

# National Action Plan to address the Effects of Drought and Water Scarcity



## Efforts to align Water and Climate Agendas in Slovakia

Danka Thalmeinerová  
Strategic Water Planning Department

## From the past (reactive) towards the future (proactive)

- Each time the disaster (flood, drought) occurs, many of the same issues are raised in the region:
  - How much damage was inflicted, on whom, and where?
  - Who is going to pay for it?
- Traditionally, investments (and resources) are directed to emergency response and recovery of economic damages, rather than for disaster prevention and preparedness.

# Drought and water scarcity – case of Slovakia

National Action Plan to address the effects of drought and water scarcity adopted in 2018

## Three pillars:

- Prevention first
  - Specific focus on forests, agriculture, urban settlements
  - Increase the natural retention capacity of the landscape
- Management and operation measures
  - Find synergy of measures for flood protection and drought mitigation (reconstruction, maintenance of water storage constructions)
  - Coordinate efforts with nature protection (revitalization of wetlands)
- Research, education and public awareness

## Good news

- Engine for applied research in agriculture sector (soil erosion and water retention capacity)
- Strengthening of soil monitoring (and linkages of soil and water monitoring)
- Improvement of guidance documents regarding monitoring and assessment (incl. water balance)
- Financial support to municipalities (water retention measures in urban settlements)
- Financial support to river basins authorities (reconstruction and maintenance of existing retention facilities)

# Lessons learnt so far (1)

Should the drought (and water scarcity) be addressed as

- a supplementary measure to RBM plans (WFD),
- being a part of Climate Change Adaptation strategy,
- a standing-alone strategy?

*Political decision taken and the NAP to combat drought and water scarcity adopted*

## Lessons learnt so far (2)

Addressing „sectoral“ agendas (agriculture and forestry) did not bring desirable „win-win“ solutions

- (re)construction of hydromelioration systems to meet demand of agriculture sector without considering negative impact on water resources
- adaptation measures in forestry not complemented with measures to improve forestry practices
- development of new reservoirs without the assessment of social impacts
- „old“ problems not addressed (ecological flows, restoration and renaturalization of rivers, addressing rainwater)

## Lessons learnt so far (3)

- Coordination issues (timing, budgeting, assessment and reporting):
  - Climate change adaptation planning
  - Basin management planning
  - Urban planning
- Budgeting and financial support (including insurance system)

# Considerations to align water and climate agenda

**Most disaster events manifest themselves through water (floods, drought)**

Next steps in Slovakia:

- Development of NAP of Climate Change Adaptation
- Development of Water Policy
  - Recognition of drought and water scarcity in RBMP
- Assessment and revision of NAP to combat drought and water scarcity





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Thank you

[danka.thalmeinerova@enviro.gov.sk](mailto:danka.thalmeinerova@enviro.gov.sk)  
Strategic Water Planning Department  
Ministry of Environment, Slovakia