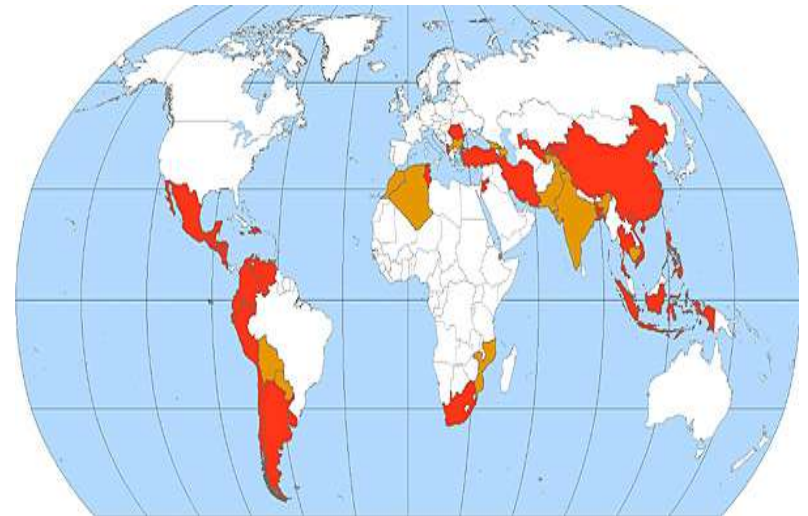




Regional Meeting 9 - 12 December 2008 Becici, Montenegro

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Programme Manager a.i.





What is to be covered?

- Background Information
- Targets of the 2008
- Activities undertaken (status of implementation and challenges faced)
- Activities for the first half of 2009 (who is doing what, challenges to be considered)



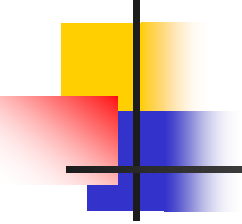
Background information

- Part of the Western Balkans regional programme funded by the kingdom of Netherland;
- Countries involved: Albania, B& H, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, UNMIK Kosovo;
- **Project is aiming at:** cleaning up and remediation of BRS, raising awareness and strengthen capacities for good environmental management at local and national level;
- Enhancing regional cooperation through improved information sharing progress and supply of professional consultancy services regarding good environmental management;
- **Its main objective:** improvement of environmental situation and quality of life for citizens living in and around polluted areas through least cost measures, improved local and national; policy dialogue and supply of domestic professional services in the environmental management sector.



Activities 2008

- Clean up of BRS
- Strengthen the mechanisms of good governance and policy integration in central and local level;
- Strengthen and mobilize the national capacity for policy development, integration, implementation and evaluation at national and regional level.



I. Clean up and site remediation of stock pile of toxic chemicals at Bajza railway station

- Carry out the Preliminary site Investigation;
- TORs for the needed intervention on the site (repackaging, safe removal, final disposal);
- Transfer of on the ground investment know how and institutional capacities to local stakeholders to ensure controlled hand over;
- Training courses, workshops for stakeholders to support efficient implementation of, and follow up to environmental remediation activities;
- Evaluation and dissemination of results including a documentary of Bajza hot spot describing all the steps towards clean up
- Establishment of a regional community network of all hot spots;



II. Strengthen the mechanisms of good governance and policy integration in national and local level

- Report on Needs Assessment and Guidelines for a strategy for capacity building at national, local level and private sector for safe management of hazardous chemicals/waste, contaminated sites covering
- Assessment of policy integration
- Support pilot demonstration project/idea
- Promoting access to information and linking to EIA and SEA processes.



III. Strengthen and mobilize the national capacity for policy development, integration implementation and evaluation at national and regional level

- Report on Market Survey and lists of environmental experts and environmental companies/institutions/organizations covering
- Workshops and training activities on outcomes of Environmental Assessment of BRS, EIA, SEA, Health & Environmental Risk Assessment, Hot spots and Protected Areas;
- Creation of the Roster of qualified environmental experts;
- Capacity assessment of professional environmental service providers at local and national level and identification of training needs.



What is done so far

- Report on Needs Assessment accomplished;
- Report on Market Survey accomplished
- PSI accomplished;
- TORs on repackaging, safe disposal and final disposal prepared and announced
- Workshops, trainings communicating the results of the above conducted - identification of the focus groups; media is aware both locally and nationally;
- Roster of environmental practitioners created;
- Company for public awareness campaign hired and started to work.



Challenges

Issues update

Organizational

- There were no access to Atlas
- Resignation of Programme manager

Management response:

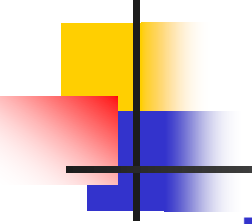
- Access to Atlas is given, but with no full rights;
- The coordinator of National Hot spots project is acting as programme manager till the selection process is finalized.



Findings and recommendations of needs Assessment

- The assessment identifies needs at local and national level where institutional strengthening and capacity building are necessary for improving:
 - sustainable development;
 - hazardous waste management and;
 - better management of natural resources.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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- Assessment of Capacity Building Needs of National and Local Stakeholders scheme for Capacity Development need further Institutional dialogue and broader participation of the beneficiaries, in order to design specific programs leading to sustainable development, creating a better balance between the impacts of potential interventions and mitigation of those impacts.

- Albania has adjusted the laws and regulations to the new political reality, and this legislation is in the process of implementation.
- Various ministries cooperate weakly on environmental issues, and it is based mostly on personal relations rather than formal relations.
- Further need for modernization of the legal framework is evident in such trends as the movement from sectoral monitoring, inspection and management of specific hotspot areas goes to a more integrated approach.
- Data storage and data-retrieval systems are underdeveloped.
- ~~Monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment is weak, considering the human resources and information available.~~
- There is limited staff and knowledge available for the development of management plans of identified hotspot area. Specific job descriptions should be developed to appointed staff in Inspectorate of Environment and different directorates, which cover the hotspot management and monitoring issues. This approach should not be limited only at MoEFWA, but also at other line Ministries. In addition, it should be extended to authorities at regional level (Qark) and Local level (Municipalities and Communes)
- There is lack of knowledge and application for SEA procedures for the areas where hotspot is identified. Models and case studies are needed as part of the technical assistance through trainings for the involved staff of different Ministries and institutions, both at national and region level. - The Inspectorate of Environment indicates a lack of personnel with the legal training, necessary to develop structured compliance monitoring, consistent non-compliance response, and enforcement procedures
- **Assessment of Capacity Building Needs of National and Local Stakeholders**
- Mostly regional and local authorities strongly indicate the need for training – including courses in law framework – and they need better support in the area
- of human resources. Special emphasis should be given to MEAs and their obligations for different authorities.
- Training is very much undervalued in Albania. Management gets no training whatsoever, while other staff receive only a few days per year, if any. The lack of staff training makes for very static organizations. In addition, no specific training related to different hotspots is designed.
- Public awareness and action is very weak in areas around the hotspots. There is lack of specific school programs at school to prevent health impacts.
- NGO action is still weak and based on ad-hoc action, mainly as reaction to specific emergency cases.
- Local authorities pay no active role on informing the public regarding different processes taking place



Findings and recommendations of Market Survey

Legal and institutional framework

- Some important EIA Acts and Regulations are still missing in the law.
- There is not any proper EIA methodology, there is a Guide (No. 6, dated 27.12.2006) on Approval of the methodology of preliminary EA for the activities and some appendices on the Law of EIA (No. 8990, dated 23.01.2003) covering classification of the EIA based on the nature of development activities or types of environments.
- Data on the staffing of the institutions should be updated, as well as the institutional TORs, who is doing what/ etc.



Recommendations coming from market survey report

- Including the Agency of Environment and Forests on SEA reviewing process, to provide the quality control on evaluation of EIA;
- The licensing process to be annulled, and restarts on the basis of entities/subjects and not to individuals;
- Approving the legislation acts that ensure participation of public and NGOs in EIA process, as well as in decision making process.



Year 2009

- The elections by mid of the year 2009 may create a problem



Thank you for your attention