in the region. Fires burning on terrain contaminated by unexploded ordinance and land mines –remnants of previous conflicts – pose an additional threat to the personnel involved in firefighting as well as civilians.

Forest fires have been very damaging during last few years in Armenia and Georgia. In 2010, in Armenia, 1,200 fires were detected, while in Georgia, 430 hectares of forest was burned. The institutional, legal and technical capacities of agencies responsible for forestry, management of protected areas, fire protection and emergency situations need to be enhanced to efficiently prevent and control wildfires. At the same time, further training and awareness raising programmes are needed for civil society groups and local communities.

Since 2008, ENVSEC, through an OSCE-led project has been assisting the South Caucasus countries in enhancing their fire management capacities. The project is based on the outcomes of the *OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to Fire-Affected Territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh Region* in 2006, and the *Joint OSCE/ UNEP Environmental Assessment Mission to Georgia* in 2008 following the conflict between Georgia and Russia.

The project is implemented in close co-operation with the Global Fire Monitoring Centre based in Germany.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 96,232

Donor: Finland

Duration: September 2011 – December 2014

Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Objectives

- To reduce wildfire risks in South Caucasus through strengthening capacity of fire management agencies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in responding effectively to wildfires.
- The development and implementation of national fire management policies and technical capacity building.

Results

- The third round of national round table on wildfire management was held in Armenia.

- Wildfire Management Policy was developed for Armenia and the document was translated into Armenian language.
- Training for Trainers was organized in Armenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations.
- Representatives of the Ministries of Emergency Situations of Armenia and Azerbaijan and representatives of the Forestry Department of Georgia participated in the UNECE / FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management.

Highlights:

- In 2013, the draft Wildfire Management Policy for Armenia was developed which included measures to enhance wildfire response capabilities and fire safety, fire suppression, and international cooperation in fire management.
- The third national round table was organized in Armenia in August to discuss the draft Wildfire Management Policy. Around 50 representatives of various state agencies and local authorities participated in the round table. Based on the received feedback, the draft policy document was revised and prepared for submission to relevant Ministries in early 2014.
- In August 2013, in Armenia, a training session for trainers on forest fire management was organized. The training was intended for the practicing specialists in the field of wildfire management. Over 40 representatives of the Rescue Service, ArmForest SNCO, as well as representatives of protected areas, national parks, and local communities participated in the training. The *Training Handbook Euro Fire* in Armenian language, which was translated in the framework of the project in 2012, was distributed to the participants.

4.4.4. Strengthened multi-stakeholder cooperation in the South Caucasus for improved protected areas systems (S.C 1.4)

Background

Protected Areas (PA) play an important role in ensuring nature conservation, promoting sustainable management of natural resources and in encouraging transboundary cooperation. Currently, the centralized governance of PAs in the South Caucasus countries are characterized by limited involvement of stakeholders, which prevents the main functions of PAs from operating fully.

The project aims to increase the effectiveness of PA management through strengthening participatory approaches in the South Caucasus Region and promoting co-operation at the regional level.

Leading Agency: OSCE, UNEP

Budget: EUR 60,291

Donor: Finland

Duration: November 2011-December 2014

Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Objectives

- To increase the effectiveness of protected area management through the strengthening of participatory approaches in the South Caucasus Region and promoting co-operation at the transboundary level.

- To review the institutional and legislative structures of PA governance in the region.
- To prepare a source book and a training handbook on participatory PA management.
- To conduct training sessions in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and to organize a regional conference on participatory PA management.

Results

- A final revised version of the report entitled *Protected Area Legislation and Institutional Review* which presents a legislative and institutional review of protected areas governance in the three South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- A peer reviewed training handbook on the *Governance of Protected Areas*, which takes into account the South Caucasus region's specific circumstances, for use in the subsequent planned training workshops.
- A final revised version of the source book to accompany the training handbook entitled *Governance of Protected Areas* which is a collection of the most relevant chapters and articles from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's publications related to the Governance of Protected Areas. The first part provides information on collaboratively managed protected areas, describing challenges and benefits with illustrative examples. The second part of the Source Book outlines examples of private protected areas in various countries. In part three, the range and extent of community conserved areas are described, including benefits and case studies.

Highlights:

- National trainings and a regional South Caucasus conference on Participatory Protected Area Management are planned and scheduled for 2014.

4.4.5. Capacity building workshop on the Espoo Convention (SC 4.2)

Background

One of the main objectives of the ENVSEC Initiative in South Caucasus is to support countries of the region in the ratification and implementation of the UNECE Environmental Conventions, including the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context.

The Espoo Convention is an important instrument for promoting dialogue and co-operation among key stakeholders across borders, with the purpose of preventing negative transboundary environmental impacts from specific planned activities. The project objective was to organize a capacity building workshop on the Espoo Convention with the participation of government and civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.

Leading Agency: OSCE, UNECE

Budget: EUR 18,423

Donor: Finland

Duration: May 2011 – June 2013

Countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Objectives

- To support the countries of the South Caucasus region in the implementation of, and accession to, the UNECE Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).
- To organize a capacity building workshop on the Espoo Convention with the participation of government and civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey and to identify their capacity building needs.

Results

- A two-day sub-regional workshop on the UNECE Espoo Convention took place in May, 2011 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The workshop was organized jointly by OSCE and UNECE in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia. The Government and civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and government representatives from Turkey participated in the workshop. Topics addressed and discussed at the workshop broadened participants' understanding of the Espoo Convention and developments with regard to ratification and application of the protocol on SEA and assisted in identifying capacity building needs in this regard.
- The workshop identified several challenges faced by the countries in implementing the EIA process, such as lack of sufficient technical and human resource capacities in the governmental agencies in charge of EIA, ambiguity in regards to the role and involvement of NGOs in the EIA process; and possible doubts about impartiality when a developer leads the organizations public hearings. The linkages between the actual implementation of the provisions of Aarhus Convention and Espoo Convention and its Protocol were highlighted and the role of Aarhus Centers in this respect and their need for more active involvement with strengthening capacities was strongly emphasized.
- The project delivered Armenian and Georgian translations of the UNECE Resource Manuals to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Highlights

- The project assisted in the translation of two documents into Armenian and Georgian languages to support the application of the Espoo Convention protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in the two countries.
- UNECE Simplified Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and extended Resource Manual was submitted to the relevant state agencies for further distribution.

4.4.6 Aarhus Centers in South Caucasus (SC 4.1)

Background

Since 2002, OSCE with the support of ENVSEC has been supporting the establishment and functioning of Aarhus Centers and Public Environmental Information Centers in several countries, including those in South Caucasus. The Centers provide the resources for implementing the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention into practice. Aarhus Cen-

ters in the South Caucasus have been instrumental in improving public access to environmental information. Through close co-operation with the relevant state agencies, the Aarhus Centers are able to compile and disseminate environmental information including through the Aarhus Centers' websites. The Centers are flexible in their approach, taking into account local needs and capacities, their geographic location and the specific situational and political climate of the country in which they are located. In addition to ENVSEC funding, this project received contributions through OSCE from the Governments of Luxemburg, Netherlands and Norway.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 71,737

Donor: Finland

Duration: December 2009 - December 2014

Countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Objectives

- To support the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the South Caucasus region through the establishment and strengthening of the Aarhus Centers and through networking amongst the Centers by capitalizing on the varying strengths of the countries and responding to their challenges in relation to the three pillars of the Convention.

Results

- In 2013, the Aarhus Center in Georgia gained the status of the Legal Entity of Public Law under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, which ensures the long term sustainability of the Center's operation and increases its role in fostering the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

4.4.7. CASE - Civic Action for Security and Environment – NGO Small Grants Programme

Background

Effective environmental governance requires the participation of citizens in environmental policy making. Civil society organizations raise awareness on environmental issues, support citizen participation in environmental decision making, and are important mediators for achieving broad consensus on decisions addressing environment and security challenges. CASE is a small grants programme designed to build the capacity of CSOs to fulfill this role in close co-operation with governments at the national and community level in order to address environment and security problems. CASE currently covers three pilot countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan. In addition to ENVSEC, the CASE programme received contributions through OSCE from the Governments of Austria, Luxemburg, Liechtenstein, Norway, USA and Statoil.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 72,600

Donor: Finland

Duration: January 2011 – December 2014

Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan

Objectives

- To increase public and political awareness on the linkages between environment and security.
- To strengthen the technical and administrative capacity of CSOs in the field of environment and security.

Results

- Starting from 2009, CASE supported 47 NGO projects in South Caucasus region. The programme is implemented through grant cycles.
 - As of December 2013, five grant cycles were carried out in Armenia and Azerbaijan.
 - In Azerbaijan over 160 project applications were received and 19 grants worth of 195,000 EUR have been awarded.
 - In Armenia, 86 project proposals have been considered for CASE grants, out of which 28 NGOs received funding worth of EUR 166,409.
 - The projects submitted by NGOs were evaluated by the National Screening Boards comprised of representatives of the state agencies, NGOs, UNDP Country Offices and the OSCE field operations.
- In 2013, in Armenia, six projects were concluded under the fourth grant cycle. The fifth call for project concepts was announced in March and the CASE National Screening Board (NSB) awarded small grants for five new projects. The projects focused on issues of hazardous waste, man-made disasters, land degradation, green energy, local environmental management, and environmental awareness. In the reporting period, CASE projects were able to organize over 100 trainings, 50 consultation sessions and 25 roundtables.
- In 2013, in Azerbaijan, one project was concluded under the fourth grant cycle and two new NGO projects were awarded CASE grants in the field of land degradation and sustainable transport. The projects increased understanding of around 370 community members, representatives of government authorities, civil society organizations and media through the organization of 17 training workshops and round tables in Baku and in regions.
- In Azerbaijan, two capacity building training sessions were held for CSOs and media representatives on issues related to biodiversity conservation and environmental investigative journalism.
- The OSCE conducted an internal assessment of the CASE Programme.

Highlights

- In Armenia, 17 NGOs applied for funding under the Fifth Call for Project Proposals. The NSB awarded grants to five projects that have been implemented in the course of 2013 and early 2014. Projects address the issues of hazardous waste and hazardous chemicals management, reduction of the negative environmental impacts of mining, strengthening capacities of NGOs, combating land degradation, and others. The Average size of grants is 7,000 EUR.
- In Azerbaijan, OSCE announced the Fifth Call for Project Concepts and finalized the selection of proposals. 24 applications were submitted by CSOs. The NSB granted awards to two NGO projects in the fields of land degradation and sustainable transport. Average grant size in Azerbaijan is around 13,000 EUR.
- In Azerbaijan, two capacity building workshops were organized for civil society organizations:

- In May 2013, OSCE in partnership with the German International Cooperation Agency, held a training workshop on biodiversity conservation for faculty members of higher education institutions. The training was a follow-up to the CASE project on the development of curriculum and aimed to introduce the contemporary understanding and approaches to biodiversity conservation and its impact on human security, sustainable livelihoods, and sustainable environment.
- In December 2013, OSCE in cooperation with Internews-Azerbaijan Public Union, held the training on environmental investigative journalism for reporters. The training, delivered by local and international experts, focused on the key domestic and transboundary environmental issues and access to information in the context of Azerbaijan, reporting environmental issues, and investigative reporting techniques. Twelve journalists from a range of media outlets in Baku and the districts attended the three-day training. The purpose of the course was to increase the distribution of environmental information in the country, as well as to facilitate public participation and action in environmental matters.
- In 2013, OSCE conducted an internal assessment of the CASE programme implementation. The assessment concluded that the CASE small grants programme has been instrumental in addressing the environment and security challenges at the community level. Its role in promoting partnerships between government, civil society, the business sector and academia were highlighted along with the significant support that it receives from the host governments in Armenia and Azerbaijan. The evaluation also identified a set of recommendations to further increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme implementation. The findings of the assessment contributed to the formulation of CASE Phase II Project Proposal.

4.4.8. Regional Meetings for Environment and Security Initiative in the South Caucasus-OSCE

Background

The project was designed to facilitate co-ordination, implementation and further development of the ENVSEC Work Programme in South Caucasus through regional and national meetings and regular monitoring and reporting.

Leading Agency: OSCE

Budget: EUR 211,241

Donor: Finland

Duration: 2009 - December 2014

Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Objectives

- To facilitate co-ordination between ENVSEC Partner agencies in carrying out projects in the South Caucasus.
- To ensure implementation and further development of the ENVSEC Work Programme in South Caucasus.
- To organize regional and national meetings and ensure regular monitoring of projects and reporting on progress.

Results

- In the course of 2013, the project supported the ENVSEC coordination work in the region and implementation of the on-going ENVSEC projects;
- Monitoring of ENVSEC work programme in the region;
- Consultations with national stakeholders on potential new projects;
- Several new ENVSEC project proposals/programmes;
- Significant fund-raising efforts targeting several donors;
- New funding secured from Switzerland for selected projects, discussions are on-going with SIDA on a comprehensive work programme for South Caucasus.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF ENVSEC TRUST FUND – IN 2013 (MANAGED BY OSCE)

This chapter presents data and analysis on the total contributions received by the OSCE-managed ENVSEC TF from the ENVSEC Donors, Trust Fund available balance, transfers made to Partners for the implementations of projects and the expenditures incurred against these projects.

Table 1. Donor Contributions received to the ENVSEC Trust Fund in 2013

Donor	Contribution in EUR
AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	1,000,000.00
FINLAND	1,125,000.00
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	235,507.46
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)	596,970.02
Total	2,957,477.48

Table 2. Balance of the resources available at the ENVSEC Trust Fund as of 31 December 2013

Donor	Sum of Available Budget in EUR
AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	193,845.21
FINLAND	971,735.83
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	78,739.46
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)	479,247.12
Grand Total	1,723,567.62
Available Balance Rate	58%

Table 3. ENVSEC Trust Fund Transfers to Partners in 2013

Partner	Donor	Amount in EUR
OSCE	ADA	55,592.00
	SIDA	117,722.90
	SEPA	-
	FINLAND	38,200.00
Total		211,514.90
Partner	Donor	Amount in EUR
UNDP	ADA	92,635.52
	SIDA	-
	SEPA	29,297.00
	FINLAND	-
Total		121,932.52
Partner	Donor	Amount in EUR
UNEP	ADA	259,127.00
	SIDA	-
	SEPA	64,776.00
	FINLAND	53,656.17
Total		377,559.17
Partner	Donor	Amount in EUR
UNECE	ADA	62,282.27
	SIDA	-
	SEPA	62,695.00
	FINLAND	61,408.00
Total		186,385.27
Partner	Donor	Amount in EUR
REC	ADA	336,518.00
	SIDA	-
	SEPA	-
	FINLAND	-
Total		336,518.00

GRAND TOTAL

1,233,909.86

Table 4. Distribution of transfers made in 2013 from ENVSEC Trust Fund to Partners by Donors

Donor	Amount in EUR	Percent
AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	806,154.79	100%
OSCE	55,592.00	7%
UNDP	92,635.52	11%
UNEP	259,127.00	32%
UNECE	62,282.27	8%
REC	336,518.00	42%
FINLAND	153,264.17	100%
OSCE	38,200.00	25%
UNDP	-	0%
UNEP	53,656.17	35%
UNECE	61,408.00	40%
REC	-	0%
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	156,768.00	100%
OSCE	-	0%
UNDP	29,297.00	19%
UNEP	64,776.00	41%
UNECE	62,695.00	40%
REC	-	0%
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)	117,722.90	100%
OSCE	117,722.90	100%
UNDP	-	0%
UNEP	-	0%
UNECE	-	0%
REC	-	0%
Grand Total	1,233,909.86	

Table 5. ENVSEC Partner Organizations Expenditure in EUR in 2013

Partner	Trust Fund Transfer to the Partners	Partner's Expenditures	Partner's Available Balance
OSCE	211,514.90	43,077.08	168,437.82
UNDP	121,932.52	58,261.49	63,671.03
UNEP	377,559.17	193,813.27	183,745.90
UNECE	186,385.27	62,038.48	124,346.79
REC	336,518.00	80,386.00	256,132.00
Total	1,233,909.86	437,576.32	796,333.54

Table 6. Transfers of ENVSEC Trust Fund to Partners, Expenditures and Available Balance reported by Partners

Partner	Donor	Code	Project title	Project number	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Total Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget Allotment in the Organisations in EUR	Utilization rate
OSCE	FINLAND	OSCE-FIN II-EE 2.3	Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste and other cross-border environmental crimes (Phase III)	1101117	38,200.00	2,694.21	35,505.79	
	SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)	OSCE-SIDA-EE-B3-BLR	SIDA Swedish strategy for cooperation with Belarus - B3. Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol	1101364	117,722.90	8,450.00	109,272.90	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	OSCE-ADA-EE-2.4-IFS OSCE-ADA-EE-2.2-IFS OSCE-ADA-EE-2.1-IFS	Climate Change and security in the Dniester River Basin / EC -IFS Project	1101365	55,592.00	31,932.87	23,659.13	
Total					211,514.90	43,077.08	168,437.82	20%

Partner	Donor	Code	Project title	Project number	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Total Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget Allotment in the Organisations in EUR	Utilization rate
UNDP	SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	UNDP-SEPA -EE 1.3	River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman river basin	BLR10-79039	29,297.00	6,071.00	23,226.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	UNDP-ADA-SEE-A1	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) A1 Identification of EU accession risks and needs related to the mining sites	MNE10-74248	70,717.17	37,821.91	32,895.26	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	UNDP-ADA-SEE-A2	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) A2 Development of related technical documentation in preparation for the physical works for partners and beneficiaries	MNE10-74248	21,918.35	14,368.58	7,549.77	
Total					121,932.52	58,261.49	63,671.03	48%

Partner	Donor	Code	Project title	Project number	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Total Expenditure of projects	Available Budget Allotment in the Organisations in EUR	Utilization rate
UNEP	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-A3	Mapping and assessment of active mining sites and analysis of possible environmental risks in the management and future closure (Collection of primary and secondary sources of data for the creation of maps).	-	17,782.00	2,386.00	15,396.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-A4	Regional dialogue for improved management and reduced environmental risk of active mine sites (Workshops with public and private sector of mining stakeholder groups for UNEP the creation of framework)	-	21,918.00	3,269.00	18,649.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-A5	Public-private partnerships promoted for shared responsibilities and interventions in reducing environmental risk from active mining sites (Stakeholders meeting with public and private sectors).	-	17,782.00	4,669.00	13,113.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-B1	Better understanding of economic possibilities in existing or to be proclaimed protected areas.	-	29,361.00	1,834.00	27,527.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-B2	Improved regional dialogue and cooperation among mountain protected areas.	-	22,331.00	14,516.00	7,815.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-B4	Improving coordination among the members and enhanced communication to the public on environmental projects and data availability in the region under the Dinaric Arc Initiative	-	29,776.00	16,001.10	13,774.90	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE-D1	Support to long-term country planning on reducing biodiversity loss from climate change effects in the region through regional cooperation and dialogue.	-	30,851.00	4,256.00	26,595.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE -D2	Experience sharing and coordination mechanisms with the IFS project and other ENVSEC relevant projects in the other regions for	-	29,776.00	2,644.00	27,132.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	ADA-SEE - E	Regional Coordination of ENVSEC SEE Work Programme	-	59,550.00	25,806.00	33,744.00	
	SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	SEPA EE 3.1	Reducing vulnerability to extreme flood and climate change in the Dniester river basin (Dniester III Flood and Climate)	-	64,776.00	64,776.00	0.00	
FINLAND	FIN II-ENVSEC CU	ENVSEC Secretariat CU		53,656.17	53,656.17	0.00		
Total					377,559.17	193,813.27	183,745.90	51%

Partner	Donor	Code	Project title	Project number	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Total Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget Allotment in the Organisations in EUR	Utilization rate
UNECE	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	UNECE-ADA-SEE-C3	Transforming Environmental and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - Component C.3 Strengthening Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in SEE through: Country studies and a regional study on the key issues of access to justice (focusing on standing, remedies and costs); broad discussion on findings) and development of a capacity building programme	-	6,203.00	6,203.00	-	
	FINLAND	UNECE-FIN II-CA 2.3	Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia, Phase III	-	29,481.00	-	29,481.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	UNECE-ADA-SEE-A1	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - A1 Identification and	-	5,789.00	-	5,789.00	
	FINLAND	UNECE-FIN II-CA 3.4	Adaptation to climate change in Chu-Talas river basin (implementation phase)	-	25,427.00	4,522.00	20,905.00	
	SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	UNECE-SEPA-EE 3.1	Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in the Dniester	-	16,600.00	8,864.00	7,736.00	
	SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)	UNECE-SEPA-EE 1.3	River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman river basin	-	46,095.00	26,829.00	19,266.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	UNECE-ADA - EE 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	Climate change and security in the Dniester river basin	-	50,290.27	11,279.00	39,011.27	
			ECE travel	-	6,500.00	4,341.48	2,158.52	*
Total					186,385.27	62,038.48	124,346.79	33%

Partner	Donor	Code	Project title	Project number	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Total Expenditure of projects	Available Budget Allotment in the Organisations in EUR	Utilization rate
REC	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE-B1	Better understanding of economic possibilities in existing or to be proclaimed protected areas	33378-1201	8,271.00	-	8,271.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE-B3	Addressing the risks of forest fires in the SEE	33371-1200	54,588.00	-	54,588.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE-C 2	Promoting environmental mediation as a tool for effective public participation and conflict resolution on environmental matters	33382-1200	22,331.00	-	22,331.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE- C 3	Strengthening Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in SEE through: Country studies and a regional study on the key issues of access to justice	33372-1200	45,077.00	14,227.14	30,849.86	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE -D1	Support to long-term country planning on reducing biodiversity loss from climate change effects in the region through regional cooperation and dialogue	33383-1200	5,789.00	-	5,789.00	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE -D3	Building capacities for comprehensive quantitative and qualitative Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment and raising awareness of stakeholders and population on climate change adaptation	33385-1200	44,664.00	17,331.38	27,332.62	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE- D4	Study on ecosystem services as potential adaptation measures in a chosen region in a mountain area of Dinaric arc with Inventory of ecosystem services and ecological networks	33386-1200	36,640.00	10,020.45	26,619.55	
	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)	REC - ADA-SEE-E	Regional Coordination of ENVSEC SEE Work Programme	33370-1200	119,158.00	38,807.03	80,350.97	
Total					336,518.00	80,386.00	256,132.00	24%

GRAND TOTAL 1,233,909.86 437,576.32 796,333.54

*UNECE reported EUR 3,006.67 as Expenditure and EUR 1,334.81 as Negative Balance as of 31.12.2012

Table 7. ENVSEC Trust Fund Projects by Regions

Region	Project title	Code	Donor	Partners	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget in EUR
CENTRAL ASIA	Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia, Phase III	FIN II-CA 2.3	FINLAND	UNECE	29,481.00	-	29,481.00
				UNDP	-	-	-
				SUM	29,481.00	-	29,481.00
	Adaptation to climate change in Chu-Talas river basin (implementation phase)	FIN II-CA 3.4	FINLAND	UNECE	25,427.00	4,522.00	20,905.00
UNDP				-	-	-	
SUM				25,427.00	4,522.00	20,905.00	
Total				54,908.00	4,522.00	50,386.00	
Region	Project title	Code	Donor	Partners	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget in EUR
EASTERN EUROPE	Reducing vulnerability to extreme flood and climate change in the Dniester river basin (Dniester III Flood and Climate)	SEPA- EE 3.1	SEPA	OSCE	-	-	-
				UNEP	64,776.00	64,776.00	-
				UNECE	16,600.00	8,864.00	7,736.00
				SUM	81,376.00	73,640.00	7,736.00
	River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman river basin	SEPA- EE 1.3	SEPA	UNDP	29,297.00	6,071.00	23,226.00
				UNEP	-	-	-
				UNECE	46,095.00	26,829.00	19,266.00
				SUM	75,392.00	32,900.00	42,492.00
	SIDA Swedish strategy for cooperation with Belarus B3. Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol	SIDA-EE-B3- BLR	SIDA	OSCE	117,722.90	8,450.00	109,272.90
				UNEP	-	-	-
				UNECE	-	-	-
				SUM	117,722.90	8,450.00	109,272.90
	Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin	ADA-EE- IFS	ADA	UNECE, OSCE	105,882.27	43,211.87	62,670.40
				UNECE, OSCE			
UNECE, OSCE							
UNECE							
SUM	105,882.27	43,211.87	62,670.40				
Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste and other cross-border environmental crimes (Phase III)	FIN II- EE 2.3	FINLAND	OSCE	38,200.00	2,694.21	35,505.79	
			SUM	38,200.00	2,694.21	35,505.79	
Total				418,573.17	160,896.08	257,677.09	

Region	Project title	Code	Donor	Partners	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget in EUR
SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - A3 mapping and assessment of active mining sites	ADA-SEE-A3	ADA	UNEP	17,782.00	2,386.00	15,396.00
				SUM	17,782.00	2,386.00	15,396.00
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - A4 regional dialogue for improved management of mining sites	ADA-SEE-A4	ADA	UNEP	21,918.00	3,269.00	18,649.00
				SUM	21,918.00	3,269.00	18,649.00
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - A5 public private partnerships	ADA-SEE-A5	ADA	UNEP	17,782.00	4,669.00	13,113.00
				SUM	17,782.00	4,669.00	13,113.00
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - B1 Better understanding of economic possibilities in existing or to be proclaimed protected areas	ADA-SEE-B1	ADA	UNEP	29,361.00	1,834.00	27,527.00
				REC	8,271.00	-	8,271.00
				SUM	37,632.00	1,834.00	35,798.00
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - B2 Improved regional dialogue and cooperation among mountain protected areas	ADA-SEE-B2	ADA	UNEP	22,331.00	14,516.00	7,815.00
				SUM	22,331.00	14,516.00	7,815.00
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - B4 Improving coordination and enhanced communication on environmental projects and data availability in the region under the Dinaric Arc Initiative	ADA-SEE-B4	ADA	UNEP	29,776.00	16,001.10	13,774.90
				SUM	29,776.00	16,001.10	13,774.90
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - D1 Support to long-term country planning on reducing biodiversity loss from climate change effects in the region through regional cooperation and dialogue	ADA-SEE-D1	ADA	UNEP	30,851.00	4,256.00	26,595.00
				REC	5,789.00	-	5,789.00
				SUM	36,640.00	4,256.00	32,384.00
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - D2 Experience sharing and coordination mechanisms with the IFS project and other ENVSEC relevant projects	ADA-SEE-D2	ADA	UNEP	29,776.00	2,644.00	27,132.00
				SUM	29,776.00	2,644.00	27,132.00
	ENVSEC Secretariat SEE	FIN II/ ADA-SEE RC&Travel	ADA	UNEP	59,550.00	25,806.00	33,744.00
				REC	119,158.00	38,807.03	80,350.97
SUM				178,708.00	64,613.03	114,094.97	
Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - A1 Identification and discussion of specific EU accession risk and needs related to the mining sites	ADA-SEE-A1	ADA	UNDP	70,717.17	37,821.91	32,895.26	
			UNECE	5,789.00	-	5,789.00	
			SUM	76,506.17	37,821.91	38,684.26	
Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - A2 Development of related technical documentation in preparation for the physical works for partners and beneficiaries	ADA-SEE-A.2	ADA	UNDP	21,918.35	14,368.58	7,549.77	
			SUM	21,918.35	14,368.58	7,549.77	
Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - B3 Addressing the risks of forest fires in the SEE	ADA-SEE-B3	ADA	OSCE	-	-	-	
			REC	54,588.00	-	54,588.00	
			SUM	54,588.00	-	54,588.00	

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - C 2 Promoting environmental mediation	ADA-SEE-C 2	ADA	REC	22,331.00	-	22,331.00	
				SUM	22,331.00	-	22,331.00	
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - C3 Strengthening Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in SEE through: Country studies and a regional study on the key issues of access to justice	ADA-SEE- C 3	ADA	UNECE	6,203.00	6,203.00	-	
				REC	45,077.00	14,227.14	30,849.86	
				SUM	51,280.00	20,430.14	30,849.86	
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - D 3 Building capacities for Vulnerability and Adaptation	ADA-SEE -D3	ADA	REC	44,664.00	17,331.38	27,332.62	
				SUM	44,664.00	17,331.38	27,332.62	
	Transforming Environment and Security Risks into Cooperation in the South Eastern European Region (Phase II) - D 4 Study on ecosystem services as potential adaptation measures	ADA-SEE- D4	ADA	REC	36,640.00	10,020.45	26,619.55	
				SUM	36,640.00	10,020.45	26,619.55	
	Total				700,272.52	214,160.59	486,111.93	
		Project title	Code	Donor	Partners	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget in EUR
	ENVSEC Secretariat	ENVSEC Secretariat UNECE	Travel UNECE		UNECE	6,500.00	4,341.48	2,158.52
					SUM	6,500.00	4,341.48	2,158.52
	Total					6,500.00	4,341.48	2,158.52
		Project title	Code	Donor	Partners	TF Allotment in 2013 in EUR	Expenditure of projects in EUR	Available Budget in EUR
	Coordination Unit	ENVSEC Secretariat CU	FIN II-ENVSEC CU	FINLAND	UNEP	53,656.17	53,656.17	-
				SUM	53,656.17	53,656.17	-	
Total					53,656.17	53,656.17	-	
GRAND TOTAL					1,233,909.86	437,576.32	796,333.54	

Annex 1. ENVSEC steering structure

