



Stakeholder Feedback Report (Minutes from the Regional Workshop)

Date: 22 June 2011

Venue: Zlatograd, Bulgaria

Participants: L. Trichkov – chief of Department Forest Policy and International Activity, EFA
L. Zhelev – state expert, Executive Forest Agency (EFA)
D. Pandeva – senior expert, EFA
D. Ilcheva – senior expert, EFA
M. Rousseva – consultant, Bauer Consult LTD

Representatives of:

Regional Forestry Directorates: Kardjali and Smolyan
Southern Central State Forest Enterprise
State Forestries: Kirkovo, Zlatograd, Momchilgrad
East Aegean sea River Basin Directorate
Municipality Zlatograd
Regional administrations: Kardjali and Smolyan
Civil Protection Services: Kardjali and Smolyan

Media:

Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, Bulgarian National Radio, Newspaper “Zlatograd”,
Zlatograd TV „CAT-TM”

The workshop was opened by L. Trichkov, who briefly presented the project and the aim of the workshop, organized by EFA. Mr. Nedyalko Slavov – Deputy Manager of Smolyan Regional Administration, asked the floor and presented information about similar projects performed by the Regional Administration and aiming at protection of forests and natural resources and prevention of natural disasters. He offered cooperation in applying and implementation of nature protection related projects in future.

Work session 1:

The following presentations were included in this session:

1. Project „MONITOR II” – main objectives, tasks and expected results – D. Pandeva, EFA.
2. Determination of the information sources and stakeholders concerning practical management of natural disasters and establishment of minimum set of data for preparation of hazard maps and contingency plans. - M. Rousseva – consultant, Bauer Consult LTD.
3. Elaboration and updating of hazard maps in regions with high risk of flooding - M. Rousseva – consultant, Bauer Consult LTD.

Discussions:

Mr. Slavov (Regional Administration Smolyan) informed about a project performed by the Regional Administration under PHARE programme, in the frames of which an early warning system is designed with 4 monitor points measuring the water levels at every 10 min. He



expressed the readiness of his administration to support MONITOR II project with available data, collected by this system.

Mrs. Georgieva (East Aegean sea River Basin Directorate) also expressed the interest of their institution and explained what type of data they can offer to improve the hydrological simulation model.

Mr. Zhelev (EFA) asked about the possibility to include in the data base for preparation of hazard maps information about the populations' distribution in the region and the main industrial objects in the most vulnerable areas along Varbitsa river and its main tributaries.

Representatives of the Municipality of Zlatograd informed that the information about the land ownership is very restricted and is not available even in their administration. Such information is difficult to be obtained.

Mrs. Mihailova (East Aegean sea River Basin Directorate) asked what kind of software was used for preparation of the hydrological model and are the cultural and historical monuments in the region taken into consideration in the drafts for hazard maps and contingency plans?

Mr. Ivanov (Momchilgrad State Forestry) explained that in the watershed of Varbitsa river and its tributaries vast afforestations were performed in the last decades as preventive measure against floods and torrents. He proposed the existing forest cover to be included in the project as protective factor.

Mrs. Rousseva (Bauer Consult LTD) explained that the software used in the model is „Hydro_AS-2D” and according to the available data there are no cultural or historical monuments in places vulnerable to flooding. Concerning forest cover, its influence as preventive factor is not subject of the project but some investigation can be performed with the help of experts from EFA.

At the end of this session the experts from Civil Protection Services Kardjali presented a film showing the big flood from 1996, which caused many damages and human casualties.

Work session 2:

The following presentations were made:

1. Hydrodynamic model for assessment and management of the risk from floods
2. Presentation of the draft hazard maps in relation to the risk from floods

Discussions:

Mrs. Georgieva pointed out that the model does not take into consideration the existing barrages, supporting walls and other technical facilities, build up in the river bed of Varbitsa river in order to control the river flow and minimize the risk of floods. The project also does not study the erosion as risk factor. The East Aegean sea River Basin Directorate can offer some data in this respect.



Mr. Karev (Civil Protection Services Kardjali) proposed inclusion of topographic data in the model so that the hazard maps and contingency plans, based on it, to be able to show evacuation patterns for the population. He asked if the project foresees some investment measures on the base of the prepared hazard maps and contingency plans.

Recommendations and decisions:

- To ask for and include in the model additional information from the Regional Administration Smolyan and the East Aegean sea River Basin Directorate;
- To specify in the final report that the hazard maps and contingency plans, prepared in the frames of the project, are draft models and, as they do not include all necessary data, can not be used by the population and some stakeholders as real situation maps and plans;
- To analyze the preventive effect of the afforestations performed in Varbitsa watershed;
- Analysis of the information data bases necessary for preparation of real hazard maps and contingency plans to be presented as final result from the project and recommendations for better coordination among the responsible institutions and stakeholders to be proposed.