

NATO SPS Programme

Pilot Study on "Sustainable Use and Protection of Groundwater Resources - Transboundary Water Management - Belarus, Poland, Ukraine"

Meeting held on 22 - 23.05.2007, in Lviv, Ukraine

Groundwater plays a huge role in economy as well as in supplying individual users with drinking water. At present over 60% drinking water used comes from groundwater resources. Therefore, it is needful to emphasize how important groundwater protection and rational resources management is. You can live without petroleum and gas, but without water it is impossible. Nevertheless, the consciousness of decreasing water resources consequences is still low, and problems caused by the lack of water can lead to geopolitical destabilization and conflicts. In order to carry on a rational groundwater resources management and protection a project arisen, concerning transboundary region of three countries: Ukraine, Belarus and Poland. Its main goals are: the development of transboundary water quality monitoring system among Ukraine, Belarus and Poland and launching an international cooperation in transboundary groundwater management and control. By the NATO SPS pilot study framework, concerning issues mentioned above, it is planned to arrange an international cooperation, that may effect in joint research works on the further stages of the project.

The first stage of the pilot study program was to arrange a meeting concerning initial issues:

- Groundwater monitoring – exchange of experience related to methods for groundwater table fluctuation and water quality research
- Degradation of natural environment and solutions for its protection
- Opportunities for joint transboundary groundwater monitoring
- Relations between groundwater table fluctuations caused by actual climate changes and future climate changes trends as an opportunity to determine areas endangered with water deficiency
- Identification of institutional structures managing water economy and environmental protection in each country
- Water Convention UNECE – managing transboundary water resources

The meeting that took place in Lviv (22-23.05.2007) was extremely significant for carrying further stages of the project. It enabled presentation of essential issues and problems that can be met during research works. Appropriate use of existing water monitoring system and development of a modern control system of water level and quality is now the key concern, that will allow protection and harmonious use of transboundary water. Because Ukraine was the host of the meeting its transboundary region problems were one of the essential subjects of the discussion.

The international meeting showed, that issues taken up need to be taken up as well in many countries. It should be demonstrated how crucial is the need of creating integrated groundwater protection system. The success of the meeting is also a draft of further steps that should be undertaken in future projects. Issues of the meeting are strategic questions, although actual water availability gives an illusion of inexhaustibility of its resources, but increasing pollution, climate changes or excessive use cause that without control systems and elaborate models of rational use, the problem of water deficiency can lead to serious consequences. An efficient groundwater monitoring system can be in the future used for drawing up scenarios for areas endangered with the lack of water in case of further climate changes, that is why the meeting had a multidisciplinary character that allowed making a draft of future activities and projects.

Participation list

SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES - TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT - BELARUS, POLAND, UKRAINE

22-23rd May 2007, Lviv

# in order	First and second name of participant	Organisation	Signature
1.	Dr.Nałęcz Tomasz	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
2.	Dr.Chowaniec Józef	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
3.	Dr.Ploch Izabela	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
4.	Dr.Śmietański Lech	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
5.	Dr.Burg Avihu	Israel	
6.	Dr.Halicz Ludwik	Israel	
7.	Dr.Gavrieli Ittai	Israel	
8.	Dr.Avaz Gulsen	Turkey	
9.	Prof.Zekster Igor	Water Problem Institute of Russian Academy of Science (Russia)	
10	Ms.Sobiecka Małgorzata	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
11	Dr.Pilichowska-Kazimierska Ewa	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
12	Dr.Łuczak Beata	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
13	Dr.Kazimierski Bogusław	Polish Geological Institute (Poland)	
14	Mr.Tatukh Stefan	State Administration of Environmental Protection in Lviv Region (Ukraine)	
15	Mr.Matolych Bogdan	State Administration of Environmental Protection in Lviv Region (Ukraine)	
16	Mr.Hvozdevych Oleh	Institute Geology and Geochemistry of Combustible Minerals of National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Ukraine)	
17	Prof.Stefanyk Yuriy	Institute Geology and Geochemistry of Combustible Minerals of National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Ukraine)	
18	Mr.Chalyj Petro	State Enterprise "Zahidukrgeologiya" (Ukraine)	

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19	Dr.Kharkevich Volodymyr	State Enterprise “Zahidukrgeologiya” (Ukraine)	
20	Prof.Kolodyi Volodymyr	Lviv Ivan Franko National University (Ukraine)	
21	Mr.Mukha Orest	Lviv Center for Scientific Technical and Economic Information (Ukraine)	
22	Dr.Zhuk Volodymyr	Lviv Polytechnic University (Ukraine)	
23	Dr.Zhelyh Stepan	Lviv Water Economy Department (Ukraine)	
24	Prof..Srybny Vasyl	USPP, Commission on Environment Protection	
25	Dr.Michaylo Jaworsky	Lviv Center for Scientific Technical and Economic Information (Ukraine)	