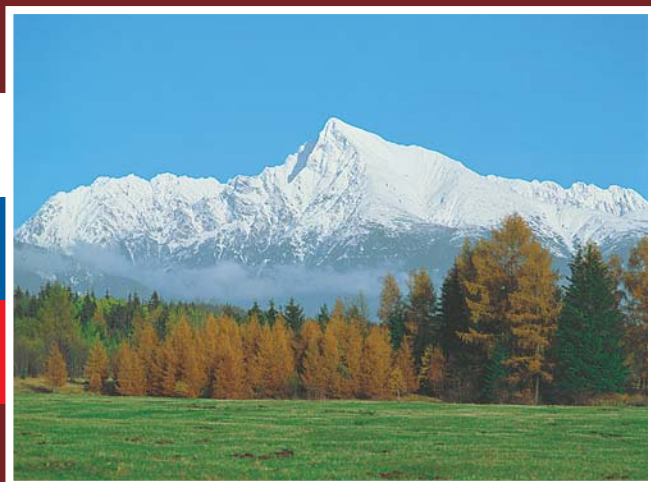


***Ministry of the Environment  
of the Slovak Republic***



***STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
REPORT  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2007***



***Slovak Environmental  
Agency***





## FOREWORD

Every year, since 1993, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic has published **State of the Environment Report in the Slovak Republic**. In this, the Ministry not only undertakes to meet its obligation pursuant to Act 17/1992 Coll. on environment and Act 205/2004 Coll. on gathering, storing, and spreading of environment-related information, but actively contributes to raising the environmental awareness and knowledge base of the Slovak public.

State of the Environment Report in the Slovak Republic in 2007 is the **fifteenth report** of its kind, published annually since the mentioned year of 1993. Its objective over the recent years has been to offer a summary on the actual state of the components of environment – air, water, soil, rocks, biota, as well as to assess the existing situation in the protection of nature and landscape, and describe what factors and in what way impact the environment. The document, at the same time, supplies new information on specific steps in the area of environmental protection - be it environmental impact assessment, integrated prevention and control of pollution, prevention of major industrial accidents, as well as funding environmental solutions through selected economic instruments, EU-funded projects, and projects implemented through international cooperation from other sources, especially the Environmental fund.

Slovak Republic as full member of the **European Union** is obliged to fully accommodate and subsequently implement the legislation effective for individual EU member countries. Number of newly-adopted legislation is gradually decreasing, while the emphasis is placed mainly on the steps leading to the implementation of environmental legislation in its complexity.

Besides carrying out the obligations of the Slovak Republic toward the European Union, the Slovak Government in its **programme declaration** considers environmental care and protection to be a decisive instrument in securing sustainable development.

There are many tasks yet to be addressed. Among others, let me mention introduction of municipal sewerage systems and waste water treatment, compliance with air-quality pollution limits, reaching the

objectives of waste management, and meeting the obligations related to the NATURA 2000 network creation. These tasks, being financially demanding especially, belong to the priorities of our country. Their implementation calls for a coordinated and systematic effort, since sufficient funds is only one of the conditions to carry out such endeavours. At the same time, they need a sufficient professional potential, coordination of tasks, and last but not least, a considerable enthusiasm of people occupying different positions – among them top management institutions, professional institutions, upper-tier government units, municipalities, businesses, and finally each of us – the people of the this country, who through their actions and attitudes can impact our living environment.

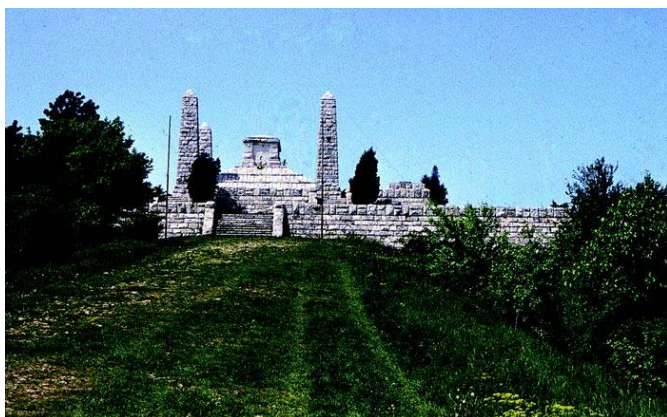


The submitted State of the Environment Report has been created on the basis of a **wide and long positively acclaimed cooperation** between specialists of environmental institutions and other cooperating organisations. The Report is a fruitage of a whole array of activities carried out within the environmental monitoring system, statistical observations, analyses and evaluations, all of them funded with considerable amount of funds from the government budget.

As mentioned above, from the perspective of long-term **environmental assessment**, the changes are no longer as dramatic as those taking place in the last years of the 20th century.

Positive outcomes resulting from the trend in environment include permanent and slight reduction in basic pollutant emissions. Notwithstanding all this, it has not been possible to comply with the pollution limits at all air quality monitoring stations. The **problem** is particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> air pollution, which significantly exceeds the limits of air pollution generally valid as of January 2005. Adverse situation has remained in ground ozone air pollution with exceeded limit values for human health protection and vegetation. On the other hand, there has been a continuing trend in reduction of aggregated anthropogenic emissions of green house gasses. However; just like in case of particulate matter emissions, these changes in total volumes since 2000 have been minimal. Air quality represents a complex issue. Therefore, we must address not only the issue of stationary sources, but also mobile and spatial sources, minimise adverse climate changes that are closely related with air quality, and support renewable energy sources, etc.

I already mentioned the demanding obligations in the area of sewerage and waste **water** treatment installations. Despite the growing share of inhabitants connected to sewerage and waste water treatment plants, this area remains to be one of the most challenging areas in relation to the obligations set forth by the Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, which prescribes necessary level of treatment before discharge, and which must be implement in the EU-10 countries between the years 2008-2015. The Directive also requires all member countries to provide collection systems and



adequate treatment for all collected waste water in all agglomerations of more than 2000 inhabitants' equivalents. Framework directive on water sets out demanding objectives for us – to reach good water balance by 2015. Surface water quality monitoring has been carried out in compliance with the Water situation monitoring programme in 2007. The obtained results allow me here to say that, just

like in the case of air protection, there are indicators whose compliance pose no problems for Slovakia; however, there are also indicators that exceed the set limit values and we will have to tackle the problem of reducing the contamination also on the basis implementation of planned planning and programme documentation including mainly the Slovakia Water Plan along with watershed management plans.

The year 2007 has been the second consecutive year of implementation of the Waste management programme in the SR for the years 2006-2010. This document that shows obligations toward the EU also spells out ambitious goals in terms of **waste** handling. Total reduction in generated waste is a positive thing; however, in terms of individual waste handling approaches, high volume of waste stored on landfills and low volumes of separated waste calculated per single Slovak inhabitant remain problematic.

I would like to further accentuate the endeavours in the area of nature and landscape protection as related to the NATURA 2000 network creation. This network represents a continuous ecological network of especially protected territories in a special EU interest and which are built by the member countries independently of their national systems of protected areas. Despite the fact that a number of activities have been carried out in this area, there are more that still are ahead of us.

Let me mention also the issue of implementation of voluntary instruments that are contrary to commands and imperatives, and which implementation also significantly and positively impacts the environment. Specifically, this includes a system of assessment and labelling of environmentally friendly products, implementation of the EMS and EMAS schemes, green public procurement, etc.

Following up on the high financial demand of tasks in the area of environmental protection, it is necessary to comply with the condition of targeting and proper use of financial means designated to receive assistance from the European Union for the area of environment for the years 2007-2013 as mentioned in the pertinent SR programme document - Operational program of Environment. Implementation of supported activities should be directly reflected in the assessment of individual environmental indicators and subsequently in documents showing the improving quality of environment in Slovakia.

To conclude, let me express my and the authors' sincere hopes that this State of the Environment Report of the Slovak Republic in 2007 becomes a useful source of valuable information and at the same

time serves as an impetus to increase the interest of all in the sensitive issue of environmental protection that represents one of the important factors impacting the human health. Meanwhile, we welcome any comments and suggestions that will eventually contribute to a higher quality of the document and which will meet the universal right to information on the state of the environment.



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