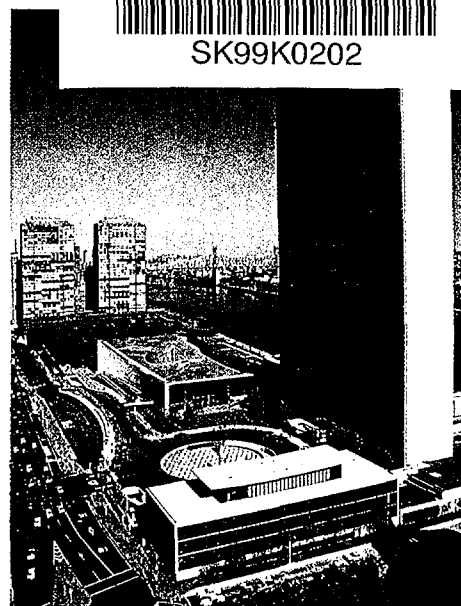


International Co-operation

International Organizations



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Within the UN framework, the Slovak Republic participated in the following activities:

UN European Economic Commission	- UNEEC
UN Industrial Development Organization	- UNIDO
UN Development Programme	- UNDP
UN Human Habitat Organization	- HABITAT
UN Environment Programme	- UNEP
UN Commission on Sustainable Development	- CSD

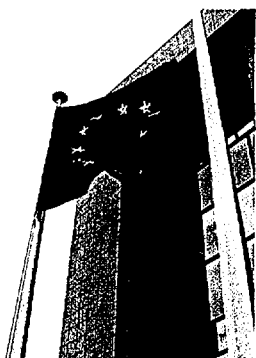
The SR participated in all relevant activities of the UNEEC co-ordinated by the Environmental Policy Committee, especially in relation to preparation of the Pan-European Conference of the Ministers of the Environment held in June 1998 in Aarhus (Denmark). The Slovak delegation took part in the Pan-European Conference of the Environment and Transport Ministers in Vienna in November 1997.

Projects on the environment improvement, co-ordinated by the Slovak Centre of Cleaner Production and in co-operation with UNIDO, were implemented in the selected stressed regions of Slovakia.

UNDP established the programme called CAPACITY 21 to support the conclusions of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. This programme should assist countries with establishment of capacities for continuous sustainable development. The Programme CAPACITY 21 for the SR was signed by the UNDP and the Slovak Government in May 1997. Its main objective is to establish a network supporting environment assessment, emphasizing continuous sustainable consciousness of citizens and to support participation of specialised subjects in the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) process, that are aimed towards application of sustainable development principles in the Slovak conditions. The Slovak delegation took part in the session of the UNEP Governing Council as its member. The UNEP executive director Elisabeth Dowdeswell officially visited the SR in September 1997. The Slovak delegation took part in the session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in April and June 1997. It took part in the separate session of the United Nations General Assembly on Sustainable Development.

In March 1997, the Minister of the Environment of the SR took part in the structure dialogue at the extended session of the EU Ministers Council of the Environment and the Ministers of the Environment from the associated countries in Brussels. In September 1997, he took part in the consultative meeting with the EU Director of the Environment and Nuclear





Safety and Ministers of the Environment from the associated countries in Brussels. In 1996, the OECD Committee on Environmental Policy declared that the SR is able and prepared to act in accordance with the OECD membership obligations in the environment sphere. After that, in 1997, the branch activities of the Ministry of the Environment of the SR were concentrated on preparation of the 4th Pan-European Conference of Environment Ministers in the Danish Aarhus.

International Conventions and Other Forms of Multilateral Co-operation



Within the framework of the Basle Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, **Regional Training Centre (RTC) for Central and Eastern Europe** was established and it has operated since February 1997. The main activity of RTC is oriented towards:

- training
- information technology (Clearing House).

The task of RTC is to organize training courses for 19 Central and Eastern European Countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, the Federal Yugoslav Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Moldavia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine. By the end of 1997, RTC organized the following courses:

1. Implementation of the Basle Convention into the national legislation; juridical and institutional aspects of implementation along with the transfer principles of hazardous waste and its prevention (2-6 June 1997)
2. Identification of hazardous waste, its inventory, classification and characterization of hazardous features (20-21 October 1997)
3. Control Information Systems on Waste (1-5 December 1997)

According to the **Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**, the SR took part in discussions of the steering committee of the organisation and its support workgroups.

In September 1997, the Slovak delegation took part in a jubilee meeting of the Montreal Protocol participating countries held in Montreal (Canada).

Following the **RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats** (RAMSAR, 1971), the Slovak National Co-ordinating Secretariat continued to work towards agreed engagements.

Within the framework of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** (CITES), Washington 1973, the Slovak National Co-ordinating Secretariat continued its activities including completion of the annual national report.

Within the framework of the **Convention on Biodiversity**, implementation of the project funded from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds continued. The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979) was realized.

In December 1997, at the 3rd UN Framework Convention on Climate Changes in Kyoto, the Slovak

delegation accepted the commitment to reduce greenhouse gases production by 8% by the year 2010, as compared to 1990.

In September 1997, following the initiative of the Polish Minister responsible for the environment, 10 ministers of the Central and Eastern European Countries signed so-called **Torun Declaration on Environmental Protection Co-operation**.

In October 1997, state secretary of the MŽP SR participated in the 11th Conference of the ministers responsible for urban planning (CEMAT) and presented the Conception of Urban Planning in the Slovak Republic.

Bilateral Co-operation

During 1997, the following bilateral agreements were signed:

- Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Turkey Government on co-operation in environment protection (Ankara, 2.4.1997)
- Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Germany on co-operation in environment protection (Bratislava, 14.7.1997)
- Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba on co-operation in environment protection (Havana, 22.3. 1997)
- Agreement on co-operation in geology between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of the Environment Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry of Poland (Stetin, 25.6.1997)
- Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of the Environment Protection of Belarus on co-operation in environment protection (Bratislava, 8.7.1997).



International Programmes and Projects

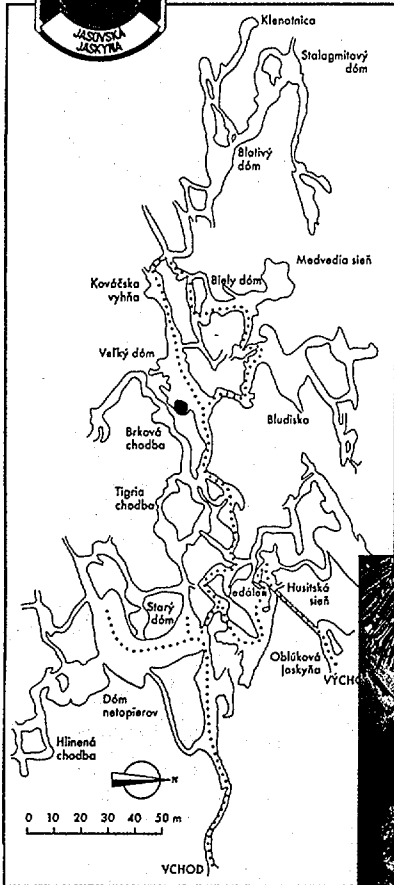
The Ministry of the Environment of the SR co-ordinates and participates in the multilateral and bilateral projects financially supported by the foreign grants. In 1997, the co-operation continued in the following projects:

1. Phare - National Programme
 2. Phare MCPE - Multinational Co-operation Programme on Environment
 3. Phare CBC - Cross-border Co-operation Programme
 4. Phare DISAE - Development of the Implementation Strategies for Approximation in the Environment
 5. projects in co-operation with the World Bank's GEF - Global Environmental Facility
 6. projects guaranteed by UNESCO
 7. projects guaranteed by UNEP
 8. projects guaranteed by UNIDO
- and other projects in co-operation with Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Korea, Luxembourg, Norway, Austria, Republic of Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Ukraine, USA and Great Britain.

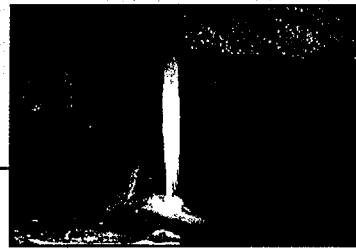
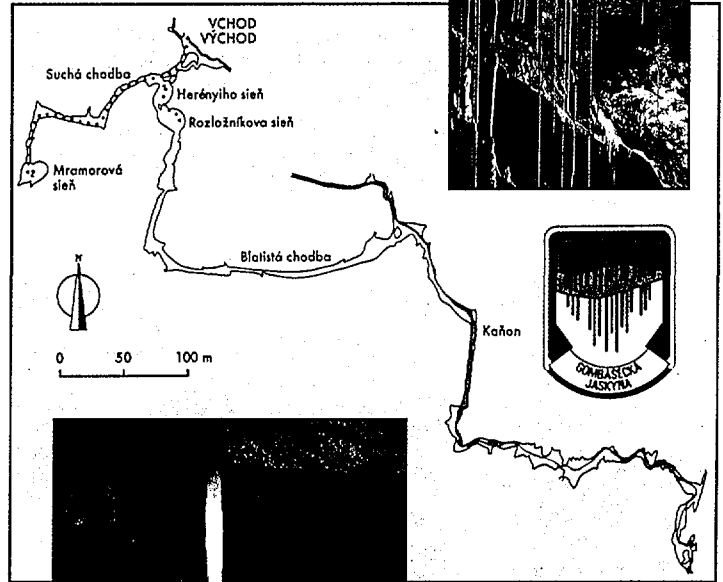
World Natural Heritage in Slovakia



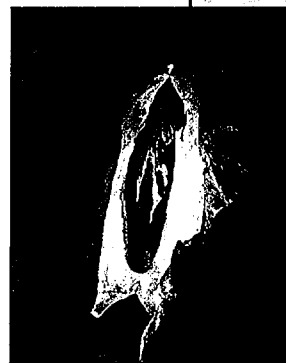
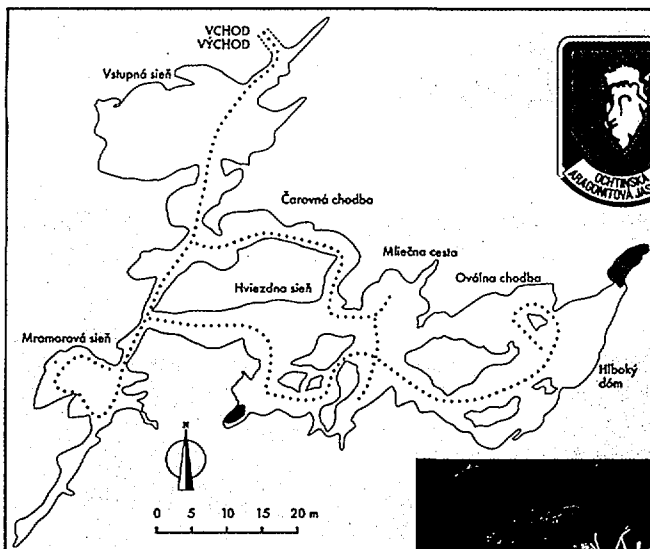
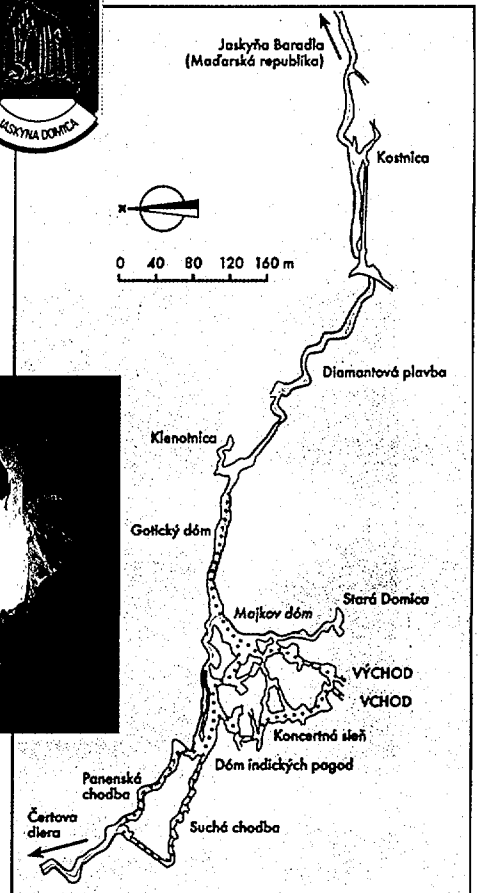
**Jasovská
cave**



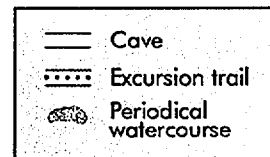
**Gombasecká
cave -**



**- Silická
ľadnica cave**



**Ochtinská
aragonite cave**



**Domica
cave**