

# **UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project**

Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient  
Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the  
Danube River Basin

## **Final Report**

### **Preparation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan 2004 – 2006**

**Project Component 1.1-9: "Development of the Sava  
River Basin Management Plan"**

**May 2004**

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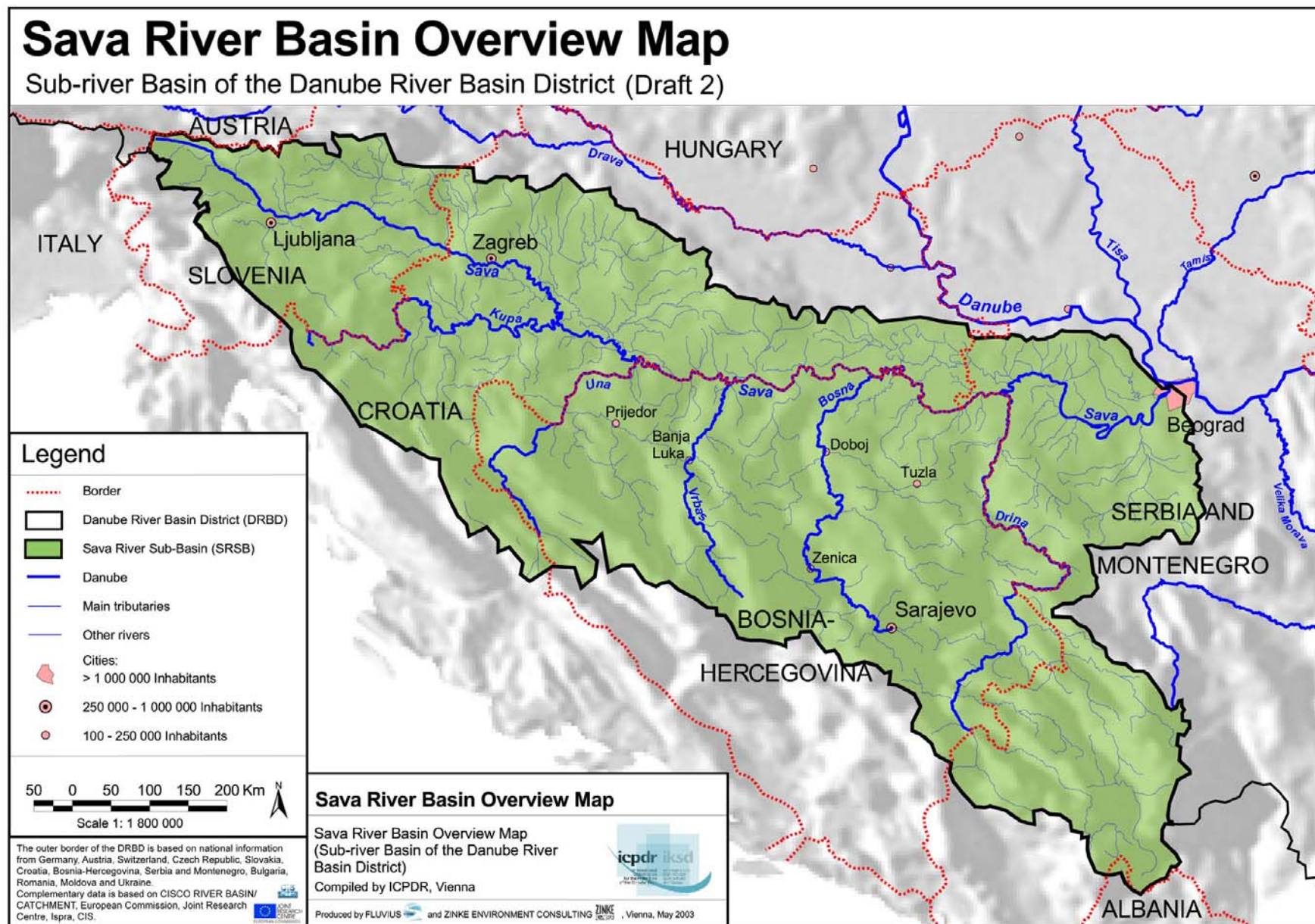
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## Acronyms & Abbreviations

<b>B-H</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>CARDS</b>	(EC) Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization for the western Balkans 2002-2006
<b>CEE</b>	Central and Eastern Europe
<b>CIS</b>	Common Implementation Strategy (of the WFD)
<b>DRB</b>	Danube River Basin
<b>DRP</b>	(UNDP/GEF) Danube Regional Project
<b>EAR</b>	European Agency for Reconstruction
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EG / ESG</b>	Expert Group / Expert Sub-group of the ICPDR
<b>EMIS (EG)</b>	Emission (Expert Group of the ICPDR)
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>HR</b>	Croatia
<b>ICPDR</b>	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
<b>ISPA</b>	Instrument for Structural Policies for Accession
<b>mio.</b>	million
<b>MLIM (EG)</b>	Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management (ICPDR)
<b>PIAC</b>	Principal International Alert Center
<b>RBM (EG)</b>	River Basin Management (Expert Group of the ICPDR)
<b>Sava WG</b>	Sava (RBM) Working Group
<b>SG SWM</b>	Strategic Group on Sustainable Water Management (of the Sava Commission)
<b>S-M</b>	Serbia and Montenegro
<b>SI</b>	Slovenia
<b>TNMN</b>	Trans-National Monitoring Network
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>WFD</b>	EU Water Framework Directive
<b>WG</b>	Working Group





## 1. Background

The UNDP-GEF Danube Regional Project supports the development of a pilot plan for the Sava River Basin as a model for river basin management planning in line with the EU Water Framework Directive. In this context, the project shall define concepts for common approaches and methodologies, standards and guidelines to be applied in the regional context, and formulate recommendations for implementation strategies and program of measures likely to be effective in the transboundary context.

In Phase I (April to December 2003), the Project has carried out a first situation analysis, examined the availability of information and data, and assessed institutional capacities in the four Sava countries to carry out the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan. In this context, the requirements of the EU WFD and also of other activities of the GEF Project were taken into account. The result is a first situation analysis on the environmental status in the Sava river basin, and a concept and work plan for Phase II of the project, which was discussed and agreed upon at a regional workshop (4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the “Sava Working Group”) in December 2003.

It was then also agreed that the project should in Phase 2 follow the guidelines established by the ICPDR River Basin Management Expert Group and be implemented in cooperation and coordination with other assistance programmes for the Sava River Basin, in particular the upcoming Sava project of the EU-CARDS Regional Programme, but also the parallel EU-ISPA pilot project for a RBM Plan in the Krka river sub-basin and the ongoing Dutch assistance for the Sava Interim Commission.

At the end of Phase II (2006), a “*Pragmatic River Basin Management Plan (Roof Report)*” for the Sava River Basin, including key water management issues and preliminary measures (Sava investment programme), shall be available.

## 2. Activities undertaken during Phase 1

In line with the resolution of the ICPDR Steering Committee at its meeting in June 2002 in Prague to use the Sava River Basin as a model for the development of a River Basin Management Plan, the present project concept, the methodology for project implementation and the necessary resources and inputs have been developed <sup>1)</sup>.

### 2.1. Preparatory and Inception Phase

The project concept and the modalities of implementation of the GEF DRP Project Activity 1.1-9 have been explained and discussed at the 1st meeting of the "Sava Working Group" on 18 October 2002 in Vienna. The proposed approach and related activities are in line with objectives of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, with special reference to Article 3 (EU Water Framework Directive), Article 5 (Cooperation with ICPDR), and to Article 12, which stipulates the development of the "Sava River Basin Management Plan".

Further, the guidelines of the Work Program, developed in the frame of the Sava Initiative for the Project Sector "Water management", have been fully taken into account with particular attention to Project Fiche No 7 "Development Strategy for River Basin Management Plan in the Sava River Basin".

To respond to the mandate of the ICPDR, the GEF Project followed the guidelines established by the River Basin Management Group, in particular the Strategic Paper for the "Development of a Danube River Basin District Management Plan" (May 2002) and the guidelines for the preparation of the Roof Reports for the Danube River Basin.

After contracting *Zinke Environment Consulting for Central and Eastern Europe*, Vienna, as international consultant to guide the implementation of the GEF project component, a 2nd meeting of the Sava Working Group was called up, which took place on 7-8 April 2003 in Vienna.

At this meeting, the Terms of Reference, the methodological approach and the Work Plan for the implementation of the GEF project component have been discussed and the Work Plan amended. Particular attention was given to coordinate with the planned technical assistance by the Dutch Government.

It was further foreseen that the results of the EU-CARDS Project entitled "Pilot River Basin Plan" to test the implementation of EU-WFD guidelines in selected catchment areas (HR: Dobra river; B-H: Vrbas river; S-M: Bosut river) should also taken into account in developing the Sava River Basin Management Plan.

The detailed results of this meeting are given in Annex 4 of the Inception Report.

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<sup>1)</sup> Resolution from the ICPDR Steering Group Meeting 6 and 7 June 2002 in Prague:

The Steering Group

- welcomes the initiative of the UNDP/GEF Project to support the activities of the ICPDR Expert Groups and to reinforce the implementation of the DRPC;
- welcomes the preparation of a pilot project for the development of the RBM Plan for the Sava River Basin;
- asks the RBM EG to cooperate with the Project with the view to apply and to test the ICPDR strategy for implementing the EU WFD in the Sava River Basin and to provide support for project implementation;
- recommends to establish, with the assistance of the Project, a coordinating body for the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan.



In April, upon proposal of the Sava country Governments, each four national experts were identified and contracted by the GEF DRP office:

- for the water management analysis:
  - Boris Kompare, Slovenia
  - Davor Malus, Croatia
  - Tarik Kupusovic, Bosnia i Hercegovina
  - Borisav S. Milutinovic, Serbia and Montenegro;
- for the economy and population data collection:
  - Anitra Smitran, Bosnia i Hercegovina
  - Zeljka Kordej-De Villa, Croatia
  - Nives Nared, Slovenia
  - Borisav S. Milutinovic, Serbia and Montenegro.

At the Instruction Meeting in Zagreb on 30 April 2003 all national experts for water management have received detailed instruction for collection and analysis of data and identification of information gaps.

Detailed guidelines have also been prepared for the collection of demographic and socio-economic data. In this case, national consultants already identified and working under project component 1.1-3, “Applying EU Economic Guidelines for the economic analysis to the DRB” have been requested to collect data on population and social and economic activities in the four Sava Basin countries.

The ToR, the results of the Sava WG meetings in October 2002 and April 2003 as well as the guidelines and instructions for national experts are given in the **Inception Report** of this component from May 2003.

## 2.2. Results of implementation

From May to September, the national consultants under the guidance of the international consultant have collected the requested information.

The results of these studies were presented in two reports (completed in November 2003):

- “Summary of National Analysis for Socio-economic Indicators” and
- “Summary of National Analysis for Water Management Indicators of the Sava River Basin”.

In brief, the National Analysis for **Socio-economic Indicators** has resulted in a very imbalanced result: The data and information provided by **Slovenia** are rather complete for 2000 and demonstrate the availability of data and the possibility to obtain these. Also the information provided by **Serbia** (with the part of Montenegro missing) is rather complete also for the previous period from 1960 and 1980, which again indicates the availability of those data, which have been collected in previous times also under different political systems.

The data and information obtained from **Croatia** need to be further completed and more efforts have to be undertaken to achieve a better set of data also for the period from 1960 and 1980. Similar remarks have to be made for **Bosnia i Hercegovina**, where reliable data and information are difficult to find but could, as shown in the case of Serbia, most probably be obtained.

The scarcity of socio-economic data and information has not allowed making a realistic summary of results for the whole Sava river basin. It has shown that more time and efforts from qualified national experts are needed, and that full cooperation and support from Government and public sector institutions is indispensable.

Regarding the second subject of the Sava basin analysis, the **Water Management Indicators**, the national data and information provided by **Slovenia** mostly only indicate that they exist, are available or will be made available in 2004. This result did not allow a sound evaluation or comparison.

The data and information obtained from **Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina** indicate a rather complete picture. The found gaps and differences are clear but some can probably still be filled in Phase 2. Again, the diverse character of the local situation and of the provided information does not allow to making a simple summary for the Sava river basin.

Further, the results for both subjects have shown that, not only for the Sava Project, the questionnaire and templates have to be further revised and simplified to result in realistically obtainable information. In this context, both general capacity building on the WFD-related issues for the relevant institutions (partly possible via the EU-CARDS project) as well as transboundary coordination of data development (via joints meetings and trainings) is needed to get the right information for the Sava RBM Plan by 2006.

These findings were presented and discussed at the 3rd meeting of the Sava Working Group on 9 October in Zagreb, and briefly re-addressed at the regional UNDP/GEF Workshop on 12 December 2003 in Ljubljana (4th meeting of the Sava WG). Both Summary Analyses were adopted by all countries, and it was agreed to improve and complete the required data and information during Phase 2 of the GEF Project.

### **2.3. Coordination with the Sava Basin Governments and the Interim Sava Commission**

Coordination of the preparation and implementation of this GEF-DRP component with the Sava Basin governments was secured through regular meetings of the “**Sava Working Group**” where national representatives from the relevant national institutions, being members of the ICPDR RBM EG, discussed the proposed stapes and interim results with the international consultant as well as with the GEF-DRP project manager and the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat. Results of the first and second meetings of the Sava WG were given in the Inception Report.

**At the 3rd meeting on 9 October in Zagreb** the results of national data analysis (compilation and assessment of national information) were presented. Also, a draft of the concept for the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan during the UNDP/GEF DRP Phase II (2004-2006) was discussed in order to prepare for the Regional Workshop in December.

**The 4th meeting of the Sava WG on 12 December in Ljubljana** constituted the mentioned Regional Workshop. It served to present and discuss the revised Concept Paper for the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (GEF Phase 2). The meeting was also used to introduce the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in developing such a plan at the sub-basin level and to receive updated information on other donor activities (IAC-Netherlands and EU CARDS) to assure efficient coordination of activities and careful use of funding.

The Ljubljana meeting concluded that the Concept for Phase 2, after inclusion of the discussion results, is accepted and should be presented to the Interim Sava Commission. The revised Work

Programme for Phase 2 will be discussed with stakeholders and national experts at the Inception Workshop in spring 2004.

All results of the 3rd and the 4th meeting of the Sava WG are given in *Annexes 1 and 2*.

Information and coordination with the Interim Sava Commission was secured during Phase 1 through participation and presentations about the GEF-DRP Sava component by the international consultant

- at the IIIrd Session of the Interim Sava Commission on 9-11 June in Novi Sad (SCG) where the objectives and planned implementation of the Sava component were presented;
- at the IVth Session of the Interim Sava Commission's on 15-17 December 2003 in Stubicke Teplice (HR), where the results of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sava WG meeting (agreed concept for Phase 2) were presented. It was then agreed that the Phase 2 implementation would be closely coordinated with the new *Strategic Group on Sustainable Water Management* of the Sava Commission.

### **3. Cooperation with other projects of technical assistance**

#### **3.1. Dutch technical assistance**

The Dutch government is preparing a specific program under the name "Water and Ecosystems" to assist the Sava countries in establishing the new "Sava Commission" and its structures, and to support the implementation of the Sava Action Plan. The Dutch assistance program will concentrate on the following issues:

1. Institutional development (Sava River Basin Commission)
2. Capacity building and exchange of knowledge
3. Inter-sectoral cooperation
4. Development of methods and tools for water management and implementation of the EU WFD, as e.g.:
  - Sava GIS
  - Integrated flood prevention (e.g. levee reconstruction)
  - Protection of floodplains and ecosystem (e.g. eco-network)
  - Improved water quality management.

The Work Plan for this project was drafted in May 2003, taken into account in the GEF-Sava work program and the assistance to assure complementarity of measures but was still under discussion in March 2004. It is hoped that in the stage of project implementation both projects will closely cooperate. Tentative end of the Dutch project is December 2004.

#### **3.2. EU-CARDS and EU-ISPA**

There are a number of national projects under EU-CARDS (HR, B-H) and the European Agency for Reconstruction (S-M) presently under way resp. under preparation for implementation between 2004 and 2006. All will strengthen local capacities in water management (including monitoring) and introducing the EU-WFD.

A new large EU-CARDS project entitled "Pilot River Basin Plan for the Sava River Basin" will assist Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro from fall 2004 on over 36 months to strengthening national capacities on WFD-oriented, transboundary water management, and to develop pilot projects in selected catchment areas to test the implementation of the EU WFD.

Slovenia will receive EU support (ISPA funds) to do a similar activity, i.e. to test the EU guidelines for the implementation of the EU WFD in the Krka river basin.

All four countries will thus – under the supervision of the Sava Commission and the ICPDR - cooperate and exchange experience and information to harmonize the approach for implementing the WFD in the Sava region.

It is agreed that the EU-CARDS and the GEF-DRP Sava projects will closely be coordinated in order to prevent overlapping and to secure complementarity both at national and Sava basin level. The results of the test program and the harmonized approach in implementing the EU WFD will contribute to the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan during the GEF-DRP Phase 2.

## 4. Coordination with other GEF-DRP Components (Phases 1 & 2)

The Sava component was coordinated and linked during Phase 1 with the following DRP components:

**Project Component 1.1-3:** Apply the EU Guidelines for economic analysis and arrive at the overall economic analysis for the Danube River Basin, with particular attention to:

- Guidelines and templates for the preparation of a report on data assessment, which have been modified and adapted to the requirements of the Sava report,
- Collection and assessment of national economic data for 4 Sava countries, which are carried out by national consultants for project component 1.1-3,
- The assessment of national capacities to an produce economic analysis, taken into account to define the work program of Phase II

**Project Component 1.2:** Reduction of nutrients and other harmful substances from agricultural point and non-point sources through agricultural policy changes with particular attention to:

- The inventory of agricultural point and non-point sources of pollution in line with the EMIS emission inventory and results from MONERIS (to verify own results),
- Relevant legislation, existing policy programs and actual state of enforcement in the Sava Basin countries with respect to promotion and application of BAP practices (Phase II),
- The inventory on important agrochemicals (nutrients etc.),
- The analysis of main institutional, administrative and funding deficiencies,
- The application of best agricultural practices.

**Project Component 1.3:** Development of pilot projects on reduction of nutrients and other harmful substances from agricultural point and non-point sources with focus on:

- Inventory and analysis of existing programs and pilot projects promoting best agricultural practice in the 4 Sava countries,
- Definition and planning of pilot projects in the Sava countries (Serbia, Bosnia i Herzegovina and Croatia).

**Project Component 1.4:** Policy development for wetland rehabilitation under the aspect of appropriate land use, with focus on :

- Inventory of protected areas (counterchecked by national consultants),
- Results from case studies for selected wetland areas and inappropriate land use (if existing for the Sava river basin).

**Project Component 1.5:** Industrial reform and development of policies and legislation for the application of BAT towards reduction of nutrients (N and P) and dangerous substances with focus on:

- Inventory on industrial and mining “hot spots” in the 4 Sava basin countries (counterchecked by national consultants),
- Results of cause - effect analysis and identification of significant impact from industrial “hot spots” on water resources and water quality in the 4 Sava basin countries,
- Analysis on policies and existing and future legislation for industrial pollution control, and identification of enforcement mechanisms in the 4 Sava basin countries.

**Project Component 1.8:** Recommendations for the reduction of phosphorus in detergents with particular attention to.

- Existing legislation, policies and voluntary commitments,
- Data on import and local production of phosphorus-containing detergents.

**Project Component 2.1:** Setting up of Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Mechanisms for national policies, legislation and project implementation, with focus on:

- Existing national structures for coordination of water management and water pollution control with particular attention to the Sava Initiative,
- Proposed structures, including technical, administrative and financial departments to coordinate the development and implementation of river basin management plans (Sava, Danube) as well as the implementation of policies, legislation and investment projects in compliance with the EU WFD.

**Project Component 2.3:** Improvement of procedures and tools for transboundary accident emergency response, with focus on:

- Evaluation of needs for technical and financial (investments) support and prepare implementation schedules for the extension of AEWS in Serbia and Bosnia i Herzegovina, and for reinforcement of operational conditions in the national alert centers (PIACs) in all Sava basin countries.

**Project Component 2.4:** Support for reinforcement of the ICPDR Information System, with focus on:

- Defining needs for equipment (hardware and software) and capacity building in relation to WFD implementation in all Sava basin countries,
- Defining needs for financial support for Serbia, Bosnia i Herzegovina and Croatia,
- Reinforcement of training for efficient use of the Info System in Sava basin countries.

**Project Component 3.2:** Applied awareness raising through community-based Small Grants Programme, with particular attention to:

- Assuring that SGP projects are identified in all Sava basin countries to support the development of the Sava Basin Management Plan for:
  - demonstration activities and awareness campaigns for sustainable land management and pollution reduction,
  - small scale community based investment projects for rehabilitation of wetlands, best agricultural practices, reduction of use of fertilizers, manure management, improvement of village sewer systems, etc.

**Project Component 4.4:** Danube Basin study on pollution trading and corresponding economic instruments for nutrient reduction, with particular attention to (Phase II):

- Identifying general possibilities for establishing pollution trading or corresponding economic instruments for nutrient reduction in Sava countries,
- Reviewing and analyzing relevant legislation in Sava countries,
- Potential and readiness for pollution trading in Sava countries.

**During Phase 2** it is recommended to continue linking with these components. Other DRP components to be coordinated with in the future are:

**Project Component 1.1-5:** Developing river basin management tools with particular attention to:

- Mapping, development of GIS and remote sensing
- Data management.

**Project Component 1.1-6:** Developing typology of surface waters and defining relevant reference conditions.

**Project Component 1.1-7:** Implementing ecological status assessment in line with the requirements of the EU WFD using specific bio-indicators.

**Project Component 1.1-8:** Characterization and analysis of groundwater bodies (this Project Component is accomplished in Phase 1 and should be further used to finalize the specific analysis in the Sava river basin).

**Project Component 2.2:** Development of operational tools for monitoring, laboratory and information management, with focus on:

- Developing, upgrading and reinforcing capacities and tools for monitoring, laboratory and information management and for emission analysis from point and non-point sources of pollution (follow-up from Phase 1)
- Further development of databases (EMIS, MLIM, DABLAS, etc) in order to assess environmental stress and impact in Sava basin countries,
- Harmonizing water quality standards (finalize classification schemes) and quality assurance for nutrients and toxic substances in Sava basin countries (follow-up from Phase 1);
- Optimisation of the TNMN network (program, hardware, software, training) in the Sava basin countries (in particular in S & M, B i H and Croatia) and identifying sources and

amounts of transboundary pollution for substances on the list of EU and DRPC priority substances (follow-up from Phase 1).

- Organizing workshops to support capacity building.

**Project Component 2.4:** Support for reinforcement of the ICPDR Information System, with focus on:

- Development and implementation of linkages between Sava Convention GIS (to countries).

**GEF Component 3.4:** Enhancing support of public participation in addressing priority sources of pollution (hot spots) through improved access to information through (all Sava countries except Slovenia):

- Identifying and analysing different approaches and developing best practice methods adapted to the regional conditions (Sava river basin countries),
- Examining options and models for effective public involvement in water pollution reduction and “hot spot” control,
- Develop specific legal, regulatory, policy and institutional or practical measures to increase public access to information,
- Assist countries to develop measures and field testing of measures combined with local capacity building and training,
- Organizing workshops for government officials and NGOs on issues of public access to information concerning water management and pollution control.



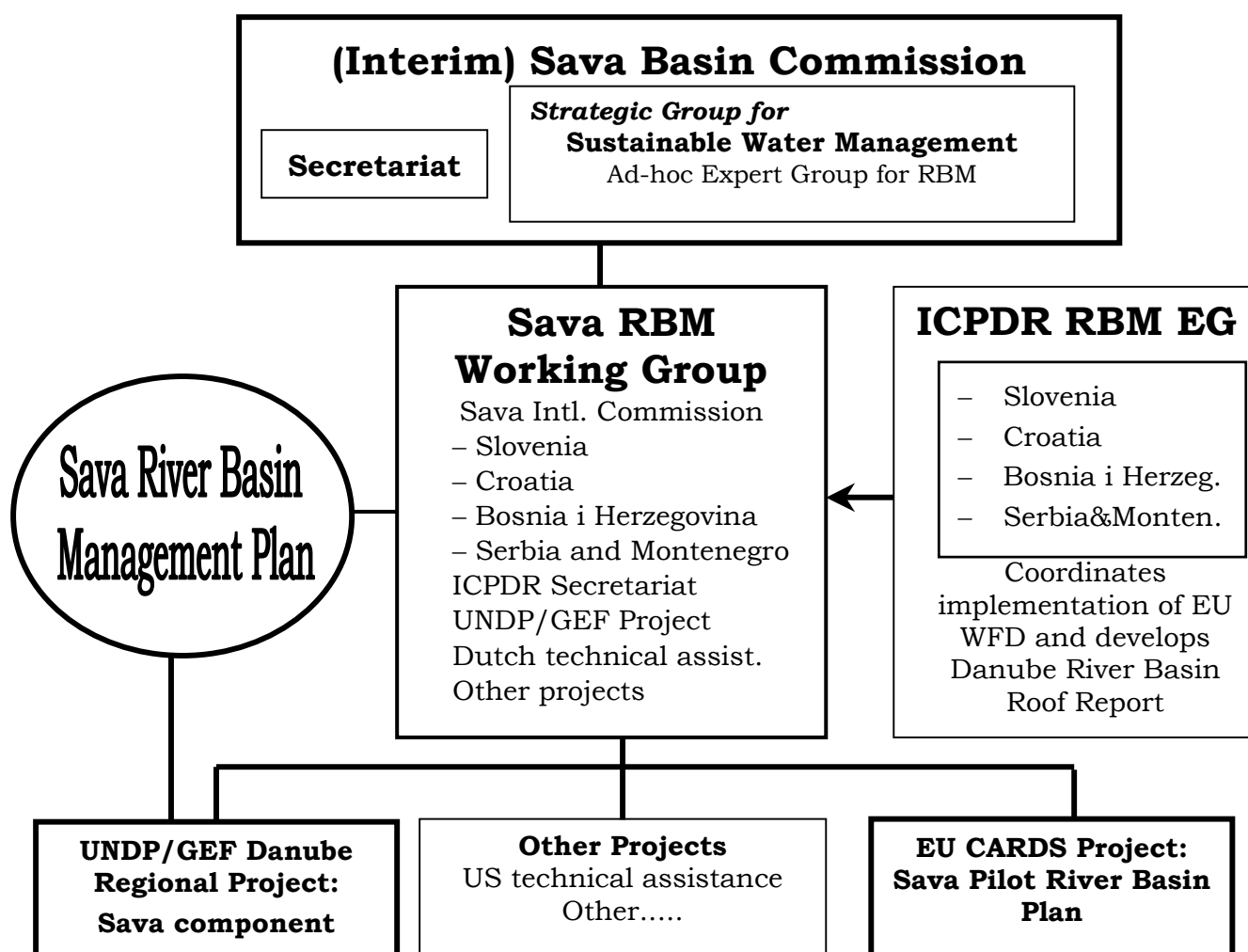
## 5. Coordination mechanisms for project implementation

The ICPDR has agreed in 2002 to establish a special Working Group to guide and coordinate the activities of the GEF Project in developing a Sava River Basin Management Plan (see footnote in Chapter 2).

Four experts from the ICPDR RBM EG from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia & Montenegro participated in the Sava River Basin Working Group (Sava WG). This assured that the methodologies and guidelines developed within the pilot project for the Sava River Basin.

It is further assumed that these experts will participate in existing structures of the Sava Initiative or futures structures of the forthcoming Sava Commission to assure full integration of methodological approach and activities related to the water management sector (e.g. EU-CARDS Sava project) with those as practiced in the overall Danube Basin under the ICPDR.

This is also to assure that the Sava River Basin Management Plan will be fully compatible with the approach in the Danube River Basin to serve as a pilot project for the further development of the Danube "Roof Report".



## **6. Methodological approach for project implementation**

### **6.1. Project concept for Phases 1 and 2**

Phase I was a preparation phase in which an environmental situation analysis was carried out. Various data and information necessary for the preparation of a Sava River Basin Management Plan was collected and analyzed, taking into account the requirements for implementing the EU WFD. Also, this provided a gap analysis through identified deficiencies in data but also in structural, professional and general human capacities.

This material helped to prepare a realistic concept and work plan aiming at a Sava River Basin Plan in Phase 2 of the project during a period of 30 months from mid 2004 to end 2006.

Taking into account the reporting requirements as indicated in the EU WFD, all EU member states and accession countries should prepare until 2006 a thorough analysis of surface and ground water bodies, define pressure and impact on surface and groundwater, and carry out an economic analysis. It can therefore be expected that, with the assistance of GEF and other sources of technical assistance, the analytical part of the River Basin Management Plan at the level of a "Roof Report" could be achieved until 2005.

A carefully carried out pressure and impact analysis allows at an early stage to define "measures" as required by the EU WFD in terms of policies, regulations, investment programs, mechanisms for compliance, etc. This can be achieved with the help of the GEF DRP whose mandate is to assist the ICPDR and its member states in developing policies, regulations and other measures to comply with EU and international standards for pollution reduction and water management.

Also, at this point of time, the ICPDR holds a relative up-to-date and reliable data-base with information on investment projects, in particular for the municipal sector, which shall be enlarged for the industrial and agricultural sectors, including investment programs and development of policies and legal mechanisms.

Therefore, the goal to establish until end 2006 a *pragmatic Sava River Basin Management Plan* including proposed preliminary measures to respond to transboundary issues seems realistic.

The future Sava RBM Plan could then serve as a model for the preparation of the Danube River District Management Plan (Roof Report), which should be finalized until 2010. It could further serve as a model for the preparation of Sub-river Basin Plans for other parts of the Danube River Basin.

### **6.2. Modalities of project execution (Phase 1)**

The project was carried out under the guidance and organization of the international consultant. He defined data and information needed for the situation analysis and the definition of environmental key issues, taking into account the GEF project description. Particular attention was given to issues related to EU directives and to guidelines developed by the ICPDR RBM Expert Group for implementing the EU WFD.

The international consultant prepared formats and guidelines for collection of data and information at the national level, and supervised the work of national consultants. He prepared two summary reports on "National Analysis for Socio-economic Indicators" and "for Water Management Indicators of the Sava River Basin".

The international consultant prepared an outline for the Sava River Basin Management Plan to be worked out in Phase 2 of the Project. In close communication with the GEF-DRP office, he co-organised the meetings of the Sava WG on 7-8 April and 9 October, and the regional workshop on 12 December where the concept and the work program for Phase 2 were discussed and agreed upon. He prepared reports for all these meetings, and finalized the Concept and the implementation plan for the period of 30 months (July 2004 to December 2006) for preparing the Sava River Basin Management Plan.

The contracted eight national consultants worked intensively to collect the requested information within the narrow time line (regrettably, two of the national consultants sent – for different reasons – rather incomplete reports). They national consultants have been encouraged to work closely with other national consultants working with other GEF project components, as spelled out in Chapter 4.

## 7. Concept for Phase 2 of the GEF-DRP Sava Component

At the end of Phase 1, a concept for Phase 2 has been drafted and was discussed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sava WG meeting on 9 October and at the Regional workshop (4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sava WG) on 12 December 2003. The agreed and finalized “Concept for the Preparation of the **Sava River Basin Management Plan**” is given in a separate document.

The agreed *Immediate Objectives* of the UNDP/GEF DRP should be in Phase 2 to assist the Save River Basin countries:

1. to deliver the products required by the ICPDR in order to meet the WFD requirements between 2004 and 2006, depending on the specific country needs (Objective 1);
2. to develop a pragmatic Sava RBM plan which analyses the major transboundary issues related to water quality control and water management in the basin and identifies the main measures to deal with them, including the necessary investments needed to meet the main principles of the WFD (Objective 2).

This target can be achieved if the GEF DRP supports the Sava basin countries (in particular Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia i Herzegovina, but also Croatia) with other Project activities related to the development of policies, regulations and other measures for water management.

In the same context, support provided by EU CARDS, the IAC - Dutch technical assistance as well as other international and bilateral assistance (e.g. US Government) should be taken into account in developing the Phase 2 work programme.

### 7.1. Description of Main Activities Suggested for Phase 2

In this context, in 2004 and 2005 the analyses and information collection related to the DRB Roof Report 2004/2005 (Parts A and B) shall be completed (analyses of surface and groundwater bodies, pressure and impact on surface and groundwater, and economic analysis).

Based on the results of a carefully carried out pressure and impact analysis, it is possible at an early stage (2005/2006) to identify "preliminary measures" as required by the EU WFD in terms of policies, laws and regulations, investment programs, mechanisms for compliance, etc.

The following main activities have been agreed:

- Preparation of the **Work Programme** for Phase 2, taking into account other UNDP/GEF Project components, the EU-CARDS Sava project, the Dutch technical assistance and other related support activities;
- Completion of the analyses and information collection related to the **Danube River Basin Roof Report 2004/2005** (Parts A and B) in all Sava countries;
- **Assessment of monitoring programmes** with regard to the needs of the WFD implementation;
- Situation analysis and description of **transboundary key issues** (pressures and impacts) related to water management and socio-economic conditions in the Sava River Basin;
- **Preliminary Programme of Measures** in line with the EU WFD;
- Compiled **Pragmatic Sava River Basin Management Plan** including Preliminary Programme of Measures and related investments (Roof Report).

## **7.2. Suggested Time Input for International and National Experts**

A proposal for a “*Time Schedule for Project Implementation of the GEF Sava Component*” (July 2004 – November 2006) has been worked out by the international consultant at the end of Phase 1 and is annexed to the Sava component Concept for Phase 2.

The actual input of national and international consultants will depend on the budget available for this component in Phase 2, and will be further discussed and detailed during the Inception Phase of the GEF-DRP and this Sava component.



## **Annexes**

- Annex 1**      **Summary and Results of the 3rd Meeting of the Sava Working Group, 9 October 2003 in Zagreb/HR**
- Annex 2**      **Summary and Results of the UNDP/GEF Workshop “Development of SAVA RBD Plan (Pilot Project)” - 4th Meeting of the Sava Working Group, 12 December 2003 in Ljubljana/SI**





## **Annex 1**

# **Summary and Results of the 3rd Meeting of the Sava Working Group**

## **UNDP/GEF Project Component 1.1-9: “Development of the Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava”**

**9 October 2003 at Hrvatske Vode, Zagreb**

Attending participants of the meeting were:

Mr. Ivan ZAVADSKY, UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Team

Mr Philip WELLER; ICPDR Executive Secretary

Mr. Joachim BENDOW, ICPDR former Executive Secretary

Mr Boris KOMPARE, Slovenia,

Mr Zelko OSTOJIC, Croatia

Ms. Karmen CERAR, Croatia

Mr. Borislav JAKSIC, Bosnia-Hercegovina

Mr Tarik KUPUSOVIC, Bosnia-Hercegovina

Ms Dalila JABUCAR, Bosnia-Hercegovina

Mr. Slobodan PETKOVIC, Serbia and Montenegro

Mr. Alexander ZINKE, consultant for the GEF component

Mr. Henk ZINGSTRA, IAC, Netherlands

Ms Visnja OMERBEGOVIC, ICPDR GIS ESG.

The meeting lasted from 9:30 until 16:00, completing all announced agenda points.

**Objectives** of the meeting were to discuss the results of national data analysis and the concept for the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan during the UNDP/GEF DRP Phase II (2004-2006), as well as to prepare the Regional Workshop.

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Mr *Zelko Ostojic* from Croatian Waters welcomed all participants and stated that, due to the sudden death of a senior staff person, the Croatian representatives have to leave prior to the planned end of the meeting. He also mentioned that Croatia has started work on a RBM Plan in the Dalmatian basin and will soon do similar work in the Drava basin.

Mr *Ivan Zavadsky*, GEF-DRP office, opened the meeting and proposed a time revision of the agenda (i.e. shorten the presentation and discussion of results of national data analysis) and try to conclude on the concept by 13:00), which was accepted by all participants. An additional subject was the request of the GEF component 1.3 that the Working Group should comment on some proposed pilot projects in the Sava basin.

## **2. Results from the National Data Analysis**

### **2.1. Socio-economic Data**

Mr *Joachim Bendow* presented the results, based on supplied information from national consultants using the template prepared by the international consultant. Data from Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro are rather complete while those from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are clearly incomplete. It seems to be unrealistic to receive sufficient data from 1960 and 1980. Therefore, for the Phase 2 of DRP it will be necessary to revise the template on socio-economic indicators.

### **2.2. Water Management Data**

Mr. *Alexander Zinke* presented the national data, which were rather complete, except for Slovenia: The government via the national consultant explained that for most issues data are available or will be ready in 2004 (EU time-tables).

Generally there are only few differences of available information (in some cases request for information was interpreted differently) but there are differences in political development (e.g. certain laws and policy measures yet not ready) and there are general gaps for certain issues (e.g. groundwater monitoring, WFD-related water body types).

### **2.3. Comments from Sava basin country representatives**

While *Croatia* and *Bosnia-Herzegovina* were satisfied with their national results, *Serbia-Montenegro* regretted that data from Montenegro were yet not available. On the other hand, it was confirmed by Sava WG members that by the end of 2004 much more concrete information will be available from all countries which will better allow to prepare the Sava RBM Plan.

### 3. The Sava RBM Plan Concept for GEF Phase 2

Mr *Bendow* presented the draft Concept, including the methodological approach, the work plan for DRP Phase 2 and the specific time schedule.

The Sava WG members emphasized the strong need to revise the Concept by further explaining and detailing the proposed processes and the planned coordination and facilitation of the national expert work as well as the specific outputs and needed capacities. The objectives of the entire project component should be clearly described in the Concept as well as the methodology of works.

Mr *Kompare* asked to add how this process will help to better understand and implement the WFD in Sava RB countries.

There was confirmed agreement on the general need to coordinate related ongoing activities in the field of EU WFD RBM planning processes, which are carried out in the Sava region, in particular NL assistance, CARDS project, etc., as well as related activities carried out by national institutions. For the preparation of the Sava RBM Plan it will be necessary to establish internationally guided / facilitated mechanisms for national data collection, management and maintenance under the overall structures for the implementation of EU WFD.

Mr. *Bendow* and Mr. *Zinke* stressed again that this UNDP/GEF activity will not replace or speed up the national process to implement the WFD but it will facilitate the work and support the cooperation of Sava countries. Provided data will be used for a first draft Sava RBM Plan but have no definitive character.

The Sava WG must keep in mind and decide how far data collection and analysis will have to and can realistically go. The view was expressed that too much data collection at unrealistic pace was not useful and more effect needed to be on quality of information and processes that ensure mutual learning. This work will rather provide benefit in developing a *process* rather than from completed data collection and analysis. As a pilot project, the work on the Sava RBM Plan will produce experience and results useful even at the DRB and EU levels.

Mr *Weller* explained that the GEF project would provide a microcosm for data harmonisation where upstream countries (especially SI and then also HR) will, with the support of the GEF Project, lead the process with their neighbouring countries that are yet not so advanced in dealing with the EU WFD implementation.

Mr *Zavadsky* stressed that the GEF and NL funds constitute unique opportunities of support for the national efforts under the EU WFD objectives but these supports will end in 2004 (NL) resp. 2006 (GEF). So, there is a need not to loose the momentum and make use of the funding provided to support the development of a Sava RBM Plan.

### 4. New Netherlands project “Water and Ecosystems”

Mr. *Zingstra* informed that there is some delay with the contracting of local experts, now planned for November. The new GEF data and a contacting of national representatives of the ICPDR Expert Groups (EMIS, MLIM, GIS and FP) will allow tuning the national support activities to be implemented in 2004.

## 5. Preparation of the Regional Workshop

The following points were agreed by the Sava Working Group:

**Main objective** will be the presentation and discussion of the Concept Paper for Phase 2, subsequent to a presentation of the results from Phase 1.

Focus of the workshop will be on policy for development of Sava RBM but not on data collection discussion.

### Participants:

- Sava WG (experts + decision-makers)
- ICPDR PS
- NL (IAC)
- European Commission
- Additional technical experts from Sava countries
- NGOs (DEF and/or Sava NGOs)

### Agenda items:

- RBM according to the WFD in the Sava RB
- EU views on the future tasks at sub-district level
- Presentation of available data on water management and socio-economy
- Activities under the Dutch assistance
- Discussion on the national needs of support for the WFD implementation in the Sava RB in GEF Phase 2

Venue: Ljubljana, Slovenia

### Needed action:

- Fill in GEF Workshop Template
- Provide list of documents
- Complete list of participants
- Prepare letter of invitation

The next meeting of the **Interim Sava Commission** could be linked to this GEF - Sava workshop. Further, the **NL assistance** experts can arrange a meeting with several national experts from Sava RB prior or after the Sava Workshop in order to discuss their planned activities in 2004.

A. Zinke, 16 October 2003

## **Annex 2**

# **Summary and Results of the UNDP/GEF Workshop “Development of SAVA RBD Plan (Pilot Project)” - 4th Meeting of the Sava Working Group**

## **UNDP/GEF Project Component 1.1-9: “Development of the Pilot RBM Plan for the Sava”**

**12 December 2003 at the Ministry for Environment, Ljubljana**

Attending participants of the meeting were:

Mr. Ivan ZAVADSKY, UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Team  
Mr Philip WELLER, ICPDR Secretariat  
Ms Ursula SCHMEDTJE, ICPDR Secretariat  
Mr Mitja BRICELJ, Slovenia,  
Ms Helena MATOZ, Slovenia  
Mr Marco BIONDIC, Croatia  
Ms. Karmen CERAR, Croatia  
Mr Tarik KUPUSOVIC, Bosnia-Hercegovina  
Mr Igor PALANDZIC, DEF, Bosnia-Hercegovina  
Mr. Dusan DOBRICIC, Serbia and Montenegro  
Mr Tiosav PETKOVIC, Serbia and Montenegro  
Mr Svetomir PROKIC, Serbia and Montenegro  
Mr. Alexander ZINKE, consultant for the GEF component  
Mr. Joachim BENDOW, advisor  
Mr. Henk ZINGSTRA, Netherlands  
Mr Martin BAPTIST, Netherlands  
Ms Sabine de ROOIJ, Netherlands  
Mr Fritz BARTH, consultant  
Ms John BUTLER, consultant  
Ms Eva Veble, Intl. Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance  
Ms Sylvia Koch, UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Team.

The meeting lasted from 9:00 until 16:00, completing all announced agenda points. In addition, a presentation of the *International Trust Fund for Demining* was given at 12:30 and a short press conference (involving Minister *Janez Kopac*, *Mr Mitja Bricelj*, *Mr Ivan Zavadsky* and *Mr Philip Weller*) held at 13:00.

The **Objectives** of the meeting were to present and to discuss the Concept Paper for the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (GEF Phase 2), and to introduce the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in developing such a plan at the sub-basin level. Further information was provided on other donor activities (IAC-Netherlands and EU CARDS) to assure efficient coordination of activities and careful use of funding.

At the same occasion the results of national data analysis (UNDP/GEF-DRP Phase 1) have been presented and discussed and conclusions have been drawn for further work in Phase II of the project.

## 1. Opening of the Meeting

Minister *Janez Kopac* from the Slovenian Ministry for Environment welcomed all participants and expressed his satisfaction about the engagement of the UNDP/GEF Project in supporting the activities of the Sava River Commission. He underlined the need for priority projects and the continued involvement of Slovenia in the UNDP/GEF Sava component where a pragmatic approach should be used in Sava countries.

In his opening remarks *Mr Ivan Zavadsky*, UNDP/GEF-Project Manager thanked Minister *Kopac* for his commitment to the Sava initiative and for supporting the activities initiated by the Danube Regional Project. He stressed that the Sava is an important building block for the implementation of the WFD in the Danube Region.

*Mr. Zavadsky* further underlined that the Sava plays an important role within the GEF Danube Regional Project and that the project relies on the close cooperation with partners and other donors. The Sava activities were addressed at the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting on 1 December and will be closely followed by the European Commission, which will take the Chair of the ICPDR in 2004. The upcoming EU CARDS Sava Project will provide additional support especially to Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia & Montenegro. The resulting experience will be important for all partners.

*Mr Philip Weller*, ICPDR Secretariat, appreciated that the workshop solidifies Sava basin cooperation and reminded that the Government commitment for cooperation under the Danube River Protection Convention will soon be 10 years old. The ICPDR represents the platform for regional cooperation also at sub-basin level and recognises that the Sava will provide a leadership role in implementing the EU WFD. The efforts for implementing the WFD at the national level will be supported by donors such as GEF, IAC and the EC by strengthening the technical capacities of Sava countries.

## 2. Presentations on the EU Water Framework Directive

### 2.1. Implementation of the WFD in the Danube River Basin (*Ursula SCHMEDTJE*, ICPDR Secretariat)

This comprehensive presentation focused on the implementation of the WFD in the DRB under the ICPDR coordination. Mrs. *Schmedtje* explained the WFD objectives, its timing, the EC guidance documents and the available support (ICPDR issue papers, GEF-DRP, EU-ISPA and twinning projects). The ICPDR RBM Expert Group has prepared an outline for the roof report and the national reports with regard to the reporting obligations in 2005.

### 2.2. EU Water Framework Directive: Sava River Basin Management Plan (*Fritz BARTH*, consultant)

Mr *Barth* explained the WFD implementation schedule and the key role that the Sava plays as a pilot project for the implementation of the EU WFD in the Danube basin. The GEF-Phase 2 Sava component should aim to support the delivery of information and data of the Sava countries for the Danube Roof Report and support the preparation of National Reports 2004/2005. The main priority should be the preparation of a “*pragmatic*” RBM Plan with a first set of cost-efficient measures and investment planning. Other key issues relate to environmental monitoring and public participation in the Sava countries. Donors should support the Sava Commission and its national bodies in capacity and institution building to produce expertise and knowledge.

**2.3.** In the following **discussion on the two subjects**, the difficult economic situation in the Sava countries was addressed. It was mentioned that the institutional capacities in Sava countries need to be further analyzed and reinforced. Substantial support from GEF-DRP and other donors is required.

*Croatia* commented positively about the present outline of the GEF Sava component. It was further stressed that a stakeholder analysis is under preparation through REC/US-AID support (workshop on 23 December in Brcko/BA).

The *ICPDR* proposed stronger links between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR, e.g. by developing similar structures that prevent duplication of work. The ICPDR President is ready in 2004 to visit the Sava Commission. In this context Mr *Barth* stressed that after EU accession of Slovenia, the EC will need to become contracting party to the SC.

*Slovenia* thanked for the results achieved in Phase 1 of the Project and for the improved project implementation scheme for Phase 2.

There was concern about the additional work load from the Sava project in 2004 but Mr *Zavadsky* stressed that assistance would be provided to reinforce the capacities of those countries that have difficulties to match the reporting requirements.

### **3. Presentation of GEF-DRP Phase 1 Results - National Data Analysis (Alexander ZINKE, international consultant)**

In the frame of this presentation the objectives, major activities and results in Phase 1 as executed between April and November 2003 were explained, largely relying on the contributions from national consultants and their support by governments. The templates provided by the international consultant were based on requirements stipulated by the WFD .

#### **3.1. Water Management Data**

The provided national data are rather complete, compared to what realistically could be provided. For *Slovenia* the government via the national consultant explained that for most issues data are available or will be ready in 2004 in line with the requirements of the EU WFD timetables.

Generally, there are few differences of provided information, in some cases the request for information was interpreted differently. Further, it had to be considered that certain laws and policy measures are still under development and that some issues (e.g. groundwater monitoring, WFD-related water body types, impact analysis, etc) are yet not addressed and some complementary information and data should easy be obtainable (e.g. surface water, protected areas, stakeholder lists, etc.) in Phase 2.

#### **3.2. Socio-economic Data**

In this case, the data from *Slovenia*, *Croatia* and *Serbia-Montenegro* are rather complete while those from *Bosnia-Herzegovina* are clearly incomplete. Again there are typical gaps (e.g. for rural data, water self supply) and it seems unrealistic to receive sufficient data for 1960 and 1980. For Phase 2 of the DRP it will therefore be necessary to revise the template on socio-economic indicators.

*Serbia-Montenegro* indicated that water data from Montenegro would be available in the near future. It was concluded that concerning minor aspects national institutions could amend the data reports by the end of 2003, and that then these reports should be finished for Phase 1. In the discussion it was recommended that the Governments should indicate their needs for capacity building.

### **4. Presentation on the Activities under the Dutch Assistance (Henk ZINGSTRA, Sabine von ROOIJ, Martin BAPTIST)**

The Dutch experts regretted the delay in project preparation and implementation. They gained a solid base but can neither assess the countries' capacities. The draft work programme and outlines for proposed Dutch assistance activities, focusing on the elaboration of an Integrated RBM Plan under the Sava Commission, shall be addressed at the next Sava Commission meeting on 15-17 December in Croatia. There will be tuned activities on flood protection (pilot study for Lonjsko Polje on its retention capacities and water quality), GIS (spatial data inventory at national and international levels) and on typology/reference conditions. The Dutch work plan will be ready in January 2004.



## 5. Presentation on Demining and Water Management in SE Europe (Eva VEBLE)

The *International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance* is working in 6 Balkan countries with its headquarter in Ljubljana. The Organization raised up to now 125 mio. \$ from various donors. Mine contamination is spreading along the Sava river embankments but yet only the navigation signs were demined. The spreading of contamination will be better surveyed in 2004. More information can be found at: [www.itf-fund.si](http://www.itf-fund.si)

## 6. The Sava RBM Plan Concept for GEF Phase 2

Mr Zinke presented the draft Concept, which was revised after the last Sava WG meeting in October.

The Objectives of the GEF Sava project have been defined as following:

- I. Support the Sava countries to prepare the WFD products 2004-2006
- II. Develop a Pragmatic Sava RBM Plan, addressing major transboundary pollution reduction and water management issues and defining a preliminary programme of measures and needed investments.

## Expected Activities and Outputs

**Output 1: A Work Programme**, taking into account the RBM EG work plan and guidelines: This should relate to other GEF components, the EU-CARDS Sava project and NL assistance (e.g. regarding capacity building) as well as relevant parts of the action plan of the Sava Commission.

**Output 2: Completed collection and analysis of information** for the Danube RBM Roof Report 2004/2005 (Parts A and B) as follow up the Phase 1 information analysis: Characterisation of surface waters, assessment of pressure and impact, land use and protected areas, groundwater assessment and socio-economic analysis. These data and information will also be needed to prepare the Sava RBM Plan.

**Output 3: Monitoring programmes** in line with the requirements of the EU WFD and integrated in the TNMN of the ICPDR.

**Output 4: Situation analysis** with description of key water management issues and a special focus on transboundary key issues.

**Output 5: Preliminary Programme of Measures** developed with the participation of stakeholders concerned, taking into account the previous GEF hot spot analysis (incl. Significant Impact Areas, investment portfolio, ICPDR JAP, DABLAS portfolio, etc.) and based on a specific Public Participation Strategy for the Sava RB (to be tested in selected pilot measures).

**Output 6: Compiled “pragmatic” Sava RBM Plan**, including:

- Information compiled for the DRB Roof Report 2004/2005
- Monitoring programme
- Situation Analysis with key transboundary issues in SRB
- Preliminary Programme of Measures and estimation of needed investments.

The outline for the Sava RBM Plan will be drafted in 2005 and 2006 in close coordination with the ICPDR RBM EG with regard to the Danube RBM Plan.

Consensus among all riparian countries was achieved that UNDP/GEF should proceed with the Sava project based on the present draft concept and taking into account the following remarks of the discussion:

Concerning Output 3 a specific request was raised by *Slovenia* to provide further details from the ICPDR MLIM EG. *Croatia* informed that in 2004 there will be a CARDS project on monitoring.

The *ICPDR* recommended to focus first on surveillance monitoring and on harmonisation e.g. of typologies. The next relevant ICPDR meeting will be held in January 2004.

Concerning Output 5 *Croatia* raised some concerns about the time frame for the development of a Programme of Measures but supported the outlined direction.

For improving Public Participation, Sava countries have expressed the need to train national experts in this particular field. In a response reference was also made to GEF-DRP Phase 2 component 3.4 which will provide training and support for public participation and access to information with particular attention to Sava countries. The DEF stated the readiness of NGOs to contribute to this process particularly in the Sava region.

General remarks:

Bosnia & Hercegovina agreed with the concept and informed that their water sector reforms are under way while a study on monitoring was just completed.

Serbia & Montenegro had no specific remarks but stressed their status as a downstream country and the willingness to cooperate.

Mr Butler informed that US-AID invests into public participation in the Sava region (ends in 2004) and is ready to harmonise with the GEF component. He suggests a *platform of donors* be established.

Mr Zingstra underlined the urgent need for coherence and coordination of all donor support to avoid duplication and waste of funding in the Sava region.

Mr Barth stressed that international donors should use the RBM approach as a new frame and priority for all technical assistance. He recommended that the national representatives working within ICPDR should also become the representatives working at the Sava Commission to assure a coordinated approach. The question of transboundary or bilateral approach should be sorted out by experts only in the future. The Preliminary Programme of Measures should be broadly in line with the requirements of the WFD in order to enable the countries to prepare the final and detailed outputs also after 2006; this should include public participation and a first portfolio of most urgent measures.

Mr Zinke informed that the ToR for the CARDS Sava Project will be developed in the coming weeks. This project will also reinforce capacity building activities in the Sava countries and can specifically complement the activities of the GEF Project.

The ICPDR stressed that in forthcoming workshops and EG meetings issues related to the Sava should be specifically discussed and coordinated to support the Sava Commission. Similar RBM Plan projects as in the Sava basin will be prepared by 2006 for the Körös/Cris basin and Bulgaria.

Mr Zavadsky concluded that the ICPDR and Slovenia will inform the Sava Commission on 15 December about the GEF Phase 2 concept and that the final report of the GEF Sava component will be ready in early 2004, including some adjustments.

The Work Programme for Phase 2 will then be drafted and discussed with stakeholders and national experts at the Inception Workshop, which will be organized probably in March 2004.

He thanked Slovenia for the excellent organization of the workshop and the hospitality.

A. Zinke, 30 December 2003