

SLOVENIA: A CASE STUDY – RELATED BEST PRACTICE OR LESSONS LEARNED IN WATER AND SANITATION

1. Which specific WSSD or Agenda 21 commitment does your case study address?

Water and water sanitation.

2. Please briefly describe the essential characteristics of the case study you wish to share including the nature of activities undertaken.

“Ecoremediation in water management” – Ecoremediation comprises systems and processes which function in natural and artificial ecosystems; it protects and restores the environment.

3. Please explain the nature and characteristics of particular challenges and constraints faced, if any.

It is comparatively inexpensive and highly efficient in protection of water resources, streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater and the sea. The basic characteristics which can be utilized and improved are its high buffer and self-protective capacities, and preservation of natural habitats and biological diversity. Ecoremediation is used for multipurpose management of watercourses, lakes and wetlands.

4. What are the lessons learned in the process, positive and/or negative?

Positive lessons learned:

- remediation of human activities in the environment and seasonal pollution impacts;
- tertiary or supplementary treatment of urban, stock farming, industrial wastewater;
- protection of natural reserves;
- protection of groundwater;
- sustainable maintenance of amelioration ditches;
- buffer zones (vegetation zones);
- revitalization (biological restoration) of degraded watercourses, lakes,..
- restoration and construction of habitats for rare and endangered plant and animal species.

Although there is still some consideration regards technical indeterminateness, and difficult regulation of the ecoremediation systems.

5. What has been the impact of such a case in the area(s) concerned?

Beside the all of the positive lessons learned, the main impact is the restoration of the natural environment and the ecosystem stability.
