

AGREEMENT

**between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania
and
the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
on co-operation in the field of environmental protection**

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, hereafter referred to as „the Parties“,

WILLING to assist the implementation of the right of each human being to a healthy environment,

RECOGNIZING that co-operation in the field of environment is mutually beneficial and that there exists a realistic background for its development,

WILLING to contribute to the establishment of closer long-term co-operation in this field and combine the efforts of the two Parties in solving tasks of interest to both

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties will develop co-operation in the field of environmental protection based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

Article 2

Co-operation will be implemented in the following basic areas:

- normative-legal regulation of environmental protection activities,
- perfection of environmental use mechanism,
- monitoring and assessment of the status of environment as well as human health,
- joint activities in the areas of standards development, metrology and certification,
- prevention of ecological disasters,
- collection, treatment, re-cycling, neutralization, temporary and final deposit of industrial, agricultural, household and other wastes and development of a system for their environmentally friendly use,
- protected areas, protection of rare and endangered animal and plant species,
- protection and improvement of environment in cities and other settlements,
- technical means, equipment and technologies in the area of environmental protection,
- ecological education and instruction, promotion of environmental awareness,
- development of environmental information systems and exchange of environmental information,
- organizing of harmonized public services aimed at the protection of the environment with the help of mass media and non-governmental organizations, study of public opinion on environmental problems,

- exchange of information and co-operation in the development and implementation of environmental policies,
- co-operation in the area of a rational use of nature resources,
- other types of mutually beneficial co-operation.

Article 3

The basic forms of co-operation of the contracting Parties are as follows:

- implementation of joint programmes, projects and resolutions in the areas listed in the article 2 of the Agreement,
- bilateral consultations, conferences and symposia,
- exchange of scientific and juridical documentation, methodologies, etc.,
- creation of joint Working Groups,
- task implementation on contract basis,
- other forms mutually agreed upon during the implementation of the Agreement.

Article 4

For the co-ordination of activities necessary for the implementation of the Agreement the Parties will establish a Lithuanian-Slovak Commission for co-operation in the area of environment protection /hereafter referred to as „Commission“/.

Within six months after the Agreement has come into force, the Parties shall announce the names of the nominated co-chairmen of the Commission.

The Commission will function based on the order adopted during its first session.

The Commission will elaborate and approve of co-operation programmes of the contracting Parties in the areas indicated in Article 2 of the Agreement and will provide necessary recommendations for their implementation.

Article 5

The costs involved with experts' and other persons' trips to the sessions of the Commission and meetings within the framework of the contracting Parties co-operation programmes will be covered by the sending Party.

The host Party covers the costs of the stay of the sending Party delegation including expenses related to trips in the territory of the host country for the purposes of the implementation of joint measures.

Article 6

While implementing the tasks of the Agreement on the basis of contracts, financing conditions, mutual repayments, material responsibility for failed fulfilment of obligations, as well as conditions for sending of experts are regulated by the afore mentioned contracts.

Article 7

The contracting Parties do not bear responsibility for the obligations of collaborating organizations, which work on the basis of contracts concluded on the basis of the present Agreement.

Article 8

Results obtained from joint activity within the framework of the Agreement can be forwarded to third parties, their juridical or physical persons with a mutual consent of both Parties.

Article 9

Controversies arising between the Parties in the interpretation and implementation of the Agreement shall be solved by way of negotiations of the Parties or using other procedures agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 10

The present Agreement shall not contradict the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from international conventions the Parties have acceded to.

Article 11

The Agreement enters into force on the day of its signature and remains in force one year from the day one of the Parties notifies the other Party in writing of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

Contracts concluded under the present Agreement do not terminate with the expiration of the present Agreement.

Concluded in Bratislava on June 26th, 1996 in two original copies in the English language.

For the Ministry of Environmental Protection
of the Republic of Lithuania

For the Ministry of Environment
of the Slovak Republic