

NATIONAL CONSULTATION DIALOGUE

Report from the workshop on drought issues

1. General Data

<u>Country:</u>	Poland
<u>Organizer:</u>	Global Water Partnership - Poland
<u>Date & Place:</u>	9 January 2014, Warsaw University of Life Sciences
<u>Participants:</u> (name & institution & email)	Representatives of authorities, scientists, NGOs
<u>Attachments:</u> (attendance list, photos, etc.)	List of participants Agenda

2. Agenda

Objective:

Describe present knowledge and tools used in order to manage the risk of draughts in Poland. Encourage stakeholders to discuss draught issues.

Agenda – presentations:

1. **Drought – evaluation, occurrence, monitoring – Institute for Meteorology and Water Management**
2. **Drought monitoring in cultivated (rural) areas - Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation**
3. **Drought’s hydrogeological aspects - Polish Geological Institute**
4. **Monitoring and prognosis of water scarcity or water excess in the rural areas - Institute of Technology and Life Sciences**

Main points of discussion:

Discussion was directed toward the answers for enlisted questions:

1. *How important are droughts in Polish economy, ecology and water management?*
2. *Which are main problems caused by drought in Poland?*
3. *Which stakeholders should be involved in dialogues?*
4. *What tools are available and which should be still developed, what information and knowledge are still needed. How can gaps be filled?*

3. Report

Four main presentations have been given. After each, minor questions, necessary for further comprehension, were answered. Next, the participants presented point of view of practitioners, basing on short power point presentations and official statements. Then, general discussion followed. Its main objective was to answer questions raised by goals of workshop.

1. *Polish institutions have several tools to predict and monitor droughts and its impact on rural activity.*
2. *How drought risk can be managed? In Poland, at least three institutions are responsible for drought monitoring and forecasting. Actually, National Water Management Authority, joint with Regional Water Management Authorities, are elaborating drought management plans. The issue is not only to ensure that needs of water users will be met, but also that drought is measured and monitored in the same way in whole country.*
3. *Groundwater, including deep aquifers, can and should be considered as renewable water resources that can and should be used during periods of drought and water deficits. But, in order to plan and monitor water use, all intakes should be measured.*
4. *It should be stressed that water quality is related to water quantity.*
5. *Apart of vaguely described types of drought, such as meteorological, soil and hydrological, another kind of drought should be pointed: economical drought – when national or local economy is suffering because of water deficits, water consuming branches can't develop or produce.*
6. *Compliance of water management plans, including plans developed on local level, such as environmental protection and land reclamation programs, with Water Framework Directive, is important issue. It occurs that local investments in water management, such as irrigation systems or small reservoirs, can't be realised due to lack of that compliance. The question is: how far WFD should interfere in local undertakings impacting hydrological conditions. It shall be stressed that that kind of undertakings' range of impact usually covers smaller than water bodies' catchment area.*

7. *Damages in economy and environment caused by drought and water scarcity are greater than those caused by flooding, because its impact is longer and touches bigger area. Nevertheless, the government's spending on flood protection is much higher.*
8. *Awareness of farmers is crucial if authorities tend to decrease negative impact of water deficits on agriculture.*
9. *Drought and water scarcity in the Upper Wistula River basin. Drought and water scarcity are perceived as more and more important problem. Local authorities are interested in water management plans and want to actively participate in its elaboration.*
10. *New economical activities, such as snowmaking or shale gas exploitation are new challenges for water management: they require significant amounts of water. Besides, fish ponds should be mentioned. In several regions, its owners are taking water from streams and rivers inconsistently with water permit. Water authorities have no tool to for law enforcement or punishment of infringement of water permit.*
11. *Agricultural irrigation – as an economical problem: often, farmers are not charged for water use. Besides, their wells and water intakes are not equipped in water meters. Thus, it is extremely difficult to develop water balance or long term water management plan.*
12. *Crisis management should also be based on water deficit forecast. Droughts are often correlated with fires. Strategic planning in that area should include access to water in case of operation.*

4. Conclusions

Outcome of the public consultation:

1. *According to experiences of the Upper Wistula water region drought can't be predicted according to geographical pattern: it occurred in several sub-regions with different intensity and duration. Nevertheless, local authorities found drought more and more important.*
2. *New investments, despite its possible positive impact on draught risk management, can't be realized because of lack of compliance with Water Framework Directive.*
3. *Serious problem presents water use during period of draughts. Water use permit are sometimes issued without taking into account all users in basin. Besides, the quality of documents prepared as a basis for water permit is relatively poor. Thus, authorities that issue water permits do not have complete information on the amount of available resources, intended water use and its future impact on aquatic ecosystem.*
4. *Monitoring of ground water use may be a further problem: users neither pay for water, nor*

are included in water balance analysis.

5. *New technologies and new economic branches raise new challenges to water management, including both management of drought risk and flood risk.*
6. *Lack of comprehensive hydrological documentation. Water balances should be a main tool used in order to evaluate hydrological system capacity, for both surface and ground water.*

Proposals for further steps:

1. **Open letter addressed to National Water Management Authority.** The letter will summarize conclusions and main ideas of discussion. Moreover, GWP will invite National Water Management Authority to cooperation and use of tools, knowledge and experience of experts united in GWP.
2. **Further workshops focused on development of catalogue of measures described in Methodology on drought risk management.**
3. **Confronting of Polish experience with the practices and approaches developed by the Project partners (Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary – if possible).**
4. **Development of an Internet platform as a tool of exchange of knowledge and tools / experience between water users, water authorities, and IDMP project experts.** Results of platform operation will be presented during the second Drought Workshop and communicated to the National Water Management Authority.