



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Expo Zaragoza 2008

Water Tribune Conference

Thematic Week: Water, unique resource: Shared waters, governance, basin and water geopolitics

Topic: Water basins

9 July 2008

Bernard Snoy

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

What is the OSCE?

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

- ✓ **Foundation: Helsinki Final Act 1975**
- ✓ **Largest regional security organization set up under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter**
- ✓ **56 participating States: from Vancouver to Vladivostock**
- ✓ **Instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation**
- ✓ **Three Dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental, human**
- ✓ **Decisions taken by consensus: politically but not legally binding**
 - ✓ **Annual Meeting of Ministerial Council**
 - ✓ **Weekly Meeting of the Permanent Council**
 - ✓ **Secretariat in Vienna and 18 field presences**

OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension

- ✓ Premise: promoting economic prosperity and co-operating on environmental problems can contribute to the enhancement of security and stability
- ✓ Creation in 1997 of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- ✓ Mandate: strengthening the ability of OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security
- ✓ Annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF)

The Economic and Environmental Forum



Economic and Environmental Forum in 2007 and 2008

- Theme of 15th EEF under Spanish Chairmanship in 2007:
“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management”
- Theme of 16th EEF under Finnish Chairmanship in 2008:
“Maritime and inland waterways co-operation: increasing security and protecting the environment”



Follow-up to OSCE 15th EEF on Environmental Security and Sustainable Development

- ✓ Establishment of a Regional Drought Management Center in Central Asia
- ✓ Conference sponsored by the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship on 30-31 October 2007 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on technology transfer to address water management and land degradation issues in Central Asia
- ✓ OSCE/NATO Workshop in Valencia, Spain, on 10-11 December 2007 on “Water Scarcity, Land Degradation and Desertification in the Mediterranean Region: Environment and Security Aspects”.
- ✓ OSCE Ministerial Council on 29-30 November 2007
 - Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security
 - Decision on Water Management

OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Water Management

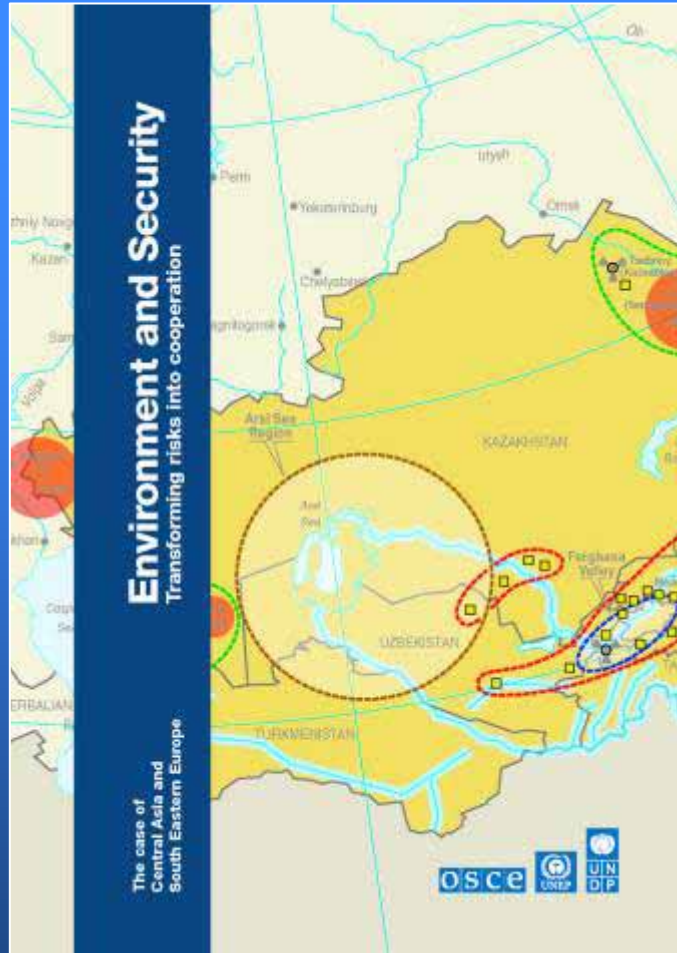
- Enhancing co-operation between the OSCE, the UNECE and other relevant international organizations on water management related matters
- Encouraging participating States to strengthen dialogue on co-operation on water management within the OSCE
- Encouraging participating States to consider the ratification and support the full implementation of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

www.envsec.org



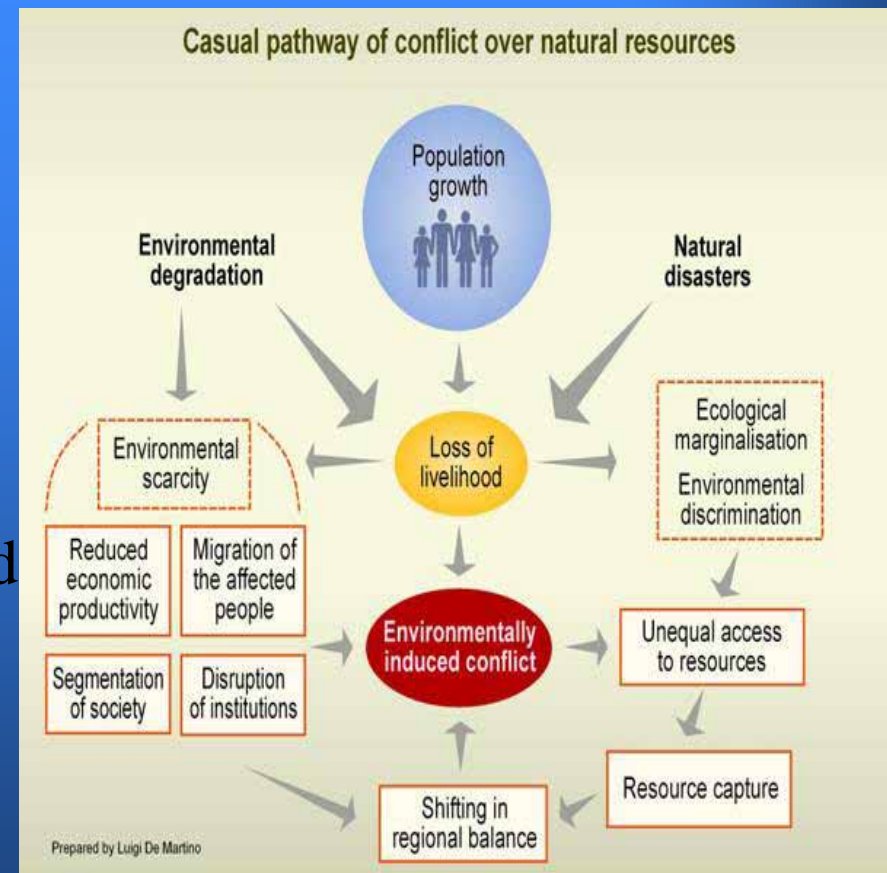
The Environment and Security Initiative



- Assessment of root causes
- Network building
- Capacity building
- Awareness raising

ENVSEC Rationale and Objectives

- Framework for Co-operation on Environment and Security Issues
- Decrease potential conflict due to environmental factors and facilitate cooperation within and among states to jointly solve environmental issues



Partners

- **OSCE** – early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict rehabilitation
- **UNEP** – assessments of the state of the environment and helps to strengthen environmental policies, institutions and laws
- **UNDP** – development network, poverty reduction, environmental governance and promotion of the Millennium Development Goals
- **UNECE** – environmental policy and develops international environmental law, including five regional environmental conventions
- **REC** – field projects addressing a wide range of environmental concerns and promotion of sustainable development in Central and Eastern Europe
- **NATO** – Associate Member, Security and Science Expertise, links with Ministries of Defense

ENVSEC Regions



ENVSEC Methodology

Stage 1: National Request



Stage 2: Desk assessment



Stage 3: National and Regional Consultations



Stage 4: Assessment report and a work programme



Stage 5: Launch and implementation

Environment and Security – Transforming Risks into Cooperation



- Consultative mapping exercise involving local experts in four regions (Central Asia, South Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus, Eastern Europe)
- Superimposition of environmental stress with socio-economic, population, health, ethnic data to identify potential areas of concern
- Upcoming Assessments in East Caspian Region and Amu-Darya

Water Supply and Contamination in Central Asia

- Legacy of unsustainable water management, especially the desiccation of the Aral Sea due to cotton monoculture in the Soviet Era
- Uneven distribution of and growing demand for water. Available water resources (e.g. Amu Darya & Syr Darya) shared by several countries
- Heavy water pollution especially in downstream countries (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and Tajikistan

Soil degradation and salinity

- Legacy of heavy use of irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides to boost cotton production, especially in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
- Soil salinisation and use of polluted water for irrigation reduces productivity and quality of food impacting on health and the economy
- Severely reduced biodiversity due to monoculture of vast areas

Desertification and Erosion

- Desiccation of the Aral Sea and reduced water flow of rivers resulted in large scale desertification in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- Uncovered sea and riverbeds are exposed to wind erosion and contaminated dust is carried over vast distances, affecting crops and causing respiratory diseases
- Erosion in some mountainous areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as a result of deforestation, increasing the probability of landslides

ENVSEC Work Programme

Four Pillars

- In-depth vulnerability assessment, early warning and monitoring
- Strengthening policies, institutions and awareness
- Capacity building
- Clean-up and remediation

Water

- ❑ Unsustainable water uses pose a potential threats to security
- ❑ Water management offers opportunities for building confidence and fostering greater co-operation

OSCE Water Management Projects

Chu and Talas Rivers

- Kyrgyzstan – Kazakhstan

Dniestr River

- Ukraine – Moldova

Kura Araks River Basin

- Georgia – Armenia –
Azerbaijan

Sava River

- Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia
and Herzegovina, Serbia,
Montenegro

Partners

UNESCAP

UNECE

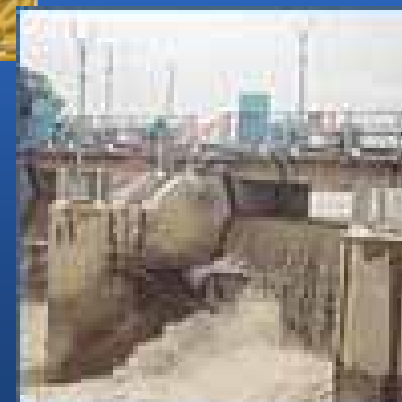
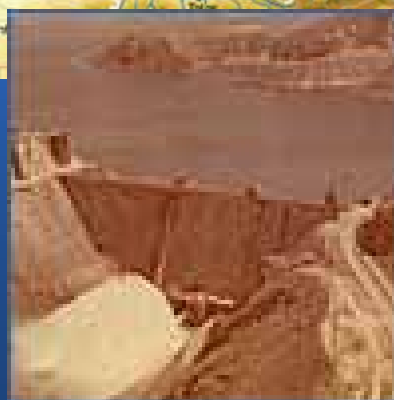
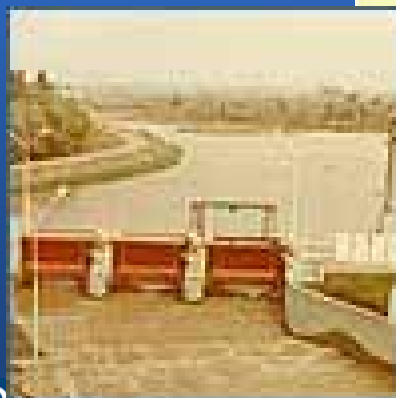
REC

NATO

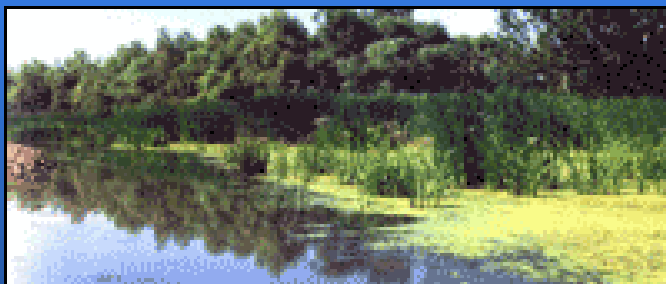
UNITAR

www.talaschu.org

TRANSBOUNDARY
CHU - TALAS RIVER



www.dniestr.org



www.kura-araks-natosfp.org/

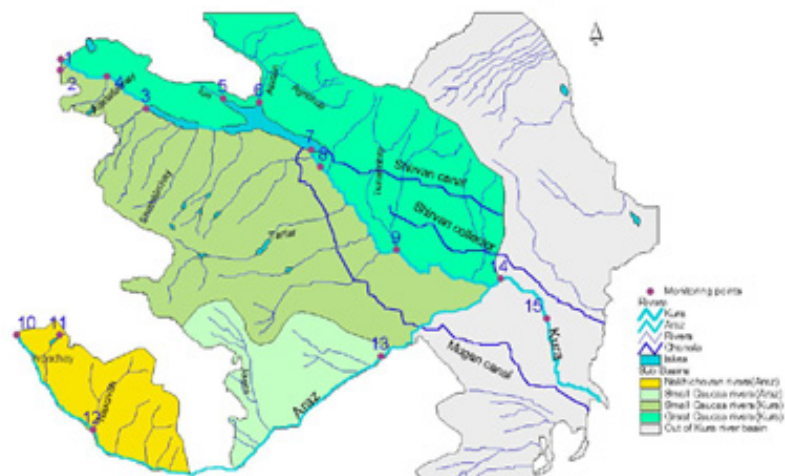


NATO Science Programme
Science for Peace

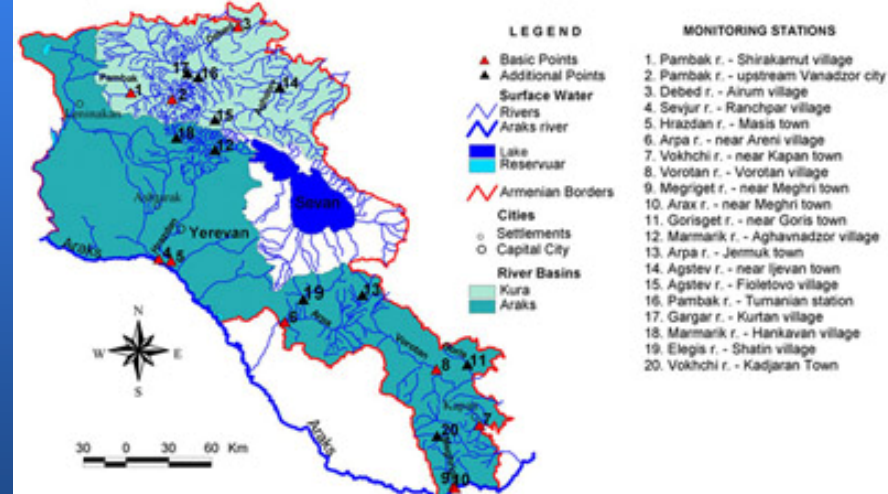


OSCE

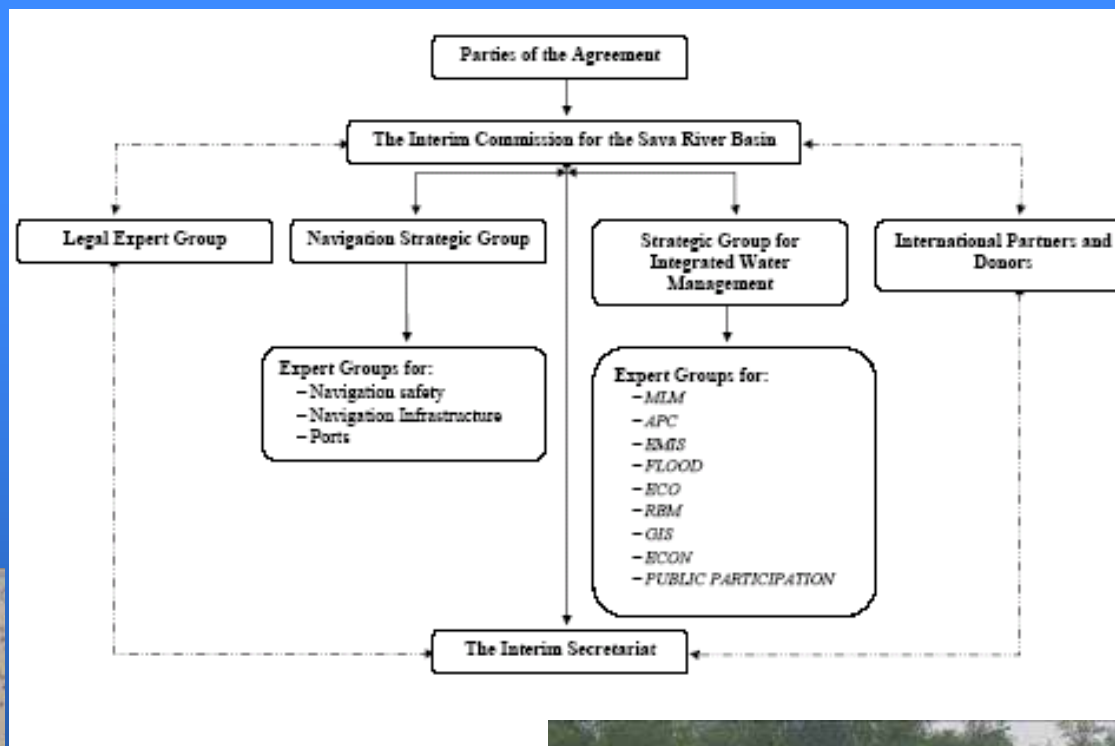
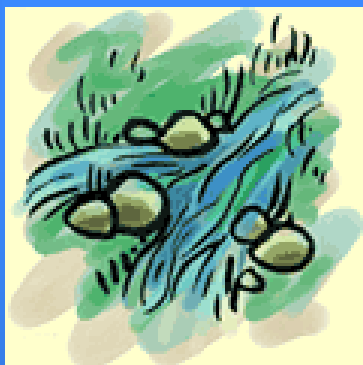
NATO Science Programme for Peace
South Caucasus Cooperative River Monitoring Project
River Monitoring Stations in Azerbaijan



NATO Science Programme for Peace
South Caucasus Cooperative River Monitoring Project
Map of River Network and Monitoring Stations in Armenia



www.rec.org/sava



Thank you for your attention.

For more detailed information on the
OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension

please go to

www.osce.org/eea

