

DAURIA GOING DRY

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Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation, the third meeting

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Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV
Ufficio federale dell'ambiente UFAM
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SHORT INTRODUCTION

The key project questions

- How to prevent destruction of Daurian natural river and wetland ecosystems\species and enhance their resilience in the face of intensive economic development and climatically caused water deficit\extreme water abundance?

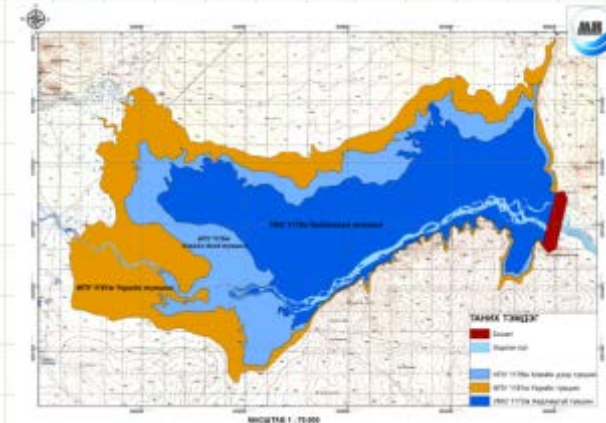


Main aim of the project

To harmonize transboundary river ecosystem protection and water management in river basins originating in Dauria Ecoregion

CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE PAST YEAR

- Initial analysis of basin-management plan for the transboundary Kherlen River Basin conducted.
- “Transboundary Lakes of the Torey Depression” Report prepared
- Comprehensive guide on flood management as climate adaptation measure for the Amur River Basin prepared
- Our suggestions were incorporated in Terms of reference for environmental impact assessments for Shuren and Orkhon dams in Mongolia



TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION CHALLENGES

Competition for water between Russia, Mongolia and China facing climate change which makes negotiations difficult

Difficult relations between NGOs and activists and authorities

Little demand and no formal requirements for adaptation policies in Russia up until end 2015

We overcome challenges with communication and education efforts



OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

- Assisting to IUCN and World Heritage Committee in preparation of decisions of the 39th Session (Bonn-2015)
- An appeal “Russia and the European Union Need to Improve the Climate Adaptation of Water Ecosystem Management“ development and endorsement at EU-Russia Civil Forum
- Expert support to public hearings and consultations on hydropower dam projects and reservoir management regulations in Russia and Mongolia
- Public consultations with Yenisei-Angara Basin Council and EuroSibEnergo Co. in Russia and MINIS Project and Ministry of Environment and Green Development in Mongolia



LESSONS LEARNT

Suitability of infrastructure development for climate adaptation should be assessed; climate-proofing is recommended

Proper adaptation strategy should first of all include monitoring of ecosystem response to hydrological changes

Ecosystem-based adaptation has several decisive advantages over infrastructure measures:

- preserving options for the future
- sustaining resilience of natural systems
- avoiding conflicts
- saving money and synergy with biodiversity preservation



FUTURE PLANS

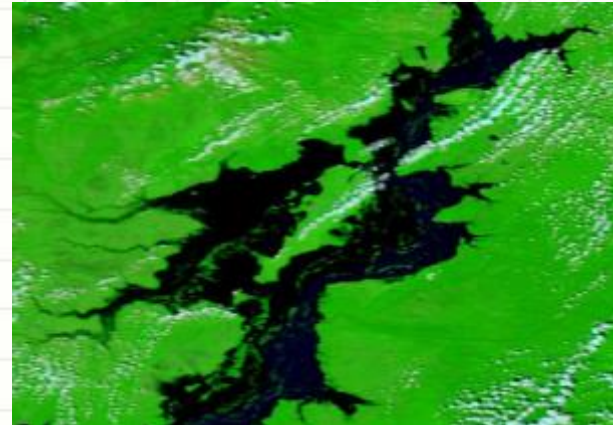
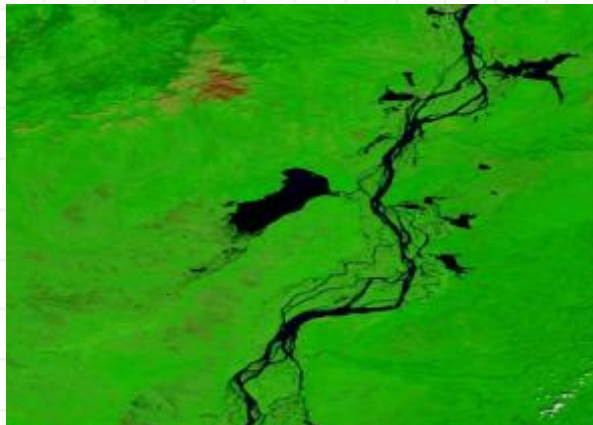
Initiate Strategic Environmental Assessment of Lake Baikal basin water management issues as first step of management system planning.

Release and promote the Comprehensive guide on flood management as a climate adaptation measure for the Amur River Basin

Preparation of "Dauria Steppe" nomination for Russian-Mongolian Joint World Heritage Site considering climate change resilience

Prepare recommendations on flow release regimes of the Middle Amur reservoirs in order to adjust to climatic conditions

Continue ecosystem monitoring



QUESTION TO THE OTHER PILOT PROJECTS?

When developing adaptation plan how do you convince participating countries to provide necessary water for ecosystems?



Critically low water level in Baikal today