

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a landscape. It shows a mix of green fields, brownish patches, and a winding road or path. The overall tone is somewhat muted and naturalistic.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGES CAN EFFECT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA

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**The 3rd Conference
“Climate Change and Water”**

Riga, May 10-12, 2007

Climate changes and sustainable development in small Latvia- can we afford policies and planning with focus to the adaptation at state level???

- **How does Latvia looks like**
- **Response to the Global threats**
- **EU position and influence**
- **Baltic Sea Region-HELCOM BSAP**
- **Act locally- think globaly**
- **Never give up!**

How does Latvia looks like...

1. Rich in water resources, sufficient water quality
2. Green as forests and bogs makes more than 50% of the whole territory
3. Scarse natural resources with exception building sector
4. Sparcely inhabited with less than 20 /km² in rural areas
5. Extensive economy –almoust poorest of EU 25
6. EU still more support gives to the EU 15
7. Several big agglomerations exist where pressures to the environment can be evaluated as important
8. Trade and transit have played an important role through two milleniums-are there any changes possible?
9. Some regions are poor and more vulnerable against unexpected pressures like climate changes

LATVIA AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS/RESPONSES

- 1. Climate changes and UNFCCC – never think this is the most important and only one threat**
- 1. Worsening of marine environment - decrease in fish stocks**
- 2. Transboundary air pollution-Ozon layer depletion - POP's can be found elsewhere**
- 3. Overextraction of drinking water - water scarcity – draughts – surface and ground water quality at risks**
- 4. Nontreated waste water entering rivers via seas – nutrients and chemical substances**
- 5. Municipal and even hazardous waste simply tipped into rivers by billions! enters seas and oceans and often coming back with high tide**
- 6. Catastrophical losses of biodiversity**
- 7. Global trade leads to monocultures and reflects in more vulnerable economics in developing countries**
- 8. Global trade transfer the pressures from developed countries to developing ones- does it mean environmental concerns?**

EU POSITION AND INFLUENCE CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGES MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

- **Very ambitious but rather small part of the global society in energy sector, agriculture, marine transport,**
- **Even if the EU environmental footprint is much smaller as USA there is no sustainable consumption pattern implemented**
- **6th Environmental Actions Programm is confronted by the Lisbon Strategy, DG environment is not the biggest bell in the Bruxelles**
- **Globally the EU acts as a part of OECD and WEOG, seeks support from the JUSCANZ group and Japan**
- **Confrontation with G-77 and China – important where stands Russia**
- **Slow implementation of the old environmental directives like Nitrates, UWWTD in EU 15**
- **EU WFD has separated water quality from quantity issues – of course, in policy you can do a lot. But why it should be better as IWRM in Switzerland or Canada or even in Russia with long experience in water planning**
- **Latest development under WFD implementation strategy clearly shoves- one can not skip HMWB like ports or HPP, inland transport and irrigated agriculture in the Mediterranean Sea basin countries**
- **The EU Marine Strategy? Draft Directive does not clearly recognize existing competences and sets borders with UNEP, IMO or Regional Seas Conventions like HELCOM competencies**
- **The EU Maritime policy sets much strongest requirements to the EU Fleet or ports thus simply transferring environmental pressures to the other regions even more vulnerable like Arctic**
- **The EU Russia environmental dialog is not optimistic one at the moment**

BALTIC SEA REGION-THE HELCOM BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN 2007

- One of most quickly developing areas in the world
- Some experts expects growth up to 100% in two decades in particular in transport and oil extraction
- HELCOM 1973/1992 – a smooth passage from science to the policy decisions. Nobody believe they will be implemented (1988 Ministerial Declaration).
- HELCOM was starring with JC BSAP in middle 90-ties, when bilateral donors and the banks were following the Hot Spots lists and Baltic Sea priorities. The EU integration with Directive oriented implementation planning and financing killed the HELCOM as regional fora-still EU approach is not regional and does not meets best investments criteria
- There are still huge amounts of fresh brain and long outstanding experience in the HELCOM possibly the one of the best in the world
- How the EU Marine Strategy Directive will be implemented in the Baltic Sea Area – througs Bussels or regionally
- Weakest link in the chain always wil, be predicting effectiveness and time of achievements – Russia is this link
- Existing information exchange in the region doesnt give big warnings aboutr strong climate changes in the short run.
- First global evaluations gives warnings to the global food markets thus giving message to the Baltic Sea region to preserve existing agroculture even if it is more expensive

ACT LOCALLY –THINK GLOBALLY

- **Latvia is a tiny market but with reserves excluding human ones**
- **The Baltic Sea Region is well developed but different interests confrontates: Global trade pressures, EU –Russia dialog; EU 15 – EU 10+2, even between three Baltic States, big cities-urban areas**
- **There are huge discrepancies between the regions (Scandinavia- West Russia) and inside the countries (Riga - Latgale)**
- **There are huge differencies between the committments to the SD inside of the countries and between the municipalities**
- **There are no instruments to stop overconsumption attack in the countries transferred to the market economy**
- **There are no sufficient support from the state institutions to the monitoring and research and in particular under scope of activities to evaluate and mitigate the climate changes**
- **There are lack of capacities to evaluate vulnerability and adaptation matters we will need years to grow**
- **Thanks to the EU Science programms why we are there we can understand where we are**

**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENTION. GOOD LUCK TO
EVERYBODY!**

