



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Implementation of the Dnipro Basin Strategic Action Programme for the Reduction of Persistent Toxics Pollution

GEF ID#: 2544, PIMS ID#: 3246

Project Status: Ongoing



Key results:

1. A draft trilateral agreement on '*Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dnipro River Basin*' has been developed and is supported by Ukraine and Belarus, with Russian participation sought.
2. The recommendations derived from the analyses of the EU Directives have been incorporated into the key regulatory acts of Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus
3. A robust environmental and water resources baseline for the Dnipro has been established, which will facilitate longterm monitoring of the environmental health of the river system.

Kenneth Lang
Vladimir Mamaev
Vladimir.Mamaev@undp.org
UNDP/GEF International Waters Programme

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project was to begin implementation of the ministerially approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) via governance reforms and demonstration projects aimed at reducing transboundary persistent toxic substances from small/medium size industries discharging through municipal waste systems (Vodokanals) in the Dnipro River Basin. The project addressed its objective through the implementation of four major components: conducting a series of pilot projects to introduce cleaner production methods to several medium sized industries discharging through municipal wastewater systems, including the development of sustainable financing mechanisms and local regulation and monitoring procedures; developing a comprehensive Transboundary Monitoring and Indicators Programme that will provide information on the status and progress of the SAP implementation programme to Dnipro Basin management bodies; facilitating the introduction of harmonised environmental legislation that will improve monitoring procedures, strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks including, inter alia, those governing cleaner technologies; and establishing key institutional and management structures within the wider SAP management bodies. The Dnipro River basin TDA identified six priority transboundary issues. Chemical pollution, particularly from industrial sources, was considered the priority issue in need of most urgent attention, so this was determined to be the focus of the SAP implementation project. It was also considered a viable entry point for achieving reform as the industrial sector transitioned to market-based economy.

RESULTS: PROCESS

The Transboundary Monitoring Programme (TMP) has been updated and modified in line with EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements. TMP expeditions are undertaken on an annual basis. There is an regular exchange of TMP information between Dnipro Basin countries both on the expert levels and via bilateral agreements, and the National and Regional Working Groups are cooperating on a quarterly basis. A TMP strategy was reviewed, updated and optimised, and a first draft Methodology on Ecological Status Assessment submitted. An NGO forum established in the first GEF project continues to function to facilitate civil society participation. The Dnipro NGO forum included participants from Russia first in 0 years. Publications based on TMP environment data are available via the Internet on an ongoing basis, and are posted on the project website (<http://www.undp-gef-dnipro.com/>), governmental portals and the UNDP Ukraine website (<http://www.undp.org.ua/>). 12 EU Directives have been analysed and round table discussions have been regularly conducted through 2011-2012. The results have been incorporated in Ukraine into the state harmonization and convergence strategy as it is stipulated by the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement; in Belarus the analyses prepared by the Project experts have been included in the new Water Code currently reviewed by the Parliament.

SAP management bodies have been established and they meet on an annual basis in Ukraine (Dnipro Basin Councils) and the formation of such bodies is underway in Belarus. Information about SAP/NAP renewal and follow-up implementation is available in the media. Legal and institutional mechanisms for the introduction of water sharing principles in the Dnipro Basin have been developed. Drafts of the Dnipro Basin Management Plans compliant with the EU WFD are also underway. At least 10 awareness raising campaigns have been conducted, along with the release of 72 project publications. A joint Danube – Dnipro workshop involving senior representatives from both river basins was held to discuss the lessons from the Danube and international cooperation in the Dnipro Basin.

A draft trilateral agreement on '*Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dnipro River Basin*' has been developed and is supported by Ukraine and Belarus. National inter-ministerial discussions will be organized to ensure internal acceptance of the draft agreement. Both project countries recognized the importance of full involvement of the Russian Federation and encouraged the project to further brief Russian Federation ministries with the aim of ensuring full participation.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

Enterprises in Ukraine and Belarus have been identified and undergone Cleaner Production (CP) training. 19 enterprises took part in the training, 11 of them were certified due to their successfully developed business plans. Technical assessments by international and local experts have started. Since 2009, a Transboundary Quality Assessment/Quality Control (QA/QC) system has been undertaken during the transboundary expeditions. Tests are performed on a regular basis with a focus on sustainability and cooperation between Ukraine and Belarus. ACP Programme is being implemented to reduce the concentration of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) in discharging waste waters. CP trainings are being delivered to at least 25 industrial enterprises, 12 local authorities and the wider public. It is expected that at least 15 enterprises will be subject to a range of co-financing instruments by the end of the project. Furthermore, 24 experts from the Ukraine and 20 experts from Belarus completed CP training courses in Germany.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Three scientific monitoring expeditions of the Dnipro Basin transboundary waters were undertaken. 23 monitoring stations were evaluated and 14 reference sites were determined. This assessment on the current ecological status was conducted on the basis of hydro-morphological, hydro-chemical and biological indicators. Based on extensive activities carried out during both GEF projects, a very robust environmental and water resources baseline for the Dnipro is now available which will facilitate longterm monitoring of status and trends in the environmental health of the river system and inform adaptive management during SAP implementation.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

Towards the completion of the Phase 2 of the Project and accumulating the experience of the previous its stages, the outcomes of the following potential regional projects associated with the Dnipro Basin should at large focus on:

1. Establishment of the Dnipro Basin Commission.

It is a common understanding that the International Dnipro Basin Commission (hereinafter – IDBC) to be established as stipulated by the Dnipro Agreement will not substitute or replace the existing institutional framework of bilateral cooperation in transboundary waters but rather be working in close cooperation with the latter. Thus it will foster, facilitate and coordinate efforts of the three riparian states and resolve those water, natural resources and ecosystem management issues which only the river basin commission is able to effectively resolve. At the same time, the IDBC will build upon the experience the riparian states already possess in establishing or participating in joint bodies on transboundary river basins, e.g. like ICPDR.

2. Integral monitoring system/efficient information exchange mechanisms

The monitoring systems currently implemented in Ukraine and Belarus are uneven, with the well-organized, but Soviet times indicators in Belarus, and scattered and largely ineffective system with no principle subject of monitoring in Ukraine. EU WFD compliant integral monitoring program with hydro-chemical, hydro-biological and hydro-morphological indicators regularly (though automated monitoring points) checked and accessible is crucial step to enable apt and timely managerial decisions.

3. Relevant environmental legislation

The project implementation revealed that in principal all the activities, including the implementation of cleaner production technologies, elaboration of EU-compliant monitoring programs and facilitation of the establishment of key managerial structures through drafting the respective statutory documents and

calling regular national and regional working groups are largely of little efficiency if the respective norms and activities are not foreseen by the existing legislation of the riparian countries. Thus the effort has to be applied into the assistance in drafting the relevant amendments and legislative acts per se as well as the assistance in supporting procedures to help the Dnipro countries to approach more environmentally conscious EU practices.

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