

Audit of the state budget funds allocated to environmental management in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions

From June to September 2012 the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine conducted the Audit of the state budget funds allocated to environmental management in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions.

Audited entities: the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine, the State Water Resources Agency of Ukraine, the State Department of Environmental Protection in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, the State Ecological Inspectorate in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, the State Environmental Inspection of Northwest Region of the Black Sea, the Nyzhzhnyodnistrovsky National Park, the National park "Tuzly Lakes", the National Park "Oleshkivski sands", the Natural Reserve "Yelanetsky Step", the National Park "Bug Gard", the State Enterprise "Odesa Joint Directorate of Construction of Water Management Facilities", the Danube Basin Water Resources Management, the Mykolaiv Regional Management of Water Resources, the Kherson Regional Department of Water Resources and its structural units (Kalanchak Water Management Department; Tsjurupinsk, Hornostayivka, Ivanovo Interregional Water Management Departments) Road Management of Odesa City Council, the State Treasury of Ukraine in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions.

Key findings:

The lack of effective leverages on violators of environmental legislation and the poor state of control by the state inspections result in minor reparation of damages to the state. In particular, in 2011 and the first half of 2012 a non-permit or overtime activity resulted in amends only from 0,6 to 0,8 percent of the damage .

The measures for the establishment and preservation of natural areas, which in 2011 and the first half of 2012 were used by natural parks in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions are not sufficiently effective.

There are no legal documents for the use of land and projects of the territory. The state of parks fire safety is low. As a result, the number of violations of environmental laws increases and scientific and tourist attraction of parks decreases. The legal status of public protection of the nature reserve fund of Ukraine is not regulated.

Protection of rural areas and agricultural lands from the harmful effects of water in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, primarily due to the residual principle of financing appropriate measures are ineffective. The risk of flooding in these regions are growing every year. An inventory and assessment of potentially dangerous areas are not carried out, a list of objects that require urgent measures to prevent harmful effects of water in Mykolaiv and Kherson regions is not defined.

Regulatory provision governing the legal and economic framework of environmental protection and defines the powers of the relevant bodies of executive power in this area is inadequate and uncoordinated.

The issues of strengthening accountability for violations of environmental legislation; full compensation and recovery of environmental damage; mechanism of authority application by the Departments of Environmental Protection, particularly in terms of suspension of permits, providing expert assessment of projects are subject to regulation and improvement.