

REPORT

of the second 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 »

Kiev 9 November 2010

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30. Mark Zheleznyak, Ukrainian Centre for Environmental and Water Projects

PROCEEDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

After welcoming words by UNECE and national representatives the draft baseline study reports were presented by the national experts who had prepared them, Ms. Serenco for the Republic of Moldova and Mr. Nabyvanets for Ukraine. The baseline study reports had aimed to identify existing activities, vulnerability assessments, studies, projects, laws and strategies regarding flooding and climate change adaptation in the Dniester basin. The participants commented the draft reports; it was for example highlighted that the structure of the two reports as well as the description of the basin at the beginning of the reports should be harmonized, clear conclusions should be added at the end, more information be given on which areas are vulnerable to flooding and associated damage, flood risk and hazard mapping, etc. In the Ukrainian report, the climate change impact assessment was considered very general; it should be tailored to the Dniester basin as far as information is available on that. In general, the frequency of extreme weather events as well as the temperature have increased in Ukraine.

Overall, the baseline studies showed that the climate change forecasts for Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were based on different methodologies, different scenarios were used and different baseline and projection periods; this had resulted in differing projections for the Ukrainian and Moldovan parts of the basin. For example, Ukraine did not expect significant changes in water availability in the basin whereas the Republic of Moldova expected more precipitation in the winter and less precipitation in the summer, together with a temperature increase. In addition, experts highlighted that projections for Moldova were based on old methods used in the year 2000. Therefore, a joint modeling and scenario exercise would be needed within the project; however only limited resources and time are available for that; thus it was recommended that Ukraine would include Moldova in its large-scale climate research programme which was currently starting. It was also suggested that the results should be taken into account in the overall Dniester-III project and the revision of the rules for exploitation of the Dniester reservoirs which are currently being developed.

The following next steps were agreed upon for the finalization of the baseline studies:

- by 26 November 2010 working group members can send written comments and additions to the experts which prepared the draft baseline study reports (Iurii Nabyvanets for Ukraine and Ludmila Serenco for Republic of Moldova) with a copy to Sonja Koepfel
- by end of December 2010 the national experts will finalize the baseline study reports.

Subsequently, other similar projects and activities were presented. Ms. Natalia Zakorchevna presented the progress under the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Ukraine and especially the plans to develop a national adaptation concept for Ukraine which was discussed at the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee on the following day. Ms. Sonja Koepfel reported, on behalf of UNDP Moldova on two of their projects, one on collecting risk assessments and one on support to the development of a national adaptation strategy. Ms. Ludmila Serenco reported on a World Bank project related to the establishment of an early warning system for Moldova currently under preparation. Mr. Manukalo gave information on a World Bank project (loan) for Ukraine for the installation of 32 flow and 37 hydrometeorological monitoring stations to be installed in the Dniester basin by 2012. This new project needed to be taken into account in the Dniester pilot project where also installation of up to 4 monitoring stations was planned; consultations will be conducted to determine if there was still a need for such stations in addition to the World Bank project. For example, the Dniester pilot project could focus on elaborating methods for information exchange and analyzing data from these stations.

Mr. Mark Zheleznyak presented different activities and projects of his team, including the development of a GIS tool for flood mapping and forecasting already used for the Kyiv region also for warning of the population, modeling activities on different rivers in Ukraine including the Dniester and finally a new project on analyzing climate change impacts in the Transcarpathian region, supported by the US Army

Corps of engineers. These activities were considered very relevant for the Dniester pilot project, close cooperation is therefore absolutely necessary and needed to be further discussed.

Subsequently, Mrs Slesarenok presented the last activities in the project “Democratization in the Dniester River basin”. Finally, Mr. Nickolai Denisov 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. Ms. Sonja Koeppel 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 experiences, including the next workshop to be held in April 2011 in Geneva.

The final part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on the next activities in the pilot project. The working group agreed that, based on the baseline study, a detailed proposal for the next phase, the vulnerability assessment will be developed by international experts in cooperation with national experts by end of February 2011. This will include proposals for scope, objectives and content of the vulnerability assessment, including, if needed, joint modeling and scenario development by the two countries for the entire Dniester basin. At the same time, options for the planned flood risk mapping for the Dniester will be considered, i.e. the areas, scale etc. taking into account existing mapping activities, the available data as well as limited resources and time available within the project.

These detailed proposals will be submitted for discussion to the next meeting of the working group, planned to take place in March 2011 in the Republic of Moldova, possibly back-to-back with the next Dniester-III meeting. After that, the vulnerability assessment will be prepared in the course of 2011, with an additional working group meeting probably in October 2011. During the last phase of the project a joint proposal of measures to reduce vulnerability and disaster risk reduction will be elaborated by end of 2012.