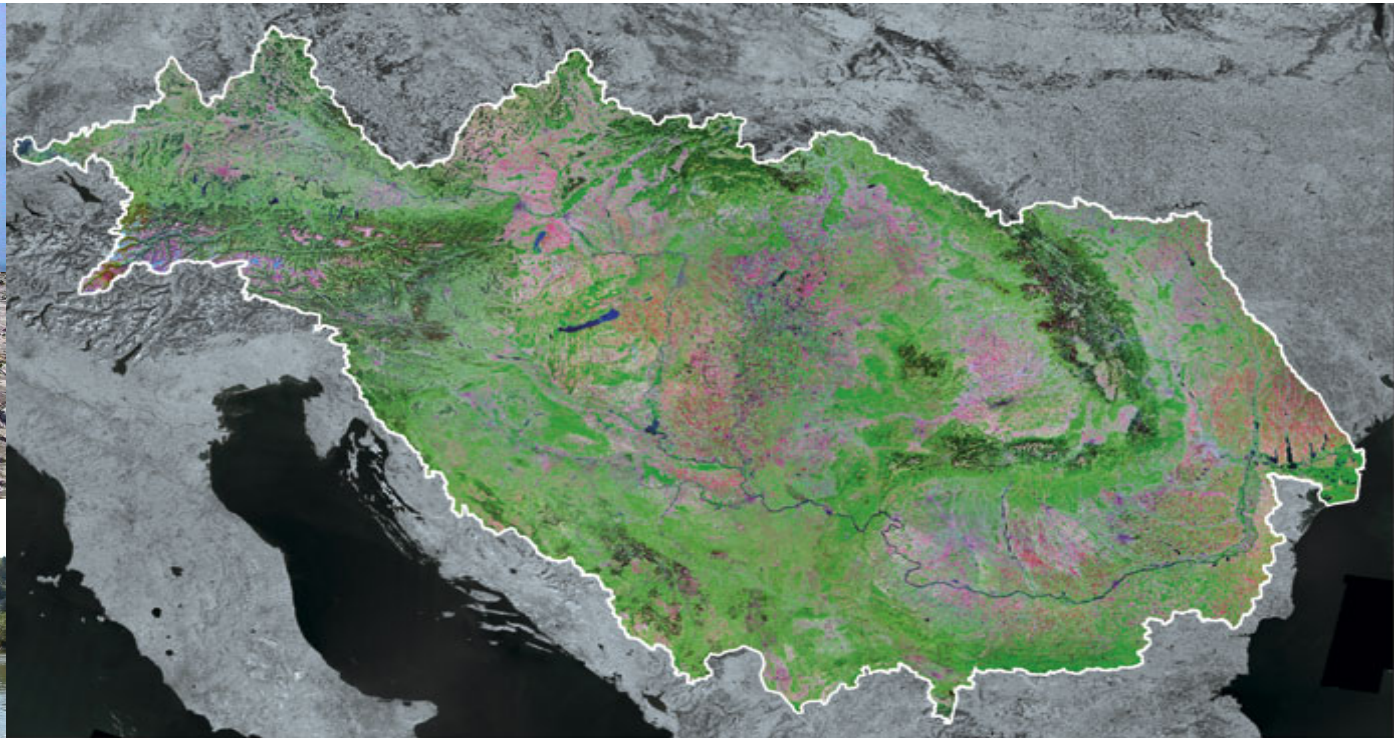


Hydromorphological Alterations

Working Session

Report and Conclusions



2nd ICPDR Stakeholder Forum

29 – 30 June 2009

Bratislava (SK)

1. Do you support the general decision that HYMO alterations are an issue of basin-wide importance and that respective impacts on the water status have to be followed-up/improved by 2015 and beyond?



- Clear answer: **YES**
- A paradigm change took place during the last few years from pollution issues to HYMO alterations toward integrated water resource management

2. Do you agree that the identified HYMO components are the most relevant ones on the basin-wide scale?



- Yes, the components addressed are relevant on the basin-wide scale

- However, revision and adaptations needed:

2. Do you agree that the identified HYMO components are the most relevant ones on the basin-wide scale?



- **Disconnection of wetlands**
 - The reported 600,000 ha for wetlands with reconnection potential seems too small for DRB:
 - Urge countries to revise/increase the provided information by 14 September 2009
 - Case studies for wetlands and their reconnection potential should be on future agenda incl. cross country support and funding for respective investigations and reconnection projects.

3. Can you propose other HYMO alteration issues of basin-wide importance in the DRB?

Did we cover all HYMO issues?



- Sediment quantity and transport as part of HYMO
 - Currently too weakly represented
 - Should be for sure on the agenda as an SWMI in the next RBM planning cycle
 - Currently, mobilise countries for investigations on sediments quantity/transport on the national level to upscale to the basin-wide level
 - Hydropower and sediment quantity
 - Important to investigate on sediment quantity: find solutions for sustainable sediment management
 - Issue of sediment retention in alpine regions

3. Can you propose other HYMO alteration issues of basin-wide importance in the DRB?

Did we cover all HYMO issues??



- Agriculture/land use and HYMO
 - Should play a stronger role as driver for HYMO alterations in future
 - Development of best practices for agriculture/HYMO alterations to foresee future measures

4. Agreement on the ecological prioritisation approach toward coordinated basin-wide measures to improve river continuity?



- Further proposals how to approach the issue of river/habitat continuity most effectively?
- Conclusion that the approach chosen for river/habitat continuity interruption and ecological prioritisation is very good
- Sturgeons and the DRB:
 - Sturgeons are good indicators for migration and GES
 - Good strategy to re-open Iron Gate Dams and perform feasibility study: Well invested funding

4. Agreement on the ecological prioritisation approach toward coordinated basin-wide measures to improve river continuity?



- Further proposals how to approach the issue of river/habitat continuity most effectively?
- Keep an eye on and take into account the entire system when taking measures
 - Future infrastructure projects should not interfere with the objective to re-open the Iron Gate Dams 1&2 (i.e. ISPA 1)
 - Contradicting impacts of projects need to be prevented
 - Holistic view approaches and apply integrated planning
 - Sustainable development should be core part of the overall approach

4. Agreement on the ecological prioritisation approach toward coordinated basin-wide measures to improve river continuity?



- Further proposals how to approach the issue of river/habitat continuity most effectively?
- Screen now/in future if the reported migration aids do function or not
 - Include respective DRBM Plan success control in future
 - BAT for migration aids
 - Monitoring regarding functioning of migration aids

4. Agreement on the prioritisation approach toward coordinated basin-wide measures to improve water status?



- Further proposals how to approach the issue of river/habitat continuity most effectively?
- Overall strategy will be needed to
 - Outline priority actions on HYMO alterations and other issues considering the overall socio-economic frame (e.g. within Danube Strategy frame).

5. Which measures should be taken to prevent negative impacts on the water status?



- Do you agree on the development of good practice manuals (e.g. regarding the environmental friendly operation of hydropower plants and navigation) ?
- DRBM Plan List on FIPs seems not complete
 - Projects are missing
 - Urge the Danube countries to revise and complete the list by 14 September 2009
 - Eventually, consider revision of criteria for FIPs of basin-wide importance in future (2nd RBM cycle)

5. Which measures should be taken to prevent negative impacts on the water status?



- Do you agree on the development of good practice manuals (e.g. regarding the environmental friendly operation of hydropower plants and navigation) ?
- Handbooks for BAT/BEP are good tools but not enough:
 - ICPDR together with EC should ensure transparency regarding FIPs and their implementation
 - Follow rigid implementation of EC legislation regarding SEA, EIA and Article 4(7)
- Ensure/include climate proofing for FIPs

Issues to be improved in the DRBM Plan

- HMWB and outline how to achieve the GEP
- Neozoa should be outlined in more detail
- Climate changes should be outlined in more detail
- Consideration of groundwater as ecosystems and interlinkage to surface waters (in following RBM cycles)