NATIONAL REPORT
SLOVAKIA
Institutional settings concerning forest and water management
Matej Schwarz
Two ministries dealing with forest & water

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
  - forest and agricultural landscape stewardship
  - stewardship of a part of small watercourses
- Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
  - stewardship of the majority of watercourses

- quite bad relationships between these ministries
  - caused by nature conservations issues
  - water issues - no controversies, but lack of cooperation
Two ministries dealing with forest & water

- **Undesirable effects:**
  - water, as a non conflict issue, is many times omitted
  - managements of streams themselves and management of their catchment's area are largely divided
  - unharmonious policies and legislation
  - lack of knowledge about the „other side“
  - almost no requirements of Water administration bodies to foresters and *vice versa*

⇒ slow implementation of the idea of the PES, which is seen as one of the main tools of „enlightened“ management
Two ministries - past solutions

- socialism era:
  - independent Ministry of Forest & Water Management
  - *Lesostav* - special state enterprise for „forest constructions“ (including torrent control) – now privatised
  - special „melioration enterprises“ under State Forests Enterprise for minor constructions and maintenance

- 2010
  - an attempt to merge MoA and MoE – politically sensitive issue – after elections, ministries are split again
  - the main controversy – nature conservation
  - water is not taken into consideration

- the future remains unclear
Regions of Slovakia

8 regions - NUTS 3 level
79 districts
Ministry of Environment

• Department of Water Protection (1 of 8)
  • sub-department of state administration:
    – regional „Water authorities“
  • sub-department of water policies
  • sub-department of water management and flood protection

• Organisations instituted by MoE
  • budgetary
  • contributory (semi-budgetary)
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<td>• Departments of plant &amp; animal production, rural development, etc</td>
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<td>• no „Agricultural Land Authorities) ⇒ indirect administration through payments</td>
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MoE organisations

- Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment
  - integrated pollution prevention and control
  - assessment of the compliance with environmental legislation

- Slovak Hydro-Meteorological Institute
  - monitoring and forecasts of streamflow, sediment loads, water temperatures, ice occurrence, etc.
  - monitoring of precipitation, temperatures evaporation
  - monitoring of groundwater resources
  - Flood Warning and Forecast System of Slovak rep. - Act No. 7/2010 col. on Flood Protection
MoE organisations

- Water Research Institute
  - sectoral research
  - implementation of Water Framework Directive (2000/60/E)

- State Geological Institute of Dionyz Stur
  - hydrogeology research and surveys

- State Nature Conservancy
  - Indirect, but significant impact – positive or negative – restrictions of improper, but also restrictions of desirable measures

- Envirofond
  - possible source of PES for managers, but not employed yet
WFD implementation: National Water Plan

- approved by the Government Decree No 109 from 10 February 2010
- lack of cross-sectoral cooperation
- not negotiated with forestry bodies
- unclear funding – water managers as well as foresters do not have financial resources
MoE organisations

- Slovak Water Management Enterprise
  - stewardship of water courses, water reservoirs, flood control, maintenance of waterways, care for surface waters quality and inspection of environmental impacts of water management
  - stewardship of hydromelioration facilities
  - stewardship of a part of small water streams - number of these streams is gradually increasing
  - organisational structure of SWME reflects the main catchment basins of Slovakia or the most important facilities, such as dams
MoA organisations

- National Forest Centre – now the only forestry organisation in Slovakia
  - sectoral research on forest management and its impacts on the environment
  - forest management planning – recently the main tool of SFM – now decreasing legal bindingness, decreasing quality (financial reasons)
  - implementation of international resolutions, conventions, etc.
  - development of forestry policies and strategies -
MoA organisations

- National Forest Centre (NFC) – what is its mandate?

- **NFC is allowed to talk about sustainable forest management, but it has less and less rights to force the manager to follow its principles**

- **On contrary, there are many processes trying not to expel managers from the landscape as a useless element**
MoA organisations

- National Forest Centre (NFC) – what is its mandate?

- NFC is allowed to talk about sustainable forest management, but it has less and less rights to force the manager to follow its principles

- many processes, quite on contrary, tries to expel managers from the landscape as a “useless element”
MoA organisations

- State Forests of Tatras National Park
  - established to manage the first Slovak national park – now controversial
- Forests of the Slovak Republic, State Enterprise
  - manages 50% of Slovak forests, majority of which is owned by the state
- Agroforestry estate Ulič, State Enterprise
  - small state enterprise independent from Forests of SR
  - all these organisations manage the forests and the large part of small water streams within their territories
  - becoming similar to private forest managers – water streams stewardship is one of remaining differences
Stewardship of water streams
3 state forest organisations & Slovak Water Management Enterprise

- Act No 364/2004 col. on Waters
- Act No 7/2010 col. on Flood Protection
- stewards of water streams are obliged to secure flood protection, maintain channels and streambanks, maintain constructions and riparian forests and to co-operate in monitoring
- financing from own resources (e.g. timber harvest) or from the fees the stewards are obliged to incase (e.g. for water polution)
- if not enough – state budget => now only repairs and small improvements are common
S​tewardship of forest

3 state forest organisations, but also all other forest owners/managers

- Act No 326/2005 on Forests
- Stewards/managers of forests have rights to manage and use their forests, but also many obligations, e.g.:
  - investigate damaging agents and to record and report the findings
  - keep their forests healthy and to remove infected trees
  - prevention against fires, game damage, etc
  - not put the risk on the neighbours’ ownership
  - perform the measures ordered by forestry authorities
Act on Forests – relation to water

- just generally described BMP, such as “not to damage streams and banks“, but without sanctions and strict rules
- main tool – so-called forest categories:
  - commercial (production)
  - protective
  - special purpose
- only few punctual prescriptions:
  - it is forbidden to use water streams for skidding (crossing streams is allowed)
- no watershed approach
National Forestry Programme of the Slovak Republic

Action Plan of National Forestry Programme of the Slovak Republic

Strategy of Forestry Development (to 2025)

- too many priorities (water functions included)
- lack of punctuality and real strategies
Act on Waters – relation to forests

- just general rules compatible with Act on forests
- protected water-management areas – just definition and general rules – no punctual prescriptions – foresters in reality do not have to know about them
- some rules related to the approval of forest management plans or building of drainage systems
- Act on Waters has only minor impact on forestry practice
- no watershed approach
Overestimated role of NGOs

- People & Water Initiative
  - slogan: to keep water in countryside
  - criticism of „concrete lobby“ – refusal of dams made of stone or concrete, even small ones
  - uncoordinated building of ineffective, low-quality facilities, sometimes even considered dangerous
  - broadly disputed initiative
Overestimated role of NGOs

- low quality of „solutions“
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- disputable durability and effectiveness
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Overestimated role of NGOs

– constructions generously funded from state budget

– quite contrary to underfinanced traditional state organisations and enterprises

– majority of the projects submitted by municipalities, but in close cooperation with People & Water
Thank you for your attention