Audit examples of the Accounting Chamber on resilience and adaptation to climate change

Ukraine, like other countries, is facing with consequences of global climate change. Over the last 30 years, the average annual temperature in Ukraine has risen by 1.2 degrees. At the same time, according to experts, over the next 30 years the average annual temperature in Ukraine may rise by 1-1.5 degrees more. These trends have an extremely negative impact on the environment, in particular, leads to such catastrophic consequences as floods, desertification, water pollution, drinking water shortages etc.

In 2021, the Accounting Chamber conducted the performance audit of the effectiveness of the State Target Program for Water Management Development and Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnipro River Basin until 2021.



Oleshkiv sands, Ukraine

Dnipro river basin is the largest in Ukraine, and the Dnipro River is the main waterway and the main source of water supply, including drinking water. The water of the Dnipro River is used by 70 % of population of Ukraine, 50 large cities and industrial centers, more than 10 thousand enterprises, more than 2 thousand farms, 50 irrigation systems.

Audit revealed an unsatisfactory state of implementation of the program activities and failure to achieve the planned results. The audit, in particular, found that the current climate change, constant pollution of water resources affects the environmental condition of water resources and may lead to a shortage of clean and drinking water at the soonest time. According to statistics data, the level of water pollution by return water have increased in 2019 compared to 2015, in particular, phosphates – by 30 %, nitrates – 4.4 %, copper – 45.6 %.

According to the Institute of Water Problems and Land Reclamation of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, the deficit of climatic water balance is growing rapidly in all regions of the country. Areas with a significant deficit of natural moisture (dry and very dry areas) from 1991 to 2015 have increased by 7 % and cover of more than 29.5 % of the territory of Ukraine, and by 2050 Ukraine will have to import drinking water.



Dnipro River, Ukraine

The problem of providing centralized water supply to the population that using imported water, is also related to the problem of drinking water. Residents of rural areas mostly use well water in the absence of centralized water supply, and over the last decade, due to gradual climate change and environmental problems, water in wells is losing quality or drying up altogether, that leading to a shortage of drinking water. Totally, in 30 % of drinking water samples it was revealed the exceeding of the permissible levels for sanitary and chemical indicators, including the content of nitrates.



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For many countries, mitigation and adaptation to climate change are now top priorities in national and foreign policy. Ukraine is also an active participant in this process. However, the invasion of the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022 made its adjustments.

According to experts' opinion, the negative impact on measures to prevent climate change in Ukraine will be huge, as, in particular, a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions has been laid in buildings and infrastructure, which will now have to be rebuilt. The war also has a direct impact on nature and biodiversity: more than one third of all protected areas are damaged by hostilities, water resources are polluted due to the destruction of treatment facilities in settlements and air is polluted due to large-scale fires, explosions etc.



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