

Technical Component

Added value, Insights and Planned Activities

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Strength of A Regional Approach

The Mission: *“Strengthening Capacities in the Western Balkans Countries To Address Environmental Problems Through Remediation of High Priority Hotspots”*

- Sharing solutions on common problems, similar situations, across borders;
- 9 hotspot Interventions each with different activities and challenges to learn from;
- Opportunity to expand knowledge, experience, resources and approach beyond that learned within a single country/territory project .



Added Value of the Regional Program

- Centralized technical resource for co-ordinated reporting to the donor on quality and approach and for supporting individual projects and countries/territories;
- Regional unit with country/territory input can jointly identify collective technical training, capacity development or other resources/approaches needed to ensure quality outcomes;
- Ability of the Regional Unit to facilitate the collective experience gathered to benefit the participating countries/territories beyond their individual projects;
- Build on countries/territories co-operation and interactions so far to showcase achievements made, challenges met.



Added Value to Date

- Review of critical environmental issues for each site and provision of reports for Donor , RPM and NPC (interim in May, annual to be provided in December);
- Provision of expert advice for national coordinators to further develop/refine their individual country projects (Albania, Montenegro, UNMIK Kosovo, Serbia);
- Provision of expert advice in preparing tenders, ToRs, participating in evaluation committees (Albania, BiH, MNE, UNMIK Kos);



Added Value to Date

- Organisation of technical study tours (Austria; Slovenia and Czech Republic);
- Assistance in reprioritization of individual country projects and **in preparing selection of additional “Hot Spot” sites or activities** (Albania, UNMIK Kosovo);
- Facilitated liaisons and networking between and among country teams (Quantity surveying, independent review experts).
- Fostering and Establishing links with other relevant programs within the region (UNEP/UNIDO).



Some Challenges

Next Steps in Communication

- Communication has improved between RPMU and NPCs but varies in detail, timelines and involvement in individual country activities/processes;
- Regularity and quality of communication is important for the Regional Unit to accurately evaluate and report on individual country progress;
- Full involvement of CTA/PA is important to comment on quality, approach, environmental standards and to support individual projects and countries/territories especially.



Challenges

Environmental/Human Health Monitoring

- Adhoc or incidental environmental monitoring to date. Not necessarily focused on the critical contaminants of concern or in demonstrating environmental improvements “Hotspot” interventions have achieved.
- Purposeful environmental Monitoring is critical to demonstrating the human health/environmental improvements. For some sites due to the nature of the intervention other ways of measuring the improvement will need to be considered such as modelling.



Challenges

Linkages Between Countries and Sites

- Identifying how the Regional Unit can better facilitate the collective experience to benefit all of the countries / territories beyond individual projects through activities that actively promote and exchange the information gathered (ie exchange visits/study tour resources);
- To build on countries/territories co-operation and interactions so far to showcase achievements made, challenges met both within the relevant sectors in the Western Balkans outside of the program and to into the wider area.



Planned Regional Activities

- Environmental Monitoring Training and Field Surveillance – March 09?
- Slovakia – Mining Study Tour – May 09.
- Best Practice Mine Remediation - Pilot Project with UNEP – (tba).
- Czech Forum – Hazardous Waste/Pesticides cleanup technologies – 10 Sept 09.
- **Expert “Hot Spots” meeting (Regional)** – Liability directive + financing – Oct 09?
- Facilitating Exchange Activities (to be developed with NPCs).



Next Steps

- Enhancing communication and technical interactions between the CTA/PA and National Project Co-ordinators/Country Offices to ensure input on environmental standard and uniform quality across the program (two benefit in this);
- Identifying and implementing Environmental monitoring/modelling needs for each intervention site to demonstrate the improvements made to environmental and human health;



Next Steps

- Working on an approach between the Regional Unit and National Project co-ordinators/Country Offices to maximise the lessons learnt at each site beyond the borders of each country/territory for the collective benefit of the Western Balkans;
- Joint identification between the Regional unit and countries/territories of technical training and capacity development to ensure quality outcomes and improvements in technical capacities in intervening in hotspots;



THANK YOU!

