

NATIONAL CONSULTATION DIALOGUE

Report from the national consultation on drought management planning in Hungary held 3 December 2014, Budapest

1. General Data

| <u>Country:</u> | Hungary | | |
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| <u>Organizer:</u> | GWP Hungary | | |
| Date & Place: | 3 December 2013, Ministry of Rural Development, Budapest | | |
| | List of invitees (last name, first name) National Consultation on drought management planning in the framework of WMO-GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) Budapest, Hungary 3 December 2013 | | |
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Abbreviations:

MRD – Ministry of Rural Development

DE - Debrecen University

DE AGTC – Debrecen University Centre for Agricultural and Applied Economic

Sciences

SZIE – Szent István University

WD - Water Directorate

KITE – KITE Agricultural Service and Trade plc.

NeKI – National Institute for Environment

OMSZ - National Meteorological Service

MEKH – Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority



| | GWP HU – GWP Hungary | | | |
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| | MTA – Hungarian Academy of Sciences | | | |
| | MTA ATK TAKI – Institute For Soil Sciences And Agricultural Chemistry, Centre For Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy Of Sciences | | | |
| | VTOSZ – National Centre of Water Management Associations | | | |
| | HUCID — Hungarian National Committee of ICID | | | |
| | ECOLINST – Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development | | | |
| | CoA – Chamber of Agriculture | | | |
| | PE – Pannon University | | | |
| | HAKI – Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation | | | |
| Attachments: (attendance list, photos, etc.) | attendance list attached, photos see at: | | | |
| | http://www.gwpmo.hu/index.php?option= | | | |
| | <pre>com_phocagallery&view=category&id=10:aszalykonzult20131203&Itemid=10</pre> | | | |
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2. Agenda

<u>Objective:</u> To collect input (information, professional support, political will) for the preparation of a guideline of drought management plans.

Agenda – presentations:

- 9:00-9:30 Registration
- 9:30 Introduction, objectives of the consultation, the sphere of stakeholders (József Gayer GWP Hungary)
- 9: 45 International conventions/treaties (UNCCD, EU) and the prize ceremony of UNCCD Dryland champions of UNCCD (Péter Molnár UNCCD focal point, NeKI)
- 10:00 The drought in general (Sándor Szalai UNCCD-CST correspondent, HUCID)
- 10:15 Drought and vegetation (Márton Jolánkai MTA)
- 10:30 Drought and soil (Lajos Blaskó DE Research Institute in Karcag)
- 10:45 Presentation of the IDMP of WMO-GWP, expected results of the programme (János Tamás DE, leader of the Hungarian IDMP team)
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 The Hungarian water management strategy, with special regard to drought management (Gábor



Kolossváry- Mária Szomolányi MRD)

11:45 Discussion on DMP in connection to RBMP (Moderator: János Fehér GWP Hungary)

12.50 Wrap up and closing (József Gayer GWP Hungary)

13:00 Lunch

<u>Main points of discussion</u>: definition of drought, different types of drought, drought and the Danube Regional Strategy, DMP and RBMP, priority setting, timing of measures, avoiding overambitious planning, being proactive, protection of resources, land use change, drought in urban areas, implementation of PoM, groundwater resources, irrigation, governance and legislation, drought prone areas, requirements of relevant international treaties, storage, water content of soil, coherence with other strategies (e.g. climate, development).

3. Report

The meeting was convened by GWP Hungary in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development and the Hungarian National Committee of ICID (HUCID) with the objective to support the national process of the development of the Drought Management Plan in Hungary through national consultation dialogues under Activity 2.2 of the WMO-GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme.

Invitation had been sent to all key players of the field including governmental officers, background institutions, practitioners, scientists, researchers, university lecturers (academia), Chamber of Agriculture, professional associations (Hungarian Hydrological Society, Water Boards), experts involved in RBMP, Met Service. The invitees included also responsible officers (contact points) of all Rio conventions.

The venue of the consultation was generously offered by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The agenda (see above) included presentations and moderated discussion in order to gather information, professional support and political will for creating a future guideline of drought management plans.

The presentations (available at the CWP's website www.gwpmo.hu) helped set the stage for the discussion on different aspects of sound drought management plans.

Information about the six work packages of the IDMP (Regional and transboundary cooperation, National planning process, Demonstration projects, Capacity development, Knowledge and awareness and Governance and fundraising) was also given.

The program also included the prize ceremony of UNCCD's Dryland champions programme designed to honour activities by individuals, organizations and business that make a practical contribution to



sustainable land management practices. Two Hungarian champions were awarded for their sustainable land management activities (also documented at the above website).

During the discussion suggestion was formulated to develop a working definition of drought to be accepted and used for the DMP, avoiding the misinterpretation of the currently existing numerous definitions. The importance of early warning system was also raised which should be incorporated into a regulatory framework. The necessity of delineation of drought prone areas was emphasised. The Danube Regional Strategy (DRS) offers an opportunity to this, as well as for other drought mitigation developments.

The coherence of DMP with other strategies (e.g. climate, development) was also called for by the stakeholders.

To avoid being overambitious priority setting and focusing on a limited number of issues was suggested by several participants. The appropriate timing of implementation of measures (e.g. of the RBMP) is of crucial importance.

The first WFD compatible river basin management plan (completed in 2010) contains certain measures to combat drought, but considering the trends of climate change still much has to be done. The next plan is due within two years, and the DMP should be developed in harmony with it. There is not much time left to react.

The DMP should be proactive and should include measures to protect the resources and where appropriate also land use change. A debate about groundwater revealed that although Hungary has abundant GW resources, its utilisation for irrigation should be carefully planned due to risk of salination. Existing irrigation capacities are not always utilised and benefit is not always gained in Hungary, though.

The notion of urban drought was also debated and the conclusion was that water scarcity and drought should be distinguished according to the definition of EU water scarcity and drought expert group.

The huge capacity of soil for storage is not always recognized, as it was voiced by several participants. Others, however, pointed out that here the limiting factor is the access, which is only within the parcel for a particular farmer. Nevertheless, storage capacity (surface and/or subsurface) within the country should be increased.

As for governance and legislation it was underlined that new legislation should be based on sound professional evidences.

The requirements of relevant international treaties should be respected.



4. Conclusions

Outcome of the public consultation:

Through the public consultation the key stakeholders were identified. The discussion helped collect ideas to be considered for the preparation of the DMP as well as for the next RBMP. The consultation also contributed to gain political will in order to raise the profile of DMP. The issue deserves high level recognition. Once the DMP will be ready (and acknowledged by the government or the parliament) it should be implemented using EU financial support during the 2014-2020 period.

Proposals for further steps:

Dissemination of the results through the CWP's webpage, media, circular letters.

Complementing the list of relevant stakeholders.

Set up new working relationship with the Ministry of the Interior (in charge of water management from 2014).

Convening the second national consultation in September 2014.