

Public Audit Report
Implementation of Environmental Protection Support Programmes
29 July 2011 No. VA-P-20-12-12
Vilnius

Summary

Audit started 2010-09-06

Audit concluded 2011-07-29

Full audit report in Lithuanian is available at the

National Audit Office website <http://www.vkontrole.lt>

State and municipality funding for significant environment protection measures is allocated in accordance with the priority directions and programmes determined by the Government. Funds from the Special Environmental Protection Programme implemented by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania as well as special programmes for the support of environmental protection of municipalities are used as additional sources of funding.

The aim of the audit was to evaluate if Special Environmental Protection Programme and special programmes for the support of environmental protection of municipalities are implemented efficiently.

During the audit we have detected that priorities for selection of measures of the Special Environmental Protection Programme as well as for allocation of funds were not established therefore there are preconditions that funds might be allocated for the measures that do not have direct positive impact on the environment. The Council of the Special Environmental Protection Programme responsible for decisions in allocation of funds for environmental projects (measures) does not include representatives of public and non-governmental organisations, research and education institutions, etc. and as such does not ensure equal representation of all the interests and publicity of allocation of funds.

The Laws on Special Environmental Protection Programme and the special programmes for the support of environmental protection of municipalities as well as other legal acts define a wide spectrum for the use of funds, therefore without effective control of allocation of funds and their use a part of funds are not distributed or are used inefficiently. Having analysed distribution of funds of the Special Environmental Protection Programme 2009-2011 we have established that up to 60 per cent of these funds were spent for covering the expenditure of the Ministry and its subordinate institutions. Some of the criteria for evaluation of the Special Environmental Protection Programme do not provide information regarding the results of the use of programme funds for the implementation of environmental recovery measures.

The Ministry of Environment do not have sufficient information about the measures implemented within the special programmes for the support of environmental protection of municipalities and the funds used by those programmes, therefore they cannot be sure if all the funds are used for the measures defined by the law.

Following the audit conclusions we have recommended the Ministry of Environment to enhance a positive impact on the environment brought about by the Special Environmental Protection Programme and special programmes for the support of environmental protection of municipalities, to ensure the publicity of allocation of funds and more efficient control of the use of funds, as well as to analyze the efficiency and purposefulness of professional hunting in all the State forests.