

# International Approaches to the Transboundary Pollution Reduction on Examples of “Amur GEF” and “Tumennet” Projects

Kachur Anatoly

Deputy Director

Pacific Institute of Geography Far East Branch

Russian Academy of Sciences

Director

NOWPAP POMRAC

National Expert

UNDP/GEF project “Tumen River Strategic Action Program”

Regional Coordinator

UNEP/GEF project “Integrated Management of the Amur/Heilong River Basin”

E-mail Address: [kachur@tig.dvo.ru](mailto:kachur@tig.dvo.ru)

This presentation is based on results of recent works accomplished by a joint effort of Korean, Chinese and Russian scientists under the framework of the UNDP/GEF project “Tumen River Strategic Action Program”, and of Chinese, Russian and Mongolian scientists in the UNEP/GEF project “Integrated Management of the Amur/Heilong River Basin”.

The northeastern Asian region, with the Amur and Tumen River Basin as its centerfold, is a strategic area. It is currently undergoing rapid economic development of China, Russia, Mongolia and countries of Korean peninsula, that is causing environmental and natural resource degradation in the region. The main problem of both river basin areas is pollution of transboundary ground and river waters.

The objectives to achieve the main goals of the two projects were: to develop an overarching regional strategic action programme to address land-based threats to the aquatic environment of the basins and associated continental coastal areas, and to establish an effective institutional mechanism to address transboundary effects of human land-based threats to the River basins and its associated continental coastal areas.



23-27 November • Manila, Philippines

The UNDP/GEF project "Tumen River Strategic Action Program" proposed the following recommendations:

- Include considerations of transboundary environmental impacts in national environmental impact assessment procedures and screen projects which will require environmental impact assessments for their possible transboundary impacts;
- Establish routine reporting mechanism for transboundary accidents with neighboring countries;
- Share environmental impact assessment information for projects with potential transboundary impacts with neighboring countries in order to involve public and local authorities in the environmental impact assessment process;
- Prepare bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements on transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures.

For the UNEP/GEF project "Integrated Management of the Amur/Heilong River Basin", the main component included analysis of the causes and impacts as well as adequate responses to unsustainable use of water resources in the basin with a focus on land-use practices, point and non-point sources of pollution, and water resources regulation. The analysis also combined freshwater and coastal zone management issues. The two final outputs were the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) Action Plan. Among the technical components of the ICARM Action Plan are contingency planning, water quality monitoring and planned infrastructure projects and others.

In order to address the underlying causes and threats to aquatic and related terrestrial ecosystems of the basin, the Amur/Heilong GEF project proposed to: 1) Develop a Regional Framework and initiate pilot activities for the Integrated Management of the Amur/Heilong River Basin and its associated continental and Sakhalin Island coastal areas, to achieve integrated management of resources and ecosystems in the basin and associated coastal areas, based on the ongoing and planned national and regional projects; and 2) Develop a replicable, multi-national co-operation model between the countries in the region and among all stakeholders at varying levels to address threats to resources and biological diversity in the Lake Xingkai/Khanka basin in an efficient and cost-effective manner within an overall Regional Framework for the Amur/Heilong Basin and its associated continental and Sakhalin Island coastal areas.