CLIMATEWATER

AT A GLANCE

Title: Bridging the gap between adaptation strategies of climate change impacts and European water policies

Instrument: FP7, Funding Scheme: Coordination and supporting (supporting)

Total Cost: 1,171,003.00

EC Contribution: 956,932.03

Duration: 36 months

Start Date: 01 November 2008

Consortium: 11 partners from 8 countries

Project Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Géza Jolánkai, VITUKI, HU

Project Web Site: www.climatewater.org

Key Words: impacts on water resources, adaptation strategies, EU water policies

THE CHALLENGE

Scarcity and abundance of water are two of the major problems of Mankind. New scientific approaches are needed to handle the water-related climate change impacts and adaptation strategies. This Project reviews these new fields of the water-related sciences and attempts to bridge the existing gaps, the 'missing links' between scientific approaches and the tools offered by policy makers. The Project aims at the development of new scenarios for adaptation measures to climate change, identifying their potential to alleviate climate change impacts and to build them into implementation of water policies.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

ClimateWater's main objectives are analysing and synthesising data and information on the likely (known, assumed, expected, modelled, forecasted, predicted, estimated) water-related impacts of changes in climate with special regard to their risk and to the urgency of preparation to combat these changes and their impacts. The Project identifies adaptation strategies that are, and could be, developed in Europe (and also globally) for handling (preventing, eliminating, combating, mitigating) the impacts of global climate changes on water resources and aquatic ecosystems, including all other water-related issues of Society and Nature. Research needs in the field of climate impact on the water cycle and water users will be identified. The most important output of the project will be the identification of gaps that would hinder the implementation of the EU water policy in combating climate impacts on water.

Methodology

The Project has reviewed the water-related climate change impacts as they were identifiable by other relevant projects and international literature, both net-based and traditional. The Project also reviews the needs of adaptation and damage mitigation strategies and measures over the entire range of water-related human activities. The strategies identified also consider how these demands can be satisfied by the water-related policies. International conventions, regulations and policies are also considered. Strong emphasis in laid on the research needs to identify science-policy gaps and also on that of water-sciences in general. The Project reviews all European water-related policies, breaking down to tasks and topics according to main policy fields, with strong emphasis on identifying their ability and capacity of adaptation to climate change impacts and how these can be taken into account in the (re)formulation of current and future policies, thereby proposing recommendations and solutions to identified shortcomings.

Expected Results

Climate change impacts on the hydrological cycle, water resources and water management have already been reviewed for major topic categories: a) Impacts on society and economy as direct impacts on life and health of the population; b) Indirect impacts on the society through direct impacts on economic activities; c) Water related impacts on nature, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Condensed versions of the results of this analysis are available on the website. Adaptation strategies are the most important expectable results, being reviewed in 6 major categories: a) water demand side, b) supply side, c) damage prevention, d) water industries, e) adaptive capacities and f) control of water pollution. Next results are the identification of research needs, where 11 very important new or novel fields are considered, such as ecohydrology. The final output will be a list of advice to upgrade water-impact related EU policies, such as a novel approach to WFD/RBMP and new strategies for flood control.

Project Partners	
VITUKI Environmental and Water Research Institute	HU
University of Debrecen, Faculty of Engineering	HU
Water Research Institute of the National Research Council	IT
Institute of Environmental Systems Research, University of Osnabrück	DE
National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology	RO
Geonardo Environmental Technologies Ltd.	HU
University of Vienna, Faculty of Life Sciences	AT
University of Leicester, Department of Biology	UK
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	SK
SOGREAH Consultants	FR
Malta Resources Authority	MT