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Activities



REPORT

of the third meeting of the Working Group on flood management and climate change adaptation under the pilot project

« Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in the Dniester basin »

Chisinau, 18-19 April 2011

PARTICIPANTS

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36. Pavel Stasny, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)
37. Giacomo Teruggi, World Meteorological Organization
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PROCEEDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Background and introduction

The Dniester III floods and climate project aims to reduce risks from climate change, and specifically flooding, for security by increasing the adaptive capacity of the riparian countries, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. The third meeting of the working Group on flood management and climate change adaptation which is steering the project aimed to discuss the next phases in the project, in particular the modeling and vulnerability assessment phase. Under each item, similar related projects were presented.

Vulnerability assessment, scenarios and modelling

After welcoming words by UNECE and national representatives the draft proposal for the modeling and vulnerability assessment phase was presented which had been elaborated by experts from both countries in an expert meeting, hosted by the UNECE Water Convention's International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) on 3-5 March 2011 in Bratislava. This proposal included on the one hand a climate change impact and vulnerability assessment for the entire Dniester basin, and, on the other hand, a more detailed flood risk modeling for two proposed sites: Mohyliv-Podylskiy in Ukraine and Tiraspol-Bender in the Republic of Moldova. Experts from the two countries provided more information on the models to be used, timeframes, the proposed sites etc.

The choice of Mohyliv-Podylskiy was endorsed, while some of the representatives of the riparian countries proposed to move the second area for detailed modeling further downstream. The Working Group approved the overall proposal for flood modeling and vulnerability assessment with the request to consider the change of the second selected site. Following the meeting, further discussions and clarifications were undertaken by Moldova's water and environmental authorities, and it was agreed to focus the downstream part of the study on one-dimensional modeling of flow and water levels between Olanesti and the Dniester estuary.

Subsequently, Mr. Roman Corobov, on behalf of ECO-TIRAS presented an ECO-TIRAS climate change related project on the Dniester and Mr. Mark Zheleznyak presented the progress of the project on analyzing climate change impacts in the Transcarpathian region.

Monitoring, information and communication

The Working Group was informed that the project component on flow monitoring and assessment had not yet started due to the need to reassess costs and the need for close cooperation and consultation with the World Bank projects on the installation of automatic flow monitoring systems in both countries. In this regard, Ms. Serenco, as representative of the Moldovan Hydrometeorological service presented the World Bank project on monitoring stations in the Republic of Moldova which covers a large part of the country. The Working Group underlined the need for close cooperation with these projects. In addition,

representatives of the Czech project on installation of automated flow monitoring stations in the Prut river reported on their experiences which could also be relevant for the Dniester III floods and climate project.

In addition, Mr. Giacomo Teruggi, World Meteorological Organization presented the concept of Integrated flood management (IFM) which stressed the need for a holistic approach to flood management. He warmly recommended using this concept in the project and also presented several case studies of flood risk communication. The Working Group welcomed the technical assistance of WMO to the project which would be specifically needed in the phase for elaborating an action plan as well as for the flood risk communication workshop planned under the project in 2012.

Action plan for adaptation to climate change and flood risk management

Subsequently, the final project phase, elaboration of proposals of measures and an action plan for transboundary flood risk management and climate change adaptation was shortly presented. Representatives of UNDP, Republic of Moldova presented two related projects: one on disaster risk reduction and one on the development of an adaptation strategy for the country. In addition, a representative of OECD presented the organization's plans for a project on adaptation of water supply and sanitation to climate change in the Republic of Moldova. The Working Group underlined the need for cooperation with all the similar projects presented in order to ensure synergies and requested the presenters to keep the working group informed in the future about their projects' progress.

International/ European projects and relevant activities

Mr. Nickolai Denisov, UNEP/ Zoi, informed the meeting about the progress in the ENVSEC project on developing scenarios for environment and security for Eastern Europe. Some of the results of these projects might be useful for the Dniester pilot project and vice versa. The representative of IWAC shortly informed about two EU projects on climate change impact and vulnerability assessment for the Carpathian region. Ms. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE, reported about the progress of the other pilot projects under the Water Convention's programme of pilot projects on adaptation in transboundary basins as well as the platform for sharing experiences¹, including the "second workshop on water and adaptation to climate change: challenges, progress and lessons learnt" held on 12-14 April 2011 in Geneva. Participants were also introduced to the new UNECE online platform for exchanging experience which enables the pilot projects under the UNECE Water Convention to share information, documents etc. within and between the projects. Participants were encouraged to actively use this system, for example all meeting document, presentations etc. were included on the online platform². After the meeting, all participants received an individual password for the platform.

Ms. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE, also informed the Working Group on the preparations for the Astana Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process (Astana, Kazakhstan, 21-23 September 2011), in particular the official substantive document on water and water-related ecosystems, the draft Astana Water Action as well as the organization of a side event on the pilot projects programme where the Dniester pilot project could be presented as well.

Next meetings of the working group, other issues and closing of the meeting

The Working Group decided to hold its next meeting either in autumn 2011 back-to-back with the final Dniester III plenary or at the beginning of 2012 when the results of the modeling and vulnerability assessment will be available.

The Working Group meeting was followed by an experts' meeting in order to discuss in more detail the next steps.

¹ see: <http://www1.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Welcome>

² <http://www1.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChangeIntranet/Third+meeting+of+the+Dniester+project>