

CCMS Pilot Study “The Use of Landscape Sciences For Environmental Assessment”

Short Report about the NATO Pilot Study meeting In Debe, Poland September 1-3, 2003¹

Following the invitation of the Polish Pilot Study group, about 40 landscape scientists and landscape managers met at the Polish Environmental Training Center of Debe, near Warsaw for three days to discuss the progress and the future development of the CCMS Pilot Study on the use of landscape sciences for environmental assessment.

After the kind welcome addresses from the Polish Ministry of the Environment and the Polish CCMS representative, a general introduction into the Pilot Study concept was given by the project's co-directors, and the program for of the meeting was discussed.

This opening session was followed by a number of presentations from Polish colleagues who are interested in collaborating with the Pilot Study group. Their contributions included descriptions of different ecological maps on a national scale, various tools of digital landscape analysis and remote sensing techniques, methods of GIS based landscape management and risk assessment, and a presentation concerning the Polish Pilot Study contribution, which is directed towards a national analysis of NATURA 2000 activities. The papers were interesting illuminations of the high standard in geographical, ecological data sampling and processing in the host country.

Within the next block, the national contributions to the Pilot Study were presented. There were detailed presentations from the working groups of Australia, Bulgaria, Germany, Germany/Finland, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and the USA, and some short reports from further projects. All papers were discussed in detail, and the progress of the projects was evaluated. Throughout the discussions the potentials of further cooperation and the possibilities of a better mutual support was a focal point.

On the third day, the general concept of the Pilot Study and its future development were focal points. The fruitful discussions included the following points:

- long-term planning of the Pilot Study, work packages and time tables
- courses, exchange programs and summer schools
- activities of the working groups
- exchange of data and methodologies
- additional projects and future directions of cooperation
- structuring the report from the Debe meeting and organising the final report of the Pilot Study
- preparing the next meeting in Italy, 2004

The constructive debates were successfully accomplished by a cultural event, an excursion to the city of Warsaw and social events which were organised brilliantly by the hosts from Poland.

¹ A detailed report on the workshop is being prepared for the proceedings of the meeting. They will be published in the journal ECOSYS and on the pilot study home page.