



Exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice on drought issues DMCSEE, Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe

“Action plan for the preservation of the good environmental status according to the surface water of the south border region”

Our Directorate implemented the project in the framework of the Interreg III/A Hungary-Romania and Hungary-Serbia and Montenegro Cross Border Co-operation Programme in the partnership of Vode-Vojvodina public company and the Kiskunsági National Park.

The status of the surface water on the areas of the border region between Hungary and Serbia being west of the River Tisza determines the environmental status of the catchment. In the last 15 years with drought periods the environmental status has been deteriorating. Due to the changes in the natural and social environment it became necessary to work out an action plan in favor of the good environmental status of the catchment.

The decrease of the water supply assembling on the catchment area caused a drastic decrease of the natural environmental biodiversity and the deterioration of the population living at the catchment area on both sides of the border. It is necessary to implement the complex catchment area revelation procedure in favor of preserving and improving the environmental potential of the area, and this action gives the adequate background to work out the action plan.

The general aim of the project is to work out such a precautionary package, which aims at the improvement of the environmental potential on one hand and on the other hand it lays emphasis on the sustainability by involving those interested (population, ATIKÖVIZIG, Kiskunsági National Park, enterprises, civil organizations). After working out one water-management and one ecological study, the direct aim of the project is to implement a catchment revelation, including the complex, natural and social features as well. By the means of this revelation real future visions can be defined. These future visions include technical and land-use opportunities; and the concerned people and organizations shall define the aims to which they have to contribute according to the implementation and sustainability.

Those concerned expect that the water system of the catchment shall provide safety against the water damage in the period of inland waters flood. For this reason the claims should be made against the water system according to the water damage averting – inland water draining off. At the same time we shall make efforts to moderate the consequences of the drought, fitting to the natural regime of the catchment.

In the first phase of the project implementation we executed the complex revelation of the environmental status of the catchment. IT background has been modernized by procuring IT equipments and evaluating programmes.

On one hand the complex study meant an ecological survey of the area, on the other hand the revelation of the terms of management of water-supplies according to the catchment.

The partners jointly processed the results of the surveys by using the complex approach by initiating external experts. The potential future visions of the catchment have been defined according to the survey results. The topic of debate has been prepared by building in the economic analysis, and this was introduced to the population of the catchment.

The future visions have been established taking into consideration the population's opinion, and these visions assure consensus solutions to the demands and needs arising in accordance with the catchment. To implement these chosen aims action plans have been worked out. For

example a greater use of the tourism activities on the area can be also helped by the establishment of a good environmental status. The medical tourism can be complemented by the ecotourism, which is based on the organized presentation of the environmental values. The action plan includes the measures which are necessary to improve the environmental potential on the whole area of the catchment, and also the costs in connection with their maintenance.

Results obtained

The complex revelation of the environmental status of the catchment. IT background has been modernized by procuring IT equipments and evaluating programmes. The complex study meant an ecological survey of the area, the revelation of the terms of management of water-supplies according to the catchment.

Repeatability & Applicability

The action plan includes the measures which are necessary to improve the environmental potential on the whole catchment area. The results help for solve similar problem.

Szeged, 28.07.2011.

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Figure 1: The Fowler-lake



Figure 2: Water scarcity in the Dél-Alföld region