

Polska
POLAND

NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT

I D N D R

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SECTION A: PROFILE

1. Composition of National Committee (Focal Point):

Chairman: Prof. Dr Jan Zieliński, Polish IDNDR Committee
Institute of Meteorology and Water Management
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Ministries

- Ministry of Environment Protection
Natural Resources and Forestry (2)
- Ministry of National Defense (1)
- Ministry of Agriculture and
Alimentary Economy (1)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (1)

Academic & Research Institutions

- State Geological Institute (1)

Non-Governmental Organization

- Polish Committee
Geotechnics (1)

Media

- non

Insurance

- State Insurance Company (1)

Others

Committee.

The Committee identified as one of the main tasks, the elaboration of national programme of natural disasters reduction taking into consideration economical, environmental management, and land use planning as well as insurance policies of the country.

3. Prevailing hazards

Type	Location	Affected Population
Floods	all the country	10 % of population
Windstorms	- " -	
Forestfires	- " -	
Drought	- " -	20 % of population

4. Recent natural disasters

Date	Type	Location	Affected Population	Losses
- 1982 January	Flood	Middle Poland	15 000	132 m USD*
- 1985 Summer	Flood	Southern Poland	not defined	176,5 m USD
- 1987 January and May	Flood	South-West and Southern-Poland	35 000	213 m USD
- 1991 May and August	Flood	Southern Poland	not defined	47,8 m USD
- 1992 Summer	Forest fires	Different Regions (203 km ²)	not defined (2 dead)	110 m USD

* The costs are evaluated for 1992 prices and exchange rate

5. National socio-economic conditions

- Population: 38 365 000

- Gross-National Product (GNP) about 76 730 000 000 USD
- Per-Capita Income: about 2 000 USD (all data after 1992)

6. Availability of assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction.

- Poland participates i.a. in UNDRO Emergency Network System on warnings, information and mutual help.
- In the framework of WMO/UNEP Project HOMS different software,, and knowhow technologies were elaborated and exchanged or are available for exchange.
- They were many different initiatives of Middle East European Countries on environmental protection and reduction of disasters caused by hydrometeorological and/or geophysical phenomena. Due to undergoing substantial changes in the political and economical situation all those projects are waiting for financial support and /or implementation.

7. International assistance required for natural disaster reduction.

There is a lack of sufficient financial support for establishment of reasonable rainfall radar network, which should be connected to existing European System.

Our national programme so far consist only of establishment of a second radar station, located in southern Poland, as our difficult economic situation makes impossible full implementation of the existing project for building of national network of meteorological radars. Hence we would be very keen to cooperate with other countries and/or agencies to accelerate these activities.

SECTION B: STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Steps towards achieving the 3 main Decade targets

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks from natural

hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans;

- Most hazardous zones in the country are identified for main phenomena recorded so far. Assessment of potential losses is mostly done.
- There is a lack of more sophisticated both hazard and losses evaluation in terms of probability and/or other statistical measures for implementation of the statistical theory of decisions under uncertainty conditions.

(b) Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness;

- Short term protective and early intervention needs and measures are identified and relatively well organized both at national and local levels.
- Readiness and awareness of communities need some improvements, mainly due to undergoing recently changes in local administration organization.
- There are some long-term preventive plans. Their effectiveness is however doubtful and implementation difficult, due to the lack of financing sources. They will need improvements and reorganisation.
- It is expected that the execution of the APELL Project (sponsored by IEO UNEP) will enforce community awareness and emergency response at local level which needs unified structures and organizational procedures for prevention, warning systems and monitoring.

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination of warnings.

- Full access to warning systems of different scales available, only local warning and dissemination systems need some improvement.

- Improvement of telemetric warning systems (see i.a. section A, point 7) is considered as one of the main concerns of National Hydrometeorological Service.

2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction.

In 1992 under auspices of the Polish IDNDR Committee it was elaborated "National Plan of Action in the Domain of the Prevention of Natural Disaster and Other Extraordinary Emergency States at the Territory of the Republic of Poland".

Main task of the Plan was creation of long-term programme for reduction of losses caused by natural and technological disasters, till the end of the decade.

There were identified main national enterprises necessary to be accomplished in different time periods by different governmental and non governmental institutions, including research studies.

There are following difficulties in full execution of the plan:

- Structural changes in the national administration and hence also changes of agencies, institutions and organisations involved both in execution and implementation of the plan,
- Difficult economical situation of the country unables proper supply of resources for accomplishment of the Plan and for its implementation.
- Turn from totalitarian management and economical system to free market economy created the need of new legislation, and financial regulation system which is under implementation only, and time is needed for its operational running.

3. Legislation introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction

In 1993 it was prepared a new National Act on extraordinary threats of the environment to be adopted by the Parliament this year. It is expected that most of the problems connected with IDNDR will be anew and exhaustively covered in the Act.

4. Disaster mitigation activities completed or underway:

(a) Identification of hazard zones: hazard assessment

Generally accomplished, - see Section B, point 1 (a).

(b) Monitoring, prediction and warning

In general existing systems of monitoring, prediction and warning are performing well, even they are under permanent improvement either according to National Met Service or Telecommunication system modernization plans.

(c) Short-term Protective measures and preparedness.

See Section B, point 1 (b).

(d) Long-term preventive measures.

In a flood-prone country as Poland is, deforestation even on local scale, presents serious threat, and unfortunately it is taking place recently. Hence there is a need for promotion of long-term afforestation programme as a disaster mitigation measure.

5. Plans to fully achieve Decade targets by the end of 1999

Generally plans are indicated under Section B, point 1. Their fulfillment depend on successful transition to free market economy system and finalization of national administration reorganisation, including local municipal administration.

SECTION C: INTERACTIONS

1. Publications on IDNDR-related subject:

Proceedings of the Polish - French seminar: "National Disaster:

Forecasting, Prevention"; pp. 135, Ed. by Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Warsaw, 1993.

2. IDNDR meetings and conferences held or planned:

On 18-19 November 1993 in Warsaw it was organized a Polish - French Seminar on "Natural Disaster: Frequency, Prevention" sponsored by: Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, French Embassy in Poland, Bureau of Polish - French Cooperation, Polish IDNDR Committee. Fifteen lectures and ten scientific announcements were presented.

3. Current or planned partnership and cooperation to IDNDR with other countries.

In the year 1992 it was signed a multilateral agreement entitled "Cooperation Agreement on the Forecast, Prevention and Mitigation of Natural and Technological Disasters", among the government of:

- the Republic of Austria
- the Republic of Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (old name)
- the Republic of Hungary
- the Republic of Italy
- the Republic of Poland
- the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (old name).

This cooperation should be concentrated on forecasting and prevention of major risk, entailing serious consequences for the safety of people, assets and environment.

First of all it shall include:

- exchange of scientific and technical information and relevant data on a regular basis,
- implementation of common research programme,
- training of experts in the field of forecast prevention and relief, in order to set up common programmes on Civil Protection and Disaster Management

Moreover it is underway procedure of renegotiation of bilateral agreements with all neighbouring countries on cooperation in cases of natural and/or technological disasters.

SECTION D: EVALUATION

1. Overall evaluation of national disaster mitigation programmes including, but not limited to, those initiated after IDNDR and achievements up to now

So far targets set by the National Committee in the domain of disaster mitigation have been met. Further development will depend on the economical situation in the country and partially on the support of activities by international or foreign organizations or institutions.

2. Review of the IDNDR

The Decade activities are inspiring and building awareness of the society and administration for the problems of disasters mitigation. They are creating new attitude to problems raised. The continuation seems therefore necessary.