Cooperation in Trans-boundary Water Management

Danube River Basin Experience

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THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN

» 10% of Europe
» 81 Mio Inhabitants
» 13 Countries
» diverse cultures
» transition countries and new EU members and candidates
» regional social and economic disparities
Economic Indicators

GDP (PPP) in $ per capita – 2005 est.
COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN

Chronicle

» 1948–The Danube Navigation Convention & Danube Commission
» 1985–The Bucharest Declaration for the Danube Protection
» 1991–Danube Conference and EU Phare/Tacis-GEF Programmes
» 2009–Danube River Basin Management Plan
COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN
Danube River Protection Convention – DRPC

» Helsinki Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992)

» The legal frame for co-operation to assure protection of water and ecological resources and their sustainable use the basin


» 13 Danube Countries + European Commission

» 12 observers (NGOs, industries, other commissions)
DANUBE RIVER PROTECTION CONVENTION

Objectives

» Ensure sustainable and equitable water management
» Ensure conservation, improvement and the rational use of surface waters and ground water
» Control discharge of waste waters, inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances
» Control floods and ice hazards
» Control hazards originating from accidents (warning & prevention)
» Reduce pollution loads of the Black Sea from sources in the Danube Basin
SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION WITHIN THE ICPDR
Legal and institutional set-up

» Provides institutional and legal basis for development and implementation of policies and measures

» Provides fully operational implementation and coordination platform for projects

» Mature institution with appropriate technical and management tools for transboundary cooperation

» High level of commitment of the participating Governments
JOINT ACTION PROGRAMME
Policies and Strategies of the ICPDR

» Policy and Strategy Document of the ICPDR
» TDA / SAP process supported by UNDP-GEF
» Directed to:
  » Monitoring and improvement of the water ecological and chemical status,
  » Prevention of accident pollution events
  » Minimization of the impacts of floods
  » Developing River basin Management Plan
JOINT ACTION PROGRAMME
Achievements

» Trans-national Monitoring Network (TNMN)
» Pollution control – Emissions Inventories
» ICPDR List of priority substances
» Accident Early Warning System
» Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection
» Policy and legal reforms for pollution reduction
» Pollution reduction investment programme
INVESTMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE JOINT ACTION PROGRAMME

» **Investments:**
  » Municipal wastewater collection & treatment: 3.709 billion USD
  » Industrial waste water treatment: 0.276 billion USD
  » Agricultural projects and land use: 0.113 billion USD
  » Rehabilitation of wetlands: 0.323 billion USD

» **Nitrogen reduction:**
  » from point sources : 58,600 t/y
  » from diffuse sources : 60,000 t/y
  » total emission reduction : 22 %

» **Phosphorus reduction:**
  » from point sources : 12,000t/y
  » from diffuse sources : 4,000 t/y
  » total emission reduction : 33 %
KEY DRIVERS FOR POLICY CHANGES AND JOINT ACTIONS

» GEF Danube – Black Sea Strategic Partnership for reduction of nutrients input into the Black Sea

» EU Accession Process

» EU Water Framework Directive
KEY DRIVERS
GEF Danube – Black Sea Strategic Partnership

» To reduce pollution of the Black Sea and recover its ecosystems

» Activities aimed at new policies, legal mechanisms and measures development, institutional strengthening, investment projects and stakeholder involvement

» Components
  » investment projects (World Bank-GEF Investment Fund for Nutrient Reduction)
  » UNDP/UNEP Black Sea Project
  » UNDP Danube Regional Project
  » other GEF & donor interventions for nutrient reduction
DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT
Objectives and Approach

» Reduce nutrient loadings into the Danube River and its tributaries, in order to improve water quality in the Danube, and in the Black Sea.

» Reinforce transboundary cooperation through strengthening the ICPDR structures, activities and policy development

» Strengthen public involvement in environmental problems through supporting the NGO network, small grants, etc.
DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT
A Summary of Project Activities

» **Strengthening Institution(s)** – regional level (ICPDR), national level, stakeholders;

» **Improving Management Tools** – river basin management, Danube GIS, economic instruments;

» **Developing Policies** – agriculture, industry, land-use and wetlands, phosphate detergents;

» **Promoting Public Participation** – NGO strengthening, Small Grants Programme, public participation and access to information;

» **Implementing Pilot Projects** – river basin management, agriculture, wetlands
KEY DRIVERS FOR POLICY CHANGES AND JOINT ACTIONS
EU Accession Process

» Political and legal base for implementation and enforcement of EU legislation

» Sets targets and priorities for candidate and applicant countries

» Framework for donors activities and international assistance in meeting environmental objectives
EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (EU WFD)

Key driver for river basin management

» uniform standards in water policy and integration of different policy areas involving water issues,

» integrated and coordinated river basin management

» defined time-frames for achieving the good status of surface water and groundwater,

» economic analysis of water use - cost-effective combination of measures to achieve good status of waters

» public participation in the development of river basin management plans
ICPDR – Platform for EU WFD Implementation
Key Problems Identified

Danube Basin Analysis 2004
(WFD Roof Report)

Approved at the Ministerial Meeting
Vienna, 13 December 2004
ROOF REPORT
Key Problems Identified

» Pressures and Impact Assessment in the DRB
  » Organic pollution (urban settlements, industry, agriculture)
  » High risk of ground water pollution from fertilizers, chemicals, untreated sewage, etc.
  » Nutrient loads (N&P) and consequent eutrophication causing severe ecological imbalance in the Black Sea
  » Hazardous substances (29 Danube Priority Substances)
  » Hydromorphological alterations affecting wetlands and biodiversity
NEXT STEPS IN EU WFD IMPLEMENTATION

» Fill knowledge/data gaps
» Harmonise or make comparable approaches / methodologies
» Prepare programme of measures
» Develop Danube RBM Plan
CONCLUSIONS

» DRB Countries established fully operational and sustainable mechanisms for transboundary cooperation

» The ICPDR provides a forum for exchange of information, development of policies and action

» Strong commitment of Governments to cooperate

» EU WFD implementation triggers transboundary cooperation and implementation of the convention

» GEF targeted assistance played a catalytic role in establishing and strengthening the institutional mechanism for transboundary water management
for more information please visit

www.icpdr.org

www.undp-drp.org