

Summary 6/2004

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Enclosure

Consumption exceeds the Earth's possibilities!

The World Wildlife Fund draws the attention to the alarming fact that humans consume at present in 20% more renewable natural resources than the Earth is capable of producing. At the end of October, the 5th Living Planet Report 2004 was presented in Switzerland, based on the indicator of ecological footprints measuring natural resources consumption. According to some specialists this indicator is disputable.

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Environmental protection has not been a brake on economic development

Viera Husková, MoE SR

According to the author, we often encounter the opinion that the more an economy will develop, the better life we shall have and also that the free market by itself will solve practically all problems. However, it is not so simple as it seems to be. Industry and economy, dominating at present in our society, focus mainly on profit. Other vitally important spheres, including environmental protection and improvement, get very often to a side track. The author underlines the fact that environmental protection has not been a brake on economic development.

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Environmental impact assessment – one of main instruments of sustainable development
Alena Kostúriková, SEA Banská Bystrica

An interview with employees of the MoE's Department of Environmental Impact Assessment Viera Húsková and Milan Luciak evaluating the gone ten years of the force of the Act No. 127/1994 Coll. On environmental impact assessment. 1,550 activities, facilities and installations were assessed according to this Act. The interview focuses also on experience with public involvement in EIA process, amendments that will be included in a new Act as well as on EIA documentations recording and archiving.

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EIA process in SEA and supporting instruments
Ingrid Krištofová, SEA Banská Bystrica

Issues of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA) have been addressed by the SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics in Banská Bystrica. The article brings the most important activities in the field of EIA during the last ten years, among them drawing up of expert reviews of planned constructions pursuant to the Act on EIA. Since 31 December 2003, when the Act came to force, SEA assessed 1,128 projects.

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Limits, carrying capacity and potential - the bases for landscape's optimal use
Tatiana Hrnčiarová, Ján Drdoš, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Issues of landscape's carrying capacity started to be systematically addressed in Slovakia in the 70-ties of the last century but with respect to land use planning they were addressed even earlier. In the first research projects, evaluation of landscape's carrying capacity focused on topical problems of recreation areas, later on landscape's carrying capacity was evaluated in relation to various aspects of mountain areas use and in 1990 new stimuli for landscape's carrying capacity evaluation became topical. A key role was played by the Ministry of Environment. Landscape's carrying capacity, as the authors state, has not been an exact and unambiguous term. Closely connected with it is another term – landscape potential, that means landscape's capability of fulfilment of functions required by a man. Authors of the article write about limits of landscape's carrying capacity.

page 8 – 9 and 11

Experiences of a state administration body with EIA process
Tibor Čierny, District Environmental Office in Veľký Krtíš

District environmental offices act as affected authorities and, in special cases, as permission authorities in the EIA process. The article evaluates activities of the District Environmental Office (DEO) in Veľký Krtíš, namely 21 preliminary environmental studies of activities, 2 reports on environmental impact assessment evaluated by DEO in the last period. After the year 2000, mainly the number of assessed activities in the field of water management and infrastructure increased substantially. The author pays special attention to the assessed project Provision of drinking water to the south part of the Veľký Krtíš district, financed from ISPA.

page 10 – 11

EIA 2004 seminar in Teplý Vrch

Information about the seminar EIA 2004 that took place on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Act No. 127/1994 on 25 – 26 October 2004 in Teplý Vrch. Participants evaluated and exchanged their experience with the implementation of the above-mentioned Act.

page 11

Implementation of the strategic environmental assessment in land use planning in SR **Ingrid Belčáková**

The article deals with legislative basis for the strategic environmental impact assessment (SEIA) in land use planning in the Slovak Republic. It brings a survey of EIA Act provisions, an analysis of experience with the implementation of SEIA procedures and steps in the land use planning process in conditions of the Slovak Republic (SR) and mentions tasks resulting from this analysis. The author states that on the basis of gained experience in SR (including SEIA in the whole land use planning process), SEIA still did not bring itself to the attention of ministries and other central bodies of state administration as an instrument of sustainable development. The experience with SEIA implementation in land use planning points out to the need of legislative amendments, institutional ensurance as well as methodical manual.

page 12 – 14

Technology of high-speed diagnostics in favour of environment **Peter Farárik**

Within the pre-accession support provided by EU, the twinning project, focused on the implementation of EU Directive On integrated prevention and pollution control, started officially in February 2004. The project, financed from PHARE funds, was implemented by the Slovak Environmental Agency in cooperation with the Technical University in Athens. The project has several outputs, one of them being the purchase of laboratory equipment in the amount of 255 thousand EUR that forms a core of the mobile and stationary laboratory – MOBLAB. The laboratory includes also the probe-sampling equipment GEOPROBE, purchased for 100 thousand EUR by the Envigeo company from Banská Bystrica. The mobile laboratory is being used during the examination of accidents in the field of ground and surface waters in the whole Slovakia. The equipment enables to detect promptly those who caused the accident. A big advantage of the equipment rests in the fact that it can very quickly sample surface and ground water and as quickly analyse the samples.

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10 years of Envigeo´s consulting activities in the field of EIA ***Why 100 cannot be divided by ten*** **Jaroslav Schwarz, Envigeo, a.s. Banská Bystrica**

Till 2000, preliminary environmental studies and reports on the assessment of landfills, mainly municipal waste landfills formed more than 50% of the work of Envigeo. The author explains why 100 cannot be divided by ten. Till November 2004, the company developed 99 environmental documentations and at the end of the year the number will be even higher. The Act No. 127/1994 On environmental impact assessment is in force for ten years. When taking into account the work of the company in this field 100 cannot be divided by 10 because since

2001 the company's production increased five times. The author brings information about some significant projects.

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Windstorm on 18 November 2004 affected the High Tatras for many decades

Peter Farárik

At the beginning of the article the author comments upon the situation in the High Tatras mountain on 18 November 2004, when windstorm with the speed of 140 to 170 km per hour razed to the ground forests at the base of south-east slopes of the Tatra National Park. A band of 40 to 110-year old forest 2.5 km to 5 km wide and almost 50 km long with the total area of about 12 thousand hectares from Podbanské to Tatranská Lomnica was practically destroyed. Also the Low Tatras National Park and other national parks and protected landscape areas were inflicted heavily. Slovakia is an urbanized country therefore we have to protect nature and help it regenerate. Sensitive and thoughtfully.

page 18 – 19

Selected solutions of Ekospol from the EIA process

Vladimír Druga, Ekospol Banská Bystrica

The article describes findings and solutions from selected assessments carried out by Ekospol Banská Bystrica, specializing mainly on mitigation of bio-ecological and social-ecological problems of water management and hydroenergetic activities. Besides others, Ekospol drew up 13 preliminary environmental studies, 7 environmental impact statements and two expert reviews. The author brings several interesting examples of Ekospol's work.

page 20 – 21 and 25

Public participation in the EIA process

Danka Gindlová and Ivan Kusý

The article brings information about a decade of the Act on EIA, one of acts enabling public to get information about planned constructions, facilities and activities and their predicted impacts on environment. Experience with public participation in the process of environmental impact assessment shows that work with public is necessary. As an example, the authors of the article describe their experience with the public participation the EIA process in the Žilina water dam construction that took place before the Act on EIA came into force, yet, it is considered the methodologically fullest one.

page 22 – 23

Popularization of the EIA process in environmental education

Marta Hajniková, SEA

One of activities of the SEA's Environmental Education Centre in Žilina in 2002/2003 was the correspondence seminar on human environment "Labyrinth" intended for secondary school students in the Žilina and Trenčín regions. Individual steps of Labyrinth focused on different thematic spheres – history and strategy of nature and environmental protection, ecological relations of organisms and their environment, causes and consequences. The final phase of the project included field activities and EIA process presentation in the form of a "scenario play".

page 24-25

Implementation of SEVESO II Directive – never more Bhopal
Dana Kobzová, MoE SR

On 3rd December 2004, the world commemorated 20th anniversary of the major industrial accident in Indian Bhopal. Several consecutive major industrial accidents in the second half of the 20th century resulted in the adoption and later on in the amendment of the Council Directive 96/82/EC On the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances. The Directive is also named SEVESO II after the Italian town Seveso where, at the end of the 70-ties of the last century, a major industrial accident occurred. Based on the experience with such major accidents, the European Commission updated once more the SEVESO II Directive and on 16 December 2003 the Council Directive 2003/105/EC.

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Slovak – Dutch cooperation in the field of industrial safety
Margaréta Mojžišová, SEA Banská Bystrica

In the support of the implementation of the Act No. 261/2002 Coll., SEA employees drew up a project proposal within the Matra Pre-accession Projects Programme that was approved by the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The project was implemented in 2003 – 2004 and supported by the Dutch government. Its main objective was to provide assistance to the Slovak Government in the implementation of the above-mentioned Act and implementing regulations that are in compliance with the European Directive 96/82/EC.

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Major industrial accident
Results and experience with the development of the Safety Report in Matador a.s. Púchov
Jaroslav Vašíček, Matador a.s. Púchov

The article describes results and experience with the development of the Safety Report in the company Matador a.s. Púchov that was contacted and asked by the Slovak Environmental Agency to participate, as a model company, in the pilot project, the first of its type in Slovakia, presented under the heading of the Dutch company DHV. The main objective of this project was the transformation of the Act No. 261/2002 Coll. into company's conditions and incorporation of the management according to this system in the company's management system. The draft Safety Report including comprehensive characteristics, technical, safety and management information about company's risks and hazards and about measures for their elimination or restriction is the key document of the pilot project.

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Selected hazardous substances according to SEVESO II (3)
Katarína Palúchová, SEA

In normal temperature, arsine is colourless, water soluble gas that creates, together with air, an explosive mixture. It is very combustible, haemolytic poison with 6 – 8 hours latency. The article describes also other characteristics of this substance, its relation to the environment and impacts on experimental animals. It focuses on arsine in relation to health and evaluates the situation in Slovakia, where no limit value is set for outer air, no measurements are being done and no limit concentration of arsine in drinking water and soil has been set.

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Natural conditions of the northeast region of Brazil (1.)

Ján Kobza, Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute

The northeast region of Brasil has the biggest number of national parks and is the region with the largest environmental diversity, which ranges from sea islands to the Caatinga (savannah). Two national parks are briefly described in this article. The Ubajara National Park spreads on a plateau surrounded by green valleys and its area is only 5.63 km². The region's climate is hot and semiarid with yearly average temperatures between 24°C and 26°C and rainfall amount 1.436 mm per year. The moist forest and the mild climate caused the flora and fauna to be different from the rest of the region.

The Sete Cidades (seven stone cities) National Park was formed in the large sedimentary basin about 400 million years ago. Its name comes from the occurrence of seven sandstone rocks. At that time, the area was very moist and rocks started to be moulded by wind, rain and heat. Its area is 77 km². The national park, founded in 1961, is important because it protects many river sources (22 springs) as well as archaeological and environmental heritage.

Future development research of this environmental welfare is the main topic of the international cooperation between the Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute in Bratislava and the State University of Ceará in Fortaleza (Brazil).

page 30 – 31

Endangered species (31)

Lubor Čačko

In the small gallery of endangered species the author presents the may-flower (*Primula halleri*), the grass snake (*Coronella austriaca*) and satanic boletus (*Boletus satanas*).

Historical bases of environmental policy and environmental legislation (V)

Jozef Klinda

The fifth continuation of the series of history of environmental policy and environmental legislation brings us to Hieraconpolis, one of the first Egyptian towns (3300 – 3100 BC) that was the capital of the latter Poli region. In the article the author focuses on necropolises of the first Pharaohs, on the development of stonemasonry and building industry, on stone tombs, cultish temples, obelisks and other important Egyptian architectonic works.

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Photo competition

A play of lights on a hanging tower

The author captured with his camera the laser show at the main square in Banská Bystrica during the New Year's Eve.

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World heritage

Mexico – Pre-Columbus town of Uxmal

Indonesia – a complex of Borobudur temples

Korea – Kyongju National Park

India – Khajuraho temples

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Editor's Office: SAŽP, Tajovského 28, 975 90 Banská Bystrica,

tel./fax: ++421-48-4230 694, tel. 4713718

e-mail: enviro@sazp.sk.

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