



Environment and Security (ENVSEC)

Supporting ENVSEC initiative at both conceptual, management and technical levels

Background

During the second half of 2002, a new initiative of UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE), supported by GRID-Europe and other UNEP units, was begun, under the theme of "Environment and Security". The general purpose of this project, carried out in collaboration with UNDP and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is to identify linkages between major environmental concerns within European sub-regions and countries, and existing or potential security problems that impact on people and states. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) became an associate member of the Initiative in 2004 through its Public Diplomacy Division. From 2006 onwards the Initiative has been strengthened with two new members: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); and the Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

Objectives

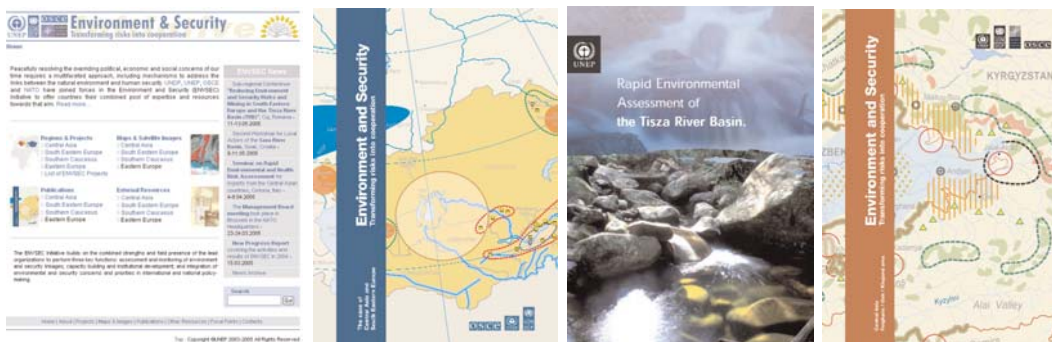
This project seeks to facilitate a process whereby key public decision-makers in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus are motivated and given the opportunity to advance and protect peace and the environment at the same time. Environmental concerns relating to shared natural resources range from threats to biodiversity and human livelihoods to land degradation and international waters. Other issues are obsolete or polluting industrial and waste sites, including nuclear ones, and their impacts either locally within countries or especially as trans-boundary phenomena.



GRID-Europe Support

GRID-Europe is supporting this Initiative at the conceptual, management and technical levels. This includes taking part in the project's steering committee meetings and workshops, and through preparation of digital cartographic products, which demonstrate existing environmental concerns and issues, as well as relevant policy measures (conventions, treaties, etc.).

Outputs



GRID-Europe has contributed to the ENVSEC Initiative's major publications and manages the Initiative's website.

ENVSEC Partners

UNEP, UNDP, OSCE, NATO, UNECE, and REC form the ENVSEC consortium. The initiative is open for collaboration with potential partners in the countries, regions and internationally.

The following research and academic institutions have also provided invaluable technical advice and assistance to support the ENVSEC activities: IAEA, ICARO, IISD, UNITAR, Adelphi Research.



Upcoming Activities

The ENVSEC Initiative remains an excellent example of collaboration not only between the current six agency partners involved, but internally in UNEP between the Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) and Regional Coordination Divisions, offering a broader possibility for application in other UNEP regions.

At the same time, DEWA/GRID-Europe continues to maintain and periodically upgrade the ENVSEC website on behalf of the UNEP-based ENVSEC Secretariat and five other partners.

About GRID-Europe

UNEP/DEWA/GRID-Europe is one of UNEP's major centres for data and information management, with a unique, "value-adding" mandate in the handling of global and regional environmental data, which in turn support the environment assessment and early warning activities of UNEP and its partners. Located in the "Maison Internationale de l'Environnement" or "International Environment House" (MIE/IEH) in Geneva, GRID-Europe occupies the niche of francophone centre for the global GRID network. DEWA/GRID-Europe is supported by a "Partnership Agreement" between UNEP, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the University of Geneva.