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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
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Transboundary water management in Belarus: current situation

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Belarus



Three important new the projects in the field of transboundary water resources are carried out in Belarus thanks to the financial help of the European Union:

- 1. Project EU/UNDP “Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus” (2011-2013)**
- 2. Project UNECE/UNDP “River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman River basin (2011 – 2013)”**
- 3. The programme EU “Supporting Environmental Civil Society Organisations (SECTOR) in Belarus and Moldova” (2013 – 2014)**



1. Project EU/UNDP “Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus” (2011-2013)

Volha Chabrouskaya, Project Manager

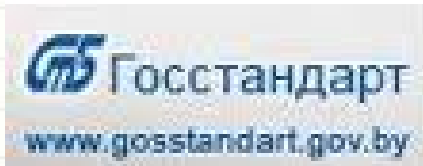
The main goal of this project is to enhance the capacity of Belarus in strategic planning, policy setting and governance in the field of environment and environmental information. The project is intended to work with a broad range of international and local stakeholders.

12 important documents have been developed for **improvement of legal and institutional framework for water management:**

1. **Legal document** on organization of river basins management.
2. **National standard** on definition of changes in river’s hydromorphology.
3. **National standard** establishing method of indication of mercury in surface waters.
4. **Addendum to technical code** of common practice on control of chemicals in wastewaters in the field of control of highly hazardous chemicals.



5. **Technical code** of common practice on drafting of river basin management plan.
6. **Technical code** of common practice on assessment of quality of surface waters based of hydrobiological indicators for river's ecosystems.
7. **Technical code** of common practice on assessment of quality of surface waters based of hydrobiological indicators for lake's ecosystems.
8. **Technical code** of common practice on assessment of quality of surface waters based on hydrochemicals indicators for river's ecosystems.
9. **Technical code** of common practice on assessment of quality of surface waters based on hydrochemicals indicators for lake's ecosystems.
10. **Technical code** of common practice on rating of maximum permissible concentrations of chemicals in surface waters.
11. **Technical code** of common practice establishing technical requirements for laboratories providing surface waters monitoring.
12. **Technical code** of common practice in the field of surface water monitoring during accidental pollution..



2. Project UNECE/UNDP “River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman River basin” (2011 – 2013)

Sonja Koeppel, Manager of the project at UNECE

Igar Tchoulba, Programme Analyst, Iryna Usava, Project manager UNDP

Vladimir Korneev team leader, Belarus, Egidijus Rimkus team leader, Lithuania

Impacts of climate change and variability on transboundary basins are evident in many regions in the world and pose a challenge to water managers around the globe. The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the countries sharing the Neman River to adapt to climate change through supporting dialogue and cooperation on the needed steps to design an adaptation strategy in the transboundary context. It aims to reach a common understanding on future water availability and water use, taking into account possible climate change impacts.

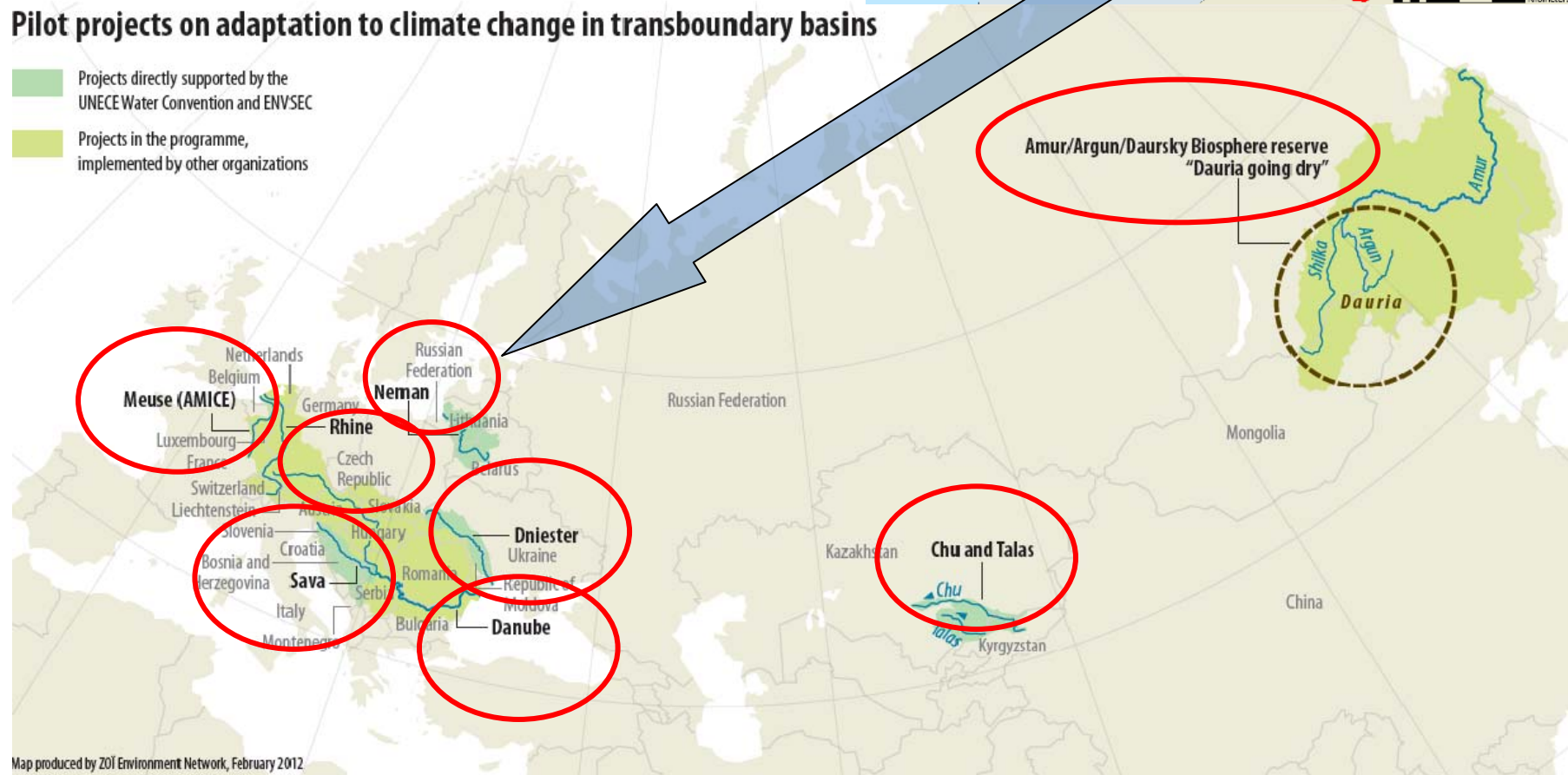


The project is one of Pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) <http://www.unece.org/env/water>, partially implemented under the Environment and Security initiative (ENVSEC www.envsec.org).



Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

- Projects directly supported by the UNECE Water Convention and ENVSEC
- Projects in the programme, implemented by other organizations



Main goals of the project:

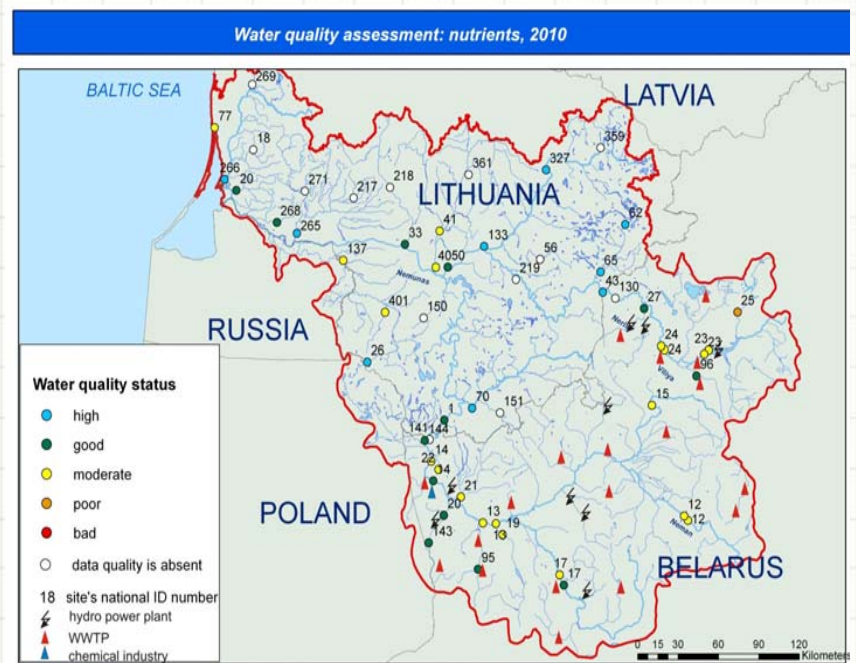
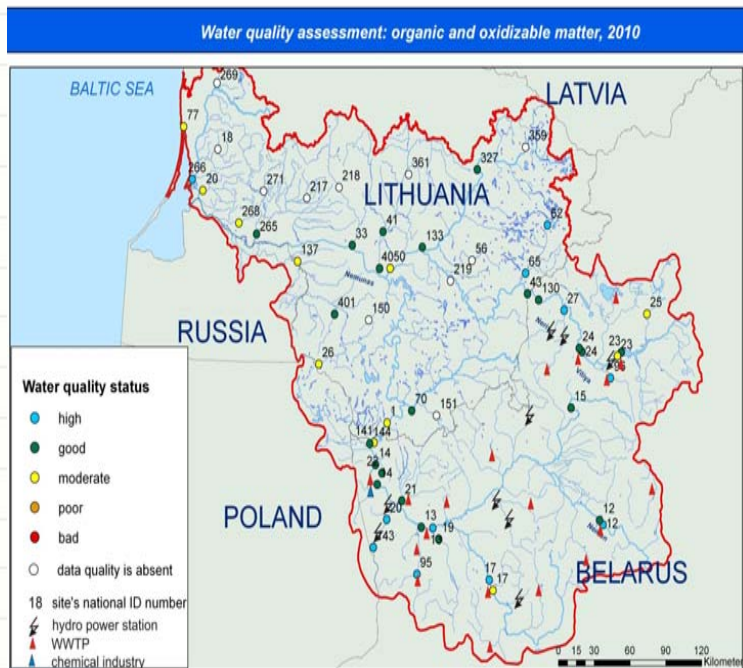
- Assessment and forecast of water resources runoff under different climate change scenarios and economic development tendencies with regard to the use of water resources and industrial capacity for the Neman River basin;
- Proposals for common indicators of water bodies status (ecological and chemical), along with respective criteria (values), and systems for classification of water bodies' state and parameters;
- Improvement of the integrated water resources management using the basin approach in the climate change context;
- Enhancement of transboundary cooperation, including improvement of exchange of information about water resources use between Belarus, Lithuania and Russia.



The Neman project has already achieved the following results:

- Assessment of the current state of the water resources of the Neman River basin (quantitative and qualitative aspects) have been made
- The common Lithuanian and Belarusian approach for assessment of water quality of surface waters in the entire Neman River Basin taking into account Lithuanian experience for selected list of water quality monitoring stations (WQMS) and for selected list of water quality parameters was in the first time implemented for the whole Neman River Basin. Series of maps on classification of surface waters quality for the whole Neman river basin were developed

Assessment of current status of water resources in the Neman River Basin

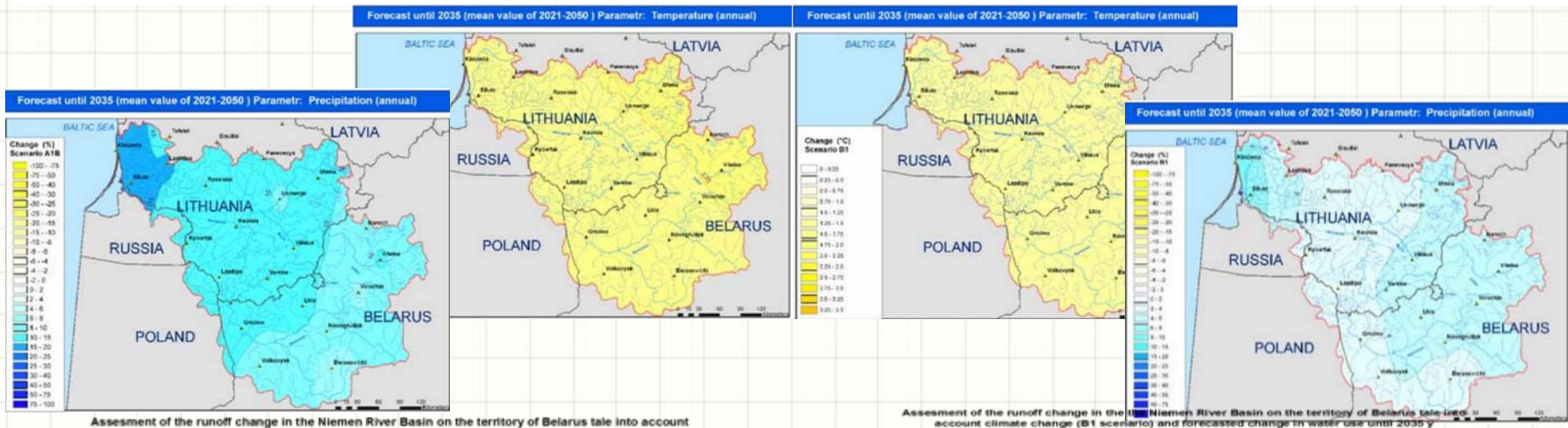


Climate forecasting for the whole Neman River basin was done using CCLM model outputs based on initial and boundary conditions of the Global Circulation Model ECHAM5/MPI-OM. Two greenhouse gas emission scenarios were used: A1B (a relatively high emission scenario) and B1 (a low-emission scenario)

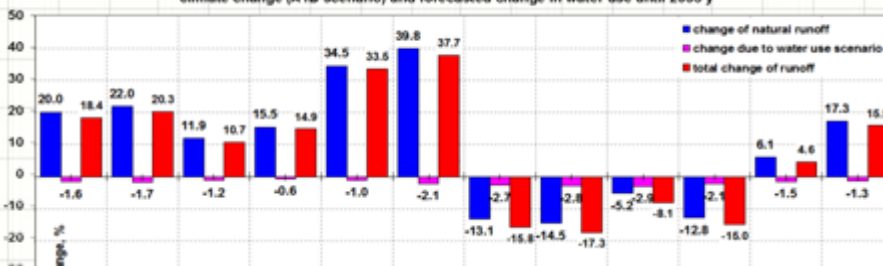


A1B - scenario

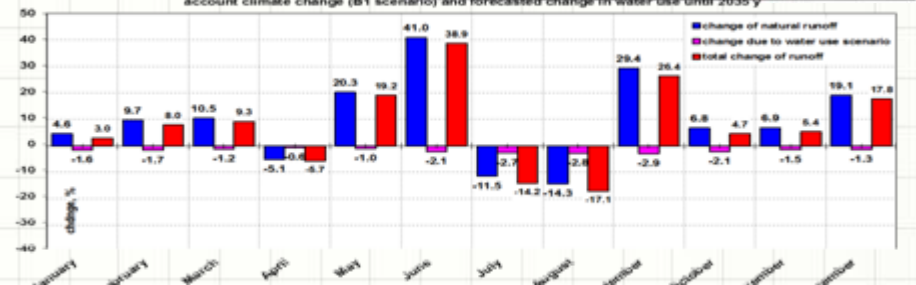
B1 - scenario



Assesment of the runoff change in the Neman River Basin on the territory of Belarus take into account climate change (A1B scenario) and forecasted change in water use until 2035 y



Assesment of the runoff change in the Neman River Basin on the territory of Belarus take into account climate change (B1 scenario) and forecasted change in water use until 2035 y



The concept of internet information database containing data on water resources management has been developed. The concept includes the structure and set of informational layers. A pilot version of the database is developed (<http://www.cricuwr.by/neman/>)

Development of the preliminary recommendation for improvement of water management in connection with climate change adaptation (draft proposals on adaptation measures for particular sectors of economy) for Belarus.

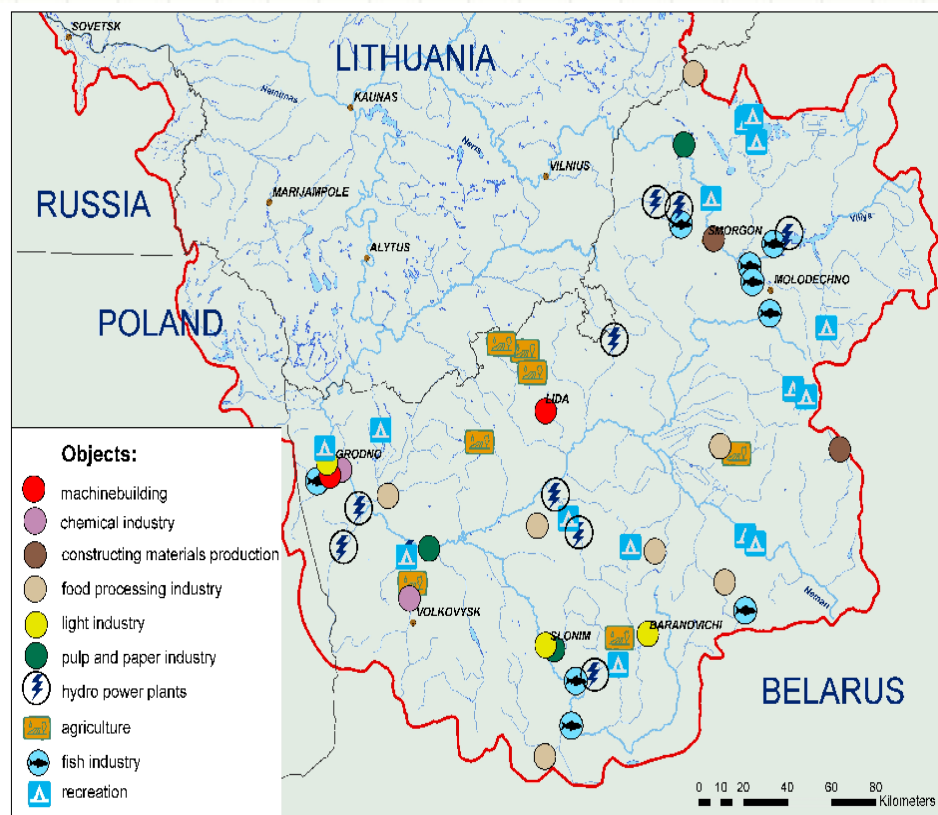
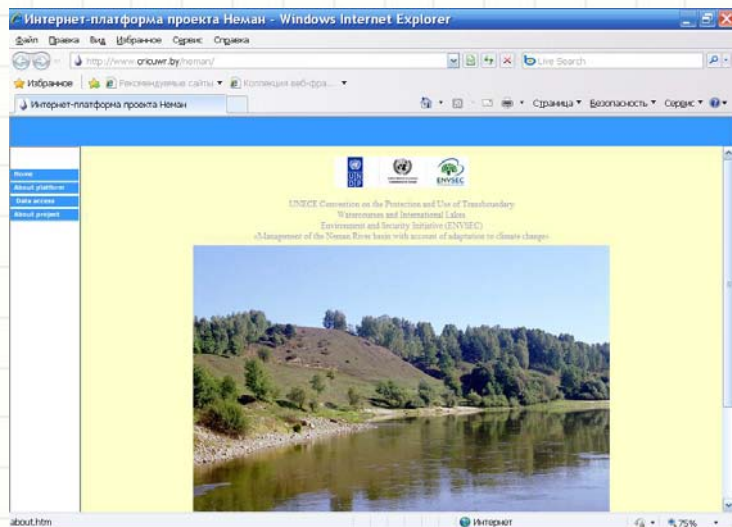
Water users most affected to climate change due to their depends from water supply from surface waters:

Industry (19);

Hydroelectric power plants (11);

Recreation (17);

Agriculture including fish industry (16)



3. The programme EU “Supporting Environmental Civil Society Organisations (SECTOR) in Belarus and Moldova” focuses on civil society organisations (CSOs) as important actors in the field of environmental protection.

One of the projects in this program is called:

Promotion of public participation in international cooperation on integrated management of transboundary rivers in Western EECCA countries

Partners: Eco-TIRAS (MD) and Ecoproiect (BY)





The result of this project should be the creation of environmental non-governmental association, which will be composed of non-governmental organizations in the Neman river basin, like it has happened in 1999 at the 2nd Dniester River conference.



Thank you
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