WFD Implementation in the Danube River Basin

Dr. Ursula Schmedtje
Danube River Basin

- 10% of Europe
- 81 mill. inhabitants
- 18 countries

most international river basin in the world
Danube River Basin
- some facts -

- Length of the Danube River: 2,780 km
- Size of the Danube River Basin: 801,463 km²
- Average discharge at its mouth: 6,500 m³/sec

- Largest tributaries:
  - Tisza River (ca. 157,186 km²)
  - Sava River (ca. 95,419 km²)
Countries in the Danube River Basin

- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Hungary
- Moldova
- Romania
- Serbia i Montenegro
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Ukraine
- Bosnia i Herzegovina

Countries with territories < 2000 km²:

- Albania
- Italy
- Macedonia
- Poland
- Switzerland
Danube River Protection Convention

a legal frame for co-operation to assure the protection of water and ecological resources and their sustainable use in the Danube River Basin

signed on June 29, 1994 in Sofia
entered into force on October 22, 1998

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

has been established to implement the objectives and provisions and to achieve the goals of the Danube River Protection Convention

Since October 1, 1999
UNDP/GEF
Danube Regional Project
- Creation of sustainable ecological conditions for land use and water mgmt
- Capacity building and reinforcement of trans-boundary cooperation
- Strengthening public involvement in environmental decision making
- Reinforcement of monitoring, evaluation and Information System

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- Implementation of Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC)
- Decision making, management and coordination of regional cooperation
- Approval of the budget and annual work programme
- Follow up of activities and evaluation of results from Expert Groups
- Joint Action Programme

Standing Working Group
- co-ordinate the ICPDR work between meetings
- prepare main strategic issues for the ICPDR
- guide the activity of the Expert Groups

Permanent Secretariat (PS)
- Supporting the ICPDR sessions
- Supporting the Expert Groups
- Coordinating the work programme
- Supporting project development and implementation
- Maintenance of the Information System

UNDP/GEF
Danube Regional Project

River Basin Management (RBM EG)
- Integrated river basin management
- Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive

Emissions (EMIS EG)
- Emissions from point sources
- Emissions from diffuse sources
- Guidelines on BAT

Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Mgmt (MLIM EG)
- Trans-National Monitoring Network
- Laboratory Quality Assurance

Accident Prevention and Control (APC EG)
- Accidental pollution incidents
- AEWS operation
- Accident prevention

Flood Protection (FP EG)
- Preparation and implementation of Action Plan for Sustainable Flood Protection

Analysis (RBM/ECON ESG)

Danube – Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group

Legal and Administrative issues (ad-hoc S EG)
- Legal issues
- Administrative issues
- Financial issues

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3rd Plenary Session of the ICPDR  
- November 2000 -

- Implementation of WFD has highest priority for ICPDR
- ICPDR is platform for coordination
- Contracting Parties will make all efforts to achieve a coordinated river basin management plan for the Danube River Basin
Coordination Mechanisms in the Danube River Basin

**ICPDR**
- platform for coordination
- information exchange
- develops strategy for producing the RBM Plan
- harmonisation of methods and mechanisms

**Bilateral agreements (examples)**
- cooperation

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Levels of coordination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount of coordination</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Danube river basin level</td>
<td>limit to the absolutely necessary (issues relevant on the basin-wide scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bilateral/multilateral level</td>
<td>a lot (transboundary effects with mainly bilateral or sub-basin relevance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National level</td>
<td>a lot (for all issues regarding implementation)</td>
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Structure of the report

Part A – Basin-wide overview (WFD Roof report)
Part B – Detailed national reports

Part A: Roof of the Danube River Basin District Management Plan

Part B: National plans

- GERMANY
- AUSTRIA
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- HUNGARY
- SLOVENIA
- CROATIA
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
- BULGARIA
- ROMANIA
- MOLDOVA
- UKRAINE

EU-Member States  EU-Accession countries  Other countries
Danube Basin Analysis Report

responds to reporting requirements under WFD

Art. 5, Annex II and III WFD
- river basin characteristics
- impacts of human activities
- economic analysis of water uses

Art. 6 and Annex IV WFD
- inventory for protected areas

Reporting deadline: 22 March 2005
Part A: Basin-wide overview

The Roof report deals with:

- all rivers with catchments of > 4000 km²
- all lakes with an area of > 100 km²
- transitional and coastal waters (overview)
- the main navigation canals
- all transboundary groundwater bodies with an area of > 4000 km²
Contents of the report

- The Danube River Basin District and its international coordination arrangements
- **Characterisation of surface waters**
- Characterisation of groundwaters
- Inventories of protected areas
- Economic analysis
- **Public information and consultation**
- Key conclusions and outlook
Key objective: to achieve comparable results throughout the basin

Information used:

• data and information officially delivered by the competent authorities of the Danube countries for the purpose of this report based on agreed criteria,

• published data from basin-wide studies, or

• modelled data (in particular for nutrient emissions) where comparable data was not available

in agreement with the Danube countries
Results of the pressure and impact analysis

Main pressures on the basin-wide scale:

- Organic pollution
- Nutrient pollution
- Hazardous substances
- Hydromorphological alterations
Diffuse sources of pollution
Nutrient emissions based on modelling for 1998-2000

**Nitrogen**
- 758 kt/a N
  - Other diffuse sources: 39%
  - Point and diffuse sources from settlements: 27%
  - Agriculture: 26%
  - Background: 8%

**Phosphorus**
- 68 kt/a P
  - Other diffuse sources: 53%
  - Point and diffuse sources from settlements: 32%
  - Agriculture: 10%
  - Background: 5%
Risk of failure to reach the environmental objectives with regard to nutrients
Hydromorphological alterations

Identification of

• significant water abstraction for urban, industrial, agricultural and other uses
• the impact of significant flow regulation, incl. water transfer and diversion on overall flow characteristics and water balances
• significant morphological alterations to water bodies
Hydromorphological alterations
Main driving forces

- Hydropower generation (mainly dams)
- Flood defense measures (river regulation works)
- Navigation and channel maintenance
- Future infrastructure projects
Impacts from hydromorphological alterations
Symbolised view of the loss of floodplains

Area of historical floodplains in the study area: 41600 km²
Area of remaining floodplains in the study area: 8000 km²
A floodplain loss of more than 80%
Risk of failure to reach the environmental objectives on the Danube

Danube risk classification by risk categories

Risk due to hydro-morphological alterations

Risk due to nutrients

Risk due to hazardous substances

Risk due to organic pollution

Pressures / impacts from DE AT SK/ HU HR - CS BG/RO

Risk of failure to reach the environmental objectives on the Danube

- Risk due to hydro-morphological alterations: 93%
- Risk due to nutrients: 65%
- Risk due to hazardous substances: 74%
- Risk due to organic pollution: 58%
Public Participation

Levels of participation:

- **Information Supply**
  - Shall be ensured

- **Consultation**
  - Shall be encouraged

- **Active Involvement**
What is Public Participation?

Allowing the public to influence the outcome of plans and working processes.

**It IS NOT about:**
- everybody joining
- always participating
- everybody deciding
- losing control
- achieving consensus at all costs

**It IS about:**
- management of expectations
- two-way communication
- no pre-determined outcome
- tailor-made (no blue print)
- feedback to participants
Observers to the ICPDR

- Black Sea Commission
- Navigation Commission
- UNESCO-IHP
- Ramsar
- REC
- GWP CEE
- Danube Tourist Commission
Stakeholder Conference

Date: 28-29 June 2005

Venue: Budapest

Participants: ca. 100

Goals:

• Provide an overview of the work of the ICPDR
• Present and discuss the ICPDR Public Participation Concept
• Present and discuss the Danube Basin Analysis Report
• Present and discuss the ICPDR Action Programme on Sustainable Flood Protection
Danube Day, June 29

- 10th anniversary of signing the DRPC
- Events in all Danube Basin Countries
- Involvement of GOs, NGOs, private sector and others
More than 100 events throughout the Danube with wide participation
For more information, please visit www.icpdr.org