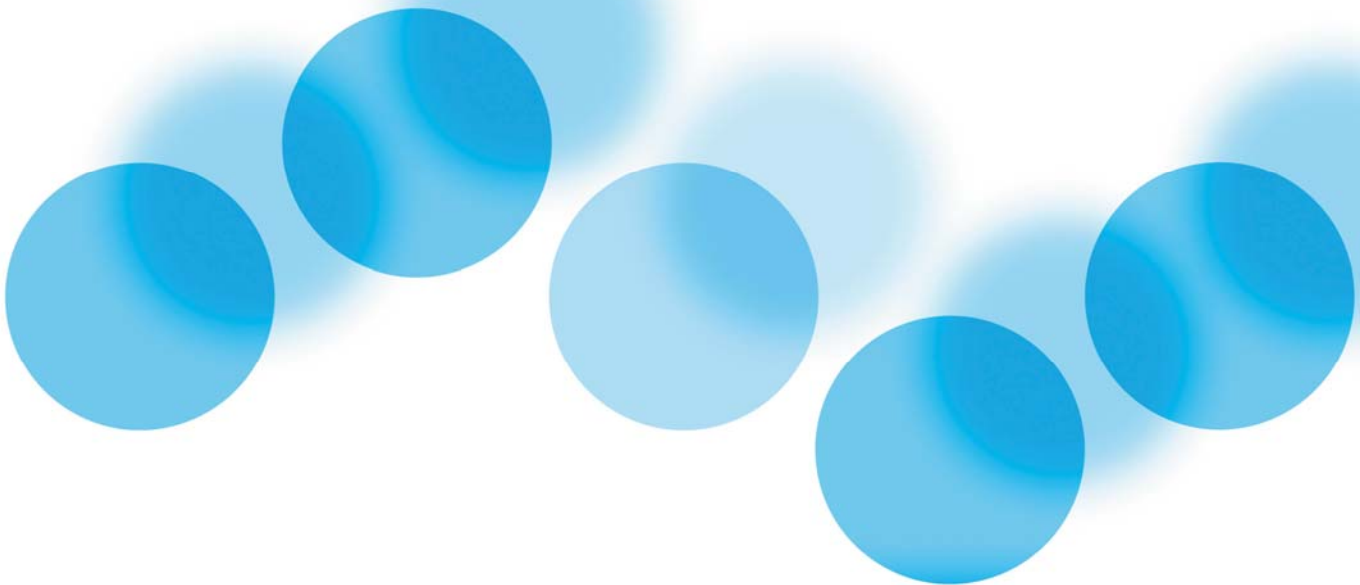




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FINAL REPORT
PROJECT OUTPUT 3.1. "SUPPORT FOR THE
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF NGOs AND
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: DEVELOPING
THE DEF NETWORK"



WORKING FOR THE DANUBE AND ITS PEOPLE

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PREFACE

Under the long-term development objective of the Danube Regional Project, being financed by UNDP/GEF, and to contribute to sustainable development in the Danube River Basin, the component "Support for Institutional Development of NGOs and Community Involvement: Developing the DEF Network" aimed to fully developed platform of non-governmental organizations in the Danube River Basin. The support targeted to strengthen the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) as umbrella organization, to enhance the network and its members' capabilities to respond to transboundary pollution issues with a focus on nutrient reduction, and to empower the network to respond to current priority issues as well as those that may arise in the future.

Phase 1 of DRP focused on making the DEF network fully operational and to increase the capacities for the DEF initiatives to support nutrient reduction and ecosystem management.

Phase 2 of DRP supported primarily specific activities implemented by the sustainable functioning network.

Through the enhanced capacity of the member organizations and the coordinated approach by the DEF Board and Secretariat, the networks is able to involve local stakeholders, partners and other NGOs in cooperative initiatives on national and sub-basin level. Representatives of the DEF network successfully participate in the processes for implementation of the Danube Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive, interact with various governmental and intergovernmental bodies, and influence the public involvement in related environmental decision making. DEF develops and implements common initiatives and campaign for sustainable management of the wetland ecosystems in 13 countries of the Danube Basin.

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ABBREVIATIONS

DEF	Danube Environmental Forum
DEF GA	Danube Environmental Forum General Assembly
DEF NFP	Danube Environmental Forum National Focal Point organization
DEF Sec	Danube Environmental Forum Secretariat
DEF WPT	Danube Environmental Forum Water Policy Team
DRB	Danube River Basin
DRP	Danube Regional Project
EG	Expert Group
EU	European Union
EU WFD	EU Water Framework Directive
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
NGO	Non-governmental organization
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wild Fund
WWF DCP	World Wild Fund – Danube Carpathian Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, under the objective 3: Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision making and reinforcement of community actions for pollution reduction and protection of the ecosystems; and relevant component 3.1: Support for institutional development of NGOs and community involvement, provided support to the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) for 4 main activities:

- > Operational support for DEF, communication and information management (Project activity 3.1.-1);
- > Organization of consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrients and toxic substances issues (Project activity 3.1.-2);
- > Publishing special NGO publications in national languages on nutrient and toxic substances (Project activity 3.1.-3);
- > Organization of training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects on nutrient reduction (Project activity 3.1.-4).

In the frame of the **operational, communication and information support** DEF developed fully functional Secretariat and national structures, prepared and implements its own programme, strategy and fundraising plans, maintains sustainable internal information flow through e-mail lists and web-site. The management of the network is realised on regular basis, by organising Board meetings every 6 months and General Assembly – 9 Board meetings and 4 Assemblies took part during the period 2002-2007. DEF developed experts database and Water Policy Team and thus contributed to the decision making process on national, sub-basin and basin level. DEF representatives participate in the work of the expert groups to ICPDR and contribute to the policy development concerning the main tributaries like Sava and Tisza. On national level DEF is involved in the RBM planning process and developed partnership with different stakeholders. Enhancement of the community involvement was achieved by the publishing of 8 issues of DEF Bulletin in 11 languages. The Bulletin is distributed in the relevant Danube countries and on regional and European level. The visibility of the network is achieved by development of comprehensive set of leaflets, folder, promotional materials, and professional design of the logo and presentation documents. The renewed web-site of the organization will serve for new communication tool for the members and stakeholders. The fully operational DEF Network and national structures were able at the end of the project cycle to organise and successfully finalise pre-registration and change the Secretariat.

Organization of consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrients and toxic substances issues is the main tool used by DEF for strengthening the capacity of the members. During the Phase 1 of the DRP training materials on Wetland Rehabilitation and Nutrient Reduction and Public Participation and Communication practices were prepared and translated in 9 national languages; 11 national training workshops held. During the Phase 2 focus of training activities on regional and national level was EU WFD implementation, public participation at RBM planning, pollution reduction relevant to national priorities. National workshops aimed to increase capacities concerning EU enlargement issues, Natura 2000, agri-environmental issues, protected areas and wetlands management within the RBMP. Practical demonstration activities were realised as 2 youth camps on wetlands issue in Slovenia and protection of river ecosystem in Bosnia and Herzegovina, wetland tours in Hungary and Croatia, small size projects in frame of the REC Small Grant Programme.

The DEF Water Policy Team developed and coordinated common activities on the topics hydro morphology, wetlands and floods risk management, public participation and education. In 2006 DEF launched its long term wetlands campaign. The campaign aims increasing the capacities for sustainable management and use of the wetlands in the Danube Basin and to encourage national water planners to learn more about, and better apply wetland protection.

As main tool for community involvement **DEF publish special NGO publications** in national languages. Under the coordination of the DEF Secretariat and DEF WPT a list of publications in 11 languages is published. For some of the materials and chapters DEF is supported also by experts from ICPDR EGs and WWF and GWP. During Phase 1 of DRP DEF leaflet published in English and 11 national languages. Two editions aimed to present the DEF network, the DRP and DEF priorities for public participation and education, sustainable management of wetlands and river ecosystems and implementation of the concept for integrated river basin

management. The DEF Brochure "Danube and Us" aims public awareness on key treats and sustainable practices for RBM. It is published in English at the end of 2005 and in 11 national languages during 2006. Result from the public oriented activities of DEF is the promotional DEF Photo Competition "Danube" publication from 2005. The DEF Wetlands Poster (2004) and DEF Brochure "Wetlands in River Basin Management" (2006/2007) support public involvement in the DEF Wetland Campaign. DEF Leaflet "Connecting the needs of man and nature" (2006) provides information and ideas for further cooperation and activities for sustainable use of the ecosystems in the Danube Basin. Under its Communication and Public Participation Strategy DEF prepares and publishes common press-releases on issues from Danube Basin importance in English and 12 national languages and maintains national language web sites.

Organization of training courses, development of NGO activities and cooperation in national and regional projects on nutrient reduction and water management was implemented in all 11 target countries for the DRP and also in Austria and Germany. DEF developed partnership, consultation and training for large number of stakeholders, among them representatives of local authorities, managers of protected areas and wetlands, farmers, fishermen, teachers, students, local NGOs. They were involved in the national trainings in the 11th relevant countries. DEF members are involved and initiated dialogues with polluters in various sub-basin. DEF NFPs from the respective countries started cooperation for public participation concerning Sava river. "Hot" policy issues like Drava and Bystroe cases were in the focus of the DEF Network lobbying activity. DEF members and experts participated at key events like EU "Green Week - 2004" and water events and celebrations. DEF provides support to local NGOs for preparation of projects and contributes to the evaluation process in the frame of the REC Small Grant Programme (Component 3.2. of DRP). In cooperation with other NGOs like WWF DCP, GWP, Black Sea NGO Network and relevant experts from national authorities DEF provides consultations for relevant stakeholder on national level and encourages sustainable practices for nutrient pollution reduction.

The Danube Environmental Forum Network successfully cooperates and contributes to the media and public involvement activities of ICPDR. Articles for Danube Watch magazine are regularly provided. DEF is initiator and main organizer on national level of the Danube Art Master children competition organized on the occasion of the International Danube Day.

The Danube Environmental Forum is networking in the 13 Danube River Basin countries, facilitates NGO partnership at basin, sub-basin, national and local level and implements common approach for the protection of the Danube river, its tributaries, their biodiversity and resources. After the finalisation of the component 3.1 of UNDP/GEF DRP the Danube Environmental Forum became sustainable NGO platform with near 100 active member organisations. DEF unites experts, specialist and local activists aiming cooperation among governments, non-governmental sector, local people and all kinds of stakeholders towards sustainable use of the natural ecosystems. Further more DEF develops projects based strategy for public awareness, environmental education, conservation of wetlands, participation in the decision making concerning integrated water management policy and connecting needs of man and nature.

1. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

The Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) played direct and active role for strengthening the implementation capacities and transboundary cooperation in the targeted countries under the objective 3: Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision making and reinforcement of community actions for pollution reduction and the protection of ecosystems. All DEF activities are in the context of the overall objective of the Danube Regional Project to support the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR) in applying regional coherent approach for implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention, strengthening the pollution reduction and achieving sustainable ecological effect within the Danube and Black Sea Basins.

Framework for coordination, dissemination and replication of successful practice was provided under the DRP Output 3.1: Support for the institutional development of DRB NGOs. Technical, professional assistance and financial support to the DEF and its members was utilized to increase awareness on transboundary pollution issues and nutrient reduction and enhance public participation and access to information.

The DEF network became fully operational and project activities were carried out directly with the DEF network. DEF including all its members are beneficiaries of the project and participate via the respective DEF national focal points (NFP) at the national level and also were relevant at the regional level. DEF member organizations participated and supported activities providing country-specific data, information, expertise and implementing specific actions, projects and campaigns.

DEF activities are closely linked with the DRP Small Grants Programme (SGP) (DRP output 3.2) and the respective public awareness and participation activities (DRP output 3.3).

The SGP served to strengthen the capacities of the DEF network as a whole. The DEF network will also played a role in carrying out the public awareness and participation activities under output 3.3. DEF contributed also to the implementation of the project output 4.3 concerning wetlands in the Danube Basin.

The DEF is umbrella organization of Danube NGOs with the mission "To protect the Danube River and its tributaries, their biodiversity and resources, through enhancing co-operation among governments, non-governmental organizations, local people and all stakeholders in Danube river basin towards sustainable use of natural ecosystems." Priority areas of activities are Public awareness and environmental education, conservation and management of water ecosystems and development and implementation of environmentally effective policies.

In the lights of the DEFs aims, mission and vision the network aimed following strategic objectives by implementing the work plan for the DRP output 3.1:

- > To influence the sustainable development of the Danube River region by ensuring participation of NGOs in governmental forums, programmes and initiatives and by developing close cooperation with governmental structures.
- > To enhance co-operation and encourage communication among local and national NGOs and with governments, businesses, media and local people by providing opportunities to exchange ideas and information in order to build sustainable bridges of understanding and action between people living in the Danube River Basin.
- > To ensure public participation and information flow and promote the mechanisms of partnership in the decision-making processes concerning water management within the Danube region.
- > To increase awareness and provide access to innovative ideas and effective methods for pollution reduction, management of ecosystems and wise use of natural resources for effective biodiversity conservation.
- > To protect natural values of the Danube region and to promote and apply ecological practices for conservation and management of ecosystems.
- > To develop a consistent communication strategy with the Danube Regional Project in order to effectively disseminate information and awareness.

DEF network realized broad range of activities and achieved significant progress in applying public involvement and participatory approaches. During the both phases of the DRP common activities were implemented in the following main directions:

- > Developing the DEF network on international and national level - Provide support to the DEF for operation, communication and information management (Activity 3.1.1). Supported were DEF Secretariat, DEF national networks and National Focal Points and other relevant structures. Developed strategic, planning, communication and promotional documents and materials. Strengthened information exchange within the DEF network and with its users/stakeholders and improved the organization management.
- > Supporting the expertise and cooperation capacities of DEF network – Organizing consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrient and toxic substances (Activity 3.1.1). Developed and disseminated common and national specific training materials on wetland rehabilitation and nutrient reduction. Carried out international and national trainings, workshops and youth camps.
- > Spreading information and experience among target groups and interested stakeholders - Publishing special NGO publications in national languages on nutrients and toxic substances (Activity 3.1.3). Developed and published common brochures, booklet “Danube and us” and posters for increasing awareness and information level concerning wetlands and river ecosystem management, pollution prevention and common implementation of the European Water Frame Directive and the Danube Convention.
- > Further encouragement of the implication of successful and effective activities directly or indirectly linked to the process of protection and sustainable management of the DRB ecosystems – Organizing training courses for development of NGO activities and cooperation in national initiatives, projects and campaigns (Activity 3.1.4). Developed training materials on EU-WFD implementation, public participation and communication. Organized trainings for building DEF WPT of experts and carried out national workshops for various target groups. Communication and partnership with relevant stakeholders on national and regional level for implementation of the European environmental and nature protection policies.

In the Chapter 1: Activities undertaken the report provides summarized information for the implementation steps, the inputs and outputs achieved by DEF network during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Danube Regional Project.

1.1. Developing the DEF Network and DEF Secretariat (Activity 3.1.1)

1.1.1. Development of DEF international and national structures

1.1.1.1. DEF Secretariat

The fully operational DEF Secretariat (DEFSec) has been organising and co-ordinating activities of DEF network at the regional level since April 2002. DEFSec also co-ordinates the implementation of national activities to be carried out by DEF National Focal Points in their respective countries. DEFSec and DEF NFPs are operating by following the Terms of Reference and Workplane from the Memorandum of Agreement between UNOPS and DEF. During the implementation of the DRP DEFSec was hosted by Daphne, Bratislava, Slovakia. DEFSec is fully and professionally operational and able to support the national NGOs and organizational matters, maintaining directory of DEF members and providing all relevant logistical and technical expertise for project management and reporting. The fully operational DEFSec in close cooperation with DEF Board is one of the basic tools necessary for a **regionally functioning network**.

DEFSec plays leading role for the preparation of the special NGO publications, coordinating the development of the content, collecting articles and chapter, organizing editing, proof-reading and printing the English versions.

The Secretariat is also organizing the procedures for nomination of representatives to the expert groups of ICPDR and selecting DEF members to participate at various international events.

The Secretariat's staff develops reporting templates, procedures and evaluation forms, distributes these among the DEF NFPs and members and collects and summarizes the reports and assessments. In 2004 revision of reporting rules was initiated by Secretariat. With regards to the information management, the DEFSec summarises information from the NFPs and disseminates it within the network. It also provides information upon request related to Danube issues, DEF activities, projects, initiatives, members, etc.

The role of DEF Secretariat was very important for finalization of DRP Phase 1 and preparation of work plan and budget for DRP Phase 2. Because Phase 2 was postponed, DEFSec successfully involved the national DEF Networks in finalization of content for publications and planning during the interim period.

Change of the national organization hosting the DEF Secretariat was initiated and realized during 2006. *For further information concerning this reorganization in DEF, see the attached reports in Annexes 5 and 6.* Following the DEF Board decision from April 2006 pre-registration of the DEF Network in Hungary started. BITE, Baja, Hungary is the present host of the DEFSec, providing all necessary technical and administrative opportunities for continuation of activities and securing sustainability of the DEF Network.

Since 1st June 2006 the DEF Secretariat is fully operational in Hungary. In connection with the court registration procedure confirmation of the membership of the NGOs was needed and started. Based on it the Directory of DEF members was revised and until February 2007 near 90 organizations from the 13th Danube countries confirmed or applied for membership. The DEF General Assembly confirmed their membership. The process of revision of membership continues and actual list of the DEF members can be obtained from DEF Secretariat in Hungary.

1.1.1.2. DEF National Networks and National Focal Points

DEF National Networks consists from DEF NFP organizations and member organizations. NFPs coordinate activities on national level in order to implement actions for improvement the DRB environment, influencing the decision-making process and enhancing community involvement. DEF NFPs in the 13th Danube Basin Countries are well known and recognized by stakeholders NGOs, able to sustainable act, operate and initiate national and regional cooperation initiatives and projects. *For more detailed information concerning national and local activities, see the provided national reports.*

Support provided by DRP directly to NFPs improved network functions on the **national level**. NFPs in 11 countries took this opportunity and disseminated information about DEF and DRP project activities that resulted in increased interest in DEF from NGOs and also GO institutions. The DEF position has been strengthened in each of the 11 countries involved in the DRP. The fact that not only NFPs but also other members of DEF network can deliver tasks planned on the national level is enabling more NGOs to become actively involved in the DRP and to take advantage of being a member in the network. This makes the network more attractive for new members, and gives a concrete meaning to the existence of the DEF network while providing incentive for new NGOs to apply for membership.

During Phase 2 of DRP DEF aimed to further develop the national networks. National representatives were trained to active lobby for effective implementation of the EU WFD and application of sustainable practices in agriculture, wetland, river ecosystems and flood management.

During the DRP implementation period the DEF Network increased significant the number of the member organizations, but also involved NGOs with diverse specialisation. This is a very important step in network development, when a NFP serves as the coordinator on the national level and activities involve the whole DEF network in the country.

1.1.1.3. DEF Water Policy Team

DEF member organizations are providing specific expertise and cooperate with various specialists on national and international level. DEF aims to improve the quality of the provided information and support to its stakeholders. DRP provided support to coordinate and structure the DEF Water Policy activities by:

- > **Establishment data base of the DEF experts on national level during the first project phase that is available to all network members.**

DEF nominates among its expert representatives to various technical and consultative bodies. In August 2002 DEF gained observer status in Ecological EG, River Basin Management EG and later also in Emission EG of ICPDR. Two DEF representatives were nominated to each EG. In 2004 DEF representatives joined also the Flood EG and the Public Participation EG since its establishment in 2006. DEF representatives regularly participate in relevant meetings. This allows observers to speak and to present a statement addressed the representatives of national delegations of the ICPDR. All components of DEF structure benefit from this opportunity through the dissemination of the outcomes of these meetings to interested NGOs and other stakeholders, mostly active at local and regional levels. At the same time NGOs provide important feedback to the ICPDR on the efficiency and transparency of the activities undertaken at national level.

A DEF Speaker together with a representative of the DEFSec participated at the 5th Ordinary Meetings of the ICPDR in November 2002 in Vienna, Austria. DEF Speaker presented DEF network, initiatives, future strategy as well as possible areas for cooperation with ICPDR. At the 6th Ordinary ICPDR Meeting (December 2003 in Vienna, Austria) DEF Speaker presented the developments in DEF and declared the willingness of the organization to effectively cooperate with the national delegations for implementation of the EU-WFD. After improving the internal reporting rules of DEF in 2004, it was ensured that summarized information from ICPDR is better disseminated among DEF network and NGOs in Danube Region.

At the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting in December 2004, DEF was presented by DEF Speakers, representative from DEFSec and additional DEF members. DEF Speaker presented the developments within the network and underlined the interest of the NGOs to contribute to the ICPDR Floods Action Programme. During the period 2005-2006 DEF Speakers, WPT members and DEF experts took part regularly in the ICPDR Ordinary and expert meetings. Based on the improved management and exchange of information within DEF, representatives of the Network were able to provide input and follow the processes.

> **Establishment DEF Water Policy Team – dividing the activities in three working groups – hydro-morphology, wetlands and floods risk management, public participation and education.**

Following the developments during DRP Phase 1, DEF established during 2004 Water Policy Team, build from experts working on national and basin level. Initially the task of these experts was to strengthen the cooperation with representatives of Water Protection Departments and national groups for EU WFD Implementation in the relevant countries. DEF WPT set also as objective the contribution to the preparation of the National Public Participation and Consultation Programmes for Implementation of the EU WFD. The groups in WPT are managed by – Milan Vogrin (wetlands topic); Gerhard Nagl (hydro-morphology and heavily modified water bodies topic); Milena Dimitrova (public participation topic). The work of the WPT is coordinated by Milan Janak – WPT coordinator. DEF Board and WPT developed TOR for the working groups and the responsible persons and the coordinator.

The DEF WPT carried initiative for improvement capacities of the members and specialists from the relevant participating countries. A programme of trainings and conference for experience exchange was set. Officially the WPT was launched during the DEF GA in 2005. Each WG developed its action plan for 2005 and 2006 and detailed activity plan of the WPT was developed during its meeting in November 2005 in Bratislava.

On February 2nd, 2006 DEF launched international wetland campaign. The campaign aims to encourage national water planners to learn more about, and better apply, wetland protection. International organizations such as the ICPDR, UNDP/GEF DRP, WWF, Ramsar Convention Secretariat have all produced helpful tools to assist planners. DEF also supports the special wetland DRP component that will produce guidelines and best practices for wetland protection. DEF WPT members are actively participating and contributing to the wetland component 4.3.

> **Coordination and managing activities of WPT further development.**

During 2006 the WPT WG on hydro-morphology and heavily modified water bodies was very active and prepared and submitted to various events DEF statement, trying to influence either the EU WFD implementation and RBM planning in the Danube Basin, either the development of ecosystem damaging projects. Transborder water and sustainable floods management was also in the focus of activities not only of the WG coordinator, but also of members from different DEF organizations. The DEFSec hired a short term consultant in order to support the WPT work during the changes in the network. With this more expertise was provided to the development and implementation of the wetland activities too.

During the finalization and evaluation stages of DRP it was identified the need to build expert cooperation on sub-basin level, especially for the rivers Sava, Drava, Prut and Danube delta. On national level the efforts were oriented to build awareness and transfer knowledge about the ICPDR Floods Action Programme and to encourage water managers to implement new different and sustainable approaches for flood risk prevention.

1.1.2. Development and implementation of Strategic and Programme Documents of DEF

1.1.2.1. DEF Strategy and Annual Work planes

The DEF development strategy was finalised by the DEF Board in co-operation with the DEFSec in August 2002. At the beginning of September 2002 it was electronically disseminated among all DEF members and partners. DEF future development was put on the agenda of all DEF meetings at the national as well as regional level to provide the opportunity for commenting on the whole DEF network. Outputs of these discussions are continuously being incorporated into the DEF Strategy.

DEF/DRP implementation plan is clarifying the links between the DEF Strategy and the activities planned within the DRP. It clearly specifies the role of these activities and the overall DEF initiatives towards achievement of the DEF future vision while respecting the DEF mission as stated in the DEF Strategy. Particular DEF tasks within the DRP have been allocated among interested and eligible DEF members in individual countries. Finalising work descriptions for DEF network participants (DEFSec, NFPs and members) that clearly delineate normal functions (with or without funding) and extra functions (specifically related to DRP activities) was coordinated by the DEFSec in cooperation with DEF Board members.

The implementation process of DRP activities to be undertaken by DEF has been planned, set and presented to the whole network. Annual Workplanes were developed based on the agreed Terms of Reference between UNOPS and DEF. NFPs are responsible to secure implementation of national specific activities in the relevant planes.

Revision and improvements in the DEF DRP Workplan and DEF Strategy was carried out during the interim period between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project. Needs identified during the implementation on national level, as well as assessments and evaluations were taken in consideration during e-mail consultation among DEF Board members and adopted at the DEF Board meeting in October 2004.

For the further development of the DEF Strategic Documents significant input has the DEF Board member and Speaker Johannes Wolf. In the beginning of 2004 he submitted the report "Strategic guidance on support to the development of the Danube Environmental Network". This report was prepared with the support of the DRP and includes critical assessment and recommendations on the DEF structure, communication and interaction between DEF and other important stakeholders in the Danube Basin, communication and reporting rules and procedures within the DEF network, methods and approaches for planning and fundraising, promotion and visual presentation of the DEF network.

The report was welcomed and accepted by the DEF Board and influenced all developments in the DEF network during the Phase 2 of DRP. It remains guiding document for DEF management for ensuring sustainability of the organization after finalizing the UNDP/GEF project.

The DEF Working plan was influenced also after the establishment the WPT. The Phase 2 of the DRP was remarkable for DEF with starting to implement many applied water management, wetland and floods management activities and using new approaches for public involvement and participation in the decision making processes.

The General Assembly in 2007 discussed future DEF priorities and identified following new fields of activities within the DEF mission: sustainable floods and flood plains management, sustainable river navigation. Based on the proposals DEF Secretariat and Board members developed in March 2007 new work plane and revised the strategic documents. These can be obtained from DEF Secretariat.

1.1.2.2. DEF Media and Communication Strategy

For improvement of the internal and external communication of the DEF network Communication and Media Strategy was developed in 2003. The document is based and inline with the overall DRP Communication Strategy. Leading role in the preparation and facilitating the discussion in this regard had the NFP Bulgaria. The media and communication strategy was updated and adjusted to suit the most needs of NGOs and adopted by DEF Board during 2004. This strategy was reflected in planning activities during 2004. The final media and communication strategy become one of the components of DEF Strategy and Working Plan. The NFPs started to elaborate further components more for local and sub-basin level.

The implementation steps of the DEF Communication Strategy included regular (at least bi-annual) publishing of common DEF press-releases on English language concerning Basin important topics. Further common realising on the national languages was secured in all target countries. NFPs followed also the press coverage. Some successful examples are the common release from October 2002 concerning the DRP Objectives and DEF main tasks, the press-release in October 2003 following the DEF General Assembly and calling for EU-WFD implementation on national level in the whole Danube area, the DEF national press releases with regard to the celebration of International Danube Day and Danube Art Master Competition in 2004 and the release from February 2006 concerning the beginning of the DEF Wetlands Campaign.

Regular publications and media events were organised by NFPs on national languages in the relevant countries and on national important topics. Almost all DEF national events, trainings and other project activities were joined with press releases and press conferences.

Prepared by DEFSec in June 2002, the summary on the DRP and NGO involvement was the main tool to inform various stakeholders and to involve NGOs in the practical actions and the SGP. The summary was translated in the national languages and covered all Danube Countries. It was combined by disseminating also various DRP publications and Fact sheets (products from output 3.3).

DEFSec and NFPs regularly contribute to the Danube Watch (the official magazine of the ICPDR), and to the Water Talk (Bulletin of GWP).

In the beginning of 2004 DEF assisted ICPDR Secretariat in developing Danube Media Network. Each DEF NFP provided input according the common template provided by ICPDR. DEF is involved in communication initiatives and networks in Europe, information from UNIS is regularly distributed among NGOs in the Danube Region.

1.1.2.3. DEF Public Participation Strategy

During the Phase 1 of the DRP Public Participation initiatives of DEF were based on country specific strategies for development of the Network on national level. The overall task for DEF NFPs was to further build participation in the DEF Network and to multiple consultations with stakeholders. In some of the target countries the focus was involving new members, strengthening the national network and improving communication and cooperation with the relevant national institutions. In the countries where DEF was already sustainable, coordination and participatory actions were developed and broad range of stakeholders were approached. DEF improved its cooperation with farmers, hunters, students, fishermen, students and many others.

Around 20 relevant meetings for increasing cooperation, mutual understanding and communication with stakeholders and national institution representatives were organized every year (2002 and 2003). During 2004 the majority of the meetings were within the NGO community in DEF countries, in order to strengthen national networks and involvement in activities. DRP provided financial support to the national networks for strengthening the communication and partnership with various stakeholders on local and country level. Special attention was paid to establish effective cooperation with the national delegations to ICPDR and authorities responsible to water management and implementation of EU-WFD. In September 2005 DEF submitted to the ICPDR a feedback to the Danube Basin Analysis (WFD Roof Report 2004). *For further detailed information concerning the outputs from this process see the DEF national reports.*

Except the nutrient toxic substances pollution reduction and prevention, among the topics for cooperation with representatives of national governmental organizations were also the EU Water Framework Directive and its implementation on national and Danube Basin level, implementation of other relevant EU legislation concerning sustainable land, wetlands and river ecosystems management and nature protection. All public participation activities of DEF network aimed to improve the stakeholder involvement and the decision making mechanism in the Danube area concerning water related issues.

The main precondition for the successful international cooperation of NGOs is the strong partnership between them on national level. Therefore a considerable portion of DRP DEF budget was allocated for national activities in the 11th relevant countries for networking, communication, capacity building, consultation meetings within the network, but also with stakeholders and representatives of the national ICPDR delegations. To increase the effectiveness of water protection, the DEF member NGOs started in 2004 to initiate dialogue also with main polluters in the relevant river sub-basins. The majority of the meetings on national level were focused on planning of community-based activities for the nutrient pollution reduction in river streams. DEF NGOs play important role as facilitators of the processes and each activity is linked with public outreach and media work.

DEF build cooperation on participatory issues also with regional stakeholders and regional networks. Among them it is to mention the partnership with Black Sea NGO network (BSNN), WWF Danube Carpathian Programme. Constant communication and exchange of information is established also with GWP CEE, NGOs from the Mediterranean basin. DEF maintains good working contact also with European Environmental Bureau, CEE WEB Network, NGOs from Baltic area.

Starting in 2003 special attention was paid to increase the cooperation with Black Sea Network especially on hot issues and practical projects. It was established mechanism for exchange of information and expertise between the both NGO networks. DEF representative was trainer on BSNN workshop and provided advises for development the BSNN strategic documents. The BSNN and DEF provide each other with both advice and guidance especially in the framework of UNDP/GEF Black Sea Recovery Project. In 2006 DEF members from Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria actively contributed to the public celebration of the International Black Sea Action Day (31.10.2006) in their relevant countries. Presentations, press-conferences, public happenings, exhibitions, media competition and coverage were organized in close cooperation with the Black Sea NGO Network.

During 2004 the cooperation with GWP CEE was strengthen on regional and national level. Some NFPs are actively working on public participation and WFD with the national GWP organizations. DEF closely cooperated with the GWP CEE at the preparation and implementation of the celebration of the International Danube Day. Both networks agreed on effective cooperation and permanent information exchange. Common statement in support ICPDR WFD public participation activities was submitted. On national level, in the countries were GWP is active, very good basis for future cooperation was set and further continued.

In the beginning of 2004 DEF Secretariat submitted official letter to the ICPDR President and officially offered cooperation in preparation of International Danube Day. DEFSec was involved in the preparatory work on international level and regularly disseminated the information to the national DEF networks. DEF is responsible to coordinate the NGO activities on national level (DEF/WWF/GWP) and to cooperate with national responsible institutions. Due the Danube Day initiative number of meetings with common participation of DEF and ICPDR representatives at national and regional level has been organized. The main activity of DEF at national level is the organization of school competition Danube Art Master. DEF is supported by special grant from ICPDR and succeeded to turn the competition in traditional and well known event. The aim of this school competition is to get children to spend time outside and to raise their awareness of the beauty and true value of the river ecosystem. NFPs in the relevant countries were responsible for the overall organization of the activity, in some countries they were supported by national institutions and other interested stakeholders. In December 2004 the celebration of the winners took place in Vienna and was organized by ICPDR Secretariat in close cooperation with DEFSec and NFPs.

The Danube Art Master competition is main Danube Day celebration activity of DEF and it was organized and successfully carried out also in 2005 and 2006. DEF cooperates with GWP CEE Secretariat and ICPDR Secretariat in order to facilitate the international winner's ceremony. On national level the events are organized in cooperation with WWF DCP, GWP, other NGOs and

sponsors. In most countries the cooperation with ICPDR delegations was strengthened. DEF GA in February 2007 confirmed the interest and readiness to continue and further develop the organization of the Danube Art Master.

In occasion of the Danube Day 2005 DEF representatives participated at the Stakeholder Conference organised by ICPDR in Budapest. DEF provided statements and took active role in the discussion for establishment a communication stakeholder platform in the DRB. *Further information on Danube Day activities and organization of the Danube Art Master competition can be obtained from DEFSec by request.*

The DEF regional actions are always supported by sub-regional and national activities. There are several regions in the Danube watershed where sustainable development is needed as a result of negative human activities. DEF is actively involved in NGO movements in order to unfavorable actions in three main areas: Morava-Dyje Floodplains, Danube Delta and the Drava and Sava region.

The case about the Bystroye canal is carefully observed by DEF. DEFSec and DEF NFPs from Romania and Ukraine carried series of meetings with relevant institutions to discuss considerations of the construction planes. DEF prepared and submitted (2004) complaint to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and the GEF and the World Bank arguing about the threats to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. DEF is continuously warning different governmental bodies and international institutions in order to undertake relevant steps to reduce the damage from the channel construction. Leading role in this DEF activity have DEF NFPs from Romania and Ukraine. They are carrying and participating at various public and expert initiatives in order to influence the process.

In the interest of Drava River in Croatia, DEF made similar efforts as for the Bystroye in Ukraine. The Drava River was being threatened by an engineering project, which led to river canalization and massive gravel extraction. At the end of the year 2004, however, it was announced that no more extraction would take place in this region. This common effort of the DEF network members is followed from improved cooperation among the national DEF Networks from the Drava and Sava sub-basins and further successful projects and public participation actions. DEF members from Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosna and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro build coalitions in order to continue in sustainable manner started campaigns.

DEF member organizations from the Lower Danube Basin cooperate with WWF in order to support the Lower Danube Green corridor initiative in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria.

Cooperation among DEF members and other stakeholders on regional sub-basin topics became visible and important tool to influence the decision making process especially during Phase 2 of DRP. The DEF Wetland campaign in 2006 was a step ahead to organize and coordinate initiative on basin wide level. It started with number of local actions to promote the World Wetland day and raise awareness among local public, but also to implement activities in transborder territories like wetlands tours in Hungary and Croatia. In this way DEF identified and established cooperation with governments and managing organizations on monitoring and advising improvement of site management, developing and participating in conservation projects.

Special attention was paid for the cooperation with REC for the implementation of the SGP and DRP project output 3.4 on Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making.

1.1.2.4. DEF Fundraising activities and Strategy development

Primarily the responsibility for the fundraising activities in the DEF network is on the DEF Board, DEFSec for the overall international level and on the NFPs and member organizations for the relevant national and regional levels. DEFSec is developing directory of NGO members, including profiles, area of work, funding sources. The directory is continuously updated. At DEFSec is available database for potential funding opportunities and information is provided to the member organizations by request. The staff of the DEFSec supported by Board members and WPT members is developing project proposals and applications for further funding of the DEF network.

During 2003-2004 following applications were supported – EU PHARE Programme for cooperation with WWF DCP; Open Society Foundation for cooperation between DEFSec and DEF Serbia and Montenegro and CORE Grant of the EC for support of the whole DEF Network (granted by EC in 2004, 2005, 2006).

NFPs raised funds at national and sub-basin level and thus secured smooth operation of the networks. Among the funding sources was the REC SGP. In all DEF countries successful projects on water protection and wetland management are being implemented.

During the second project phase the Board initiated broad discussion among the members for development of comprehensive DEF Fundraising Strategy and definition of the general principles for choosing the funding sources. DEF network overcome not easy debate about the acceptance of corporate funding. During the finalizing period of the DRP DEF Board drafted the Fundraising Strategy and it was adopted by the General Assembly in February 2007. For its implementation DEFSec continues to prepare and submit proposals in order to meet the needs for communication and networking. Specific applied proposals are developed by member NGOs and NFPs on regional and sub-basin level. The Fundraising strategy needs to be further developed and improved, but in the present version it provides various tools and mechanism for contribution to the sustainability of the DEF Network.

1.1.2.5. Promotion, branding, development new logo and publications

The efforts of the DEF Board and DEFSec during Phase 1 were oriented to efficiently present the Network and its members to audience, institutions and potential donors within the target area. This was achieved through presenting mission, aims and objectives and priority action areas, as well implemented steps and result by publishing and disseminating DEF leaflet, DEF Bulletin and maintaining the DEF web-site. The main advantage of this approach is that DEF leaflet and Bulletin are on English and all national languages from the target area. The web-site provides informative content concerning the Danube Basin and the treats on its ecosystems on English and national languages (initially only 3 languages and during the DRP implementation additional 6 versions added).

Further branding opportunities used by DEF were the publication of specific NGO publications in the same format on English and relevant national languages – DEF brochures, leaflets, stickers, the publication “Danube and us”, DEF Wetland Poster and brochure “Wetlands in River Basin Management” and DEF Photo Competition Publication – 2004.

The overall DEF approach for raising awareness on the Network and Danube Environment include publishing overall DEF biannual report and participation and presentation during the European Green Week in Brussels – 1-4 June 2004. The information booth at Green Week was visited by about 1000 people. They learned about DRP process, but also received DEF information materials (leaflets, poster, national materials and contacts). Update about the “hot issue” – Bystroye channel – was presented during a Danube session.

During Phase 2 DEF accepted the advice provided by the DRP experts and developed new comprehensive branding package. Professional branding advisory company was hired for design of new logo and image. Since 2006 DEF uses the new design. In the same sense was renewed the design of the DEF web-site. For more efficient promotion of the Network advertising gift souvenirs were produced, publications during the last project year in almost all relevant countries are printed with the new image. DEFSec and NFPs ensured the dissemination of the branding template among the member organizations. DEF successfully imposed the new network image among the target audience at the end of 2006.

1.1.3. Information exchange in DEF Network

DRP under Output 3.1. directly provided support to the DEF for communication and information management (Activity 3.1.1). The network, DEF member organizations and all relevant target groups on regional and national level benefited from this activity. A process of strengthen information exchange within the DEF network and with its users/stakeholders and to improve the organization management sized the whole project implementation period from 2002 until 2007.

1.1.3.1. DEF email exchange network

The most common, significant and powerful tool for communication within the DEF network is the system for e-mail exchange. DRP provided support to maintain and facilitate the set of e-mail conferences. The DEF e-mail conference is very active, disseminating around 5-10 e-mails

per day on average among DEF Members. The rules for its usage were specified at the Board Meeting in October 2002 and further clarified at the Board meeting in March 2003.

There is an internal conference of the DEF Board and Secretariat (def-board@list.changenet.sk), which is the most active and very necessary for co-ordination of activities in all the 13 countries. Main DEF communication and planning is being done via this conference.

The second conference is for all DEF members (def-member@list.changenet.sk) and is used for internal, operational and logistic communication within the network. The third conference is for broad NGO community and DEF partners in the region (def@list.changenet.sk). It serves as a forum for discussion on fundraising opportunities, environmental problems and solutions, steps to be taken, or to search for partners. Later a conference for DEF WPT and DEFSec was set. DEF NFPs communicate with NGOs at the national level via national distribution lists and e-mail conferences.

After moving the DEFSec to Hungary the hosting was changed and conferences reorganized. At the end of the project period following are in use: DEF Board (defboard@zpok.hu), DEF members (def-all@yahoogroups.com) and DEF WPT e-mail communication list. For further improvement of the communication relevant specific DEF e-mail were established by the DEFSec and also on national level.

1.1.3.2. DEF leaflets and Annual Reports

Updating, printing and disseminating DEF leaflet, supported by DRP, is used for external communication with DEF audience and to provide actual contact information on international and national level to broad public, partner organizations, governmental institutions and the NGO sector in 13 countries of the Danube River Basin.

The leaflet includes information about the structure, aims and priority areas of DEF as well as a short summary of the DRP. The first edition (only in English version) of the DEF leaflet was updated and printed in October 2002. The second edition was published and disseminated in English and on the relevant national languages with improved and common content and design in 2003-2004. Third edition was printed twice in English with the new branding design and logo (in 2005 and in 2006 after the change of headquarter of the network). The relevant newly designed national versions of the third edition of DEF leaflet were published and disseminated during 2006.

DEFSec and NFPs agreed and are using common template for preparation all necessary annual reports. These reports are publicly available in electronic version from the DEFSec by request. The biannual DEF Report 2003-2004 is published in English version and provides overview on the achievements concerning DRP and other strategic DEF actions. It is distributed among relevant audience on international, regional and national level by DEFSec and NFPs.

1.1.3.3. DEF Bulletin

DEF Bulletin is important tool for external and internal communication and enhancing public awareness concerning Danube Basin ecosystems and policies. It serves also as platform for experience exchange and form of short-term reporting among DEF members and their national partners and audience. The Bulletin is published biannually in English version and in the relevant 11 national versions. DEFSec disseminate the issues on regional and international level and NFPs are responsible for national level distribution. The number of copies and form of publication (hardcopy or electronic) varies according the national needs and conditions. DEF Speakers and representatives use the Bulletin in order to present DEF achievements and important Danube area problems during participation at various international events.

During Phase 1 of DRP DEFSec was responsible for the preparation, editing and publishing the Bulletin. Design of the DEF newsletter was agreed on by DEF Board members in September 2002. The content includes information about DEF and contacts of national networks, articles about the DRP project and DEF activities within it. The 1st issue was finalized in November 2002. Issues number 2 and 3 were published and disseminated during 2003. They had main message – respectively – Public Participation actions in the Danube Basin and Current main threats to Danube nature – plans, projects and investments.

During the DEF Board meeting in March 2004 new editorial rules were agreed. NFP Slovenia undertook the responsibility for preparation, editing and printing the English version of the

Bulletin. Starting from issue number 4 in 2004 the content of the Bulletin was improved and provides additional articles about the national activities and efforts for public involvement in pollution reduction initiatives, important water and wetland management and policy issues.

5th Bulletin issue was published at the end of 2004 with focus on Danube Day and Danube Art Master competition, Bystroye "hot issue" and Large Dams on Danube. In 2004 DEF arranged also the translation of the Bulletin in German language.

Another two issues (6th and 7th) were developed and published during 2005. They focused much more on DEF Water Policy activities and encouraged cooperation based on the DEF priority areas. DEF Bulletin 1/2005 promoted the WPT and provided detailed information about the task of the WPT working groups. All DEF members were invited to participate where relevant in the working groups. Issue 2/2005 reported about Danube Day 2005 and announced the DEF Wetland campaign that started in the beginning of 2006.

Bulletins 8th and 9th were issued in common publication at the end of 2006 using already the new logo of DEF. The publication covers the Danube Day initiative, but also policy related topics like Danube navigation, economic analysis concerning development projects, wetland restoration and management. National versions were translated and disseminated in printed or electronic version in the beginning of 2007.

1.1.3.4. DEF web-page

DEF maintain and uses the most popular information and awareness tool – its own web-site.

The DEF homepage is being improved and updated continuously with information provided by DEF members – new contacts, DEF Strategy and planning documents, meetings, hot issues and news in the region. During Phase 1 the webpage design was reconstructed, and being discussed via the DEF e-mail conference. At the beginning of January 2003 large changes were put onto the DEF website and it became more user-friendly. The site provides for download the DEF publications and information about events in the area.

The text was translated into 3 new languages – Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Ukrainian. Together with existing English, Slovakian, Serbian and Romanian versions DEF webpage covers almost all languages of Danube River Basin countries. This helps overcome the language barrier in information flow among NGOs and local citizens in the region. In addition in 2004 the site was translated also on Croatian and German language.

DEF NFP from Serbia was responsible for the technical maintenance, while the DEFSec coordinated the editing of the content and the relevant NFP provided national related information on mother and English language. The relevant internet address was: www.def-forum.org.

DEF website is important promotion tool and was targeted by the process for improvement of the design and branding. According to the DEF Board decision from April 2006 further development and maintenance of the site is foreseen only in English language. The coordination and organization of the process for renewing the website was lead by NFP Austria. For the technical realization web design company "Mentor Communication" was involved. Training for using the new designed webpage was carried out in December 2006.

The fully operational DEF website is hosted and technical supported by DEFSec and NFP Austria and content management and editing is coordinated by NFP Hungary and NFP Moldova. The present internet address is: www.def.org.hu

1.1.4. Organization issues in DEF Network

The most representative decision making body of DEF Network is the General Assembly, while for the management of the organization operational decisions are taken by the Board. The Network is represented by the Speakers, elected among the Board members. Day-to-day management is implemented by the DEFSec staff. DRP provided significant support to the DEF organization for organization regular meetings of General Assembly and Board and supporting DEF Speakers to participate at various international events, workshops and meetings. DEF successfully fulfilled its role of observer to the ICPDR and participated at STG meetings and Ordinary meetings.

1.1.4.1. DEF Board Meetings

During the period 2002 – 2007 DRP provided support for organizing meetings of the DEF Board on regular basis every 6 months. Thus was secured decision making and management of the organization by involving representatives from all 13th Danube countries. Cooperation among DEF members was strengthened and experience and practice was gained in taking decisions on democratic basis with respect for the diversity in the most international river basin in Europe. Overall planning and reporting for the DRP was discussed at every meeting, national working planes and reports were presented, common publications and communication strategy were agreed during Board meetings. DEF Board initiated new campaigns, projects and initiatives, discussions for promotion of the network and partnership with other relevant organizations. The Board supported the DEFSec in preparation of all relevant documentation concerning DRP and ongoing activities, preparation new project proposals and application for funding and accepted the reports of the DEFSec staff. DEF Board took the responsibility for selection of staff at Secretariat. DEF Board members elect among them self DEF Speakers, who are officially representing the Network. DEF Speakers are representing the Upper Danube region, Middle and Lower Danube area. Upper Danube region is represented by Johannes Wolf (NFP Austria), Middle region – was represented consecutively by Radoje Laushevic (NFP Yugoslavia), Jaroslav Ungermann (NFP Czech Republic) and Tamás Enikő Anna (NFP Hungary), and the Lower area – by Petruta Moisi (NFP Romania).

During the 5-year period of the DRP the DEF Board constitute from almost same persons, representing the NFPs from the relevant countries. They build effective team and were able to take many easy and difficult decisions in order to overcome problems and crises in the organization and to strengthen the Network on national and international level.

During the DRP period 9 Board meetings were organized. Every meeting except the organizational, management and planning topics, discussed important for the DEF development issues. Following the list and the consequence of these issues it is visible the development of the whole DEF Network. Below are described the mentioned Board meetings:

- > 28th October 2002, Vinicne, Slovakia – planning and overall management of DRP output 3.1. Finalizing the process of building an fully operational DEF network.
- > 22th-23th March 2003, Murska Sobota, Slovenia – improving internal and external communication of DEF, planning special NGO publications and cooperation and interaction with other relevant components of DRP.
- > 13th – 15th October 2003, VIC, Vienna, Austria – DEF Board members discussed with representative of ICPDR Secretariat and DRP Project team the aspects of cooperation. Further activities of DEF within DRP and involvement of DEF in other DRP components and REC Small Grants Programme were clarified.
- > 1st – 2nd April 2004, Breclav, Czech Republic – the main goal of the meeting was to finalise the Phase 1 of DRP and to agree activities and budget breakdown for Phase 2. DEF involvement in the regional WFD initiatives and International Danube Day were planned. New design and organisation for issuing the DEF Bulletin were agreed. Special NGO publications were agreed.

- > 7th – 8th October 2004, Davod, Hungary – adopted the revised DEF Strategy, incl. the media strategy and detailed discussed the national activities and priorities for the DRP Phase 2, took decision to postpone the GA for April 2005 and to organize DEF EU Enlargement conference.
- > 4th April 2005, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria – accepted the evaluation report on the development of the DEF Network, planned water policy activities, DEF involvement in DRP communication activities and fundraising.
- > 29th-30th November 2005, Bratislava, Slovakia – planning and discussing the work plane for 2006. New DEF visual identity was discussed in details and accepted. Initiated a discussion on the fundraising strategy and principles for the network and the national branches.
- > 25th-26th April 2006, Baja, Hungary – detailed planning and taking decisions connected with the DEF removal from Slovakia and transformation in Hungary and planning the activities and finalization of DRP.
- > 15th – 16th December 2006, Bratislava, Slovakia – evaluation, finalization and reporting about DRP agreements, finalization and agreement on the Fundraising strategy, proposing the agenda for the GA in February 2007 and specifying priorities for the next planning period.

In-between the Board meetings, Board members are actively discussing organizational issues by using the e-mail conference. In this way DEF network is able operate in flexible, efficient and sustainable manner. Good management practice is established and accepted and will be implemented after finalizing the support by DRP.

The Board meetings were hosted by NFPs in different countries and this increased the management capacities among the whole network. This is also efficient step to make DEF more visible and known among member, supporters and all relevant stakeholders among the Danube Basin.

1.1.4.2. DEF General Assembly

According the DEF Statutes the General Assembly is the highest decision making body of the organization. The DEF GA Assembly takes decisions on policy and general organizational matters, adopts the planes, new organizational structures and accepts new members. Only the GA can change the Statutes and decide about strategic partnership with other stakeholders, or about the confluence with other NGOs and closing the organization. Every DEF member organization has the right to participate at the GA and to vote. GA is organized ones in a two-year period.

DRP provided support for carrying out 4 meetings of the DEF GA during the period 2002 – 2007. In the meetings took part between 30 and 60 participants of different member organizations from the whole Danube area. As a result the regional and sub-basin cooperation and partnership were strengthened and the DEF member community became sustainable.

Below GA Meetings are listed and main discussed topics and outputs are mentioned:

- > November 28-31, 2002, Vinicne, Slovakia – All 13 DEF member countries were present together with 30 participants from 25 NGOs. Strengths and weaknesses, functionality and future network development and management were the main topic of the meeting. Presentations and planning for the DRP implementation adopted.
- > November, 26-28, 2003, Obrenovac, Serbia and Montenegro – attended by 54 member organizations from 12 Danube countries. The main topic of the meeting was the adoption of the Working Programme for the period until 2006. Further strategy and steps where identified concerning hot issues like Bystroe canal in Ukraine, Drava river problems in Croatia and the Danube-Odra-Elbe canal. The position and role of DEF in basin wide aspect was recognized by two important guests at GA – Mr. Phillip Weller, ICPDR Executive Secretary ad Mr. Andy Garner, UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.
- > April, 5 2005, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria – 41 representatives of DEF member organizations from 12 countries participated and 6 guests representing the most significant partner organizations and projects – ICPDR, UNDP/GEF DRP, BSNN, GWP and Bulgarian state authorities. Besides the reporting about successful activities and difficulties, new communication tools and visual identity of DEF were discussed. The

DEF WPT has been officially launched and TORs for the working groups were accepted. Work plan, budget and new 13 member organizations approved.

- > February, 2-4, 2007, Miskolc, Hungary – 42 representatives of DEF organizations from all Danube countries participated. The Assembly adopted the new DEF Statutes, confirmed the membership and elected DEF Speakers and representatives to ICPDR EGs. Further more priorities of activity during 2007 were accepted and the Fundraising strategy was agreed.

DEFSec together with the relevant NFP were responsible for the organisation and logistic of the events. Minutes and all supporting documentation were provided to the participants and NFPs for further distribution.

NFPs and the relevant national network of DEF organizers of each GA benefited from the publicity and supporting effect. During the DRP period in 8 of the DEF member countries was hosted common organization event. This build the DEF tradition to support the national networks by demonstrating cooperation and common initiatives, projects and campaigns from regional Danube Basin importance on local level and involve and inform broad public.

1.2. Supporting the Capacities of DEF

The set of activities 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 within DRP Output 3.1. Support for the institutional development of DRB NGOs is the most practical oriented and inspiring for all DEF members. From learning, exchange of experience, applied ecological activities, through gaining management skills and project drafting and evaluation, to providing information, expertise, consultation and involving stakeholders in DEF initiatives – there was role and opportunity for every DEF member.

1.2.1. Organizing consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrient and toxic substances issues (Activity 3.1.2)

In the beginning of Phase 1 DEF Board and Secretariat accessed and discussed with DRP experts and national member groups the training needs. Priorities for nutrient reduction topics and applied actions to be addressed in REC SGP were specified. Prior the start of DRP NGOs only dealt with nutrient reduction issues on small scale. Practice in implementation of participatory approaches in water related management issues was small or almost not existed.

To meet the identified needs and build capacity on regional and local level training programme was started. It aimed building capacities for applying effective training techniques, building knowledge and expertise on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction, improvement participatory, public involvement and communication practice within DEF network and building capacity for project preparation, management and reporting on regional, national and local level.

DEF training programme within DRP includes two international trainings including training for national trainers and a set of national workshops in all relevant 11 countries. Initiative for education and involvement of youth stakeholders was started by organising two youth camps and broad distribution of relevant Danube related information among the participants at the Danube Art Master competition for school children and during the celebration events for the International Danube Day.

1.2.1.1. Training materials on Wetland Rehabilitation and Nutrient Reduction

DEF Sec and latter with the support of DEF WPT coordinated and managed the development of training materials for the international trainings and the selection and inviting lecturers. Supported by the DRP Team and experts and using the advices of partner organizations like WWF DCP, GWP and European Environmental Burea DEFSec was able to identify and invite well recognized specialists for trainers. Lecturers were experts from Universities, Scientific Institutions, Water management Administrations, most acknowledged International nature and environment protection NGOs in Europe.

Training materials were prepared in close cooperation with the invited lecturers and with the support of DEF experts and members of WPT. Training materials were provided to all DEF NFPs for further use, translation to the national languages and are available in electronic version for all interested stakeholders by request. Following training materials were developed:

- > Wetland and Nutrient Reduction Training materials – February 2003;
- > EU-WFD implementation, Public Participation and communication with case studies of national practices (provided to NFPs on CD) – February 2004.

Based on the training materials, the relevant national workshop materials were prepared.

1.2.1.2. National Trainings

The basic structure of national trainings has been agreed upon by the DEF Board. The agenda of national trainings was consistent with the agenda of the DEF International Training (November 2002) and was enlarged by addressing national priorities in nutrient reduction. Gained knowledge and skills by the expert representing each national network was transferred to the national and local level with the aim to improve the quality of undertaken actions by various NGOs.

During 2003 NFPs organized national trainings for NGOs in 11 countries on wetlands and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics set by DEF Board and in connection with the REC SGP. Information about REC SGP was presented by REC CO. The trainings were organized according the overall requirements provided by DRP for all workshops in the frame of the project.

At the autumn of 2004 and beginning of 2005 all 11 NFPs carried out trainings on the topic Public Participation Obligations and Possibilities under the EU WFD. Main points in the agenda were legal instruments and effective techniques for involvement in the decision-making process regarding water management. Training was prepared in cooperation with ICPDR National Delegations and REC Country Offices. Topics were adjusted to national conditions and priorities and participants were NGOs and small associations on national and local level. *For further national related information, see the attached national reports.*

1.2.1.3. DEF Youth Camps

Danube River Basin Ecological Youth Camps are organized by DEF with the aim to involve target groups with specific environmental interest. The initiative is among the education priorities of DEF and is directly connected with the DRP project objectives for capacity building, awareness and public participation concerning nutrient pollution reduction.

In August 2003 DEF organized camp near the river Mura in Slovenia. Thirty participants from 6 Danube countries surveyed for 10 days the natural conditions in floodplain and analysed the water quality in Mura tributaries. The camp was organized in cooperation with various local stakeholders, and strong media coverage. Participants prepared and submitted to the local

authorities list of the main nature values and treats exposed during the survey, as well suggestions for possible solutions to water pollution problems in the Mura floodplain.

The second camp was held in the Vrbas River Island in Karanovac near Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2004, 25 June - 4July). Participants from 4 Danube countries celebrated the Danube Day by implementing activities related to water management, including a workshop on energy saving.

1.2.2. Publish special NGO publications in national languages on nutrients and toxic substances (Activity 3.1.3.)

The DEF is mandated to prepare a set of publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages and to secure the dissemination. During 2003 planning the type and content of publication was discussed and agreed. As most effective approach was selected improvement and regular update of the DEF leaflet and inclusion in it awareness information. A more comprehensive brochure concerning the ecological conditions and treats in the Danube Basin was foreseen. Leaflets and posters in support the public awareness and involvement were planed as most accessible and understandable for general public types of publications.

1.2.2.1. DEF Brochures

DEF Leaflet is published and distributed broadly among public and interested relevant stakeholders. It provides actual and summarized information about NGO actions in the whole Danube area. In the same time attention is paid to the available opportunities and governmental and international institutions that aim nutrient pollution reduction and sustainable water management.

The existing very brief DEF leaflet was improved. Separate information concerning DRP and available opportunities for public to participate were provided. The Brochure was prepared in March 2004 and printed in English language in order to be used during the EU Green Week event in June same year.

DEF Brochure "Danube Environmental Forum" in 11 languages was published and disseminated during 2004 in all Danube countries. DEF NFPs used the same design and content in order to provide nutrient reduction information and contacts with DEF website and members.

During Phase 2 of DRP third edition was printed twice in English with the new branding design and logo (in 2005 and in 2006 after the change of headquarter of the network). The relevant newly designed national (on 11 languages) versions were published and disseminated during 2006.

For the production of the leaflet the overall responsibility is on DEFSec. The content is agreed by the DEF Board. NFPs in the relevant countries organize the translation, publishing and dissemination by keeping the original design. Funds for the leaflet were allocated from the DRP for the international and the national versions.

1.2.2.2. DEF Brochure “Danube and Us”

The Brochure “Danube and Us” is the most comprehensive publication of DEF. It aims to provide information about the Danube Basin, the threats and importance of its ecosystem. The publication intends also to translate on understandable and public acceptable language the results from expert investigations in the Danube Basin area.

The content of the Brochure was developed during 2003 and in 2004 the chapters were collected by DEFSec. The content includes 6 chapters – prepared by experts from different countries – Wetlands, Agriculture, Regulations (DEF experts from Slovenia); the domestic pollution (expert from Romania); navigation in Danube River Basin (review of current situation and proposed sustainable future steps, by Bulgarian journalist); mining projects and power generating – source of environmental hazard in the Danube Watershed (expert from Serbia and Montenegro) and industry as point source of pollution (presenting results from ICPDR WFD Roof Report 2004, adopted by Bulgarian journalist). The preface to the brochure is written by Mr. Philip Weller, ICPDR Executive Secretary.

The brochure “Danube and Us” contains 50 pages and was issued by DEFSec in 2005. The preparation and editing process was supported by NFP Slovenia, NFP Bulgaria and the DEF WPT coordinator.

DRP provided financial support for printing and distribution the brochure in 11 relevant national languages from the Danube countries. NFPs were responsible for organizing translation, editing and printing in the countries. The process of national publishing was postponed, in order to print the brochure with the new design and layout during 2006. At the end of the DRP period NFPs are distributing the national versions in their countries. According to the responses of beneficiaries – even after the delay, the brochure comes in support of the forth-coming process for public consultations in the countries concerning the draft of the Danube RBMP.

1.2.2.3. DEF Wetlands Poster

In support of the public participation and communication activities DEF prepared and published poster on water pollution and its prevention in the Danube River Basin. The poster contains informative texts under the title “The Danube – Interlinked fates and responsibilities”. In order to promote and encourage the regional approach and commitment, information on easy understandable for the public form is given: about nutrient pollution and linkages with the ecosystems in risk; about significance of wetlands; economical and environmental importance of floodplains. Together with reach visual elements like photos and a map of the Danube River Basin, the poster underlines the role of every citizen for protection and conservation of the Danube heritage.

The DEF Wetlands Poster was agreed during the DEF Board meeting in April 2004 and printed in English version in May 2004 in 1000 copies. The process of editing and consultation with NFPs was lead by DEFSec, and the responsibility for layout and printing was on NFP Slovenia.

During DRP Phase 2 the DEF Wetlands Poster was published in 11 languages of the relevant participating countries in the period 2004-2005. For the translation, editing, organization of printing and distribution on national level the NFPs were responsible and the DRP provided for this financial support.

DEF Wetland Poster was broadly used by the Secretariat and NFPs to promote the regional RBM approach and protection of Danube ecosystems. It was used as publicity material within the DEF Wetland Campaign during the Green Week in Brussels (2004) and further during all international and national DEF events. It is very much appreciated by general public, schools teachers and pupils, but also by representatives of relevant national water and nature related administrations who are using the poster for raising ecological awareness.

1.2.2.4. DEF Photo Competition "Danube" publication

The purpose of this competition is to present nature, culture and threats to the Danube river basin, and to increase the commitment to and participation in nature protection. DEF developed the idea and rules during 2004 and negotiated with possible supporters intending to connect the photo competition with the Danube Day celebrations for 2005.

The first DEF Photo Competition "Danube" was launched in the beginning of 2005. The winners were selected and announced in June and exhibition was organized in October in Budapest. Entries from 9 countries have been received, which is success for the first year of such competition. The standard of pictures was very good.

A promotional publication was issued, containing the winner's works. This very qualitative and stylish brochure was used to present the heritage of the Danube area, but also to demonstrate the cooperation among various stakeholders like the ICPDR, the UNDP/GEF DRP, European Commission and DEF - the implementing organization.

The first photo competition was quite successful and DEF supported by ICPDR and DRP organized in 2006 second one. The organization of both rounds and the issuing of the publication were coordinated by DEF Sec in collaboration with NFP Slovenia. By the second competition the organizers were not satisfied by the number of the entries. The selection of the winner was carried out at the end of 2006 and winners were announced on the International Wetlands Day 2007, 2nd February. Winner's works are presented on the new DEF web-site.

Both the promotional publication and the web-site presentation are oriented to involve general public in Danube ecosystem protection process.

1.2.2.5. DEF Brochure "Wetlands in River Basin Management"

The Brochure "Wetlands in River Basin Management" finalizes the set of DEF publications in the framework of the DRP. It addresses one of the most sensitive and important for pollution reduction element of the water environment. DEF aims to provide understandable for broad public information and explanations about ecological and functional significance of wetland ecosystems for water resource management.

The brochure was developed by DEF WPT, presenting the knowledge gathered during the project implementation, previous and additional expertise and practical experience in restoration and management of various wetlands. The DEFSec in Bratislava coordinated the preparation of the content, consultation with experts and WPT and organized printing.

Following main issues are included in the content: importance of wetlands for water resource management, including definitions and functions and values for hydrology, water quality, food chain support or habitats; wetlands within the WFD, including explanation of the relation of wetlands and the type of the ecosystems according the WFD; integrating wetlands into day-to-day river basin management, including proposals for relevant measures on wetlands in accordance with the WFD instruments. The brochure is illustrated with photos and scheme in order to demonstrate the diversity of the wetlands in the Danube Basin.

DEF Brochure "Wetlands in River Basin Management" was published in English language at the end of 2006 and translated and disseminated on 11 relevant languages in the Danube countries in the beginning of 2007. The NFPs were responsible for the implementation of the activity and further dissemination of the publication in their relevant national networks and countries.

1.2.3. Organize training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (Activity 3.1.4.)

1.2.3.1. Training materials on EU-WFD implementation and Public Participation

Training materials for the second DEF International training were oriented to encourage development of local and national actions and projects and exchange of knowledge and skills within the DEF Network. DEFSec in consultation with the Board members identified and invited for lecturers experts and specialists with various qualifications. Participants were introduced in details to the EU-WFD and its implementation, different guidance documents and manuals.

Examples for realized local actions for sustainable management and use of water and wetland ecosystem were presented by experts from Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. Public participation techniques and communication skills were presented in interactive form. Based on the information presented training materials in English were prepared and distributed among participants and NFPs. Lecturers and participants actively contributed to the finalization of the content. The material is available only in electronic version and in English language and can be obtained after request.

Training materials from the WPT training programme are also developed and available from DEFSec in English and electronic version on CD.

1.2.3.2. Training of Trainers workshop

The first International Training was organized in November 2002 in Vinicne, Slovakia with topic Wetland Restoration and Nutrient Reduction. 12 representatives from 11 countries were trained on theoretical and practical experience. In addition special session on training techniques was provided by DRP expert. The participants became main organizers and lecturers on the following national workshops.

The second International Training took place in November 2003, in Obrenovac, Serbia and Montenegro with topic EU-WFD implementation and Public Participation and communication. 20 representatives from 12 DEF member organizations were trained in order to improve their skills and knowledge about good participatory practices concerning water protection and management and Danube ecosystems. Many examples of successful practices in the individual countries exist. But however the principles for dissemination of these model activities have to be improved. Using this approach DEF aims to encourage actions and initiatives on local and sub-basin level.

Training on campaign organization, communication and promotion of the NGO network was provided by DRP communication consultants. It took part in November 2005 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Two representatives from each DEF country participated and learned about various specific tools and approaches to organize campaigns and involve target groups. This session was oriented to support national DEF networks for the implementation of the forthcoming wetland campaign.

In December 2006 the Board members and the WPT coordinators were trained on use and maintenance of the new designed DEF web site. The aim of the session was to allow easy, correct and fast maintenance of the webpage. In this way DEF will be able to support and further develop its most valuable and important communication tool, even with low financial sources.

1.2.3.3. DEF WPT Trainings

DEF aims to have strong NGO representatives at national level that are lobby for effective implementation of the EU WFD. In the framework of a common project with WWF DCP a series of 3 international trainings were held in 2004. The aim of the trainings was to transfer knowledge and experience from the WWF to the DEF members. The first training was in June 2004 in Devin, Slovakia and the topic was policy issues in the EU WFD. The second training (October 2004 in Davod, Slovakia) was oriented to identification of overall role of NGOs and specific DEF priorities in the WFD implementation process. The third seminar (December 2004, Pavlov, Czech Republic) focused on the formulation of tasks and priority areas of activities within the DEF WPT. WWF offices around Europe were invited to make presentations related to topics. As a result the DEF Water Policy Team was established and NGO representatives were nominated in 3 working groups (WG): Wetland WG, Heavily Modified Water Bodies WG and Public Participation WG.

Planning and experience exchange meeting of the WPT, DEF Board members and selected representatives from DEF member organizations took place in November 2005. The aim was consultations among the participants on further involvement in main water policy initiatives on national level with special focus on the relations between EU water policy, designation and protection of Natura 2000 sites and agricultural practices. DEF will to encourage sustainable agricultural practice and in this way nutrient pollution reduction and protection of the natural ecosystems. The activity will be relevant not only for the EU member and accession countries, but examples can be applied also in all Danube countries.

During last project year the WPT carried consultation meeting on hydro-morphology in June 2006 in Baja, Hungary. The meeting was oriented to increase the capacity of the members to respond and promote considerations of heavily modified water bodies, canalization and deterioration projects and their importance to the WFD implementation in the Danube Basin. The working group developed the DEF statement on the topic. On national level DEF members were encourage to more active communicate sustainable approaches to the relevant water managers and responsible institutions for the development of the RBMP.

DEF WPT members provided advice and actively participated at the defining the main priorities of the activities for year 2007. During the Boar meeting discussion in December 2006 projects, campaigns and potential financing sources were identified. Based on this discussion session workshop during the GA in February was planned and prepared.

WPT workshop in February 2007, was in parallel with the planning of DEF activities during the DEF GA in Miskolc, Hungary. All DEF participants had the opportunity to contribute in several working groups that were lead by WPT member. The tasks of the workshop groups were to develop more detailed proposal for project application on the preliminary selected topics. Cooperative initiatives and further partnership was discussed and proposals made on: floodplain forest protection; Danube navigation; Cross border cooperation in Central Danube (Kopacki rit NP, Duna-Drava NP, Gornje Podunavlje SNR); wetland conservation, Natura 2000 and WFD (focus Tisza river basin); sustainable flood risk management in the lower Danube Basin; sustainable development in the Danube-Drava floodplain; water and climate issues; public participation and influencing the environment policy decision making.

1.2.3.4. National Workshops

In the final stage of the implementation of DRP NFPs in the 11th relevant countries carried out series of national workshops, seminars, training sessions and consultation meetings. Trainers and members of DEF WPT aimed to strengthen cooperation on national level with various stakeholders. Topics of these events vary according the national needs: improvement of public involvement and participation capacities, implementation of integrated river basin management approach, application of the EU environment policies and legislation, involvement of young people and development of school education and awareness programmes. These national

workshops took part at the end of 2005 and beginning of 2006. *Further details can be obtained from the attached reports in Annexes 5 and 6.*

1.2.3.5. Contribution to REG Small Grant Programme and DRP Component 3.4

DRP Component 3.2. – Small Grant Programme was from essential importance for the DEF Network. DEF representatives were involved in the process of design of the programme, announcement on national level and information provision to the interested stakeholders. During the evaluation of the proposals DEF benefited from the opportunity to participate at the Expert Boards on national and regional level. In this case the relevant DEF representatives gained experience in project planning and management, as well in evaluation procedures. Many DEF member organizations applied for and implemented national and cooperative projects.

DEF representatives from 5 countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia) contributed to DRP Component 3.4. "Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision making". DEF played role in the establishment of the national teams, facilitating trainings, providing expertise, implementing model activities, preparation proposals for publications. DEF members were trained on successful public participation practices and active contributed to the national workshops and regional seminars. DEF representatives took part in two study trips to USA and the Netherlands. The DRP component 3.4 played significant role for the further capacity building within the national DEF networks and increasing expertise on public participation related issues.

1.2.3.6. EU Enlargement Conference

In April 2005, DEF organized the EU Enlargement Conference in Bulgaria with the aim to build the capacities of NGOs in Danube countries, to support them in encouraging state representatives to accept and follow the new system of European governance. The event provided a forum for experience exchange and strengthens cooperation in policy actions among DEF members. The conference focused on 3 topics of environmental policy related to DEF activities: EU WFD, Natura 2000 and agri-environment issues. Several key speeches were presented by colleagues from other European networks that are strongly involved in influencing European environmental policies (EEB, WWF, CEE Bankwatch, BirdLife).

All NGOs that participated at the conference, benefited from the provided practical experience and discussions. Further this reflected in the development of the working planes and design of DEF Wetland campaign.

2. LESSONS LEARNED

The Danube Regional Project represented a big challenge and in the same time great opportunity for the Danube Environmental Forum. DRP supported regional, national and local activities of the DEF Network that at the start of the Project was almost newly established regional NGO platform. The UNDP/GEF initiative build cooperation capacities among DEF members and structures in order to become regionally functioning and influencing processes in the Danube Basin area.

Chapter 2 of the present report summarizes the problems and evaluation of the results accessed by the representatives of DEF NFPs and the staff at the DEF Secretariat.

2.1. Problems and challenges encountered

The main problems and challenges that DEF Network, its Board and Secretariat, and the national organizations meet during the implementation of the DRP are from managerial and operational type; qualification and expertise available; in the field of strategic planning and management of regional NGO structure and securing its fundraising and sustainability. The problematic topics are summarized below:

1. Managerial and operational problems and challenges – these are organizational issues met during the day-to-day activities. Among them are changes in NFPs, selection of NFPs, growth of the network, change of Secretariat, implementing the reporting and evaluation procedures, lack of managerial skills, some difficulties in the financing of the planned activities. The problems were overcome by flexible response of other NFPs and DEFSec staff, provided support from DEF Board members and gaining skill by learning during implementation of the project.
2. Level of qualification and expertise available – the broad scope of priority activities of DEF to be implemented in 13 countries with different conditions raised problems and became the main challenge. This includes the number and diversity specialization of the experts contributing to DEF; their activeness on international level; not sufficient funds to attract them/or to involve qualitative expertise for the on-going activities and planes of the network, to influence policies and to respond on “hot issues”. In some cases small or lack of expertise was encountered, especially when DEF tries to implement new and innovative methods for ecosystems protection and management. In order to overcome these problems DEF invited experts and implemented common projects with international partners and recognizable NGOs like WWF, EEB, IUCN.
3. Strategic planning and management of regional NGO network – DEF network consists from large number of organizations that have various level of experience and operate in very diverse conditions. In some of the participating countries lack or small experience in strategic planning was encountered. The network met its biggest challenge to unite the planning process and efforts, based on various socio-economic conditions in the 13th participating countries. This reflected the quality of the overall DEF strategic documents. DEF Board initiated and facilitated many discussions in order to provide the needed timeframe for development the DEF Network nationally and regionally.
4. Securing fundraising and sustainability of DEF Network. DEF is relevant large but in same time young NGO network. Some of the national networks met the problem with not sufficient financial sustainability and lack of qualified staff. The main challenge during the DRP implementation and further still remains to secure sustainable fundraising for the overall DEF Network operation and communication. On national and sub-regional level successful solution was identified and NFPs implement cooperative projects and initiatives. It is not that easy to overcome the problem for the whole network and because of this reason DEF accepted its new fundraising strategy for complex approach for involvement project based funding and accepting corporate support in specific cases.

The above mentioned problems are recognized by the DEF Board and Secretariat, as well by the DEF member organizations. They were addressed during the planning at the last DEF GA in February 2007 by adopting new DEF Fundraising Strategy and member organizations and DEFSec started its implementation.

2.2. The extent to which the objectives of the project were met and overview of the results

DEF, its structures and staff addressed all strategic objectives set in work plan for the DRP output 3.1. Activities and efforts were oriented to achieve visible, recognizable and tangible results on regional and national scale as following:

- > To influence sustainable development in the Danube Region DEF secured participations at forums, programmes and initiatives and developed cooperation with governmental structures and institutions;
- > To enhance cooperation and communication among stakeholders DEF demonstrated possibilities and provided opportunities for ideas exchange and better understanding of environmental problems in Danube River Basin by providing information and building partnership with representatives of governments, businesses, media and local stakeholders;
- > To ensure public participation DEF promoted mechanisms and successful practices for participation and influence the decision-making concerning water management in the Danube region;
- > To increase awareness and build new attitude to environment DEF provided information and access to innovative methods for pollution reduction, management of ecosystems and wise use of natural resources by developing and implementing comprehensive training and awareness programme for broad target groups of local and national stakeholders;
- > To protect natural values in the Danube Region DEF in cooperation with local stakeholders realized small scale apply ecological projects for conservation and management of the ecosystems. DEF representatives are active involved in the implementation of sustainable floods management programmes on national and regional level;
- > To develop consistent communication strategy and effectively disseminate information and awareness DEF cooperated with DRP team and supported public participation, PR and communication activities of ICPDR Secretariat, including active contribution to the International Danube Day celebration.

In the course of the activities implemented within DRP, following main results were achieved:

- > Skills in management of regional network were gained and developed to the level of self sustainable organization. Strengthened was also the cooperation among the national members of DEF;
- > Effective communication and information dissemination system was established and is continuously used. DEF member organizations and partner NGO community were the main beneficiaries, but decision makers were also encouraged and recognised the advantages of regional cooperation.
- > Improved expertise of members in order to become partners/consultants on public participation and implementation of innovative and effective practices for management of the water/river ecosystems, wetlands, and pollution prevention.
- > Creation of sub-basin and sub-regional networks, multi-lingual publications, project proposals, information collection and dissemination, advocacy works and co-organization of important meetings. Dissemination of regional important information to the general public in the relevant countries and to the relevant stakeholders.
- > Support with information, awareness, expertise, consultation on sustainable practices for various stakeholders – local NGOs, local administrations, school pupils and educators, journalists. DEF established it network of local partners and successfully cooperates with them.
- > Internationally DEF was recognised as significant NGO network in the Danube area.

2.3. The appreciation of the target groups/beneficiaries. Evaluation of the activities and impact of the DEF activities

In order to access the appreciation of the target groups and evaluate the impact of the DEF activities within the DRP project plane, the DEFSec prepared evaluation form and collected the filled forms from the DEF NFPs.

First step of the evaluation procedure was to access the effectiveness of the activities, as follow:

1. Support for the DEF Network and its structures, including operational costs of the DEFSec and activities related to DEF organization.
 - As satisfactory were accessed the DEF Bulletin, summarizing national information and distribution among the network, reconstruction of the web-site and its new design, management and facilitation of the Danube Art Master competition and communication and cooperation concerning the Danube day celebration. Organizational matters as carrying out DEF Board meetings, meetings of Water Policy Team, General Assembly, coordination and publishing of leaflets and other small information materials and day-to-day work of the DEFSec were also appreciated;
 - Relevant not quite satisfactory were accessed the initial maintenance of the DEF multi-lingual web-site and the extend of development of DEF e-mail conferences.
2. Support the building of capacities for the DEF Network to undertake activities to improve the DRB environment including promotion of mechanism of partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management in the Danube region.
 - As satisfactory were accessed strengthening the national DEF networks, building partnerships and improved communication with governmental organizations and other different stakeholders on national scale. High were also accessed the organization of initiatives concerning "hot issues", sub-regional and sub-basin activities, participation at other DRP components and different water forums, as well the opportunity to contribute to ICPDR expert groups;
 - Not quite satisfactory is the assessment concerning the number of articles in the national media, the stage of development of the Water Policy Team and its involvement in initiatives at national level. Cross-sector linkages and promotion of sustainable initiatives between water management issues, protected sites, wetlands and floods risk

- management and agricultural policy were still not sufficient and became object of follow-up projects.
3. Organize training, workshop on toxic and nutrient substances, WFD, Public participation and communication, Wetland issues.
 - Almost satisfactory and satisfactory were evaluated the trainings on water policy topics, the prepared training materials and the national trainings, relevant national consultation meetings and wetland workshops and campaign. The evaluation provided by the participants at national level is average also high.
 4. Publishing special NGO publications in national languages on nutrient and toxic reduction topics.
 - Publishing and distribution of DEF poster, brochure "Danube and us", Wetlands and river basin management brochure were very much appreciated by the DEF member organizations, but also by different stakeholders and beneficiaries.
 5. Activities related to DEF organization.
 - As satisfactory and successful were pointed the processes of preparation and distribution of DEF leaflets, development of the new logo and branding materials, drafting and discussion of the new fundraising strategy and the pre-registration of the DEF members.
 - With not quite satisfactory was pointed the process of transition the DEF Secretariat to Hungary. This was extreme difficult situation for the network, but the Board undertook the necessary steps to overcome the problems.

Second step in the evaluation procedure was by results and outputs.

1. Strengthening the DEF network and structures.
 - Work of DEFSec in Bratislava was grade as very satisfactory, but also the DEFSec in Baja was evaluated as almost satisfactory;
 - Training of DEF members and relevant partner organizations – average number of trained persons in the relevant countries is up to 200 people and the majority of the participants assessed the trainings as useful and worth organized;
 - Capacity to participate at various regional events/workshops is evaluated at reasonable level (3 from 5 max. points);
 - Cooperation with other stakeholders on national level - reasonable level (3 from 5 max. points);
 - Fundraising capacity of NFPs and member organizations for relevant country - reasonable level (3 from 5 max. points);
 - NGO publications by country and public respond - reasonable level (3 from 5 max. points). *Numbers of the publications vary by countries and specific needs.*
2. Cooperation, involvement and contribution of stakeholders.
 - Importance of different stakeholders for implementation of DEF activities (rate between 0 and 5):
 - As good (3,5-5) was rated the cooperation with relevant responsible ministry for water management issues and with the DEF member organizations;
 - As reasonable (2,5-3,5) – the cooperation with other ministries, local authorities, experts, farmer's community, other national and international NGOs and media;
 - As poor (0-2,5) – the cooperation with business organizations;
 - On the international level – with rate good was pointed the importance of the ICPDR.
 - Cooperativeness/readiness to share information by different stakeholders for implementation of DEF activities (rate between 0 and 5):

- As good (3,5-5) was rated the cooperativeness by farmer's community and DEF member organizations;
- As reasonable (2,5-3,5) – the cooperativeness by relevant water issue ministry, other ministries, local authorities, experts, other national and international NGOs, media;
- As poor (0-2,5) – the cooperativeness by business organizations and/or associations;
- On the international level the cooperativeness by ICPDR was rate as reasonable.
- Quality of input by different stakeholders for implementation of DEF activities (rate between 0 and 5):
 - As reasonable (2,5-3,5) was rated the input from relevant water management ministries, other ministries and national institutions, local authorities, experts, farmer's community, DEF member organizations, other international NGOs and media;
 - As poor (0-2,5) – the input from business organizations and/or associations and other national NGOs;
 - On international level the input from ICPDR and DRP Project team was rate as good (3,5-5).

The results from the evaluation vary from country to country with very small differences. For example, where changes in the NFP occurred, there were difficulties in management of day-to-day communication and development of the national networks. Extend to that the objectives were achieved concerning involvement and cooperation with stakeholders from institutions and local interested parties also vary. This is understandable and acceptable and according the assessment of the DEF Board satisfactory results were observe, but much important – this is very good base for follow-up activities.

2.4. The sustainability of the project results

The achieved by DEF results during the implementation of the Danube Regional Project enables the NGO community more effective to influence environment policies and processes to sustainable development. To cooperate and communicate with various relevant stakeholders and to facilitate public participation in decision-making concerning water related issues; to implement innovative methods for pollution reduction and conservation natural values. In this way DEF is able to apply coherent regional approach and support the protection of Danube and Black Sea ecosystems.

DEF Network acts locally, nationally and regionally. The fully operational DEFSec in close cooperation with DEF Board is basic tool for regionally functioning network. While the DEF NFPs and national member networks cover small scale and public oriented initiatives. The network is unified by common communication, management, reporting and fundraising programme and strategic documents. This will allow the continuation and further development of sub-regional and sub-basin target oriented, cooperative projects and initiatives.

DEF members and interested relevant stakeholders gained knowledge and expertise in sustainable practices like wetlands managements and pollution reduction, management of flood risk and implementation of specific public involvement and consultation tools. This allows the relevant member organizations, national networks and the DEF at whole to promote benefits for local stakeholders through development of projects on local, national and sub-basin level.

Further more DEF members will take active position in the pollution prevention and protection of natural ecosystems in the Lower Danube Basin area and the Black Sea region. Communication and cooperation with ICPDR and other relevant Europe and Danube based international institutions will continue to be main focus for DEF, giving opportunity to influence river basin management process, implementation of the EU water legislation, prevention or alternate nature destructive projects and continuously raising awareness for wise use of the Danube Basin resources.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Overall conclusion with regard to the project

The DRP objective for strengthening the public involvement in decision making and reinforcement community actions for pollution reduction and protection of ecosystems became ambitious challenge for DEF. DEF Network successfully developed its operational structures and applied innovative public participation approaches. Thus DEF build regionally acting NGO community with respect of the national and local differences in the 13th Danube Convention countries. DEF members gained skills and expertise for more effective contribution to regional policies and support of local stakeholders. DEF appraises the implementation and finalization of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project as a positive and successful initiative.

In the same time DEF network is still young NGO network and further improvement of the internal management, evaluation and reporting skills is needed. It is also necessary to improve the involvement of the national organisations and to increase their responsibilities concerning the fundraising and sustainability of the DEF network.

3.2. The extent to which the project can be multiplied

The Danube Regional Project and particularly its output 3.1.: "Support for institutional development of NGOs and community involvement" is unique action of UNDP/GEF. It can not be simple multiply, mainly because the Danube Basin is special and the most international river basin in the world. But certain project activities and approaches can be beneficiary for different small or middle scale communities or river basin territories. They are as follow:

- > Gained experience and applied communication approach, training approach, individual approach to relevant national and local problems with connection to the regional topic;
- > Developed internal procedures and templates, flexible approach for communication and decision taking within the DEF network, and the cost effective management of the network;
- > The Network delivered planned national activities in the context of basin-wide initiatives. DEF became well recognized on national level through implementation of applied restoration and pollution prevention activities;
- > DEF recognised its important role on acting mainly on local level, providing awareness and expertise to broad range of local stakeholders and involve them in decision making processes and regional cooperation;
- > DEF developed its own and very specific specialization and expertise system. From one side - transfer of expertise and partnership with various institutions on national and international level. In same time also providing expertise, consultations and advice from DEF Network to institutions: on national level DEF representatives became leading environment NGOs in the stakeholder consultation process concerning the Danube RBMP development.

3.3. The potential or planned for follow-up

During Phase 2 of DRP and in the course of the evaluation of project results DEF was involved in many national initiatives, recognized new stakeholders needs and further developed its vision statement. In long term prospective DEF will develop its activities locally with strong focus on sub-basin, but also Danube area level. DEF will continue to unify NGOs and stakeholders from all 13th Danube countries with carefully taking in consideration the different socio-economic conditions in them. In same time DEF will keep the mail stones for implementation of the EU WFD, development and application of the Danube RBMP and sustainable use of the natural resources.

In short term DEF member organizations will further strengthen the communication and partnership in the Network and will work for improvement the level of the expertise and services available.

DEF activities are oriented to sub-regional (sub-basin) cooperation, according to the needs and readiness of the stakeholders. The identified areas for common projects are the Morava-Dyje Floodplains, Danube Delta and the Drava and Sava region, the Prut and Tisza rivers.

DEF plans to further develop and strengthen its activities in order to influence development policies and alternate nature destructive projects like inland navigation, floods managements, EU legislation implementation.

DEF members will continue to implement participatory practices in order to encourage involvement of relevant stakeholders, influence of decision-making process and improve the consultations concerning water management.

In order to further demonstrate innovative and sustainable practices DEF will continue to applied pollution prevention and nature protection actions on local level in combination with comprehensive awareness raising and education programmes.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1	DEF Inception Report - 2002
ANNEX 2	DEF Report for Phase 1 - 2003
ANNEX 3	DEF Final Report Phase 1 - 2004
ANNEX 4	DEF Report Phase 2 - 2005
ANNEX 5	DEF Report Phase 2 - 2006
ANNEX 6	DEF Report Phase 2 - 2007
ANNEX 7	DEF Publications and Documents - provided on CD

ANNEX 1

DEF INCEPTION REPORT - 2002

UNDP-GEF Danube Regional Project

Danube Environmental Forum involvement in the project: Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in The Danube River Basin

Phase 1

Objective 3: Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision making and reinforcement of community actions for pollution reduction and the protection of ecosystems

Project component 3.1: Support for institutional development of NGOs and community involvement

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Abbreviations

DEF – Danube Environmental Forum
DRB – Danube River Basin
DRP – Danube Regional Project
ECCG – Eco-Counseling Center Galati
EG – Expert group
GEF – Global Environmental Facility
GO – Governmental organisation
ICPDR – International Commission for Protection of Danube River
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
NGO – Non-governmental organization
REC – Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
SGP – Small Grants Program
STG – Steering Group Meeting
UNDP – United Nations Development Program
WWF – World Wildlife Fund

Project Summary

Project of the Governments of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ukraine

The long-term development objective of the Danube Regional Project, being financed by UNDP/GEF, is to contribute to sustainable development in the Danube River Basin. This will be accomplished by reinforcing the capacities of the participating countries in regional co-operation and co-ordination efforts in order to ensure the protection of international waters, and the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity.

The main goal of the DRP is to strengthen many of the structures and activities already in place in the basin, building on what is there and lessons learned, and facilitating a regional approach. A key focus is strengthening the capacity of the *International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)* and Danube countries to fulfil their legally binding commitment to implement the *Danube Convention*. This now includes the development of a *River Basin Management Plan* in line with the EU's *Water Framework Directive*. In fact, all eyes will be on the Danube as it is a test case for implementing the new directive throughout Europe.

Key targets include reducing nutrient pollution and supporting trans-boundary cooperation. Already well under way, the DRP is an umbrella for some 80 activities. These are aimed at improving water supply and other water services, strengthening agricultural policy, providing river basin management tools and protecting wetlands, among others.

The project will be carried out over 5 years with a total budget of 15 million USD. The first phase is currently underway.

Project is subdivided into 2 phases. The specific objective of Phase 1, which has started in 2001 and will run till November 2003, is to prepare and initiate basin-wide capacity-building activities, which will be consolidated in the Phase 2 of the Project. Phase 2 will be implemented during the years 2003 – 2006, building up on the results achieved in the Phase 1. *The Danube Environmental Forum (DEF)* an umbrella network of Danube NGOs, is specifically involved in component 3 of the DRP.

The following project components have been designed:

- (1) Creation of sustainable ecological conditions for land use and water management;
- (2) Capacity building and reinforcement of transboundary co-operation for the improvement of water quality and environmental standards in the Danube River Basin;
- (3) Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision making and reinforcement of community actions for pollution reduction and protection of ecosystems;
- (4) Reinforcement of monitoring, evaluation and information systems to control transboundary pollution, and to reduce nutrients and harmful substances.

2. DEF Mission

"To protect the Danube River and its tributaries, their biodiversity and resources, through enhancing co-operation among governments, non-governmental organisations, local people and all stakeholders in Danube river basin towards sustainable use of natural ecosystems."

The DEF will carry out this mission through the creation of a Danube River basin wide platform of non-governmental organisations that have a common understanding and approach in working towards the environmental protection of the Danube River.

DEF's effort will focus on reinforcing information exchange and co-operation among international bodies, national institutions, the NGO community and the public sector. Through this cooperation combined efforts will lead to the sustainable development of the Danube river basin.

DEF will carry out this mission also by ensuring NGO participation in international governmental forums and initiatives, such as the ICPDR, and the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project. By means of the NGO platform, the DEF will participate in the implementation of the water protection conventions and legislation, Water Framework Directive and others.

DEF shall promote sustainable financial mechanisms in order to ensure permanent NGO representation in international Danube River related governmental programs.

3. Vision (by 2006)

By 2006, the Danube Environmental Forum will be a well known and respected body concerning Danube protection in each Danube country, both on the non-governmental and governmental level, as well as among international organisations and agencies.

DEF will be accepted by and will send representatives to different bodies of the ICPDR and other international institutions. DEF will actively contribute to the decision-making process on both the regional and national level and its activities will be effectively linked to the initiatives of other international organizations (such as WWF, REC, IUCN).

DEF will provide support and services to the NGOs in order to enhance effective, quick and proper information-flow inside the network as well as among the DEF network and other groups of stakeholders. This support will allow the number and expertise of members to increase and their capacity to be strengthened for future actions towards enhancement of sustainable development in DRB. Strong national networks of mutually co-operating DEF member NGOs will be developed and their statements and positions will be expressed on various expert forums and through media events. DEF initiatives and activities will be enlarged and a detailed fundraising strategy has been developed and implemented. DEF structure and functions will be based on the development of region-wide (upper, middle and lower basin) as well as Danube wide projects, lead and implemented by the DEF network and focused especially on capacity building in 3 priority areas of the DEF (wetland restoration, public participation, environmental policy).

5. DEF Priority Areas

Public awareness and environmental education

Environmental education and dissemination of environmental information is a very effective tool in influencing public attitudes towards environmental problems and helps the public pressure institutions responsible for the implementation of adopted legislation, conventions and strategies.

DEF intends to provide and actively disseminate information and to develop a consistent communication strategy about the state of environment in the Danube River Basin. By developing this consistent communication strategy public awareness and NGO capacities will be raised, and at the same time will ensure public participation in environmental decision-making in water management. Information sharing and educational processes are of utmost importance at a local level, with regional and international impacts for specific watersheds.

Policy

The EU enlargement process and economic transformations in Central and Eastern Europe are bringing new opportunities for conservation activities and sustainable development in the Danube River basin. The overall process is influenced by the number of international, national and regional policies, initiatives and activities.

DEF seeks to integrate NGO participation and provide input in existing forums. Through influencing legislation and policies, strengthening NGO co-operation and encouraging the active participation of locals in decision-making processes, DEF aims to protect natural resources and implement sustainable management measures in the Danube River basin.

Restoration and management of wetlands

Wetlands are among the most endangered habitats in the world. They play a crucial role in sustaining biodiversity, are a means for removing nutrients from water, act as a purification system for drinking water, protect land against floods and are considered to be the most productive ecosystems in the world (biomass production). Wetland habitats in the Danube River basin have been drastically affected in the last few decades. 80% of the wetland area in the Danube basin has been lost since 1900, due to the straightening of the river, the construction of dams, the change of former wetlands into agricultural lands, etc..

The knowledge, experience and capacity of NGOs create a strong potential for the development of small-scale wetland restoration activities in the Danube region. These activities would focus on the identification of priority sites and the practical implementation of management measures leading to the preservation of endangered small-scale wetland habitats which support a wide variety of fauna and

flora species. DEF experts will elaborate the main principles for the restoration of wetlands and give recommendations how to achieve the expressed goals and then select model areas to implement the recommended principles.

DRP supporting DEF future development

In light of the DEFs aim, mission and future vision identified in the DEF strategy and based on the role of DEF Network in the Danube Regional Project the following project activities have been planned and agreed upon:

- The support of DEF operation, communication and information management is based on the establishment of DEF office and a fully operational DEF Secretariat. The existence and a flexible functioning of a DEF Secretariat is a basic precondition to fulfil the DEF mission and coordinate the communication within the network.
- The communication inside DEF network but also between DEF members and various stakeholders/target groups will be improved by publishing DEF newsletter, regular updating of the DEF webpage and its translation into national languages of DEF member countries. DEF newsletter will be published in 11 languages as well the translation of the webpage will ensure that the language barrier will not mean an obstacle in distribution of updated information about DEF initiatives and activities in member countries. The already existing DEF leaflet will be updated, translated and printed in English and 11 national languages as well. The broad distribution of all developed informational materials will raise the public awareness about the DEF activities focused especially on pollution reduction and implementation of proper water management measures, what will support the NGO initiatives in all 3 identified DEF priority areas.
- To spread the information about DEF Network initiatives, the DEF Secretariat will be responsible for DEF contribution to Danube Watch and other existing publications on Danube issues. Only through active and effective cooperation with media will the DEF become a well known NGO platform across the Danube river basin. To support this and to maintain the coordinated presence of individual DEF network components the external information exchange procedures and the overall media strategy for DEF will be developed with the help of the NFPs and the DEF Secretariat.
- To enhance the essential co-operation in the area of Danube River Basin new partnerships with other NGO networks and international organisations will be established.
- To ensure the proper representation of DEF in the ICPDR expert groups (Ecology EG, River Basin Management EG, Emission EG) and other international bodies and their initiatives related to transboundary co-operation in the frame of protection of river and wetland ecosystems the DEF expert database will be developed and DEF experts in various fields will be identified.
- In the sense of providing opportunity for the direct coordination of initiatives and activities within the DEF network 2 General Assemblies and 3 Board Meetings will be organised by DEF Secretariat in the frame of the DRP.
- To improve the knowledge and skills of the DEF member NGOs in the area of water pollution reduction the consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrients reduction will be organised. As the first step the training materials related to nutrients reduction will be developed in close co-operation with experts in selected training areas. After that the nominated representatives from 11 countries involved in DRP will be trained on nutrients reduction at the international training of trainers and will be prepared to disseminate the gained knowledge further to the NGOs at the national workshops in their countries. The information gained at the workshops will improve the NGO expertise and will also help the NGOs to fulfil the requirements set by the REC in the Small Grant Programme focused on water pollution reduction.
- One of the activities planned for the Phase 1 of the DRP is preparation of the special NGO publication in national languages of 11 DEF member countries on nutrients reduction. It will be the responsibility of the DEF member NGOs. This publication will enable to disseminate the knowledge gained at the training and workshops among broad public, what will raise the public awareness on

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nutrients reduction issues and will help to develop proper local policies related to water management measures in the field of pollution reduction.

- To strengthen the role of DEF network in the protection of Danube River Basin and to improve the co-operation in national as well as regional projects, training course focused on improvement of NGO expertise in selected fields will be organised by DEF Secretariat and Board.

All the activities listed in the work plan are related to DEF priority areas and are planned with the effort to fulfil the DEF objectives identified in the DEF strategy. The main initiatives are aimed at the DEF priority stakeholders and will be realised by relevant components of the DEF network.

Strategic Objectives

- To influence the sustainable development of the Danube River region by ensuring participation of NGOs in governmental forums, programmes and initiatives and by developing close cooperation with governmental structures.
- To enhance co-operation and encourage communication among local and national NGOs and with governments, businesses, media and local people by providing opportunities to exchange ideas and information in order to build sustainable bridges of understanding and action between people living in the Danube River Basin.
- To ensure public participation and information flow and promote the mechanisms of partnership in the decision-making processes concerning water management within the Danube region.
- To increase awareness and provide access to innovative ideas and effective methods for pollution reduction, management of ecosystems and wise use of natural resources for effective biodiversity conservation.
- To protect natural values of the Danube region and to promote and apply ecological practices for conservation and management of ecosystems.
- To develop a consistent communication strategy with the Danube Regional Project in order to effectively disseminate information and awareness.
- To effectively evaluate the effectiveness of the communication strategy and the impact of educational materials.

DEF Implementation Objectives (See Appendix 1 for activities and implementation steps)

DRP Activity 3.1-1: Provide support to the DEF for operation, communication and information management

DEF Implementation Objectives:

1. To maintain the continuous information flow and experience share among NGOs in DRB and to enhance their capacities for co-operation.
2. To ensure continuous dissemination of information about the DRP and activities of non-governmental sector within it.
3. To provide opportunity for development of effective mechanisms for linking the governmental, non-governmental and public initiatives and activities.
4. To strengthen the communication capacities of all components of the DEF network.

DRP Activity 3.1-2: Organize consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrients and toxic substances

DEF Implementation Objectives

1. To share experiences and build capacities on nutrients reduction among NGOs in DRB.
2. To establish co-operation between ICPDR and DEF experts in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the NGO sector initiatives towards nutrients reduction.
3. To improve NGO project preparation and management skills related to REC Small Grant Programme on nutrients reduction.

DRP Activity 3.1-3: Publish special NGO publications in national languages on nutrients and toxic substances

DEF Implementation Objectives

1.To ensure that the information identified and experiences gained during the GO-NGO experts co-operation and at the NGO trainings will be spread among all the target groups in order to provide opportunity for involvement of various stakeholders into the process of nutrients reduction.

DRP Activity 3.1-4: Organise training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrients reduction)

DEF Implementation Objectives

1.To built NGO expertise on the activities directly or indirectly linked to the process of protection of DRB ecosystems.

2.To encourage replication of successful activities developed by NGOs in individual countries of Danube region.

Appendix 1**DRP Activity 3.1-1: Provide support to the DEF for operation, communication and information management
DEF Activities:**

DEF Specific Activities	Implementation Steps	Specific outputs	Indicators	Responsible	Time frame	Budget item
Establish office and select Secretariat staff	1. ToR for DEF Executive Secretary	Fully operational DEF Secretariat	Activity of DEF Secretariat	Interim DEF Secretariat	April 02	0
	2. Renting office facility					
	3. Buying equipment					
	4. Hiring secretary					
Communication activities	5. Prepare summary of the DRP	DRP summary disseminated in 11 languages	List of webpages, conferences, bulletins, etc., where the DRP summary has been published	Board + Secretariat +NFPs	May-June 02	6
	6. Translation of the summary					
	7. Dissemination of summary through the webpage e-mail conferences, bulletins, etc.					
	8. Preparation of DEF webpage versions in national languages (UKR, HUN, BUL)	DEF webpage in 3 new language versions (UKR, HUN,BUL)	Number of webpage visits	NFPs	Oct 02	1
	9. Develop and update web contents guidelines	Actual information on DEF webpage		Secretariat + DEFYU+NFPs	Monthly	1s, 1
	10. Updating of DEF webpage including DEF e-mail conference					
	11. Update and print DEF leaflet	Updated DEF leaflet printed in 12 languages	Number of disseminated leaflets and distribution list per each country	Secretariat +NFPs	31 Oct 02	1s, 3s, 2
	12. Translate and print DEF leaflet in national languages					2
	13. Disseminate DEF leaflet	Spreading information about DEF network and activities				Secretariat + NFPs + members

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DEF Specific Activities	Implementation Steps	Specific outputs	Indicators	Responsible	Time frame	Budget item
Communication activities	14. Layout and international part of DEF newsletter	DEF newsletter design	Number of issues and printed copies of the DEF newsletters	Secretariat + Board	30 June 02	1s, 3
	15. Issue DEF newsletter (twice a year)	NGO newsletter on Danube related issues		Secretariat + NFPs + members	1st issue by Sept 02	
	16. International press release translated in national languages	Press release in 11 languages	Number of press releases sent to media	Secretariat + NFPs	Twice a year	1s, 9
	17. Development of NGO expert database	DEF expert database	Number of experts and access to the database	Secretariat + NFPs	Sept-Oct 02	1s, 6
	18. Development of questionnaire for the NGO expert database					
	19. Establishment partnerships with other NGO networks	Improved co-operation among NGOs in DRB	Development of common activities and initiatives with other NGO networks	Board + Secretariat	2002-2003	1s, 8
	20. Development of media strategy for DEF	Media strategy&list of media contacts in DEF member countries developed	Increased awareness on DEF and improved co-operation with media in the Danube region	Secretariat + NFPs	March 03	1s, 6
	21. Development of external information exchange procedures	External information exchange strategy	Increased information flow and more effective co-operation between DEF and significant institutions/outside networks	Secretariat + NFPs	March 03	1s, 6
	22. Development of the comprehensive DEF strategy	Draft DEF strategy developed	Level of DEF sustainability	Board + Secretariat	Oct 02	1s, 6

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DEF Specific Activities	Implementation Steps	Specific outputs	Indicators	Responsible	Time frame	Budget item
Operational activities	23. Strengthening the national DEF network	New DEF members accepted, improved communication on national scale	Number of new members in each country, efficiency of communication among DEF members in target country	NFPs	2002-2003	6, 7, 9
	24. Dissemination of the DRP information and ideas	Raised public awareness about the DRP	Distribution list, number of articles in national and local newspapers, etc.	NFPs+members	2002-2003	3, 4, 9
	25. Building partnerships with GO,NGO community and different stakeholders on national scale	Potential DEF partners for the implementation of DRP ideas identified	Number and type of newly established partnerships	NFPs + members	2002-2003	8
	26. Organising DEF Board meeting	DEF Board Meeting	Number of participants at the BM	Interim DEF Secretariat	April 02	0
	27. Preparation of Draft agenda for the General Assembly	GA Agenda prepared	Number of participants at the GA and BM	Secretariat + NFPs + members	Aug-Sept 02	1s, 6s, 9
	28. Commentary on the Draft agenda for the General Assembly					
	29. Organisation of General Assembly + Board meeting	DEF GA + BM		Secretariat + NFPs	Oct-Nov 02	
	30. Organisation of Board meeting	DEF Board Meeting	Number of participants at the BM	Board + Secretariat	Spring 03	1s, 5s
	31. Organisation of General Assembly + Board meeting	DEF GA + BM	Number of participants at the GA and BM	Board + Secretariat	Autumn 03	1s, 6s, 9
32. Participation of DEF representatives at ICPDR working groups (ECO WG, WFD/RBM WG)	Nominated DEF experts to ICPDR WGs	Number of ICPDR WG meetings attended by DEF representatives	Board + Secretariat	Regularly	8s	

DRP Activity 3.1-2: Organize consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrients and toxic substances

DEF Activities

DEF Specific Activities	Implementation Steps	Specific outputs	Indicators	Responsible	Time frame	Budget item
International training of trainers	33. Identify training needs, trainers and target groups	Training needs, trainers and target groups identified	Number of trained trainers	Board + Secretariat (ICPDR input)	31 July 02	1s, 4s, 4
	34. Develop training materials on issues related to nutrients reduction	Training materials developed		Secretariat + NFPs (ICPDR input)	Oct 02	
	35. Organising training for NGO trainers	Training for NGO trainers		Secretariat	Nov 02	
National training for NGOs	36. Translation of training materials in national languages	National trainings for NGOs	Number of NGO representatives trained in each country	NFPs + trainers	28 Feb 03	4
	37. Organising national trainings for NGOs				Apr - May 03	

DRP Activity 3.1-3: Publish special NGO publications in national languages on nutrients and toxic substances
DEF Activities

DEF Specific Activities	Implementation Steps	Specific outputs	Indicators	Responsible	Time frame	Budget item
NGO publication	38. Identify and assess existing materials on nutrients in the countries	Content of NGO publication prepared	Prepared text and layout of the NGO publication	NFPs + members (ICPDR assistance)	Feb -June 03	1s, 7s, 5
	39. Identify target groups for publications					
	40. Prepare the content of publications					
	41. Prepare draft of the publication	Final text version of NGO publication in 12 languages		NFPs + members	Oct-Nov 03	5
	42. Final text version of the publication in national languages					

DRP Activity 3.1-4: Organise training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrients reduction)

DEF Activities:

DEF Specific Activities	Implementation Steps	Specific outputs	Indicators	Responsible	Time frame	Budget item
International training of trainers (WFD, integrated river basin management)	43. Identify training needs and trainers	Training needs and trainers identified	Number of NGO representatives trained in each country	Board + Secretariat	31 July 03	1s, 4s
	44. Develop training materials on issues related to selected topics	Training materials developed		Secretariat + NFPs (ICPDR input)	Sept 03	
	45. Organising training for NGO trainers	Training for NGO trainers		Secretariat	Oct - Nov 03	
46. Evaluation of Project activities in the 1st phase		DRP I.phase report		Secretariat + NFPs	Dec 03	1s, 9

Linkages between DEF Work Plan and Budget

Budget item number	Budget item	Activity number in work-plan
1	Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	8, 9, 10
2	Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	11, 12,
3	Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	14, 15, 24,
4	Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	24, 33-35, 36-37
5	Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	38-40, 41
6	Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	5, 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23
7	National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	23
8	Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	19, 25
9	Overhead/operational costs	13, 16, 23, 24, 27-29, 31, 46
0	Preliminary contract (1 April – 30 June 2002)	1-4, 26

Budget item number	Budget item	Activity covered by the item
1s	Salaries	9, 10, 11, 14-22, 26-31, 33-35, 38-40, 43-45, 46
2s	Operational	13
3s	Preparation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (English version – 3000 copies)(activity 3.1-1)	11, 13
4s	International workshops (2) (activities 3.1-2, 3.1-4)	33-35, 43-45
5s	DEF Board meetings (1) (activity 3.1-1)	26, 30
6s	DEF General Assembly (2) (activity 3.1-1)	27-29, 31
7s	Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction (English version) (activity 3.1-3)	38-40
8s	International travel (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	32

Appendix 3**Budget proposal for DEF Secretariat & DEF Board (USD)**

Activities	Phase 1	2002	2003
Salaries	21600	7200	14400
Operational	12000	4000	8000
Preparation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (English version – 3000 copies)(activity 3.1-1)	1000	1000	-
International workshops (2) (activities 3.1-2, 3.1-4)	10000	5000	5000
DEF Board meetings (1) (activity 3.1-1)	3000		3000
DEF General Assembly (2) (activity 3.1-1)	19000	10000	9000
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction (English version) (activity 3.1-3)	1500	-	1500
International travel (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	6000	2000	4000
Reserve	6000	4000	2000
Total	87600	33200	46900

Salaries

Name	Position	Man/month	Rate in USD	Phase 1	2002	2003
Monika Kovacova	Technical Secretary	17	700	11900	4200	7700
Helena Carska	Consultation Assistance	3	1000	3000	-	3000
Jan Seffer	BM responsible for Secretariat	1	1700	1700	850	850
Riki Watzka	Graphic designer	2	1000	2000	1000	1000
Daniela Schnablova	Financial management	3	1000	3000	1150	1850
Total				21600	7200	14400

Appendix 4**Budget proposal for DEF National Focal Points (USD)****Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	1000	500	500	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	900	900	-	<i>500 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	600	200	400	<i>250x3copies</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	6000	600	5400	<i>40 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	500	-	500	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1500	900	600	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	1000	-	1000	<i>50 participants</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1000	400	600	
Overhead/operational costs	500	300	200	
Total Bosnia-Herzegovina	13000	3800	9200	

Bulgaria

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	1320	400	920	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	600	600	-	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	1000	200	800	<i>1st issue - 100 copies; 2nd and 3rd issues - 200 copies each</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	3685	300	3385	<i>50-60 participants/2 days</i>

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Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	600	-	600	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	5000	2000	3000	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	1900	500	1400	<i>1st year - 2 meetings/10 people; 2nd year - 6 meetings/15 people; all meetings/1 day - meetings of DEF members and meetings with stakeholders in the different sub-basins</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1245	415	830	
Overhead/operational costs	1500	500	1000	
Total Bulgaria	16850	4915	11935	

Croatia

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	-	-	-	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	1000	1000	-	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	2000	1000	1000	<i>500 copies</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	2500	-	2500	<i>25 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	500	-	500	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1300	300	1000	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	500	-	500	<i>30 participants</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	2100	300	1800	
Overhead/operational costs	1200	200	1000	
Total Croatia	11100	2800	8300	

Czech Republic

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	700	200	500	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	600	600	0	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	2000	700	1300	<i>3x300 copies</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	2500	500	2000	<i>60 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	850	200	650	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	2100	300	1800	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	1000	500	500	<i>2x30 participants</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	700	200	500	
Overhead/operational costs	900	300	600	
Total Czech Republic	11350	3500	7850	

Hungary

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	1 000	500	500	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	3 500	3 500	-	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	1 400	500	900	<i>1000 copies</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	1 400	500	1400	<i>50 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	500	-	500	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	800	200	600	

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National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	800	200	600	<i>5-10 members</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	700	200	500	
Overhead/operational costs	900	300	600	
Total Hungary	11500	5 900	5600	

Republic of Moldova

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	450	150	300	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	800	800	-	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	1450	450	1000	<i>250 copies per issue</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	1400	250	1150	<i>30 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	1000	300	700	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1000	300	700	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	1800	600	1200	<i>1 meeting - 15 participants, 1 meeting-2002, 2 meetings - 2003</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	900	300	600	
Overhead/operational costs	500	200	300	
Total Moldova	9300	3350	5950	

Romania

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	1400	800	600	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	900	900	-	<i>1000 copies</i>

DRP Budget – Phase I – Danube Environmental Forum

Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	1300	300	1000	<i>200 copies per issue</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	2600	100	2500	<i>20 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	1800	-	900	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	3250	750	2500	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	1250	1250	-	<i>1 meeting 15 participants (partial costs)</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	500	150	350	
Overhead/operational costs	2500	1000	1500	
Total Romania	14600	5250	9350	

Slovakia

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating of website (activity 3.1-1)	1000	400	600	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	500	450	50	<i>500 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	400	140	260	<i>200 copies per issue</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	3000	-	3000	<i>30 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation (activity 3.1-3)	250	-	250	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	500	-	500	<i>1 meeting/15 participants</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1000	200	800	
Total Slovakia	6200	740	5460	

Slovenia

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	400	200	200	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	300	300	0	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	2400	1000	1300	<i>1000 copies</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	2250	850	1400	<i>about 20-40 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	3075	2000	1075	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	500	200	300	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	1700	700	1000	<i>3-5meetings each year with about 30 participants on each</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1350	550	800	
Overhead/operational costs	550	200	350	
Total Slovenia	12425	6000	6425	

Ukraine

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	1400	1100	300	
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	1000	1000	-	<i>500 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	600	200	400	<i>250 copies each issue</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	3800	500	3300	<i>50 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	450	-	450	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1300	400	900	

DRP Budget – Phase I – Danube Environmental Forum

National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	3000	1500	1500	<i>2 meetings/20 participants</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1100	400	700	
Overhead/operational costs	900	300	600	
Total Ukraine	13550	5400	8150	

Yugoslavia

Activity	Phase 1	2002	2003	Specification
Updating and translation of website (activity 3.1-1)	1650	450	1200	updt. www.de-forum.org and www.defyu.org.yu
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF leaflet (activity 3.1-1)	600	600	-	<i>1000 copies</i>
Translation, printing and dissemination of DEF newsletter (activity 3.1-1)	1500	500	1000	<i>500 copies</i>
Organising of national workshop and preparation of training materials (activity 3.1-2)	4000	500	3500	<i>45-50 participants</i>
Preparation of NGO publication on nutrient reduction, translation and layout (activity 3.1-3)	1200	-	1200	<i>Format A4, cca 32 pages</i>
Public outreach to strengthen and expand DEF network at national level (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	1500	350	1150	
National consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2,3.1-4)	2400	800	1600	<i>3 meetings / 40 participants</i>
Travel expenses for management of national DEF network and establishment of new partnerships with various stakeholders within the country (activities 3.1-1, 3.1-2, 3.1-3, 3.1-4)	2000	700	1300	
Overhead/operational costs	800	250	550	
Total Yugoslavia	15650	4150	11500	

Appendix 5

Summary

Overall DEF Budget for DRP Objective 3,1(USD)

Preliminary contract	9000		
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DEF component	Phase 1	2002	2003
DEF Secretariat	87600	33200	46900
NFP Bosnia and Herzegovina	13000	3800	9200
NFP Bulgaria	16850	4915	11935
NFP Croatia	11100	2800	8300
NFP Czech Republic	11350	3500	7850
NFP Hungary	11500	5900	5600
NFP Republic of Moldova	9300	3350	5950
NFP Romania	14600	5250	9350
NFP Slovakia	6200	740	5460
NFP Slovenia	12425	6000	6425
NFP Ukraine	13550	5400	8150
NFP Yugoslavia	15650	4150	11500
TOTAL	215625	79005	136620

Appendix 7

Structure of DEF

DEF members (34, as of August 2002) represent 13 countries from the upper, middle and lower regions of the Danube River basin. DEF Members are environmental NGOs working on various programmes, projects and activities. Their expertise ranges from science and research, lobbying and policy work to environmental education and capacity building. DEF members work actively in scientific research, management of protected areas, wetland restoration, reducing water consumption and water pollution, development of sustainable water management policies, public awareness campaigns, environmental education, training of the general public and publishing of information materials.

DEF National Focal Points are NGO representatives from each country within the Danube region and are the main contact points with a mandate to represent DEF at the national level. The NFPs are elected every two years by the DEF members of the relevant country at the General Assembly.

DEF Board consists of the representatives of national focal points and is responsible for preparing strategies and plans for future DEF activities and projects.

DEF Speakers are elected among DEF Board members representing upper, middle and lower regions of the river Danube basin. Elections take place every 2 years at the DEF Board Meeting.

DEF Secretariat is currently located in Bratislava, hosted by DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology. It maintains information flow among DEF members, organises DEF meetings, participates in the management of DEF projects and provides assistance to DEF members.

Appendix 8

Membership

Membership is open to NGOs from all Danubian countries, engaged in Danube River issues and acting within DEF objectives. While the majority of the NGOs in the region exist through membership fees, voluntarily donations and grant financing, their current resources are not sufficient to meet DEF membership fees. Therefore the membership is free. DEF members have equal access to all information, resources, services and access to all communication that arises within the network. Any member of DEF may nominate a candidate for membership through a written notice sent to the Secretariat and the General Assembly shall decide upon admission of membership.

Considering DEF objectives, increasing membership is not of the highest importance. The core of DEF's focus is building the capacities of the registered DEF members and developing effective national NGO networks, while encouraging membership.

Priority Stakeholders

NGOs, international organisations, governmental institutions, local stakeholders, businesses, farmers associations, educational institutions, land users, public in general.

Appendix 9

Job description of the DEF Network Components

The core functions of the DEF network components listed below will be supported to a certain extent by UNDP in the period of Phase 1 of Danube Regional Project. The DEF activities planned to be realized in the frame of the Danube Regional Project are identified in the DEF Work Plan. The DEF Board, National Focal Points and Members will be supported through the budget allocated for individual activities carried out by them. One of the main outputs of the Danube Regional Project is a fully functioning DEF Secretariat to provide a basis for sustainable Danube Environmental Forum. The operation of DEF Secretariat and the role of the DEF Technical Secretary within the DRP is described in detail.

DEF SECRETARIAT

- Administer the DEF network
- Develop DEF operational regulation
- Maintain and improve the information flow within the network
- Develop and maintain the web page
- Summarize the information from NFPs
- Organize DEF Board meetings, DEF General Assembly
- Organize NGO meetings and training programmes at regional level
- Provide international support for NGOs in the DRB
- Assign international representation to ICPDR and other governmental and non-governmental meetings
- Develop and implement mechanisms for open discussions on DEF statements
- Provide support to the Board in organizing lobby activities
- Provide support to the Board in development of the information and financial strategies
- Assist Board to establish DEF membership criteria
- Raise funds
- Provide support for the implementation of ICPDR project
- Assist NFPs to identify the needed support for the DEF members' institutional development (computers, equipment, funds, internet connection)
- Contribute to the REC Regional Grants program
- Assist to the REC regional projects, take part in monitoring trips

DEF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (NFPs)

- Provide feedback for DEF Secretariat
- Disseminate criteria for DEF Membership
- Provide information to the NGO community at the national level
- Develop Info network
- Develop national NGO expert database
- Collect information for experts
- Organise NGO meetings and training programs
- Develop transboundary projects/programs and assist DEF Secretariat in the implementation
- Contribute to the (national & regional) REC Small Grants Program
- Use annual environmental NGO meetings for updating multinational NGO inventories and needs of DEF members
- Facilitate the New Members' coordination of national activities
- Translate relevant documents to local languages
- Promote DEF mission and vision
- Develop political and financial support for projects
- Raise funds for DEF network
- Lobbying, advocacy

DEF BOARD

- Provide support to DEF Secretariat in development of DEF operational regulation

- Provide support to DEF Secretariat in preparation of agenda for DEF Board meetings, DEF General Assembly
- Provide support to DEF Secretariat in identification of topics of NGO meetings and training programmes at regional level
- Provide international support for NGOs in the DRB
- Provide support to DEF Secretariat in development and implementation of mechanisms for discussions on DEF statements
- Organize lobbying activities
- Develop information and financial strategies
- Establish DEF membership criteria
- Raise funds
- Provide support for the implementation of ICPDR project
- Contribute to the REC Regional Grants program

DEF MEMBERS

- Supply and maintain the information network
- Supply NFPs + DEF Secretariat with info and get feedback
- Be active on Danube issues & DEF Network matters
- Provide assistance for translation in local languages
- Provide info for the DEF web site
- Develop NGOs common programs/projects
- Promote DEF activities
- Raise funds for the network
- Organize lobbying activities

Operation of the Secretariat within the Danube Regional Project:

The Technical Secretary will:

- Organise work of DEF Secretariat;
- Develop a workplan for DEF in the framework of the Project;
- Coordinate information management within the DEF network;
- Summarise the information from the NFPs and disseminate it within the network;
- Provide technical assistance to DEF Board, NFPs and members;
- Coordinate maintenance of the DEF web page;
- Facilitate communication with other institutions.

The Secretariat will:

Organise DEF meetings:

- Organise 3 DEF Board meetings;
- Organise 2 General Assemblies;
- Provide and disseminate minutes of the DEF meetings within the DEF network.

Coordinate DEF activities in the Project:

- Organise consultation meetings and training workshops at the regional level;
- Assist to NFPs in organising training workshops at the national level;
- Monitor activities of NFPs in the framework of the Project;
- Participate in all meetings and workshops relevant to the needs of the Project.

Administer the Project and report to the United Nations Office of Project Services

- Summarise the activity reports of NFPs and disseminate it within the network;
- Provide UNOPS with DEF activity and financial reports;
- Ensure permanent communication with UNOPS.

The Technical Secretary will work under the direct supervision of and will report to the DEF Board member responsible for the Secretariat. The administration work of the Technical Secretary will be supported by accountant and the technical component of published materials will be in the responsibility of graphic designer. The exact role of individual members of the DEF Secretariat team is as follows:

Monika Kovacova as the Technical Secretary of DEF will coordinate the implementation of DRP activities on regional scale within the DEF network. She is responsible for overall project coordination, communication with the UNDP/GEF DRP Management Team and for dissemination and collection of information among DEF Board members and National Focal Points.

Jan Seffer as the Board Member responsible for the Secretariat will provide input to the Technical Secretary in order to clarify and ensure the realisation of Project activities in accordance with DEF vision, mission and concept of DEF Board. He is the director of the Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology in Slovakia, which is hosting the DEF Secretariat.

Daniela Schnablova, accountant, is responsible for the financial management of DEF activities within the Phase 1 of DRP. She is providing the administration and bookkeeping support to the DEF Secretariat and will assist to prepare DEF agreements, subcontracts and financial reports. She is at the same time the accountant of Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology and will also provide support to the National Focal Point of Slovakia.

Riki Watzka is employed as graphic designer in Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology and his role in the Project is the preparation, design and layout of the English versions of all the materials being printed by DEF in the Phase 1 of the DRP as well as the Slovak versions prepared by NFP Slovakia. In 2002 it means: English and Slovak version of DEF leaflet, overall design and 1st issue of DEF newsletter, and design of training materials.

ANNEX 2

DEF REPORT FOR PHASE 1 - 2003

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

Support for institutional development of NGOs and community involvement

Final Report on activities

July 2002 – January 2003



Prepared by
Danube Environmental Forum



UNDP-GEF Danube Regional Project

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

Objective 3: Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision making and reinforcement of community actions for pollution reduction and the protection of ecosystems

Project component 3.1: Support for institutional development of NGOs and community involvement

DANUBE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Final Report

Phase 1 (1 July 2002 – 31 January 2003)

February 2003

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UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

Support for the Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

Phase 1 (1 July – 31 January 2003)

Report

DEF (Danube Environmental Forum)

February 2003

1. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

The fully operational DEF Secretariat (DEFSec) has been organising and co-ordinating activities of DEF network at the regional level since April 2002. DEFSec also co-ordinates the implementation of national activities to be carried out by DEF National Focal Points in their respective countries. Following the Terms of Reference from the Memorandum of Agreement between UNOPS and DEF this includes:

- *Agreeing on further strengthening DEF by finalising the DEF development strategy and the DEF/DRP Implementation Plan that links the strategy with the workplan (activities to achieve the strategy) and the network members (who does what);*
 - *Finalising work descriptions for DEF network participants (DEFSec, NFPs and members) that clearly delineates normal functions (with or without funding) and extra functions (specifically related to DRP activities.)*

The DEF development strategy was finalised by the DEF Board in co-operation with the DEFSec in August 2002. At the beginning of September 2002 it was electronically disseminated among all DEF members and partners. DEF future development was put on the agenda of all DEF meetings at the national as well as regional level to provide the opportunity for commenting on the whole DEF network. Outputs of these discussions are continuously being incorporated into the DEF Strategy..

The finalised DEF/DRP implementation plan is clarifying the links between the DEF Strategy and the activities planned within the DRP. It clearly specifies the role of these activities and the overall DEF initiatives towards achievement of the DEF future vision while respecting the DEF mission as stated in the DEF Strategy. Particular DEF tasks within the DRP have been allocated among interested and eligible DEF members in individual countries. The implementation process of DRP activities to be undertaken by DEF has been planned, set and presented to the whole network.

- *Expanding co-operation within DEF by organising a DEF Board Meeting and a DEF General Assembly;*

The DEF Board Meeting took place on the 28th of October 2002 in Vinicne, Slovakia. DEF Board members from twelve countries participated together with a representative from DEFSec. The current stage of development of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project was presented. All the activities delivered by DEF were summarised, discussed and mutual feedback was given by Board Members and the DEFSec. DRP activities to be delivered by DEF until the end of 2002 were planned and clarified in detail. Other DRP components where DEF could be involved were briefly mentioned and DEF involvement in REC Small Grants Program was discussed. The 13th National Focal Point of DEF – NFP Moldova was accepted.

The DEF General Assembly was organised on the 29th – 31st October 2002 in Vinicne, Slovakia. All 13 DEF member countries were present at the meeting together with 30 participants from 25 NGOs. The meeting was also attended by the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Management Team. DEF Board Members, who especially stressed the strengths and weaknesses of the currently functioning network, presented present and future plans DEF establishment. Representatives of DEF National Focal Points from each DEF member country informed the audience about the development and current activities of the national networks. Five new members were accepted. The implementation stage of the DRP was summarised by the UNDP/GEF Project Management Team. DEF Members were informed about other DRP components where DEF/NGOs could become involved. Future DEF initiatives as well as particular activities within the DRP were discussed and planned in working groups. The possibilities for co-operation with other NGO networks and governmental institutions (ICPDR) were discussed.

Restoration activities of the NFP Slovakia, Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology, were presented to participants during the fieldtrip to the Morava River Floodplain.

Because some DEF members were not able to participate at the General Assembly and because a countryside locality was chosen for the organisation of the Assembly, some funds allocated for this meeting in the DEF budget for 2002 have not been spent. DEF would like to use these funds in 2003 for another meeting of the DEF network (suggestion: co-financing of communication and media work training for national DEF networks representatives)

- *Expanding participation in ICPDR activities by organising the participation of DEF reps in ICPDR Steering Groups and relevant Expert Group meetings;*

DEF representatives participated at the 7th STG Meeting of the ICPDR in June 2002 in Prague, Czech Republic. The interest of DEF to build a partnership with ICPDR and to gain observer status in selected Expert Groups (EG) was presented to the audience and discussed with Chairpersons of individual EGs.

In August 2002 DEF gained observer status in Ecological EG, River Basin Management EG and later also in Emission EG of ICPDR. 2 DEF representatives were nominated to each EG. Jan Seffer (Daphne, Slovakia) represented DEF at the meeting of River Basin Management EG in October 2002 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

A DEF Speaker together with a representative of the DEFSec participated at the 5th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in November 2002 in Vienna, Austria. DEF Speaker presented DEF network, initiatives, future strategy as well as possible areas for cooperation with ICPDR.

- *Improving internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhancing public awareness by:*

- *Drafting a DEF Communications and Media Strategy;*

A DEF Communication strategy was discussed at the Board Meeting and General Assembly in October 2002 and its preparation was initiated. It was agreed that it will be developed based on the overall DRP Communication strategy in order to make it consistent with other communication initiatives within the DRP. The Communication strategy will be finalised in 2003.

Discussions about the development of the DEF Media Strategy have just begun. The leading role in its development is being undertaken by the NFP in Bulgaria (Centre for Environmental Information and Education), as this NGO has a large focus on media work and has the most experiences in dealing with this. The final strategy will be developed in close co-operation with other DEF NFPs in the spring of 2003.

The first step towards the development of the DEF Media Strategy was a practical exercise – successful dissemination of a Press release about DEF in 11 countries at the time of the General Assembly. This step was followed by other articles in newspapers and interviews on radio stations.

- *Improving the DEF home page and preparing and maintaining DEF web pages in national languages;*

The DEF homepage is being improved and updated continuously with information provided by DEF members – new contacts, DEF Strategy, meetings, hot issues and news in the region. At present, the reconstructed webpage design is in preparation, and being discussed via the DEF e-mail conference. Larger changes will be put onto the DEF webpage at the beginning of January 2003.

The text of the DEF webpage has been translated into 3 new languages of Danube River Basin countries – Hungarian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian. This helps overcome the language barrier in information flow among NGOs in the region.

- *Organising and facilitating the use of the DEF e-mail conference;*

The DEF e-mail conference is very active, disseminating around 5-10 e-mails per day on average among DEF Members. There is an internal conference of the DEF Board and Secretariat (def-board@list.changenet.sk), which is the most active and very necessary for co-ordination of activities in all the 13 countries. Main DEF communication and planning is being done via this conference. At the Board Meeting in October 2002 the rules for its usage were specified. The second conference is for all DEF members (def-member@list.changenet.sk) and third conference is for broad NGO community and DEF partners in the region (def-member@list.changenet.sk).

- *Creating the Format for and then Preparing and Disseminating the first edition of a new DEF newsletter;*

Design of the DEF newsletter was agreed on in September 2002. The text of the English version of the 1st issue was finalized in November 2002 and was disseminated electronically among NGOs. It includes information about DEF, a short introduction of the national networks and an article about the DRP project and DEF activities within it. NFPs translated the 1st issue and since January 2003 11 national versions have been broadly disseminated within the region.

- *Updating, printing and disseminating the DEF leaflet,*

The English version of the DEF leaflet was updated and printed in October 2002. The leaflet includes information about the structure, aims and priority areas of DEF as well as a short summary of the DRP. Its dissemination started at the DEF General Assembly. Approximately 700 copies have already been distributed among GO institutions and the NGO sector in 13 countries of the Danube River Basin.

- *Translating and printing the DEF leaflet in national languages;*

DEF leaflet was translated and printed in 11 language versions. All language versions are being distributed among relevant stakeholders in Danube River Basin.

- *Developing a directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources etc.)*

At this time information is in the database of DEFSec. If there is a possibility to finance printing, it will be designed and printed in 2003.

- *Developing a NGO expert Database;*

The structure of the database was developed and agreed upon in November 2002. At this time DEF NFPs are collecting information about experts from NGOs/co-operating with NGOs on the national level. At the same time information is collected and structured by the DEFSec. Final structure of the database will be discussed at the Board Meeting in March 2003.

- *Organising the contribution to Danube Watch and/or other relevant publications;*

DEFSec prepared an article about DEF development and involvement in DRP for the upcoming issue of Danube Watch. Articles about the DEF network were published in national NGO journals in 4 DEF member countries.

- *Assuring that all DEF communications concerning the DRP are in line with the DRB Communications Strategy (Output 3.3);*

The DEF Communication strategy will follow the structure of the overall DRP Communication Strategy and will be developed after the DRP strategy is finalised. As it was discussed with UNDP/GEF DRP Project Management Team, DEF will participate in the discussion about overall DRP Communication strategy.

- *Preparing a summary on the DRP, translating it into national languages and then disseminating;*

The DRP Summary has been prepared by the DEFSec in June 2002 and it was immediately distributed among DEF NFPs for translation. The representatives of NFPs distributed their language versions electronically among NGOs in their countries in July 2002 (via e-mail conferences, webpages, etc.).

- *Organising a press release at the regional and at national levels.*

The press release concerning DEF network, its involvement in DRP and the organisation of General Assembly was compiled by DEFSec in October 2002. As it was already mentioned the press release was distributed among media in 11 countries of Danube River Basin. It was distributed on the national level and regionally at the same time, because it covered the majority of countries in Danube Basin.

- *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level;)*

Approximately 21 meetings on various scales took place in 11 countries since July 2002 with the effort to build new partnerships and contacts between DEF and other groups of stakeholders on the national level. The majority of the meetings were organised within the

NGO community in DEF countries, in order to strengthen the national network where it already exists or to find new members and establish the network if there had been only one member in the country. DEF has gained 6 new members since July 2002 due to these meetings and many members became more active after NFPs informed them about the current situation in DEF and DEF involvement in DRP. In countries where the NFP represents a network organisation (Czech republic, Moldova, Yugoslavia) or where the DEF network has more members meetings were mainly focused on the co-ordination of activities within the network.

Meetings were also organised with representatives of governmental institutions (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, State Nature Conservancy etc.). The various possibilities for co-operation have been discussed (EU Water Framework Directive Implementation process, new legislation, etc.)

Other groups of stakeholders with whom DEF is improving its co-operation are farmers, hunters, fishermen, teachers, students and many others. It greatly differs from country to country. Each NFP tries to fill the gaps they have in effective protection of Danube Basin Ecosystems.

- *Building participation in the DEF network at the regional level, building co-operation with other regional stakeholders, regional networks etc.*

DEF is establishing co-operation with Black Sea NGO Network. Representatives of DEF NFPs participated at strategic meetings of this network and the DEF Board is working on specifying areas of co-operation.

Possible partnership with/membership in the European Environmental Bureau is being discussed among DEF Board Members.

DEF Board Members participated at the 7th Annual General Meeting of MIO-ECSDE. They have presented the DEF network to the audience and initiated discussions about possible co-operation.

Mutual co-operation between DEF and REC has started in the framework of DRP. The DEF Board is actively commenting on the REC Small Grants Program (SGP). REC representatives informed DEF members about the SGP at the International Training on Wetland Restoration and Nutrient Reduction in November 2002. The involvement of DEF in the preparation of REC SGP grant calls on the regional as well as national level is being discussed..

2. Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

Organisation of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Identifying training needs concerning transboundary co-operation and nutrient reduction, (in relation to the DRP Small Grants Programme where appropriate);*

Training needs have been identified by the DEF Board and Secretariat after discussions with experts on particular areas of nutrient reduction and after specifying the priority nutrient related issues to be addressed by NGOs in the REC SGP. The main focus was based on nutrient absorption capacity of wetlands and wetland restoration projects extending this capacity.

- *Developing training materials for identified training course (s) on nutrient reduction;*

Draft training materials were developed in November 2002, after the DEF International Training, in close co-operation with trainers. Materials include detailed information about the classification, functions and ecology of wetlands and their role in natural nutrient reduction processes. The second part of the training materials is focused on the importance of biomass removal in the process of reducing nutrient contents in wetland ecosystems. Training materials will be finalised at the beginning of March 2003, before DEF national trainings.

- *Organising training for NGO trainers;*

The DEF International Training on Wetland Restoration and Nutrient Reduction was organised in November 2002 in Vinicne, Slovakia. 12 Representatives from 11 countries of the Danube River Basin, nominated by DEF Board Members, were trained on identified issues with the main focus being on nutrients. The main criterion for selection of participants was their involvement in management of wetlands and/or dealing with pollution from nutrients on the national or local level. At the training 10 trainers from 6 countries presented theoretical background, and practical experiences in wetland restoration and nutrient reduction issues.

- *Preparations for national trainings that will occur in 2003.*

The basic structure of national trainings have been agreed upon by the DEF Board. The agenda of the national trainings will be consistent with the agenda of the DEF International Training and will be enlarged by presentations addressing national priorities in nutrient reduction. National training will be organised by the DEF network in each country. The expert, who represented the national network at the DEF International Training, will be responsible for the agenda and selection of trainers. The current stage of preparation greatly differs among countries.

Publishing special NGO publications in national languages on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

Countries which have allocated funds for this budget item have already started with assessment of the current available publications and public information materials related to nutrients.

Organisation of training courses for the development of NGO activities and co-operation in national projects (nutrient reduction) management (3.1.4)

Possible themes for the second DEF Training to be organised in autumn 2003 were discussed at the Board Meeting and General Assembly. Media work as well as effective public awareness and involvement in environmental protection have been recognised as the skills most NGOs in the region need to be trained for.

Implementation issues / Lessons learned

The Danube Regional Project represents a big challenge for the Danube Environmental Forum network, because the DRP supports our activities on regional, national and local levels. The fully operational DEF Secretariat in close cooperation with DEF Board seems to be one of the basic tools necessary for a **regionally functioning network**. The project enables 1 person to be fully employed in coordinating network activities in the framework but also outside the DRP. With the current number of NGOs in contact with DEF – 96 – effective

cooperation is possible only with network coordinator and a Secretariat office which ensures a continuous flow of information among NGOs and also between NGOs and other groups of stakeholders in the region.

Support provided directly to NFPs improves network functions on the **national level**. NFPs in 11 countries took this opportunity and disseminated information about DEF and DRP project activities that resulted in increased interest in DEF from NGOs and also GO institutions. The DEF position has been strengthened in each of the 11 countries involved in the DRP. The fact that not only NFPs but also other members of DEF network can deliver tasks planned on the national level is enabling more NGOs to become actively involved in the DRP and to take advantage of being a member in the network. This makes the network more attractive for new members, and gives a concrete meaning to the existence of the DEF network while providing incentive for new NGOs to apply for membership. This is a very important step in network development, when a NFP serves as the coordinator on the national level and activities involve the whole DEF network in the country.

The main focus of the project turned initiatives of NGOs in Danube Region towards practical steps for nutrient reduction in the Danube River Basin. Prior the start of the DRP project, NGOs only dealt with nutrient reduction issues on a small scale. Consequently, concerns about their capability and skills in dealing with these issues have come up. To ensure that the NGOs are able to carry out concrete measures leading to nutrient reduction their capacity was improved by the International training on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction in November 2002 and will be further increased by training manual and national trainings. Selected training topics and trainers were relevant to the project as well as NGO needs. Gained knowledge and skills will improve the quality of undertaken actions of various NGOs on the **local level** (national trainings are also for non-DEF members). After feedback received from international training participants we decided to involve more experts in the development of the training manual and to postpone their finalization until the beginning of 2003. What DEF sees as a shortage of the Phase 1 capacity building process is, that NGOs built their skills without expert input from ICPDR Expert Groups and DRP working groups. The knowledge developed at this expert level should be transformed and disseminated to various groups of stakeholders in the region.

The network is gaining skills in effective communication, NGOs have started discussion about their role in the environmental movement in Danube region. Decision makers in the region are beginning to realize the importance and advantages of regional cooperation. Due to the EU accession process and the necessity to implement EU Directives and thanks to big efforts from the UNDP/DRP Project Team, cooperation between NGOs and Ministries of Environment, as well as other state institutions dealing with water treatment and protection is improving. In some countries thanks to project activities GO-NGO communication is beginning. In other countries NGOs are becoming relevant partners to GO institutions.

DEF members have learned a lot about regional network functions since April 2002. The attitude of NGOs as well as other stakeholders towards DEF is changing. Moreover NGOs see their position towards state institutions as experts/consultants for selected areas. But to fulfil this task NGOs feel the need to improve their expertise and develop their skills further – especially in the area of WFD Implementation process, nutrient removal from waters etc.. DEF requests for this more expert input from ICPDR EGs and other DRP working groups.

DEF network overcame the first crises when it lost the NFP in Hungary before the end of 2002. Thanks to flexibility and immediate action of NFPs from neighbouring countries the new NGO prepared to take over the role of national coordinator was found in very short time. In this stage of development the DEF network is already resilient to this type of unexpected changes.

DEF is becoming established as a network and initiating the means for its self-sustainability. Recently, DEF NFP Bulgaria (CEIE) initiated a project proposal for a PINMatra grant program with DEFYu, with the cooperation of Daphne. NFPs are aware that one source of funding can not keep the network sustainable and therefore, together with DEF Secretariat, search for new granting possibilities.

In 2003 the strengthened NGO network will focus more on its future sustainability and will continue in building the capacity of its members as this was identified as the current task of the network. The capacity building process will be more focused on transfer of knowledge from governmental institutions to the NGO community, not only among NGOs as it was previously. NGOs will serve as the experts/consultants for state institutions on Public participation, wetland management issues and others in the same time. First steps towards this goal were already done – through the closer cooperation with ICPDR EGs (DEF gained observer status in 3 of them) and ICPDR national delegations.

REPORT - Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contributing to the preparation of the DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translation and dissemination of the produced materials among the NGO community within Bosnia and Herzegovina. This included:*
 - In June 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated to B&H language, and disseminated to B&H NGO community.
 - Dissemination of DEF leaflets (English version) and materials concerning DRP project at different workshops held in B&H (Workshop on UNEP Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Teslic, October 2002, Final Symposium of the project LIFETCY 1999/BiH/035, Karaotok, December 2002).
 - The press release from the General Assembly (held at the end of October) was translated at the beginning of November and was forwarded to the national news agency, FENA, responsible for the dissemination of materials among different media.
- *Contribution to the English version of DEF webpage including providing information about national DEF membership and ongoing activities and projects within the country.*
 - Facilitating the continuous flow of information among NGOs within the country. Gained information provided to DEF Secretariat and DEFYU responsible for the DEF webpage.
 - Disseminating DEF and DRP related information by posting them on the local web page of DEF NFP.
- *Contribution to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translating the DEF Newsletter into the local languages, printing and distributing this nationally in B&H. This includes:*
 - In July 2002, a short document was prepared on the functions of the B&H DEF Network, and was included in DEF newsletter.
 - After the preparation of the final version of DEF Newsletter in English, it was translated to local languages, printed and disseminated among the members and B&H NGO community. The dissemination is still ongoing.
- *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the DEF leaflet, translating the leaflet into local languages and actively disseminating within Bosnia and Herzegovina. This includes:*
 - Comments on the draft version of DEF leaflet and contributing to the preparation of the final version of DEF leaflet (all the comments were considered and accepted).

- In October 2002, text of the leaflet was translated into B&H language, and after receiving the leaflet layout and necessary materials, it was printed (at very end of January 2003) and dissemination started among DEF members, B&H NGO community and other interested parties. This dissemination is still an ongoing process.
- *Active involvement in the development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identification of relevant experts within the country and provision of information on experts based on the information received by the questionnaire for the DEF expert database. This includes:*
 - Comments on the proposed structure of questionnaire for the DEF expert database.
 - Potential experts were identified and questionnaires were sent to them.
 - A meeting with few potential experts focusing on DEF training issues – preliminary interest in participation as experts in DEF was received.
- *Active participation in preparation of comprehensive DEF development strategy and commenting on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers. This includes:*
 - Contribution to the DEF Draft Strategy, including commenting on the REC Small Grants Program proposal.
 - Translation of DEF Draft Strategy into local language disseminating it among the B&H NGO Community.
- *Establishment and strengthening the national NGO Network through identification and building of partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as regional (transboundary) level. This includes:*
 - Preparation and dissemination of questionnaire for NGOs in B&H, concerning their participation in B&H DEF network. Questionnaire and related materials (in local language) as well as completed questionnaire from some NGOs are in Annex 3.
 - Proposal that the NGO "Mladi Istraživaci" become a full DEF member member status was approved at the General Assembly (held at the end of October). NGO "Mladi Istraživaci" are one of the leading NGOs in Republic Srpska (B&H has two entities - Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Republic Srpska).
 - Strengthening the cooperation with two NGOs networks: the SEEEN network, and the "Eko Mreža" network.
- *Participation in DEF meetings and helping in organizing the DEF General Assembly. This includes:*
 - Participation on DEF Board Meeting in April 2002.
 - Participation on DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly held at the end of October 2002.
- *Contribution to the organization of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments on training programs, training needs and identifying trainers.*

Nominating a representative from an NGO to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.

- Igor Palandzic from CESD participated at the International training held in November 2002.
- *Support development of training related documents and preparations for the B&H national training.*
 - Searching for national experts to contribute to the National workshop implementation as trainers or participants. List of experts is in Annex 2.
 - Preparing the scheduled NGO Community Meeting about DEFs role in B&H and REC Small Grants Program in Banja Luka for February 2003. Preparations include basic costs of organizing that meeting.

Within this project, it was intended to re-establish and strengthen the DEF network in the entire B&H Danube catchments area (in RS and FB&H). Our priority is to establish DEF B&H Network, which would provide NGOs from the environmental sector a chance at active participation in international programs (distribution of information, written materials for training, establishing new contacts among other NGOs in the region, etc.)

Further more, another priority would also be education and intensive training of members in order to build their capacity in preparing projects (what should be the project content, where to ask for help, project implementation itself, etc.), as well as ensuring the financial funds necessary for successful project implementation. This also includes encouragement and support of participation in projects at the national and international level.

REPORT - Bulgaria

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

I. DEF Network in Bulgaria

The DEF Network in Bulgaria consists of 6 full member organizations:

- Centre for Environmental Information & Education (CEIE);
- Green Balkans;
- BALKANI Wildlife Society;
- NM “Ecoglasnost”;
- Environmental Management & Training Center;
- EcoClub 2000.

The National Focal Point (NFP) is CEIE, after an agreement between members in 1999. CEIE assumes the main responsibilities of coordination and implementation the activities in the framework of the agreement with the DEF Secretariat, concerning the Danube Regional Project. In every DEF member organization from Bulgaria there is a contact person for securing constant communication via e-mail and phone and for consultations on all issues concerning fulfilling the project plan. This practice was used for implementing previous cooperative initiatives, such as the PPIP for the Baia Mare Task Force, and also at present for establishing contacts and cooperation with other target NGOs and stakeholders in the Bulgarian part of the Danube Basin.

In starting to implement the Danube Regional Project, the DEF Network in Bulgaria is focused on:

- Keeping the network sustainable;
- Involving new partner NGOs;
- Improve cooperation with institutions;
- Facilitating effective work with local authorities and local people.

The priorities of DEF-Bulgaria in the forthcoming 2 years are:

- To become partner network of the MOEW for Danube issues;
- To involve grassroots organizations from the basin;
- To improve the management of the network in Bulgaria;
- To develop initiatives for securing the sustainability of the Network.

The DEF- Bulgaria goals and objectives for the next 10 years are:

- Enhancing public participation into the decision making processes, including River Basin Management Plans;
- Improving public awareness about the Danube River Basin Protection;
- Increasing the implementation of sustainable practices.

Bulgarian NGO expectations regarding membership in DEF and participation in the DRP are:

- Exchanging information, experiences and expertise with organizations in CEE;
- Cooperation on specific topics of common interest;
- Influencing the decision making process on the Danube Basin level;
- Improving chances for cooperation with NGOs and institutions from the EC.

II. Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contribution to the preparation of DEF materials relating to the DRP (project summary, press release), translation and dissemination of the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.*
 - The DEF-Summary of the project was translated into Bulgarian at the end of May and was distributed among the Bulgarian environmental NGO community via e-mail. The text was also published in the Information Network Bluelink (www.bluelink.net);
 - A printed 2-page version of the Summary in Bulgarian was used during the reporting period to present DRP and DEF activities among different stakeholders (in Western part of the Danube Basin - Vidin, Belogradchik, Montana, Berkovitca; in the Middle part of the Basin - Lovetch, Troyan, Veliko Tarnovo; in the Eastern part of the Basin – Rousse, Tutrakan and among the Black Sea NGO Network);
 - The Summary and DEF activities were presented to the Black Sea NGO Network General Assembly (3-6.10.2002) in Varna. A presentation about the DEF Network and DEF-Bulgaria was made by Mrs. Milena Dimitrova. Communication between Bulgarian NGOs has traditionally been very good, and DEF-Bulgaria and the Black Sea NGO Network keep in regular contact. The focus of the cooperation is on initiatives for nutrient reduction and implementation the principles of the WFD in our country;
 - The Summary and the English version of the DEF leaflet were also presented to journalists participating in the National conference of environmental NGOs in Bulgaria (23-24.11.2002) in Sofia;
 - The Summary and English version of the DEF leaflet were presented among interested stakeholders at a meeting in Pirot (Yugoslavia). Local NGOs, and authorities were encouraged to contact the responsible persons for the DRP in Yugoslavia;
 - The international press release concerning the DEF GA was translate into Bulgarian and provided to the Bulgarian NGO community via the Bluelink Network and provided to journalists during the National conference of Bulgarian environmental NGOs;
 - For promotion of the DEF Network and the DRP all ongoing activities of member organization in Bulgaria were used , as well as the work with local journalists in the framework of the cooperation with the Information Network of the Bulgarian environmental NGOs – “Bluelink”;
 - All DEF members in Bulgaria are regularly provided with the operational materials of the Network. In January 2003 a 2-page version was prepared in Bulgarian, presenting a plan for the forthcoming activities in the project. It is used for introducing DEF-Bulgaria activities among interested parties in the country;
 - In January 2003 a promotional campaign for DEF was started , by using the Bulgarian version of the DEF-leaflet and the 1st issue of the DEF-Bulletin, a small poster for promotion of the DEF web-site was also printed.
- *Translate the existing DEF webpage into the national language and contribute to the updating of English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread the DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*
 - The content of the webpage was translated into Bulgarian in November. The Bulgarian content was consulted over with an expert on water pollution. The content was

provided to DEF Secretariat and DEFYU for publishing. There is still a need for some improvements of the Bulgarian version and continuous communication with the responsible DEFYU is in progress;

- At present, consultations with the management team of the Bluelink Network are ongoing for the publishing of texts also in the Information Network of the Bulgarian environmental NGOs, the existing section for the Bulgarian NGOs in the Danube Basin will be renewed in the next 5 months;
 - The results of the Black Sea NGO Network General Assembly were distributed among the DEF list;
 - In December 2002 and January 2003 work started on encouraging DEF-members to provide information about their activities to the DEF-web-site and to Bluelink. In order to improve the quality and quantity of the publications, there will be a special section during the national training workshop in spring 2003.
- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute on the national level.*
 - Information about the activities of Bulgarian DEF members was prepared and provided for the 1st issue of the newsletter in July 2002;
 - The DEF Newsletter was translated in Bulgarian, a special section for Bulgarian DEF members was prepared and added, after the information last provided from the Secretariat, content was consulted over with all Bulgarian DEF members;
 - The bulletin was designed, as agreed for the common Network and printed in January 2003. 100 copies of a six A4 page issue in were circulated and disseminated among the environmental NGO community, local authorities and interested media and stakeholders in the Danube basin, as well as central institutions and media;
 - A reasonable number of copies will be used for National training participants and an electronic version will be provided to the Bluelink Network;
 - Member organizations were provided with some copies for distribution.
 - *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate within the country.*
 - We agreed with the comments from colleagues and other countries and in November the leaflets text was translated into Bulgarian;
 - After receiving the leaflets layout and needed materials, an agreement with a printing firm was reached for producing the leaflet and a small poster for the promotion of the DEF web-site;
 - The content of the leaflet was consulted with all DEF-members in Bulgaria at the beginning of December 2002.
 - Pictures from the Bulgarian part of the Basin were provided from member NGOs;
 - The leaflet was printed at the beginning of January 2003. The design is agreed on for the whole Network. Every member organization has been provided with 100 copies for distribution;
 - Distribution started immediately among the environmental NGO community, local authorities and interested media and stakeholders in the Danube basin, central institutions and media.
 - The English version of the leaflet was greeted with great interest from Bulgarian parties and we expect that the Bulgarian version will successfully contribute to the popularization of the DRP.

- *Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*
 - DEF members in Bulgaria are informed to select experts for the database;
 - The questionnaire for the database was presented at a consultation meeting on 20.12.2002. Members agreed on the questionnaire and to provide CVs of experts by the end of January 2003;
 - Unfortunately this seems to be the most difficult task to complete in the framework of the project. Although there are already many different expert databases developed, and at the moment Bluelink is renewing its database, organizations are not active.
 - At the same time after the request of REC to propose experts for the Small Grants Programme implementation, contacts with specialists from Bulgaria were secured;
 - This problematic task will continue to be a focus of activities of the NFP in the next few months. To overcome the problem we plan to spread invitations to experts through Bluelink information channels and in the materials package for the National training.

- *Actively participate in preparation of comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.*
 - We contributed to the DEF Draft Strategy, and commented on the REC Small Grants Program proposal through e-mail. All the Bulgarian DEF members were involved and provided comments. The summary was done by the NFP;
 - The documentation and the REC Inception report for the Small Grants Program was a focus of the Bulgarian NFP and the Secretariat was provided with consultations on a regular basis;
 - Communication between the NFP office and the Secretariat on all Network documents and operational questions is well established.

- *Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.*
 - All the DEF members in Bulgaria strengthen the communication with local partners in different parts of the basin - CEIE in the Western and Middle parts concerning Integrated Water Management and Sustainable Practices; Green Balkans, BALKANI Wildlife Society and Eco-club 2000 in the Middle and Eastern parts concerning wetland restoration; EMTC provided training for local authorities; NM "Ecoglasnost" provided contacts with local citizens groups and local media;
 - Sustainable cooperation with local interested parties was established in many settlements - Vidin, Belogradchik, Chuprene, Chiprovci, Montana, Berkovitca, Vratca, Lovetch, Pleven, Troyan, Cherni Osam, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven, Svishtov, Rousse, Toutrakan, Dobrich;
 - The issue "Integrated water management and the implementation of the WFD in Bulgaria" was the focus of meetings with representatives of local NGOs, authorities and institutions, media in the Middle part of the Basin – Lovetch, Troyan, Cherni Osam, Veliko Tarnovo, and Pleven. The activity was connected with the pilot development of RBMP for the rivers Vit and Osam and addressed the interest of the local population to efficiently use waters. During the Sessions of the Community

Forum in Lovetch a NGO proposal for activities on water saving was presented, discussed and accepted. Contacts with the Danube River Basin Directorate were established and at the moment a proposal for participation of environmental NGOs in the Basin Council is under preparation. NGOs provided information from local interests to the newspapers in Lovetch and Troyan; contacts with journalists from Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven, and Svishtov are established. Several meetings and trips were realized between July and November 2002;

- In the Western part of the Basin the focus was on sustainable use of natural resources and pollution prevention. In that area local NGOs are not very strong or well developed and this was the reason to encourage them to cooperate with local authorities and to identify issues for common activities for the interest of communities. . NGOs from Vidin, Belogradchik, Chuprene, Chiprovtsi, Montana, and Berkovitsa were encouraged to participate in the National training and in the Small Grants Program. Cooperation with the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters and local administrations were established. Contacts with local media are traditionally good;
- In the Eastern part of the Basin, Green Balkans focused on problems concerning the environmental protection of the whole Danube Basin, The Green Danube Initiative, possibilities for participation in the DRP and the UNDP/GEF Project for protecting wetlands in Bulgaria. During the period September – December 2002 several meetings took part in Tutrakan, Rousse, and Slivo pole. Contacts with mayors, experts from Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters in Rousse, representatives of local administrations, forestry and game breeding companies and interested NGOs and other stakeholders were established for presenting different initiatives for pollution reduction, improving the state of biodiversity and natural resources and the possibilities for alternative practices. The role of local institutions for development and support of environmentally friendly development strategies in the Danube islands area and the possibilities for transboundary cooperation were stressed. An assessment of trainings needs was carried out;
- In order to secure better possibilities for consultations with local interested parties, cooperation with the Bulgarian National Association on Water Quality (BNAWQ) was established. A proposal for (September 2002) a common project for public awareness and campaigning concerning the WFD and RBM was not supported by PHARE ACCESS, but the mechanism for exchange of information with water specialists is established and during 2003 we will continue to work in this direction;
- There is well established cooperation with the Global Waters Partnership representatives in Bulgaria, and representatives of WWF and common activities are under implementation concerning the WFD. Pertaining to this, the partnership with the “Waters” department of the Ministry of Environment and Waters and the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters in Veliko Tarnovo was developed. A consultation meeting about the progress in the implementation of the WFD in Bulgaria took place on 24.01.2003 with the participation of the DEF members and representatives of the institutions (River Basin Directorate, Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters, Ministry of Environment and Waters);
- Communication with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Waters, Ministry of the Regional Development and Ministry of Agriculture and Forests is satisfactory. The vice-minister of Environment and Waters, Mr. Kujumdjiev was met on 07.01.2003 and the forthcoming activities of DEF were presented. Contact with Mrs. Neviana Teneva – expert in the “Waters” Department of the Ministry was

- established for future consultations concerning the National training and DRP activities;
- On a transboundary level efforts were focused on establishing partnerships with stakeholders and institutions in neighboring countries – Romania and Serbia. This was connected with the priorities of activities concerning wetlands protection in the Lower Danube Basin and the Green Corridor Initiative (between Bulgaria and Romania) and the implementation of sustainable practices in the Western Stara planina area (between Bulgaria and Serbia) and in encouraging locals from the Eastern part of Serbia to participate in the DRP;
 - With the goal to undertake activities in order to ensure the future development of the DEF Network and its sustainability, the DEF Board member Mrs. Milena Dimitrova participated in the planning meeting for preparation a new component in the DRP for public participation and involvement in the decision making. The meeting was on 5.12.2002 in REC, Szentendre, Hungary. The proposed component has great interest for the Bulgarian DEF members, since it is oriented for capacity building and for establishing better procedures for public participation and will support the implementation of the WFD and other relevant European legislation as well;
 - To ensure the active involvement of DEF-Bulgaria members in project activities, the NFP supported the organizations by providing support for travel costs and research activities of the contact persons from NGOs. The division of tasks and resources was as follow:
 - Green Balkans – support for travel expenses for carrying out meetings with local stakeholders in Rousse and Tutrakan;
 - BALKANI Wildlife Society – support for office costs and research activities and consultancy for development of strategies for sustainable practices and public participation in the decision making processes;
 - NM “Ecoglasnost” and EMTC – support for research concerning the training materials and the publication on nutrient reduction.
 - *Participate at the DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.*
 - We participated on DEF Board Meeting in April;
 - We participated on 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly. Four participants from the Bulgarian DEF members were present and a comprehensive presentation about DEF development in Bulgaria was made.
 - *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and identifying trainers. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.*
 - Bulgarian DEF members made proposals for the agenda of the training;
 - Two trainers from Bulgaria - Todor Angelov from Green Balkans and Milena Dimitrova from CEIE prepared and presented the issues concerning wetlands restoration in our country and the work with media, local authorities and local stakeholders. At the same time they were trained on nutrient pollution issues and wetland restoration.
 - *Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.*

- The training materials for the national training are related to the training materials developed for the whole DEF Network . Consultation on the national materials took place during the consultation meeting on 20.12.2002. DEF-Bulgaria members agreed on the following scheme for the national training – there will be 4 panels:
 - importance of the wetlands for nutrients reduction, wetlands restoration and management – responsible for this panel will be Green Balkans, BALKANI and Ecoclub 2000;
 - new practices for treatment of waste waters, extensive wastewater treatment processes, practices in the EC – this part will be prepared with the cooperation of the Global Water Partnership – Bulgaria;
 - communication activities of NGOs in the Danube Basin – responsible CEIE;
 - activities of NGOs concerning toxics – responsible NM “Ecoglasnost”;In addition a field trip to the wetland territory, managed by Green Balkans will be organized. Also there will be a separate section concerning the Small Grants Program. EMTC will support the whole process of preparing the materials and providing practical information to the trainers.
- On a meeting on the 16.01.2002 with Green Balkans staff there the agenda of the training was planned and it will be connected with the deadlines for the SGP;
- An informal meeting with Mrs. Iordanka Minkova from the REC Sofia office took place on 22.01.2002 and agreement on the proposed panels in the training agenda was reached.
- The training materials about communication activities of the NGOs in the Danube Basin for the whole Network has already been prepared by CEIE and after receiving materials from other issues from the Secretariat the Bulgarian version of the training materials will be finalized;
- Research activities for the publication started by NM "Ecoglasnost" will be continued in cooperation with other DEF members. During the consultation meeting on 20.12.2002 all the DEF-Bulgaria members agreed, Mrs. Minkova from NM “Ecoglasnost” will continue with the publication issue. The preparation of the content is now in progress. Forthcoming is a consultation with Mrs. Teneva from the Ministry of Environment and Waters and after that the drafting of the text will start.
- *Organize national consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues.*
 - A consultation meeting with NGOs from Lovetch, Troyan and Cherni Osam was carried out on 20.11.2002 in Lovetch. It was a follow-up to previous activities supporting the efforts of local stakeholders for implementing the principles of integrated water management. Participating at the meeting were representatives from “Ecomission 21 century”, Ecological Association ‘Lotos’, “Eco-Helios”, Foundation “Sustainable development and information”, “Ecosviat” from Lovetch; “Environmental life” from Troyan and “Ecoglasnost” from Cherni Osam; representatives from the Lovetch newspapers “Naroden glas” and “Lovetch press” and “Troyanski glas” from Troyan, the local TV in Lovetch also attended the meeting. The planning and drafting of the NGO proposal to the Community Forum concerning efficient water use was discussed. The main focus of the meeting was planning the next steps of the common public awareness campaign concerning RBM and public participation for the river Osam. In order to support local NGOs free cards for access to the Internet were provided, for the Lovetch NGOs. This will secure sustainable communication with the DEF Network;

- A consultation and coordination meeting of DEF members took place in Sofia on the 20.12.2002. A comprehensive discussion on the future management of the Network in Bulgaria, the preparation of the National training materials and organizing the workshop, future DEF publications and planning the meetings for promotion the DEF and DRP was carried out. To improve the management of the Network in Bulgaria a coordination meeting on this issue was planned for the middle 2003. An agreement on the foreseen workshop, responsibilities of the NGOs and the preparation of the different parts of the training materials was reached. Representatives of member organizations also agreed on the distribution of the DEF-leaflet (Bulgarian version) and the first issue of the DEF-bulletin. The second issue of the bulletin was planned for May-June 2003 and the third for October 2003. For details about the training materials, training organization and the preparation of publication on nutrients please see the previous sections of this report. The format of the DEF database questioner was accepted by all members. They were asked to provide CVs of experts by the end of January 2003. Unfortunately there are no responses at present about the experts. To avoid this problem we will undertake the steps described above in the point concerning the database;
Participating in the meeting was: Todor Angelov and Toma Belev – Green Balkans; Vesselina Kavrakova – WWF representative in Bulgaria; Ivan Hristov and Georgi Stefanov – BALKANI Wildlife Society; Dimiter Vassilev – Ecoclub 2000; Maria Minkova – NM “Ecoglasnost”; Milena Dimitrova – project manager, Stanislava Boshnakova – public relations specialist, Diana Ivanova – specialist on development of local strategies and economic analyses – from CEIE; Petko Kovatchev – expert on environmental economics; Anthony Tonchevski – expert on water pollution prevention; Petko Tsvetkov – expert on biodiversity protection; Boriana Hrisimova – consultant on public participation in decision making processes; Natalia Lulcheva – financial manager of the project;
- Consultation meeting about the progress of implementing the WFD in Bulgaria took place on 24.01.2003 in Sofia. The meeting was organized with the kind support of the Ministry of Environment and Waters and specially Mr. Kujumdjiev – vice-minister, Mr. Dontchev and Mrs. Teneva – experts from the “Waters” Department. Discussion on the progress on the national and basin level concerning public participation and involvement of different interested stakeholders and future steps for public monitoring of the process were the focus of the meeting. Participating in the meeting were: Mrs. Tsvetanka Dimitrova – director of the Danube Basin Directorate, Mrs. Elena Grigorova – director of the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters – Veliko Tarnovo; Mrs. Neviana Teneva – expert in “Waters” Department of the Ministry of Environment and Waters; Anthony Tonchevski - expert on water pollution prevention; Mrs. Galia Bardarska – expert on efficient water use; Ivan Hristov – BALKANI Wildlife Society; Valentina Fidanova – Green Balkans; Vesselina Kavrakova – WWF representative for Bulgaria, Ema Gileva – Black Sea NGO Network, Stanislava Boshnakova – PR specialist, Milena Dimitrova – CEIE;
- To build awareness about DEF and the DRP all public events in the framework of the project period were used. The available publications were distributed among interested stakeholders and media representatives. A list with journalists interested in environment is under preparation and they will be provided with more comprehensive information about the project. A consultation concerning publicity for project development will be carried out with the press center of the Ministry of Environment and Waters.

REPORT - Croatia

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contribute to the preparation of the DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translation and dissemination of produced materials among the NGO community, at the national level.*
 - In June 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated into the Croatian language, and disseminated via e-mail to DEF members and possible new members.
 - 28th of September 2002, was International Drava Day Conference in Koprivnica. Several local, national and international projects relating to the Drava River and other water issues were presented. Green Action presented the work and ideas of the DEF Network and DRP, to local NGOs, Hungarian NGOs and local authority participants (head of the Koprivnicko- Krizevacka County, Koprivnica city major, head of the municipality, industrial sector - Podravka, etc.). During the day (it was an entire day meeting), we had the opportunity to talk about DEF and DRP with all interested parties.
- The press release from the first DEF General Assembly (held at the end of October 2002) was translated into the Croatian language at the beginning of November and disseminated to local and national media (radio and newspapers) via fax, soon afterwards we had interview about DEF and DRP at the 2nd Croatian Radio Program, which was broadcasted nationally, on the radio show "Z kao Zemlja" (E as an Earth), mostly we spoke about the role of DEF in the DRP. We also spoke about if the Croatian public is prepared to adopt DRPs ideas, finally we spoke about the structure of Croatian DEF Network and we announced future DEF activities.
- Several times during the project period we communicated with Croatian DEF members via phone, disseminated information about DEF activities (General Assembly, international training, national training, newsletter, etc.) and the DRP
- *Contributed the updated English version of the DEF webpage by providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Disseminated DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*
 - The information about the proposition and admission of new DEF members were announced on the DEF mailing list. The NGO alliance The Drava League was then accepted as a member in June 2002.
 - The future restoration project regarding nesting places of the Sand Martin on the Drava River that will be implemented by NGO ZeuS from Donja Dubrava (a Drava League member) was also announced via DEF mailing list
 - All activities relating to DEF, such as the radio interview, the presentation on International Drava Day, a short presentation during Water Week in Athens, etc., were announced or then reported via e-mail to DEF e-mail list.
 - Green Action web page has not been completed, therefore information about DEF and DRP are not included. Eventually they definitely will be. However in our Annual Report 2001 (printed in 2002) and Green Action leaflet, among activities in Nature Protection, we mention DEF as an initiative for freshwater issues.

- *Contribution to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translation of the DEF Newsletter into the national language, its printing and distribution on the national level.*
 - In July 2002, we prepared an article about the functions and structure of the Croatian DEF Network, and we passed it on to the DEF Secretariat via e-mail
 - In January 2003, the final version of DEF Newsletter was prepared by the DEF Secretariat, we translated it into Croatian language, and then printed 500 copies at the end of January. The newsletters dissemination was done by regular mail and we sent 30 copies to all member organizations. When meeting Mr. Ivan Zavadsky in the State Water Directorate in Zagreb we give Mr. Borso a few copies of the newsletter to spread them among interested persons in the office.
 - Additionally, as requested from Mr. Varga (NGO Friends of Kopacki rit, Alliance The Drava League), we sent more copies of DEF Newsletter as he wanted to share them among all members.
 - The newsletter is also given to all visitors in Green Action and members of Green Action

- *Contribution to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translating the leaflet into national languages and actively disseminating it within the country.*
 - When the text for the leaflet was disseminated among NFPs for commenting, we promptly gave our comments via e-mail (October 2002), and successfully contributed to the final version of the DEF leaflet (all our comments were taken into account)
 - In October the text of the leaflet was translated into the Croatian language, at the same time, DEF member NGOs were asked to provide us with photos for the leaflet and we received several photos from the NGO ZeuS Senjar. After receiving the leaflets layout and needed materials (photos, map, etc.), in January 2003 we printed the Croatian version of DEF leaflet (1000 copies) and disseminated 50 copies to each national NGO DEF member. It is now free for distribution to all interested parties
 - When meeting Mr. Ivan Zavadsky in State Water Directorate in Zagreb we give Mr. Borso fey copies of DEF leaflet to spread them among those interested in the office.
 - Additionally, requested from Mr. Varga (NGO Friends of Kopacki rit, Alliance The Drava League), we sent more copies of the DEF leaflet because he wanted to share them among all members.

- *Become actively involved in development and structure of the questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identified relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*
 - In November 2002, we commented on the proposed structure of the questionnaire for the DEF expert database, and some potential experts were identified and questionnaires were sent to them via e-mail
 - Regarding this, we had a meeting with one potential expert about basic DEF issues and DEF General Assembly issues, he showed a great interest and will to become involved in the DEF Network, so we proposed to him (Mr. Zdravko Dolenc) to become an expert consultant. He is forest engineer in the Sisak Forest Authority, a former member of the NGO Vidra - Pokupsko and one of the founders of DEF Network, he agreed to become external expert consultant

- *Actively participated in the preparation of comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.*
 - We contributed to DEF Draft Strategy by answering the questions about DEF vision (as we see it) and what could be the role of DEF in the NGO and public sector on local, national and international level via e-mail.
 - After the General Assembly in Vinicne, we commented the REC Small Grants Program proposal via e-mail
- *Established and strengthened the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on the national as well as transboundary level.*
 - In May 2002, we proposed to the NGO alliance The Drava League (consisting of 10 NGOs) to become a full DEF member, membership was accomplished soon afterwards - we are very proud of this, as they are the strongest and most active alliance in Drava River Basin area
 - We have good cooperation and contact in Uprava suma Sisak (Sisak Forest Authority) in Sava River Basin area, Mr. Dolenc was present when DEF Network was born, and will now be a DEF expert consultant as he is no longer a member of the NGO Vidra - Pokupsko (Otter), but is very interested in being a part of DEF Network
 - We established communication and contact with Croatian Waters - state water management company, with Mr. Ljudevit Tropan
 - We met Mr. Borso and Mr. Ostojic (ICPDR commission members) from the State Water Directorate, and had pleasant talk and agreed on mutual cooperation
 - Ms. Rayka Hauser the Freshwater Officer in Danube - Carpathian Programme from WWF International is currently in our office in Zagreb, and she consult with us on freshwater issues, especially on the international level
 - At the end of 2002, the NGO Society for Protection of Water and Environment "Frog" that works on freshwater issues (research activities mainly, on the national level was identified) and soon afterwards was happily accepted as a member by the DEF Board via e-mail conference
 - We try to keep good communication via phone among all Croatian DEF members
- *Participation at DEF meetings and assisting in organizing the DEF General Assembly.*
 - We participated on DEF Board Meeting in April in Bratislava, Slovakia
 - We participated on 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly, both held at the end of October 2002 in Vinicne, Slovakia.
- *Contributed to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments on the training programme, training needs and identification of trainers. Nomination of a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.*
 - We nominated Ms. Dora Radosavljevic to be trained at the International training, she is the former president of NGO alliance The Drava League and president of NGO Ecological Organization "Franjo Koscec" from Varazdin. Her background is chemistry and mainly because of this, was selected to attend the training
- *Supporting development of training related documents and preparation for future national trainings, including the basic design of publication on nutrient reduction*

- We established a contact person (Mr. Ljudevit Tropan) in Croatian Waters - state water management company, who also works in library. He gave us permission that we are welcome to use their books, publications and magazines when needed, there we can find all present data about nutrients, toxics substances, and the status of Croatian waters.

REPORT – Czech Republic

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Updating of website of Union for the Morava River and the membership of the DEF:*
This website is still based on the website of NGO VERONICA, the english version of the annual report was addressed during participation in decision process of the Union for the Morava river. Recently, the results of recent meetings of the NGOs network were elaborated on. In the context of supporting DEF activities, the website of the Union for the Morava river was completely re-organised to not only serve czech partners but also to promote the exchange of experiences among DEF members.
Information for potential DEF members was announced on the Union for the Morava Rivers' mailing list, new memberships were addressed at the General Assembly for the Union for the Morava river on the 17th december 2002. The decision of attending NGOs is expected at the beginning of 2003.
- *Preparation of the Czech version of DEF leaflet, translating the leaflet into the Czech language, editing and printing.*

The english version of the leaflet was disseminated among NFPs for commenting, and our comments were given. We successfully contributed to the preparation of the final version of the DEF leaflet.

- In October the leaflets text was translated into the Czech language, and edited. Due to unexpected complications the leaflet was not printed before end of January 2003. It will be printed in March 2003 and will be disseminated among members and interested parties afterwards.
- *Contribution to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter and edition of the DEF Newsletter in the national language.*

In July 2002 a short article about the functions of the Czech DEF Network was prepared and passed on to the DEF Secretariat via e-mail

The English version of DEF Newsletter was translated and will be printed in March 2003. Dissemination among the members and all interested parties will be arranged afterwards.

- *Contribution to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing proposals for the training programme, and nominating one trainer. Identification of the representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues on the international level.*

Nomination of Mr. Jaroslav Ungerman to present a lecture at the training concerning aspects of water pollution in the context of extreme events - for example the catastrophic inundations of the Morava River in 1997 as well as at the Vltava and Elbe rivers in 2002. Mr Ungerman was at the same time participant at the training and will be responsible for organisation of the national training in spring 2003.

- *Development of training related documents and preparation for national trainings concerning nutrient reduction activities of NGOs:*

The edited publication of "Rivers for Life", on which substantial work was done by members of Union for the Morava River. This served as a guide for the restoration of positive pollution reduction functions of rivers and lakes - and was disseminated among member NGOs as well as interested persons.

The annual index of the "washing powders" at the Czech marked distribution was prepared in co-operation with NGOs Veronica (Brno) and Rosa (Ceské Budejovice) as an instrument for informing the public about relationships of these products mainly regarding phosphate content.

- *Participate at the DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly*

We participated on DEF Board Meeting in April 2002;

We participated on 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly in October 2002.

- *The General Assambly of the Union for the Morava River taking place on the 17th December 2002 evaluated activities having positive affects on nutrients reduction in rivers:*

Union for the Morava River edited a brochure addressing politicians on different levels (ministries, regional governments, towns and villages, municipalities) concerning: **„Alternative ecological measures against impacts of the floods at the Morava and Beca Rivers“**.

This concept dealt not only with river-bed and floodplain management but also the whole catchment – the structure of the fields, proportions between arable land, meadows and pastures, forests and urbanized landscapes. The reduction of pollution from the source – at the space of the agriculture activity – is the focus of this material. The actual problem in the Czech Republic is the absence of agencies able to influence the process of re-structuring the rural and (cultural) landscape.

The running project financed by ISPA funds **„Protection of waters against pollution in the Dyje River catchement“** was treated from the NGO engagement point of view. It concerns the monitoring of the quality of water at 10 points in the river network. The first stage was the formation of a volunteer team, the next step will consist of negotiations with the responsible persons for project realisation.

The continuation of the project **„Reducing pollution in the waters of the Svatka River catchement“** was done with the participation of the Union for the Morava River. Pollution effects are concentrated at the Kninicka Dam near Brno. The high content of nitrate and phosphate causes the evolution of immersed water vegetation. The traditional recreational uses of the dam for population of Brno is excluded or extremely limited. A team of specialists including members of the Union for the Morava River is involved in this problem.

Special attention was given to the **protection and restoration of wetlands in the South of Moravia region on the floodplain of the Morava and Dyje Rivers**, considering quality of biodiversity but also the affects to the absorption of the nutrients from the waters. For that

purpose the activity for the protection of Ramsar localities against the construction of the waterway channel from Danube by the Morava River is running permanently. The brochure on the negative ecological effects of the concerned waterway construction was executed with the co-operation of the Union of the Morava River.

REPORT - Hungary

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

As FTK have taken over the DEF project in mid-January, only two weeks were given for the completion of tasks. Some of the tasks had been done by WWF Hungary, the first Hungary NFP, but the leaflet and the bulletin was not yet started. The building of the DEF network was also a task remained to FTK, though some preliminary discussions were started by WWF Hungary. In mid-January, when the project was taken over by FTK, the main task was to complete the leaflet and the bulletin by the deadline, to make the first steps of the preparation of the national training and to start the building up of the Hungarian DEF network.

- *Leaflet and bulletin*

We called for bids for printing the leaflet and bulletin from two companies. The point in the selection of those two companies was to work rapidly. WE requested special type of paper of the leaflet. We translated the text of the publications. Based on the price bids, we chose one of the two companies, and after the translation they could start their work. This company undertook the job by middle of February. We could not arrange a shorter deadline.

In the meanwhile, we also wrote a short paragraph (for the bulletin) to introduce our organization and about the activities of FTK, and to inform readers about the stage of the DEF network.

We made a list of those organizations who we would like to send the publications to spread the information about DEF activities and the network, and for future cooperation.

- *Website*

The translation of the website was completed already by WWF in December 2002. As we were informed, during the translation they experienced incoherence and out of date information in the original (English) text. Nevertheless, the translation is a translation of the original, but they strongly recommend to correct the mistakes and update information. Other difficulty was caused by the chapters dealing with agreements and laws: their translation needed a special knowledge.

- *National Training*

We will organise the national training at the beginning of April 2003. We would like to size up the range of interest of the NGO's so we started to look for lecturers who have the appropriate knowledge. We are planning a field trip on the training that's why we will held the training in April, because before the weather is unsuitable for work outside.

- *DEF Network*

At the moment we don't have any members but there are some NGOs, which are interested in to join. We had discussions with 7 NGOs. Five of them have already answered, are interested, and would like to have more information about DEF. Up till now we have no written letter of intent. As we get the copies of leaflet and bulletin we will send to them. In January 2003 we met other three organizations, which are not too far from Budapest. They are working in the

Danube River Basin on several projects. They are interested in the restoration of wetland habitats and nutrient reduction.

We would like to have members in DEF that can do effective work beyond taking the opportunity to participate on trainings and workshops. Therefore we will do a careful evaluating process of NGOs before proposing them to the Board.

- *General activities*

For appropriate communication we had to buy some new facilities (modem, internet, etc.).

We were looking for Hungarian publications about nutrient reduction to find the appropriate people to keep lectures on the national training and for the publication on nutrient reduction. Most of these scientists were glad to hear about this forum and they are waiting for the national training with big expectations. There were two field trips in the River Basin with the potential new members. The areas were showed us where they are working. We have pretty good experiences with these NGOs and projects, too.

REPORT – Republic of Moldova

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contribute to the preparation of DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translation and dissemination of the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.*
 - In November 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated into the Romanian language, and disseminated via e-mail to DEF members in the R. Moldova.
- The General Assembly's (held at the end of October) press release was translated at the beginning of November 2002 and disseminated to local and national media via fax, was published in national newspaper „Natura“ with a total circulation of 4600 issues within the whole territory of Moldova.
 - Two interviews about EMM involvement in the development of the DEF (International and R. Moldova), and the DRP summary were done on the National Radio Program, and published in the „Natura“ review. Information about events, available materials and the summary were disseminated to the NGOs Media List.
- *Contribute to the updating of the English version of the DEF web page through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spreading DEF and DRP related information to other NGO web pages.*
 - Information about DRP was translated in Romanian language and was sent by e-mail to the DEF members and other NGOs in the R. Moldova
 - In the near future, the Web page of the Ecological Movement of Moldova, DEF NFP in Moldova will be reconstructed and on this site we will have information about DEF and about DRP in Romanian and English.
- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute it on the national level.*
 - In November an article, in English, was prepared for the DEF Newsletter
 - After the preparation of the final version of DEF Newsletter, we translated it and printed and disseminated it among members and all interested parties
- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate within the country.*
 - The DEF leaflet in English language was partly distributed in the R. Moldova
 - In November the leaflets text was translated into Romanian,
 - In December, after receiving the leaflets layout and needed materials, and once the layout and the CD was provided, we printed the leaflet.
- *Become actively involved in developing the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*

- At the moment we have only national experts speaking in Romanian in the R. Moldova.
- Information about nutrients and toxic substances in the Prut River basin were selected and structured in the database

- *Actively participate in the preparation of a comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.*
 - EMM has been the NFP for DEF in the R. Moldova since 2002 and is actively involved in DEF related activities
 - August 2002, an international (Romania and R. Moldova) eco-touristical expedition was organised for the young people in the middle Prut River basin
 - We contributed to DEF Draft Strategy, and commented on the REC Small Grants Program proposal via e-mail

- *Establish (and where exists) strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building of partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on the national as well as transboundary level.*
 - In the R. Moldova Ecological Movement of Moldova (EMM), DEF NFP in Moldova is the largest umbrella NGO. We have 10 territorial branches and 17 affiliated groups in all districts of the Republic.
 - We are working in partnership with other NGOs from the R. Moldova; some of them are REC-Moldova, Association of Environmental and Ecological Tourism Journalists in Moldova, etc.
 - EMM is developing a fruitful **partnership with governmental institutions**, such as the Ministry of Ecology, Constructions and Territory Development Moldova, The State Ecological Inspectorate, National and Local Authorities (Mayor offices, District Councils etc.).
 - EMM is working with private business companies interested in water – protection issues

- *Participate at DEF meetings and help organise the DEF General Assembly.*
 - We participated in the 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly, both held at the end of October 2002. Ms V. Resetnic presented a report about the National DEF Network.

- *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and identifying trainers. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.*
 - We nominated Ms. Victoria Resetnic to be trained at the international training, she is a member of the executive board of EMM and responsible for the DEF network in the R. Moldova

- *Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including the basic design of the publication on nutrient reduction*

- EMM has its own “Green Library”, which is open to everyone who is interested in it. In the library we have separate division for Water, Water Management, and also for Conferences.
- We have access to the library of the Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territory Development of the Republic of Moldova.
- The Inventory of Nutrient – related materials is complet.
- A contact person’s list of the governmental and businesses potentially committed experts was achieved.
- ECCG started translating the training materials on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction into Romanian language.

REPORT - Romania

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Introduction:

Since 1997, ECCG has constantly brought water issues to the public's attention, thanks to regular funding provided by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg that ensures capacity building of the ECCG and its project development components.

Since 1998, ECCG has developed projects focused on addressing problems the NGO sector was confronted with because of the strong need to:

- Strengthen the environmental Civil Society in order to promote environmental protection,
- Secure effective implementation and enforcement of key Conventions, Agreements, etc
- Improve the ability NGOs to comply with grant agreement terms and criteria established by international donors
- Enhance the role the NGOs can and should play

During 2002, ECCG developed projects aimed at reinforcing NGO/DEF participation at the local, national, regional and international levels, with funding secured by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Luxembourg

ECCG holds Membership in the following International Organizations:

- Eco Counselling Europe (ECE- later became '17 & 4 Ltd.')
- Danube Environmental Forum
- Sustainable Urban Forum Centers
- Black Sea NGO Network
- World Association of NGOs (WANGO), the latest membership
- Candidate membership to European Environment Bureau (EEB)

Within DEF, ECCG holds the status of:

- Romania's National Focal Point
- Board Member
- Speaker for Lower Danube River Basin, and

As National Focal Point, ECCG co-ordinates the NGO Community activities in the framework of the DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT (DRP).

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

Task 1. Contribute to the preparation of DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translation and dissemination the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.

OUTPUTS:

- a) The DRP Summary, Romanian version, was distributed to environmental NGOs, and NGO networks via e-mail, fax, and regular mail; it was also incorporated into the ECCG web site, starting in early 2002. DRP activities relating to DEF were translated into Romanian and made available on the Internet, and in hard copies. The web site was constantly and regularly updated with information about DRP/DEF, and with reports about conferences, workshops, and meetings ECCG participated at.
- b) ‚Argument Ecologic‘, the ECCG (bi)-monthly newsletters of May, October/November and December introduced the DRP summary to the readers
- c) The editorial ‚From the Magazine of the Environmental Programme for the Danube River Basin published in Danube Watch Magazine, no.1/2001 was translated into Romanian and made available on the web site.
- d) Media involvement
 - Newspaper articles about the ECCG activities focused on the NGO/DEF and DRP issues were published
 - The Romanian version of the DEF Press Release, October 29-30, (a summary) was disseminated to local and national media via fax, and e-mail. Also, it was put on the ECCG web page. The article was published in a local newspaper ‚Viata Libera‘
 - Two interviews about ECCG involvement in the development of DEF, and the DRP were made possible at the Galati Radio Program, and TV Express Channel. Information about events, available materials and the summary were disseminated to the NGO Media List, to the local Journalists‘ Association, and to the Association of the Environmental Romanian Journalists (ARZM).
 - The article about ECCG- related projects and the meeting was published on January 6, 2003.
 - Nov. 29-30, National Consultation NGO Meeting proved to be one of the best opportunities to disseminate information about DEF/DRP. Folders included hard copies with information about the DRP, DEF strategy.

FOLLOW- UP ACTIVITIES:

- In January, extensive information was put on a CD-Rom about DEF, DRP, and other water –related materials, both in English and Romanian, and made available to the Nov. meeting participants and, also, to many other NGOs and NGO Networks
- The ECCG 2002 Quarterly Activity Reports and Annexes submitted to funding institutions from Luxembourg also included information and materials about DEF and DRP (leaflet, newsletter).

Task 2. Contribution to the updated English version of the DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Disseminating DEF and DRP- related information to other NGO webpages

OUTPUTS

- a) Information about DEF- related activities developed in Romania (agenda, topics, minutes) were e-mailed to the DEF web page team.
- b) DEF webpage information was translated into Romanian by ECCG staff.
- c) The Romanian version of the DEF Statute, the Questionnaire, and Letter of Intent were made available on line and at the DEF/NGO mailing list
- d) DEF and DRP –related information were made available on the web pages of CENTRAS –Constanta, FDSC (Foundation for the Development of Civil Society), and ARZM (Association of Romanian Environment Journalists).
 - www.cier.ro
 - www.rowater.ro
 - www.teleactivities.org/ezine
 - www.ngo.ro
- e) DRP-related materials, entitled „The Heritage‘/ MOSTENIREA is available in Romanian on the ECCG DEF web page. ECCG produced a newsletter out of it.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- To update the list of ongoing NGO activities related to water issues
- To set up a link to www.wango.org (web page World Association of NGOs –WANGO,)

Task 3. Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute on the national level.

OUTPUTS (SEE ANNEX NO. 3)

- In August, brief presentations about the informal Romanian DEF Network (4 DEF member organizations and 24 NGOs as candidates), were provided to the DEF Secretariat via e-mail.
- ECCG contributed to the 1st DEF Newsletter (Bulletin) in English. Its translation into Romanian was completed, xerox copies were disseminated among members and all interested parties. The newsletter is being printed at the moment

FOLLOW – UP ACTIVITIES:

- To secure the newsletter’s wider dissemination using any opportunity ECCG has.
- To contribute to the next issues

Task 4. Contribute to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate it within the country.

OUTPUTS

- ECCG comments concerning the leaflet that were provided to the Secretariat were taken into consideration for the DEF leaflet final version (August – October)
- In November, the Romanian version of the leaflet was completed, and, once the layout and the CD provided, was printed in December.. In the meantime regarding current activities, Xerox copies were provided to NGO representatives who participated in the national meeting organized on November 30th, at the ECCG HQ.

At present, 400 copies of the leaflet have been distributed via regular mail.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

- To secure its wider distribution and ask for feedback

Task 5. Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database

OUTPUTS

- Potential experts within the NGO community were identified; the DEF/DRP Experts' directory was drafted (July – October) containing information about their background, jobs, age, degrees, contact address, etc. The list will be regularly updated as the participating NGOs are to develop their own experts' lists and provide it to ECCG Secretariat.

Thus, the structure of questionnaire for the DEF expert database should highlight the selection criteria and the main topics of interest regarding nutrients. ECCG recommends the following criteria:

- the technical expertise regarding ecosystem management in river basins
- Knowledge of new approaches and solutions to environmental problems caused by nutrients, and how to deal with the nutrient –caused affects upon health, too.
- The skills for empowering people to participate in sustainable water management
- The capacity of creating and sharing knowledge of water, nutrients and environmental management
- The ability to develop and use economic and financial tools to incorporate values of ecosystems in decision making regarding nutrient reduction and management of water resources.
- The training skills needed to establish structured learning in order to raise awareness about the need for ecosystem protection and sustainable use of water
- Language and computing skills (mainly English) to be evaluated during the selection process and interviews

Comment: The list of potential nutrient –related consultants may not fully correspond with the criteria listed above.

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY

- To keep searching for motivated people.

Task 6. Actively participate in the preparation of a comprehensive DEF development strategy and to comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.

OUTPUTS

- ECCG has been a constant supporter and provided advice whenever this was needed first to the responsible person at DAPHNE for developing DEF, and later to the DEF Secretariat. Regarding activities in 2002,
- ECCG has been constantly involved in the preparation of needed materials for DEF-related activities, whether the Strategy, Statute, Board Meeting materials, country report, and DRP, and also for all the presentations made during the events ECCG representatives participated as Speaker. Comments about the (REC) Small Grants Program proposal were provided via e-mail.

Task 7. Establish and, where exists, strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.

OUTPUTS

On a national level, ECCG established successful cooperation with the REC Country Office, Black Sea NGO Network Office, Peace Corps Romania (USA), and the existing NGO Expert Working Groups focused on the Acquis Communautaire, Climate, Aarhus Convention, and Environmental Legislation. ECCG has mandated a contact person to each of these groups. The activities developed included organizing and participating in various events, such as training courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, visiting trips, and round table meetings. Below, there is a list of such events and activities:

- a) A NGO Training Course, on May 31, was jointly organized by CIER – Mare Nostrum (a DEF member organization from the city of Constanta) together with ECCG, and held at the ECCG HQ' in Galati. Topic: Public Campaign, Lobby and Fundraising. The 18 participants were members of the NGOs from three counties, Galati, Tulcea and Constanta.
 - **Results:** ECCG made a brief presentation of the DEF strategy in the framework of the DRP. DEF Leaflets, the Danube Watch Magazine, and copies of the DRP summary in Romanian were distributed to the participants.
- b) The River Basin Council Meeting (Prut –Barlad), occurred on July 10, at Iasi. ECCG has been mandated to represent the NGO Community in the area. The organization representative and president made a presentation of the DRP, and DEF to 16 governmental representatives from the North –Eastern area of Moldova province (Prut – Barlad area) Subsequent activities:
 - Monthly bulletins about the quality of waters within the Prut –Barlad area were made available to the ECCG web page visitors, and to Green Library readers (ECCG)
 - A Memorandum of Agreement between ECCG and the main governmental institutions in the area was drafted, highlighting co-operation , exchange of information and the support provided to one another regarding the DRP. The official document will be returned to the ECCG Secretariat by the end of February 2003.

- c) ECCG participated in the „ROMANIA GEF COUNTRY DIALOGUE WORKSHOP“ held in Bucharest on 24 -26 September. ECCG and DEF materials were distributed to the participants.
- d) Within the DRP –related programme ECCG organized on 29-30th November, at the ECCG HQ,

The National NGO Consultation Meeting

. The topics were:

- Danube Environmental Forum, Mission and Strategy - Minutes of the Board Meeting and General Assembly, and
- The DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT, objectives and planned activities relevant to the NGO sector. Also, information about the Draft SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME was provided to participants.
- Romania DEF Network Strategy and its involvement in the DRP work plan

Outputs

- Participants were NGO representatives actively involved in the ECCG information exchange programme and with experience in water related issues. They are located in the towns of Sulina, Tulcea, Piatra Neamt, Pascani, Braila, Bucharest, Suceava, and Baia Mare, as well as 4 Galati NGOs.
- Informative materials were provided to them: folders containing hard copies about DRP, DEF, DEF history and DRP related activities, the UNDP/GEF DRP Leaflet, copies of past and current issues of the ‘Danube Watch Magazine’.
- CD-ROMs, containing all available water –related information ECCG currently had was prepared in January 2003, and added to the informative package and was distributed to 25 NGOs

Follow-up activities:

- A non-governmental organization from the Delta region, ECOS Tulcea*, requested to be a contact NGO for future governmental and non-governmental partnership in the framework of the DEF network. As the Danube Delta is included as a target area, the proposed co-operation among ECCG, ECOS Tulcea, and DEF network may prove to be very useful for both public participation and wetland restoration. *ECOS Tulcea participated in the National NGO Consultation Meeting held on Nov. 29-30 in Galati
 - The ‚Aquaterra‘ NGO from Bucharest city, another participant in the Galati NGO Consultation Meeting, has submitted a project proposal to the Est Est Funding Programme, and asked ECCG to be their partner in it. The project objectives are: Implementation of the Danube protection programme through improving GO -NGO partnerships, and strengthening the NGO networking partnership in the Danube – Black Sea region.
 - A national program to raise awareness about the importance of information and educational campaigns for wetland restoration activities in the Green Danube Corridor is currently under preparations.
- e) On a **transboundary** level, co-operation was enhanced with DEF/NFPs from the Rep Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria; and also with the REC Office – Rep. Moldova, WWF Office Odessa –Ukraine, mainly those NGOs and educational institutions active in the Lower Danube EuroRegion; also, with the Green Balkans – Bulgaria, and Green Partners - Hungary.

Presentations and information materials about DEF and DRP were also made available to ECCG representatives at regional and international conferences, workshops and meetings,

thus enabling, representatives of 60 NGOs active in the Lower Danube Region of Romania, Ukraine and Rep. Moldova. to have direct access to DEF/DRP informative materials. These opportunities were provided by:

- **The Second NGO Forum** in the frame of the Tacis Lower Danube Lakes Project on May 24 -25, in Suvorovo, **Ukraine**. The ECCG president presented „**The DEF Strategy, Role, and Responsibilities within the DRP**“.
- **Symposium „Protection and Preservation of the Lower Prut Area**, (Tacis-financed) on June 21, in Kahul, Rep. Moldova. The ECCG president (DEF Speaker) made two presentations about:
 - „Roles and Responsibilities of NGOs/DEF in the Framework of the Information and Public Participation Campaigns“
 - **DEF and the Danube Regional Project.**
- **Conference on „NGO Networks in the Danube and Black Sea Area: the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) and the Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) – Meeting the Challenges of EU Membership**“,on September 5-9, ECCG was co-organizer of the three – day conference held on a floating botel that cruised along the channels within the Danube Delta Romania. Participants were representatives of 17 Romanian environmental NGOs, active in the Lower Danube Region; the invited guests were from EUCC –Coastal Union, CFDG, etc. The ECCG president presented a paper on **Lessons from the Networking Experience of DEF, and a summary of the DRP** ‘
- **Conference „River 21 –The Twinning Programme: Scheldt –Tisza Rivers**, on October 17 –19, in Budapest. ECCG president participated in the workshop organized by the Green Partners, Hungary and made a presentation about DEF, and the Tisza –Somes River Basins

Outputs:

- Increased awareness and information about the:
- Existence of the DEF network, its role and responsibilities regarding the DRP
- Opportunity provided by the DRP to the NGO Community in the Danube river basin, and the required feed back.
- The need to establish partnerships with governmental institutions in the framework of the DRP
- The need to raise extra funds for larger involvement of the NGO Community
- The necessity to exchange information about current programmes and projects, their objectives, results, and problems
- Media involvement in publicity campaigns should be timely secured
- Importance of developing regional co-operation in the framework of the REC Grant Programme (DRP)

On a regional level, ECCG ensured good co-operation with the REC Szentendre Office, the and WWF Country Office

(within the Danube Carpathian Programme). Results:

- On June, October and December, the ECCG president had several consultations with WWF representatives: Jonathan Hornbrook, Philip Weller, and Dave Tickner (WWF DCP);
- In June, Mr. Sevastel Mircea (the officer in charge with the WWF Office), visited the ECCG Office to discuss the future WWF Strategy for Romania and contacts with the environmental NGO community. ECCG provided the

Bucharest WWF Office with the NGO list the organization has regular contacts with.

- f) **On an international level**, ECCG developed cooperation and partnership with the Eco Counselling Office - Luxembourg, Eco Conseil Namur –Belgium, EEB –Brussels, WWF Programme Office Vienna, WWF Office –Barcelona, Eco Counselling Europe –Vienna, Global 2000 –Vienna, and others. This included:
- **The EEB/ECCG Water Seminar: Making the Water Framework Directive Work**, on May 16 –18, ECCG was co-organizer. The seminar was held in the Danube Delta Romania and at the ECCG HQ. 24 participants from 12 countries were representatives of the European Water Group. Within the NGO Strategy module, a presentation about the DEF Strategy in the framework of the DRP was made by Petruta Moisi
 - The **ECCG Evaluation Programme** was accomplished by **Luxembourg** Counterparts on August 12 –13th. Future co-operation and funding from Luxembourg was discussed.
 - The **WWF Exchange Programme „Across the Waters“ – The Green Corridors of Guadiamar and Danube Rivers**, on November 11 –16th, in Sevilla. Romania and Bulgaria were invited to participate, with one representative from the ministry of environment and the non-governmental network. ECCG was invited, and its president made a Power Point presentation about the DEF Network Strategy, and its involvement in the DRP programme. The DEF Leaflet was also distributed.
 - **EEB Water Seminar**, November 29/30, in Brussels. Topics highlighted issues of: waste water management; WFD implementation & the EU's groundwater protection, the NGO strategy, and further activities on WFD implementation'. The ECCG representative was Iulia Leonte. *ECCG is member of the EEB Water Working group since 2000.

g) Co-operation and partnership with governmental institutions:

ECCG has constantly maintained communication and exchange of information with the Ministry of Waters, and Environment Protection, The National Association „Romanian Waters“, The Danube Delta Institute for Research and Development (Tulcea), The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (Tulcea, Romania), the Prut –Barlad River Basins Council, and the local Environmental Protection Inspectorate. Thus, ECCG has participated in five meetings and one symposium and on all occasions plentiful materials about DEF and DRP were distributed, these meetings are presented below:

- On July 3rd, in Bucharest: **The Netherlands Water Partnership'** organized by the ministry of Waters and Environment protection (MWEP). The rationale was NGOs involvement in water-related activities. The ECCG participant distributed packages of informative materials about DEF and its involvement in the DRP.
- On July 10th, in Iasi city, **The 2nd River Basin Council Meeting for the Prut – Barlad River Basins**. ECCG participated and made a presentation about the DRP and DEF. *ECCG has represented the eastern Romanian NGO community to this council since 2001. The NGO community was informed about the meetings agenda, its presentations, and the list of new library entries entered on the web page
- September 19-21st, **The IXth Symposium: Deltas and Wetlands, in Tulcea**. The Danube Delta Institute for development and Research from Tulcea was the main organizer. A few NGO representatives were present. ECCG participated and distributed informative materials.

- On October 15th, in Bucharest, a **GO - NGO Consultation Meeting** organized by the Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection. The NGO participants were provided copies of the DRP summary in Romanian.
- On December 5th, at the Szentendre, REC HQ, an informal meeting was organized by REC to discuss the possibility of a future project regarding access to information, public participation in decision –making in environmental and water matters to reduce transboundary pollution in the Danube. In fact, the inclusion of one additional component on capacity building for public participation in the final phase of the Global Environment Facility Danube Regional Project is appreciated and considered very important. Representatives of key governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, DEF member organizations, discussed the objectives of the proposed additional component, needs for the capacity building component, activities and outputs, as well as stakeholders' involvement. The ECCG president participated in it.

Note: Although informal, the meeting resulted in a mutual agreement to make the project proposal possible, and also the positive feeling among the participants was worth noting. The participants' ideas were collected and carefully studied in order to be further included into the project proposal. Minutes of the informal meeting on future GEF Danube project were made available at the end of 2002.

Follow up: The ECCG president stayed in touch with Romanian governmental institutions that were expected to provide ICPDR a letter of endorsement regarding the project „Building Environmental Citizenship to Reduce Transboundary Pollution in the Danube“. The letter of endorsement was hopefully submitted on the 15th of January 2003.

Task 8. Participation at DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.

OUTPUTS

ECCG, as NFP and Board Member, has been actively involved in the elaboration of the agenda of the DEF Board Meetings held both in April and October, and participated in both DEF Board Meetings (April, October) and chaired the 1st General Assembly. Two of the three presentations made by the ECCG president were considered to be quite helpful ‚Lessons from Networking Experience within DEF‘, and ‚Public Participation‘.

Meetings resulted in a general constructive feeling, realistic suggestions and ideas about further involvement, clearer roles and responsibilities of DEF in relation to DRP.

Follow- up Activities: All planned activities for the national network were accomplished within the deadlines, but wider NGO participation still needs to be accomplished.

- As DEF Speaker, ECCG president prepared and presented the activity reports for 2001 - 2002 as DEF Romania was concerned.

Task 9. Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and identification of trainers. Nomination of a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.

OUTPUTS

Comments were provided, an expert was identified, and nominated both as a trainer and a workshop participant. Mr. Tudor Marian (ProDelta NGO, Tulcea) was also a trainer. Follow – up activities:

- co-operation was enhanced between the ECCG and the ProDelta Tulcea NGO focused on the preparation of the national training session to be held within March –April 2003.
- Mr Marian Tudor is also nominated as country NGO trainer on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution at the international level.

Task 10. Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of a publication on nutrient reduction.

OUTPUTS

- The Inventory of Nutrient –related materials owned by the ECCG ‘Green Library’ was completed in July –August. The list contains approx. 31 titles ECCG library owns, but it will be further expanded.
- A contact person’s list of governmental and businesses potentially committed experts was achieved.

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

- Translations of the training workshop nutrient–related materials
- Expansion of the bibliography sources regarding the issue
- Enlarging the experts’s involvement
- Publication of the issue –related materials addressed to the NGO community.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Once the DRP preparation phase was over and the First Phase of DRP launched in December 2001, the NGO/DEF Community in the Danube River Basin felt motivated to become involved, and, subsequently, assumed responsibilities and became committed to meeting the necessary requirements. In spite of it, though, it proved quite difficult for the DEF network to accomplish its tasks as finance within DRP was provided late. It would be helpful for DEF members to get planned financial support earlier this year; also, raising extra funds is a must. ECCG is thankful to the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Luxembourg for the financial support provided up until now, and can only hope that it will be secured in the future.

REPORT – Slovakia

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Running of the DEF Secretariat on a day-to-day basis*

DEF Secretariat based at Daphne coordinates the DEF network regionally. Daphne supports the operational needs (phone, internet, etc..) of the DEFSec. The DEF Board member responsible for the Secretariat, Jan Seffer, also based at Daphne provides consultation to the Secretariat when necessary.

- *Management of project, bookkeeping, graphical works*

Administrative tasks and bookkeeping are based at Daphne. DEF budget, as in the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project is managed by the administrator for DEF also based at Daphne. The graphic designer for DEF Riki Watzka, based at Daphne, completes DEF graphics and designs such as the DEF leaflet, and DEF Bulletin.

- *Contribute to the preparation of the DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translate and disseminate the produced materials at the national level*

Daphne actively contributed to the preparation of DRP project summary. Summary was translated to Slovak language in June 2002 and it was broadly disseminated among NGO community as hard copy, via e-mail and national NGO e-mail conference.

- *Contribute to the updating of English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread the DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*

The DEF webpage is being updated continually with the information about members of the national DEF network as well as about current issues, events and activities in the area of water treatment and protection in Slovakia. Active links to the DEF webpage has been developed from webpages of other DEF member NGOs.

- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute on the national level.*

Daphne has compiled a short summary of national network for the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter. In December 2002 the newsletter was translated into Slovak language, printed and since January 2003 hard copies are being broadly disseminated among NGO and GO institutions and other relevant stakeholders in the country.

- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate within the country.*

Daphne representatives actively commented on the English version of DEF leaflet. After its completing the text was translated into Slovak language, adjusted to national conditions and printed. Each member of national network received 50 copies of the newsletter and it is being disseminated on different events and meetings around the country.

- *Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*

Daphne proposed the basic structure of the DEF Expert Database and the content of questionnaire, which was fully accepted by DEF Board. Relevant experts working in or cooperating with NGOs were contacted and after their agreement they were included into national DEF Expert Database, which will become part of the regional database.

- *Actively participate in preparation of comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.*

Daphne team worked out the framework for DEF development strategy, which was later commented and modified according to the comments from DEF Board and members after the General Assembly 2002. Daphne actively participated in the discussion on REC Small Grants Program and DEF involvement in various regional initiatives. The DEF Project document has been prepared under guidance of Daphne. All fundraising activities of the network were initiated by or consulted with Daphne representatives.

- *Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.*

The national network had been established already few years ago. In 2002 two new member NGOs from Slovakia were accepted at the General Assembly. The national network was strengthened by improved information flow among members, by publishing information about network and DRP in media, printing of materials (leaflet, newsletter) and by regular updating of DEF related information on NGO webpages.

- *Participate at the DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.*

Daphne representatives participated at the Board Meetings in April and October 2002, and also at the General Assembly in October 2002. All these events took place in Slovakia, so the preparations were done in close cooperation with the Daphne team.

- *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained at the international level.*

International Training was prepared under the guidance of Daphne. Daphne representatives played leading role in identification of training needs and trainers and in development of training agenda. Two experts from Daphne trained the training participants on wetland ecology and restoration of wet meadows. Another Daphne expert guided the field trip at the General Assembly. Daphne nominated a representative of national DEF network to participate at the training – Samuel Pacenovsky, NGO SOSNA. This NGO will organize the national training in spring 2003.

- *Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.*

Daphne experts guide the process of development of training materials and proposed the experts who are working on different chapters for training manual. Daphne proposed the framework of and initiated the discussion on publication on nutrient reduction among Board Members.

REPORT – Slovenia

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Promotion*
- On 5 June 2002, on the world day of the Earth a slides presentation took place in Murska Sobota, intended for local communities with respect to rivers and flora and fauna. On the same occasion some of the most important wetlands in Slovenia and DEF efforts in the Danube river basin were presented.
- During the last week of June 2002 the society DPPVN set up a cooperative with the PEC society in order to conduct a ecological research camp for youth, 22 children took part in camp activities.
- On 5. August a 5 min interview about the society's activities was held on national radio and on the same occasion DEF and its activities were briefly presented.
- On 3. December a national workshop for all interested NGOs was organised which took place in Race. The workshop was a great opportunity for a larger presentation of DEF, its activities, present DEF members and the DEF statutes. There were three NGOs with ten members that took an active part in the workshop. There was also an agreement made that the national focal point for Slovenia should be DPPVN. The representatives of the societies of Radoživ and PEC agreed that the societies would actively take part in all DEF projects and work in close connection with DPPVN on the project Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in The Danube River Basin. Both societies were nominated for membership in DEF by DPPVN and bymid January PEC was confirmed as a new member.
- On 12. December an article in national newspaper "Vecer" appeared about the Donava river basin and DEF (copy of article enclosed).
- On 13. January DEF was presented briefly in Ljubljana at an Ecological forum meeting, which is an informal political forum, interested in environmental issues, and also very active in this framework.
- On Radio Maribor a wide presentation of the DPPVN society, its work and activities – related to the Danube river basin and DEF – took place on the 16th of. January. The programme lasted 30 minutes and during the last 5 minutes it was opened to listeners' questions. At this time more then 15 questions from the audience were received.
- On 25. January another DEF presentation was given – in Starše near Maribor and on that occasion three interested societies took part. Also some lectures by means of the slides related to nature conservation along rivers were presented.

Moreover, some very good contacts with local communities and even some governmental bodies associated with the environment were established. The cooperation was within the framework of some projects on a local, regional and national basis.

- *Professional activities*
- The DPPVN society is also a member of MIO-ECSDE which is active in the Mediterranean region and some of the DPPVN's members are also members of and very

active in some international bodies, e.g. BES, BOU, EOU and some Special groups at Wetlands International or members of certain international journals.

The DPPVN also publishes an interdisciplinary journal for ecology and biology named Biota.

- *DEF Info Materials-Leaflet*
- During October and November the DEF leaflet was translated and was then printed in January 2003. The photos inside the leaflet were exchanged with photos, made by the society's members. 1000 copies were printed and will be distributed to local communities, the government, some societies and all other interested parties.
- *DEF Bulletin*
- The translation of the DEF Bulletin was sent of in December 2002 and was accomplished in January 2003. As with the DEF leaflet the Bulletin was also printed at the end of January (1000 copies). Together with the Leaflet the Bulletin' will be distributed to the same addresses.
- *Updating of website*
- Related to this, the decision was made that the DEF Bulletin in the national language would be put online in PDFformat. By this means it will be reachable for everyone who has access to a computer. Moreover, many societies were informed about the electronic version of the Bulletin by the e-mail network. Updated information about the national network was sent to DEFYU to put it on the DEFweb.
- *National DEF Expert Database*
- During the last three months important work was done on the database. Presently there are only four experts in our database. However, during the last week of January that topic was actively discussed, and in the next two weeks more experts will be identified.
- *Report on progress of training materials and publication on nutrient reduction preparation*
Contracts with two experts were signed who will monitor the situation in the country, and identify the needs for the publication, target groups and also prepare possible publication contents.

The DPPVN also participated in the 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly at the end of October and the society's president participated in the international training on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution.

REPORT – Ukraine

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contribute to the preparation of the DEF information materials related to the DRP (project summary, press release), translate and disseminate the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.*
- In June 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated into Ukrainian and disseminated via e-mail to DEF members and other environmental NGOs through the "River Network" and "REC-Kyiv".
- We presented DEF Network and DRP at conferences:
 - International Conference on "Mountains and People" 14-18 October 2002, Rakhiv
 - National Conference of sustainable development 20-22 November 2002, Kyiv
 - 3rd Ukrainian Conference of the Environmental Community 29 November-1 December, Kyiv
- At the beginning of November we translated the General Assembly press-release and it was published in informational bulletin ISAR - Kyiv "Ednannia" and we had an interview about DEF and DRP on the local radio programme "Lvivska Hvyliia"
 - *Translated the existing DEF webpage into the national language and contribute to the updating of the English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*
- At the beginning of December we translated the DEF webpage into the Ukrainian language. Information about DEF and DRP was summarized and sent to NGOs with recommendation to put the information on their website. Updated information about DEF members in Ukraine was sent to DEFYU for DEF webpage.
 - *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1-st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute it on the national level.*
- After the preparation of the final version of DEF Newsletter, we translated it, printed 250 copies and disseminated them to NGOs acting in Danube basin on the 1-st consultational meeting in Uzhorod, through the "River network" (Kyiv) and among NGOs in Danube Delta.
 - *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate it within the country.*
- The text of DEF leaflet was translated into Ukrainian in October 2002.

- In January we printed 500 copies, changing some photos and we started to disseminate them among NGOs and all interested parties.
- In November 2002 we prepared and published leaflet "What to do with wastes" and disseminated it among people living in river basin (Tisa, Prut, Siret).
 - *Become actively involved in the development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*
- We had meetings with scientists and specialists, who are specialists in nutrient reduction Chernivtsi universities (Zakarpattya Region) and from the Danube biosphere reserve (Odessa Region).
- CVs of experts were passed onto the DEF Secretariat via e-mail.
 - *Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on the national as well as transboundary level.*
- We have good cooperation with the NGO as "Ruthenia" (Uzhorod), "Edelweis" (Uzhorod), "Karpaty" (Rakhiv), they all work on the territories of rivers Tisa, Prut, Siret, which are Danube tributaries.
- We have good contacts with the "Danube biosphere reserve" in Danube Delta Region.
- In November, and December we had meetings with NGOs from Zakarpattya Region with the purpose of expanding the network, disseminating information about DEF and preparing the first consultational meeting.
 - *Participate at DEF meetings and help organise the DEF General Assembly.*
- In April 2002 we participated at the 1st DEF Board Meeting
- In October 2002 we participated at the 2nd Board Meeting and General Assembly
 - *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and by identifying trainers. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.*
- We nominated Mrs. Olga Vovk to be trained at the international training. We commented on the training agenda prepared by DEF Secretariat.
- Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including the basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.
- We can find all present data about nutrients and water status in such institutions:
- State administration of ecology and natural resources, Lviv regional sanitary-epidemiological station, Lviv scientific-research institute of judicial examinations and certificated chemical laboratory "Ecochemsert".
- We have started translating the training materials.

- *Organise national consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues.*
- On January 31, the National Consultation Meeting was organised at the Uzhhorod University with the help of the NGO "Ruthenia". Participants were NGO representatives involved in water-protection activities, scientific and educational institutions, administration of eco-resources and the media. A lot of informative materials were provided and a press-release was disseminated.
- Information about this meeting is available on the web page of the NGO "WETI", (a representative was at the meeting) <http://ecoharmony.lvlv.ua/>

REPORT – Yugoslavia

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

From May 31st, 2002 to January 31st, 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

Contribute to the preparation of DEF information materials related to the DRP (project summary, press release), translate and disseminate the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.

- In June 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated into Serbian and disseminated through the DEFYU e-mail list to DEFYU members. The translated project Summary was published on DEFYU Web site www.defyu.org.yu and on the Web portal of Yugoslav Ecological Resources Center www.ercyu.org.
- Additionally the project Summary was published on DEF Web site www.de-forum.org in English, Slovakian, Hungarian, Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian.
- A shortened version of the DRP Project Summary was published in DEFYU Buletin Dunavski (November 2002), which was widely distributed to the NGO ecological community and relevant governmental institutions.
- DRP, DEF and DEFYU networks were presented during the following events:
 1. Round Table "Sustainable use of ecological resources" that took place during the conference "Danube - River of Cooperation" (Kladovo, on October 17, 2002). Participants were from Yugoslav NGOs as well as from governmental institutions.
 2. The conference "National Electronic NGO Meeting in Yugoslavia" (Beograd, Decembar 7, 2002). During the meeting the English version of the DEF Leaflet (restricted number) and the bulletin "Dunavski", which contains articles about DRP, DEF General Assembly, DEF network and DEFYU network, were distributed to more than 50 participants. Two NGOs ("CEDI" from Smederevo and "Logos" from Pirot) expressed interest in joining the DEFYU Network.
 3. The round table dedicated to the consequences of the poisoning of the Ibar River by a phenol spill from the power plant "Obilic" took place in Kraljevo on the 29th January, 2003. Representatives of scientific institutions, local governments, NGOs and local journalists were present on that occasion. DEF Leaflet (translated), DEF Newsletter (translated) and „Dunavski“ were distributed to the participants.
 4. International Wetlands Day (02.02.2003.) Ecka, Carska Bara. The event was organised by the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia. Participants: NGO and GO representatives, students, local people. The DEF Leaflet (translated), and DEF newsletter (translated) and „Dunavski“ were distributed to the participants.
- The General Assembly press release was translated at the beginning of November and disseminated to ecological organizations via fax and e-mail. It was published on ERC Web portal www.ercyu.org that is visited daily by a great number of people from different sectors interested in current environmental issues.

Contribute to the updating of the English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.

- Information on DEFYU members and their realized projects are available in Serbian and English on www.defyu.org/mreza/index.htm. A link with that page and an appropriate page on www.de-forum.org is made as well.
- The DEF webpage was continuously updated with information on ongoing project activities and important environmental news from the region..

Manage the DEF WEB site, update it with 3 new language version and the information received from DEF Secretariat and all DEF members

- The DEF Web site www.de-forum.org was redesigned and updated with a Hungarian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian language version (end of December, 2002).
- The DEF Web is continuously updated with information received from the DEF Secretariat and all DEF members in seven languages.

Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute it on the national level.

- A short article about the DEFYU Network was prepared and included in the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter.
- The final version of the DEF Newsletter was translated into Serbian and printed and disseminated to the NGO ecological community and relevant governmental institutions.
- A PDF version of DEF Newsletter was published on DEF and DEFYU Web site.

Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate it within the country.

- The final version of the DEF leaflet was commented on and translated into Serbian (October 2002). The Serbian version of the leaflet has been printed and disseminated among the NGO ecological community and relevant governmental institutions (end of January 2003).
- PDF version of DEF leaflet is available on DEF and DEFYU Web sites.

Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database

- We agreed on the proposed structure of questionnaire for the DEF expert database and sent it by e-mail to experts whose area of work is connected to Danube issues.
- The expert database is developed but we will be working on this issue in the forthcoming period as well.

Actively participate in preparation of a comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.

We actively participated in preparation of the DEF development strategy and commented on all other documents.

Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.

- The large NGO Network called DEFYU Network exists in Yugoslavia and it is legally registered as a NGO association
- Good cooperation with officials from the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Resources as well as with local authority alongside the Tisa River has been established.

The DEFYU Network was strengthened in the DRP-project period by the launching a discussion on river pollution via DEFYU e-mail discussion list, dissemination bulletin „Dunavski“, DEF Newsletter and DEF leaflet and meeting of DEFYU members, when the future work of the Network was discussed. The network was enlarged by two new members joining („CEDI“ from Smederevo and “Logos” from Pirot). At present there are 48 DEFYU members.

- DEFYU Network is actively involved in YU electronic Network entitled „Volvox“. DEFYU is part of the „South Eastern European Environmental Network – SEEENN“ as well.
- Contacts with Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia and Secretariat for Environmental Protection for the City of Belgrade are also established.

Participate at the DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.

- Participated at the 1st DEF Board Meeting in April 2002
- Participated at the 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly, both held at the end of October 2002.

Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and identifying trainers. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.

- DEFYU was actively involved in process of identifying training needs.
- The nominated representative who was trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues was Ms. Natasa Djereg.

Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.

- Persons who can take part in preparing the basis for national trainings and the publication on nutrient reduction were identified: Dr Dragana Vujovic, an expert in toxicology (Faculty of Pharmacy) and Dr D Mitar Lakusic an expert in botany (Faculty of Biology)

Organize national consultational meetings to expand the DEF network and build awareness of DRB issues

- The DEFYU consultational meeting was held in Belgrade on 24 January 2003 in the conference room of Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia, Kneza Višeslava 66. Representatives from 22 NGO were able to come on this occasion.

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) and DEF involvement in DRP were presented to the participants. The discussion during the meeting was focused on how DEFYU members could be involved in process of pollution reduction in Danube River Basin. It was decided that the „Morava“ NGO subnetwork would be established in the forthcoming period in order to help solve hot environmental problems in the Morava watershed area. The coordination center of the „Morava“ subnetwork will be hosted by the Ecological Center of Kruševac. The meal for participants was provided free of charge in the restaurant of the Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia.

ANNEX 3

DEF FINAL REPORT FOR PHASE 1 - 2004

UNDP-GEF Danube Regional Project

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

Objective 3: Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision making and reinforcing community actions for pollution reduction and the protecting natural ecosystems

Project component 3.1: Support for institutional development of NGOs and community involvement

DANUBE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Final Report

Phase 1 (1 January – 31 December 2003)

February 2004

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UNDP/GEF DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT

Support for the Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

Phase 1 (1 January – 31 December 2003)

Report

DEF (Danube Environmental Forum)

February 2004

1. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

DEF closely followed the works of the ICPDR and the proceedings of all main international conventions and processes related to water. Its representatives participated actively and contributed views and concrete proposals in a number of important Danube and international forums presenting the Danube Basin NGO perspective in several global conferences and initiatives (Green Balkans - 3rd Water Forum).

The year 2003 was a year of network expansion that combined action in specific thematic areas, in the increase of visibility of the organization and in background or preparatory work in the fields where DEF aims to be particularly active in 2004 and in the future. 2003 was, to a great extent, a year of implementation of important activities to which DEF committed along with major partners in the region (governments, other NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, etc.) which resulted in tangible results (the creation of networks, multi-lingual publication) and also in project proposals, information collection, new contacts and advocacy, along with the co-organization of important meetings. The disseminating of information within all countries in their national languages to both the general public as well as to relevant stakeholders was also an area in which DEF invested a considerable portion of its human and financial resources.

According to its guiding operational philosophy and strategy, DEF has the responsibility of being actively involved and to contribute in the formulation of environmental and environmentally friendly policies within the framework of sustainable development for the Danube region with emphasis put on relevant EU policies. It advocates participatory decision-making through appropriate institutions and instruments in the entire sphere of the Danube region environment. It actively promotes environmental awareness of the general public and supports the increase of capacity of weaker national NGOs as well as of other important groups (eg educators, journalists, etc.) of the Danube region. Apart from being internationally recognized as one of the most significant NGO networks, DEF has also been recognized as a key international player in skillfully bringing together Danube stakeholders (other than NGOs) on issues crucial to the sustainable future of the region and beyond (for effective involvement of NGOs in the water treatment and water protection issues).

The present report describes the progress and development of DEF's main activities and achievements for the period January – December 2003.

The activities carried out followed the priorities described in the DEF Development Strategy approved by the DEF General Assembly 2002.

Continuing to seek opportunities for the formulation of common NGO positions, it has organized and supported more than 20 relevant meetings increasing the cooperation, mutual understanding and solidarity among the various stakeholders in the Danube region and also among its members. Members of the Board and of the Secretariat have participated actively in major meetings concerning the Danube Region, reflecting the NGO thinking and views and effectively contributing to the formulation of more progressive and effective environmental policies in the region.

DEF continues and reinforces the flow of information and communication among NGOs and between them and governmental and international bodies, etc. The DEF newsletter contributes considerably to NGO work by providing a medium of exchanging information through articles that sometimes express the opinions of leading figures on a variety of key issues. The newsletter has a very wide circulation and brings information to wide range of stakeholders in English as well as in 11 different languages.

The Internal Information Flow was continued and our web site is under reconstruction to provide better service to its members and to the wider public.

The DEF Board and Secretariat (DEFBaS) has organized and coordinated activities undertaken at the regional level with network participation as well as national activities coordinated by DEF National Focal Points in their respective countries. This included:

- *The further strengthening the cooperation within DEF by organizing 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly;*

Two formal Board Meetings (BM) took place in 2003:

- 5th BM, Murska Sobota 22-23 March 2003
- 6th BM, Vienna 13-15 October 2003, Vienna International Centre

The 6th BM in Vienna was organized in close cooperation with the ICPDR and UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.

DEF Board members from thirteen countries came together with a representative from DEFSec and partners. The current stage of development of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project was presented. All the activities delivered by DEF were summarised, discussed and mutual feedback was given by Board Members and the DEFSec. Further DRP activities to be delivered by DEF within the Phase 1 of the UNDP/GEF DRP were planned and clarified in detail. Other DRP components where DEF could be involved were briefly mentioned and DEF involvement in the REC Small Grants Program was discussed.

The 2nd AGA of DEF took place in Obrenovac, Serbia and Montenegro on 26th – 28th November 2003. The assembly was attended by representatives of 54 member NGOs from 12 Danube countries. This year 2 important guests attended the AGA, namely Mr Philip Weller, ICDPR Executive Secretary and Mr Andy Garner, UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project. During the AGA, the activities undertaken in 2003 were summarized and reported upon, the audited Financial Report 2002 was also approved as being the provisional regional Work Programme for 2004. The draft national work programmes were discussed and compiled. Within the workshops, NGOs discussed the hot political issues and threats to Danube nature – the Bystroe canal in Ukraine, the Drava in Croatia and the Danube – Odra – Elbe canal. The NGOs identified DEF's role, the future strategy, as well as necessary steps to be undertaken by DEF in these initiatives.

Nine (9) new organisations were approved by the assembly as members of the Network.

For further details the minutes of the 2nd AGA are available at the DEF website or at the DEF Secretariat.

- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other regional stakeholders and regional networks, e.g. Black Sea NGO network etc.*

An important part of DEF activities is carried out in collaboration with international institutions, networks and groups such as:

- Black Sea NGO Network
- WWF Brussels
- WWF International DCP
- Global Water Partnership
- ICPDR
- Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe

DEF/Black Sea NGO Network cooperation

Communication with the Regional Office (Secretariat) of the BSNN was established and maintained during the whole year 2003. Information exchange was focused mainly on events and publications. Constant consultations on the activities in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Black Sea Regional Project were undertaken. The Secretary of BSNN contacted DEF representatives several times during the 2003 for advice and guidance based on their own experiences. Information provided by both Networks is accessible on the internet (on DEF and BSNN websites). DEF also advised BSNN on the preparation of strategic documents and provided them information for trainings and a communications strategy. BSNN developed a small grant programme for the DRP Grant Programme in Bulgaria and will implement it in cooperation with four partners during 2004. The DEF representative was the lecturer/trainer on the BSNN workshop 14-15.11.2003 – Varna “Regional NGO Collaboration on Black Sea Environmental Issues”, with presentation “DANUBE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM - Communication activities of NGOs from the Danube Basin”. Content of the presentation: The DEF network; DEF activities, the WFD and PP; Cooperation with ICPDR; DEF Communication Strategy. During the same event a meeting of the Board of BSNN took place and the DEF representative was invited as a guest. The Regional Office of the BSNN supported the World Water Index initiative in Bulgaria.

- *Continued participation in ICPDR activities by organizing the participation of DEF representatives in the ICPDR Ordinary Meetings and the RBM, ECO and EMIS Expert Groups as well as other relevant ICPDR EG meetings;*

DEF representatives participated at the Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in autumn 2003 in Vienna, Austria. The interest of DEF to strengthen the partnership with the ICPDR, to maintain observer status in selected Expert Groups (EG) and the willingness to cooperate on the implementation of the EU WFD in Danube countries with special focus on public participation was presented to the audience and discussed with Chairpersons of individual EGs. In 2003 DEF maintained observer status in Ecological EG, River Basin Management EG and Emission EG of ICPDR. 2 DEF representatives were nominated to each EG.

Mr Johannes Wolf (DEF Speaker) and Ms Helena Carska (DEFSec) participated at the 6th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in December 2003 in Vienna, Austria. The DEF Speaker briefly presented the current developments of the DEF network as well as presented the willingness of NGOs to cooperate with ICPDR national delegations and other state institutions on proper implementation of the obligations set by the EU Water Framework Directive.

- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhancing public awareness by:*
- ▶ *Further development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;*

A DEF Communication strategy was discussed at the Board Meeting and General Assembly in October 2002 and its elaboration was finalized in June 2003. It was developed based on the overall DRP Communication strategy in order to make it consistent with other communication initiatives within the DRP. The Communication strategy will be reflected in future planning of DEF activities.

Discussions about the development of the DEF Media Strategy began in 2002. The leading role in its development was undertaken by the NFP in Bulgaria (Centre for Environmental Information and Education), as this NGO has a large focus on media work and has the most experiences in dealing with this. The final strategy become one of the components of the overall Communications strategy and was developed in close co-operation with other DEF NFPs in the summer of 2003.

The elaboration of the Communications Strategy was followed by practical examples of effective approaches to the target audiences and most common communication tools at the DEF International Training 2003.

- ▶ *Regular improvements of the DEF home page and national DEF web pages in national languages;*

The DEF web-site www.de-forum.org has overcome total reconstruction in autumn 2003 in order to be organized in more user friendly way. It contains information about environmental issues concerning the Danube region and is structured so as to be able to sustain dynamic modules such as web forums, advanced database search capabilities, automatic weekly updates with the latest news and dynamic calendars containing information about major meetings and events in the region. More specifically:

- basic information on DEF (mission, structure, main activities, etc.)
- a list of the member organizations (names, addresses, profiles, links to their websites, basic fields of interest and information about their activities, etc.)
- the DEF Newsletter (3 issues)
- running and upcoming activities and campaigns of DEF
- DEF publications which can be directly downloaded by the visitor
- Information on Danube meetings and their outcomes through a dynamic calendar

Basic information concerning the DEF network structure and activities is provided also in Slovak, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian.

The DEF homepage is being improved and updated continuously with information provided by DEF members – new contacts, DEF Strategy, meetings, hot issues and news in the region.

- ▶ *Further improvement and facilitation for the expanded use of the DEF e-mail conferences;*

The DEF e-mail conference is very active with DEF Members sending, on average, around 5-10 e-mails per day. There is an internal conference of the DEF Board and Secretariat (def-board@list.changenet.sk), which is the most active and very necessary for the co-ordination of activities in all the 13 countries. The main DEF communication and planning is done via this conference. At the Board Meeting in spring 2003 the rules for its usage were clarified. The second conference is for all DEF members and DEF partners in the region (def@list.changenet.sk).

- ▶ *Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF newsletter (2 editions);*

2 issues of the Newsletter, both in English and in 11 languages of the Danube region, were being published and distributed to member organizations, environmental stakeholders and to the wider public until the end of 2003.

The following thematic topics were covered:

1st issue: Public Participation actions in the Danube Basin

2nd issue: Current main threats to Danube nature – plans, projects and investments

- ▶ *Expanding the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources etc.) and NGO Expert Database*

The on-line directory of NGOs has been elaborated. At the end on 2003 the directory included basic information about 80% of the DEF member NGOs.

- ▶ *Regularly contribute to Danube Watch and/or other relevant publications;*

DEF provided 2 articles for Danube Watch and 1 article for Water Talk in 2003.

- ▶ *Organizing a press release at the regional and at national levels for all relevant events (e.g. DEF Assembly, trainings..).*

The press release concerning the DEF network, its involvement in DRP and the organisation of the General Assembly was compiled by the DEFSec in October 2003. The press release was distributed to media centres in 11 countries of the Danube River Basin. It was distributed on the national level and regionally at the same time, because it covered the majority of countries in Danube Basin.

- ▶ *Further Building of participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country*

specific strategies for developing the DEF at the national level;) Countries are expected to submit individual work plans for this.

The main precondition for the successful international cooperation of NGOs is the strong partnership between organisations at the national level. Therefore a considerable portion of the DEF budget was allocated for national activities of DEF members in 11 countries (unfortunately there were no sources available for Germany and Austria in 2003). Financial support was provided for national network strengthening, communication among members, capacity building for NGOs, public outreach and consultation meetings with relevant environmental stakeholders, with special effort to establish cooperation with the representatives of the national ICPDR delegations. NGOs in all 11 Danube countries initiated the cooperation with representatives of the state authorities responsible for management of water and protection of water bodies as well as those responsible for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. The outputs of this process and other relevant national initiatives in individual DEF countries are summarized in the national reports (see further below). Main groups of stakeholders with whom DEF is improving its co-operation are farmers, hunters, fishermen, teachers, students and many others. It greatly differs from country to country. Each NFP tries to fill the gaps they have in effective protection of Danube Basin Ecosystems.

Sustainability of DEF

There are structures and organizations established to represent the public in international water policy discussions and events. DEF is identifying its role in the region - major changes also in the development strategy based on the experiences in 2003. DEF will not be so active on the international policy level, but will rather focus more on close contact with grass root NGOs working in the Danube Basin and will disseminate the information from EEB, WWF as well as will bring the NGO concerns, views and needs to the international forums and regional environmental policy stakeholders.

The already well-established networking and information communication activities of DEF were continued. A variety of information on water related issues, project calls for tender, announcements of meetings and conferences, publications, etc. were circulated to the members of the network, as well as to the def-email conference subscribers. The DEF website is under radical reconstruction in order to adhere to the state of the art technology and will continue to be updated constantly with the latest news concerning NGO activities and positions and the Danube scene (water sector) in general.

In the framework of the networking activities and exchange of information, the Secretariat, immediately forwards incoming useful information to its members. Apart from this the Secretariat continuously receives requests for information on specific issues, to which it responds accordingly. This activity is considered to be quite important since the majority of the Danube NGOs have still limited access to information and advanced literature. Furthermore many letters of interest for further co-operation in various fields of activities arrive, creating interesting new potentials for specific collaborations.

Considerable time was devoted throughout the year to strengthen and consolidate the effective functioning of the Network. Networking with and among the member organizations is focused on three main components:

1. Efficient exchange and dissemination of information
2. Strengthening of the co-operation among the NGOs in the Danube region
3. Building of partnerships between NGOs and other water related stakeholders

Drafting of new project proposals to secure the continuity of network initiatives and activities was also a significant part of DEF's work throughout 2003. Among others following financial programmes have been identified as potential sources for DEF:

- Phare - cooperation with WWF
- Open Society Foundation - close cooperation DEF Sec with DEF SaM
- CORE Grant of the EC

The project proposal was elaborated for each of the mentioned funding programmes. Phare grant and CORE grant have been accepted and awarded by the European Commission. Both projects will be implemented in 2004.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

As one of its primary tasks supported by the DRP, the DEFBaS prepared the DEF network to respond to DRB pollution problems (with a focus on nutrient pollution and toxic substances.) It both raised awareness of the pollution problems in general, while in particular, empowered its members to take action to reduce pollution including participating in the DRP SGP (project component 3.2). This included the following activities:

Methodology for the training of NGOs at the national level was developed, taking into account the training needs concerning wetlands and nutrient reduction, (in relation to the DRP Small Grants Programme where appropriate) as identified by the DEF Board and Secretariat after discussions with experts.

Training materials for national trainings on wetlands and nutrient reduction were finalized in English (as a Master copy) and were translated into 11 languages and disseminated at the national trainings.

NFPs organised national trainings for NGOs in 11 Danube countries on wetlands and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identifies in REC SGP. Information about REC SGP was included in training agenda and provided by representative of REC CO.

NFPs in each of the 11 Danube countries organised national consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and to inform other relevant organisations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the nutrient reduction problem, the goals and objectives of the DRP.

Publishing special NGO publications in the national languages of nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

The DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.

During February – November 2003 the DEFBaS started with preparatory activities for publications:

- Involved the NFPs in identifying the best form of publication to fill national needs;
- Followed up relevant projects outputs in order to be able to use them for publications;
- Collected and assessed available publications and information materials on nutrient education and toxic substances issues at regional and national level
- Developed framework for the DEF publication on nutrients and toxic substances

Finalization of the content of publications will start immediately at the beginning of the Phase 2 of the project, based on collected information and available project results.

Organization of training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrient reduction) management (3.1.4)

International training 2003

Through the already well-established information exchange among NGOs in Danube countries, DEF members have identified the lack of skills and knowledge exchange among NGO representatives as one of the crucial barrier in effective water protection at local as well as national level. Many examples of good practice in water protection exist among NGOs in individual Danube countries. However the principles for dissemination of these model activities have to be improved. Therefore the main topic for the 2nd International Training organised in the frame of the UNDP/GEF DRP was the Public participation within the EU Water Framework Directive. Training took place in November 2003 in Obrenovac, Serbia and Montenegro.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st March 2003 - 31st January 2004

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

- *Further strengthen cooperation within DEF by participating in 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly*
 - March 2003 - Participation in the DEF Board Meeting in Murska Sobota, Slovenia
 - October 2003 – Participated in the DEF Board Meeting in Vienna, Austria
 - Viktor Bijelić from the NGO "Mladi Istraživači" participated in the DEF International training held on the 26th – 28th November 2003 in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro.
 - November 2003 – Participated in the DEF General Assembly in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro
- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, i.e. the Black Sea NGO network, etc.*
 - We have established a close rapport with the Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning in both B&H and Republika Srpska.
 - We have developed contacts with the UNDP office in Sarajevo.
 - Cooperation with the REC Office in B&H is very good, and they are very supportive of our activities.
- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*
 - ◆ *Continuously providing updated information to the DEF website and updating national DEF web pages in their respective languages;*
 - Continuous information flow among NGOs within the country - Received and forwarded relevant information to the DEF Secretariat and DEFSaM, as the latter is responsible for maintaining the DEF webpage
 - Spread of information related to DEF and DRP – Posted relevant information on the web page of the DEF NFP for Bosnia & Herzegovina, and maintained the web page of the national branch of DEF (Annex 1)
 - ◆ *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Newsletter, translating these into the national language, printing and disseminating;*
 - In July, as well as in November 2003, we actively contributed to the preparation of the DEF newsletter. The 2nd issue of the DEF newsletter featured our article, "The Environment and Mining Industry in the Region." The 3rd issue featured our article, "Diffuse Source Pollution Control in the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina."
 - After finalizing the English versions of the DEF newsletters, they were translated into local languages, printed and disseminated among members of the B&H NGO community. Dissemination is ongoing.

- The leaflet version in the national language has proven useful, as has the English version, given the number of foreign institutions based in Sarajevo that are involved in environmental projects. The DEF Secretariat provides us with the English version of leaflet, which we then distribute throughout the environmental community.
- All materials concerning DEF are distributed to REC offices and other relevant institutions in B&H. These materials are also made available at various meetings involving the NGO community (i.e. round-table environmental NGOs in B&H, meetings with authorities, national training sessions, meetings with other
- NGOs, etc.). We are using every opportunity to promote the DEF network.
- ◆ *Providing information about members of the national DEF network for the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.);*
 - Dissemination of questionnaires to NGOs in B&H concerning participation in the B&H DEF network.
- ◆ *Providing information on national NGO experts, for the DEF expert database;*
 - Dissemination of questionnaires to NGOs in B&H concerning participation in the B&H DEF network.
 - Continuously seeking out and lobbying for national experts to become involved in DEF projects.
- ◆ *Publishing articles on DEF activities and goals in national media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, academic journals, etc.);*
 - Regarding mass media in general:
 - We have been acknowledged on a couple of local radio shows.
 - The national press agency publishes our press releases.
 - Three articles on DEF B&H have been published in local newspapers thus far.
 - We are not, however, satisfied with the media's response to environmental issues.
 - Political issues remain a priority here in Bosnia & Herzegovina. We try to promote environmental issues and to encourage local media to focus more on environmental issues and NGO activities. We also hope that the implementation of the Small Grants Projects will garner a better media response.
 - In this last year, we have managed to build a very good partnership with student radio.
- ◆ *Organizing a press release at the national level for all relevant events (i.e. the DEF General Assembly, national trainings, etc.);*
 - Before our training session opened, we invited all relevant media (i.e. TV, newspapers, radio, press networks, etc.) to attend the training. Unfortunately, no media participated. Nevertheless, following the training session, we prepared and sent a press release to the media. Our press release was published in our newsletter and on the web page of the national news agency FENA, which serves as a source of information for other media agencies. We also aired a 45-minute live show on local radio.
- ◆ *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations, partnership-building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level);*
 - Dissemination of questionnaires to NGOs in B&H concerning participation in the B&H DEF network.
 - Proposals for the NGOs, "Ekotim" and "CEETZ" to become full DEF members. (Membership was accomplished after all at the General Assembly in November.)

- Cooperation with two NGOs networks: The SEEEN network and the “Eko Mreža” network.
 - Participation in the Working Meeting for Establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency of Bosnia & Herzegovina, which was organized by the REC Office in B&H, Banja Luka. Igor Palandzic uses this opportunity to promote DEF B&H. We believe that DEF must be involved in the process of establishing an Environmental Protection Agency in Bosnia & Herzegovina.
 - Deeming DEF B&H a relevant stakeholder in ongoing activities regarding water resource management (particularly, the project - Integral Water Resource Management) in B&H.
 - Representation of the DEF Network by our member Sasa Hasecic at the workshop “Public Participation in the Sava River Basin.” The workshop was organized by REC B&H, and held in Brcko, 22nd – 23rd December 2003.
 - Representation of DEF B&H by CESD member Selma Osmanagic at the workshop “Eko Mreza, ” which was held 31st January 2003 in Banja Luka. Ms. Osmanagic used the opportunity to distribute DEF informational materials and to promote the DEF network.
 - Visiting NGOs for facilitating cooperation and lobbying for membership in the DEF network - Between December 2003 and January 2004, DEF representatives visited two NGO Fairs. The first was held in Derventa, hosted by potential DEF member, “NGO FORUM Derventa”. NGOs from Derventa, Doboj, Srpski Brod, Modriča, Teslić, Petrovo, Banja Luka, Drvar, and Sanski Most were in attendance. As illustrated in the above point, DEF representatives take such opportunities to distribute DEF promotional materials (i.e. leaflets, newsletters). The second fair was held in Doboj, hosted by ReERG.
 - We will continue encouraging NGOs to become involved in the DEF network and to develop cooperation with all stakeholders for the overall purpose of solving environmental problems. DEF members will also continue to promote the DEF network within the NGO community and governmental institutions on both the local and regional level.
- ◆ *Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the country;*
- DEF-B&H participated in the following ICPDR meetings:
 - February 2003 - EMIS EG meeting, Brno
 - September 2003 - EMIS EG Meeting, Berlin
 - December 2003 - Danube River Basin Management Stakeholder Analysis Meeting, Baden
 - December 2003 - SAVA Workshop, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Participation in Regional Forums

- *The NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional initiatives, for example: the WFD Guidance Group on Public Participation, Wetlands, etc.*
- We have established a close rapport with the Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning in both B&H and Republika Srpska.
 - We have developed contacts with the UNDP office in Sarajevo.
 - Cooperation with the REC Office in B&H is very good, and they are very supportive of our activities.
 - Actively participating in the preparation of the CORE proposal.
 - We will continue to involve DEF in ongoing projects such as “Integral Water Resource Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina” and “Sava River Basin Project,” because we think it is a great opportunity to involve the NGO sector in the decision-making process.

- *The NFP should participate on behalf of DEF in aforementioned initiatives and disseminate results within the network.*
 - REC B&H has acknowledged the work of the Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development and our member Igor Palandžić, the DEF NFP for B&H for his work on environmental issues.

Evaluation and Assessment

- Incorporate into workplan for Phase II.
 - DEF-B&H is contributing to DEF preparation for Phase II of the DRP.
 - Translation of all DEF documents into the national language and dissemination of such documents to the B&H NGO community and other stakeholders.
 - Representing DEF in LAB for the Danube Small Grant Projects. Igor Palandzic, the DEF NFP for B&H attended the LAB meeting, which was held in Banja Luka.

2. Supporting the Capacities of DEF in Responding to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) in addressing DRB transboundary problems, in essence, "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Program, which is also supported by the DRP.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Develop a methodology for the training of NGOs at the national level, taking into account training needs concerning wetlands and nutrient reduction (in relation to the DRP Small Grants Program where appropriate), as identified by the DEF Board and Secretariat after discussions with experts;*
 - Preparation of invitations to the national training, and subsequent dissemination to all stakeholders (Annex 2). The workshop agenda was prepared one month in advance. The invitation outlined a draft agenda (Annex 3) and a brief description of workshop objectives. Invitations were sent to potential participants three weeks before the training. More than 50 environmental NGO working in B&H were invited. 41 participants were in attendance. A breakdown of participants follows:
 - 31 from 20 NGOs
 - 1 from the Ministry of Physical Planning and the Environment of B&H
 - 2 from the UNDP Office in B&H
 - 2 from the Office of the High Representative/Environmental Department
 - 5 from the REC Office in B&H
 - Technical and logistic preparation for the training session (i.e. accommodation reservation, equipment rental, etc.).
- *Finalize training materials for national trainings on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction in the national language;*

- Preparation of training materials for the national training on wetlands and nutrient reduction. Training materials were based on materials received from the DEF Secretariat. We have modified our presentation on nutrients and toxic substances, and have done the same with our presentation on wetland management and restoration. All materials are available at our website: <http://www.coor.ba/ba/def03.html#materijali>
 - Preparation of an evaluation form (Annex 4). Following the training session, participants were given evaluation forms. After summarizing all comments, we can express satisfaction with how the session panned out. All participants expressed satisfaction with training content.
- *Organize national trainings for NGOs on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about the DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.*
- Our national training on wetlands and nutrient reduction was successful. Participants were satisfied with the training session, and found the topics, “Integrated Watershed Management,” and, “NGOs’ Communication Activities in the Danube River Basin,” to be the most interesting. The REC Office in Sarajevo received 20 projects. For us at DEF B&H, the most important fact is that the majority of NGOs that attended the national training recognize the main objectives and goals and will prepare relevant project proposals in such recognition.
 - Participants suggested that in the future we ensure the continuance of such events, as well as the deeper involvement of media and governmental representatives in similar trainings. Such participants also suggested that in the future we widen training topics to other environmental problems (forests, soil contamination, solid waste, water treatment plants, etc.).

Publishing special NGO publications in the national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- *DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.*
- The 3rd issue of the DEF newsletter featured our article, “Diffuse Source Pollution Control in the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina.” The article was later published in the national language.

BULGARIA

Centre for Environmental Information and Education (CEIE)

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

Support for the Institutional Development of DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st May 2003 – 31st January 2004

REPORTED BY: Milena Dimitrova, Sofia, 2nd March 2004

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

The DEF Network in Bulgaria consists of 6 full member organizations:

- Centre for Environmental Information & Education (CEIE);
- Green Balkans;
- BALKANI Wildlife Society;
- NM “Ecoglasnost”;
- Environmental Management & Training Center;
- EcoClub 2000.

In 1999, it was decided amongst the DEF member NGOs of Bulgaria that the National Focal Point (NFP) should be CEIE. As NFP, CEIE is primarily responsible for the coordination and implementation of activities within the framework of the Danube Regional Project, and in agreement with the DEF Secretariat.

Each DEF member NGO from Bulgaria has a contact person who is responsible for facilitating constant communication via e-mail and phone, and ensuring consultation on all issues concerning the fulfillment of the project plan. Such a practice has been used for the implementation of cooperative initiatives in the past, for activities within the framework of the first agreement under the DRP, and is used today in overall network development (i.e. target NGOs and relevant stakeholders) in Bulgaria.

Key objectives of the DEF network in Bulgaria concerning the implementation of the Danube Regional Project are:

- To maintain network sustainability;
- To involve new partner NGOs;
- To improve cooperation with institutions;
- To ensure effective methods in working with local authorities and the public.

The strategic goals and objectives of DEF- Bulgaria are:

- To enhance public participation in the decision-making process, including River Basin management plans;
- To improve public awareness of Danube River Basin protection;
- To encourage the implementation of sustainable practices.

The expectations of Bulgarian NGOs regarding membership in DEF and participation in the DRP are:

- To exchange information, experiences and expertise with organizations throughout Central and Eastern Europe;
- To cooperate on specific topics of common interest;
- To influence the decision-making process within the Danube Basin region;
- To facilitate cooperation with NGOs and institutions from the European Community.

➤ *Further strengthen cooperation within DEF by participating in 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly*

- March 2003 - NFP representative Milena Dimitrova participated in the **DEF Board meeting** in Murska Sobota, Slovenia.
- October 2003 - NFP representative Milena Dimitrova participated in the **DEF Board meeting** in Vienna, Austria.

- November 2003 - Ivan Atcev of NGO NM “Ecoglasnost“, Gradimir Gradev of NGO Green Balkans, and Milena Dimitrova of NGO CEIE participated in the **DEF General Assembly** in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro. Kristina Krumova of CEIE also took part as a journalist from Bulgarian National Radio.
 - November 2003 - Green Balkans representative Gradimir Gradev took part in the **International DEF NFP Training** in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro. The team from CEIE, Milena Dimitrova, Kristina Krumova and Stanislava Boshnakova, took the opportunity to conduct a half-day training session on communication skills.
- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, i.e. the Black Sea NGO network, etc.*

The expectations of Bulgarian NGOs regarding regional network development are:

- To exchange information, experiences and expertise with organizations throughout CEE;
- To cooperate on specific topics of common interest;
- To influence the decision-making process within the Danube Basin region;
- To facilitate cooperation with NGOs and institutions from the European Community.

Management of DEF-Bulgaria is an important task. Several invitations for new members were published in the DEF Bulletin, during the national training, and through the Bluelink Network. Unfortunately, we didn't succeed in involving new members. Increasing membership is not, in fact, our first priority. We are first and foremost oriented towards improving the communication and cooperation among present members.

Organization of the national training proved to be a very good test in facilitating communication and cooperation among members. Organization involved five of the six DEF-Bulgaria members, and so tasks were well divided and implemented.

It should be noted that during the second half of 2003, the management of EMTC and Eco-club 2000 was changed and both organizations were faced with the task of rearranging activity priorities. As a result, they have not been very active in DEF issues. Cooperation between the NFP, Green Balkans, NM “Ecoglasnost“, Balkani Wildlife Society and the WWF office in Sofia is nonetheless sustainable. Common activities have been implemented and new activities are planned for 2004.

Regarding the management of the DEF Network, two consultation and planning meetings took place in October and November 2003. The team of the NFP was enlarged with the addition of new specialists and by the end of the year 10 people were involved.

Cooperation with the following state institutions has been continuous:

- The Ministry of the Environment and Waters (MOEW)
- The Department of Waters and Information Center
- Regional Inspectorates of MOEW in the Danube Basin in Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Vratza, Rouse
- A consultative group of the MOEW on the implementation of the WFD
- Danube Basin Directorate
- Forest Administrations

- State Game Stations in Rousse, Toutrakan, Berkovitsa, and Belogradchik
- Certain Institutes of the Bulgarian Science Academy (Biology, Zoology, Forests, Water Problems)
- The Ramsar Bureau

Representatives of DEF-Bulgaria have also been taking part in the Danube Basin Council and the Supreme Council for the World Bank Wetland Restoration Project.

Cooperation with the national representatives of GWP is traditionally very good, as well with the country office of WWF DCP.

Green Balkans hosted the General Assembly of the CEEWEB Network and the opportunity was used to discuss possible cooperation with DEF;

Cooperation has been exceptional with Black Sea NGO Network, allowing steady information and experience exchange. As the Secretariat of the BSNN is in Varna, several consultation meetings have been organized (See attached list). Exchange of information, bulletins and project results is frequent. The Secretariat of the BSNN has encouraged member organizations from Romania and Ukraine to establish contacts with the DEF NFPs. Likewise, during the DEF GA, Milena Dimitrova encouraged the DEF NFPs from the same countries to work in cooperation with the BSNN.

For more detailed information concerning all meetings and events two tables are attached to this report – DEF-BG meetings and events and cooperation with Black Sea NGO Network.

Cooperation with the European Environmental Bureau was reinforced. CEIE representatives keep in close contact with the working group dedicated to the development and implementation of public participation practices for the WFD. For DEF-BG, the EEB is the main information source for practical information and materials for the WFD.

➤ *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*

- ◆ *Cooperating on the development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;*
 - Development of the DEF Communications Strategy was agreed upon by the DEF Secretariat in association with the DEF NFPs. The communication team of CEIE proposed a draft, discussed it with the Secretariat and Board members, collected comments and subsequently revised the draft. The DEF Communications Strategy conforms to both the ICPDR Public Participation Strategy and the different conditions and requirements of DEF member countries. The strategy was discussed during the Board meeting in October in Vienna and then presented to the participants of the DEF General Assembly. The final version was prepared in December 2003. The Action Plan will require some clarification during the forthcoming Board meeting.

- ◆ *Continuously providing updated information to the DEF website and updating national DEF web pages in their respective languages;*
 - The communication team of the NFP has provided information for the DEF website and contributed to the improvement of the Bulgarian version on a regular basis. For communication with the public within Bulgaria, the Bluelink NGO Information Network is used, where news and the DEF-Bulletin are published.
- ◆ *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Newsletter, translating these into the national language, printing and disseminating;*
 - For the 2nd and 3rd editions of the DEF Bulletin, two articles from Bulgaria were provided. For the Bulgarian version, additional nationally relevant information was included. The 2nd issue featured an article on the national training and the Small Grant Programme. The 3rd issue featured the meetings with the ICPDR representatives.
 - The bulletins were translated, edited and printed as planned, and distributed. The 2nd issue was distributed during information campaigns in the summer period and the 3rd issue was distributed during meetings with stakeholders. The planned 200 copies were not sufficient. Following requests, an electronic version was also distributed. The electronic version is more conducive to our national conditions and concerns if the content and format of the bulletin will remain the same.
- ◆ *Providing information about members of the national DEF network for the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.);*
 - Information about the DEF members in Bulgaria was collected and provided to the DEF Secretariat in the requested form (i.e. profiles, areas of work, funding sources, responsible persons, contacts, etc.).
- ◆ *Providing information on national NGO experts, for the DEF expert database;*
 - Inviting experts to participate in the DEF database was a challenging yet successful task. The requirement for using English language limited the number of replies. We published invitations for the database three times – in January, April and June 2003. The collected data was provided to the DEF Secretariat in the required format.
- ◆ *Publishing articles on DEF activities and goals in national media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, academic journals, etc.);*
 - On the 4th December 2003, the 11th December 2003 and the 22nd January 2004, Bulgarian national radio featured in their programme, “Sustainable Development,” interviews with Phillip Weller, Andy Garner and participants in the DEF GA. Materials were prepared and provided by the DEF NFP.
 - An article on International Wetlands Day and the importance of wetlands was prepared and provided for publishing in the special environmental bulletin “Ecopolis”.
- ◆ *Organizing a press release at the national level for all relevant events (i.e. the DEF General Assembly, national trainings, etc.);*

- A press-conference was organized in Rousse in connection with the national training. One local TV station covered the conference and on October 4th, national radio reported about the training, field trip and SGP.
 - Two press-releases were prepared and distributed among national and regional media concerning the “Rowing the Danube” initiative of WWF. The first release promoted the initiative and the second announced the arrival of participants on Bulgarian territory. We assisted Vidin and Rouse TVs in contacting participants. Both television stations reported on the local level.
 - On the 24th December 2003, a press-release was issued concerning the first meeting of the Danube Basin Council and was provided also to the Basin Directorate for their use.
 - Following the DEF GA, a press-release was distributed to the Bulgarian national media and published in Bluelink Information Network.
 - A special press-release was prepared and distributed after the meeting in Sofia between DEF-BG members and ICPDR Executive Secretary. The Bulgarian National Information Agency also published the translated press release announcing the new ICPDR presidency on the 24th January 2004.
- ◆ *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations, partnership-building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level);*
- Building participation and partnerships on the local level was the main focus in our work during this project period. Within the framework of the present project, the local NGO Kalimok-Brashlen from Toutrakan was established with the participation of Green Balkans. This group was supported in their involvement of local stakeholders because of the importance of the implementation of the World Bank Wetlands Restoration Project. With the help of Green Balkans, the required documentation for the establishment of a new protected area was prepared. In completing the documentation, both the forest administration and the Regional Environmental Inspectorate were consulted with in Rousse.
 - Within the framework of other ongoing projects of CEIE and the Balkani Wildlife Society, local NGOs in Belogradchik, Berkovitsa, Lovetch, Belene, and Rousse were supported in the implementation of sustainable practices for the restoration and use of wetlands and river beds. To achieve the project goal of building awareness of nutrient and toxic pollution reduction, numerous meetings with local administrations, NGOs, farmers, forest administrations, game stations were held. In the western part of the basin the topic was the importance of wetlands and constructed wetlands. In the Eastern part, the focus was the importance of floodplain forests. NM “Ecoglasnost” focused on public participation in decision-making concerning the Yantra River Basin.
 - Local NGOs from the Dobrudja region were consulted on environmentally-friendly agriculture, and encouraged to participate in the SGP. Ecomission 21 from Lovetch (supported by DEF in the previous year) succeeded in involving local stakeholders from the Osam River Basin in a common project. The newly established Basin Directorate in Pleven became a main

partner of NGOs devoted to water issues and the implementation of the WFD.

- Close cooperation is being maintained with the Information Department of the MOEW concerning the new DRP Component 3.4.
 - The regional structures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest in Montana, Dobrich, and Silistra, which are responsible for SAPARD instrumentation, were also contacted and will be a focus for cooperation throughout 2004.
 - Preparation of the Terms of Reference for the Danube RBMP became an important issue for DEF-BG members. NM “Ecoglasnost” and CEIE are involved in the process and are in close cooperation with the BSPB/Birdlife International branch in Svishtov, which participates in the Basin Council for the Danube region. NGOs provided to the Directorate expertise on pollution prevention, public participation and wetlands management, and assisted in the development of a plan for public consultation. Upcoming for Bulgaria is the preparation of a new Water Act, as well as further development of the administration for RBM. Informing and encouraging local stakeholders to participate will also be a focus for next year.
 - Essential is cooperation with experts from the GWP on both the local and national levels. The Bulgarian editions of their newspapers and website are used for publishing announcements. Contacts were also established with the PR department of the Municipality of Rousse for inviting them to initiatives celebrating International Danube Day.
- ◆ *Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the country;*
- The Head of the ICPDR Delegation is also the Deputy Minister of the Environment. Following a meeting in the beginning of 2003, the ICPDR Head was informed in writing about ongoing DEF activities. Cooperation was established with different experts and specialists within the MOEW – Neviana Teneva and Vladimir Dontchev from the Water Department; Violeta Royachka and Yana Mihailova concerning public participation issues and Danube Day, as well as with many representatives of the Nature Protection Department. Regarding RBM issues, cooperation is direct with the Basin Directorate. Meetings are regular and are organized for concrete issues and events.
 - The 9th December 2003 meeting with the Executive Secretary of the ICPDR in Sofia was a critical one, when planned activities for the next year were discussed.
- ◆ *Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation at the national level;*
- The Bulgarian NFP was, and is, primarily responsible for contributing to the REC SGP. With contribution from Milena Dimitrova for the development of the programme and preparation of the guidance documentation during the REC briefing in March 2003, the SGP was presented at the national training. An additional 20 NGOs were consulted on the preparation of projects. A DEF representative was invited to participate only in the evaluation of full proposals on the national level. We are not satisfied with the number of proposals, and so, we carried out interviews with NGOs in an attempt to understand why. Many NGOs pointed out the fact that the period for preparation of the concept papers

(six weeks, including long Easter holiday) was very short for a multi-stakeholder project. The issue was also discussed with the REC representative during the General Assembly in Obrenovac. As a general conclusion, we emphasize the positive experience of DEF's inclusion in the whole process, and of the reinforcement of cooperation with the REC office in Sofia.

- For more detailed information concerning all meetings and events, two tables are attached to this report – DEF-BG Meetings and Events, and Cooperation with the Black Sea NGO Network.

Sustainability of DEF

- Efforts of the members of DEF-Bulgaria were oriented towards identifying and ensuring additional funding for activities, and not to depend solely on the DRP. In fact, our network has never relied entirely upon funds from the DEF Secretariat. When possible, funding opportunities and sources on the national level were identified:
 - EU programmes operating in Bulgaria
 - REC programmes
 - The British Know How Fund
 - The Embassy of the Netherlands programme
 - Nationally-based foundations for the support of local NGOs
- During the reporting period, however, there were no special funding opportunities for the institutional development of DEF on the national level. We did submit several proposals for specific activities:
 - The Embassy of the Netherlands for NATURA 2000 awareness rising (CEIE and Balkani)
 - REC SGP – NM “Ecoglasnost”, Green Balkans and the rest of the approved projects were developed by DEF partner NGOs (“Ecomission 21” from Lovech, Nature Protection Society from Belogradchik, Black Sea NGO Network and Environmental Club from Dobrich). These were approved on the national level.
- Proposals not accepted are under improvement and preparation for the next batch of calls.
- On the regional level, we prepared a proposal for the Government of the Netherlands in cooperation with DEF Serbia & Montenegro and the DEF Secretariat. The proposal concerned the transborder area between Bulgaria and Serbia & Montenegro.
- One regional cooperative project from the REC SGP was accepted (DAPHNE, CEIE, PEC) and implementation will begin soon.
- For International Danube Day celebrations, one common proposal with DEF Romania was submitted to the Allavida Fund.
- On the international level, two proposals were submitted by Green Balkans in cooperation with NGOs from the EU to Legambiente (Italy) and to the Toyota Fund.
- On the European level, CEIE participates in projects on the WFD in cooperation with members of the EEB.

Participation in Regional Forums

- *The NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional initiatives, for example: the WFD Guidance Group on Public Participation, Wetlands, etc.*
 - Milena Dimitrova from CEIE represented DEF in the briefing for the SGP in REC Headquarters in Szentendre (28th February – 1st March 2003)
 - Valentina Fidanova and Krassimira Peneva from Green Balkans attended the Donors' meeting in Brashov, which was organized by WWF-DCP (24th – 25th November 2003)
 - Milena Dimitrova represented DEF at the DRP Nutrients workshop in Sofia (26th – 27th January 2004).

Evaluation and Assessment

- Incorporate into workplan for Phase II.

The priorities of DEF-Bulgaria in the first phase of the DRP are:

- To become a partner network dedicated to Danube issues under the MOEW.
- To involve grassroots organizations from the basin region.
- To improve the management of the network in Bulgaria.
- To develop initiatives for ensuring the sustainability of the network.

The team of CEIE prepared and submitted to the DEF Board the evaluation form for Phase I of the DRP. The NFP for DEF-Bulgaria submitted the evaluation form for Bulgaria to the DEF Secretariat. The evaluation process is essential in the planning of activities for the coming year.

2. Supporting the Capacities of DEF in Responding to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) in addressing DRB transboundary problems, in essence, "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Program, which is also supported by the DRP.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Finalize training materials for national trainings on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction in the national language;*
 - Training materials were prepared in the Bulgarian language and printed for each participant. Only the case studies from the DEF manual were translated and provided to all participants. An English version of the manual was printed and a copy made available during the training. All interested participants also received an electronic version of the manual after the training. The Bulgarian environmental NGO community was informed about the manual through the Bluelink information network. Several organizations outside the Danube Basin also received the electronic version as requested.

- *Organize national trainings for NGOs on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about the DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.*
 - A training was planned and organized in cooperation with Green Balkans, GWP and CEIE. The objective of the training was to increase the awareness and knowledge of participants concerning wetlands management and preparation of projects for the SGP. The provided DRP training manual was used in the preparation. Different lecturers were involved in the preparation and the sessions – Maria Minkova (NM “Ecoglasnost”), Galia Bardarska (GWP), Margarita Mateeva – REC, Bulgaria, Milko Dimitrov – Burgas Wetlands, Hristo Nikolov and Valentina Fidanova– Green Balkans; Marieta Stoimenova – Ministry of Environment and Waters, Milena Dimitrova and Stanislava Boshnakova – CEIE.
 - Participants of the workshop included representatives of 35 NGOs, 4 mass media and 12 environmental institutions. A total of 60 participants and lecturers attended the workshop. 27 evaluation forms were returned. Information about the workshop was disseminated through the Blue Link electronic information network among 300 NGO representatives. An additional 50 local interest groups throughout the Danube basin region were contacted via e-mail, phone, and fax. We consider the number and ratio of NGO to institutional representatives was appropriate.
 - Most interesting/relevant components of the workshop, according to participants:
 - project development and fund raising opportunities
 - establishment of contacts with new partners
 - wetlands restoration management
 - practical advice and information about new developments, presented by the trainers
 - practical experience for management of a protected area (field trip)
 - Main outputs from the workshop:
 - Submitted SGP projects were mainly from participants of the training.
 - A second training needs to be organized. It was not possible to get all candidates to participate. There were approximately 20 interested people who could not participate.
 - The agenda was oriented towards providing introductory information on wetlands management. There is a need for a more intensive training for NGOs.
 - In evaluating the training (facilitated by the evaluation form) DEF members in Bulgaria gave the training a 3-4 point score.
 - Lessons learned and experience gained:

- Cooperation was solid and task division was equal among the DEF member organizations in Bulgaria. Thanks to the training, we are ready to organize other events without major difficulty.
- Cooperation and communication with the REC Country Office has been fruitful.
- The training was a great opportunity for representatives of different target groups to establish new contacts and cooperative efforts. This is very important for multi-stakeholder projects and overall participation in river basin management.
- Due to a fairly short training session (2.5 days) little time was allotted for practical matters.
- Due to the number of training participants, working groups were quite large.
- Needs for the future:
 - Similar trainings for small groups and for a longer duration (3-4 days) throughout the Danube Basin
 - Continued work with media representatives so that they may learn more about the basin approach and understand more fully the activities of NGOs
 - According to the participants' evaluations and consultations meetings with local NGOs and stakeholders, the topics for the next national training were identified and are included in the working plan for 2004
 - The issue of nutrients and toxins will be the focus of our work in the next year. However, problems associated with river basin management are becoming a hot topic for both institutions and the local community.
- *Organize national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organizations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the nutrient reduction problem, as well as the goals and objectives of the DRP.*
 - During the national training, a detailed discussion on the SGP took place and a field trip was organized.

Publishing special NGO publications in the national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- *DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.*
 - In the preparation of materials for the national training session, various available publications were collected. Following a discussion among DEF Board members, we deemed such publications appropriate for our country and supported their preparation at the regional level.
 - At the national level, two publications were made available:
 - Efficient water use in cooperation with the MOEW for the celebration of Earth Day (22.04.2003) – This publication was made possible by the financial support of the MOEW and distributed among all regional inspectorates.

- Sticker for the celebration of International Wetlands Day (02.02.2004) - This publication received a print run of 1000 copies and was distributed, together with informational materials, on Wetlands Day, as well as after the fact by DEF members.

Organization of training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrient reduction) management (3.1.4)

- *During the first half of this work period, the NFP will contribute to clarifying an appropriate theme for the second training course to support DEF and DRP objectives.*

Following the international training in 2003, the NFP will make preliminary preparations for a national training to be held in Phase II of the Project.

- The main issues of focus for DEF-Bulgaria were:
 - Public participation and the EU WFD
 - Communication Activities in the Danube Basin (including the PP Strategy of ICPDR)
- For local NGOs and other stakeholders from the Danube region, training is planned for the coming year. For the Bulgarian branch of the Black Sea NGO Network, however, training was provided by Milena Dimitrova. The same lecture was delivered to participants of the National stakeholders meeting “Priorities for Integrated Water Management” in Sofia on 18th December 2003, and for students of ecology from various universities on 19th December 2003.
- The team from CEIE took part in the preparation of the training materials for the DEF International Training 2003 in Obrenovac and conducted a training session on communication skills.

Problems during implementation

- Awareness about the basin approach in water management is still virtually unknown in Bulgaria. There is a need for a broader and more comprehensive campaign if we are to fully explain the situation and involve different stakeholders. Such a campaign would allow a full explanation of the importance of the DRP with regards to nutrients and toxins.
- A small number of project proposals for the SGP were not very high in quality. Topics for the next phase of the SGP should be carefully defined in order to provide the possibility to implement diverse activities.
- There have been delays in the implementation of some general tasks of the DRP, (i.e. the Public Participation Strategy, and the short time frame for the preparation of project proposals) as well as in money transfers. Such delays complicate work with members of DEF-Bulgaria, and cause financial losses for the NFP. Improvement in the communication between the various components of the DRP is needed.

List of Attachments (support materials, outputs and products):

1. Table - DEF-BG meetings and events
2. Table - Cooperation with the Black Sea NGO Network
3. Activity plan for 2004
4. Green Balkans activity report

5. National training report
6. National training group dynamics results
7. Summary of the evaluation sheets from the national training
8. List of journalists participating in the press conference on 4th April 2003 in Rousse
9. National training agenda
10. National training – materials for participants
11. Press releases
12. Communication strategy
13. Evaluation form for the First Phase
14. Group dynamics of the International training
15. Presentations from the lectures on public participation, WFD and communication activities in the Danube Basin
16. Leaflet on efficient water use
17. Sticker
18. Final financial report

**CROATIA
GREEN ACTION, DEF NFP**

**UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
Support for the Institutional Development of DEF and Community Involvement**

WORK PERIOD: 1st February 2003 - 29th February 2004

REPORTED BY: Irma Popovic

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

3. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

- *Further strengthen cooperation within DEF by participating in 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly*
 - March 2003 - Green Action actively participated in the DEF Board Meeting in Murska Sobota, Slovenia.
 - October 2003 - Green Action actively participated in the DEF Board Meeting in Vienna, Austria.
 - November 2003 - Green Action actively participated in the DEF General Assembly in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro.
- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, i.e. the Black Sea NGO network, etc.*
 - Several meetings with representatives from the State Water Directorate
 - A meeting with a representative of the Faculty of Forestry in April
 - Participation in a round table on floodplain forests with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Croatian Forests Company, the Nature Park Kopacki Rit, the municipal council of Nasice and several others respective parties to whom we presented activities of DEF and the Danube Regional Project in Croatia

- We have cooperated well with media, especially newspapers and radio, and had several interviews about DEF and our activities within the forum. We also participated in an international press field trip on the Drava river where we witnessed horribly destructive gravel excavation and river regulation on the Drava river.
 - Cooperation has been steady and fruitful with Green Forum, the national network of environmental NGOs. Certain environmental problems have been addressed and solved together. We also have close ties to WWF DCPO. Green Action is, for instance, using its office to host Rayka Houser. In 2004, we plan to work closely with WWF Austria on River Drava issues, especially those relating to gravel excavation in first few months of the year, and on the hydroelectric project at Novo Virje.
- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*
- ◆ *Cooperating on the development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;*
 - Green Action provided commentary on the draft versions of both strategies via e-mail. Given that Ms. Milena Kovacheva's draft of the Communication Strategy was essentially flawless, we had little to comment upon, only to express our approval and to congratulate her on doing a very good job.
 - ◆ *Continuously providing updated information to the DEF website and updating national DEF web pages in their respective languages;*
 - Having received proclamations from DEF national members that a Croatian version of the DEF web site was necessary (as they do not feel comfortable clicking on the Yugoslavian flag), we asked at the Vienna Board meeting that funds be made available for the translation and enlargement of the DEF website for the 2nd phase.
 - Design of the DEF website has undergone certain revisions, which we agreed were a nice improvement. We updated the DEF website when necessary, and asked other DEF member NGOs to do the same, in consultation with us. Once the new format of the site was ready, we linked the DEF site to the Green Action website.
 - ◆ *Actively communicating via, and contributing to, DEF email conferences;*
 - We have been in constant communication with the DEF Secretariat and with other NFPs. We contributed to all requested tasks as soon as we could manage, as we have many other projects and activities. Given other responsibilities, we did not react promptly to DEF's requests at times.
 - ◆ *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Newsletter, translating these into the national language, printing and disseminating;*
 - For the 2nd issue of the DEF Bulletin, we prepared an article about public participation in Croatia and how Green Action is working with the public. By the end of August 2003, 300 copies of the Bulletin were printed and

disseminated to all DEF national members, for them to further disseminate to all interested parties. We printed only 300 copies because of a very low exchange rate on the USD. We lost a lot of money on this, and were thus unable to fund 500 copies and were forced to lower the print and paper quality.

- For the 3rd issue of the DEF Bulletin, we asked representatives from The Drava League alliance to prepare an article on the problematic development of the River Drava, and how the League was working to solve the problem. By the end of December 2003, we translated the text, and printed 700 copies of the Bulletin in January. The reason for such a high print run of the 3rd issue is that the Drava issue is very important for Croatia, and we felt that widespread dissemination was critical. Having saved \$500 USD in deciding not to produce a certain NGO publication, we used the extra funds to produce more copies of the 3rd issue.
- ◆ *Providing information about members of the national DEF network for the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.);*
 - At the request of the DEF Secretariat, we informed all DEF members to fill out the form, which is available on the DEF website or was sent as an attachment, for the purposes of updating the NGO Directory. Green Action also filled out the form.
- ◆ *Providing information on national NGO experts, for the DEF expert database;*
 - We asked Prof. Emilijan Levacic, a retired Chemistry Professor at Varazdin University and active member of the NGO "Franjo Koscec", to join the DEF movement by becoming a DEF expert. Prof. Levacic accepted. He had already contributed to our work by giving a lecture on nitrates at the DEF national training in Varazdinske Toplice. He also prepared an impressive expert-based publication on nitrates, though it should be said that the publication was not appropriate for the general public. We therefore hope, in near future, to produce and print a leaflet on nutrients that is geared more towards the public.
- ◆ *Publishing articles on DEF activities and goals in national media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, academic journals, etc.);*
 - Three newspaper articles of ours were featured in local and national newspapers
 - One interview with a local TV station concerning national training on nutrients in Varazdinske Toplice in April 2003, which we organized - This interview was also shown on national TV.
 - One interview on regional radio in October 2003 about DRP implementation in Croatia, adaptation of Croatian policies (in particular, agriculture policy), and the role of DEF in the whole process
- ◆ *Organizing a press release at the national level for all relevant events (i.e. the DEF General Assembly, national trainings, etc.);*

- In order to involve more DEF member organizations, we asked the NGO Franjo Koscec from Varazdin to invite the media to the DEF national training in April. Each journalist received a DEF leaflet in the Croatian language, and other informational material.
 - We co-organized two press conferences that WWF DCPO held on Drava issues (gravel extraction and HE Novo Virje) in Zagreb in July and November.
- ◆ *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations, partnership-building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level);*
- Several meetings were held with representatives of the State Water Directorate in April, May, October and November. A representative of the Directorate was also invited to participate in the DEF National Training by giving a lecture on the WFD and Croatian legislation. Mr. Borso accepted our invitation, giving an interesting and informative presentation, and answering many questions raised by training participants.
 - On the 6th of February 2004, I was invited by the Water Directorate to come to a meeting to discuss with a consultant the implementation of the WFD. The consultant wanted to know more about Green Action and our activities on water issues.
 - We maintained communication with all DEF national members via email, phone and meetings. Non-DEF member NGOs were also present at the national training, and they received all relevant information and brochures about DEF. Some of them were invited to become DEF members, and we held meetings with these NGOs. We participated in many other meetings and workshops where we represented DEF at some, and the DEF Network DRP and their goals at others (i.e. the round table on Slavonian Floodplain Forests of the Drava and Dunaj region held in Nasice in September).
 - We maintained regular communication with the national REC office via email and phone, and we invited SGP coordinator Ms. Matijevic to give a presentation on DRP SGP. We took the opportunity to have a meeting and discuss the DEF network, small grant proposals and the role of REC in the DRP.
 - In late January 2004, we were contacted by Brodsko Ekolosko Drustvo (DEF member) to help them in saving one floodplain from total disappearance by human influence. We wrote an official request to Croatian Waters (the State water management body) to take our request into consideration. Apparently they have!
 - In 2004, we strengthened contacts with DEF members, especially in the Drava region, as we started the campaign "Save the Drava" to stop gravel excavation and river regulation.
- ◆ *Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the country;*
- We participated at the State Water Directorate workshop on the WFD in Stubicke Toplice in mid October where we had a meeting with Mr. Ostojic,

Head of the ICPDR Delegation in Croatia, about the role of NGOs in water management, and cooperation between GOs and NGOs.

- In November, together with Ms. Houser from WWF DCPO, we had a meeting with Mr. Makvic, Chief Water Inspector from the State Water Directorate. The meeting was very successful. Mr. Ostojic had also hoped to attend, but unfortunately couldn't participate. We discussed the present state of water and water management in Croatia.
- ◆ *Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation at the national level;*
 - The REC office gave us all project proposals and invited us to participate in a SGP evaluation meeting in September. However, as Green Action is a partner organization in one project proposal, we couldn't make a final decision on which project proposals to fund. Also, due to participation in the International Drava Day conference, we were unable to participate in the meeting. We nonetheless offered our opinion by preparing some comments on the project proposals and sending them to the REC SGP coordinator via email. Further, we were informed about the results of the meeting and about which project proposals received funding.

Participation in Regional Forums

- *The NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional initiatives, for example: the WFD Guidance Group on Public Participation, Wetlands, etc.*
 - We participated in the Danube Regional Project meeting on the public participation program of the DRP in Zagreb in August, as did DEF NFPs from Serbia & Montenegro, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania and Austria.
 - In September, we participated in a round table discussion on Slavonian Floodplain Forests of the Drava and Dunaj region held in Nasice.
 - In September, we participated in the International Drava Day conference in Koprivnica.
 - We co-organized two press conferences that WWF DCPO held on Drava issues (gravel extraction and HE Novo Virje) in Zagreb in July and November, and one protest action in front of Croatian Parliament in July 2003.

Evaluation and Assessment

- ◆ Incorporate into workplan for Phase II.
- 4. **Supporting the Capacities of DEF in Responding to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)**

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) in addressing DRB transboundary problems, in essence, "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Program, which is also supported by the DRP.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Develop a methodology for the training of NGOs at the national level, taking into account training needs concerning wetlands and nutrient reduction (in relation to the DRP Small Grants Program where appropriate), as identified by the DEF Board and Secretariat after discussions with experts;*
 - In early April 2003, we organized a national training on nutrient and toxic reduction, and wetland restoration in the Danube River Basin.
 - We tend to focus on nutrients rather than on toxins, as nutrients are a bigger problem in Croatia.
 - The training met its objectives, more than expected in fact. We had met with the Major of Varazdin and other local authorities, and also with a representative from the Varazdin County Public Health Department. Future cooperation looks promising.
 - The event was covered by the media: local and national TV stations and newspapers.
 - Ms. Dora Radosavljevic, who was trained at the International training in Vinicne 2002, was training other NGOs with the help of Mr. Levacic, a chemist specializing in nitrate levels in waters and their influence on human health.
- *Finalize training materials for national trainings on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction in the national language;*
 - The training manual provided to us before the national training was found to be of very high quality and very helpful. We agreed that it should be disseminated as such, even in English, as most NGOs are working in English. So, we prepared the CD with training materials for each participant of the training to serve as a manual in their work.
 - Having received the minutes from some of the lectures, we disseminated them among participants.
- *Organize national trainings for NGOs on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about the DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.*
 - As previously mentioned, a national training was organized and held. IT proved to be quite a success. Most SGP priority topics were mentioned. Ms. Matijevic, coordinator of REC SGP, was present throughout the entire training and actively participated at the training. On the second day, she delivered a presentation on SGP.

- *Organize national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organizations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the nutrient reduction problem, as well as the goals and objectives of the DRP.*
 - During the project period, we had several meetings with Mr. Borso from the State Water Directorate about water quality in Croatia and WFD implementation, with the Faculty of Science about the HE project at Novo Virje in May, and with DEF national members before the DEF Board Meeting in Vienna in October regarding future activities DEF, what should we do, the future of DEF, etc.
 - Many meetings were also held with other NGOs, some of them non-DEF members, throughout the Sava and Drava river basins about local and regional problems they encounter in their work.

Publishing special NGO publications in the national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- *DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.*
 - After much doubt and lengthy discussions, the DEF Board finally decided not to produce this publication, but to focus instead on a poster addressing the problems, beauties and values of the entire Danube River Basin. In October, we presented our comments on the draft version of the poster. As we were not very satisfied with its design or content, it is still in the works.

Organization of training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrient reduction) management (3.1.4)

- *During the first half of this work period, the NFP will contribute to clarifying an appropriate theme for the second training course to support DEF and DRP objectives.*
 - The DEF Secretariat proposed that next DEF international training should be on the Water Framework Directive and public participation. As NGOs still are not well informed about the WFD, we found this theme to be an appropriate one for next DEF training. The public participation issue is also very important for ensuring a suitable and timely implementation of the WFD.

Following the international training in 2003, the NFP will make preliminary preparations for a national training to be held in Phase II of the Project.

- Ms. Olga Jovanovic attended the training, and will work on organizing the national training. We have already begun to think of possible trainers on different topics, and of possible venues.

CZECH REPUBLIC
The Union for the Morava River, NFP, Czech Republic

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
Support for the Institutional Development of DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: January – December 2003

REPORTED BY: Jaroslav Ungerman

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

5. *Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)*

- *Further strengthen cooperation within DEF by participating in 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly*
 - March 2003 – The Union for the Morava River (also referred to as „The Union“) actively participated in the DEF Board Meeting in Murska Sobota, Slovenia.
 - October 2003 – The Union for the Morava River actively participated in the DEF Board Meeting in Vienna, Austria.
 - November 2003 – The Union for the Morava River actively participated in the international training on WFD implementation in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro.
 - November 2003 - The Union for the Morava River actively participated in the DEF General Assembly in Obrenovac, Serbia & Montenegro.
- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, i.e. the Black Sea NGO network, etc.*

At present, the Union for the Morava River is the only DEF member in the Czech Republic. The Union is, however, an umbrella organization made up of 21 organizations (mostly NGOs) and 27 individual members. The Union worked in the following ways to gain new Union/DEF members:

- Invited potential members to trainings and meetings organized by the Union
- Spread DEF and Union publications amongst potential members
- Conducted a press conference (8 journalists incl. TV and radio reporters) and a press report on DEF – October 2003
- 10th anniversary of the Union of the Morava River – an annual general meeting in December – 5 new members
- The Union participated in an **advisory board of experts set up by the Czech Ministry of the Environment** to assess the impact of the planned Danube-Oder-Elbe canal on the environment. The board consists of 14 experts from state-run institutions and non-governmental organizations, one of which represents the Union for the Morava River. The advisory board, and our participation in it, is a major success for our organization.

- Close **cooperation with the REC Office** in Prague on preparing applications for grants related to nutrients and toxic substances – organizations from outside the Union had also been invited to a seminar where they were trained on the structure of grant applications and how to apply for the grants. This activity led to the submission of a number of grant applications, six of which were successful.
- Participation in **decision-making processes**
 - Damages on rivers after floods in 1997 and 2002
 - Planned preventive anti-flood measures
 - Point source pollution removal – sewage treatment plants
 - Revitalisation of water systems (river wetlands)

In January 2003 the Czech Ministry of the Environment approved a grant for the Union (3300 EUR) for participation in the above-mentioned processes. Its decision was based on presented experience of the Union with decision-making processes in 2002.

- **Communication with water management authorities** - The Union was invited to take part in preparation of a study related to preventive anti-flood measures (with an emphasis on environmentally-sound measures) in the Upper Morava River Basin.
- Involvement of the Union in **the implementation process of the Water Framework Directive** in the Czech Republic - The Union participated in a two-day conference related to the WFD implementation process in Prague.
- Participation in an **advisory board of experts set up by the Czech Ministry of the Environment** to assess the impact of the planned Danube-Oder-Elbe canal on the environment - The board consists of 14 experts from state-run institutions and non-governmental organizations, one of which a representative from the Union for the Morava River. The advisory board, and our participation in it, is a major success for this organization.
- Union member VERONICA is partaking in a loose **trilateral group of non-governmental organizations** together with DISTELVEREIN of Austria and DAPHNE of Slovakia (both of which are DEF members) on declaring three UNESCO biosphere reserves on the territory of each respective state, thus creating a chance to set up a single unit (formed by the three reserves) with the status of an international biosphere reserve sometime in the future. On September 15th, the UNESCO general director certified the establishment of the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve (Palava, Lednice-Valtice, Podluži) with a recommendation to discuss creating an international biosphere reserve with partners in Austria and Slovakia.
- **Working groups within the Union** have been addressing these topics:
 - Pollution of the Brno Reservoir
 - The Danube-Oder-Elbe canal
 - Anti-flood measures
 - Revitalisation of the Lower Morava River floodplains

It should be noted that members of the working groups are cooperating with local authorities, state-run authorities, universities as well as other institutions and organizations.

- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*
- ◆ *Continuously providing updated information to the DEF website and updating national DEF web pages in their respective languages;*
 - The Union updated their websites in Czech and English (www.sweb.cz/uprm). We also created a new site about DEF in the Czech language. The websites are also useful in providing information about important events such as the October 2003 training on nutrients and toxic substances reduction.
 - The Union uploaded the English version of a study called *The Environmentally Sustainable Flood Protection Measures for the Morava and the Becva Rivers in Central Moravia* on www.sweb.cz/uprm.
 - The Union also contributed an article entitled, “Environmentally Sustainable Flood Protection Measures for the Morava and the Becva Rivers in Central Moravia” to the DEF websites.
 - ◆ *Actively communicating via, and contributing to, DEF email conferences;*
 - The Union set up an email conference for all Union members with an approximate traffic of 5-10 emails per month. This conference is also used for spreading information about DEF activities – for example, articles which would have been out of date by the time the 2nd issue of the DEF Bulletin was published, were disseminated via email conferencing instead.
 - ◆ *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Newsletter, translating these into the national language, printing and disseminating;*
 - The 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Bulletin have been translated into Czech, printed and distributed amongst Union members, other NGOs and local mayors in the Morava, Becva and Dyje Basins in the Czech Republic. Both bulletins contain contributions from the Union.
 - ◆ *Providing information about members of the national DEF network for the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.);*
 - As mentioned above, the Union for the Morava River is the only DEF member in the Czech Republic. The Union is, however, an umbrella organization made information regarding profiles and funding can be obtained from our website: www.sweb.cz/uprm
 - ◆ *Providing information on national NGO experts, for the DEF expert database;*
 - The Union for the Morava River has one expert representative serving on a national advisory board of experts set up by the Czech Ministry of the Environment to assess the impact of the planned Danube-Odra-Elbe canal on the environment. The board consists of 14 experts from state-run institutions and non-governmental organizations. The board is a great opportunity to consult with national experts on water management issues.
 - ◆ *Publishing articles on DEF activities and goals in national media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, academic journals, etc.);*

- *Danube Watch* – The Union contributed an article entitled, “The Environmentally Sustainable Flood Protection Measures for the Morava and the Becva Rivers in Central Moravia,” to the magazine for publication.
 - The above-mentioned article has been uploaded to our website: www.sweb.cz/uprm.
 - “Ziviny a Toxicke Latky ve Vode a Zpusoby jejich Odstranovani” (Nutrients and Toxic Substances in Water and Methods of their Reduction) - A training manual was prepared by the Union, and will be distributed amongst Union and non-Union members in the Morava, Becva and Dyje Floodplains of the Czech Republic.
 - DEF leaflet – The leaflet, which was translated into Czech and printed in 2002, was distributed amongst Union members and other NGOs in the Morava, Becva and Dyje Basins in the Czech Republic in 2003.
- ◆ *Organizing a press release at the national level for all relevant events (i.e. the DEF General Assembly, national trainings, etc.);*
- A press conference was held and a subsequent press report released in October 2003 on DEF activities. Eight journalists (more than we had expected) including TV, radio and news agency reporters were present at the conference.
- ◆ *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations, partnership-building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level);*
- The Union was invited by **water management authorities** to take part in the preparation of a study related to preventive anti-flood measures (with an emphasis on environmentally-sound measures) in the Upper Morava River Basin.
 - The Union has been working closely with **the REC Office** in Prague, preparing applications for grants related to the reduction of nutrients and toxic substances.
 - The Union has been involved in **the implementation process of the Water Framework Directive** in the Czech Republic. Union members participated in a two-day conference related to WFD implementation in Prague.
 - A Union representative was invited to partake in an **advisory board of experts established by the Czech Ministry of the Environment** to assess the impact of the planned Danube-Oder-Elbe canal on the environment. The advisory board, and our participation in it, is a major success for this organization.
 - The Union has **formulated working groups** devoted to the following topics:
 - Pollution of the Brno Reservoir
 - The Danube-Oder-Elbe canal
 - Anti-flood measures
 - Revitalisation of the Lower Morava River floodplains

- Union email conferencing is useful in spreading information about DEF activities – allowing up to date information about DEF issues to be disseminated instantly.
- ◆ *Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation at the national level;*
 - Organizations from within and outside the Union were also invited to a REC seminar where they were trained on the structure of grant applications and how to apply for grants. This activity led to the submission of a number of grant applications, six of which were approved for financing.

Participation in Regional Forums

- *The NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional initiatives, for example: the WFD Guidance Group on Public Participation, Wetlands, etc.*
 - As stated earlier, Union member NGO VERONICA is one of three organizations (along with DISTELVEREIN of Austria and DAPHNE of Slovakia) involved in a trilateral initiative to establish a transboundary biosphere reserve under UNESCO.
 - Participation in **decision-making processes**
 - Damages on rivers after floods in 1997 and 2002
 - Planned preventive anti-flood measures
 - Point source pollution removal – sewage treatment plants
 - Revitalization of water systems (river wetlands)
 - As a national initiative, working groups within the Union have been collaborating on the following topics:
 - Pollution of the Brno Reservoir
 - The Danube-Oder-Elbe canal
 - Anti-flood measures
 - Revitalisation of the Lower Morava River floodplains
 - The Union have also been tackling the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Czech Republic. Representatives participated in a two-day conference related to the WFD implementation process in Prague.
 - The Union has been cooperating with the Czech Ministry of the Environment, participating in a national advisory board devoted to the issue of the planned Danube-Oder-Elbe canal.

Evaluation and Assessment

- ◆ Incorporate into workplan for Phase II.

6. Supporting the Capacities of DEF in Responding to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) in addressing DRB transboundary problems, in essence, "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Program, which is also supported by the DRP.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Finalize training materials for national trainings on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction in the national language;*
 - The Union prepared a training manual entitled, “Ziviny a Toxicke Latky ve Vode a Zpusoby jejich Odstranovani” (Nutrients and Toxic Substances in Water and Methods of their Reduction). The manual deals with the reduction of nutrients and toxins. It will be distributed amongst Union and non-Union members in the Morava, Becva and Dyje Floodplains in the Czech Republic.

- *Organize national trainings for NGOs on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about the DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.*
 - The Union for the Protection of the Morava River organized two national trainings on the reduction of nutrients and toxic substances.
 - The first training also featured instruction regarding REC grant application compilation, and was held in Litovel, Central Moravia, 11th – 13th April 2003. An outline of the training follows.
 - Number of participants: 11 (5 from the Union)
 - Number of lecturers: 4 plus 1 REC representative. 2 key lecturers were absent due to illness.
 - Presented topics:
 - Wetlands in the Southern Moravian Region within the Context of NATURA 2000
 - Methods of Nutrient Reduction in Reservoirs, Improvement of Water Management and Intensification of Fish Production
 - Diffused Nutrient Pollution as a Result of Intensive Agricultural Activities and the Possibility of Pollution Reduction by Improvement of Farming Methods and Land Use, Application of the Nitrate Directive in the Czech Republic
 - Instructions for Compiling Due Grant Applications for the REC Foundation.
 - The second training also featured a meeting with applicants for membership in the Union or DEF, and was held in Hodonin, Southern Moravia, 3rd – 5th October 2003. An outline of the training follows.
 - Number of participants: 15 (13 from the Union)
 - Number of lecturers: 6 plus 1 DEF representative

- Presented topics:
 - Information about DEF Projects and Activities Related to Nutrient and Toxic Substances Reduction
 - Application of EU Legislation Related to the Reduction of Water Pollution - the Water Framework Directive and the Nitrate Directive
 - Information about DEF Activities
 - Revitalization Projects in the Morava Floodplain
 - Combined Environmental Techniques and Application of Biopreparations for Nutrient and Toxic Substances Elimination in Sediments
 - Influence of Nutrients and Toxic Substances in Water on Crayfish
 - Self-purifying Effect of the “Bata canal” (built in 1930s in an area lying 50km north of Hodonin) at the Period of Minimal Flows in the Morava River
 - Discussion about Catastrophic Pollution of the Brno Reservoir, Morava River Revitalization and the Planned Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal and its Impact on the Quality of the Surface and Ground Water in the Morava Floodplain
- *Organize national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organizations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the nutrient reduction problem, as well as the goals and objectives of the DRP.*
 - The Union meets frequently with **the REC Office** in Prague, and has been active in preparing applications for grants related to nutrients and toxic substances. Organizations from within and outside the Union were also invited to a seminar where they were trained on the structure of grant applications and the application process. This activity led to the submission of a number of grant applications, six of which were successful.
 - One representative of the Union served as a consultant in a national **advisory board of experts set up by the Czech Ministry of the Environment** to assess the impact of the planned Danube-Oder-Elbe canal on the environment. The board consists of 14 experts from state-run institutions and non-governmental organizations.
 - The Union for the Morava River held its general meeting in December 2003. The meeting was used to exchange information about DEF activities and structure. The UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project was also discussed.

Publishing special NGO publications in the national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

➤ *DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.*

- The Union prepared a Czech publication on the reduction of nutrients and toxic substances entitled, “Ziviny a Toxicke Latky ve Vode a Zpusoby jejich Odstranovani” (Nutrients and Toxic Substances in Water and Methods of their Reduction). The publication will be distributed amongst Union and non-Union members in the Morava, Becva and Dyje Floodplains of the Czech Republic.

Organization of training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrient reduction) management (3.1.4)

➤ *During the first half of this work period, the NFP will contribute to clarifying an appropriate theme for the second training course to support DEF and DRP objectives.*

- Within the first work period, a national training was held on nutrients and toxic substances, and REC grant application compilation - Litovel, Central Moravia, 11th – 13th April 2003. Topics are outlined above.
- A second national training was held on nutrients and toxic substances. The opportunity was also used to hold a meeting for applicants seeking membership in the Union or DEF. The training was held in Hodonin, Southern Moravia, 3rd – 5th October 2003. Topics are outlined above.

HUNGARY

Club or Young Naturalists

**UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
Support for the Institutional Development of DEF and Community Involvement**

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st February 2003 – 29th February 2004

REPORTED BY: Gabriella Bajnóczi and Csilla Drogman

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Club of Young Naturalists is an organization working on a voluntarily basis. The people dealing with DEF did this as a part time job. They could not make enough efforts to make DEF countrywide known and to wake the need in Hungarian organizations for joining.

Furthermore, the main contact person, Csilla Drogman moved on 1st September to the Fertő-Hanság National Park, located in northwest Hungary. This fact made communication between people responsible for DEF duties more difficult than it was before. Therefore, Club of Young Naturalists decided to pass the role of the Hungarian NFP over to BITE Baja Youth Nature Protection Society with 1st January 2004.

7. **Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)**

- *Further strengthen cooperation within DEF by participating in 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly*

We attended to and participated in the Board Meetings in March and October 2003 as well as the General Assembly in November 2003.

- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, i.e. the Black Sea NGO network, etc.*

We participated at the Annual Meeting of Hungarian Green NGOs on 7-9th March 2003 where over 350 organizations and state authorities were present. We disseminated the DEF Leaflet and the first Newsletter there, informed the participants at two working groups (with ca. 30 participants each) about DEF and encouraged them to join. We managed to establish good contacts with several NGOs (Reflex, GeoEnviron, Megújuló Energia Klub, BITE, Mosonmagyaróvári Környezetvédő Egyesület, etc.) but of these contacts only the one with BITE proved to be long term.

- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*

- ◆ *Cooperating on the development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;*

We followed the various versions of the strategy prepared by DEF Bulgaria, read them over.

- ◆ *Continuously providing updated information to the DEF website and updating national DEF web pages in their respective languages;*

We made suggestions for improvements of the Hungarian version as well as for the international home page, and provided DEF Serbia and Montenegro with requested information and translations. A separate, new Hungarian web page of DEF was prepared early December with information about DEF, the Hungarian action plan for 2004 and related links by BITE (DEF Member).

- ◆ *Actively communicating via, and contributing to, DEF email conferences;*

We actively took part in DEF Board email conferences and reacted on the letters as soon as we could.

- ◆ *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Newsletter, translating these into the national language, printing and disseminating;*

We entrusted the same company with the printing job as before. Because the printing proceeded on color paper (for better popularity) the funds appointed for the bulletins proved

to be insufficient. Therefore we decided to allocate the funds provided for the publication on nutrient reduction for the publication of the bulletins. The second issue was printed in 1000 copies in October 2003, the third in 1000 copies in February 2004. The translation of the text and writing of eventual Hungarian paragraphs was done by members of FTK who are in charge of DEF matters (Gabriella Bajnóczi, Csilla Dorogman, Viktória Siposs). We contributed to the international versions of the Bulletins by writing a paragraph about a PP activity of our organization in the Buda mountains into the second issue, and a paragraph about the Vásárhelyi Plan on the River Tisza into the third issue. In the last bulletin we included a short paragraph about passing over DEF duties to BITE Baja Youth Nature Protection Society. The bulletins were distributed among organizations whom we established contact with previously and those related somehow to water.

- ◆ *Providing information about members of the national DEF network for the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.);*

We contacted the only DEF member BITE to fill in the form on the web site.

- ◆ *Providing information on national NGO experts, for the DEF expert database;*

We have provided Secretariat with our list of experts.

- ◆ *Publishing articles on DEF activities and goals in national media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, academic journals, etc.);*

Because the network was so small we concentrated on the enlargement of the network primarily. Of the same reason (the network being small, i. e. not yet „ripe” for media) we didn't force early representing in media.

- ◆ *Organizing a press release at the national level for all relevant events (i.e. the DEF General Assembly, national trainings, etc.);*

We had a trial at the Hungarian National Press Office (MTI) before the training, but they refused the press release.

- ◆ *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations, partnership-building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level);*

We maintained contacts with NGOs via e-mail, we sent out several registration forms of which none came back. We planned to organize four regional workshops but the feedback was so poor that we stepped back from it.

- ◆ *Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the country;*

We established contact with all the three heads of delegations prior to the training and encouraged them to participate but they refused, referring to their busy schedule. Thereafter we were discouraged to make further efforts.

- ◆ *Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation at the national level;*

Mr. Laszlo Pernecky contacted us to take part in the evaluation of REC SGP project proposal and Csilla Dorogman was one of three evaluators in the first round, one of five in the second. Evaluation took place via email conference.

8. Supporting the Capacities of DEF in Responding to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) in addressing DRB transboundary problems, in essence, "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Program, which is also supported by the DRP.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Develop a methodology for the training of NGOs at the national level, taking into account training needs concerning wetlands and nutrient reduction (in relation to the DRP Small Grants Program where appropriate), as identified by the DEF Board and Secretariat after discussions with experts;*

We organized the national training on 14th April 2003. We invited all relevant organizations of the country – with the use of the post, green e-mail lists, personally. Additionally we informed all Hungarian ICPDR Experts about this event. Despite all of this we received only limited response and even less organizations showed up to the training. The training itself was highly informative according to the feedback, 6 trainers participated from different organizations (NGO and GO) and expert fields (stream restoration, alternative sewage treatment, nature conservation and water management). REC representative Laszlo Pernecky also participated in the training and informed participants about the REC Small Grants Program.

- *Finalize training materials for national trainings on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction in the national language;*

We summarized the training content in a short information material but an idea came to publish an extended color version of the training presentations as a promotion material. In this we included information about DEF, ICPDR, as well as the new NFP and its data. Cover of this brochure is colored.

- *Organize national trainings for NGOs on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about the DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.*

see above.

Publishing special NGO publications in the national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- *DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.*

The DEF Board decided to publish a poster and an accompanying brochure, but only in Phase 1. We allocated the funds, as mentioned, for the newsletters.

Organization of training courses for the development of NGO activities and cooperation in national projects (nutrient reduction) management (3.1.4)

- *During the first half of this work period, the NFP will contribute to clarifying an appropriate theme for the second training course to support DEF and DRP objectives.*

Following the international training in 2003, the NFP will make preliminary preparations for a national training to be held in Phase II of the Project.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA Ecological Movement of Moldova (EMM)

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for the Institutional Development of DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st March 2003 to 31st January 2004

REPORTED BY: Victoria Resetnic, 6th February 2004

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

9. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

- *Further strengthen cooperation within DEF by participating in 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly*
 - A representative of the NFP for Moldova participated in the board meeting in Vienna. Following the board meeting, a press release was translated and distributed to press agencies and published in national and local newspapers.
 - Regarding cooperation on the regional level – The NFP for Moldova visited the NFP for Romania several times last year. The NFP for Romania organized a national training session 15 days prior to a similar session organized in Moldova. The NFP for Moldova also visited the NFP for Romania for the purpose of method exchange in training organization.

- Unfortunately, representatives of the NFP for Moldova could not participate at the DEF General Assembly (Obrenovac, S&M, November 2003) due to visa problems.
- *Support cooperation of the DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, i.e. the Black Sea NGO network, etc.*
 - In all meetings organized by the NFP for Moldova, we invited representatives of the Ministry of Ecology, the national branch of ICPDR, the REC of Moldova, mayoral offices throughout the country, and mass media.
- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*
 - ◆ *Contributing to the preparation of the English version of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF Newsletter, translating these into the national language, printing and disseminating;*
 - The English versions of the 2nd and 3rd issues of the DEF newsletter were translated into the national language, printed and disseminated. The 3rd issue of the newsletter was published in the national review with a total circulation of 5000 copies, and distributed throughout the Republic of Moldova.
 - All relevant information was translated into the Romanian language, and disseminated via email to DEF members in the Republic of Moldova.
 - ◆ *Providing information on national NGO experts, for the DEF expert database;*
 - At the moment we have national experts fluent only in the Romanian language in the Republic of Moldova.
 - Information about nutrients and toxic substances in the Prut River Basin was selected and structured in the database.
 - ◆ *Publishing articles on DEF activities and goals in national media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, academic journals, etc.);*
 - Activities of the DEF NFP for Moldova were published in national newspapers and distributed throughout the Republic of Moldova. Press releases concerning DEF activities were distributed to all press agencies.
 - During the period 1st March 2003 – 31st January 2004, five broadcasts covering involvement of the EMM in the development of DEF (internationally and regionally), and the DRP, were aired on national radio.
 - Leaflets addressing water quality as well as the overall state of the environment in the Basin region
 - A synthesis paper outlining all tests and the state of the environment throughout the region
 - An album illustrating landscape views from the Republic of Moldova
 - ◆ *Organizing a press release at the national level for all relevant events (i.e. the DEF General Assembly, national trainings, etc.);*
 - Following the board meeting in Austria, a press release was translated and distributed to press agencies and published in national and local newspapers.
 - ◆ *Building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations, partnership-building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing DEF at the national level);*

- EMM's project on water quality in the Prut River Basin involved local communities and schools.
- ◆ *Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the country;*
 - The NFP for Moldova organized two meetings with the Secretariat of the ICPDR in the Republic of Moldova. ICPDR representatives participated in the national training on nutrient reduction, which was organized in April 2003. Victoria Resetnic, DEF Board Member, also participated in the ICPDR training on "The EU WFD," which was held in Chisinau in December 2003.
- ◆ *Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation at the national level;*
 - The NFP for Moldova contributed to the evaluation of the REC SGP project proposal. Proposal evaluation was a joint initiative involving the ICPDR representative and other independent experts for the overall purpose of selecting the four projects most worthy of funding.

Sustainability of DEF

- At the beginning of 2003, the Ecological Movement of Moldova (EMM) wrote a project proposal for the Prut River Basin. The EMM project received financing. The project involved water testing in the seven tributaries of the Prut River, which are located in the northern part of Moldova. A further objective of the project was to raise public awareness about water quality. We organized seven ecological expeditions to these tributaries, conducted water tests and organized meetings with local communities throughout the Basin region. Mobile book expeditions were organized in local schools. The close of the project saw the publication of information on each and every tributary in the Basin:
 - Leaflets addressing water quality as well as the overall state of the environment in the Basin region
 - A synthesis paper outlining all tests and the state of the environment throughout the region
 - An album illustrating landscape views from the Republic of Moldova

Participation in Regional Forums

- *The NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional initiatives, for example: the WFD Guidance Group on Public Participation, Wetlands, etc.*
 - As previously mentioned, the NFP for Moldova participated in a regional training session, which was organized for the ICPDR representative from Moldova by the ICPDR representative of Romania, and involving all WFD Guidance Groups.

Evaluation and Assessment

- ◆ Incorporate into workplan for Phase II.

10. Supporting the Capacities of DEF in Responding to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) in addressing DRB transboundary problems, in essence, "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Program, which is also supported by the DRP.

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- *Organize national trainings for NGOs on wetland restoration and nutrient reduction with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about the DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.*
 - A national training on “**Nutrient Reduction in the Danube River Basin**” was held on the 18th and 19th of April in Chisinau, Moldova. Approximately 60 people were in attendance. The training was organized together with REC Moldova, and partially financed by REC. The representative of the national ICPDR also participated in the training. All participants were satisfied and asked that we organize future training sessions on nutrient reduction.

Publishing special NGO publications in the national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- *DEF is mandated to prepare publications on nutrient reduction issues in national languages.*
 - At the close of the Prut River Basin Project, EMM published a leaflet addressing water quality as well as the overall state of the environment in the Basin region

ROMANIA

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 31st May 2002 to 31st January 2003

Introduction:

Since 1997, ECCG has constantly brought water issues to the public's attention, thanks to regular funding provided by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg that ensures capacity building the ECCG and its project development components.

Since 1998, ECCG has developed projects focused on addressing problems the NGO sector was confronted with because of the strong need to:

- Strengthen the environmental Civil Society in order to promote environmental protection,
- Secure effective implementation and enforcement of key Conventions, Agreements, etc
- Improve the ability NGOs to comply with grant agreement terms and criteria established by international donors

- Enhance the role the NGOs can and should play

During 2002, ECCG developed projects aimed at reinforcing NGO/DEF participation at the local, national, regional and international levels, with funding secured by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Luxembourg

ECCG holds Membership in the following International Organizations:

- Eco Counselling Europe (ECE- later became '17 &4 Ltd.')
- Danube Environmental Forum
- Sustainable Urban Forum Centers
- Black Sea NGO Network
- World Association of NGOs (WANGO), the latest membership
- Candidate membership to European Environment Bureau (EEB)

Within DEF, ECCG holds the status of:

- Romania's National Focal Point
- Board Member
- Speaker for Lower Danube River Basin, and

As National Focal Point, ECCG co-ordinates the NGO Community activities in the framework of the DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT (DRP).

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

➤ *Contribute to the preparation of DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translation and dissemination the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.*

- Outputs:

- a) The DRP Summary, Romanian version, was distributed to environmental NGOs, and NGO networks via e-mail, fax, and regular mail; it was also incorporated into the ECCG web site, starting in early 2002. DRP activities relating to DEF were translated into Romanian and made available on the Internet, and in hard copies. The web site was constantly and regularly updated with information about DRP/DEF, and with reports about conferences, workshops, and meetings ECCG participated at.
- b) 'Argument Ecologic', the ECCG (bi)-monthly newsletters of May, October/November and December introduced the DRP summary to the readers
- c) The editorial 'From the Magazine of the Environmental Programme for the Danube River Basin published in Danube Watch Magazine, no.1/2001 was translated into Romanian and made available on the web site.
- d) Media involvement

- Newspaper articles about the ECCG activities focused on the NGO/DEF and DRP issues were published
- The Romanian version of the DEF Press Release, October 29-30, (a summary) was disseminated to local and national media via fax, and e-mail. Also, it was put on the ECCG web page. The article was published in a local newspaper ,Viata Libera‘
- Two interviews about ECCG involvement in the development of DEF, and the DRP were made possible at the Galati Radio Program, and TV Express Channel. Information about events, available materials and the summary were disseminated to the NGO Media List, to the local Journalists‘ Association, and to the Association of the Environmental Romanian Journalists (ARZM).
- The article about ECCG- related projects and the meeting was published on January 6, 2003.
- Nov. 29-30, National Consultation NGO Meeting proved to be one of the best opportunities to disseminate information about DEF/DRP. Folders included hard copies with information about the DRP, DEF strategy.

Follow- up Activities:

- In January, extensive information was put on a CD-Rom about DEF, DRP, and other water –related materials, both in English and Romanian, and made available to the Nov. meeting participants and, also, to many other NGOs and NGO Networks
- The ECCG 2002 Quarterly Activity Reports and Annexes submitted to funding institutions from Luxembourg also included information and materials about DEF and DRP (leaflet, newsletter).

Task 2. Contribution to the updated English version of the DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Disseminating DEF and DRP- related information to other NGO webpages

- Outputs
 - a) Information about DEF- related activities developed in Romania (agenda, topics, minutes) were e-mailed to the DEF web page team.
 - b) DEF webpage information was translated into Romanian by ECCG staff.
 - c) The Romanian version of the DEF Statute, the Questionnaire, and Letter of Intent were made available on line and at the DEF/NGO mailing list
 - d) DEF and DRP –related information were made available on the web pages of CENTRAS –Constanta, FDSC (Foundation for the Development of Civil Society), and ARZM (Association of Romanian Environment Journalists).
 - www.cier.ro
 - www.rowater.ro
 - www.teleactivities.org/ezone
 - www.ngo.ro
 - e) DRP-related materials, entitled „The Heritage‘/ MOSTENIREA is available in Romanian on the ECCG DEF web page. ECCG produced a newsletter out of it.

Follow-up activities:

- To update the list of ongoing NGO activities related to water issues
- To set up a link to www.wango.org (web page World Association of NGOs – WANGO,)

Task 3. Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute on the national level.

- Outputs (See Annex no. 3)

a) In August, brief presentations about the informal Romanian DEF Network (4 DEF member organizations and 24 NGOs as candidates), were provided to the DEF Secretariat via e-mail.

b) ECCG contributed to the 1st DEF Newsletter (Bulletin) in English. Its translation into Romanian was completed, xerox copies were disseminated among members and all interested parties. The newsletter is being printed at the moment

Follow – up activities:

- To secure the newsletter's wider dissemination using any opportunity ECCG has.
- To contribute to the next issues

Task 4. Contribute to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate it within the country.

- Outputs

a)ECCG comments concerning the leaflet that were provided to the Secretariat were taken into consideration for the DEF leaflet final version (August – October)

b) In November, the Romanian version of the leaflet was completed, and, once the layout and the CD provided, was printed in December.. In the meantime regarding current activities, Xerox copies were provided to NGO representatives who participated in the national meeting organized on November 30th, at the ECCG HQ.

At present, 400 copies of the leaflet have been distributed via regular mail.

Follow-up activity:

- To secure its wider distribution and ask for feedback

Task 5. Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database

- Outputs

a) Potential experts within the NGO community were identified; the DEF/DRP Experts' directory was drafted (July – October) containing information about their background, jobs, age, degrees, contact address, etc. The list will be regularly updated as the participating NGOs are to develop their own experts' lists and provide it to ECCG Secretariat.

Thus, the structure of questionnaire for the DEF expert database should highlight the selection criteria and the main topics of interest regarding nutrients. ECCG recommends the following criteria:

b) the technical expertise regarding ecosystem management in river basins

- c) Knowledge of new approaches and solutions to environmental problems caused by nutrients, and how to deal with the nutrient –caused affects upon health, too.
- d) The skills for empowering people to participate in sustainable water management
- e) The capacity of creating and sharing knowledge of water, nutrients and environmental management
- f) The ability to develop and use economic and financial tools to incorporate values of ecosystems in decision making regarding nutrient reduction and management of water resources.
- g) The training skills needed to establish structured learning in order to raise awareness about the need for ecosystem protection and sustainable use of water
- h) Language and computing skills (mainly English) to be evaluated during the selection process and interviews

Comment: The list of potential nutrient –related consultants may not fully correspond with the criteria listed above.

Follow up Activity:

- To keep searching for motivated people.

Task 6. Actively participate in the preparation of a comprehensive DEF development strategy and to comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.

- **Outputs**

ECCG has been a constant supporter and provided advice whenever this was needed first to the responsible person at DAPHNE for developing DEF, and later to the DEF Secretariat. Regarding activities in 2002,

- ECCG has been constantly involved in the preparation of needed materials for DEF-related activities, whether the Strategy, Statute, Board Meeting materials, country report, and DRP, andt also for all the presentations made during the events ECCG representatives participated as Speaker. Comments about the (REC) Small Grants Program proposal were provided via e-mail.

Task 7. Establish and, where exists, strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.

- **Outputs**

On a national level, ECCG established successful cooperation with the REC Country Office, Black Sea NGO Network Office, Peace Corps Romania (USA), and the existing NGO Expert Working Groups focused on the Acquis Communautaire, Climate, Aarhus Convention, and Environmental Legislation. ECCG has mandated a contact person to each of these groups. The activities developed included organizing and participating in various events, such as training courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, visiting trips, and round table meetings. Below, there is a list of such events and activities:

- a) A NGO Training Course, on May 31, was jointly organized by CIER – Mare Nostrum (a DEF member organization from the city of Constanta) together with ECCG, and held at the ECCG HQ^c in Galati. Topic: Public Campaign, Lobby and Fundraising. The 18 participants were members of the NGOs from three counties, Galati, Tulcea and Constanta.

- **Results:**

a) ECCG made a brief presentation of the DEF strategy in the framework of the DRP. DEF Leaflets, the Danube Watch Magazine, and copies of the DRP summary in Romanian were distributed to the participants.

b) The River Basin Council Meeting (Prut –Barlad), occurred on July 10, at Iasi. ECCG has been mandated to represent the NGO Community in the area. The organization representative and president made a presentation of the DRP, and DEF to 16 governmental representatives from the North –Eastern area of Moldova province (Prut –Barlad area) Subsequent activities:

- ◆ Monthly bulletins about the quality of waters within the Prut –Barlad area were made available to the ECCG web page visitors, and to Green Library readers (ECCG)
- ◆ A Memorandum of Agreement between ECCG and the main governmental institutions in the area was drafted, highlighting co-operation , exchange of information and the support provided to one another regarding the DRP. The official document will be returned to the ECCG Secretariat by the end of February 2003.

c) ECCG participated in the „ROMANIA GEF COUNTRY DIALOGUE WORKSHOP“ held in Bucharest on 24 -26 September. ECCG and DEF materials were distributed to the participants.

d) Within the DRP –related programme ECCG organized on 29-30th November, at the ECCG HQ,

The National NGO Consultation Meeting

The topics were:

- ◆ Danube Environmental Forum, Mission and Strategy - Minutes of the Board Meeting and General Assembly, and
- ◆ The DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT, objectives and planned activities relevant to the NGO sector. Also, information about the Draft SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME was provided to participants.
- ◆ Romania DEF Network Strategy and its involvement in the DRP work plan

• Outputs

a) Participants were NGO representatives actively involved in the ECCG information exchange programme and with experience in water related issues. They are located in the towns of Sulina, Tulcea, Piatra Neamt, Pascani, Braila, Bucharest, Suceava, and Baia Mare, as well as 4 Galati NGOs.

b) Informative materials were provided to them: folders containing hard copies about DRP, DEF, DEF history and DRP related activities, the UNDP/GEF DRP Leaflet, copies of past and current issues of the ‘Danube Watch Magazine’.

c) CD-ROMs, containing all available water –related information ECCG currently had was prepared in January 2003, and added to the informative package and was distributed to 25 NGOs

Follow-up activities:

- A non-governmental organization from the Delta region, ECOS Tulcea*, requested to be a contact NGO for future governmental and non-governmental partnership in the framework of the DEF network. As the Danube Delta is included as a target area, the proposed co-operation among ECCG, ECOS Tulcea, and DEF network may prove to be very useful for both public participation and wetland restoration. *ECOS Tulcea participated in the National NGO Consultation Meeting held on Nov. 29-30 in Galati
- The ‚Aquaterra‘ NGO from Bucharest city, another participant in the Galati NGO Consultation Meeting, has submitted a project proposal to the Est Est Funding Programme, and asked ECCG to be their partner in it. The project objectives are: Implementation of the Danube protection programme through improving GO -NGO partnerships, and strengthening the NGO networking partnership in the Danube – Black Sea region.

- A national program to raise awareness about the importance of information and educational campaigns for wetland restoration activities in the Green Danube Corridor is currently under preparations.
- On a **transboundary** level, co-operation was enhanced with DEF/NFPs from the Rep. Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria; and also with the REC Office – Rep. Moldova, WWF Office Odessa –Ukraine, mainly those NGOs and educational institutions active in the Lower Danube EuroRegion; also, with the Green Balkans – Bulgaria, and Green Partners - Hungary.

Presentations and information materials about DEF and DRP were also made available to ECCG representatives at regional and international conferences, workshops and meetings, thus enabling, representatives of 60 NGOs active in the Lower Danube Region of Romania, Ukraine and Rep. Moldova, to have direct access to DEF/DRP informative materials. These opportunities were provided by:

- **The Second NGO Forum** in the frame of the Tacis Lower Danube Lakes Project on May 24 -25, in Suvorovo, **Ukraine**. The ECCG president presented „**The DEF Strategy, Role, and Responsibilities within the DRP**“.
 - **Symposium „Protection and Preservation of the Lower Prut Area,** (Tacis-financed) on June 21, in Kahul, Rep. Moldova. The ECCG president (DEF Speaker) made two presentations about:
 - ◆ „Roles and Responsibilities of NGOs/DEF in the Framework of the Information and Public Participation Campaigns“
 - ◆ **DEF and the Danube Regional Project.**
 - **Conference on „NGO Networks in the Danube and Black Sea Area: the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) and the Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) – Meeting the Challenges of EU Membership“**, on September 5-9, ECCG was co-organizer of the three – day conference held on a floating hotel that cruised along the channels within the Danube Delta Romania. Participants were representatives of 17 Romanian environmental NGOs, active in the Lower Danube Region; the invited guests were from EUCC –Coastal Union, CFDG, etc. The ECCG president presented a paper on **„Lessons from the Networking Experience of DEF, and a summary of the DRP ‘**
 - **Conference „River 21 –The Twinning Programme: Scheldt –Tisza Rivers,** on October 17 –19, in Budapest. ECCG president participated in the workshop organized by the Green Partners, Hungary and made a presentation about DEF, and the Tisza –Somes River Basins
- **Outputs:**
- a) Increased awareness and information about the:
 - b) Existence of the DEF network, its role and responsibilities regarding the DRP
 - c) Opportunity provided by the DRP to the NGO Community in the Danube river basin, and the required feed back.
 - d) The need to establish partnerships with governmental institutions in the framework of the DRP
 - e) The need to raise extra funds for larger involvement of the NGO Community
 - f) The necessity to exchange information about current programmes and projects, their objectives, results, and problems
 - g) Media involvement in publicity campaigns should be timely secured
 - h) Importance of developing regional co-operation in the framework of the REC Grant Programme (DRP)

On a regional level, ECCG ensured good co-operation with the REC Szentendre Office, the and WWF Country Office

(within the Danube Carpathian Programme). Results:

- On June, October and December, the ECCG president had several consultations with WWF representatives: Jonathan Hornbrook, Philip Weller, and Dave Tickner (WWF DCP);
- In June, Mr. Sevastel Mircea (the officer in charge with the WWF Office), visited the ECCG Office to discuss the future WWF Strategy for Romania and contacts with the environmental NGO community. ECCG provided the Bucharest WWF Office with the NGO list the organization has regular contacts with.

f) On an international level, ECCG developed cooperation and partnership with the Eco Counselling Office - Luxembourg, Eco Conseil Namur –Belgium, EEB –Brussels, WWF Programme Office Vienna, WWF Office –Barcelona, Eco Counselling Europe –Vienna, Global 2000 –Vienna, and others. This included:

- **The EEB/ECCG Water Seminar: Making the Water Framework Directive Work‘,** on May 16 –18, ECCG was co-organizer. The seminar was held in the Danube Delta Romania and at the ECCG HQ. 24 participants from 12 countries were representatives of the European Water Group. Within the NGO Strategy module, a presentation about the DEF Strategy in the framework of the DRP was made by Petruta Moisi
- The ECCG **Evaluation Programme** was accomplished by **Luxembourg** Counterparts on August 12 –13th. Future co-operation and funding from Luxembourg was discussed.
- The WWF **Exchange Programme „Across the Waters“ – The Green Corridors of Guadiamar and Danube Rivers,** on November 11 –16th, in Sevilla. Romania and Bulgaria were invited to participate, with one representative from the ministry of environment and the non-governmental network. ECCG was invited, and its president made a Power Point presentation about the DEF Network Strategy, and its involvement in the DRP programme. The DEF Leaflet was also distributed.
- **EEB Water Seminar,** November 29/30, in Brussels. Topics highlighted issues of: waste water management; WFD implementation & the EU’s groundwater protection, the NGO strategy, and further activities on WFD implementation‘. The ECCG representative was Iulia Leonte. *ECCG is member of the EEB Water Working group since 2000.

g) Co-operation and partnership with governmental institutions:

ECCG has constantly maintained communication and exchange of information with the Ministry of Waters, and Environment Protection, The National Association ,Romanian Waters“, The Danube Delta Institute for Research and Development (Tulcea), The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (Tulcea, Romania), the Prut –Barlad River Basins Council, and the local Environmental Protection Inspectorate. Thus, ECCG has participated in five meetings and one symposium and on all occasions plentiful materials about DEF and DRP were distributed, these meetings are presented below:

- On July 3rd, in Bucharest: **The Netherlands Water Partnership'** organized by the ministry of Waters and Environment protection (MWEP). The rationale was NGOs involvement in water–related activities. The ECCG participant distributed packages of informative materials about DEF and its involvement in the DRP.
- On July 10th, in Iasi city, **The 2nd River Basin Council Meeting for the Prut –Barlad River Basins.** ECCG participated and made a presentation about the

DRP and DEF. *ECCG has represented the eastern Romanian NGO community to this council since 2001. The NGO community was informed about the meetings agenda, its presentations, and the list of new library entries entered on the web page

- September 19-21st, **The IXth Symposium: Deltas and Wetlands, in Tulcea.** The Danube Delta Institute for development and Research from Tulcea was the main organizer. A few NGO representatives were present. ECCG participated and distributed informative materials.
- On October 15th, in Bucharest, a **GO - NGO Consultation Meeting** organized by the Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection. The NGO participants were provided copies of the DRP summary in Romanian.
- On December 5th, at the Szentendre, REC HQ, an informal meeting was organized by REC to discuss the possibility of a future project regarding access to information, public participation in decision –making in environmental and water matters to reduce transboundary pollution in the Danube. In fact, the inclusion of one additional component on capacity building for public participation in the final phase of the Global Environment Facility Danube Regional Project is appreciated and considered very important. Representatives of key governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, DEF member organizations, discussed the objectives of the proposed additional component, needs for the capacity building component, activities and outputs, as well as stakeholders' involvement. The ECCG president participated in it.

Note: Although informal, the meeting resulted in a mutual agreement to make the project proposal possible, and also the positive feeling among the participants was worth noting. The participants' ideas were collected and carefully studied in order to be further included into the project proposal. Minutes of the informal meeting on future GEF Danube project were made available at the end of 2002.

Follow up: The ECCG president stayed in touch with Romanian governmental institutions that were expected to provide ICPDR a letter of endorsement regarding the project „Building Environmental Citizenship to Reduce Transboundary Pollution in the Danube“. The letter of endorsement was hopefully submitted on the 15th of January 2003.

Task 8. Participation at DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.

- **Outputs**

ECCG, as NFP and Board Member, has been actively involved in the elaboration of the agenda of the DEF Board Meetings held both in April and October, and participated in both DEF Board Meetings (April, October) and chaired the 1st General Assembly. Two of the three presentations made by the ECCG president were considered to be quite helpful „Lessons from Networking Experience within DEF“, and „Public Participation“.

Meetings resulted in a general constructive feeling, realistic suggestions and ideas about further involvement, clearer roles and responsibilities of DEF in relation to DRP.

Follow-up Activities: All planned activities for the national network were accomplished within the deadlines, but wider NGO participation still needs to be accomplished.

- As DEF Speaker, ECCG president prepared and presented the activity reports for 2001 - 2002 as DEF Romania was concerned.

Task 9. Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and identification of trainers. Nomination of a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.

- **Outputs**

Comments were provided, an expert was identified, and nominated both as a trainer and a workshop participant. Mr. Tudor Marian (ProDelta NGO, Tulcea) was also a trainer. Follow – up activities:

- ◆ co-operation was enhanced between the ECCG and the ProDelta Tulcea NGO focused on the preparation of the national training session to be held within March –April 2003.
- ◆ Mr Marian Tudor is also nominated as country NGO trainer on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution at the international level.

Task 10. Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of a publication on nutrient reduction.

- **Outputs**

- ◆ The Inventory of Nutrient –related materials owned by the ECCG ‘Green Library’ was completed in July –August. The list contains approx. 31 titles ECCG library owns, but it will be further expanded.
- ◆ A contact person’s list of governmental and businesses potentially committed experts was achieved.

Follow up activities

- Translations of the training workshop nutrient–related materials
- Expansion of the bibliography sources regarding the issue

Enlarging the experts’s involvement

- Publication of the issue –related materials addressed to the NGO community.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Once the DRP preparation phase was over and the First Phase of DRP launched in December 2001, the NGO/DEF Community in the Danube River Basin felt motivated to become involved, and, subsequently, assumed responsibilities and became committed to meeting the necessary requirements. In spite of it, though, it proved quite difficult for the DEF network to accomplish its tasks as finance within DRP was provided late. It would be helpful for DEF members to get planned financial support earlier this year; also, raising extra funds is a must. ECCG is thankful to the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Luxembourg for the financial support provided up until now, and can only hope that it will be secured in the future.

SLOVAKIA

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 31st May 2002 to 31st January 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Running of the DEF Secretariat on a day-to-day basis*

DEF Secretariat based at Daphne coordinates the DEF network regionally. Daphne supports the operational needs (phone, internet, etc..) of the DEFSec. The DEF Board member responsible for the Secretariat, Jan Seffer, also based at Daphne provides consultation to the Secretariat when necessary.

- *Management of project, bookkeeping, graphical works*

Administrative tasks and bookkeeping are based at Daphne. DEF budget, as in the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project is managed by the administrator for DEF also based at Daphne. The graphic designer for DEF Riki Watzka, based at Daphne, completes DEF graphics and designs such as the DEF leaflet, and DEF Bulletin.

- *Contribute to the preparation of the DEF information materials related to DRP (project summary, press release), translate and disseminate the produced materials at the national level*

Daphne actively contributed to the preparation of DRP project summary. Summary was translated to Slovak language in June 2002 and it was broadly disseminated among NGO community as hard copy, via e-mail and national NGO e-mail conference.

- *Contribute to the updating of English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread the DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*

The DEF webpage is being updated continually with the information about members of the national DEF network as well as about current issues, events and activities in the area of water treatment and protection in Slovakia. Active links to the DEF webpage has been developed from webpages of other DEF member NGOs.

- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute on the national level.*

Daphne has compiled a short summary of national network for the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter. In December 2002 the newsletter was translated into Slovak language, printed and since January 2003 hard copies are being broadly disseminated among NGO and GO institutions and other relevant stakeholders in the country.

- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate within the country.*

Daphne representatives actively commented on the English version of DEF leaflet. After its completing the text was translated into Slovak language, adjusted to national conditions and printed. Each member of national network received 50 copies of the newsletter and it is being disseminated on different events and meetings around the country.

- *Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*

Daphne proposed the basic structure of the DEF Expert Database and the content of questionnaire, which was fully accepted by DEF Board. Relevant experts working in or cooperating with NGOs were contacted and after their agreement they were included into national DEF Expert Database, which will become part of the regional database.

- *Actively participate in preparation of comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.*

Daphne team worked out the framework for DEF development strategy, which was later commented and modified according to the comments from DEF Board and members after the General Assembly 2002. Daphne actively participated in the discussion on REC Small Grants Program and DEF involvement in various regional initiatives. The DEF Project document has been prepared under guidance of Daphne. All fundraising activities of the network were initiated by or consulted with Daphne representatives.

- *Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.*

The national network had been established already few years ago. In 2002 two new member NGOs from Slovakia were accepted at the General Assembly. The national network was strengthened by improved information flow among members, by publishing information about network and DRP in media, printing of materials (leaflet, newsletter) and by regular updating of DEF related information on NGO webpages.

- *Participate at the DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.*

Daphne representatives participated at the Board Meetings in April and October 2002, and also at the General Assembly in October 2002. All these events took place in Slovakia, so the preparations were done in close cooperation with the Daphne team.

- *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained at the international level.*

International Training was prepared under the guidance of Daphne. Daphne representatives played leading role in identification of training needs and trainers and in development of training agenda. Two experts from Daphne trained the training participants on wetland ecology and restoration of wet meadows. Another Daphne expert guided the field trip at the General Assembly. Daphne nominated a representative of national DEF network to participate at the training – Samuel Pacenovsky, NGO SOSNA. This NGO will organize the national training in spring 2003.

- *Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.*

Daphne experts guide the process of development of training materials and proposed the experts who are working on different chapters for training manual. Daphne proposed the framework of and initiated the discussion on publication on nutrient reduction among Board Members.

SLOVENIA

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 31st May 2002 to 31st January 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Promotion*
- On 5. June 2002, on the world day of the Earth a slides presentation took place in Murska Sobota, intended for local communities with respect to rivers and flora and fauna. On the same occasion some of the most important wetlands in Slovenia and DEF efforts in the Danube river basin were presented.
- During the last week of June 2002 the society DPPVN set up a cooperative with the PEC society in order to conduct a ecological research camp for youth, 22 children took part in camp activities.
- On 5. August a 5 min interview about the society's activities was held on national radio and on the same occasion DEF and its activities were briefly presented.
- On 3. December a national workshop for all interested NGOs was organised which took place in Rače. The workshop was a great opportunity for a larger presentation of DEF, its activities, present DEF members and the DEF statutes. There were three NGOs with ten members that took an active part in the workshop. There was also an agreement made that the national focal point for Slovenia should be DPPVN. The representatives of the societies of Radoživ and PEC agreed that the societies would actively take part in all DEF projects and work in close connection with DPPVN on the project Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in The Danube River Basin. Both societies were nominated for membership in DEF by DPPVN and bymid January PEC was confirmed as a new member.
- On 12. December an article in national newspaper "Večer" appeared about the Donava river basin and DEF (copy of article enclosed).
- On 13. January DEF was presented briefly in Ljubljana at an Ecological forum meeting, which is an informal political forum, interested in environmental issues, and also very active in this framework.
- On Radio Maribor a wide presentation of the DPPVN society, its work and activities – related to the Danube river basin and DEF – took place on the 16th of. January. The programme lasted 30 minutes and during the last 5 minutes it was opened to listeners' questions. At this time more then 15 questions from the audience were received.
- On 25. January another DEF presentation was given – in Starše near Maribor and on that occasion three interested societies took part. Also some lectures by means of the slides related to nature conservation along rivers were presented.

Moreover, some very good contacts with local communities and even some governmental bodies associated with the environment were established. The cooperation was within the framework of some projects on a local, regional and national basis.

- *Professional activities*
- The DPPVN society is also a member of MIO-ECSDE which is active in the Mediterranean region and some of the DPPVN's members are also members of and very active in some international bodies, e.g. BES, BOU, EOU and some Special groups at Wetlands International or members of certain international journals.

The DPPVN also publishes an interdisciplinary journal for ecology and biology named Biota.

- *DEF Info Materials-Leaflet*
- During October and November the DEF leaflet was translated and was then printed in January 2003. The photos inside the leaflet were exchanged with photos, made by the

society's members. 1000 copies were printed and will be distributed to local communities, the government, some societies and all other interested parties.

- *DEF Bulletin*
- The translation of the DEF Bulletin was sent of in December 2002 and was accomplished in January 2003. As with the DEF leaflet the Bulletin was also printed at the end of January (1000 copies). Together with the Leaflet the Bulletin' will be distributed to the same addresses.
- *Updating of website*
- Related to this, the decision was made that the DEF Bulletin in the national language would be put online in PDFformat. By this means it will be reachable for everyone who has access to a computer. Moreover, many societies were informed about the electronic version of the Bulletin by the e-mail network. Updated information about the national network was sent to DEFYU to put it on the DEFweb.
- *National DEF Expert Database*
- During the last three months important work was done on the database. Presently there are only four experts in our database. However, during the last week of January that topic was actively discussed, and in the next two weeks more experts will be identified.
- *Report on progress of training materials and publication on nutrient reduction preparation*

Contracts with two experts were signed who will monitor the situation in the country, and identify the needs for the publication, target groups and also prepare possible publication contents.

The DPPVN also participated in the 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly an the end of October and the society's president participated in the international training on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution.

UKRAINE

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 31st May 2002 to 31st January 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contribute to the preparation of the DEF information materials related to the DRP (project summary, press release), translate and disseminate the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.*

- In June 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated into Ukrainian and disseminated via e-mail to DEF members and other environmental NGOs through the "River Network" and "REC-Kyiv".
- We presented DEF Network and DRP at conferences:
 - International Conference on "Mountains and People" 14-18 October 2002, Rakhiv
 - National Conference of sustainable development 20-22 November 2002, Kyiv
 - 3rd Ukrainian Conference of the Environmental Community 29 November-1 December, Kyiv
 - At the beginning of November we translated the General Assembly press-release and it was published in informational bulletin ISAR - Kyiv "Ednannia" and we had an interview about DEF and DRP on the local radio programme "Lvivska Hvyliia"
- *Translated the existing DEF webpage into the national language and contribute to the updating of the English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*
 - At the beginning of December we translated the DEF webpage into the Ukrainian language. Information about DEF and DRP was summarized and sent to NGOs with recommendation to put the information on their website. Updated information about DEF members in Ukraine was sent to DEFYU for DEF webpage.
 - *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1-st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute it on the national level.*
 - After the preparation of the final version of DEF Newsletter, we translated it, printed 250 copies and disseminated them to NGOs acting in Danube basin on the 1-st consultational meeting in Uzhorod, through the "River network" (Kyiv) and among NGOs in Danube Delta.
- *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate it within the country.*
 - The text of DEF leaflet was translated into Ukrainian in October 2002.
 - In January we printed 500 copies, changing some photos and we started to disseminate them among NGOs and all interested parties.
 - In November 2002 we prepared and published leaflet "What to do with wastes" and disseminated it among people living in river basin (Tisa, Prut, Siret).
- *Become actively involved in the development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*
 - We had meetings with scientists and specialists, who are specialists in nutrient reduction
Chernivtsi universities (Zakarpattia Region) and from the Danube biosphere reserve (Odessa Region).
 - CVs of experts were passed onto the DEF Secretariat via e-mail.
 -

- *Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on the national as well as transboundary level.*
 - We have good cooperation with the NGO as "Ruthenia"(Uzhorod), "Edelveis" (Uzhorod), "Karpaty" (Rakhiv), they all work on the territories of rivers Tisa, Prut, Siret, which are Danube tributaries.
 - We have good contacts with the "Danube biosphere reserve" in Danube Delta Region.
 - In November, and December we had meetings with NGOs from Zakarpattya Region with the purpose of expanding the network, disseminating information about DEF and preparing the first consultational meeting.

- *Participate at DEF meetings and help organise the DEF General Assembly.*
 - In April 2002 we participated at the 1st DEF Board Meeting
 - In October 2002 we participated at the 2nd Board Meeting and General Assembly

- *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and by identifying trainers. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.*
 - We nominated Mrs. Olga Vovk to be trained at the international training. We commented on the training agenda prepared by DEF Secretariat.

 - Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including the basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.

 - We can find all present data about nutrients and water status in such institutions:
 - State administration of ecology and natural resources, Lviv regional sanitary-epidemiological station, Lviv scientific-research institute of judicial examinations and certificated chemical laboratory "Ecochemsert".
 - We have started translating the training materials.
 -

- *Organise national consultation meetings to expand the DEF network and built awareness of DRB issues.*
 - On January 31, the National Consultation Meeting was organised at the Uzhorod University with the help of the NGO "Ruthenia". Participants were NGO representatives involved in water-protection activities, scientific and educational institutions, administration of eco-resources and the media. A lot of informative materials were provided and a press-release was disseminated.
 - Information about this meeting is available on the web page of the NGO "WETI", (a representative was at the meeting) <http://ecoharmony.lviv.ua/>

YUGOSLAVIA

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Institutional Development of the DEF and Community Involvement

REPORTING PERIOD: 31st May 2002 to 31st January 2003

Tasks that were carried out by the country office, during the reporting period:

- *Contribute to the preparation of DEF information materials related to the DRP (project summary, press release), translate and disseminate the produced materials among the NGO community at the national level.*
 - In June 2002 the DRP Project Summary was translated into Serbian and disseminated through the DEFYU e-mail list to DEFYU members. The translated project Summary was published on DEFYU Web site www.defyu.org.yu and on the Web portal of Yugoslav Ecological Resources Center www.ercyu.org.
 - Additionally the project Summary was published on DEF Web site www.deforum.org in English, Slovakian, Hungarian, Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian.
 - A shortened version of the DRP Project Summary was published in DEFYU Buletin Dunavski (November 2002), which was widely distributed to the NGO ecological community and relevant governmental institutions.
 - DRP, DEF and DEFYU networks were presented during the following events:
 - ◆ Round Table "Sustainable use of ecological resources" that took place during the conference "Danube - River of Cooperation" (Kladovo, on October 17, 2002). Participants were from Yugoslav NGOs as well as from governmental institutions.
 - ◆ The conference "National Electronic NGO Meeting in Yugoslavia" (Beograd, Decembar 7, 2002). During the meeting the English version of the DEF Leaflet (restricted number) and the bulletin "Dunavski", which contains articles about DRP, DEF General Assembly, DEF network and DEFYU network, were distributed to more than 50 participants. Two NGOs ("CEDI" from Smederevo and "Logos" from Pirot) expressed interest in joining the DEFYU Network.
 - ◆ The round table dedicated to the consequences of the poisoning of the Ibar River by a phenol spill from the power plant "Obilić" took place in Kraljevo on the 29th January, 2003. Representatives of scientific institutions, local governments, NGOs and local journalists were present on that occasion. DEF Leaflet (translated), DEF Newsletter (translated) and „Dunavski“ were distributed to the participants.
 - ◆ International Wetlands Day (02.02.2003.) Ečka, Carska Bara. The event was organised by the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia. Participants: NGO and GO representatives, students, local people. The DEF Leaflet (translated), and DEF newsletter (translated) and „Dunavski“ were distributed to the participants.
 - The General Assembly press release was translated at the beginning of November and disseminated to ecological organizations via fax and e-mail. It was published on ERC

- Web portal www.ercyu.org that is visited daily by a great number of people from different sectors interested in current environmental issues.
- *Contribute to the updating of the English version of DEF webpage through providing information about national DEF members and ongoing activities and projects within the country. Spread DEF and DRP related information to other NGO webpages.*
 - Information on DEFYU members and their realized projects are available in Serbian and English on www.defyu.org/mreza/index.htm. A link with that page and an appropriate page on www.de-forum.org is made as well.
 - The DEF webpage was continuously updated with information on ongoing project activities and important environmental news from the region..
 - *Manage the DEF WEB site, update it with 3 new language version and the information received from DEF Secretariat and all DEF members*
 - The DEF Web site www.de-forum.org was redesigned and updated with a Hungarian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian language version (end of December, 2002).
 - The DEF Web is continuously updated with information received from the DEF Secretariat and all DEF members in seven languages.
 - *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter, translate the DEF Newsletter into the national language, print it and distribute it on the national level.*
 - A short article about the DEFYU Network was prepared and included in the 1st issue of DEF Newsletter.
 - The final version of the DEF Newsletter was translated into Serbian and printed and disseminated to the NGO ecological community and relevant governmental institutions.
 - A PDF version of DEF Newsletter was published on DEF and DEFYU Web site.
 - *Contribute to the preparation of the English version of the DEF leaflet, translate the leaflet into the national language and actively disseminate it within the country.*
 - The final version of the DEF leaflet was commented on and translated into Serbian (October 2002). The Serbian version of the leaflet has been printed and disseminated among the NGO ecological community and relevant governmental institutions (end of January 2003).
 - PDF version of DEF leaflet is available on DEF and DEFYU Web sites.
 - *Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database*
 - We agreed on the proposed structure of questionnaire for the DEF expert database and sent it by e-mail to experts whose area of work is connected to Danube issues.
 - The expert database is developed but we will be working on this issue in the forthcoming period as well.

-
- *Actively participate in preparation of a comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.*

We actively participated in preparation of the DEF development strategy and commented on all other documents.

Establish and where exists strengthen the national NGO Network through identification and building partnerships with NGOs, institutions and other stakeholders on national as well as transboundary level.

- The large NGO Network called DEFYU Network exists in Yugoslavia and it is legally registered as a NGO association
- Good cooperation with officials from the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Resources as well as with local authority alongside the Tisa River has been established.

The DEFYU Network was strengthened in the DRP-project period by the launching a discussion on river pollution via DEFYU e-mail discussion list, dissemination bulletin „Dunavski“, DEF Newsletter and DEF leaflet and meeting of DEFYU members, when the future work of the Network was discussed. The network was enlarged by two new members joining („CEDI“ from Smederevo and “Logos” from Pirot). At present there are 48 DEFYU members.

- DEFYU Network is actively involved in YU electronic Network entitled „Volvox“. DEFYU is part of the „South Eastern European Environmental Network – SEEENN“ as well.
 - Contacts with Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia and Secretariat for Environmental Protection for the City of Belgrade are also established.
- *Participate at the DEF meetings and help to organise the DEF General Assembly.*
 - Participated at the 1st DEF Board Meeting in April 2002
 - Participated at the 2nd DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly, both held at the end of October 2002.
 - *Contribute to the organisation of the DEF International Training 2002 through providing comments to the training programme, training needs and identifying trainers. Nominate a representative from the country to be trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues at the international level.*
 - DEFYU was actively involved in process of identifying training needs.
 - Thenominated representative who was trained on wetland restoration and nutrient pollution issues was Ms. Natasa Djereg.

- *Support development of training related documents and prepare basis for foreseen national trainings, including basic design of publication on nutrient reduction.*
 - Persons who can take part in preparing the basis for national trainings and the publication on nutrient reduction were identified: Dr Dragana Vujovic, an expert in toxicology (Faculty of Pharmacy) and Dr D Mitar Lakusic an expert in botany (Faculty of Biology)
- *Organize national consultational meetings to expand the DEF network and build awareness of DRB issues*
 - The DEFYU consultational meeting was held in Belgrade on 24 January 2003 in the conference room of Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia, Kneza Višeslava 66. Representatives from 22 NGO were able to come on this occasion.

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) and DEF involvement in DRP were presented to the participants. The discussion during the meeting was focused on how DEFYU members could be involved in process of pollution reduction in Danube River Basin. It was decided that the „Morava“ NGO subnetwork would be established in the forthcoming period in order to help solve hot environmental problems in the Morava watershed area. The coordination center of the „Morava“ subnetwork will be hosted by the Ecological Center of Kruševac. The meal for participants was provided free of charge in the restaurant of the Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia.

ANNEX 4

DEF REPORT FOR PHASE 2 – 2005

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

**Support for the Institutional Development of the DEF and Community
Involvement**

Phase 2

DEF (Danube Environmental Forum)

Final Report

Work Period: 1 June 2004 – December 2004
Prolonged to February 28, 2005

February 2005

Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

- Further strengthen cooperation within the DEF by participating at 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly per year;

In 2004, the two Board Meetings took place in April in Breclav, Czech Republic and in October in Baja, Hungary. All DEF National Focal Points were either present or informed in detail about the meeting content and results after the meetings took place.

During these meetings, members of the DEF Board evaluated activities of the 6 months preceding, specified priorities for upcoming months, discussed, in detail, individual activities listed in the work plan approved by the General Assembly in 2003.

DEF's 3rd Annual General Assembly was scheduled to take place in November 2004 in Bulgaria. Due to the postponed payments from donors it was decided at the Board Meeting, however, to postpone it to April 2005, keeping the same location.

- Support cooperation of DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, e.g. Black Sea NGO network etc.

Black Sea NGO network

Communication with the Regional Office (Secretariat) of the BSNN was maintained during the whole year 2004. The BSNN and DEF provided each other with both advice and guidance especially in the framework of UNDP/GEF Black Sea Regional Project.

WWF International DCP

In cooperation with WWF International DCP, there were 3 Seminars organized during the year 2004. During these seminars, DEF members were trained in the areas of public participation and implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Guests from different WWF offices around Europe were invited to make presentations related to these topics. As a result of these seminars DEF Water Policy Team was established and NGO representatives were nominated into 3 working groups (WG): Wetland WG, Public Participation WG, Heavily Modified Water Bodies WG.

Global Water Partnership

DEF Secretariat maintains communication with GWP CEE Secretariat. DEF has prepared one article for the Global Water Partnership's publications, "Water Talk".

- Continue participation in the ICPDR activities by organising the participation of DEF representatives in the ICPDR Ordinary Meetings and the RBM, ECO, EMIS and FLOOD Expert Groups.

DEF representatives regularly participate in relevant ICPDR meetings as DEF has been granted observer status. This allows observers to speak and to present a statement addressed the representatives of national delegations of the ICPDR.

At the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting in December 2004 the DEF Speaker briefly presented the current developments of the DEF network as well as the interest of NGOs to cooperate with the ICPDR national delegations and with other state institutions and to contribute to the proper implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Danube region countries.

There were additional DEF members present at in the Ordinary Meeting 2004. The Ministerial Meeting of all 13 Ministers in the Danube Region preceded the Ordinary Meeting. This meeting was in large part dedicated to the presentation of the Roof Report and of the Flood Action Programme, as well as to the discussion of the Danube Declaration „The Danube Basin – Rivers in the Heart of Europe“ made by the Ministers. This Declaration underlined the commitment the respective countries have to cooperate in identifying and implementing solutions for an integrated and a sustainable water resource management in the Danube River Basin. The Declaration also sets out the priorities, objectives and major actions for the next 10 years.

During the year 2004 DEF experts were involved in the activities of the ICPDR Expert Groups (Ecological, River Basin Management, Emission and Flood Protection). All components of DEF structure benefit from this opportunity through the dissemination of the outcome of these meetings to all interested NGOs and other stakeholders, mostly active at local or regional levels. At the same time, NGOs provide important feedback to the ICPDR on the efficiency and transparency of the activities undertaken at the national level. DEF experts will continue with active participation in the ICPDR Expert Groups with the aim to contribute to the effective implementation of the EU water legislation.

DEF improved the reporting rules to ensure the information from ICPDR is properly disseminated among the NGOs in the Danube Region.

- Actively participate on the celebration of the international Danube Day and cooperate with the national ICPDR representatives and the ICPDR PS.

The year 2004 was marked by the first celebration of Danube Day on June 29th. This event was the initiative of the ICPDR to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the International Convention for the Protection of the Danube River.

DEF Secretariat and National Focal Points played a large role in the preparation of the Danube Day celebration in 2004. Number of DEF member NGOs were involved in the celebration of Danube Day in 11 countries. DEF in cooperation with ICPDR national delegations organised the school competition "Danube Art Master" in all the 11 countries.

The "Danube Art Master" was an international school competition that was also an important part of Danube Day. Schools were invited to organize an outing for their students along the Danube River or one of its tributaries. Either in groups or as individuals, students were expected to create works of art inspired by their natural surroundings and made out of the river materials and elements. The aim of this school competition was to get children to spend time outside and to raise their awareness of the beauty and true value of the river ecosystem.

Twenty-two National winners of the "Danube Art Master" competition were invited to attend the Ministerial Meeting in December 2004, along with their chaperones, to celebrate the crowning of the "International Danube

Art Master". Jonatan Zajc Soboca of Slovenia was the talented pupil to receive this award. The students' trip to Vienna was organized in close cooperation with the DEF Secretariat and National Focal Points as a two-day program during which students were able to enjoy many exciting sights of the city.

Danube Photo Competition

The purpose of this competition is to present nature, culture and threats to the Danube river basin, and to increase the commitment to and participation in nature protection. In 2004, DEF developed the idea, rules and negotiated with possible sponsors. The competition will be open to anyone who is a resident of the Danube river basin. The photographs will be judged on their technical, artistic and aesthetic qualities and DEF hopes that photographs covering all aspects of Danube river basin will be submitted and it will all take place in the framework of Danube Day 2005.

Danube Day was a success and DEF will continue to be involved in this annual festivity, which stresses the importance of transboundary, basin-wide cooperation, water quality in the Danube River and its tributaries, and human impact on the Danube River Basin.

- Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhancing public awareness by:
 - Cooperating in implementation of development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;

A DEF Communication strategy was discussed at the Board Meeting and General Assembly in October 2002 and its elaboration was finalized in June 2003. It was developed based on the overall DRP Communication strategy in order to make it consistent with other communication initiatives within the DRP. The Communication strategy was reflected in planning of DEF activities during the year 2004. Communication strategy was updated and adjusted to suit the most to the communication needs of NGOs.

Discussions about the development of the DEF Media Strategy began in 2002. The leading role in its development was undertaken by the NFP in Bulgaria (Centre for Environmental Information and Education), as this NGO has a large focus on media work and has the most experiences in dealing with this. The final strategy become one of the components of the overall Communications strategy and was developed in close co-operation with other DEF NFPs in the summer of 2003. In 2004 DEF followed the

strategies in its work and started to elaborate further the media components of the strategy more for the local and sub-basin level.

- Regular improvements to the DEF home page and updating national DEF web pages in national languages;

The DEF website currently contains information about environmental issues concerning the Danube region, and it is structured so as to be able to sustain dynamic modules such as web forums, advanced database search capabilities, automatic weekly updates with the latest news and dynamic calendars containing information about major meetings and events in the region.

As of the end of the year 2004, the website has been available in Croatian and German in addition to the previously already existing Slovak, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian language versions.

The website remains unsatisfactory as it is not fully user-friendly. The web manager is located in Serbia and Montenegro and the problems appear with the DEF web site access. Therefore the web manager will be changed in 2005. The work program for the year 2005 incorporates the reorganization of the website as a priority.

- Further improving and facilitating the expanded use of the DEF e-mail conferences;

DEF is managing two e-mail conferences, with the effort to ensure continuation of communication among the NGOs and other stakeholders. One e-mail conference (def-board@list.changenet.sk) serves as the communication forum for the members of the DEF Board, to discuss in details the currently undertaken activities and to plan and develop concrete projects.

The second conference (def@list.changenet.sk) serves as the broad NGO forum where all DEF member NGOs as well as some other interested stakeholders discuss the fundraising possibilities, environmental problems and solutions, steps to be taken to lobby and campaign in the case of „hot issues“, or they search for partners from other countries for concrete projects etc.

Both conferences were frequently used during the 2004. Def-board conference is used on daily bases (cca 5 emails a day). Def conference is

used approximately 2 times per week. The conferences are used by DEF Secretariat, National Focal Points and members.

The fully operational DEF Secretariat has been organising and co-ordinating activities of DEF network at the regional level during the whole year 2004 and thanks to the e-mail conferences the communication was fluent during the whole year. The DEF Secretariat also co-ordinates the implementation of national activities that should then be carried out by DEF National Focal Points (NFPs) in their respective countries. With regards to the information management, the DEF Secretariat summarises information from the NFPs and disseminates it within the network. It also provides information upon request related to Danube issues, DEF activities, projects, initiatives, members, etc.

- Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions);

DEF Bulletin is the magazine of the DEF network, compiled in English with input from all DEF members and partners, and translated into the eleven languages of the Danube River Basin. The Bulletin is published biannually and it is widely distributed among all relevant stakeholders. Focus is placed on hot environmental issues, especially those requiring international support, on NGO events, water seminars and fora, EU and other main water related projects, success stories, etc. In 2004 DEF arranged the translation and printing of the Newsletter in German language, because this language version had been missing.

1st edition in 2004 included following main topics:

Destruction of Danube habitats, Threats of Danube Delta, Water pollution, etc.

2nd edition in 2004 included following main topics:

Danube Day, Danube Art Master, Bystroye canal, Large dams on Danube, etc.

- Expanding the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.) and NGO Expert Database;

The on-line directory of NGOs has been elaborated in 2003 and updated in 2004. At the end of 2004 the directory included basic information about majority of the DEF member NGOs. The NGO Directory as well as the DEF Expert Database is available on the DEF webpage and serves as

the source of information about the NGOs active in the field of water management and protection in the Danube River Basin.

- Regularly contribute to Danube Watch and/or other relevant publications;

In 2004 DEF contributed 1 article to the Danube Watch and 1 article to the Water Talk.

- Organizing a press release at the national levels for all relevant events (e.g. DEF Assembly, national trainings...etc..)

Besides the contributions to Danube Watch and Water Talk, number of articles promoting DEF and UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project activities were published in local, regional and national media in 11 Danube countries. Almost all of the DEF national trainings as well as other project activities were joined with the press release and press conferences.

- Expanding contacts and integration into existing communication and press networks (ex. UNIS, etc.);

DEF has been developing the mechanisms for immediate mobilisation of relevant network members to react on hot policy issues in water management and protection and to undertake the most effective steps to prevent any unreasonable damages to natural ecosystems or human health. The DEF network, as the international NGO platform, supports the environmentally friendly water management and treatment approaches and helps NGOs in Danube countries to lobby for these alternatives. Due to this the DEF is involved in communication initiatives and networks in Europe, especially those targeting the Danube Basin.

DEF regularly receives the press releases and information from UNIS and distributes it among the NGOs in the Danube Region.

- Further building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing the DEF at the national level). Countries are expected to submit individual work plans for this.

The main precondition for the successful international cooperation of NGOs is the strong partnership between organisations at the national level. Therefore a considerable portion of the DEF budget was allocated for national activities of DEF members in 11 countries. Financial support was provided for national network strengthening, communication among

members, capacity building for NGOs, public outreach and consultation meetings with relevant environmental stakeholders, with special effort to establish cooperation with the representatives of the national ICPDR delegations.

NGOs in all 11 Danube countries maintained the cooperation with representatives of the state authorities responsible for management of water and protection of water bodies as well as those responsible for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. The outputs of this process and other relevant national initiatives in individual DEF countries are summarized in the national reports. Main groups of stakeholders with whom DEF is improving its co-operation are farmers, hunters, fishermen, teachers, students and many others. To increase the effectiveness of water protection, the DEF member NGOs started to initiate dialogue also with the main polluters in the relevant river sub-basins. Each NFP tries to fill the gaps they have in effective protection of Danube Basin Ecosystems and concrete activities differ from country to country.

- Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the respective countries, DEFBaS should organise at least 2 meetings with ICPDR PS. Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation on national and regional level.

Due to the DEF involvement in the preparation and celebration of the Danube Day and the DEF involvement in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, number of meetings has been organized with common participation of DEF and ICPDR representatives at the national as well as regional level.

DEF did not contribute to the REC SGP because the 2nd call for proposals has not been launched in 2004.

Sustainability of the DEF

- Efforts should begin to continue in fundraising from other sources to strengthen the DEF.

DEF Board, Speakers and Secretariat maintain the search for possible funding sources for the network or its parts (EU, Non-EU countries, etc.). In 2004 DEF was granted by the European Commission in the framework of the Programme supporting European environmental network NGOs, Phare program.

- Making grant applications for at least 2 separate grants (DEFBaS) and 1 at the national level (NFPs). The DEFBaS proposals should be for the network and should be in addition to the Small Grants Programme, the NFPs grants should focus on development of national DEF network and could include the DRP SGP but should also include other funding sources.

National Focal Points keep doing additional fundraising activities at the national and sub-basin level and with different success national projects in the field of water protection are being implemented in all 11 countries.

DEF Secretariat prepared a project for EU Core funding program. The project was approved in December 2004.

Participation in Regional Fora

- DEF should work to expand its participation in national and regional fora, identify appropriate regional and national fora;

At the regional level DEF was represented on number of international fora by the participation of the DEF Speakers and/or Secretariat. DEF National Focal Points participated at the relevant GO and NGO fora at the national level in 11 Danube countries with the aim to present DEF network, the project and the activities focused on water protection, nutrient reduction and different aspects of the integrated water management.

At the regional level DEF joined the initiatives and NGO fora especially in the cases of Hot Policy Issues such as Bystroye channel or Drava river.

Bystroye in the Ukraine

DEF has made significant efforts to lobby plans to construct a navigable channel from the Danube to the Black Sea that would run through the specially protected zone of the Danube biosphere reserve, in the Bystroye estuary. Since 1993, DEF has written many letters to relevant governmental bodies informing them of the Bystroye situation, bringing their attention to the consequential damage that the undertaking of the channel construction would incur.

Drava River in Croatia

DEF made similar efforts in the interest of the Drava River in Croatia as for the Bystroye in the Ukraine. The Drava River was being threatened by an engineering project, which led to river canalization and massive gravel extraction. At the end of the year 2004, however, it was announced that no more gravel extraction would take place in this region.

- participate on behalf of DEF and disseminate results within the network.

There was DEF information booth present during the Green Week event taking place in Brussels from June 1st – 4th 2004. It is estimated that about 1000 visitors came to the information booth and picked up materials. The main subjects of interest included Danube Regional Projects management and achievements, DEF operation, contact information for DEF National Focal Points, outdoor activities for the general public, Danube Day plans and updates on hot topics. The last day of Green Week was especially important as it consisted of a number of presentations focusing on the Danube as well as the Bystroye issue.

Evaluation and Assessment

- Review DEF Strategy, Workplan, TORs of Coordinator and NFPs, activities and resulting outputs and prepare assessment

All the DEF strategic documents have been reviewed during the year 2004 and changes have been incorporated to ensure better coordination of the network activities and to effectively fulfil the DEF Strategic goals. Based on these changes DEF Board and Secretariat will carefully proceed with the preparation of the work plan and activities for the following years.

1. Supporting the Capacities of the DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- Organise international Policy training on the EU WFD. The aim of the training is to transfer the knowledge of WWF to the DEF and to build the capacity of DEF to become actively involved in the WFD implementation at the national level. The training will contribute to the establishment of DEF Water Team which will coordinate the NGO involvement in water policy issues in the Danube Region.

DEF aims to have strong NGO representatives at the national level that are able to lobby for effective implementation of the EU WFD. In this regard, the series of 3 international NGO trainings on EU WFD were held in 2004. The aim of the trainings was to transfer knowledge and experience from the WWF to DEF member NGOs. The first of 3 training was held in June 2004 in Slovakia and its main topic was policy issues in the framework of the EU WFD. The second seminar included the identification of overall NGO roles and specific DEF priorities in the WFD implementation

process. The third seminar completed the seminar series with establishment of the well – trained DEF Water Policy Team, representing eleven of Danube countries.

- Develop methodology for the training of NGOs at the national level, taking into account the training needs concerning EU WFD and nutrient reduction, (in relation to the DRP Small Grants Programme where appropriate) as identified by the DEF Board and Secretariat after discussions with experts.

All the National Focal Points in eleven countries of the Danube River Basin have received the electronic version of the text of EU WFD as well as the most up-dated versions of the relevant guidance documents and issue papers related to the implementation of the Directive. All materials were used for the preparation of the national NGO trainings in autumn 2004.

- NFPs will organise national training for NGOs on the implementation of EU WFD and possibly with emphasis on priority topics identified in REC SGP. Information about REC SGP will be included in training agenda and provided by representative of REC CO.

DEF organized International NGO Training on Public Participation Obligations and Possibilities under the EU WFD in November 2003. Representatives from eleven countries were trained on legal instruments and effective techniques for public involvement in decision-making and the planning process in water management. As a follow-up, the training participants organized similar trainings for NGOs and small associations at the national level in autumn 2004. Training topics were adjusted to national conditions and priorities. Training was prepared in cooperation with the ICPDR National Delegations and REC Country Offices but was not connected with the 2nd Call for Proposals of the Small Grants Programme in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, because the second call has not been launched yet.

- NFPs will organize national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF network and to inform other relevant organisations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the water management policy, nutrient reduction problem, the goals and objectives of the DRP.

Consultation meetings on different water related topics and with various groups of stakeholders form a significant part of NGO activities. The DEF National Focal Points collect and disseminate information, and then coordinate network activities at the national level. Concrete themes of the meetings are country-specific and are identified through discussion among NGO representatives and the state authorities of each country. In 2004,

the majority of national consultation meetings were focused on the different aspects of the Danube River basin management planning, on negotiations with polluters or/and on the planning of community-based activities for the reduction of nutrient pollution in rivers and streams. DEF member NGOs play a very important role as facilitators of the processes. DEF builds the capacity of member organisations to ensure proper NGO involvement in water protection issues. Each NGO activity is linked with public outreach and media work.

Publishing special NGO publications in national languages on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- Printing of national versions of the Poster on Water Pollution in the DRB.

Work on the poster aimed at informing and educating the general public about the Danube River, how it is endangered and how it can be protected, has been completed. The printing of the English version of the poster was done in 2004. The poster has been translated into eleven languages of the Danube River Basin. All the national versions were printed till end of January 2005.

- Finalization of the content and printing of Brochure on Water pollution in the DRB.

Work on the publication was finalized at the end of 2004. The English version is ready for printing and prepared to inform the public about environmental issues affecting the Danube River. The articles of the brochure discuss especially issues of wetlands, regulation as well as main pollutants originating from agriculture, industry, mining, navigation, and households. The brochure is being translated into eleven languages of the Danube River Basin and printing will be finalized in upcoming months.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

The DEF NFP will coordinate activities to be undertaken at the national level with national network participation. National activities will be coordinated by DEF National Focal Points in their respective country. This will include:

- **Further strengthen cooperation within the DEF by participating at 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly.**

- DEF BM was organized in October in Hungary, and NFP Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Palandzic was there.

- GA was moved from November 2004 to April 2005, and will be in Bulgaria.

- **Support cooperation of DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, e.g. Black Sea NGO network etc.**

- we continue to work together with environmental NGO Network Eko Mreza, as well with other ENGOs in B&H. CESD use every opportunity to promote DEF Network in B&H and on international level.

- **Continue participation in the ICPDR activities by organising the participation of DEF representatives in the ICPDR Ordinary Meetings and the RBM, ECO, EMIS and FLOOD Expert Groups.**

- Igor Palandzic is observer in EMIS Expert Group of the ICPDR, and in period of the June 21st to 22nd 2004, he represents DEF on 20th Meeting of this WG in Budapest, Hungary.

- **Actively participate on the celebration of the international Danube Day and cooperate with the national ICPDR representatives and the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat.**

One part of international manifestation «Danube Day» was children art competition «Danube art master», which is organized by ICPDR and DEF, and «Ekotim» society as a member of DEF, was coordinate this competition on B&H level. Received were posters from ICPDR – Wien, but only on English language. Because of that, printed were two small papers (A5) as additional for every poster. On that papers was basic information about competition, way to apply and address where competitors can send their works, and in which form.

Posters and other information were sent till May 25. Call for competition was published in several newspapers and in one magazine. Also all info about competition was published on site <http://www.ekomrezabih.net>, which is primary site for all information of environment and environmental NGO in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On call for art competition, 12 schools and one NGO was apply, and totally received were 21 art works, and "Ekotim" was form commission for evaluation this works. According to commission opinion, announced were first place, two second places and two third places.

After that, CESD organize celebration of DD, and all authors of our competition were inviting for this event. During event, participants have opportunity to hear about Danube River and DEF Network. During this event, winners receive prices (letter of thanks for all participants in competition, 2x50 € for second place, and about 38 € for third place). For winner of competition as price was promised participation on Ministerial Meeting which was held in Wien, December 2004.

Art Master Competition in schools was successfully organized, but unfortunately without any help from authorities and national ICPDR representatives. We hope that Danube Day 2005 will be organized together with national authorities.

After promotion of B&H winner, we start coordination with Jasmine Bachman, to support visiting of B&H School Competition Winner to Wien, and representing B&H on Ministerial Meeting. In the end, B&H has representatives in MM, mainly thanks to Jasmine Bachman and good willingness of ICPDR Wien.

- **Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:**

- **Cooperating in implementation and development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;**

- **Regular improvements to the DEF home page and updating national DEF web pages in national languages;**

- Information about project and activities are updated on regular base on CESD web page (www.coor.ba).

- **Further improving and facilitating the expanded use of the DEF e-mail conferences;**

- E-mail conferences and discussions were held regularly, and we use opportunity to express our opinion.

- **Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions);**

- 1st issue in 2004 was translated and published it in late October.

- **Expanding the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.) and NGO Expert Database;**

- **Organising a press release at the national level for all relevant events (e.g. DEF Assembly, national trainings, etc.)**

- The media was informed about all events that we organized.

- **Further building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing the DEF at the national level);**

- During October, in Tuzla, was held consultation meeting for DRP Project Output 3.4 which was organized by REC. On this meeting were DEF representatives: Sabina Jukan, Center for Ecology and Energy Tuzla-CEETZ, Tatjana Sohajcek, Young Researchers of Banjaluka and Igor Palandzic, Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development.

It was interesting meeting, and DEF members distribute promotional material (poster, Bulletin and Leaflet), and take active participation on working part of meeting. We use this opportunity to promote DEF as a strong NGO network, and necessary partner in this 3.4 Project Output. We have promise from Mrs. Magdy Toth Nagy (REC HQ), which was facilitator of this meeting, that DEF will be partner within this component of DRP.

It is necessary to stress that representative from local and national governments, B&H ICPDR representative (Mrs. Naida Andelic, ICPDR RBM WG member), as well as other stakeholders (industries, NGOs, REC B&H, etc.) were on this meeting. We use this opportunity to discuss with them about current situation of B&H status within ICPDR, and about future cooperation on different tasks.

Day after this meeting, in same place, organized was meeting within Sava Framework Agreement. Same participants were on both meetings.

- **Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the respective countries, DEFBaS should organise at least 2 meetings with ICPDR PS. Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation on national and regional level.**

- During December, in Banja Luka, representatives of DEF B&H have two meetings with national representatives of ICPDR. Discussed were way of future cooperation and presence of B&H delegation on Ministerial Meeting.

- Few meetings were organized in Sarajevo with Mrs. Dilista Hrkas, ICPDR PR for B&H, as well with Mr. Ibro Cengic, deputy in Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economy, which were ratified Danube Convention.

Participation in Regional Fora

- **NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional fora, identify appropriate regional and national fora;**
- **Participate on behalf of DEF and disseminate results within the network.**
 - In November DEF representatives has meeting in Tuzla regarding preparation of DEF National Training. Also, meeting was held with Director of Water Treatment Plant in Srebrenik, relating visiting of training participants to this plant.
 - During December 2004, DEF B&H has space on NGO fair in Banjaluka, and there we introduce interesting parties about DEF Network.
 - On December 7th in Sarajevo, Hainrich Bell organization has meeting with ENGOs, and Igor Palandzic represent DEF with one presentation.

- On the end of January 2005, Igor Palandzic represents DEF Network on Investment Fair in Zavidovici.

2. Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- **Organize national training for NGOs on implementation of EU WFD and possibly with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.**
 - It was decided that this year topic for national trainings should be WFD and PP in its implementation. We organized the training on January 25-26 in Srebrenik. We had two trainers (Sanjin Brkic, Irem Silajdzic and Jasminka Bjelavac), and two guest trainers Mr. Veroslav Rajcic from CARDS project RBM in B&H (presentation about WFD) and Mr. Ibro Cengic, deputy in Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economy (Danube Convention presentation). There has been in total 32 participants.
- **Organize national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organizations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the water management policy, nutrient reduction problem, the goals and objectives of the DRP.**

Publishing special NGO publications in national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- Printing of national versions of the Poster on Water Pollution in the DRB,
- Poster was translated and printed in October, and dissemination is ongoing.

Bulgaria

Croatia

1. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

The DEF NFP will coordinate activities to be undertaken at the national level with national network participation. National activities will be coordinated by DEF National Focal Points in their respective country. This will include:

- **Further strengthen cooperation within the DEF by participating at 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly.**

- DEF BM was organized in October in Hungary, and NFP Croatia participated
- the GA was moved from November 2004 to April 2005, will be held in Bulgaria

- **Support cooperation of DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, e.g. Black Sea NGO network etc.**

- on all national activities done national environmental NGO network Green Forum was invited, secretariat and all members that count almost all respected eNGOs in Croatia.

- **Continue participation in the ICPDR activities by organising the participation of DEF representatives in the ICPDR Ordinary Meetings and the RBM, ECO, EMIS and FLOOD Expert Groups.**

- Croatia doesn't have any participant in ICPDR WG from NGO sector, so we didn't participate on any of these meetings. I participated at ICPDR Ministerial meeting in Vienna on 13th of Dec 2004 as one of the DEF representative.

- **Actively participate on the celebration of the international Danube Day and cooperate with the national ICPDR representatives and the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat.**

- On Danube Day, 29th of June, in Osijek (town by the confluence of Drava into Danube), there, with local NGO "Green Osijek" that organized celebration of DD, we had press conference about DD, river Danube, DEF as and NGO network for protection of Danube and all project that are ongoing for conservation of Danube as such (like DRP).

Press Conference was a success, TV, radio and newspapers well covered DD and it's aim.

On 3rd of June we organized celebration of DD in Eco Center Zlatna Greda in Nature Park Kopački rit. NGO Green Osijek and were in organization team of the celebration. There have been present 10 other NGOs that works on freshwater protection, many representatives of local government, representatives of state institutions, faculties, schools and local inhabitants. We get in touch with representatives of IAD, and maintained communication with them.

Croatian ICPDR representatives were contacted and the issue of bad water management, primary Drava River, was discussed as a main reason for not organizing the DD together. The NGOs, leading by Green Action as DEF NFP; had their own celebration and the GO had another one.

The communication with Permanent secretariat was done continuously, and the above mentioned issue was also discussed with them, and they agreed upon it.

- **Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:**

- Cooperating in implementation and development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;

- **Regular improvements to the DEF home page and updating national DEF web pages in national languages;**

- during the July the text of DEF web page was translated into Croatian language, as there is a plan to make a Croatian version of the page.

- **Further improving and facilitating the expanded use of the DEF e-mail conferences;**

- e-mail conferences and discussions were held regularly, especially on some hot issues and problems that were occurring during this period

- **Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions);**

- 1st issue in 2004 was in preparations very long, as we agreed and worked on improvements of the design, content and we chose new editor (Milan Vogrin, NFP Slovenia). We published it in late October. Since now we got very good comments on our changes, and we plan to keep it that way.

2nd issue was prepared during the November and published in late December.

- **Expanding the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.) and NGO Expert Database;**

- During the project period we accepted one new member, NGO Green Dream from Vinkovci Croatia. By the end of the year, NGO Eco society Otter from Ludbreg also showed interest to become DEF member, so I started the procedure of acceptance into the DEF membership.

- **Organising a press release at the national level for all relevant events (e.g. DEF Assembly, national trainings, etc.)**

- The media was informed about all interesting events that we organized, especially the DD when we even had press conference, and the event was well covered in the media.

- **Further building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing the DEF at the national level);**

- as a DEF representative I participated at REC stakeholder meeting on 3.4 DRP component project implementation. There I was invited to become member of Operational team.

- on DD celebration there were many different stakeholders participated, some of them met with DEF for the first time, but since we had very successful celebration, and a lot of contacts were made, we definitely widen the number of partners.

- **Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the respective countries, DEFBaS should organise at least 2 meetings with ICPDR PS. Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation on national and regional level.**

- On the last day of August, representatives of campaign "Save the Drava", had meeting with State Secretary for water management, other representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (ICPDR HoD), Croatian Waters (Water Management Agency) and ICPDR Executive secretary Mr. Phil Weller (observer status).

We discussed about their management practices on Drava and Mura rivers, gravel excavation and canalization of rivers.

After that I suggested to Mr. Ostojic (HoD) that we should had regular meetings (once a month) to keep each other informed about our activities. Since, now I didn't get any answer. On the other hand, we are keeping regular contact via e-mail, but exclusively on my initiative.

Participation in Regional Fora

- **NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional fora, identify appropriate regional and national fora;**

- In organization of Gornja Stubica town Tourst Board, on 15th of June I had presentation about bad water management practices in Krapina - Zagorje County and what can be done to avoid further deterioration of streams and rivers not just in that county, but in whole Croatia. I met there with representatives of local government (heads of municipalities and town Krapina representatives), local inhabitants and media. I gave a statement for regional radio station "Kaj".

- NGO Green Dream Vinkovci, organized workshop on good practice in working with local government (town, county and municipality). The workshop was for local NGOs, I participated as DEF representative and there were some representatives of local government. This Green Dream Vinkovci, even young NGO, has very good cooperation with local government and they wanted to share their experience.

- In September in Vukovar was workshop about working of environmental NGOs in war-affected areas. Discussed was their difficult situation, big economical and social problems. I gave them support as a DEF NFP.
- On the last weekend of September, every year is celebration of International Drava Day. In formal part, there is always conference where different representatives of GOs, NGOs and County Koprivnica- Krizevci, as well as our partners from Hungary and Slovenia, gave their statements on present situation on Drava. I gave presentation of our campaign "Save the Drava".
- On 22nd of October REC CO organized stakeholder consultation meeting about 3.4 DRP component. REC Secretariat officially asked me to become a part of project operational team, than democratically, I asked other DEF member NGOs and Mr. Darko Grlica from Natural History Society Drava showed interest and we will work together on this.
- In November we participated on National Stakeholder Consultation on the proposed Stakeholder Involvement Strategy of key stakeholders in the process of negotiation and implementation of the Framework Agreement Sava River Basin and Regional Capacity Building Workshop-Seminar on Stakeholder involvement in implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, both organized by REC.
- **Participate on behalf of DEF and disseminate results within the network.**
 - in August NGO Green Dream Vinkovci, organized workshop on good practice in working with local government (town, county and municipality). The workshop was for local NGOs, I participated as DEF representative and there were some representatives of local government. This Green Dream Vinkovci, even young NGO, has very good cooperation with local government and they wanted to share their experience.

1. Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- **Organize national training for NGOs on implementation of EU WFD and possibly with emphasis on priority topics identified in the DRP SGP. Information about DRP SGP will be included in the training agenda and provided by a representative of REC CO.**
 - It was decided that this year topic for national trainings should be WFD and PP in its implementation. We organized the training on November 13/14 in Slavonski Brod. We had 3 trainers (Mojca Luksic from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Laurice Ereifej from WWF Hungary and

Tomislav Tomasevic from Green Action). There has been in total 10 participants, and we created national Water Team that will work on WFD implementation on national level. Team members are: Mr. Goran Safarek, Mr. Tomislav Solic and Mrs. Irma Popovic.

- **Organize national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organisations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the water management policy, nutrient reduction problem, the goals and objectives of the DRP.**

- In mid September I had a meeting with representatives of National Park Plitvicka jezera. Their biology department is very interested in NGO work and cooperation on protection campaigns and projects. Meeting was successful, I presented DEF work and our publications, and probably in near future we could work together on public awareness activities, education etc.

Publishing special NGO publications in national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- Printing of national versions of the **Poster on Water Pollution** in the DRB,
 - poster was translated and printed in October, and soon disseminated to all DEF national members and to schools that were contacted for the DAM - to prepare them for the DAM 2005
- Finalization of the content and printing of **Brochure on Water pollution** in the DRB
 - brochure content was finally finished, and it was printed late December.

Czech Republic

National meetings

- January and February 2005 → 4 meetings over:
 - a) Priority locations of the NATURA 2000 sites in relation with the water environment in the Czech Republic
 - b) Public participation in the context of the WFD implementation in the Czech Republic
 - c) Preparation activities over the Danube Day 2005
- May 2004– December 2004 → 5 meetings with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture in relation to the preparation and evaluation of the Danube Day 2004 – see also the Danube Day section of this report.
- 4 discussions/meetings with representatives of the water management authority of the Morava River Basin and with representatives of the Water Research Institute with

the topics of NGO's involvement into the implementation of tasks resulted from the WFD implementation (mainly public participation in all phases of the process from 2005 to 2015).

- 3 coordination meetings with partner NGOs (the *Rivers for Life Coalition* and "Hnutí Duha" - FoE CZ) related to further activities within the D-O-L canal question. NGOs will try to abolish the special status of the area where the canal and several ports are planned. This special status does not allow the areas to be developed.
- Coordination of the national WFD activities – discussing the present state of the implementation of the WFD in the Czech Republic with the NGOs acting in the Elbe and Odra River Basins such as Arnika and the Union for the Elbe River. Systematic exchange of information and joint coordination of activities.
- General Assembly of the Union of the Morava River, Brno, December 14, 2004. Twenty members and representatives of member organisations were present. Topics: activities of the Union in 2004 (incl. activities within DEF such as the Danube Day, WFD seminars and the school competition), planned activities of the Union in 2005 (incl. the second Danube Day, activities within DEF and activities related to the WFD), cooperation of the Union with organisation in other river basins and matters related to decision-making processes/public participation.

National training on the EU WFD

The meeting was held on February 25, 2005 in Brno

Number of participants: 23

Lecturers: Jaroslav Ungerman, Milos Rozkosny, Milena Forejtnikova, Jiri Kokes, Vlastimil Karlik, Petr Kupec and Radek Maderic

Topics:

- Results from evaluations of the current state of the water bodies as of the end of 2004
- Problems with water bodies of stagnant water and wetlands
- Identification of problematic water bodies where there is a danger of not meeting the required goals ("good" environmental state) by 2015
- Matters related to 'heavy modified water bodies' (HMWB) and a position of NGOs – monitoring and checking the process of establishing HMWB, interference with the process and possibilities of creating NGO's own "shadow register" related to the establishment of HMWB
- Ensuring public participation during the whole process of the WFD implementation
- Communicating with the responsible state representatives, representatives of the water management authority and stakeholders (preparation of the series of meetings starting on March 23, 2005 in Velke Mezirici in Southern Moravia as part of the International Water Day)

DEF Bulletins

Bulletin 4 (1/2004)

- Translation, editing and printing (100 pcs)

Bulletin 5 (2/2004)

- Preparation of 2 articles for the English version and 2 articles for the Czech version of the Bulletin
- Translating, editing and printing (100 pcs)

DEF Website

- Upgrading the information on the Union of the Morava River (in English). Preparing the logic structure of the Czech part of the DEF websites. All data including photographs were sent to the DEF Secretariat.

Poster on water pollution in the Danube River Basin

- Translation, editing and printing (500 pcs)

Brochure on water pollution in the Danube River Basin

- Translation, editing and printing (300 pcs)

Other publications

"Results of Masters of Danube"

- Editing and creating the graphic layout
- Preparation and printing the "Results of Masters of Danube" brochure (350 pcs) – a survey of activities within the Danube Art Master competition for the presentation and promotion of the Union of the Morava River with the state authority, water management authority and other institutions

Danube Day (June 29, 2004) in the Czech Republic

Preparatory activities

- Coordination meetings with Danube Day partners (local authorities in Breclav, Lanzhot and Kostice, and the environmental organisation "Hnuti Duha") and with representatives of the forest service from the relevant area
- Communication with local authorities in Breclav, Lanzhot and Kostice
- Press report on the activities related to the Danube Day

Press conference on the Danube Day

- Press conference on the Danube Day, Brno, June 28, 2004. 12 TV/radio reporters and journalists were present

Radio interview

- Radio interview (Jaroslav Ungerman) on the Danube Day with the Czech national radio, Brno, June 2, 2004.

Excursion on the Danube Day

- Number of participants: 26
- Number of TV/radio reporters and journalists:
- The excursion was held in the area of the planned Danube-Odra-Elbe (D-O-L) canal and the proposed river port in the Breclav-Lanzhot area in the southeastern tip of the Czech Republic. The participants were presented with planned activities related to the D-O-L canal and the possible destruction of the environment in the area

Public discussion

- Number of participants: 43 (30 local people, 13 representatives of various institutions and organisations)
- Organisations and institutions having their representatives at the meeting: Union for the Morava River, Hnutí Duha/FoE CZ, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, local forest authority, regional agricultural management authority, mayors of Lanzhot and Kostice and a company preparing technical documentation on the canal. The water-management authority of the Morava River, the D-O-L Association (a lobby group promoting the construction of the canal) and the Ministry of Transport refused to take part.
- The presentation of the detailed plans related to the D-O-L project as well as the discussion with the representatives of ministries, mayors, ecological organisations and other institutions and organisations showed that the promoters of the project were serious with realisation of the canal and that they were preparing data for further international meetings with the particular authorities in Slovakia and Austria. The planned D-O-L canal was implemented in the Accession Treaty on the EU enlargement. The Czech government considers the canal as a priority project and tries to raise money from the EU.

Hungary

Month	Date	Activity
July	03-09	Youth wildlife and bird protection camp for children (regional)
	06-08	Participation at the annual meeting of the Hungarian Hydrological Society ("MHT" is a very big and powerful professional NGO). 4 members of BITE-Baja were there. There was a section on Public Participation. We agreed to move closer to each other in future (MHT and DEF Hungary), and organize common events, as well as to negotiate in PP issues.

		<i>Participation in the preparations of dead riverbranch restoration projects near Baja (together with local municipalities, technical college and water authority)</i>
		<i>Visit to Croatia and Serbia&Montenegro in frame of Central Danubian Floodplain tripartite co-operation</i>
		<i>Danube Day follow-up activities (as regards to the international, sub-regional DD conference we have had on the 29th of June in Baja)</i>
August	04-16	<i>Bird ringing expedition in the Danube delta ☺</i>
		<i>Fieldwork in the Danube-Drava National park (high season of bird migration)</i>
	31	<i>Negotiation meeting with Mr. Ungvári Gábor on behalf of MAKK, the Hungarian Centre for Environmental Management (research institution), about a possible future co-operation between DEF and MAKK on the subject of TEN.</i>
September		<i>Translation of the DEF Bulletin (1/2004), Hungarian edition issued (Balogh Edit)</i>
		<i>Organization of DEF Board Meeting and IIIrd International WFD Training (to be held in October)</i>
	23	<i>Visit to Croatia in frame of Central Danubian Floodplain tripartite co-operation</i>
	25	<i>Participation in local activities of the Mobility Week (a day without cars in Baja)</i>
October	02-03	<i>Participation in local activities of the Day of animals and the World Bird Festival</i>
	02	<i>Presentation of our work at the meeting of the Hungarian Rotary Club, participation at the "sturgeon release day"</i>
	06	<i>Participation at the forum organized by the municipalities on regional development plans for the forthcoming 15 years (follow-up will come to this, it was not just a single event)</i>
	07-08	<i>DEF Board Meeting in Dávod-Püspökpuszta, Hungary</i>
	09-10	<i>IIIrd International WFD Training in Dávod-Püspökpuszta, Hungary</i>
	11-12	<i>Participation at the 15th meeting of the RBM Expert Group of ICPDR in Brussels (Tamás Enikő Anna) on behalf of DEF</i>
	15-17	<i>Participation at the conference "Active protection of vertebrates and their habitats in Hungary", organized by a big NGO, "Nimfea" at Túrkeve</i>
	21-22	<i>Participation at the 4th meeting of the FP Expert Group of ICPDR in Brno (Tamás Enikő Anna) on behalf of DEF</i>
	24	<i>Fieldwork together with a representative of Ormánság foundation in order to establish co-operation on the investigation of left-alone floodplain orchards</i>
	29-31	<i>Participation at the Scientific Assembly of the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Protection Society, with 2 posters and 2 presentations about our activities in relation to sub-regional co-operation, monitoring and floodplain forest protection</i>
v e m b	4-6	<i>Visit to Bratislava in frame of the Central Danubian Floodplains WGroup</i>

	<i>Establishing co-operation with the Hungarian Hydrological Society about PP in relation to WFD – agreement to organize common events, first time the WFD Training in Hungary in the beginning of December</i>	
<i>December</i>	3-5	<i>WFD Training in Hungary (Baja) "Water Framework Directive and PP – Questions and answers" 28 participants from all over the country</i>
		<i>Translation of DEF Bulletin 2/2004. (Balogh Edit)</i>
		<i>Negotiation with Baja Municipality about Danube Day school competition central event to be held in Baja in 2005.</i>
<i>January</i>		<i>Translation of the announcement of Danube Photo Competition</i>
		<i>Design of new look DEF Hungary homepage (Goda Zoltán) to be launched in March 2005.</i>
		<i>Participation in regional development planning by municipalities near Baja</i>
		<i>Participation in the planning of UNDP-GEF DRP Nutrient Reduction DDNP Component</i>
<i>February</i>	02	<i>World Wetlands Day events in Baja</i>
	10-11	<i>Participation at the 16th ICPDR RBM EG meeting in Budapest in behalf of DEF (Tamás Enikő Anna)</i>
		<i>First arrangements with Ministries and others about Danube Day 2005.</i>
		<i>New member organization: ADTA from Mohács joins DEF</i>
	23	<i>Visit to Serbia and Montenegro in frame of Central Danubian Floodplain tripartite co-operation – funding possibilities</i>

Moldova

Developing the DEF Network:

- ◆ **Strengthen cooperation within the DEF :**
- ◆ Representative of NFP Moldova participated in the Board Meeting in Vienna. After Board Meeting press release was translated and distributed to the Press Agencies and published in national and local newspapers.
- ◆ Strengthen cooperation within DEF on the Regional level – NFP Moldova visited NFP Romania several times last year. NFP Romania organised national training 15 days before we organised it. And NFP Moldova visited NFP Romania in order to learn better method to organise the training.
- ◆ Unfortunately representatives of the NFP Moldova could not participate at the General Assembly (held in November) because of visas problems.

- ◆ **Support cooperation of DEF network with other national stakeholders:**
- ◆ In all meetings organised by NFP Moldova we invited to participate representatives of the Ministry of Ecology, National ICPDR, REC Moldova, Mayor Offices, Mass-Media
- ◆ **Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network and enhance public awareness:**
- ◆ All relevant information was translated to Romanian language, and disseminated via e-mail to DEF members in the R. Moldova.
- ◆ English version of the 2nd and 3rd issue of the DEF Newsletter were translated into the national language, printed and disseminated. The 3rd issue of the DEF Newsletter were published in the national review with total circulation of 5000 examples and distributed on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova.
- ◆ Activity of the DEF NFP Moldova were published in national newspaper and distributed on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova. Press releases about DEF activity were distributed to all press agencies
- ◆ During these period 1 March 2003 – 31 January 2004 five broadcasts about the EMM involvement in the development of the DEF (International and R. Moldova), and the DRP were broadcast at the National Radio Program
- ◆ NFP Moldova organised two meetings with ICPDR Secretariat in the Republic of Moldova. ICPDR representatives participated in the national training „Nutrient Reduction“ organised in april 2003. Also Victoria Resetnic, DEF Board Member, participated in the ICPDR training „EU WFD“ held in Chisinau, december 2003.
- ◆ NFP Moldova contributed in the REC SGP project proposal evaluation. We evaluated project proposals together with ICPDR representative and other independent experts and select 4 best projects for financing.

Sustainability of the DEF:

- ◆ At the beginning of 2003 EMM wrote a project proposal for the Prut River basin. This project was financed. The goal of the project was water tests of the 7 tributaries of the Prut River in the Northern part of the Moldova and public awareness about water quality. We

organised 7 ecological expeditions on these tributaries and made water tests and organised in all localities from the tributary basin meetings with local population. Were organised mobile book expeditions in the local schools. At the end of the project about every tributary were published:

- Leaflets where were mentioned water quality and also state of environment in the tributary basin.
- Synthesis paper about all tests and state of environment from all region
- Album with landscape views from the Republic of Moldova

Participation in Regional Fora:

- ◆ Like I mentioned before NFP Moldova participated in regional training organised for the ICPDR from Moldova by ICPDR Romania, where all WFD Guidance Groups were together. DEF NFP Moldova

I Supporting the capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems

- **Organization of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)**
- ◆ National training "**Nutrient reduction in the Danube River Basin**" were organized at 18-19th of April in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. At this training participated approximately 60 persons. Training was organized together with REC Moldova and partially financed by them. Also representative of the national ICPDR participated in the training. All participants were satisfied and asked us to organize more trainings on "Nutrient reduction" theme.
- **Become actively involved in development of the structure and questionnaire for the DEF expert database. Identify relevant experts within the country and provide information about experts based on the questionnaire for the DEF expert database**
- ◆ At the moment we have only national experts speaking in Romanian Language in the R. Moldova.
- ◆ Information about nutrients and toxic substances in the Prut River basin were selected and structured in the database

- ◆ **Actively participate in preparation of comprehensive DEF development strategy and comment on the documents prepared by the DEF Secretariat, DEF Board and DEF Speakers.**
- ◆ We contributed to DEF Draft Strategy, and commented the REC Small Grants Program proposal via e-mail

The Country Activity Report was elaborated by Victoria Resetnic as of today, 06 February 2004

Romania

Background of Relevant Project Objectives and Activities

ECCG main concerns as NFP within DEF were:

- Co-ordination of the national network activities,
- Strengthening communication, and
- Developing the Danube Environmental Forum network in Romania.

In 2004, the co-funding for the DEF activities was secured by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Luxembourg. All the successes of ECCG were possible thanks to the Luxembourg assistance and support. The activities focused mainly on workshops, consultation meetings and their respective materials in the frame of DRP. This provided environmental organizations, general public, governmental bodies, public and private sectors, direct opportunity to learn about DEF and the DRP projects. ECCG has the status as DEF National Focal Point, Board Member and Speaker for the Lower Danube Area.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED SERVICES

1) Developing the DEF Network

In October ECCG participated at the DEF Board Meeting in Hungary, and at the International Training Workshops developed in the framework of DEF-WWF twinning project in October and November. By holding these meetings, there was the hope to strengthen co-operation and understanding between the DEF network, the ICPDR and the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project staff.

ECCG maintained contact with ICPDR Heads of Delegations and other high governmental institutions, improved the co-operation with the governmental central institutions by:

- Regularly informing these about the DEF, WFD, and DRP-related events and reports
- Inviting them to participate in the ECCG led workshops,

- Exchanging the latest information, mainly on legislation, EU directives, etc.
- Distributing the DEF/DRP/ICPDR-related events
- New Partnerships with GOs –NGOs, and other Stakeholders

By participating at the international conferences and training workshops organized by NGOs networks, and GOs, as well WWF, ICPDR/UNDP (within the DRP), Ministry of Environment, "Romanian Waters" Administration, River Basin Committee, etc. access to updated information and materials was secured and improved.

The ECCG accomplishments were possible thanks to securing continuity of the:

- Cooperation with the NGO sector in Romania, mostly DEF- and the existent river-basin networks,
- Lucrative relationship with the DEF basin-wide network, Regional Environmental Centre Offices, the international and country WWF Offices, European Environment Bureau (EEB), etc.

1.1 ECCG has extended and improved the local and national co-operation and partnerships with GOs –NGOs, and other Stakeholders.

An overall evaluation summary includes the following contact, whether new or old partners.

a) NGO's:

European Environment Bureau (EEB)

- Since 1998 the EEB organises workshops for its water-working group in order to build national NGO capacities and to receive guidance for EEB's policy work. Those workshops have been an important place for an open exchange with officials and decision-makers from the European Commission, European Parliament and National Governments.
- During last 4 years the EEB water-working group focussed its activities on the successful and ambitious implementation of the Water Framework Directive. For this workshop the EEB and WWF will present a report on the quality of national implementation activities based on the results of a NGO questionnaire. Further the workshop will give the opportunity to learn about EU level activities relevant to the WFD implementation and to discuss the perspectives with officials from the European Commission, the German and UK governments.
- ECCG participated at several ("WFD IMPLEMENTATION, AGRICULTURE POLICY AND FLOODING") training sessions, mainly regarding information processing, awareness raising and dissemination, which have helped ECCG to become

more actively involved in the EU Water Framework Directive implementation process.

- ECCG secured the transfer of information flow from EEB to DEF network, by establishing operational links with the DEF Secretariat and the member organizations. The DEF network achieved better involvement in lobbying for a proper implementation of the EU water policy in the Danube watershed area.
- ECCG secured new entries to the ECCG Green Library: plenty of the EEB publications focussed on WFD mainly.

Legambiente – Italy asked ECCG participation in “Non formal education to environmental sustainability: learning through volunteering” project.

The project aimed to: build through the participation to volunteers, environmental awareness campaigns; Reinforce the formative potentials of these activities through the planning and the utilisation of specific working tools and methodologies; Promote the integration between environmental organisations and formal adult education agencies.

Unfortunately the project was not approved.

WWF Danubian – Carpathian Programme, Bucharest developed co-operation with ECCG within **PROMO (Proiect Regional Operational pentru un Mediu nepoluat)** project.

Danube Day was again one of the bests occasion to reiterate cooperation with WWF. WWF was one of the Danube Day team members that organized DD 2005.

CEEWEB Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity

“TIME IS LIFE” – Conference on halting biodiversity loss by 2010

Halting the loss of biodiversity is a great challenge, which requires a lot of coordinated efforts at all levels with broad stakeholder involvement. Any effort supporting sustainable development, contributing to the integration of biodiversity concerns into policy- and decision-making, as well as building partnerships within and among the sectors and across the country borders will clearly contribute to this aim.

The aim of the conference was to promote understanding of the relevant global, Pan-European, EU, regional and national processes, initiatives and efforts toward the target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 and to explore possibilities for NGO involvement and cooperation.

As an outcome of the conference, a *Position paper on NGO involvement* in the processes and realizing the target was endorsed, that could provide a basis for future strategic collaboration.

b) GO bodies”

In the frame of this partnership, ECCG developed its partnership and got involved in joint activities with the following institutions:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Galati

- Involvement in drafting of the Environmental Local Action Plan.
- Participation together with EPA at the Public Participation Procedures of different enterprises when asking for Environmental Permit

The River Basin Committee

The ECCG involvement in the works of the River Basin Committee secured:

- The access so the latest information and documentation about its work, making them available on-line to the NGO sector, university and general public
- Communication with the 11 Technical Secretaries of the River Basin Committees, and thus having updated the data base on representation and issues of general interest.
- Participation in the meeting held by the Prut- Barlad R.B. Committee, in February 2005. The topics discussed ranged from the current situation concerning flooding threats, wetland restoration projects, drinking water provision supply, prospects about new waste water treatment plans, reports, etc.

TAIEX Country Office

ECCG was invited to participate at the workshops organized by the TAIEX Office and EPA Galati on: 1. "Biodiversity and Protected Areas". The workshop was part of the Regional Training Programme for Romania started by the TAIEX Biro in 2002. The beneficiaries were the local and regional Administration, EPAs, NGOs and the business sector that improved their knowledge on the European directives and their implementation in Romania, Natura 2000, biodiversity, protected areas.

2. "European Legislation regarding waste management"

3. "Integrated Monitoring of the Environmental Parameters and evaluation programmes in urban area close to industrial areas". Monitoring techniques and Best Available Techniques were presented.

Several contact persons expressed their availability towards the ECCG DEF – related activities.

Galati County Council

ECCG was invited at the monthly meetings of the Galati County Councils with NGOs. ECCG representatives presented their activities including the ones developed in the framework of DEF on water issues.

1.2 Strengthening of internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhancement of public awareness

- a) Regular improvements to the DEF home page and updating national DEF web pages in national languages; maintaining the ECCG organization web page on DEF activities, succeeding in providing easier access to information, news, links, meetings, etc. The topics were:
 - Environmental Events Campaigns: world water monitoring day, etc
 - Bastroye campaign
 - Danube Day

ECCG webpage hosts a special section with DEF ECCG related activities.

b) Preparation, translation and printing disseminating of the DEF Publications ([annex 1](#)). The ECCG special input concerning information about the construction of navigation channel through the Bastroe Estuary, current news, the campaign development, and its results/outputs was incorporated in the Issue no. 4 and a short review of the Danube Day activities in Romania in issue no.5.

- In 2004 ECCG printed, in English, 580 more copies of the DEF Newsletters: Issue no. 1 and 610 more copies, issue no. 3. Most of them were used at the Green Week event in Brussels and distributed at other 5 international meetings. The first issue is still used at the events where DEF was never present or given to the NGOs interested in DEF.

- The 4th and the 5th issue of the DEF newsletter were translated and printed in 500 copies each until now. The 4th issue was distributed to the DEF network, other NGOs, Institutions and interested people attending local and national meetings, visitors at the Centre, etc. [The 5th one is going to be distributed starting with March. \(Annex 2 – Distribution list\)](#):

- Printing of national version of the Poster on Water Pollution in the DRB. The Poster was printed in 1000 copies. It was very well received by NGOs. People were asking for several copies to use them in exhibitions. It was distributed in 235 copies ([Annex 3 - Distribution list](#))

- DEF leaflet was distributed at 5 international meetings and 10 national meetings

- Translation of the Brochure content on Water pollution in the DRB: The only chapter translated is "Households Pollution File" as only this one was received until now.

c) Communication especially with local press networks

Media world proved interested in the ECCG – organized events and materials. Secured information dissemination through newspaper articles, magazines, and journals. Press releases were issued at the national and local and regional level for DEF national trainings DEF-WWF twinning project. ECCG has expanded cooperation with the local media sector - 'Monitorul', 'Viata Libera', "Impartial"; "Adevarul" regularly publishing interesting articles about ECCG and its DEF/DRP related projects and local Television "Express TV", Mega TV, in local radio. The

Ecological Movement of Moldova Monthly publication "Natura" which is distributed in Moldova as well as in Romania published in a special editions articles on DEF activities like: WWF-DEF training.

- ECCG bi-monthly bulletin "Argument Ecologic
- The articles highlighted the ECCG water – related activities. The topics were:
 - The UNDP/GEF Danube Regional project with the DEF and ECCG' s roles in it;
 - Environmental Events Campaigns: world water monitoring day, etc
 - Bastroye campaign
 - Danube Day

1.3 Sustainability of the DEF

Co-financiation was insured in 2004 thanks to the program: "NGO Development and Networking" and "Danube Pollution Reduction Program" with funds provided by the Luxembourg donors –Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Environment. Partner: Eco Counselling (NGO) Luxembourg.

For 2005 co-financiation was requested for several activities within the project **PROMO (Proiect Regional Operational pentru un Mediu nepoluat)** that was submitted in October 2004 to EU Phare program.

Approval status: not known yet.

Partners: Mare Nostrum(DEF member), Eco Alpex 024, WWF International–Danube Carpathian Program, Veronica (CZ)

Overall objective: To improve the NGOs capacities and to promote their role for implementing the environmental Acquis.

Summary of the Action: NGO's from the project area will develop knowledge, skills and experience and will increase the collaboration with the stakeholders and local authorities from rural areas regarding the environmental Acquis Communautaire in the field of water (WFD, Nitrates Directive, BAT, etc.) through:

- Experience exchange, Training courses and Multi-stakeholders meetings,
- Organising Eco Caravans that reach about 30 villages, thus raising awareness
- Transferring and adapting to Romania the experience of WWF and Veronica in developing low cost solutions such as Reed Bed Waste Water Treatment plant
- Building the demonstrative Reed Bed Waste Water Treatment Facility
- Maintain and develop Info Centres able to offer quality project related services

1.4 Participation in Regional Fora

- **Environmental European Bureau** "EEB Workshops on EU WATER POLICY Making the water Framework Directive Work", ECCG got involved in the works of

the EEB Working Group on water and soil issues; thus ECCG manage to link EEB with DEF on water issues, mostly. ECCG participated in three workshops organized by EEB in October and November and February. The EEB –ECCG partnership has led to an increased public on the EU water policy.

- **REC Country Office** within the Danube Regional Project “Improvement of Access to information and Public Participation in decision making regarding Environment” – an additional component 3.4 of the Danube Regional project, will improve GEF capacity to involve civil society and ICPDR capacity in implementing WFD.
- **UNDP Romania Office** - December 2004 - The launch of GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) for southeast Romania took place in Galati. The GEF Small Grants Programme aims to secure global environmental benefits towards conservation of biodiversity, climate change abatement, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation through community based approaches while generating sustainable livelihoods. SGP is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the Global Environment Facility, and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

2) Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems

2.1 Hot issues

ECCG has actively been involved in matters of transboundary importance ever since its foundation, back in 1996. The experience, knowledge and contact organizations and institutions provided the strength to deal with severe environmental problems, and raised National and International Awareness on ‘Hot Issues’ such as ‘Bystroye’.

Developing national and international lobbying and awareness campaigns on hot issues, such as “ Ukraine’s “Bystroye’ canal construction plans in the Danube Delta”, “Rosia Montana Mining project”, “Navigation projects and Negative Impacts”- along the Romanian-Bulgarian Danube border

a) Anti-Bystroe canalisation Lobbying Campaign

The 2004 ECCG activities linked with the Danube Hot Issues Campaign:

Mobilizing the international community to stop construction in the Bystroe area was an important ECCG activity developed mainly in cooperation with the Ukrainian, Romanian NGOs, Biosphere Danube Delta Reserve Authorities, and the Romanian Ministry of Waters & Environment.

This objective was pursued thanks to participation within many significant international events:

- In May, ECCG President, Mrs. Moisi met with NGO representatives from Ukraine- the Odessa Branch of International Social-Ecology Union, DEF National Focal Point from Lvov, and the General Consul of Romania in Odessa. The opportunity was provided by the International Congress "Wetlands as a means of the mitigation of the impacts of climate change and regional development in the Azov-Black Sea Region of Ukraine" (Annex 4)
- In June, Mrs.Moisi made a presentation within the Congress "Rivers connect – the Danube – live –line of Europe" – in Vienna. She also made a presentation on "Navigation and Threats on the Danube ecosystem within Romania, and concluded with a brief summary about the Bystroe Issue. (Annex 5)
- On June 1-5 in Brussels, within the Green Week organized by EU DG Environment, the Bystroe issue was again brought into focus. Mrs. Catherine Day, President of ICPDR, and Mr. Philip Weller, Executive Secretary of the ICPDR also participated and both made promises to take further action in supporting the NGO protest.
- On 22-25 June, in the framework of the "Rivers for Life" workshop as a side event to the 4th Environment and Health Ministerial Conference „Future for Our Children" held, in Budapest, Hungary, an ECCG representative made a detailed presentation on Bystroe issue.
- On June 29, within Danube Day-events in Galati, ECCG consultant within DRP/DEF project, Ms. Olivia Radu, held a presentation 'Bystroe Updated'. Also, Bystroe related informative materials were exhibited to public within ECCG's info-stand on the Danube Riverwalk.
- In September, Romania's National Consortium was organized to elaborate an Environmental Impact Study on the Danube Delta generated by the construction works on Kilia Branch. ECCG president, Mrs. P. Moisi, was assigned as member of the National Consortium.
- In December, the final study was presented within a conference held in Bucharest.

Titled: "The survey over the environmental, economic and social consequences of the construction of the Bastroe Channel in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve – Ukraine over the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Romania". An ECCG representative participated there.

- On 6-8 October, Mrs. Moisi, attended the NGO Forum and went on a trip to Vilkoovo, the construction site on Bystroe and Kilia Arm. The NGO Forum "LET'S SAVE THE DANUBE BIOSPHERE RESERVE" in Odessa, Ukraine was organized by the Odessa Branch of the International Socio-Ecological Union, the Ukrainian Coalition for Wild Nature, and WWF Austria. (Annex 6)

The event was connected with the International Mission of the European Commission in Kiev, whose main task was to verify information presented by the Ukrainian Government.

Two problems were highlighted: further development plans on the Kilia Arm and the Ukrainian Government's future plans within the Danube Biosphere Reserve.

A film was produced by a German TV crew on behalf of the governments of Germany, France and, Austria. The film was displayed to the large public in Austria and Germany in November-December 2004.

- On 5th – 7th November, Mrs. Moisi participated at an International Symposium "SOS Danube Delta in HAGA", held in Hague, the Netherlands. The Romanians Worldwide Group (RWW) organized it and gathered representatives of Romanian communities from all over the world, concerned by the activities and the Ukrainian plans in an area that could have an impact in the Danube Delta. The Symposium group aims at further lobbying the construction works on an international level and to change EU legislation to avoid similar conflicts in the future. (Annex 7)
- On 10-11 December, within the WWF DANUBE SUMMIT held in Vienna, ECCG president made a presentation about the current status of the governmental projects focused on the Danube Transport Network along the Romanian and Bulgarian borderline with special reference to the Pan-European Transport Corridor VII and the Bystroe issue. (Annex 8)

A constant flow of materials and information was maintained within the ECCG-led campaign, thus insuring that media, NGO's & GO's representatives, and hundreds other concerned people were informed. The ECCG website is updated weekly (sometimes even daily) with the latest information on the Bystroe issue (Annex 9). Follow up: A special website dedicated to the Bystroe issue is being constructed as an outcome of a partnership established between ECCG and a group of students from "Vasile Alecsandri" National College from Galati. The website will enter an international school competition.

b) The Rosia Montana Hot Issue

The Rosia Montana gold mining project has been another hot issue with which ECCG continued to be involved in 2004, providing support to the most active NGO in the area 'Alburnus Maior'. ECCG participants at the DEF Board Meeting (held in the Czech Rep.) and the EEB General Assembly (held in Brussels) made presentations on the issue and demanded the European networks-DEF and EEB to become involved in mobilizing the international community against the project.

The Rosia Montana NGO campaigner is expected to further provide the latest documentation and decisions in order to get the NGOs involved. The CD Rom **"Burying people for the money"** produced by Alburnus Maior on the issue is an important tool to get concerned people and organizations involved. ECCG will make use of the CD Rom within 2005 planned awareness raising activities.

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) to address DRB transboundary problems; in essence "learning by doing."

2.2 Organisation of Training/Consultation Meeting on Water Framework Directive

ECCG organized the workshop on "Water Framework Directive and Public Participation" on 11-12 February 2005.

Number of participants 27 represented:

- NGOs from different regions in Romania
- Central governmental institutions:
 - the Ministry of Environment and Waters Management
 - the "Romanian Waters" Administration
- WWF Office Bucharest, Mr. Sevastel Mircea
- Local Media: The local 'Viata Libera' Newspaper, Bulgarian Television in Germany
- Regional and local governmental institutions: Galati Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Sciences Museum
- REC Office Bucharest

Objectives: The training course was meant to bring together decision-makers, governmental bodies' representatives, experts, environmental NGOs, so as to share knowledge and information about the WFD related issues and approach different aspects on WFD implementation and opportunities for civil society to get involved.

The conference provided the participants the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest regarding the WFD implementation issue

The most important issues that were tackled:

- The Water Framework Directive – General Presentation, Implementation and Public Participation, Institutional Framework for Public Participation
- „WFD in Romania - Roof Report 2004 – Heavily Modified Water Bodies”
- Public Participation in River Basin Management
- Danube Environmental Forum and main activities in 2004 and 2005
- Danube Day 2004 review and proposals for 2005
- Case study: Integrated assessments of land- use, policies and land-use options for wetland restoration in the Danube River Basin – DRP 1.4 Component

- „Tips and Tricks“ for WFD implementation – the presentation of the WWF EEB resource document for environmental NGOs on the EU guidance for the implementation of the WFD –Key actions need to be taken by NGOs in WFD process

The meeting proved to be very fruitful.

There were a lot of constructive discussions about DEF and its respective activities.

One of the main tasks of the course was to form a water group. DEF could be the foundation for this water group.

The designation of the entire length of the Danube in Romania together with several other rivers, Danube and Tisa's tributaries as HM was strongly criticized by the participants.

The Romanian Waters Administration informed NGOs that beginning with 1st March the River Basin Comities meetings will approach the national reports on WFD including HMWB. The results of these meetings will be published on Romanian Waters Administration website. The analyze of the public participation procedure will be included in the final WFD country reports.

NGO's were encouraged to oppose the authorities designation of HMWB.

REC Country Office shared to the participants details about the new DRP 3.4 Component.

The Romanian Waters Administration representative highlighted that the WFD implementation process is a „learning by doing“ one and HMWB designation is not a final one and ONGs could help in drafting the final results.

New NGOs were interested in joining DEF and make partnerships in organizing the next DEF training in 2005.

In the second day were discussions about the River Basin Committees, DEF training 2005, Danube Day 2005 and collaboration with Coca Cola.

One new NGO in Galati offered their help in promoting the water related DEF activities through their new regional and local publication.

The Environmental Ministry representative, Mrs. Anemari Ciurea, proved to be very helpful and advised NGOs to issue a common position, addressed to the authorities, underlining:

- 1: changes are needed in the River Basin Committees structure
- 2: pollution problems of the specific river basins requires public participation procedure and have to be comunicated to the basin inhabitants
- 3: each river basin commities should have websites
- 4: NGOs and civil society have to be involved in decision making proceses

Conclusions:

- Environmental Movement in Romania is not a strong one and people are still afraid to express themselves
- NGOs have to take action in drafting laws
- When asking information the authorities are not always cooperating
- WFD is a very a complex law and each NGO has to find their places in WFD and the involvement level: local, regional
- NGOs have to be involved in the measures plans drafting process for the water bodies designed as HM

2.3 Consultation Meetings

On 13 July 2004 the Ministerial Conference on Danube Co-operation Process was held in Bucharest

The main focus of the conference was about Business opportunities in Danube Region.

The Romanian Government present there showed their willingness in supporting co-operation in Danube region, that could help sustainable development in Romania and countries from the Danube River Basin.

A business data base of the Danube Region was launched at this meeting. It was conceived so as to contribute to the reestablishment of the Danube Co-operation Process in all sectors. This database presents business opportunities and investments projects from the business and administration sectors from the riparian country. This database includes companies, public administration, and business opportunities.

Danube Region Business Data Base is a long term project, information is daily updated. This database is available on www.danubebusiness.com

DEF materials were distributed. The participants raised questions about DEF activities and involvement in the Danube ecosystem protection.

ECCG participant – Petruta Moisi

On 04-05.11.2004, a Taiex Seminar „Biodiversity and Protected Areas” was held in Galați. It was organized by the Technical Assistance Bureau and Experience Exchange of the European Commission from DG Enlargement (TAIEX) and the Regional Protection Agency with the participation of the Ministry of Environment and Water Management, Romania, head of biodiversity and biosecurity directory. Aspects on selected NATURA 2000 SITES with regards to wildlife and conservation legislation were approached.

Experience in the biodiversity , protected areas and Natura 2000 management was shared by the trainers to the participants and knowledge in protecting natural habitats and endangered species.

DEF materials were distributed.

People were interested to find out about DEF main activities.

ECCG participant – Mirela Leonte and PeaceCorp volunteer Rebe Feraldi

On 10-12 November 2004 in Bucharest a Stocktaking Meeting was organized in the frame of the GEF Danube-Black Sea Strategic Partnership, the "umbrella" of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.

Several stakeholders in the water quality sector from the Danube River Basin and the Black Sea countries were present there: the ICPDR and the Black Sea Commission, the GEF (Global Environment Facility), UNDP, UNOPS, World Bank, NGOs etc. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate the results obtained so far, to assess the Strategic Partnership, identify problems in the project implementation and take on find correcting measures.

The meeting was an opportunity to reiterate the cooperation with the ICPDR head of delegation. Some people from the Environmental Ministry working on water department were present there. It was stressed that in the future the connection should be revitalized and the co-operation must be improved on public participation on Water Framework Directive implementation.

ECCG participant – Olivia Radu

16 November – The National Consultation Meeting organized in the framework of the Danube Regional Project, Output 3.4 - "Access to Information Improvement and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Taking", organized by REC. The project is financed by UNDP-GEF.

DEF representatives:

- Mirela Leonte - Eco Counselling Centre Galati
- Mihaela Radeş - Eco Counselling Centre Galati
- Laura Boicenco – Mare Nostrum Constanta

The NGO sector was not very well represented. The GO sector was quite well represented: River Basin Comittes, Romanian Waters Administration, National Environmental guard

The main objectives were: presentation of the Danube Regional Project (UNDP – GEF) - Output 3.4, establishment of the stakeholders involvement at the local level, the most important obstacles in public participation and access to information regarding water issues (WFD).

In the framework of this output a national team on public participation regarding Water Framework Directive, Aarhus Convention, etc, will be created, DEF will play an important role in its development.

The most relevant purpose of the new output is strengthening the capacity to access the information and strengthening the public participation component regarding the main pollution sources in Danube River Basin and Water Framework Directive.

This output will be implemented between 2004-2006 and will strengthen the governmental capacity to create a better connection with the public sector.

Main problems identified:

- General Public as the general public is not involved
- General public gets involved only in case of visible negative impacts

- NGO capacity has been decreased lately/NGOs also need capacity improvements so as to create links between general public and GOs
- technical papers need to be translated – NGOs could play a major role in it
- public gets involved mostly if a project will damage a protected area, archeological sites.
- general issues - pollution in Danube Basin are not attractive
- information is provided only on request / providing information is not a voluntary act for the GOs bodies
- financial resources must be attracted to improve PP: laws must specify the assignment of financial resources to provide PP

Lessons learned

Reasons for NGOs not joining DEF in Romania in this time period include: other agendas/projects and/or priorities; insufficient core capacity building; insufficient funding, staff and/or improper communication facilities for supporting active involvement.

Younger and smaller NGOs need to be encouraged to get involved, in spite of their lack of experience in reporting. ECCG feels that improvements in efficiency, information exchange and public participation within DEF Romania could certainly be made if there were an NGO focal point for each River Basin.

If NGOs periodical seminars for future projects management were organized, more information exchanges among NGOs that develop similar projects could share experiences and expertise. It seems there is a need for more pilot and/or practical projects to be implemented for RBMP (i.e. integrated land-use, concrete projects for management of wetlands and floodplains). ECCG was frustrated with the lack of ease of access to government-held, or government-generated information. Finally, if cash flow was more regularly secured, all network endeavors and projects could be performed with more efficiency.

Serbia and Montenegro

2. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

- *Further strengthen cooperation within the DEF by participating at 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly.*

DEF SM representative participate actively at the all DEF Board meeting so far except at the meeting held in Baja in October last year.

- *Support cooperation of DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks, e.g. Black Sea NGO network etc.*

Cooperation with electronic network of environmental NGO in Serbia and Montenegro "Volvox" was established three years ago and during the year 2004 the electronic network was powerful tool for spreading DEF related information to the wide environmental NGO community.

Besides, thanks to the DEF Secretariat DEF SM established cooperation with Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE).

Joint project proposal on integrated water management was submitted to EC in the spring last year but unfortunately was rejected. Despite this fact cooperation continue now within Hellenic Aid Programme.

- *Continue participation in the ICPDR activities by organising the participation of DEF representatives in the ICPDR Ordinary Meetings and the RBM, ECO, EMIS and FLOOD Expert Groups.*
- *Actively participate on the celebration of the international Danube Day and cooperate with the national ICPDR representatives and the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat.*

DEF SM participated actively in working group for Danube Day celebration planning established by Directorate for Water, national body in charge of cooperation with ICPDR. Besides, school competition Danube Art Master was organised in close cooperation with national ICPDR and they actively participated in selection of the best pieces of art.

Final manifestation took place in Belgrade on the Danube river bank when winners of the school competition were proclaimed. Several DEF SM members were present on that occasion as well.

- *Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:*
 - *Cooperating in implementation and development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;*

DEF SM participated in development of the DEF Communications Strategy by providing comments to the draft document prepared by CEIE. We contributed to the Media Strategy by preparing list of media in Serbia.

- *Regular improvements to the DEF home page and updating national DEF web pages in national languages;*

DEF web page was updated regularly by publishing of different water related environmental news.

- *Further improving and facilitating the expanded use of the DEF e-mail conferences;*
- *Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions);*

4th and 5th edition of DEF Bulletin has been translated, printed and widely distributed to NGO community and to all relevant stakeholders. We contributed also to the 4th issue of DEF bulletin by providing adequate texts.

- *Expanding the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.) and NGO Expert Database;*

Existing NGO directory and NGO Expert Database were expanded by data on new NGOs and new experts.

- *Regularly contribute to Danube Watch and/or other relevant publications;*
- *Organising a press release at the national level for all relevant events (e.g. DEF Assembly, national trainings, etc.)*

Press release was prepared after National training and distributed via distribution lists to media, NGOs and experts. Very few media reacted on that.

- *Expanding contacts and integration into existing communication and press networks (ex. UNIS, etc.);*
- *Further building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing the DEF at the national level;). Countries are expected to submit individual work plan for this.*

During the year 2003 DEF and DEF S&M were widely promoted and became well known among different stakeholders. Contact had been established with following institutions:

Secretariat for Environmental Protection of City Belgrade
 Secretariat for Communal and Housing Affairs / Office of Water Management
 Executive Board of the City Assembly of Belgrade
 Agency for Recycling
 Natural History Museum

Institute for Biological Research "Sinisa Stankovic"
 Faculty of Mining and Geology - Department for Environmental
 Protection
 Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia (RHMZ)
 Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment
 Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management / Directorate for Water
 Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia and
 Montenegro
 In the year 2004 new contacts was established:

Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine" Novi Sad
 Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable
 Development
 Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia (departments in Belgrade and
 in Novi Sad)
 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
 Institute for Health Protection of City of Belgrade
 Local Communities of Smederevo, Kraljevo, Veliko Gradiste and
 Blace.

In the year 2004 old contacts were fostered especially with Ministry
 of Agriculture and Water Management / Directorate for Water since it
 is center of National ICPDR. Unfortunately contact with Ministry for
 Protection of Natural Resources and Environment, which used to be
 good, was neglected after it had been incorporated into Ministry of
 Science and after new people had come. We hope cooperation will be
 improved in the forthcoming period.

Thanks to promotion of WFD and PP on local level precious
 cooperation with local governments was established, which will
 serve as base for future implementation of WFD at local level.

- *Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations in the
 respective countries, DEFBaS should organise at least 2 meetings with
 ICPDR PS. Contribution to REC SGP project proposal evaluation on
 national and regional level.*

Due to unstable political situation in Serbia DEF SM had to cope with
 changing of ICPDR Head of Delegations three times for two years. It was

not easy to establish effective cooperation under such condition. However, contact with newest HoD Mr Nikola Marjanovic, Director of Directorate for Water Management has been established although we never had official meeting with him. He was willing to participate at our National training on WFD but due to other important obligation he was prevented from coming. Colleagues of his Ms Dragana Milovanovic participated instead and presented state of WFD implementation in Serbia and Montenegro.

On 26th January Directorate for Water Management organised meeting with purpose of presenting national achievements regarding the WFD implementation and cooperation with ICPDR to the representative of all relevant governmental institutions. DEF SM was invited to participate as well.

As for REC SGP project proposal evaluation DEF SM representative participated at the selection and the evaluation of the projects. Regarding SGP project proposal evaluation the cooperation with REC SM was good.

Sustainability of the DEF

DEF SM network was successful in getting project within the national DRP SGP. Project is focused on capacity building of DEF SM`s members from the Tisa, Sava and Morava river region as well as lower part of the Danube in Serbia for WFD implementation

Participation in Regional Fora

- *NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional fora, identify appropriate regional and national fora;*

Workshop on new DRP component 3.4 "Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision -Making", 12th October 2004, Belgrade

DEF S&M representative participated actively at the workshop and contributed to the promotion of DEF among water related stakeholders in Serbia.

International Workshop "The Special Nature Reserve Karadjordjevo – Statement, Threats, Perspectives", 28-29th October, Karadjordjevo

DEF was presented to the participants and help regarding cooperation with NGO sector from Croatia was offered since The Special Nature Reserve Karadjordjevo is wetland by the Danube on the very border with Croatia.

Workshop on Water Sector Institutional Aspects within the project Water Resources Management Project, 1 December 2004, Belgrade

DEF S&M was the only NGO invited to the workshop that was organised by Directorate for Water Management. It was opportunity for promotion of DEF during the breaks and lunch time as well as during official part of the workshop when DEF SM representative was invited to give comments on public participation within the project.

Inception Workshop for the international project "Pilot River Basin Plan for Sava River"

DEF S&M representative participated at workshop which was held in Belgrade on 27th January and DEF and DEF SM were adequately promoted and help concerning public participation was offered.

Evaluation and Assessment

NFP will contribute to an assessment of Project Activities Phase 2. From this, lessons learned will be identified as guidance for preparing follow-up activities for the future development of DEF.

- Review DEF Strategy, Workplan, ToRs of Coordinator and NFPs, activities and resulting outputs and prepare assessment.

3. Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

This part of the assignment is directed towards strengthening the DEF national network's capacity (technical and institutional) to address DRB transboundary problems; in essence "learning by doing." In the short term, this should also empower DEF members to participate in the Small Grants Programme that is also be supported by the DRP.

Organisation of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

National training on WFD and Public Participation was organised on 2nd December 2004 in Belgrade in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia. Participants of the Meeting were not only DEF S&M members but also other interested NGOs as well as representatives of Secretariat for Environmental Protection of City Belgrade, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management / Directorate for Water, Public Water Management

Company "Vode Vojvodine" Novi Sad, Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection and IUCN Regional Office. 60 participants were present in all (Annex 1: List of participants)

Training was organised with purpose of raising awareness on WFD`s objectives and public participation obligation within it (Annex2: Agenda). During the first part of the training participants were introduced with WFD in general: with its structure, objectives and main philosophy. Special attention was paid to public participation obligation defined within Directive. After that followed presentation on WFD implementation in Serbia and Montenegro and cooperation with ICPDR made by Deputy Director of Directorate for Water Management (center of national ICPDR).

As an example of implementation of WFD on a pilot river basin current EC Project "Pilot River Basin Plan for Sava River" was presented to the participants. Experience and planned activities from the project "Coalition for River " that is being implemented on the Tisa showed how public can be involved in protection of the rivers. They also learned about natural potentials of the Mlava river and possibilities of their protection.

Regional IUCN office presented its initiatives and programs in SEE as well.

During the work in working groups participants were offered to join one of three groups:

1. WFD and public participation at local level
2. WFD and public participation at sub- basin level
3. WFD and public participation at national level

They were supposed to analyse current situation, to identify problems, needs and activities for proper public participation in the process of WFD implementation as well as to identify relevant stakeholders.

Although they had task to analyse situation at different level results were very similar.

As main problems were identified:

- Inappropriate enforcement of law
- Corruption
- Unregulated legislation
- Capacity of interested party for WFD implementation law especially at local level
- Interest of media for this issue law

Proposed activities:

- Educational programs to raise environmental awareness
- Campaigns
- Production of Local Environmental Action Plans
- Networking
- Capacity building of interested parties including media
- Lobby
- Monitoring of law enforcement

Stakeholders

- NGOs
- Local government
- Communal enterprises
- Waterpower organisations
- Inspections
- Scientific institutions
- Media
- Local people
- International organisation
- Polluters
- International organisation

At the end of the meeting a group, consisted of 15 members, that would work more on PP and WFD implementation was formed.

Interest for training on WFD was extremely high and we had 60 participants and 25 were rejected.

- *Organise national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organisations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the water management policy, nutrient reduction problem, the goals and objectives of the DRP.*

National consultation meeting was organised 21 February, 2005 in Belgrade in the room of Mountaineering Association of Serbia and Montenegro. 28 participants were present on that occasion (Annex3: List of Participants_National Meeting" The aim of the meeting was to report on DEF S&M activities for past year as well as to make plan for further period with special emphasis on Danube Day celebration.

Following activities was planned:

- Organizing excursions for children in Zasavica (Special Nature Reserve) in order to introduce them to importance of wetlands
- Cleaning up actions with participation of local people and NGO`s members. During one week in June cleaning action of Zasavica will be organized by "Pokret gorana Sremske Mitrovice". NGO representatives and local people will be involved in the action.
- Final celebration of Danube Day in Zasavica . Final manifestation will be organized under the slogan "Protect the Wetlands of the Danube Watershed" with purpose of calling attention of interested public to importance of wetlands protection. NGO representatives from DEF SM network, representatives of local government and media will participate on that occasion.
- Cleaning up the banks of the Tisa River from the plastic bottles, plastic bags and other garbage remained after spring flooding. Action will be organized by the "Tisa klub Kanjiza " in cooperation with local fishermen and ecological societies and will take place in Kanjiza, Senta, Ada, Becej, Novi Becej. .

- Bicycling tour Kanjiža-Adorjan-Kanjiža and birdwatching with purpose of introducing values of bird wildlife to the participants. Participants: NGO representatives and interested public.
- Tisa Fower – gathering and celebration on the Tisa river bank dedicated to the natural phenomenon of the blooming of the Tisa river. Tisa`s Fower is an endemic insect of the Tisa river (it lives in the Tisa and nowhere else in the world). Every year, at the beginning of June larvae of the Tisa Flower turn into swarms of adult insects which fly over the surface of the Tisa river. Celebration of the blooming of the Tisa will draw attention of the wide public on precious biodiversity and importance of protecting the rivers.
- Regata "Happy Descent" on the Ibar River will be organised by Ecological Movement "Ibar Kraljevo" at the end of June if possible on June 29. Involvement of wide public is expected.
- Expedition "Tara – Sava" will be organised by boat from the Tara River to the mouth of the Drina river into Sava with purpose of identifying main polluters and human pressure of that regions and establishing contacts with local people and local government of the main municipalities situated on the river banks.

Proposed activities should be mainly financed by Coca Cola company but it depends on donor whether all of them would be covered.

Publishing special NGO publications in national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- Printing of national versions of the Poster on Water Pollution in the DRB.
- Finalisation of the content and printing of Brochure on Water pollution in the DRB.

Slovakia

4. Developing the DEF Network (Project Document Activity 3.1.1)

The DEF NFP coordinated activities undertaken at the national level with national network participation. This included:

- Further strengthen cooperation within the DEF by participating at 2 DEF Board Meetings and 1 DEF General Assembly.

The representative of Daphne participated on 2 Board meetings in the year 2004.

- Support cooperation of DEF network with other national stakeholders and national and regional networks.

Daphne maintained close cooperation with WWF International as well as with the WWF DCPO and disseminated information among all the DEF members. At the national level in 2004 Daphne intensively cooperated with the national DEF members, with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, State Nature Conservation as well as with local and regional water authorities, farmers, schools and other stakeholders.

- Continue participation in the ICPDR activities by organising the participation of DEF representatives in the ICPDR Ordinary Meetings and the RBM, ECO, EMIS and FLOOD Expert Groups.

Daphne representative participated at the meetings of ECO EG in 2004 and have had input to all relevant documents prepared and discussed within the EG.

- Actively participate on the celebration of the international Danube Day and cooperate with the national ICPDR representatives and the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat.

Since the initial phase of the preparations of the DD celebration the representatives of ICPDR delegation in Slovakia were not involved in the process. They started with their activities only in late April 2004. NFP was involved in the DD activities since the beginning and during the whole period of DD preparations (first half of 2004) NFP provided necessary help and advice to ICPDR delegation whenever there was request for it.

NFP together with DEF Secretariat and the regional Secretariat of the Global Water Partnership were the main initiators of the DD celebration in Slovakia. Within the preparatory work NFP translated the information

about DD with special focus on school competition and adjusted the rules to national conditions, organised the school competition at the national level, including the primary schools in south-western part of Slovakia. NFP was also initiating the cooperation with ICPDR national delegation and other water authorities in the country as well as the media campaign about the DD celebration. NFP disseminated the information and the DD poster in May. All the communication with involved schools and NGOs was maintained by the NFP. Daphne also organised the trip of the winner of the Danube Art Master school competition to Vienna.

- Strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network as well as enhance public awareness by:
 - Cooperating in implementation and development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy;

Daphne actively cooperated on the development of the DEF Communications and Media Strategy in previous years. In 2004 Daphne commented both strategies and actively participated on their adjustment to local conditions. Daphne is using the strategy and the experiences shared during the process of the elaboration of both strategies in the cooperation with stakeholders at the national and local level.

- Regular improvements to the DEF home page and updating national DEF web pages in national languages;

Daphne collected the relevant information from the national DEF members and provided them to DEF SaM for updating the international DEF webpage. It also provided necessary corrections for the DEF webpage (www.de-forum.org). Information about the project activities appear also at the national Daphne website (www.daphne.sk). The relevant information about the water related news/events in Danube countries were sent to the Slovak NGO e-mail conferences on regular bases.

- Further improving and facilitating the expanded use of the DEF e-mail conferences;

Daphne actively communicated via and contributed to DEF e-mail conferences (def@list.changenet.sk, def-board@list.changenet.sk). All requested information/reaction during the project period has been sent to DEF Secretariat in time, or with minimal delay.

- Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions);

NFP contributed significantly to the formulation of the new rules for DEF Bulletin and moved the preparation of the layout for English publications to NFP Slovenia. Both issues in 2004 have been translated into Slovak language, printed in 250 copies and broadly disseminated to NGOs, water authorities and other stakeholders in Slovakia.

- Expanding the on-line directory of NGO members (profiles, area of work, funding sources, etc.) and NGO Expert Database;

Daphne collected the updated information about the DEF member NGOs in Slovakia and made corrections in the DEF on-line directory. Data included NGO profiles, contact details, areas of work, main funding sources, etc.

- Regularly contribute to Danube Watch and/or other relevant publications;

Daphne has not contributed to Danube Watch in 2004 because it did contribute in previous years and now this opportunity was taken by other NFP. Daphne started to prepare a detailed description of case study from the Morava river floodplain for the Global Water Partnership Water Toolbox.

- Organising a press release at the national level for all relevant events (e.g. DEF Assembly, national trainings, etc.)

Daphne has organised press conferences and press releases for all relevant activities in 2004, such as developments in the area of NATURA 2000, agri-environmental schemes, cooperation with local authorities on the preparation of management plan for the Morava Ramsar Site, etc. All the press releases you can find at www.daphne.sk.

- Further building participation in the DEF network at the national level via public outreach, consultations partnership building activities with multiple stakeholders (based on country specific strategies for developing the DEF at the national level;). Countries are expected to submit individual work plan for this.

All the NGOs which preferentially focus on water issues, management and protection have already become the DEF members in previous years, therefore it is possible to ensure proper information dissemination among the NGOs via the national NGO e-mail conference (voda-int@list.changenet.sk). Through the national and local projects, the NGOs build the public outreach with multiple stakeholders in the area of water management, pollution and possible solutions in the whole country. DEF

coordinates the activities and partly also supports the activities of the member NGOs.

- Organize two meetings with ICPDR Head of Delegations

During the preparation of the celebration of the Danube Day as well as at other events and meetings related to the implementation of the EU WFD in Slovakia, Daphne representatives were in contact with the ICPDR Head of delegation during the whole year 2004. As number of meetings took place, where space was provided for mutual discussions, it was not necessary to organise separate meetings among DEF and ICPDR HoD.

Sustainability of the DEF

- Making grant application for at least 1 separate grant at the national level. Grants should focus on development of national DEF network and could include the DRP SGP but should also include other funding sources.

Daphne together with CEIE from Bulgaria and PEC from Slovenia implements the REC SGP project focused on nutrient reduction in 3 river basins (Morava, Mura, Ogosta). For more information please visit the Daphne website (www.daphne.sk).

Participation in Regional Fora

- NFP should work to expand its participation in national and regional fora, identify appropriate regional and national fora;

In 2004 Daphne representatives participated in all relevant national foras related to NATURA 2000, agri-environmental schemes, EU WFD and/or integrated water resource management. The gained information was always disseminated among interested NGOs.

- Participate on behalf of DEF and disseminate results within the network.

Since the NGO meeting related to WFD Implementation in Slovakia in February 2004, the NFP is one of the slovak NGOs which are updated and informed about the current developments in water policy sector in Slovakia. The cooperation and coordination with other NGOs is ensured more at the international than at the national level, what has to be improved during the upcoming months. The needs for the next national training, which will be related to WFD, are being identified.

Evaluation and Assessment

- Review DEF Strategy, Workplan, ToRs of Coordinator and NFPs, activities and resulting outputs and prepare assessment.

NFP Slovakia is in very close connection with the DEF Secretariat therefore it contributes to the reviewing of all the strategic documents of the network. Daphne incorporates all its experiences and uses the capacities and skills of its staff to improve the work and network development.

5. Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2-3.1.4)

Organisation of Training/Consultation Meetings on Nutrients and Toxic Substances (3.1.2)

- Develop methodology for the training of NGOs at the national level

All interested NGOs have received information about the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive as well as the documents developed by EEB and WWF advising NGOs how to get involved in the implementation process. These materials together with the Slovak implementation methodology were prepared and distributed to NGOs at the national training. Due to cooperation with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute and Slovak Water Enterprise, the NGOs have access to the national documents and methodology for implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

- Organise national training for NGOs on implementation of EU WFD

The national training on EU WFD was organised on 28th of February. Representatives of 8 different NGOs participated at the seminar and experts from the Slovak Ministry of the Environment, Slovak Water Enterprise, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute presented the current developments in the implementation of the EU WFD in Slovakia. Discussion on the possibilities of the NGO involvement in the selected working groups took place. Daphne supported the NGO involvement in WFD implementation in Slovakia in the first two months of 2005.

- Organise national consultation meetings in this work period to expand the DEF national network and to inform other relevant organisations (NGOs, HoDs, Ministries, state institutions) about the water management policy, nutrient reduction problem, the goals and objectives of the DRP.

Coordination of national WFD activities

Since the NGO meeting related to WFD Implementation in Slovakia, the NFP is one of the slovak NGOs which are updated and informed about the current developments in water policy sector in Slovakia. Daphne participates at the meetings and events related to EU WFD and regularly disseminates the information among NGOs in Slovakia. The cooperation and coordination with other NGOs is ensured more at the international than at the national level, what will be improved during the upcoming months. The NGO needs in the area of national and EU water policy, were identified and reflected in the national NGO training on EU WFD.

Other related activities

NFP is consulted and actively involved in number of restoration projects in Slovakia, part of which is related to the restoration of wetlands and wet meadows. Representative of the NFP is a member of Ecological Expert Group of ICPDR and is involved in the preparation of the Wetland Issue Paper. NFP is involved in REC Small Grant Programme by coordination of the activities within the trilateral project with Bulgaria and Slovenia. The project has started in autumn 2004 by the initial meetings with project partners at the international level and by meetings of stakeholders at the national level.

Publishing special NGO publications in national language on nutrients and toxic substances (3.1.3)

- Printing of national versions of the Poster on Water Pollution in the DRB.

NFP contributed to the preparation of the English text of the poster and provided number of pictures to support the text with practical examples of Danube threats and NGO activities. The text was translated into Slovak language, the layout has been finalized and the slovak version of the poster is ready for printing.

- Finalisation of the content and printing of Brochure on Water pollution in the DRB.

Daphne experts commented on the text of the brochure on pollution in the Danube basin. The English text has been translated into the Slovak language and the brochure was prepared for printing at the beginning of 2005.

Slovenia

DEVELOPING THE DEF NETWORK

Meetings

Several, monthly meetings from July 2004 – January 2005: meetings with Mrs Martina Zupan, the GWP national representative, Institute for Education, Mrs. Minka Vičar, MOPE- Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy, representative: Mr. Mitja Bricelj, HoD, Mrs. Milena Janežič and dr. Gordana Beltram. The topics of the discussions was co-operation, coordination with NGO and governmental bodies like MOPE, Institute for education, Ramsar in the fields of communication, education, public awareness for important ecological days (February 2nd: World Wetlands Day, March 22nd : World Day for Water, April 22nd : Earth Day, May 22nd : Biodiversity Day, June 5th : World Environment Day, June 29th : Danube Day.

We jointly prepare some publications, e.g. leaflet for school and press releases in connection to these days. Leaflet for schools about water problems from “the Alps to the sea” was part of activity for the Danube day. On the leaflet as a special case Danube river basin was mentioned with DEF logo and contact address. The other publication with the same partner in that time was a translated Ramsar poster where we also add DEF logo.

Additional we have several meetings on different levels (local, national) with stakeholders about e.g. local (gravel pits, fish ponds, protected areas, liquid manure and ground water) or general problems (cooperation on the relation between various NGOs, cooperation among NGOs and government).

Cooperation with DEF Secretariat

There was active cooperation at DEF Board Meeting as well as during DEF E-Mail Conferences.

National DEF Expert Database

In our national expert database there are six experts from various fields (e.g. biology, ecology, geography). We have some more potential experts which could be of great value for DEF.

I-1 DEF Bulletin

Two translated issues of the DEF Bulletin' in new design were published and distributed to various societies and stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in *pdf* format. Moreover DEF Slovenia (Milan Vogrin) take over responsibility for editorial work on bulletin.

National DEF Network

At the moment there are four members of DEF in Slovenia (*DPPVN* – in the role of NFP, *PEC*, *Radoživ*, *Forum za Pohorje*). With all the previously mentioned societies regular contacts are kept and also meetings are held. Contacts and meetings with other potential members are in progress.

I.1.1.1.1.1 Newspapers

- Newspaper *Večer*, 7th September 2004: Presentation of "downhill with boats" on river Mura co-organised by us.
- We publish also a short note in *Danube Watch* about Drava Commission and their meeting in Ptuj.

I.1.1.1.2 Interviews

- National Television: Youth camps, wetlands and DEF. 24th July 2004 at 1530 on the TV SLO 1.
- National radio: Wetlands. 24th January 2005, from 1800 till 1840 in live.

Invitation to the workshop related to the WFD in 2nd February 2005 jointly organised by us and Ministry for Environment was distributed widely by *E-novice* which is distributed by e-mail to more then 1000 addresses.

DEF SUSTAINABILITY

I.1.1.1.2.1 Applications

In March three applications were prepared for grants of the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy and Ministry of Science on the national level. The support from the above mentioned institutions was provided for *Biota* (scientific journal), and our regular work.

Danube Regional Project

Our society also took an active part in the Regional Grants Programme with the proposal of a project, in cooperation with our partners from Slovakia and Bulgaria.

PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL FORA

DPPVN as a DEF NFP is a member of national commission at Ramsar CEPA. As DPPVN/DEF our member Milan Vogrin participate on the IUCN workshop about amphibians and reptiles in December 2004.

SUPPORTING THE CAPACITIES OF DEF TO RESPOND TO PRIORITY PROBLEMS

I.1.1.1.2.2 National training

The national training in Slovenia related to the EU WFD was held on 2nd February 2005 in Ljubljana on the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy, Dunajska c. 48, Ljubljana.

The title of the workshop was « *Protection of wetlands in 21 century* ». There were altogether about 50 participants from various Slovene NGOs who participated in that event. Among other participants there were also some from schools, local communities, state offices for nature protection and there were also representatives of the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy and various companies.

The invitations, together with agenda and objectives, were sent to all NGOs who work in the field of environment and nature a week before the workshop. In this particular area, the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy was of great help to our society since they keep a current register of all NGOs and other relevant institutions and they were also responsible for sending out the invitations.

Before workshop presenters were contacted, and all of them sent us full text their presentation. In that way we will be able to prepare proceedings with the contributions. Proceedings will be published by Ministry for Environment till mid March. Each Contribution will have also English summary.. On the workshop various material of DEF (*DEF Bulletin', the Leaflet* and poster) was available for participants.

At our national training there were 12 presenters who presented different topics, i.e. more general one, e.g. *Importance of Wetlands and Ramsar*; more specific, e.g. good practice with wetlands, legislation about water and WFD, etc...

PUBLISHING SPECIAL NGO PUBLICATIONS

National versions of the poster

After English version of the DEF poster "The Danube - Interlinked Fates and Responsibilities" was prepared, edited and published, we start to work on Slovene version. At the end of July we print a Slovene version of the Danube poster. Since we wish to be equally distributed among our primary schools we invite national Institute for education which work under Ministry for Education. We have two meetings with the representative of Institute, Mrs. Vičar. They agree that poster is a proper material for schools. They help also with the dispatching in September, when schools start to work.

Brochure

We are actively involved in the preparation of a brochure about nutrient reduction. Two experts from Slovenia participated in the preparation of the text. We already collect all text from authors in English version, however some corrections will be after referees comments.

OTHER PROJECTS RELATED TO DEF ACTIVITIES

- *Biota*, a scientific journal, was published in which a full page advertising the DEF was included.
- Small pocket calendars and wall calendars were published for eco-schools and wider public (3000 copies). The calendars present photos of endangered plants, animals and habitats and also the DEF logo is printed on them.

Ukraine

1. Developing the DEF Network (Activity 3.1.1)

NFP Ukraine took part in two Board Meetings (in Czech Republic, and in Hungary).

NFP maintains cooperation with the Ukrainian River Network since 2002 (we participated in two seminars organized by URN);
 Our organization established new cooperation with the network Coalition of Clean Baltic (CCB) (Tallinn, December,16);
 NFP took part in preparation of principles of operation and documents for formation of NGOs network for management of wetlands in the Azov- Black Sea region of Ukraine.

Involvement of experts to cooperation with the network in the field of cleaning the industrial sewage waters, household and farming waste waters (scientists from the Universities of Lviv, Uzhgorod, Chernivtsi, Odessa) and representatives of business, that deal with gathering and treatment of waste products from the river banks (enterprise "Sa-shyk")

NFP Ukraine established contacts with the head of the National delegation to ICPDR in Ukraine Mr.Grytsenko A.V. Celebration of the Danube Day in Ukraine was organized by the DEF network and was coordinated by NFP. Representatives of the ICPDR national delegation took a passive position concerning DD celebration.

NGOs in the Carpathian region – "Rutenia" (Uzhgorod), Agency of regional development (Rakhiv) – took an active part in the "Be an Artist of Danube" International Competition for schoolchildren. In particular in Rakhiv region (Transcarpathians) the event "From clean Tisa to clean Danube" was prepared. The participants were schoolchildren and the members of the scout organization "Plast". For two weeks children took trips along the Tisa riverbanks and inflowing streams and cleaned them from garbage.

The International Competition "Be an Artist of Danube was organized by the Humanitarian Center of out-of-school education and training of children.

A team of young naturalists was formed to take part in the regional event. In Izmail town. In total 347 schoolchildren took part in artistic workshops and competitions.

We did our best to strengthen internal and external communication of the DEF network in Ukraine by disseminating information in mass media and at different forums and conferences.

Our organization, as NFP, supported the process of public involvement through NGOs of the Carpathian region ("Ecosphere", "Rutenia", Carpathia Agency of regional development, Hydroecological

society "Uzh) and the region of the Ukrainian part of Danube Delta ("Vidrodzhennia", "Center of Regional Study", the Black Sea regional branch of the Ukrainian Environmental Academy, "Zhaivoronky").

Cooperation was established with mass media in the Carpathian region and in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta: " Vysoky Zamok", " Dunaiska zoria", "Za Vilnu Ukrainu", "Tribuna", "Kurier Nedely", "Zerkalo Nedely", Izmail TV.

NFP regularly uses E- mail conferences

The information was regularly supplied via telephone communication to the organizations

that have no technical facilities for electronic communication.

Two editions of the DEF Bulletin were translated into national language (Ukrainian and

Russian), one edition of the bulletin was prepared for printing, published and disseminated.

On-line directory of NGO members increased by three organizations.

The article was prepared and submitted to the special Newsletter (supported by GWP

CEE) "Water Talk" (O.Diakov " The construction of the Bystroye canal: has a public

participation become the reality?"). NGO members in their regions submitted information

to the local mass media about DD celebration and the conferences, organized in Rakhov, and in Odessa;

The meeting was organized with the head of ICPDR delegation to Ukraine Mr. Grytsenko

A.V, who promised to nominated a contact person for cooperation with NFP, however due to political situation this was not done;

We informed DEF that the organization responsible for REC SGP on the national level,

namely REC KYIV does not work for two years. Therefore, this program does not work in

Ukraine at present.

2. Supporting the Capacities of DEF to Respond to Priority Problems (DRP Activity 3.1.2.-3.1.4.)

NFP DEF Ukraine numbers now 10 members, who are actively involved in all its events and maintain close communication between them and NFP DEF. Activity of NFP DEF is aimed at strengthening networking, sustainable development of DEF and solving the problems within the framework of DEF. Such activity is very urgent in Ukraine, taking into account the growing danger of pollution of the rivers in the Danube Delta region and Danube basin with chemicals due to antropogenic influence of industrial plants and municipal waste products pollution. Thus, creation of the conditions for wide public involvement in studying the problems of pollution of the Danube basin rivers with chemicals and household garbage was an important element in the work of NFP DEF Ukraine.

At the National Training in Lviv "Principles of Water Framcwork Directive EU in Ukraine" 21 NGO DEF representatives were present, the representatives of the Ukrainian River Network and of the CCB network took part in the Training too.

Natalia Kovalchuk and Petro Hrytsyshyn organized the Training on a high level. Participants of the seminars and the Training expressed their advice to DEF to prepare a brochure on WFD EU which in a popular way will present the mechanisms of different stakeholders involvement and give the knowledge on legislation to the people. The lack of such published products is very urgent, especially in the Near- Danube River region, because of the necessity of protection of ecological rights of population and its legislative education.

Here we should focus on our activity related with holding the seminar and a National training, because during these events we obtained the experience of sustainable development of network; possibilities. In particular the seminar in the Carpathian region hold in Rakhiv, demonstrated that the most interested in preventing the Tysa river pollution are schoolchildren, who via their parents create a public pressure on the local authority asking them to adopt the decisions on the prevention of the riverside pollution on the Ukrainian part with non allowed landfill and also of the river pollution with forbidden discharge of municipal waste waters (without cleaning). With the help of schoolchildren we quickly distributed NFP DEF information to different stakeholders and were invited by many people to take part in celebration of the "brynza"(sheep cheese) holiday and presentation of DEF information in the Carpathian region.

The Seminar in Odessa demonstrated that public is very much worried by canal construction in the Danube Delta, both because of its impact on the environment and also because of that fact that government ignored

the people opinion and ecological rights of public. Representatives of the Center of Regional Studies from Odessa – Oleg Dyakov and Igor Studennikov prepared the summarizing article after seminar on the situation in the Danube Delta. Participants of the seminar were informed about the WFD EU principles.

We have started the translation of the Brochure on Water Pollution in the DRB. The national version of Poster about the Danube river was prepared and distributed among the network members. The activities were performed in the period from July, 2004 to February, 2005. For this period NFP prepared two reports for DEF Secretariat.

ANNEX 5

DEF REPORT FOR PHASE 2 – 2006

Danube Environmental Forum

Final Report

***"Support for the Institutional Development of NGOs and Community
Involvement:
Developing the DEF Network"***

(Project Output 3.1)

Work Period: March 2005 – May 2006

June 2006

1. Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

• Dissemination of information

- Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions) among all relevant stakeholders, DEF Bulletin will be translated into eleven languages of the Danube River Basin;

English version of the DEF Bulletin 1/2005 was developed in June 2005 and disseminated. English version of the DEF Bulletin 2/2005 was developed in January 2006 and disseminated. In all countries national versions were developed, printed and disseminated. In some countries national version was developed in electronic version for the use by electronic media.

- Summarizing information from the NFPs and disseminating it within the network, providing information upon request related to Danube issues, DEF activities, projects, initiatives, members, etc.;

The fully operational Secretariat coordinates implementation of national activities and on the daily basis ensures and coordinates information management among NFPs and regularly provides information upon request on the Danube issues.

- Reconstruction, upgrading and maintenance of DEF website with the aim to make it more attractive to the public;

The proposal for the content and design of the new website has been developed in the framework of the new DEF visual identity. Programming of DEF website will be based on content management system. The delayed process of development of DEF visual identity caused delay in website development. Text will be prepared and website launched in the framework of the next MoA.

- Translating the DEF leaflet into eleven national languages of the Danube Region and organising distribution within the country;

In some countries DEF leaflet has been developed, printed and distributed in the country according to the old visual identity with the old DEF logo. In other countries, the new design was used and DEF leaflet in the new design has been translated and printed in the national version.

- Preparation and printing of new version of DEF Leaflet in English version.

The English version of the new DEF information leaflet has been developed in electronic version based on the new DEF visual identity agreed at the meeting of the DEF Board in November 2005. Printing of the English version will be made in the framework of next MoA.

• Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks

- Ensuring the continuation of communication among the NGOs and other stakeholders by managing two e-mail conferences with the purpose of discussing in detail the currently undertaken activities, planning and developing of concrete projects, fundraising possibilities as well as environmental problems and solutions;

DEF Secretariat manages an internal conference of the DEF Board and Secretariat (def-board@list.changenet.sk), which is the most active and very necessary for co-ordination of activities in all the 13 countries. Main DEF communication and planning is being done via this conference. DEF NFPs communicates with NGOs at the national level via national distribution lists and e-mail conferences.

- Strengthening the collaboration with key organisations and existing networks especially on issues related to public participation, implementation them within the EU WFD and celebrating Danube Day in June 2005.

There has been well-developed cooperation with the ICPDR in organising Danube Day event 2005 in 12 countries. DEF implemented Danube Art Master school competition and Danube Photo Competition. In 12 Danube countries DEF members actively participated in the national celebrations with the aim to increase public awareness about the Danube issues and pointing out main actual problems caused by negative human impact to the biodiversity of the Danube region. DEF members continuously supported sustainable management practices in the Danube region and celebration of the Danube Day contributed to active participation of the public in Danube initiatives.

Celebration of the Danube Day was held in a very close cooperation with other networks in the region WWF DCP and GWP national offices as well as ICPDR national delegations. In most countries

cooperation with the national ICPDR delegations has been even strengthened. In many countries DEF undertook a coordination role for NGOs in negotiating with the national ICPDR delegation.

DEF assisted the ICPDR to organise award ceremony of international Danube Art Master in Budapest. DEF NFPs were responsible for organising travel of national winners to the event. The international DAM ceremony was connected to launch of the exhibition of best pictures of Danube Photo Competition in the premises of the Ministry of Environment and Waters in Budapest.

In June 2005, representatives of DEF participated at international Stakeholder Conference organised by the ICPDR in the framework of second celebration of the Danube Day in Budapest. The foremost goals of the conference were to present information and to elicit comments of the represented relevant stakeholder groups regarding the activities of the ICPDR, especially in view of an active involvement of the public as recommended by article 14 of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). DEF was one of two organisations that provided initial statements at a Work Session 1: Nutrient pollution.

The Stakeholder Conference was generally seen as a step forward towards establishing a communication stakeholder platform in the DRB. There was a general consensus that public participation in the Danube River Basin is still at the beginning and that more effort should be put into this task in the coming years, especially considering the tight timetable of the WFD.

In September 2005 DEF submitted to the ICPDR a feedback to the Danube Basin Analysis (WFD Roof Report 2004).

In 2006 DEF continued to cooperate with the ICPDR in organising Danube Art Master school competition in 13 countries. DEF has prepared a proposal for the Danube Photo Competition in 2006. In all 13 Danube countries DEF members will actively participate in the national celebrations with the aim to increase public awareness about the Danube issues and pointing out main actual problems caused by negative human impact to the biodiversity of the Danube region.

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- Continuously updating the database of experts from different institutions (state, NGOs, private companies, etc.) and make it accessible through Internet, all experts included in the database offer help and advice to NGOs in their work on water issues;
- Organising and facilitating national consultation meetings with various groups of stakeholders to ensure proper NGO involvement in water protection issues, each NGO activity is linked with public outreach and media work.

DEF NFPs continued in organising meetings with the effort to strengthen partnerships and contacts between DEF and other groups of stakeholders on the national level. The majority of meetings were organised within the NGO community in DRB countries, in order to strengthen the national network. DEF has gained new members due to those meetings and many members became more active after they were informed by NFPs about the current situation in DEF and DEF involvement in DRP.

Meetings were regularly organised with representatives of governmental institutions (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, State Nature Conservancy etc.). The various possibilities for co-operation have been discussed (EU Water Framework Directive Implementation process, new legislation, etc.)

Other groups of stakeholders with whom DEF is improving its co-operation are farmers, hunters, fishermen, teachers, students and many others. It greatly differs from country to country. Each NFP tries to fill the gaps they have in effective protection of Danube Basin ecosystems.

- **Capacity building**

- Establishing of DEF Water Policy Team;

During the last meeting of the DEF Board and General Assembly the DEF Water Policy Team (WPT) was officially launched. The WPT coordinator presented the main mission, challenges and priorities of the WPT to DEF members. The ToR for each of 3 working groups (WGs) was developed: Wetlands, Heavily Modified Water Bodies, and Public Participation.

- Building of three thematic working groups in terms of gaining new members, training the group members in water policy issues by sharing experience from the national WFD implementation;

Each WG has its coordinator, which is responsible for coordination of activities of relevant WG. The coordinator invited all participants of the GA to join to one of the WGs. Each group developed its

action plan for 2005. Due to objective reasons most of capacity building activities were postponed for summer-autumn 2006. During the meeting of WPT in November 2005 in Bratislava a detailed activity plan was developed for 2006.

- DEF Water Policy Team will coordinate its efforts on international level and EU level with other NGO networks on EU water policy issues.

On February 2nd, 2006 DEF launched international wetland campaign. The DEF campaign will encourage national water planners to learn more about, and better apply, wetland protection. International organizations such as the ICPDR, UNDP/GEF DRP, WWF and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat have all produced helpful tools to assist planners in their efforts. DEF also supports a new DRP project that will produce new guidelines and best practices for wetland protection. The DEF campaign has been supported by the Secretariat of the global Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which coordinates World Wetlands Day.

A key gap to be filled is the development of national inventories of wetlands that are now largely non-existent in most countries. DEF will push for better access to information to, and greater public participation in, developing national water protection plans. The progress of Danube national governments in including wetland protection measures in their national plans will be monitored by DEF - results will be publicly disseminated on Danube Day, June 29, 2006 and World Wetlands Day 2007. DEF NGOs also hold a number of local actions in Danube countries to promote World Wetlands Day. These include press conferences in Germany and Czech Republic on the importance of wetlands and their role in flood prevention. Public awareness has been raised with wetland tours in Hungary and Croatia, and explanations of the threats from planned navigation projects to wetlands in Romania. And a national wetland conference and new protected wetland sites were launched in Slovenia.

2. Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

• Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region

- Participation in the ICPDR Expert Groups with the aim to contribute to the effective implementation of the EU water legislation;

At the expert level DEF closely follows the works of the ICPDR. DEF representatives participated in relevant ICPDR Expert Group meetings. All components of DEF structure benefit from this opportunity through the dissemination of outcome of those meetings to all interested NGOs and other stakeholders, that are mostly active at local or regional levels. At the same time, NGOs provide important feedback to the ICPDR on the efficiency and transparency of the activities undertaken at the national level.

- Further involvement in main water policy initiatives at the national level in 13 Danube countries with special focus on the relations and linkages between the EU water policy, designation and protection of the NATURA 2000 sites and agricultural policy initiatives;

The meeting of the DEF WPT in November 2005 stressed the need to focus more on the relations and linkages between EU water policy and Natura 2000 network in the EU member states. More activities will be developed in summer-autumn 2006.

- Organising an EU Enlargement Conference in Bulgaria with the aim to exchange experience and strengthening cooperation in policy actions of DEF members in the new member states.

In April 2005 DEF organised the EU Enlargement Conference in Bulgaria with the aim to build the capacities of NGOs in Danube countries, to support them in encouraging state representatives to accept and follow the new system of European governance. The event provided a forum for exchanging experiences and strengthening cooperation in policy actions of DEF members. The conference focused on three topics of environmental policy related to DEF activities: EU WFD, Natura 2000 and agri-environmental issues. Several key speeches were presented by the colleagues from other European network NGOs that are strongly involved in influencing European environmental policies (EEB, and WWF).

• Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region

- Developing mechanisms for immediate mobilization of relevant network members to react upon hot policy issues in water management and protection and to undertake the most effective steps to prevent any unreasonable damages to natural ecosystems or to human health;

One of DEF's aims is to influence sustainable development of the Danube River region by ensuring participation of NGOs in present governmental forums, programmes and initiatives, and also by developing close cooperation with governmental structures. The DEF regional actions are always supported by sub-regional and national activities. There are several regions in the Danube watershed where sustainable development is needed as a result of negative human activities. DEF is actively involved in NGO movements in order to stop unfavourable actions in three main areas: Morava-Dyje Floodplains, Danube Delta and the Drava region.

- Actively lobbying for environmentally friendly developments in the Bystroye Estuary case in the Ukraine, in the Drava River case in Croatia and other "hot issues".

DEF NFP Romania, secured continuity in the DEF involvement in matters regarding Ukraine's navigation plans along the Bystroye stretch of Danube and the Kijlia Arm, a very controversial topic within the TEN-T programme for several years now. The 2004 canal dredges and dam construction works highly affected the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in its entirety. DEF NFP in Romania maintained national and international community information sharing, mobilized and took part in the "Save the Danube Delta" and "Stop Bystroye/Kijlia Arm Navigation Plans" Campaigns while supporting the Ukrainian NGOs, DEF, WWF, and others in their actions.

- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- Continuing work and activities on the sub-regional level supporting three sub-regional NGO initiatives of DEF member organisations in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and Hungary;

The project proposal for the REC Regional NGO Grant Scheme under the DRP for the Sava sub-regional cooperation was submitted by the DEF NFPs from the respective countries and approved.

- Establishing co-operation with governments and managing organisations, monitoring and advising improvement of site management, experience sharing, developing and participating in new conservation efforts and projects.

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

- Coordinating activities in the framework of the Danube Day 2005 in all 13 Danube countries;

The most public awareness-raising activity in 2005 was the second celebration of the Danube Day. With the experience reached in 2004, DEF members in 12 countries were actively involved in the preparation of national celebrations. Based on national conditions, opportunities, challenges and possibilities, NGOs, together with state institutions, undertook various activities for the public to stress the importance of transboundary, basin-wide cooperation, water quality in the Danube River and its tributaries, and human impact on the Danube River Basin.

In the framework of the Danube Day, DEF member organisations in 12 Danube countries coordinated the school competition "Danube Art Master". Pupils and teachers were involved in organising a school outing to the Danube (or tributaries), during which students created "works of art" along the Danube. The idea was to be inspired by the Danube environment and pupils were asked to use elements provided by the river. Different works of art included sculptures, pictures, mosaics or collages made from material such as driftwood, stones, rushes or mud. In all countries national winners of the competition were announced during the national Danube Day celebrations. The school competition was organised in cooperation with national ICPDR delegations and other NGOs (WWF, GWP CEE). ICPDR and DEF cooperated in organising international awarding ceremony in October 2005 in Budapest.

DEF has been planning activities in the framework of Danube Day 2006. The school competition Danube Art Master will be organised in all 13 Danube countries. The rules will be based on the tradition from last two years.

- Launching the international Photo Competition "Danube";

The first "Danube" Photo Competition organised by the DEF was launched in the beginning of 2005. The competition was opened to all residents to the Danube River Basin and all photos submitted to the competition had to be taken in the Danube River Basin.

The competition was divided into three categories, with a goal to present images of nature, culture and threats that characterize the Danube River Basin - People and Water, Problems, and Nature. This category was subdivided into two further categories, for plants and animals native to the Danube River Basin.

The winners of the competition were announced in June 2005 in the framework of the celebration of the Danube Day. Entries from nine countries have been received which is a truly great success for the first year of such a competition. The standard of pictures was very good and quite surpassed any of expectations.

The Exhibition "Danube" presenting best photos of the competition was opened by Mr. Istvan Ori, President of the ICPDR, at Hungary's Ministry of Environment and Water in Budapest on October 14th, 2005.

The second launch of "Danube" Photo Competition organised by the DEF will be made on the Danube Day in June 2006. DEF submitted project proposal to the ICPDR that has been approved. The guidelines and rules were updated, the new subcategory "Wetlands" will be launched.

- Enabling the participation of environmental NGOs in different water forums during 2005 in order to keep other NFPs informed about the initiatives and the current issues in the water sector in and outside the Danube Region.

DEF supported participation of DEF representatives at the international meeting organised by the Baltic Environmental Forum in Latvia in April 2005 and the Stakeholder Conference organised by the ICPDR in June 2005 in Hungary.

DEF WPT coordinator participated on the Roundtable on Trans-boundary Water Management in Berlin (December 5-7, 2005) in the framework of Petersberg Process Phase II, Protection and Sustainable Use of Trans-boundary Waters in South-Eastern Europe. DEF has provided presentation that was included in the Second Thematic Block "Involvement of Local Communities and Stakeholders", Presentation of selected Case Studies. The roundtable in Berlin was a platform for exchanging lessons learned. One of the objectives was to identify aspects of common concern to transboundary basins in the region that can be addressed by follow-up activities like the envisaged workshops in the context of the IW: LEARN Activity D2. The presentation was focused on the outcomes of the past activities concerning the involvement of stakeholders in the management of Danube and its tributaries and the lessons learned.

3. Activities related to DEF Organisation

At the beginning of the year, DAPHNE, NFP Slovakia that hosted DEF Secretariat since 1999 decided to offer this task to some other NFP (based on rotation principle according to the DEF Statutes). This decision was a result of several reasons. The main reason was that since February 1st, 2006 DAPHNE hosts the permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative – CERI, an international network of NGOs and research institutes from seven Carpathian countries (Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, and Serbia & Montenegro). With regard to this, DAPHNE entered in the difficult situation, being responsible for running secretariat offices of two international networks requiring sufficient personal and financial capacities.

NFP Hungary decided to undertake the task and this decision has been approved by the DEF Board. NFP Hungary has started to carry on legal registration of DEF in Hungary as international organisation. Since June 1st, the new DEF Secretariat will be fully operational in Baja, Hungary. On March 1st DEF Secretariat announced the open call for position of the Executive Secretary with the deadline of March 15th. DEF Secretariat received ten applications. DEF Board evaluated applications according to selection criteria developed by DEF Speakers and DEF Secretariat. Three best applicants were invited to the personal interview on April 4th, 2006. Among three applicants, the future Executive Secretary has been selected. He will start to work part-time on April 15th and full-time on June 1st, 2006.

• Meetings of the Board

- Organisation of two Board meetings in 2005 to evaluate activities of the past 6 months, to specify priorities for upcoming months and to discuss strategic issues and individual activities listed in the work plan.

The first Board Meeting in 2005 was held in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria on April 4. The meeting was focused on planning and discussing in detail DEF activities and work plan in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Phase 2 and overall activities of DEF in 2005. An important part of the Board Meeting was planning DEF water policy activities, DEF involvement in the DRP communication activities, fundraising as a tool for network sustainability, and hot policy issues. The minutes of the meeting are available at the DEF Secretariat.

The second Board Meeting was held in Bratislava, Slovakia on November 29-30, 2005. The meeting was focused on planning and discussing DEF work plan for 2006. A significant portion of the time

was given to the development of new DEF visual identity with the participation of the DRP communication consultants. The minutes of the meeting are available at the DEF Secretariat.

- Organisation of Board meeting in April 2006.

The first Board meeting in 2006 was held on April 25-26 in Baja, Hungary. NFP Hungary, the future host of DEF Secretariat hosted the meeting in the new premises of the DEF Secretariat. The meeting was focused on detailed planning of DEF removal from Slovakia and transformation in Hungary and planning of activities till the end of 2006. The minutes of the meeting are available at the DEF Secretariat.

- **General Assembly**

- Organisation of one DEF General Assembly.

The meeting of the General Assembly was held in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria in April 2005. 41 representatives of DEF member NGOs were present and 6 guests representing the most significant partner organisations and projects – ICPDR, UNDP/GEF DRP, BSNN, GWP, and Bulgarian state authorities. NFPs from each country provided an overview of national activities in the past year highlighting the most successful activities and difficulties. ICPDR and UNDP/GEF DRP presented activities planned in the forthcoming year. DEF Water Policy Team has been officially launched and the coordinators of the particular working groups presented main tasks and ideas for action. The need to enhance DEF external and internal communication tools and new DEF visual identity was discussed. DEF Secretariat presented proposal for work plan and budget for 2005 and both documents were officially approved by the members of the GA. GA also approved 13 applications for the DEF membership. The possible location for the next GA was identified – Croatia or Hungary. The minutes of the meeting are available at the DEF Secretariat.

The Board meeting participants in Baja decided that the next DEF General Assembly will be held in autumn 2006 in Croatia. Logistics will be organised by the Green Osijek, the new NFP Croatia.

- **Fundraising Activities**

- Searching for possibilities to obtain further funding for activities of DEF network at the regional and national levels in the 13 Danube countries;

DEF Secretariat submitted grant application to the European Community in the context of Community Action Programme promoting non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection. The grant application has been approved and DEF Secretariat undertook activities related to development of the contract.

DEF Secretariat submitted the project related to organizing photo competition "Danube" to the ICPDR. The ICPDR approved the proposal and budget.

- Initiating, preparing fundraising activities and disseminating information about funding possibilities and calls for proposals among NGOs in the Danube River Basin;
- Providing assistance and advice to DEF member NGOs in the process of preparation of grant applications.

4. Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**

- Publication and distribution of DEF Bulletin among all relevant stakeholders.

English version of the DEF Bulletin 1/2005 has been developed in June 2005 and disseminated and the DEF Bulletin 2/2005 has been developed in January 2006. In all countries national versions have been developed in some countries national version has been printed. In some countries national version was developed in the electronic version for the use by electronic media.

- **DEF Leaflet**

- Translation of the DEF leaflet into the eleven national languages of the Danube region. Each National Focal Point will be responsible for the translation and distribution within its country.

In some countries national version of the DEF leaflet has been developed and printed in the framework of the old DEF logo design and distributed within the country. In other countries national version were made according to the new layout developed in the framework of the new DEF visual identity process as was agreed at the meeting of the DEF Board in November 2005.

- Preparation and printing of new version of DEF Leaflet in English version.

The English version of the new DEF information leaflet has been developed in electronic version based on the new DEF visual identity agreed at the meeting of the DEF Board in November 2005. Printing of the English version will be made in the framework of next MoA.

National reports

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - 2 issues of DEF Bulletin were translated, printed and distributed among all relevant stakeholders at the national level.
 - In reporting period, B&H DEF NFP was actively involved in dissemination of relevant information on national level. During this period, NFP distributed information to DEF members on problems of Hydropower plants on Vrbas River, as well as on pollution of Bosna River. Information on problems in Vrbas River Basin were published and disseminated, and info on pollution will be included in next issue of DEF Bulletin.
 - During GA organized in Bulgaria, GA supported new member from B&H, NGO Vrbas from Banjaluka. In near future, DEF Network in B&H will be bigger for two new NGOs, NGO Eko zona from Sipovo and NGO Humanitas from Doboje.
 - DEF Leaflet was translated, printed and distributed within the country.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - NFP continued to work together with environmental NGO Network Eko Mreza, as well with other ENGOs in B&H. CESD use every opportunity to promote DEF Network in B&H and on international level.
 - In order to discuss in detail the currently undertaken activities, planning and developing of concrete projects, fundraising possibilities as well as environmental problems and solutions, NFP cooperated with EU Cards Environmental Public Awareness Programme. Within this project possibility to promote DEF network exists, as well as to find best way to strength influence of NGOs in decision-making process. Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - Consultation meetings were organized with REC, NGO Derventa, NGO Dio Srca, NGO Zdrav život, NGO CEETZ, NGO Eko tim, NGO HUMANITAS, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, etc.
 - National training for NGOs on implementation of EU WFD was organized in Srebrenik on May 29-30. This year within national training main topics were: What is GIS and how it can be used for implementation of WFD and Harmful substances in water.
 - Training participants visited Waste Water Treatment plant in Srebrenik, where they were introduced about operating and maintenance of such facility.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
 - NFP continuously monitored process of national WFD implementation at the national level in line with the DEF water policy priorities. This is spatially regarding adoption of new Water Law in B&H.
 - DEF WPT on national level was organized and this team prepared material for "Brochure for NGOs and public on access to information and public participation in water related decision making". Within this team are NGOs Ekotim, CEETZ, and HUMANITAS.
 - NFP established cooperation with Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, and they promise their support to B&H DEF WPT.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - By the new proposed Water Law, authorities will be obliged to create Consultation group for two river basins; Danube River Basin and Mediterranean River Basin. Each of these groups will be formed from national and local authorities; representatives of industry, education sector, but also, chance to be part of group will be given to NGOs. DEF B&H together with WPT will try to be part of this Consultation Group for DRB, and through this group influence on authorities to involve NGOs in decision making process and implementation of WFD.
 - During April 2005, DEF members from B&H actively participate on EU Enlargement Conference organized in Bulgaria.
 - In order to strength NGO participation in implementation of WFD in Sava River Basin, DEF NFP from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro created project proposal for 2nd call for the second call of DRP Regional Grant which was adopted. Name of the project is "Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin", and main goal is establishing of cooperation with International Sava Commission and improve capacity of NGOs for implementation of WFD.
 - Cooperation with DRP Component 3.4: Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making is continuing. DEF members actively participated on meetings organized in Budapest and in Zenica.
 - DEF NFP participated on Dutch Study Tour organized within this project. The main focus of the Study Tour organised in The Netherlands was to offer possibility to the participants to gain practical experience and knowledge with regard to the problems, obstacles and good practices of EU WFD implementation and its specific aspect regarding access to information and public participation as well as the linkages and practices developed during the implementation of Aarhus Convention and other EU Directives.
 - Within this project is necessary to produce already mentioned "Brochure for NGOs and public on access to information and public participation in water related decision making" and project team invite DEF to take actions and steer the process of the development of this Brochure. The process would be that DEF will be considered a leading organisation for this activity and with the involvement of the REC BIH Office in Banja Luka will take role for steering the process of developing such brochure. Right now, preparation is in final phase, draft version of brochure is produced.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - In second part of November NFP received info on pollution that has been occurred in Bosna River Basin. NFP immediately contacted local NGO, and they provided information that was disseminated to all relevant stakeholders on national and international level.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Celebration of Danube Day 2005 was coordinated by NFP.
 - Members of DEF B&H has organised celebration of Danube Day 2006 and DAM.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
 - B&H DEF NFP participated on 1st BM in 2005.
 - B&H DEF NFP was not able to participate on BM in 2006, organized in Hungary.
- **General Assembly**
 - During April 2005, B&H delegation was on the DEF General Assembly that was organized in Bulgaria.
- **Fundraising Activities**
 - As it was mentioned earlier, NFP cooperated with project team of EU Cards Environmental Public Awareness Programme and we will try to ensure funds for DEF B&H members.
 - All info about possible funds are regularly distributed among DEF members in B&H

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
 - 2 issues of DEF Bulletin were translated, printed and distributed among all relevant stakeholders at the national level.
- **DEF Leaflet**
 - DEF Leaflet was translated, printed and distributed within the country.
- **Brochure on WFD and wetlands**
 - Brochure on WFD and wetlands was translated, printed and distributed within the country.

BULGARIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - For the international version of the DEF-Bulletin article was prepared and provided from NGO "Ecomission 21st Century" – Lovech town. They presented the activities in the framework of the Project "Care and Responsibility of Our River".
 - The first issue of the Bulletin for 2005 was translated to Bulgarian language and electronically distributed among Bulgarian NGOs. The issue is published as usual on the NGO web site – www.bluelink.org.
 - For the second issue for 2005 an article was prepared and provided from Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation. It describes in short the creation of Bulgarian NGO coalition for cooperation on flood prevention. The Bulletin is translated and published on the NGO web site – www.bluelink.org.
 - The content of the Bulgarian version of the web site was under discussion. For the report period the information was published on the Bluelink Information site and on the site of the NFP. In the beginning of 2006 final discussion among the members took part. Decision was taken – separate part of the site of the NFP will be dedicated for the DEF on Bulgarian language. Initial steps were undertaken with the start of the Danube Art Master Competition for 2006 announcements. The site will be developed parallel with the new development of the international DEF site.
 - Bulgarian members became more active on the topic of floods prevention. Daniel Popov from the NFP leads the working group of the Bulgarian NGOs concerning communication with institutions. Activities for awareness raising and information distribution were started. The main topics are the Flood Action Programme of ICPDR and the new EU Flood Directive. Daniel Popov participated at EU conference about the Flood Directive in Vienna (May 2006). Information was distributed among DEF Network internationally and on national level.
 - News about ICPDR were translated and disseminated among environment community in Bulgaria. Press releases concerning Danube Day, Moldova presidency, new information sources.
 - The DEF Wetlands press release was translated and disseminated.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - Cooperation with GWP Bulgaria continues. The main topic is improving public participation activities. The both groups work on drafting stakeholder analysis and support the project of the Centre for comparative studies/Institute of Sociology – Bulgarian Science Academy for involvement of business stakeholders in the RBMP process. DEF and GWP Bulgaria share experts and cooperate also for the events concerning Danube Day.
 - Regional office of Black Sea NGO network (BSNN) – cooperation continues. DEF and BSNN – Bulgarian branches supported the project of Centre for comparative studies for involvement of business stakeholders in the RBMP process in the Northeastern part of Bulgaria. Representatives of both networks shared the training activity concerning the mechanisms and approaches for participation in the RBMP. For the next planning year a common project proposal will be developed concerning the agri-environment issues, Natura2000 and connection with WFD. The proposal will be developed for the Northeastern part of the country and it is planned to apply for funding to the GEF Small Grant National Programme.

- Meeting with strategic partners (WWF DCP – Bulgaria office and Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation), 17.11.2005, discussing and planning of the 2006 activities. Common initiatives on floods prevention and navigation issues are planned. Under preparation is project for capacity building for different stakeholders in implementation of sustainable flood prevention practices.
- Cooperation and exchange of information with representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Basin Directorate for the Danube Region (also with the other 3 Directorates), the new established Ministry of Emergency Situations, Regional Environmental Inspectorates and other relevant regional institutions and municipalities administrations concerning RBMPs and public participation is on on-going basis.
- DEF Bulgaria supports the implementation of DRP Component 3.4 on national level. Assistance for preparation of publications on public participation and consultancy for the national pilot project are provided.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
- Updating of the list for the dispatch of Danube Watch – ICPDR Magazine in August-September 2005. It served as additional tool for further development of the contacts with different experts and representatives of stakeholder groups.
- Meeting with local stakeholders from the Osam river Basin on 17.03.2005 in Lovetch. Danube regional Project and the Small Gants Programme presented. Discussed participation in the pilot project for the Component 3.4 of DRP. Mayor of small settlements consulted on cooperation with Basin Directorate and funding possibilities of the Ministry of Environment. Local media in Lovech participated.
- Meeting with journalists from "Kom" newspaper from Berkovitca (Ogosta basin) for development of information campaign on agri-environment in North-west Bulgaria (13.04.2005).
- Meeting with the active stakeholders from Yantra river basin and the Basin Directorate on 20.04.2005 concerning establishment of sub-basin commission.
- A presentation about the structure and function of Danube basin Directorate – possibilities to influence the management of waters and how to contact and use this new governmental structure. The presentation was hold during a training organized from Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation for NGO's and municipality representatives (28.06.2005).
- Meeting with regional stakeholders with the purpose to inform them about our activities and the recent work of DRBD, to coordinate their opinions and activities, to promote the Sub-basin Council concept, 29.06.2005-Danube Day, Montana. Local media participated and provided with information, the meeting was reported in two regional newspapers and the local TV.
- Training representatives of businesses on mechanisms for participation in the decision-making process concerning waters. In the framework of the cooperation with Centre for comparative studies – 23.07.2005 – CEIE; 15.09.2005 – Green Balkans; 19.11.2005 – CEIE/BSNN.
- One day training for representative of local administrations, county administration, local and regional NGOs from Silistra region – 31.10.2005. Topics – WFD, Basin Directorate, mechanisms for public participation and consultation; discussion on the National report concerning the art. 5 and 6 of WFD, connection with the National agri-environmental plan, possibilities for financial support from the SAPAD programme for agri-environmental activities. The training was organized in cooperation with local NGOs from Silistra town, and lecturers were from DEF NFP.
- DEF Bulgaria members are also very active in the common Bulgarian NGO initiative for implementation of Natura 2000 and several projects are under implementation. An NGO platform initiated by interested NGOs, among them the DEF members, is under preparation. The communication on Natura 2000 with Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture is strengthened and consultation process is running. Capacity among NGOs was build for providing consultancy on agri-environment practices and pollution prevention from agriculture. Cooperation with National Agricultural Advises Service (NAAS) is established and two DEF representatives were trained for trainer on Code for Good Agricultural Practices. They will start work together with the regional NAAS offices during the forthcoming awareness raising campaign. Representaitves from DEF member organizations are welcome on different training meetings to provide expertise on environmentally friendly practices for flood prevention and agriculture, as well on the financial mechanisms for sustainable practices.

- In February and March 2006 training for local stakeholders in the Eastern and Middle part of the Danube Basin was carried out. Together with WWF-DCP country office and GWP DEF was the organizer and provided lecturers. The first session took part on 27-28.02.2006 in Silistra and the second – on 20-21.03.2006 in Pleven. Participants – local and regional institutions, agricultural entrepreneurs, NGOs, local media representatives. Similar agendas – providing information on financial instruments and mechanisms, sustainable agriculture, agri-environment, Natura 2000, water use, integrated water management, Danube RBMP, flood prevention. Lecturers from Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture were involved, as well from DEF member organizations, WWF, GWP and Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation. Number of participants – in Silistra – 40 people; in Pleven – 60 people. All of them received package with information, all presentations were provided also on CD. Same information was disseminated also in the Western part of the Basin.
- Established a network of experts and support NGOs in the regions – four local organizations in the Basin – Silistra (Eastern part), Pleven, Svishtov, Lovech (Middle part) and Belogradchik (Western part) are continuously working with DEF. Communication with local media improved.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- DEF NFP is partner of REC for the implementation of DRP component 3.4. “Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making” on national level. The first national meeting was on 24-25.02.2005 in Sofia and DEF representatives took active part in the implementation. Two representatives of DEF from Bulgaria were trained during the study trips in this component. DEF as active participant in the consultation process and the second national meetings (30-31 March 2006). Information from study trips summarized and provided to environment community.
- Since there were problems connected with the internal organization of REC CO in Bulgaria, DEF NFP supported the new REC team in further development of the component 3.4. The staff was provided with information; the local NGO was supported for the preparation of the pilot project. The preparation of the plan for national activities was drafted by DEF representatives and experts. DEF continues the cooperation on this component. DEF NFP assisted in the selection process of NGO participants for the study trips in the framework of the same component. DEF NFP representative took part in the Regional meeting concerning the component.
- DEF NFP is active in the implementation of the REC Small Grant Programme for DRP. Representative of the NFP takes part in the Local Advisory Board for the selection of the concept papers and the evaluation of the full proposals. DEF NFP supported REC CO staff in the preparation of the announcements, information of interested NGOs and training provided before the preparation of the full proposals.
- Consultation process on RBMP and flood prevention initiated in all sub-regions of the Basin. This is thank of the efforts of all DEF members in different parts of the basin. The two sessions of the training also aimed to clarify the goals of the WFD and the national water management legislation, announce to broader public the services provided by the new institution (the Basin Directorate), to discuss the Programme for public consultation during the RBMP preparation process in BG, to clarify and encourage the local participation in the consultation process.
- The activities of the member organizations in Bulgaria on local and regional level, as well on national level are oriented in the following main directions: implementation of the legislation concerning water management (incl. WFD) and public participation in the decision-making process; related initiatives for agri-environment, Natura 2000 and sustainable water use; management of wetlands and floodplain forests.
- In order to influence the national WFD implementation the member organizations participated in the discussion process about the new Water Act and provided statements on the draft. During the reporting period the Act was twice discussed with different representatives of Ministry of Environment and the Parliamentary Environment Commission.
- The DEF representative took also part in the discussion on the National Report on art. 5 and 6 of WFD. The Danube Basin Directorate was consulted on Public Participation issues concerning the RBMP. DEF member organization Balkani Wildlife Society prepared in cooperation with Basin Directorate project proposal for further common activities concerning the flood prevention.
- DEF member organizations were initiators of establishment of NGO coalition regarding water issues with focus on flood protection management and rivers bed care. Official statement of the reasons for the floods and perspectives for management was set and presented in a Press

conference in the beginning of September. The statement was supported afterwards from different NGOs and representatives of scientist community. As a result of these activities the Coalition was invited at meeting with the Parliamentary Commission of disasters and accidents and with the Civil Defense Service. Proposed by NGOs activities were accepted and included in the programme of the new established Ministry for Disasters and Accidents. DEF provides assistance to the Basin Directorate and its branches for accepting the new flood prevention practices. Key guidance documents of EU and OECD were summarized and translated, initiative for pilot projects was initiated. At the end of the reporting period DEF started together with Basin Directorate initiative for informing about the ICPDR Flood Action Programme.

- Participation at Scientific Conference on management of disasters and accidents, 10.11.2005, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia. After the event we have contact some experts from the scientific institutions with direct benefit for current activities.
- During the reporting period we were not sufficient active concerning the DEF Water Policy Team. The reasons were the problems with the staff (illness and absence). In spite of these problems experts groups on floods issues and agri-environment are build. They active cooperate with the relevant institutions.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - DEF Bulgaria was organizer of the EU Enlargement Conference in Veliko Tarnovo on 7-8.04.2005 with the aim to exchange experience and strengthening cooperation in policy actions of DEF members in the new member states. In this connection we were responsible to invite key speakers from European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and CEE BankWatch networks.
 - During the report period DEF Bulgaria members were focused to involve stakeholders on local level. Many municipality administrations and small entrepreneurs were encouraged to contribute the process of preparation of new legislation and regulations for water management and agriculture management.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - Lobbying activities are developed on ongoing basis by separate DEF member organizations or the network concerning water legislation, its implementation, agri-environment issues. We (DEF member organizations) active contribute to the campaign for implementation and changes in the nature protection legislation, communication, discussion and meetings with representatives from hydropower sector, different state and financial institutions. The overall aim is to secure transparent process for the Regional and RBMP planning and to support inclusion of sustainable development measures in the official's programmes.
 - The DEF network and the environment NGO community developed capacity for adequate reaction in cases of "hot issues" in the country.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Organisation and dissemination of information about DEF Photo Competition (February - April 2005). Through the well-established cooperation with the PR specialists of Regional Environmental Inspectorates and the Basin Directorate the announcement was disseminated countrywide. The announcement was also published on the web site of the National Photography Academy and the web site of the NFP. Press release was provided to national and regional media, local partner NGOs were also involved in the announcements.
 - Participation at the organisation of Danube Day celebration (DEF took part in the National working group coordinated at national level by MOEW). DEF NFP was also active in the consultation process for the involvement of Coca-Cola Company at the national level. DEF itself was not in cooperation with Coca-Cola, but proposals for the design of the national programme were provided. The goal is that different stakeholders may be involved in implementation of practical local initiatives, supported by Coca-Cola. DEF supported the preparation of the texts for the national information materials.
 - Organisation of Danube Art Master competition: contacting the potential participants, assortment of the works, and participation at the jury, organization the trip of the national winner to Budapest, organization of the exhibition.

- Representative of DEF NFP took part in coordination meeting with the WWF DCP (29.09.2005 in Bucuresti, Romania) concerning preparation common further projects for the Lower Danube Corridor. The initiative was coordinated also with DEF Secretariat.
- At the beginning of 2006 preparation for the Danube Art Master Competition (2006) started. It was planned to announce it on the International Wetlands Day. Unfortunately the Ministry of Environment unexpectedly decided not to contribute the process. Changes in the initial plan were made. The competition is under preparation by the DEF NFP and will be announced at the Danube Day 2006. This situation was connected with long-lasting negotiations with national and regional institutions in environment and education fields. NFP is still searching to identify sponsor for the national winner trip to Vienna. But good communication and partnership established during the previous year competition still exists and successful information dissemination was started at the end of May 2006. Results from the competition this year are expected at the beginning of October.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

• Meetings of the Board

- Representative of DEF NFP took part in two Board meetings in 2005, evaluate activities of the past 6 months, and specify priorities for upcoming months. For the discussion of strategic issues representative of Green Balkans was also invited on the Board meeting in November 2005. The third meeting – in April, in Baja, Hungary – was attended by representative of NFP. We will be able to contribute more active to the work of the WPT after July 2006.

• General Assembly

- DEF Bulgaria was organizer and host of the General Assembly (6.04.2005 in Veliko Tarnovo). Five member organizations participated at the Assembly.

• Fundraising Activities

- DEF members applied for grants on national level for supporting initiatives on water issues, Natura 2000, wetland and floodplain forests management.
- Fundraising possibilities as follow-up of ongoing projects are already identified and preparation of new proposals is ongoing. The information for the DRP/REC small grant programme was distributed among the member organizations and all partner NGOs. Assistance was provided during the initial stage of preparation of applications. DEF NFP provided support letters to the member organizations when requested. Project plans for initiatives concerning flood management and hydropower and Natura 2000 were consulted. Project proposals about Natura 2000 and sustainable agriculture; and floods prevention are developed in cooperation between the DEF members and submitted to international donors.

Publications

• DEF Bulletin

- The first and second issue of Bulletin was translated and distributed according the plan.

• DEF Leaflet and Brochure

- Due to the delay, caused by above mentioned objective reasons, this activity was postponed and will be implemented in the last 3 months of the project implementation. The materials are already translated and edited. Printing is forthcoming according the possibilities of the printing company.

• Brochure on WFD and wetlands

- Translating, printing and distributing within the country – preparation started and will be printed together with the leaflet and other information materials in July 2006.

Problems:

Human capacity problems (important members of the staff were absent) in the reporting period caused delay in the implementation of the planned activities. After October 2005 NFP returned to normal activity level and tasks were implemented according the plane.

High expectations from institutions – especially after the period of flooding.

Some of the member groups still with small capacity to develop qualitative proposals for new activities.

CROATIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - During October and November 2005 the DEF Bulletin 01/2005 was translated, prepared for printing and printed in Croatian, and disseminated to all members and partners.
 - In March 2006 DEF Bulletin 2/2005 was translated, printed, and disseminated to all members and partners.
 - Communication with DEF Secretariat and other members kept stable, and worked upon request and proactively;
 - After the Danube Day 2005 celebration NFP reported to other members and sent out pictures for the DEF web site, and they were also published on Green Action and Green Osijek web sites.
 - Croatian version of DEF leaflet was not printed according to the new visual identity of DEF and design of the leaflet that was drafted only in May 2006. The amount of the budget allocated for the leaflet will be returned to the DEF Secretariat and included into new MoA.
 - After the Board meeting in November 2005 NFP organized meeting for DEF members to discuss decisions from Board and to update the members upon current situation at DEF.
 - Danube Day fish posters and stickers were disseminated to member NGOs and other partners.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - National member NGOs were regularly contacted and informed about different issues via e-mail, phone calls or in person, and certain amount of all printed materials were sent to them.
 - In April 2005 NFP representative had a meeting with RIZA (Dutch Water Agency) representatives, as they have partner agreement with Croatian Waters (Croatian Water Agency) on capacity building. They were interested about NFP experience with Croatian Waters, and opinion in their methods and policy of water management.
 - In June 2005 NFP representative gave a lecture on educational youth camp in Vukovar, organized by Youth Peace Group "Danube" about water issues in general and water management in Croatia.
 - NFP representative is a member of Operational Team of DRP 3.4 component and has been present on all meetings and workshops organized, and communicated regularly with REC CO and Hungarian head-office. NGO Green Osijek was supported in Demonstration project development and will be helped in future in execution of project activities as one of the project partners-consultant. As well, in October 2005, NFP representative participated at a Study trip to the Netherlands where they learnt about Dutch way of public access to information and participation.
 - With Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management NFP had regular communication related to different issues, DD, DAM and WFD implementation, mainly via e-mail and phone calls, but also on meetings. In June 2005 NFP had evaluation meeting of DAM works in Green Action office.
 - Since Wetland campaign became active NFP strengthened communication on campaign issues and NFP representative participated on river Mura walk organized by Slovenian and Croatian partners.
 - On 17th of December 2005 the meeting was organized of all DEF members in Zagreb, Green Action office, where future activities were discussed and change of NFP. All members agreed that new NFP should be Green Osijek, with Dinko Pesic as a coordinator. NFP agreed that common statement on state of waters in Croatia will be prepared, hydropower position paper and to work more on Water management strategy that was in the Parliament adoption stage. As a DEF member NFP sent out complaints and comments on the draft Strategy, and several press releases where NFP asked for public hearing.

- NFP had regular discussions about proposed wetland campaign with member NGOs, and positive feedback from NGO Zeleni san Vinkovci, Franjo Koscec and ED Koprivnica was gained.
- NFP published common press release on World wetland day, and the activities were well covered by media – TV, radio and newspapers.
- On 19th of February 2006 NFP had a meeting in Osijek of Central Danubian floodplain Initiative where NFP discussed current issues, project funding possibilities.
- On 22nd of February 2006 DRP- Sava component organized initial workshop where I was present and offered our help in public participation outline of the project.
- On 14th of March 2006 NFP representative gave interview on local TV station about World River Day.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
- In May 2005 OSCE organized consultation workshop on quality and quantity of water in Sava River where NFP representative participated. Important contacts from local government and NGOs were gained.
- In June 2005 NFP visited NGO partner from Vinkovci, "Green Dream Vinkovci", and made a visit to town Vinkovci wastewater treatment plant, and learnt their experience in work on such new facility.
- In late June 2005 NFP representative participated on Constituting conference of Sava Commission where NFP presented our statement towards Sava Commission.
- In mid December 2005 NFP were asked by REC CO to evaluate national project proposals for Small Grants Program of DRP.
- On 21st and 22nd of December 2005 as a DEF representative NFP representative was present on extraordinary meeting of Sava Commission and took advantage to present our Sava regional project on strengthening NGO participation at WFD implementation in Sava River Basin.
- On 24th of February 2006 NFP had a meeting with executive secretary of Sava Commission, Mr. Dejan Komatina. Commission role, cooperation with NGOs and observer status of DEF were discussed. NFP asked for observer status, and as soon as they take all administrative measures, DEF will be able to join their meetings.
- For the theme of Earth Day 2006 water issues – mainly water privatisation was chosen / What is the right price of water? NFP prepared leaflet, exhibition and did media work for that day.
- Round table on Danube-Sava canal was organized on 26th of April 2006 by local NGO "Naš Dunav", and NFP representative participated as one of the stakeholders. Soon, Croatian Waters will organize public hearing on the canal and we will be there.
- From 15th till 20th of May 2006 NFP representative participated at WWF Wet School on Water Ecosystems and Dams, in Spain.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- As a member of HMWB group of DEF Water Policy team, NFP representative monitored current situation on WFD implementation steps in Croatia. NFP commented the Roof Report 2004, on DEF level as well as on national level.
- NFP was actively working on commenting of draft Water Management Strategy and participated at public hearings.
- When Wetland WG launched their campaign NFP published the press release and informed all member NGOs and tried to get them actively involved in the campaign. Some of them even prepared project proposals that was sent to Secretariat and further to DRP office (they planned to finance some activities on national level), but since expected finances could not be provided on time, most of activities did not occur, or happened but in smaller scale. This experience was very disappointing and for other NGOs that expected concrete help from DRP and DEF, and they have been promised to get some finances, and at the end they did not have any. Local NGOs are small, only few people, often without any finances, but very visible at local level, and now they lost confidence in DEF.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - DEF comments on Water management strategy were sent to Croatian Parliament and NFP representatives were invited to the session of Parliamentary committee for agriculture and forestry where they presented comments. The draft Strategy was given back for updating and renovating, and on our request public hearings were held in second half of February in 4 biggest cities in Croatia. Currently the Strategy is still in updating stage and soon will be given again to the Parliament on second reading. The producers of the Strategy informed us that they adopted almost 80% of NFP comments. When final draft will be prepared NFP will check the statement.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - "Save the Drava" campaign is still active. In 2005 the Little tern was launched as a representative of the problems on Drava and had big campaign from March to July 2005. Croatian Nature protection authorities became more active, so there were some positive moves. The campaign focused more activities on nature protection promotion, as Regional Park on national level and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve on trans-boundary level. There was one meeting with Hungarian Agency for water management in February 2006, where management policy and plans were discussed.
 - NFP started to monitor developments of plan to built Danube-Sava canal, together with the Transport program of Green Action. NFP participated on round table in Vukovar where they stated the main weaknesses of the project. NFP plans to continue to monitor the process and to participate on similar events.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Danube Day 2005 was organized again in Zlatna Greda in Kopački rit wetland. In organization, in there was pleasure to have management of the Nature Park Kopački rit that contributed with boat ride and round table venue. There were 60 participants in total, representing different stakeholders. NGO Zeleni Osijek and Green Action mainly did organization of the event.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
 - DEF NFP representative from CRO participated at BM in Bratislava on 29th – 30th November 2005.
 - In April 2006 Dinko Pesic, the new coordinator, participated at BM in Baja.
- **General Assembly**
 - The NFP CRO representative could not be present at DEF GA in Bulgaria, due to no postponing activities that were happening in the same time.
- **Fundraising Activities**
 - As a DEF NFP Green Action, together with partners from SLO, B&H and SM submitted the project proposal for 2nd Round of DRP Regional grants. Submission deadline was 11th November 2005. The name of the project is: Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin, and it will mainly focus on capacity building of NGOs and raising awareness in SRB on certain WFD issues. Providing assistance and advice to DEF members at the national level in the process of preparation of grant applications.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
 - Bulletin 1/2005 was translated to Croatian in October and printed in November.
 - Bulletin 2/2005 was prepared and printed in March 2006.
- **DEF Leaflet**

- Croatian version of DEF leaflet was not printed due to new visual identity of DEF and design of the leaflet that was drafted only in May 2006. The amount of the budget allocated for the leaflet will be returned to the DEF Secretariat and included into new MoA.

- **Brochure on WFD and wetlands**

- NFP got special opportunity from WWF MedPO to produce Croatian version of T&T for WFD implementation booklet (WWF and EEB). They funded translation of the text and NFP covered printing and layout costs. NFP spent part of the finances allocated for this brochure. Croatian version of T&T is distributed widely to all DEF members and partners.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

- NFP prepared and translated the national version of DEF Bulletin 1/2005, 50 pcs were printed. DEF Bulletin 2/2005 - compiled contribution into this issue, translated into English; prepared and translated the national version of DEF Bulletin 2/2005, printed 50 pcs.
- Information from the national DEF network was summarized and provided to the DEF Secretariat; NFP provided information upon request related to Danube issues, DEF activities, projects, initiatives and members at the national level.
- NFP website was upgraded and maintained - see www.sweb.cz/uprm; contributed to the DEF website - finalised in December 2005, handed over on a CD to the DEF Secretariat in April 2006;
- DEF leaflet was translated into Czech (the new version with the new layout), 100 pcs were printed.

- **Strengthening information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

- NFP ensured continuation of communication among the NGOs and other stakeholders at the national level - via the e-mail conference of the Union of the Morava River and via the below-mentioned activities.
- General assembly of the Union for the Morava River, March 9, 2006, Litovel, Czech Republic. Ten members were present. Topics: Activities of the Union in 2005, planned activities in 2006, expert activities, activities related to WFD, DEF, Danube Day, DAM school competition.
- Danube Day 2005 see below.
- Preparation activities on Danube Day 2006.

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- The database of experts from different institutions was continuously updated.
- NFP representatives participated in national consultation meetings with various groups of stakeholders - June 30, 2005, Dolní Věstonice, Southern Moravia, discussion on the optimisation of the usage of the Nové Mlýny Reservoir (as required by the Water Framework Directive), excursion around several localities at the Nové Mlýny Reservoir. Moderator: Union for the Morava River Participants: 35 - general public, stakeholders (foresters, yachtsmen, fishermen, conservationists, and farmers) and representatives of NGOs, water management authorities and state authorities.

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**

- Influencing, monitoring and lobbying process of national WFD implementation at the national level in line with the DEF water policy priorities - March 22, 2005, Brno, Southern Moravia, specialized training for NGOs on specific problems related to WFD - water bodies, heavily modified water bodies, public participation, communication with state and water authorities and experience with the WFD implementation in Germany and other countries, participants: 15 (representatives of NGOs), lecturers: 3 (Morava River Water Management Authority, Aquatis (commercial company specializing in water issues), Union for the Morava River).

- March 23-24, 2005, Velke Mezirici, Southern Moravia, public participation related to WFD, participants: 40 (representatives of local and regional water management authorities, agricultural companies and other stakeholders, lecturers: 5 (Morava River Water Management Authority, Ministry of the Environment, Arnika (environmental NGO), Union for the Morava River (2x).
- February 20, 2006, Hustopece, Southern Moravia, WFD national meeting, participants: 60 (representatives of local and regional water management authorities, general public and other stakeholders, lecturers from the Morava River Water Management Authority and the Union for the Morava River.
- March 10, 2006, Litovel, Central Moravia, WFD national meeting, participants and lecturers: 10 (members of the Union for the Morava River).
- May 11, 2006, Kromeriz-Nedakonice-Straznice, Central and Southern Moravia, public participation activity (field trip) related to WFD (problems with wetland localities, participants: 12 (ecological activists, water experts, representatives of regional authorities), lecturers: 2.
- Gathering and evaluating progress information about progress, providing relevant information to the DEF Water Policy Team.
- The Union participated in the national committee for the WFD implementation (HMWB); preparation of public participation strategies for WFD for a period 2006-2007; and in meetings and activities of the relevant working groups at the Ministry of the Environment, AOPK (Environmental Protection Agency), and UPE (Eco-Policy Institute) in Prague.
- NFP supported activities of DEF Water Policy Team working groups at the national level – the Union is in contact with the relevant Czech working group.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - Further involvement in main water policy initiatives at the national level – participation in an ministerial working group on the D-O-E canal;
 - Participation in the EU Enlargement Conference in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - The Union for the Morava River co-organised 2 public discussions on the flood-protection in the town of Prerov in Central Moravia (pros and cons of polders in the Teplice area close to Prerov).
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Preparing a detailed schedule of activities of the Danube Day 2005.
 - Preparation and introducing information on the Union's web site.
 - Press release launched.
 - June 22, 2005, Brno, Southern Moravia, bus excursion along the route variants of the planned Danube-Odra-Elbe canal in Slovakia and Austria, aim: presenting participants with the natural values of the Morava River Basin in the Austrian and Slovakian sides of the river that are located on the considered route of the D-O-E canal and which would be destroyed by the construction of the canal, route: Břeclav (CZ) - Hohenau (AT) - Marchegg (AT) - Bratislava (SK) - Moravský Ján (SK) - Břeclav (CZ), participants: members of the Union of the Morava River, general public from the Czech Republic and journalists, stops en route: Hohenau (AT) - wetland at the location of a former sugar refinery plant and a bird habitat, Marchegg - stork habitat, Bratislava-Děvínská Nová Ves (nearby catchment area of the Morava River) - oxbows, Moravský Ján - meander connection attempt.
 - Detailed schedule of activities of the Danube Day 2006 were prepared.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**

- Participation in two Board Meetings in 2005 and one in 2006 to evaluate activities of the past 6 months, to specify priorities for upcoming months and to discuss strategic issues and individual activities listed in the work plan.
- **General Assembly**
- Participation in the DEF General Assembly in Veliko Tarnovo.
- **Fundraising Activities**
- Searching for possibilities to obtain further funding for activities of DEF network at the national level.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
- 1/2005 translated and printed (50 pcs).
- 2/2005 compiling a contribution into this issue, translating into English; translation the English version into Czech, printing (50 pcs).
- **DEF Leaflet**
- Translated, printed (100 pcs).
- **Brochure on WFD and wetlands**
- Translated, printed (50 pcs).

HUNGARY

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
- The Bulletin 1/2005 and 2/2005 was translated, prepared for printing and printed in Hungarian.
- Communication with DEF Secretariat and other members was stabile, and worked upon request.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organizations and existing networks**
- National member NGOs were regularly contacted and informed on different issues via e-mail, phone calls or in person. NFP DEF (BITE) and other member NGOs participated the annual assembly of the Hungarian Green NGOs.
- NFP had regular communication with the Ministry of Environment and Water concerning different subjects like DD, DAM and WFD implementation, mainly via e-mails, meetings and phone calls.
- Three new member organizations joined the DEF network in Hungary during the period, which means now there are 7 active and 1 inactive member NGOs.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- Gathering and evaluating information about progress, providing relevant information to the DEF Water Policy Team.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**

- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - NFP regularly promoted the ideology of DEF on DEF water policy at seminars, conferences, and ministerial meetings.
 - NFP participated in the fight against the Drava river regulation and gravel mining, mainly through one of our member organizations, the Dráva Federation.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
 - DEF NFP representative from Hungary participated at BM in Bratislava on 29th – 30th November 2005.
 - Hungarian NFP organized the BM in Baja, April 25-26, 2006.
- **General Assembly**
 - Hungarian NFP and two member organizations participated at GA (Bulgaria) to evaluate activities of the 6 months and discuss future activities.
 - A presentation was kept on the subregional activities at the EU Enlargement Conference held in connection to the GA.
- **Fundraising Activities**
 - Searching for possibilities to obtain further funding for activities of DEF network at the national level was constant, and two regional grants for Stakeholder Mapping and one on the establishment of the Danube-valley wetlands database was won by Hungarian member NGOs.

Publications

- DEF Bulletin 1/2005, 2/2005 was translated and printed.
- DEF Leaflet was translated and printed.
- Brochure on WFD and wetlands was translated and printed.
- National DEF website was constantly maintained.

MOLDOVA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - The 1st issue of DEF Bulletin was translated into Romanian and distributed throughout Republic of Moldova.
 - The 2nd issue of DEF Bulletin is translated and printed.
 - All relevant information about national DEF network is summarized in the national office of DEF.
 - The most relevant information about DEF national activities is published on the national web site of the Ecological Movement of Moldova (www.mem.md). Also, articles on DEF activities are published in the magazine "Natura" that can be found on the Internet at www.natura.md.
 - DEF leaflet was translated and is to be distributed throughout the country.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - All the relevant information was translated into Romanian, and spread via e-mail to DEF members in R. Moldova.
 - Articles about the activities of DEF NFP Moldova were published in the national newspaper on environment ("Natura"), distributed on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova. Press releases about DEF activities and events regarding water-related events were distributed to press agencies.

- There were held meetings with the local NGOs in Edinet, Glodeni, Falesti, Ungheni, Cahul, Hancesti and discussions on water-related subjects.
- During 1 March 2005 – 30 November 2005 two broadcasts about the EMM involvement in the development of the DEF (International and R. Moldova), and the DRP were broadcasted on the National Radio Program
- NFP Moldova organised one meeting with the ICPDR Secretariat in the Republic of Moldova.
- NFP Moldova contributed in the REC SGP project proposal evaluation. We evaluated project proposals together with ICPDR representative and other independent experts.
- In 2005, NFP Moldova tried to involve more local people in the Danube Day Celebration. We organized 10 concerts in 10 localities from the Prut River Basin: Pascani village, Balceana village, Carpineni village, Branzeni village, Glodeni, Cahul, Comrat, Ungheni, Negrea village, Sarata Razesii village. During these concerts we organised different contests and exhibitions. There were distributed informational, DEF promotion materials.
- NFP Moldova has coordinated organizing activities for Danube Day this year.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
- In 2005, EMM completed the national expert's database. The database includes persons, NGOs, private companies. Also in March 2005 there was the Inception Conference in the Galati, Romania, together with the ECCG. In this Conference participated the most important national experts working on water and nutrient issues. EMM continuously updates the national expert's database.
- On 31st January 2006, EMM organized the meeting "A unitary approach on the Prut River Basin for the reduction of nutrients and transboundary cooperation". The event emphasized the necessity of having a Management plan for the Prut river basin in R. Moldova, and improving water quality according to the WFD, of involving NGOs and stimulating dialogue between all the stakeholders in Prut River Basin.
- During the meeting, at EMMs initiative, 30 ONGs activating in the Prut River Basin created "The Alliance for a clean Prut", with the goal of consolidating the forces of all the environmental NGOs for the sustainable development of Prut River Basin, transboundary cooperation, European integration and the development of the Moldavian civil society.
- The Minister of Environment, Constantin Mihailescu, also present at the meeting, welcomed the creation of the Alliance.
- The event was part of the project "A unitary approach on the Prut River Basin for the reduction of nutrients and transboundary cooperation", done by EMM and the Ecological Consultancy Center Galati, in the Regional Project for Danube.
- During the period of 1st March 2005 – 31 May 2006, EMM organized several consultation meetings with various stakeholders in order to ensure the participation of local NGOs in the water protection issues.
- During these meetings, possibilities for the local people were discussed to be involved in the water protection activities. DEF promotion materials were also distributed.
- March 2005, in Cahul region several stakeholder meetings with local public authorities, teachers, and local NGO representatives were organized.
- June 2005, in Edinet and Glodeni districts several stakeholder meetings with local public authorities, teachers, local NGO representatives, and other interested people were organized.
- 1-10 July 2005 representatives of the EMM organized an expedition in the Hancesti region, Lapusnita river basin – tributary of the Prut River. During this expedition several stakeholder meetings were organized. NFP met with representatives of local NGOs, pupils, local public authorities, and other interested people.
- September 2005, in Briceni district NFP organized multistakeholder meetings with local public authorities, teachers, local NGO representatives, and other interested people.
- November 2005, multistakeholder meeting with representatives of local NGOs and other interested people from Prut River basin was organised in Chisinau.

- During these meetings possibilities of the local people to be involved in the water protection activities were discussed. Also DEF promotion materials were distributed.
- Other meetings with the same themes took place in March and April 2006.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- Most of the DEF activities of the period were oriented to WFD promotion in the R. Moldova. DEF representatives gathered and evaluated all the information related to the WFD implementation in the R. Moldova. Also EMM strongly collaborated with other projects in the water protection and nutrient reduction issues.
- EMM implemented 3 projects related to water protection and nutrient reduction issues: Agriculture Pollution Control Project (APCP), Preparation of Sustainable Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Stockpiles Management Project, and "A unitary approach on the Prut River Basin for the reduction of nutrients and transboundary cooperation", the latter with The Ecological Consultancy Center of Galati (Mrs. Petruta Moisi).
- In APCP, EMM is responsible for the Public Awareness Campaign. The general objectives of the public awareness campaign at local level are to make the population aware of and help induce the behavioural changes necessary to the success of the project (use of household manure storage bunkers and village-level livestock waste stores, respecting the environment-friendly agricultural practices, etc.) in the eight selected communes and support the replication of this component in Lapusna Judet. The work on this project also helped accelerate other projects' water-protection activities and processes and the work of other environmental NGOs. EMM organized the seminar "The management of organic waste", in which the settlements in the Lapusnita river basin took part. The "Green Caravan" was organized in all the localities on the banks of the river, and informative-educative materials, posters, calendars, book signs, and brochures were distributed. Contests on various water-related issues were organized during the "voyage of the Caravan". Information about APCP is also spread through its web site: www.pcpa.natura.md (Romanian only).
- The second big project is the Sustainable Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Stockpiles Management Project. In this project, EMM did a survey of the population regarding: POPs pollution sources and means of managing dangerous chemical waste; the use of chemicals in households and agriculture; the impact of chemical substances on the biodiversity and population health; means of solving the environmental POPs pollution problem; the parties responsible for solving the POP-containing solid waste; population informing and public participation to solving the POPs problem. This study identified important social issues that needed to be addressed and their relation to project objectives. It assessed the current level of participation of communities in decision making for POPs management, identified the existing structure and mechanisms needed for community participation in the project and also, the necessary resources. It recommended how to better support community based organizations so as to facilitate a partnership between the environment and energy sector and the local communities, authorities and NGOs.
- In the project "A unitary approach on the Prut River Basin for the reduction of nutrients and transboundary cooperation", EMM organized courses of ecological education with the professors and pupils in local schools, with the subjects "The management of nutrients" and "Water resources". There were selected 2 pilot areas in Romania and R. Moldova, and there are currently created bio-filters for cleaning the water and compost management units. There were edited and distributed brochures, leaflets, and special issues of "Natura", regarding the water resources and nutrient reduction in the Prut River Basin.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
- The Republic of Moldova is neither EU country, nor an EU accession country, thus NFP Moldova did not participate in the EU enlargement Conference.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**

- This year president of the Ecological Movement of Moldova had 2 meetings with representatives of the Parliament Commission for Ecology. During these meetings hot issues related to the Prut river basin were discussed.
- On 31st March 2006, at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources took place Troica Meeting of the ICPDR, at which the EMM, as NFP also participated. At the meeting, objectives of the Activity Plan made by Moldova as the current president of ICPDR and the status of their accomplishment were discussed. The official press release says that "during the talks, it was mentioned the role of DEF in the national activities regarding the implication of the non-governmental sector in the protection and management of the environment and especially of the water resources."
- At the initiative of EMM and with the support of the National Ecologic Fund, there was a contest of projects organised linked to water protection and the celebration of Danube Day 2006. There were accepted 24 projects for a total sum of around 75,000\$, that are to be finished this year.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
- EMM coordinated national activities related to the Danube Day 2005 and is currently coordinating the activities related to Danube Day 2006.
- EMM, NFP Moldova together with ECCG, NFP Romania, trying to establish transboundary water for for the Prut River. Participants in this for a will be national experts from Romania and Moldova.
- EMM took part in the International Conference "Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Danube Delta", held in Odessa, 27 February –1 March 2006.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- **General Assembly**
- Representatives of the EMM, NFP Moldova participated in the DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly held in Bulgaria. Also NFP Moldova presented working plan for 2005.
- Unfortunately, because of visa reasons representative of Moldova NFP could not participate in the DEF Board Meeting held in November in Slovakia
- DEF Board member participated at the Board Meeting held in April 2006 in Baja, Hungary.
- **Fundraising Activities**
- As it is mentioned before EMM also implemented 2 related projects this year. Representatives of DEF NFP Moldova were involved in the promotion and organization of the National Grant program „The enhancement of the implementation capacity for reducing nutrients and transboundary cooperation in the Danube River Basin”, part of DRP and administered by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) Moldova. DEF Moldova also took part in the final selection of the projects. There were also involved representatives of ICPDR and independent experts. The winners of the grants were announced by REC on 12 January 2006. EMM and REC have collaborated in other issues as well.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
- First issue of DEF Bulletin were translated into Romanian and distributed around whole Republic of Moldova.
- The second issue of DEF Bulletin was translated in Romanian and is in the printing house at the moment.
- **DEF Leaflet**
- DEF leaflet was translated into Romanian and is ready for printing and distribution to the most relevant stakeholders.
- **Brochure on WFD and wetlands**
- Brochure on WFD and wetlands has been translated into Romanian language and it is in the Printing House.

ROMANIA

Exchange of information and co-operation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - DEF Bulletin, Issue no. 1/2005 and 2/2005 was translated, printed and disseminated.
 - DEF leaflet: distribution: 90% of the copies were distributed at 9 international events, 2 bilateral: Romania-Rep. Moldova, Romania - Italy and another 2 national ones (a total of 13 events).
 - Information sent to the DEF Secretariat about: HMWB in Romania, Danube Bystroye Hot issue, and events/ meetings reports, such as the: Bilateral Romania-Moldova Co-operation in Biodiversity Conservation in the Lower Prut Basin Protected Area, World Wetland Day, The Odessa International Conference on the Sustainable Development in the Danube Delta, the DRP. Component 3.4 the Steering Committee, and the World Water Day.
 - ECCG web site regularly upgraded and updated with news about/from DEF within the "Stiri de mediu" file, and the DEF/DRP related projects.
 - Contributions to the DEF web site with information related to international and national activities, such as the Joint ECCG- EEB national workshop.
 - Press conferences and releases at the regional and national levels: as Wetland Day, International Water Day. Media world proved interested in the ECCG – organised events and materials.
 - Secured information dissemination through newspaper articles, magazines, and journals. Press releases were issued at the national and local and regional level for DEF national trainings. ECCG has expanded co-operation with the local media sector - 'Monitorul', 'Viata Libera', regularly publishing interesting articles about ECCG and its DEF/DRP related projects.
 - Two issues of bi-monthly ECCG bulletin "Argument Ecologic": Nov.-December, January-February.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and co-operation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing network**
 - Lucrative relationship with 32 environmental NGOs, and larger networks such as the Natura 2000 Coalition Romania, Regional Environmental Centre Office, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme Bucharest (Carpathian Convention), DEF member organizations (Danube Day, WFD implementation, EU policy issues, Public Participation).
 - Internationally: extended co-operation with the EBL Luxembourg, Global 2000 and Umweltberatung Austria, REC Office Cahul (Rep. Moldova), environmental NGOs from Ukraine, the WWF Danube Carpathian programme Offices, European Environment Bureau (EEB) together with the other Greens 10, EPHA Environment Network, Global Water Partnership for CEE Countries, CEE Bankwatch, the Academy of Sustainable and Human Development (Paris).
 - Participation at a total of 32 environment-related events: workshops, conferences and meetings on wetlands, water, public participation, health and environment, nature protection, European integration, European citizenship in Adult Learning, SevesoII Directives, Water and Culture, etc.
 - Transfer and processing of information from EU DG Env., EEB, WWF, EBRD towards DEF network and the country member organisations; library entries publications focussed mainly on nature protection, biodiversity, European integration, integrated water management, WFD, public participation related issues mainly.
 - Holding presentations on the outputs within the Prut Basin Wide Approach Project, TEN-T in Romania, Alternatives Treatment on Waste Water, Environmental Education issues, SEA and EIA procedures.
- **Developing a network of DEF experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - The database of experts is more or less the same as the lack of incentives and financial resources within the NGO sector itself makes things more difficult.

- One national consultation meeting was organised aiming at improving the environmental NGO capacity in dealing with the EU and the national policy issues (the joint ECCG-EEB Conference in December, in Bucharest).
- Participation at 2 international national consultation meetings to ensure NGO involvement in water protection issues within the DRP Component 3.4 (December in Novi Sad, and March, in Belgrad).
- Organisation of 1 local basin consultation meeting on RBMP issue within the Siret and Prut Rivers (Iasi).
- Participation at 4 regional consultation meetings on varied issues: cross border co-operation within the Lower Prut Protected Area, the Danube development navigation transport, held at Kishinev, Galati and at Tulcea, and another one on the Structural and Cohesion
- **Co-ordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- Active involvement into the RBMP process-national, exchange of information with the Water Directorate within MEWP, National Administration "Romanian Waters", National EPA, Prut Barlad River Basin Committee, ERP Agency Galati, TAIEX Country Office, Romania's Academy.
- Workshop within the Regional Training Programme for Romania organized by the TAIEX Office on "EU Legislation (Seveso II and LCP Directives". The beneficiaries were the EPAs, NGOs (Natura 2000 Coalition) and the business sector, contributing to improving knowledge and to developing measures on the implementation of the European directives in Romania.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of mechanisms of partnership in the decision making process concerning water management within the Danube region, and Europe in general

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Prut River Basin and the Danube Delta Region**
- On the January 27, 2006, in the capital city of Rep Moldova – Kishinev, the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Moldova, Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, and also the ICPDR President invited ECCG to participate, also representing DEF. The bilateral meeting between Romania and Rep. Moldova stayed focussed on the cross border co-operation within the Prut River Basin, and how to further:
 - Help create a transboundary-protected area along the Lower Prut River to be officially registered as Ramsar site.
 - Set up the integrated monitoring and environmental data exchange programme between the two countries.
 - Further strengthen and improve communication in order to increase local environmental awareness and GO-NGO partnership.
 - Make the Lower Danube Green Corridor Programme operational within the area.
 - Participants were: The Romanian delegation: top officials of the Regional EPA, Galati, Local EPA, Chamber of Commerce, Galati County Council, Galati Town Hall; the Ministry of Water and Environment Protection, from the WWF Danube Carpathian Programme- Bucharest Office, and local TV media.
 - Outcomes: A Joint Romanian - Moldovan Working Group was set up, whose aim is to organize all the following actions related to the creation of the Lower Prut River transboundary protected area: project design, meetings, need assessment, etc.
 - On January 31, ECCG participated at the national round table organised in Bucharest, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania regarding Romania's vision and master development Plan for the Danube Delta.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of the development projects that may threaten the Danube Region**
- Extending communication with the Ukrainian NGOs, 2005- 2006.
- ECCG involvement in the WG dealing with the 'bilateral co-operation of Romania and Rep. Moldova on the cross border cooperation issue in Prut River Basin".
- Updating Bystroe web page within the ECCG web page.

- Monitoring of the EIA procedures within the Romania's Improving the Inland Navigation Conditions Project for the Calarasi-Braila stretch of Danube
- Presentations/ exhibitions/informative materials were distributed during national, regional and international meetings at Luxembourg, Paris, Chisinev (Rep. Moldova), Odessa (Ukraine), Brussels, Brasov and Bucharest.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events-related events**
- 2nd of February, the World Wetlands Day (WWD). The WWD 2006 theme- "The Wetlands' World - the Way to Eradicate Poverty". At Galati, the Eco Counselling Galati was actively involved in the organization of the local event hosted by the Museum Complex of Natural Sciences (MC of NS), together with the Regional Environmental Protection Agency, the MC of NS, and governmental bodies. Several hundreds of participants listened to topic related presentations, visited the aquarium and the ECCG Wetland -related Exhibition. The results and outcomes within a few ecological schools projects mainly thanks to the fruitful and long cooperation with ECCG.
- ECCG distributed an impressive number of wetlands-related materials, the DEF press field trip along the Danube embankment to watch out the birds was organised, under the guidance of the experts from the Museum Complex of Natural Sciences.
- The Wetlands Day proved successful and rewarding, attended by an average 180 participants, students, teachers, representatives of Environmental Protection Agency, University teachers, Galati County Council, etc.
- ECCG's representative, P Moisi held a presentation on "Assets and Threats in the Lower Danube Green Corridor".
- March 22, World Water Day, National "Water and Culture" Symposium, Bucharest:", organised by the Ministry of Environment and Water protection, together with the "Apele Romane" National Authority.
- ECCG president held a presentation of the best practice results achieved in the pilot demonstrative areas within the project "The Prut Basin wide Approach for Nutrients Reduction and cross border co-operation (UNDP/GEF/REC).
- Environmental European Bureau on "EU WATER POLICY Making the Water Framework Directive Work", and the Sustainable Development Strategy (Lisboa Process).
- REC Country Office Serbia and Montenegro, together with REC Szentendre, RfF and NYU, at Novi Sad and Belgrad within the Steering Committee Meetings on the "Enhancing access to information and public participation in environmental decision making" the Component 3.4. of the Danube Regional Project funded by GEF/UNDP.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- Participation in 2 DEF Board meetings and one DEF Board meeting in April 2006.
- **General Assembly**
- Participating in the DEF General Assembly 2005.
- **Fundraising activities**
- Several projects were already submitted to various donors, some the traditional supporters of the ECCG, some new ones. The DEF-related issues are included in the projects, such as:
 - ECCG 2006-2007 project proposal to the Luxembourg Donors
 - Peace Corps Association, Romania, the SPA Grant 2
- Projects in the designing phase are planned for:
 - The rural area, within the PHARE 2004 programme
 - The Lower Green Danube Corridor (international waters) within the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programmes.

Publications

- DEF Bulletin-1/2005, 2/2005 was translated, printed and distributed.

- The materials' dissemination has been widely secured during the 32 environment related events, mentioned above.
- Comment: Feedback to all these DEF materials needs to be required and monitored, somehow. The resources used to secure all this in terms of funds, time, and people involved, have been quite substantial.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - DEF Bulletin No 1-2005 was translated into Serbian, printed and distributed to all DEF SM members as well as to all interested stakeholders. Bulletins were distributed by regular mail and at different meetings where DEF SM representatives took part
 - In February 2006 DEF Bulletin 2005/2 was translated printed and widely distributed to all relevant stakeholders (DEF SM members, other interested NGOs, environmental related governmental institutions.
 - All information related to the functioning of DEF SM network has been regularly provided to the DEF Secretariat.
 - DEF SM contributed to the DEF website by the regular news publishing. National web page was updating by information on both national and international DEF activities.
 - DEF leaflet was translated and distributed to the wide NGO community in Serbia as well as to the all relevant governmental institutions. Distribution was made by regular mail and also during different meetings.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - Communication among DEF SM members was maintained by collecting water related information (eg. information on environmental problems on local level, results of actions undertaken by local NGOs, local and national government etc.). On the other hand, project ideas for solution of environmental problems have been collected with purpose of helping in raising fund for their implementation. In cooperation of several local NGOs (members of DEF SM network) working on the Sava River and DEF NFP from Croatia, BiH and Slovenia cooperative project on NGOs involvement in WFD implementation in the Sava River Basin was designed and approved by the REC.
 - Official meeting with director of newly established EKO fond within Ministry of Science and Environmental protection was arranged in the end of March with purpose introducing DEF and DEF SM network and initiating cooperation. Since the priority of EKO fund for 2006 is waste management they promised to help in improving cooperation of local NGOs and local government where solid waste is significant problem.
 - Ideas and proposals for Danube Day celebration proposed by the DEF SM members in December 2005 and January 2006 were officially submitted to the Directorate for Water Management as official body in charge of coordination of Danube Day celebration in Serbia as well as to other potential sponsors.
 - After one-year period of spreading information on WFD (and public participation under it) among NGOs and local government through series of organised seminars in different regions in Serbia, WFD issue and NGO role in it started to move forward. Since the Sava River and integrated river management planning in this river basin is in focus now, lobbying for NGO involvement in the process was simultaneously initiated in four Sava countries (Slo, Cro, BiH and SiM) by DEF NFPs. In Serbia negotiation was made with Head of ICPDR delegation mr Nikola Marjanovic and Serbian project leader of CARDS project for Sava River Management Planning mr Jovan Despotovic.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - Existing Expert database was regularly updating with data on new experts interested in cooperation with NGO sector.

- National Training "Good communication: way of successful realization of ideas in the process of environmental protection" organized on May 22nd, 2006 in Belgrade was organized with the purpose of increasing capacity of NGO representatives in the field of the strategic planning and communication as a key element for advanced functioning of organization.
- NGO representatives, 22 in total, had opportunity to be trained in strategic planning, to learn what purpose of defining mission, objectives is and SWOT analysis of the organization. In addition to that they were informed on how strategy should be created and how structure of successful strategy look like and what is connection with strategy and mission.
- Second part of the training was dedicated to public relations and NGOs. Participants were introduced to the importance of good PR in functioning of any organizations and techniques and rules necessary for successful communication not only with media but also with anybody you need to communicate and negotiate to.
- During the practical exercises, while participants were divided in three groups, gaining of theoretical knowledge was tested on simulation of situation from real work life. After completing every exercise they were reported on achievements to the rest of the audience.
- Generally training was evaluated as success and worth of attending.
- Consultation meeting with local people, NGOs and local government in Sremska Mitrovica was organised by DEF SM and Ecological Movement of Sremska Mitrovica in March 2006 with the aim of discussing solutions of garbage problem and possibilities of dump building for this area.
- Meeting of DEF SM Board took place in Sremska Mitrovica on April 5th, 2006. Purpose of the meeting was to evaluate work of DEF SM and agree on further activities. It was agreed that DEF SM should be actively involved in the current activities concerning preparation of the pilot management plan for the Colubara River and actively participate in establishing the Youth Parliament, containing schoolchildren from municipalities by the Colubara River, which would serve as a tool for initiating of public participation process at the very local level.
- Republic Directorate for Water Management funded some of the activities proposed by DEF SM supposed to be organised in the southern part of Serbia and consultation meeting was organised in Prokuplje in May (15.5.2006) with purpose of agreeing on concrete activities that will be implemented in Prokuplje and Krljevo on the occasion of the Danube Day celebration 2006. It was decided that conference would be organised in Prokuplje with participants (NGOs and local governments) from municipalities from "Toplica" region when the major pollution problem of this region will be presented and discussed. On the other hand educational training for schoolchildren will be organised in Kraljevo on the bank of the Ibar River. In both cases cooperation with all parties involved in environmental protection will be established.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- Public participation issue in the process of WFD implementation in Serbia and Montenegro has been discussed with representative of PP expert group Ms Ruzica Jacimovic from Directorate for Water Management. They have plan to prepare some strategy for PP in WFD implementation in Serbia and it was agreed that strategy should be prepare in cooperation with NGO representative (DEF SM).
- National part of Roof report was distributed through DEF SM network analysed and comments were sent to the DEF Water Policy Team.
- Assistance in the field of public participation in the WFD implementation in Serbia was successfully offered to the Directorate for water management.
- Close cooperation was established with Ecological Movement of Sremska Mitrovica, Tisa Klub Kanjza and Society for Bird Research of Vojvodina. They expressed willingness to monitor and lobby WFD implementation in Serbia in line with DEF WFD priorities.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
- DEF SM was invited to take part (as observer) in the in the public participation component (implementing in Serbia) of the project "Pilot River basin Plan for the Sava River" which has

being leading by the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Belgrade. We were regularly invited to their meetings organised in Serbia.

- Five DEF SM members actively participated at the EU Enlargement Conference in Bulgaria.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
- DEF SM network has developed good infrastructure and mechanisms to react ASAP in case of potential damages to the natural ecosystems and human health.
- Lobbying for environmentally friendly developments in "hot issues" has being done by DEF SM members at every environmental related meeting. The process is tough and long term.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
- All DEF SM members were invited to submit their proposals for Danube Day celebration 2005. Proposals were offered to Coca Cola and they sponsored several activities in the Tisa and Sava regions (NGO meetings, cleaning up actions, cycling tour, celebration with collective gathering on the Tisa river bank in Kanjiza).

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- DEF SM representative actively participated at the two Board meetings in 2005 and one in 2006.
- **General Assembly**
- Participating in the DEF General Assembly 2005.
- **Fundraising Activities**
- Project proposals for different activities of DEF SM network were submitted to the potential sponsors and donors. Cooperative project proposals "Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin" was granted by the REC.
- Information on every fund possibility is distributed to the all DEF SM members.
- We help less developed NGOs from DEF SM network to write project proposals and raise funds.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
- Translating, printing and distributing 2 issues of DEF Bulletin among all relevant stakeholders at the national level.
- **DEF Leaflet**
- New DEF leaflet was translated, printed and distributed in November 2005.
- **Brochure on WFD and wetlands**
- Translating, printing and distributing within the country.

SLOVAKIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
- Slovak version of issue of the DEF Bulletin 1/2005 in 500 copies was published and distributed to various stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in PDF format.
- Slovak version of issue of the DEF Bulletin 2/2005 in 100 copies was published and distributed together with the issue 1/2005 to the DEF SK members and various relevant stakeholders. Both issues of DEF Bulletin are accessible to all upon request also in PDF format.
- Together with several NGOs that are not members of DEF, the communication and common activities were realised for the increasing of the knowledge and information (f.g. Global Water Partnership (GWP CEE), NGO Slatinka Zvolen, NGO STUŽ and NGO CEPA / Friends of Earth).

- This activity was partly subcontracted to OZ Tatry (DEF member NGO) - results:
 1. The information bulletin "Agriculture, landscape and water" was elaborated and printed. An expert team of OZ TATRY (a NGO active in the Tatra National Park) prepared very valuable bulletin oriented to description of negative impact of intensive agriculture practices to water regime and landscape. 700 copies of this bulletin are ready for the free distribution within special events to farmers, landowners, landscape managers, etc.
 2. There were a series of seminars and workshops organised by OZ TATRY oriented to teachers, youths leaders, NGOs and students. Main topic was "The River as a Living Organisms" targeted to the water catchments protection and management. It is a part of the water policy within of the WFD. Up to this time more than 350 participants attended.
 3. The information paper for the water and forests management was prepared. This paper will be distributed within the Danube-Morava region for municipalities, schools, farmers and other stakeholders active in this territory and with potential influence to the water regime.
- Together with several NGOs communication and activities were realised: Global Water Partnership (GWP CEE) – common strategy on the coordination of the WFD implementation, NGO Slatinka Zvolen, NGO STUŽ Bratislava and NGO CEPA / Friends of Earth on the draft of the national strategy on water management.
- DEF SK NFP participated on preparation of the "National conference on the WFD implementation in Slovak Republic" by distribution of the announcements and logistic information within DEF SK and related organisation, preparation of presentations, commenting of other presentation. (held in Rajecke Teplice, April 2006). DEF SK played a role of one of conference referee.
- Within several DEF members the communication and exchange of information was realised. The draft of the "State conception of the WFD public participation" prepared by the Ministry of the Environment was distributed and commented by several "water" oriented NGO, not only DEF SK.
- With regards of the World Environment Day (June 5th) and due evenly huge floods last weeks on the Eastern Carpathians rivers, the open campaign on the relation of land management and practices and heavy floods was stated including of the open letter sent to the Premier minister of the Slovak government. Several information on this issue was delivered to competent departments. The campaign is managed by the NGO – DEF member Ludia a voda.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - For the whole project period, the communication, discussions and exchange of information among relevant NGOs active in the water issues was ensured via e-mail conferences, at direct meetings and on various forum. Daphne also did coordination of direct NGO activities at the national level. Common approach was agreed and applied in formulation of NGO positions to government proposals and different kinds of policy documents.
 - Additionall, there were several meetings on different levels (local, national) with stakeholders and other relevant groups (f.e. youth leaders, municipalities, land owners and farmers etc.).
 - The direct involvement of other three Slovak DEF member NGOs into the implementation of the project and subcontracting of some of the activities is a clear evidence of the existing cooperation of DEF members in Slovakia.
 - For the reporting period, the communication, discussions and exchange of information among relevant NGOs active in the water including wet ecosystems protection was ensured via e-mail communication, at direct meetings and on various fora. Daphne also did coordination of direct NGO activities at the national level. Common approach was agreed and applied in formulation of NGO positions to government proposals and different kinds of policy documents. DEF SK member OZ Tatry organised the "Camp of young protectors" for restoration of small catchments area in the Olsavica Valley.
 - The direct involvement of the DEF SK member SOSNA was the workshop "Partnerships for sustainable management of water catchments areas" organised by the cooperation with Slovak water management authority in Košice (Eastern Slovakia).
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - Activity that was partly subcontracted to BROZ (DEF member NGO) – results: O lot of meeting and discussions were organised with relevant stakeholders oriented at the forest management

in the floodplain forests and woods. Main stakeholders were state forest management enterprise, private and municipal forests owners and other persons. A special event was organised, related to the management of invasive alien forest species and technical measurements against them.

- DEF SK representatives participated on relevant of consultation meetings at various levels, related to water management, wetland restoration and restoration activities as general. After the interim communication selected representatives and experts of the DEF SK were nominated to the working groups established by the MoE for the implementation of WFD according of the National strategy for the WFD implementation.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- Daphne monitored and coordinated communication targeted to process of preparation of the state water policy i.e. to the draft of State Water Management Conception or Flooding-Prevention Policy.
- There was a broad discussion with other „water protection oriented“ NGOs on the implementation of WFD and real enforcement of the new act on waters. Daphne was taking part in these discussions.
- Daphne nominated relevant experts into the WFD implementation working groups at the national level, but without a positive reaction from state authorities. Daphne will continue with this effort also in upcoming months.
- Daphne was involved in the Public participation WG and Wetlands WG of the DEF Water Policy Team.
- According of the DEF SK communication with the Ministry of the Environment – the section for water management, several of DEF SK members – concrete persons were nominated as experts to the official working groups organised by the MoE SR for the WFD implementation. Member experts were nominated and accepted from Daphne, SOSNA, OZ Tatry and STUŽ (non DEF member).
- DEF SK continued with communication targeted to proces of preparation of the state water policy and the implementation strategy of WFD.
- Daphne was involved in the Public participation WG and Wetlands WG of the DEF Water Policy Team.
- Experts of DEF SK members started active participation within 6 official working groups organised by the MoE SR for the WFD implementation. Member experts are from Daphne, SOSNA, OZ Tatry and STUŽ (non DEF member). Experts started their technical work organised by MoE.
- MoE has prepared first draft of the “Communication strategy for the WFD Implementation” with close cooperation by two by DEF SK nominated experts (Daphne and Sosna). This document is currently delivered for broad communication within several stakeholders incl. other NGOs, municipalities, water management districts and other.
- Daphne continues the work in the Public participation WG and Wetlands WG of the DEF Water Policy Team.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
- By its active involvement in the formulation and implementation of water and nature related policies in Slovakia, Daphne also contributes into the overall implementation of the policies at the Danube Region level. The concrete evidences can be found in other paragraphs of this report.
- Representation within the Meeting of National Convent on 5th December 2005
On 5th December 2005 the Meeting of the National Convent was oriented to the implementation of WFD and related National Strategy for the Implementation of the WFD. DEF SK NFP presented the mission of DEF as whole and DEF on national level as well and offered of DEF capacity and conditions for the success of the meetings of goals of the WFD – good water

status in the Slovakia territory. 7 main goals from the position of DEF and cooperated ngos were presented and accepted by the Convent. Conditions were presented in media and as conclusions of the Convent. (*National Convent is a committee established by the minister of foreigner affairs of the Slovak Republic chaired by its deputy ex-offo. The objective of National Convent is to monitor the national approach and results of the meetings done by the approximation obligations of the SR to European Union. Members of this committee are politics, experts, ngos and representatives of the government*).

- National workshop on the implementation of WFD – 12th January 2006 with the cooperation of Global Water Partnership, Slovak. Hydrometeorology Institute and Ministry of the Environment

In close cooperation with the Global Water Partnership for Central and Eastern Europe Regional Office (GWP CEE), the national workshop on the implementation of the WFD was organised on 12th January 2006 with the kind hosting of SHI (Slovak. Hydrometeorology Institute). 24 experts from several levels (excluding of DEF members, other ngos, state research institution, private sector and governments) were participated. The representative of the MoE presented current situation within the implementation of the WFD including gaps and troubles they met during. The next EU Financial Reference Framework 2007-2013 and relations to the water policy and nature conservation was also presented by the expert. During open discussion several item were presented and concluded. It was agreed that this meeting coordinated by DEF and GWP will be good floor for next exchange of information and capacity concentration for the contribution to the goals of the WFD. One main agreement was achieved – public participation for the meetings of goals of the WFD.

- Outputs and findings done by the National workshop on the implementation of WFD were distributed to all relevant authorities incl. MoE SR, media and NGO communication network.
- National conference on the WFD implementation in the Slovak Republic: Daphne (P. Straka as a DEF SK NFP) was invited for the preparation and technical guardant for the National conference on the WFD implementation in Slovak Republic” organised by the Ministry of the Environment. The two days conference was held in the spa Rajecke Teplice on April 25-25, 2006 with the participation of more than 130 higher officials, districts state administration, experts, scientists, municipalities and NGO. The topic of this conference was to present the WFD as a main water policy from the political, technical, science and public involving angle vision. P. Straka, DEF SK as one of the conference chairs, presented the key presentation on the public participation for WFD implementation and relation with the EU Habitats Directive. From DEF SK 4 members attended and R. Pado from OZ Tatry had a presentation on the water management in the Tatra Region and related activities. A technical paper from the conference was issued. By this conference, the official start of the national strategy for the WFD implementation was done.
- The follow-up process of the National workshop on the implementation of WFD (12th January 2006) organised by DEF SK, the communication with the Global Water Partnership and Slovak. Hydrometeorology Institute was continuing. There is an idea to establish a common platform oriented to the water and nature topics (WFD and Habitats Directive) and its formal establishment. The DEF SK should play a dominant role in this aim. The negotiations continue.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - Daphne is a member of the NGO network organisation named WatchDog, which carefully follows all the development, plans and investments as well as formulation of the national policies in the relevant areas. This role is continuing and Daphne with cooperation by other NGOs in order to lobby against potential harmful development projects in the country.
 - Daphne is an active member of several other NGO network organisations i.e. Ekoforum, Carpathians Ecoregion Initiative and other and within the communication disseminates important task of WFD and related issues.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Daphne was the national coordinator of the competition Danube Art Master 2005 and besides that was also involved in the overall celebration of the Danube Day 2005. Daphne cooperated with the Slovak Ministry of the Environment, Slovak ICPDR HoD and other water related stakeholders on the main celebration of the DD at the bank of the river Danube in Bratislava.
 - Daphne, as the host organisation of the DEF Secretariat, is in close contact with the DEF Coordinator; therefore the regular exchange of information in relation to relevant water events is ensured.

- Daphne coorganised the national Conference on linking WFD and Natura 2000, which took place in November 2005 in Bratislava.
- Daphne was invited to the organisation of the Danube Day 2006 organised by the MoE and Slovak Water Management Enterprise – The Danube Water Management Unit. The scenario of this event was sent to DEF SK.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

• Meetings of the Board

- Daphne representative participated at two DEF board meetings in 2005 (one linked to DEF General Assembly) in order to contribute to evaluation of activities of the past 6 months, specification of priorities for upcoming months and to discussion on strategic issues and individual activities listed in the work plan.
- Daphne provided assistance in organisation of the DEF Board Meeting in Bratislava in November 2005.

• General Assembly

- Daphne representative actively participated at the DEF General Assembly in Bulgaria and also organised participation of other 3 members from Slovakia

• Fundraising Activities

- Daphne as DEF SK member provided continually assistance to the DEF Secretariat.
- Daphne provided assistance to the DEF Secretariat during the preparation of the CORE Grant proposal to EC in autumn 2005.
- Daphne helped to disseminate the information about the Small Grant Programm among the DEF members in Slovakia.
- As one of the DEF priority areas is also the management and restoration of water ecosystems, DEF members in Slovakia were active also in this field during the project implementation. This action was partly subcontracted to BROZ and SOSNA (DEF member NGOs) - results:

BROZ: An ecological revitalisation and restoration event was done in the potential Natura 2000 site Bahno in the centre of the PLA Zahorie. Ecological restoration was targeted to the special forest measurements incl. The water regime partial restoration and invasive species management were realised.

SOSNA: The second phase of the technical restoration of the Hornad river oxbow (river arm side), including water supply object (the sluice at upper end of the oxbow) was built. The river oxbow was connected by water flow in its both sides with main river stream at its upper and lower end. Some other technical works like putting 2 steel pipes into ground at lower end of the oxbow and fixing the walls of the newly excavated „river bed“ with stones and planting of willow trees to prevent damage of the sluice from high flows in the Hornad river was done. A lot of technical sponsors contributed and assisted at those works (heavy machine renting, manual works, etc). The finalisation of technical works will be done after this winter season.

Publications

• DEF Bulletin

- Slovak version of the first issue of the DEF Bulletin 1/2005 in 200 copies was published and distributed to various stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in PDF format.
- Slovak version of the DEF Bulletin 2/2005 in 150 copies was published and distributed to various stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in PDF format.

• DEF Leaflet

- The Slovak version of the DEF Leaflet was developed and published.
- **Brochure on WFD and Wetlands**
- The Slovak version of the brochure WFD and Wetlands was developed and published.
- All DEF publications including older issues were free distributed during past event and workshops.

SLOVENIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - A translated issue of the DEF Bulletin 1/2005 and 2/2005 both in 500 copies in full colour were published and distributed to various societies and stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in pdf format.
 - All information collected by NFP or/and secretariat was disseminating to the national network.
 - After English version of the DEF was published, NFP started to work on Slovene version. At the end of November NFP printed a Slovene version of the leaflet with the translated title "Danube also in Slovenia". Since a lot of people in Slovenia have problems with Danube and are confused (we haven't river Danube) NFP changed the contents a bit (some info why Danube in Slovenia and a map was added).
 - Also, due wishes of the national Institute for education that works under Ministry for Education the format of the leaflet was changed. The reason was that Institute in the same time prepared their own material on the same shape and were willing to include ours and send them free of charge to all schools in Slovenia (more then 700). On such a way, NFP preserve all contents from original English DEF leaflet and add also some new info, important on the national level.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - NFP cooperated with NGOs on national and international level on various topics. The main international partner is WWF and IUCN (beside DEF). On national level NFP cooperates with non-governmental and governmental organisations on various levels and topics. One is also WFD and Danube day celebration.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - In national expert database there are seven experts from various fields (e.g. biology, ecology, geography).
 - NFP had several, usually monthly meetings from with Mrs Martina Zupan, the GWP national representative, Institute for Education, Mrs. Minka Vičar, MOPE - Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy, representative: Mr. Mitja Bricelj, HoD, Mrs. Milena Janežič (MOPE, responsible for NGO) and dr. Gordana Beltram (Ramsar, CEPA). The topics of the discussions were co-operation, coordination with NGO and governmental bodies and coordination main activities related to environmental issues, e.g. WFD and public participation, environmental days, etc.
 - Additionally, NFP had several meetings on different levels (local, national) with stakeholders about e.g. Municipality Žalec (problem related to NATURA 2000, municipality Rače - Fram (problem related to the protected area), municipalities in river Mura region and regular meetings with other members of DEF on national level (Radoživ, PEC, Forum za Pohorje) and other organisations (GWP Slovenia, Institute for education, Hunter association, etc.).
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
 - Some other organisations on national and international level have been informed about WPT. As well a note in DEF bulletin was published about Wetlands working group.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - Milan Vogrin participates on the workshop about Natura 2000 in February 2006 in Berlin where briefly presented DEF.
 - NFP participated in the EU Enlargement Conference in Bulgaria in spring with the aim to exchange experience between DEF members in the new member states.
- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- In the Sava river basin we cooperate with NGO and DEF members from other three countries. Moreover, NFP submitted a joint project to the REC.
- In the end of 2005 Milan Vogrin, member of DPPVN became also a national NGO representative of CEPA. Moreover NFP is in good relationship with Ministry for Environment and other bodies under this ministry.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
- NFP coordinated activities in the framework of the Danube Day 2005 in all 13 Danube countries.
- NFP coordinated national activities for the Danube Day 2005 with the help of the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy. For the DD we organised national art master competition for the primary schools in Slovenia which belong to the DRB. All participants were invited to the final presentation in Bohinj (near the spring of the Sava River) on the Sava day (1st June).
- In centre of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, on Sava day, children build a dragon - a city symbol from stones from river Sava. Activity was organised mainly by secondary school from Ljubljana and Ljubljana municipality. The main coordinator was Sava Osole. Note about the event was published in DEF bulletin and various newspapers.
- As in previous years downhill on the river Mura was organised by PEC, SEG and support of DPPVN/DEF. This was again international downhill - rafting with various boats with participants from Austria, Slovenia and Croatia.
- The same events have been prepared for celebration in 2006.
- In 2005 NFP was in charge of organisation of international photo competition. For this purpose rules were prepared and developed, edited and printed final brochure with best pictures.
- On the World Water Day on 22nd March 2006, NFP together with schools Biotechnical centre from Ljubljana, organised a presentation of water circle in the middle of Ljubljana.
- National meeting on wetlands in Slovenia related to the EU WFD was held on 2nd February 2006 in Ljubljana in the City national Museum, Gosposka 15, Ljubljana.
- The title of the workshop was "Function of wetlands for life and development". The main theme was wetlands in relation with drinking waters and agriculture. There were altogether about 79 participants from various Slovene NGOs, Institutes, and Faculties who participated in that event. Among other participants there were also some from schools, local communities, and state offices for nature protection and there were also representatives of the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy and for the first time representative of Ministry of Agriculture and various companies.
- The invitations, together with agenda and objectives, were sent to all NGOs who work in the field of environment and nature a week before the workshop. In this particular area, the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy was of great help to the society since they keep a current register of all NGOs and other relevant institutions and they were also responsible for sending out the invitations.
- NFP was responsible to prepare proceedings with abstract that was distributed to the participants. It is also available on the web page of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in pdf (www.sigov.si/mop).

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- There was active cooperation at DEF Board Meetings in 2005 and in 2006, also via e-mail conferences.
- **Meetings of the General Assembly**
- NFP participated in the meeting of the General Assembly in April 2005 in Bulgaria.
- **Fundraising Activities**
- NFP participated on "call for applications for NGO" of Ministry for environment with our projects where we include partly also DEF activities in Slovenia. The results will be known in June 2006.

- Together with three other NGO from Sava river basin we prepare a project for REC, which was started this year.
- NFP provided assistance to other NGOs in the process of preparation of local project for REC.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**

- A translated issue of the DEF Bulletin 1/2005 and 2/2005 both in 500 copies in full colour were published and distributed to various societies and stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in pdf format.

- **DEF Leaflet**

- After English version of the DEF was published, NFP started to work on Slovene version. At the end of November NFP printed a Slovene version of the leaflet with the translated title "Danube also in Slovenia". Since a lot of people in Slovenia have problems with Danube and are confused (there is not a river Danube in the territory of Slovenia) the content was changed and adjusted to national conditions.

- **Poster about wetlands**

- For the purpose of International Wetlands Day a poster for the schools and NGO was prepared jointly with the Ministry for environment and national Ramsar Committee.

UKRAINE

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

- The Bulletin 1/2005 and 2/2005 was translated, prepared for printing and printed in Ukrainian.
- Communication with DEF Secretariat and other members was stable, and worked upon request.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organizations and existing networks**

- National member NGOs were regularly contacted and informed on different issues via e-mail, phone calls or in person. NFP DEF (WORLDLAB) together with other NGOs organized public hearing on the construction of a deep-water navigation canal "Danube-the Black Sea" (Odessa, 7-8 June 2005).
- NFP had regular communication with the Deputy Minister of Environmental Ministry Stepan Lyzoun concerning different subjects like DD, DAM and WFD implementation, mainly via personal meetings and phone calls.
- NFP participated in "round table" devoted to the World Water Day.
- In April 2006 NFP together with other NGOs took organisation in celebration of the Environmental Day in Ukraine. The event was called "A month of improvement of the environmental situation".

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- A consultation seminar "Activization of activity of Near Danube NGOs in the context of WFD implementation" was held on 10-11, 2005 in the town of Vylkovo on the territory of Danube Biosphere Reserve. The resolution of the Seminar was disseminated within DEF NGO network and forwarded to the Environmental Ministry of Ukraine. 14 representatives of DEF NGOs, DEF expert on biodiversity, Prof. Yu. Chornobai, were present.
- A consultation seminar "Aqueous-march regions (wetlands) of the Danube basin in Ukraine and their importance in the framework of implementation of WFD EC principles" (January 27, 2006, Uzhgorod). The aim of the meeting was to give information of NGOs DEF activity on rising public awareness on the role of wetlands in preserving the water ability to self-cleaning and biodiversity in the Danube basin. Participants (18 persons) represented 15 environmental NGOs.

- On March 3, 2006 a National training "Legal tools of public involvement in protection and conservation of water objects" (Lviv). Aim of the training: to inform the community about legal tools in protection and conservation of water objects; and preparation of the DD celebration in 2006. Number of participants: 22 from the Carpathian region and Danube delta region (Ukrainian part of Delta).
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
- Gathering and evaluating information about progress, providing relevant information to the DEF Water Policy Team.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
- Lobbying activities on involvement in the events related to construction of a deep water navigation canal "Danube -the Black Sea" in the Ukrainian Part of the Danube Delta and the events related to handling the unknown pesticides in the basins of small rivers, discharging into Tysa river and on the problem of water pollution with nitrogen from agricultural sources in the basin of the river Tysa and Uzh.
- NFP regularly promoted the ideology of DEF on DEF water policy at seminars, conferences, ministerial meetings (Round Table devoted to World Water Day, 22 March 2005, regional workshop on preparation of the materials to the Protocol of Biodiversity Protection in the Carpathians to the Carpathian Convention, 27 October 2005, National Semin13-18 November 2005 at the Issyk-Kul Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstanar within the TACIS project "Management of Buh, Latorytsia, Uzh river basins" 27-28 September 2005).
- International Joint Conference "The Role of Local Governance in Sustainable Development" of the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA) with villages of the Alps, the Caucasus, the Carpathian and the Altai Mountain Regions (13-18 November 2005, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan).
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
- The Ukrainian River Network, "Pechenihi", a net of organizations of the National Ecological Center of Ukraine through which we disseminated widely information about Danube Day 2005 celebration and which helped NFP to organize DD celebration in the Carpathian region and the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta.
- Organizing of participation of the children from the Carpathian region in the International Youth Festival on Art, Science and Sustainable development "Thinking about native land" 17-20 November 2005, Odessa under auspices of Odessa State Ecological University and V.I.Vernadskyi Youth Ecological Center.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- DEF NFP representative from Ukraine participated at BM in Bratislava on 29th – 30th November 2005.
- Participation in Board Meeting in Baja, April 25-26, 2006.
- **General Assembly**
- NFP Ukraine participated in GA (Bulgaria) to evaluate activities of the 6 months and discuss future activities.
- **Fundraising Activities**
- Searching for possibilities to obtain further funding for activities of DEF network at the national level.

Publications

- DEF Bulletin 1/2005, 2/2005 was translated and printed.
- DEF Leaflet was translated and printed.

- Brochure on WFD and wetlands was translated and printed.

ANNEX 6

DEF REPORT FOR PHASE 2 – 2007

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
Support for the Institutional Development of the DEF and Community
Involvement

Final report 2006
DEF (Danube Environmental Forum)

Work Period (June 2006 – December 2006)

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

• Dissemination of information

- Preparing, printing and disseminating the DEF Bulletin (2 editions) among all relevant stakeholders, DEF Bulletin was translated into eleven languages of the Danube River Basin;

English version both of the 2 issues of DEF Bulletin has been developed in December 2006 and disseminated. In all countries national versions have been developed in some countries national version has been printed already. In some countries national version was developed in the electronic version for the use by electronic media.

- Summarizing information from the NFPs and disseminating it within the network, providing information upon request related to Danube issues, DEF activities, projects, initiatives, members, etc. ;

The fully operational Secretariat coordinates implementation of national activities and on the daily basis ensures and coordinates information management among NFPs and regularly provides information upon request on the Danube issues.

- Reconstruction, upgrading and maintenance of DEF website with the aim to make it more attractive to the public;

The new international webpage of the DEF was developed with DRP support. All NFPs have contributed to the development of the international webpage of the DEF; and the Hungarian NFP reserved the new domain of the DEF, <http://www.def.org.hu>. The editing of the contents and the filling-up of the new webpage is going on in January-February 2007.

DEF Secretariat and Speakers undertook the co-ordination of the planning and the whole development process of new DEF visual identity with a design company ("Mentor Communication").

- Translating the DEF leaflet into eleven national languages of the Danube Region and organising distribution within the country.

In some countries national version of the DEF leaflet has already been developed, printed and is being distributed in the countries.

• Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks

- Ensuring the continuation of communication among the NGOs and other stakeholders by managing two e-mail conferences with the purpose of discussing in detail the currently undertaken activities, planning and developing of concrete projects, fundraising possibilities as well as environmental problems and solutions;

DEF Secretariat manages an internal conference of the DEF Board and Secretariat (defboard@zpok.hu), which is the most active and very necessary for co-ordination of activities in all the 13 countries. Main DEF communication and planning is being done via the conference of all DEF member organizations (def-all@yahoogroups.com). DEF NFPs communicate with NGOs at the national level via national distribution lists and e-mail conferences.

- Strengthening the collaboration with key organisations and existing networks especially on issues related to public participation, implementation them within the EU WFD and celebrating Danube Day in June 2006.

There is an ongoing cooperation with the ICPDR in organising Danube Day events in 13 countries, mainly the Danube Art Master. DEF has prepared a proposal for the Danube Photo Competition in 2006, which was also supported by ICPDR.

In all 13 Danube countries DEF members have actively participated in the national Danube Day celebrations with the aim to increase public awareness about the Danube issues and pointing out main actual problems caused by negative human impact to the biodiversity of the Danube region.

• Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings

The DEF Secretariat is continuously updating the database of experts from different institutions (state, NGOs, private companies, etc.) and make it accessible through, all experts included in the database offer help and advice to NGOs in their work on water issues;

- Organising and facilitating national consultation meetings with various groups of stakeholders to ensure proper NGO involvement in water protection issues, each NGO activity is linked with public outreach and media work.

DEF NFPs continued in organising meetings with the effort to strengthen partnerships and contacts between DEF and other groups of stakeholders on the national level. The majority of the meetings were organised within the NGO community in DEF countries, in order to strengthen the national network.

Meetings are regularly organised with representatives of governmental institutions (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, State Nature Conservancy etc.). The various possibilities for co-operation have been discussed (EU Water Framework Directive Implementation process, new legislation, etc.)

Other groups of stakeholders with whom DEF is improving its co-operation are farmers, hunters, fishermen, teachers, students and many others. It greatly differs from country to country. Each NFP tries to fill the gaps they have in effective protection of Danube Basin ecosystems.

- **Capacity building**

- Work of DEF Water Policy Team;

We have been building of three thematic working groups in terms of gaining new members, training the group members in water policy issues by sharing experience from the national WFD implementation;

DEF Water Policy Team has coordinated its efforts on international level and EU level with other NGO networks on EU water policy issues.

The Water Policy Team of the Danube Environmental Forum has been created with the aim of strengthening the influence of the network in its policy activities related mainly to implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Danube River Basin. Special focus of the Water Policy Team is to monitor, evaluate, advise and actively participate in all stages of the river basin management. In this respect the team comprise of specific working groups focused on certain topics of the river basin management and/or the Water Framework Directive implementation.

The HMWB Working Group of the DEF Water Policy Team promotes consideration of HMWB, canalizing and deterioration projects and their importance in the process of the Water Framework Directive implementation in the Danube River Basin. Communicates and collaborates with external bodies and especially with the ICPDR on emphasising HMWB, deterioration and revitalization in the Danube River Basin management.

DEF WPT on national level is organized and this team prepare material for "Brochure for NGOs and public on access to information and public participation in water related decision making" in Bosnia Herzegovina. Similar brochure was also issued in Bulgaria with participiton of DEF experts.

In the future we'd like to establish working groups on regional issues – sub-basins – Sava, Prut, Drava, Danube delta and to secure representation as DEF network on regional meetings and commissions; and to improve communication with Sava Commission.

DEF meeting on Hydromorphology was on 19-20 June, 2006. Venue: DEF Secretariat, Baja, Hungary.

The meeting of river commissions was on September, 13th in Romania near Bucharest (including NGOs), the Conference on waterways is on 13th and 14th in Bucharest.

EU WFD and Hydromorphological Alterations in the Danube River Basin Workshop (July 10 –11, 2006, Neusiedl am See, Austria), which was supported by the UNDP DRP, was intended to develop further the work of the ICPDR towards the River Basin Management Plan 2009/10 related to hydromorphological alterations, which were identified as a key water management issue according to the analysis of the Roof Report 2004. The workshop concentrated to the following objectives

- Participation at the Conference organized by Economic commission for Europe to United Nations in Belgrade, Serbia /01-03.03/ on Transboundary Water Management in South-Eastern Europe: The Complementary Roles of the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention.

<http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2006/wat/sem.6/mp.wat.sem.6.2005.1e.pdf>

The aims: Transferring early experience on ways of better integrating water management issues into other sectoral policies from EU member States to countries in transition; and disseminating the results of the EU pilot projects on transboundary water basins under the CIS.

Experts from other countries cooperating in the region, international and regional organizations and civil society also attended the Workshop. Participants were requested to provide contributions and to analyze their national practices of transboundary water management in the light of the EU WFD and the Water Convention.

- Participation at the "European Conference on Flood Risk Management" on 17-18 May in Vienna, Austria.

<http://www.wassernet.at/article/articleview/42992/1/1460>

The Conference provided an overview of flood-strategies in different river basins and countries and outlined the need of proper risk management based on experiences of recent floods. The Conference aimed to give an overview of the current state of the European response to the challenge of floods. Particular attention was given to the European Commission's Flood Action Programme and its legislative proposal – the European Directive on the assessment and management of floods. The findings of the Conference will provide inputs to the ongoing work on a European Flood Action Programme. Detailed information about the Conference /including the presentations/ was published at Bluelink Network and was disseminated to Danube Basin Directorate and to "e-mail conference" for all the members of the Danube Environmental Forum.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

• **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**

- Participation in the ICPDR Expert Groups with the aim to contribute to the effective implementation of the EU water legislation;

At the expert level DEF is closely following the works the ICPDR. DEF representatives participated in relevant ICPDR Expert Group Meetings. All components of DEF structure benefit from this opportunity through the dissemination of the outcome of these meetings to all interested NGOs and other stakeholders, mostly active at local or regional levels. At the same time, NGOs provide important feedback to the ICPDR on the efficiency and transparency of the activities undertaken at the national level.

- Further involvement in main water policy initiatives at the national level in 13 Danube countries with special focus on the relations and linkages between the EU water policy, designation and protection of the NATURA 2000 sites and agricultural policy initiatives;

• **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**

- Developing mechanisms for immediate mobilization of relevant network members to react upon hot policy issues in water management and protection and to undertake the most effective steps to prevent any unreasonable damages to natural ecosystems or to human health;

One of DEF's aims is to influence the sustainable development of the Danube River region by ensuring participation of NGOs in present governmental forums, programmes and initiatives, and also by developing close cooperation with governmental structures. The DEF regional actions are always supported by sub-regional and national activities. There are several regions in the Danube watershed where sustainable development is needed as a result of negative human activities. DEF is actively involved with NGO movements in order to stop unfavourable actions in three main areas: Morava-Dyje Floodplains, Danube Delta and the Drava region.

On October 12, in Bucharest, an international workshop on Alternatives for Sustainable Navigation on the Lower Danube ECCG representative, the Peace Corps Volunteer, Elie Teichman, participating on behalf of Petruta Moisi as DEF Speaker

• **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- Continuing work and activities on the sub-regional level supporting three sub-regional NGO initiatives of DEF member organisations in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and Hungary;

Establishing co-operation with governments and managing organisations, monitoring and advising improvement of site management, experience sharing, developing and participating in new conservation efforts and projects.

The NFPs continued its involvement in the DRP 3.4 Component (leader- Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern (REC) together with the USA Resources for the Future and the New York University School of Law) and participating at the component related events 1 regional Szentendre, (Hungary).

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

DEF was planning activities in the framework of Danube Day 2006. The school competition Danube Art Master was organised in all 13 Danube countries. Annex to the report – the report for the DAM grant from ICPDR.

In June 2006, the special event was held, the third celebration of the Danube Day. In all 13 Danube countries DEF members actively participated in the national celebrations with the aim to increase public awareness about the Danube issues and pointing out main actual problems caused by negative human management of natural resources of the Danube region. DEF members continuously support sustainable management practices in the Danube region and the celebration of the Danube Day held to increase public involvement in their initiatives. In most countries cooperation with the national ICPDR delegations has been improved and common activities undertaken

The "Danube Art Master" was an international school competition organized by DEF in 13 Danube countries in the framework of the Danube Day. Schools were invited to organize an outing for their students along the Danube River. National winners of the "Danube Art Master" competition will be invited to attend the international appraisal that was held in Vienna on 9-11 December. The all countries of Danube Environmental Forum sent to ICPDR 10 the best pictures. ICPDR made a questionnaire for the DAM winners and was exhibition in the final conference of ICPDR.

For the second time, the DEF Photo Competition was announced in the framework of Danube Day 2006. The competition was open to anyone who is a resident of the Danube river basin. The deadline is until 15th of October. we prolonged the deadline till 31st December and to announce the winners only on 2nd February 2007, the WWD.

DEF meeting on Hydromorphology was on 19-20 June, 2006. Venue: DEF Secretariat, Baja, Hungary.

The meeting of river commissions was on September, 13th in Romania near Bucharest (including NGOs), the Conference on waterways is on 13th and 14th in Bucharest.

Members of the network from Ukraina, Romania and Bulgaria actively contributed to the public celebration of the International Black Sea Action Day in their relevant countries – 31.10.2006. Presentations, press-conferences, public happenings, exhibitions, media competition and coverage was organized in close cooperation with the Black Sea NGO Network.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

Since June 1st, the new DEF Secretariat has been fully operational in Baja, Hungary.

The initiative to move the Secretariat of DEF from Slovakia to another country was raised by the Slovakian Secretariat itself. Only one applicant, BITE Baja Youth Nature Protection Society was willing to host the Secretariat of the DEF in the future. Preparations begun, and the common decision was made to register a legally new organization in Hungary, with moving all the members and equipment to Baja after the registration.

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The decision of the Court on Registration

register new, international organization with moving to Hungary, a new Secretary was needed

The statutes prepared by lawyers first application to the Court was submitted in May, registration was rejected in June, new application submitted end of June, decision on registration arrived in mid-September, bank accounts established

the Court of Appeal attacked the decision on DEF registration „ex officio”, because the court made a mistake during the procedure, a claim letter was submitted in October

answer from the court in December, the original decision came into force

contract signed with old DEF and UNDP-DRP on the transfer of rights, obligations and equipment

DEF members

83 old and new members have signed and sent the new declaration of Danube Environmental Forum until January 2007 from 13 countries in Danube River Basin.

Members confirmed membership status in the international network of DEF

Annex – the list of the present member organizations

- **Meetings of the Board**

The representatives of the 13 countries participated at DEF Board meetings held on 24-26 of . May 2006 in Baja, Hungary, second was on 14 – 16 of December 2006 in Bratislava in order to contribute to evaluation of activities to next future of DEF, mainly specification of priorities for upcoming time and to discussion on strategic issues and individual activities listed in the work plan. Annex – minutes from the meetings.

- **General Assembly**

It was organized in 2-4 February 2007, in Miskolc.

- **Fundraising Activities**

- Searching for possibilities to obtain further funding for activities of DEF network at the regional and national levels in the 13 Danube countries;
- Initiating, preparing fundraising activities and disseminating information about funding possibilities and calls for proposals among NGOs in the Danube River Basin;
- Providing assistance and advice to DEF member NGOs in the process of preparation of grant applications.

A process of preparation of new Fundraising strategy was started during 2006. The Board agreed about the proposed structure on the meeting in December. The GA approved the proposed method for fundraising.

Main goals for the Board, Secretariat and member groups for fundraising activities during 2007 will be to secure operation of the Secretariat and maintenance of the information flow, incl. the web site maintenance; and fundraising for selected projects. During the GA following topics and projects proposals were discussed among the members:

list of the working groups topics for GA

The fundraising activities and preparation of project proposals about the above mentioned topics is already on-going, mainly on sub-regional level and transborder cooperation among members from two-three neighbour countries.

Application for support from EC for networking is for the moment under discussion. The process of the pre-registration did not allow to apply during the year 2006.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**

- Publication and distribution of DEF Bulletin among all relevant stakeholders.

English version both of the DEF Bulletin has been developed in December 2006 and disseminated. In all countries national versions have been developed in some countries national version has been printed. In some countries national version was developed in the electronic version for the use by electronic media.

- **DEF Leaflet**

DEF Leaflet is in the printing company, will be distributed since January 2007.

Translation of the DEF leaflet into the eleven national languages of the Danube region

- **Wetlands Brochure**

National reports

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

DEF Bulletin was translated, printed and distributed among all relevant stakeholders at the national level.

In reporting period, B&H DEF NFP was actively involved in dissemination of relevant information on national level via mail and meetings.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

- We continue to work together with environmental NGO Network Eko Mreza, as well with other ENGOs in B&H. CESD use every opportunity to promote DEF Network in B&H and on international level

Cooperation is continued with EU Cards Environmental Public Awareness Programme

- During preparation of new water law, we discuss with experts and participate on few work meetings

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- Consultation meetings were organized with REC, NGO Zdrav život, NGO CEETZ, NGO Eko tim, NGO HUMANITAS, NGO CZZS, Federal and Republic of Srpska Ministries of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, Public Enterprise for Water Management etc.

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**

- We are continuously monitoring process of national WFD implementation at the national level in line with the DEF water policy priorities. This is spatially regarding adoption of new Water Law in B&H. New Water Law is adopted in the end of 2006 both in FB&H and RS. Now we will try to involve all NGOs in process of creation of bylaws and their implementation ;
- DEF WPT on national level is organized and this team prepare material for "Brochure for NGOs and public on access to information and public participation in water related decision making". Within this team are NGOs Ekotim, CEETZ, HUMANITAS. Brochure is presented on REC B&H web page and we are expect printing of brochure.
- We establish cooperation with FB&H and RS Ministries of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, and entities responsible companies for water management and exchange of information as well as meeting are organized;

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**

- By the new proposed Water Law, authorities will be obliged to create Consultation group for two river basins; Danube River Basin and Mediterranean River Basin. Each of these groups will be formed from national and local authorities; representatives of industry, education sector, but also, chance to be part of group will be given to NGOs. DEF B&H together with WPT will try to be part of this Consultation Group for DRB, and through this group influence on authorities to involve NGOs in decision making process and implementation of WFD. As it is mentioned in previous chapter, new water law is adopted and we will try to involve NGO society in future process of implementing new law.
- Within project "Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin", on November the 10th was held an international SRB NGO Conference, in Krapinske Toplice, Croatia. The name of the conference was "River Sava - our common heritage". The aim of the conference was to gather all interested NGOs on one place, to discuss upon possible cooperation in NGO Committee, and to set up some basic milestones for cooperation in frame of a Declaration.

- During October 2006 at the REC Conference Center in Szentendre, Hungary organized was Basin-Wide Dissemination Workshop "Access to Water Information and Public Participation in the Danube River Basin," which was held in the framework of the project "Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making," Component 3.4 of the UNDP/GEF DRP. Mr. Igor Palandzic actively participates on this workshop and has presentation on "Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin".
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - DEF NFP participate on 3rd Meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment (MA) Expert Group of the ICPDR 19 - 20 October 2006, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. There he represent NGO society. Info on this meeting was disseminated among NGO community.
 - Under the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project – Support to the Development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan, in period October 13-14, in Sarajevo, B&H, organized was 2nd Regional Workshop. Active participation on this workshop take Mr. Palandzic and discuss with other participants on development of SRBMP.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Celebration of Danube Day 2006 was coordinated by NFP;
 - Members of DEF B&H prepares celebration of Danube Day 2006 and DAM

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
 - B&H DEF NFP participate on BM organized in Bratislava.
- **Fundraising Activities**
 - As it was mentioned earlier, we cooperate with project team of EU Cards Environmental Public Awareness Programme and we will try to ensure funds for DEF B&H members.
 - All info about possible funds are regularly distributed among DEF members in B&H

Publications

DEF Bulletin

- DEF Bulletin was translated, printed and distributed among all relevant stakeholders at the national level.
- **Wetland Campaign, publications:**
 - Preparation and printing of relevant information materials on national language in connection with the Wetland campaign launched by DEF.

BULGARIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
 - Information disseminated concerning the PP and Floods activities of ICPDR among DEF member NGOs and the whole environment NGO community in Bulgaria.
 - Based on the ICPDR Floods Action Programme presentation on Bulgarian language prepared and provided to local NGOs, local administrations and expert associations in the Danube Basin.
 - Information provided concerning sustainable and environment friendly floods and wetlands management provided upon request to NGOs from the Danube Area and to local institutions.
 - Information events with local stakeholders and NGOs in Ogosta sub-basin carried out on regular basis.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - Electronic mailing list of the Bulgarian DEF Network established and maintained. This improved the communication among the members, but also other supporting NGOs were invited.

- The cooperation with 3 new, not member organizations was improved, in this way the whole Danube territory in the country was covered. The partner organizations are: World for All from Silistra town (Eastern part), Ecomission 21 century from Lovetch town (Middle part) and Ecoclub in Montana School (Western part).
- Cooperation with GWP – Bulgaria and Central and Eastern Europe Branches was developed in preparation of common reports on public participation and stakeholder involvements.
- Continues participation at European Environmental Burea with focus about water and agri-environment and Natura 2000.
- WWF-DCP and its office in Bulgaria are traditional partner of DEF Network for information exchange and providing capacity building for local stakeholders. During 2006 the focus was on provision information about agriculture pollution prevention and floods management.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - Consultation meetings were organized on sub-basin level for Ogosta basin – topic wetlands management and pollution from agriculture prevention. Relevant regional institutions and their experts were involved – Danube Basin Directorate and the relevant regional department, Regional Environmental Inspectorate, Water Supply and Swage Company, Irrigation Company.
 - On Danube basin level cooperation was developed with WWF-DCP country office team and team of Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF). The topic was to promote sustainable floods management. The NGO group initiated and is the main acting group for discussion mechanism within the Danube Basin Council. On two regular meetings of the Basin Council the issue was in the agenda. Draft Floods management programme is under development and discussion with all relevants experts/members of the Basin Council.
 - Stakeholder involvement and acces to information was the topic of the cooperation with experts from GWP, Regional Environmental Center – country office and the Access to Information Foundation. A pilot project on the topic was implemented in Lovetch region together with Ecomission 21 century NGO. During the Danube Day meetings GWP and DEF included the topic in the meetings with regional experts from Sofia and Rouse region.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**
 - The DEF member organizations and the collaborating NGOs agreed on cooperation about sustainable floods and wetlands management. Activitie of every member organization were oriented to promote it and to disseminate methodical, legislative and public aweranness information. The organizations agreed and started preparation of common project proposals. Green Balkans and Balkani Wildlife Society started implementation of local projects – for Danube wetlands near Silistra town and for Dragoman marsh near Sofia. Members of the DEF organizations contribute to the project of BBF for investigation the capacity for sustainable flood prevention of the Danube tributaries in Bulgaria.
 - The member organizations provided also statements during the consultation process for changing the Water Act, and Soil Act.
- **Capacity building**
 - This activity was orriented to improve the capacity on floods issue within the network. Daniel Popove participated at several strategic events on European level, in some of the cases in cooperation also with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Water.
 - For local partners training materials in electronic version were prepared and provided by request. The topics are – flood and wetlands management and agri-environment issues and financing.

Information is collected and adapted from sources from WWF and EEB organizations, and national institutions in Bulgaria, as well the official information from ICPDR.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - On national level the efforts were oriented in formulation of policy concerning floods management and including it in the RBMP. The DEF network was very active in initiating the consultation process with relevant experts and the Basin Directorat and also on preparation of comprehensive and relevant draft of programme for floods prevention on national level.
 - For influencing the national policy about wetlands management the DEF members participated at different expert meetings with the aim to present sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. This activity was also connected with the designation of the Natura 2000 in the country and the development of some parts of management plans for protected areas.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - The network was not very succesfull in influencing and involvement in process for development of Danube navigation issue in Bulgaria. For the next year this will continue to be in the focus of the members.
 - Positive experience was gained in communication concerning some infrastructure projects related to the tourism, but significant results can not be reported yet. The NFP assisted to the municipality administration in Berkovitca town in the process of environment assessment concerning new resort project and the related problems with water supply and water pollution prevention.
- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**
 - The focus here for Bulgaria is cooperation with the Black Sea NGO Network. Several training sessions for local stakeholders in the Eastern part of Bulgaria were carried out in cooperation. The topic was pollution prevention from agriculture activities, promotion of the Code for good agriculture practice, agri-environment schemes and financing mechanisms within the agriculture policy of Bulgaria and EU.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - Danube Day – events and Danube Art Master. Representatives of the network participated together with WWF-DCP and GWP in discussion sessions and conferences on the occasion of the Danube Day in Lom, Montana, Berkovitca, Pleven. DAM was in 2006 in Bulgaria responsibility only of the DEF network. With the support of a packaging recycling company EcoBulPack the competition was successfully carried out and winners celebrated before Christmas. Together with the DAM the Danube Photo competition was promoted. The results from DAM competition are reported in separate report.
 - Black Sea Action Day – the 10th International Black Sea Day was celebrated in cooperation with the Black Sea NGO Network, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation and public initiative "Save Irakli" (campaign for protection of Black Sea costs'area). A press-conference was organized in Sofia and public open air event in the near park.
 - The member organizations of DEF actively participated in the campaign "To save Bulgarian Nature" and promote the protection and sustainable use of river ecosystems, wetlands and the sea costs. In this connection regularly press-events and public actions were carried out. Broad involvement of the civil society in the decision making process was encouraged and public participation mechanisms were used and implemented.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**

- Representative of the NFP participated at two Board meetings. For the preparation of the second Board meeting in December 2006 assistance to the Secretariat was provided. The work connected with the WPT activities was evaluated on national level. The Board member provided assistance to the WPT coordinator and the Secretariat in the development of the short term tasks during the transition period from Slovakia to Hungary.
- **General Assembly**
 - The members of the DEF network renewed their membership in connection with the new registration of the organization in Hungary. One new member organization was identified and involved successfully in the activities. Two previously not active organizations did not renew their membership. One organization is at the moment discussing its membership in DEF. Five representatives of the network in Bulgaria plan to participate at the GA in February 2007 in Hungary.
 - The NFP provided assistance to the DEF Secretariat and the host NGO for the preparatory work for the GA.
- **Fundraising Activities**
 - On national level the DEF members in Bulgaria were quite successful in the fundraising. Different financial resources were identified and raised – projects and corporate funding, the amount was not high, but the cooperative efforts are to be underlined.
 - One project is agreed with GEF – Small Country Programme to start in February 2007 with the participation of the DEF and Black Sea NGO Network.
 - Three member organizations prepare in cooperation with Dutch NGO new project proposal on sustainable flood management and are going to submit it in February 2007.
 - During the reporting period a cooperative REC project with Slovakian and Slovenian DEF members was finalized.
 - Cooperation with Serbian partner NGOs is under discussion concerning Phare TSG Programme and it is expected to be submitted in March 2007.
 - On Danube (DEF Network) level ideas for project proposals were presented and discussed during the Board meeting in December 2006 in Bratislava. The DEF members from Bulgaria are interested in the wetland management topic, navigation topic, education topic and public participation proposals.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
 - For the issues during 2006 the Bulgarian members did not provide articles. The Bulletin is under translation and is going to be published in electronic version as planned by the end of January 2007.
- **DEF Leaflet**
 - DEF leaflet is translated and prepared in the new layout of DEF. It is expected to be printed together with the WFD Wetland leaflet of DEF together by the end of January 2007.
- **Wetland Campaign, publications**
 - Several small leaflets were prepared and copied upon request. They are distributed among local stakeholders.
 - The DEF WFD Wetland leaflet is under translation and preparation for printing.
 - The members contributed to the preparation of the Wetland Questionnaire, provided by DEF WPT and are preparing a statement concerning the status of implementation of wetlands in the RBM Planning process in Bulgaria.

CROATIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
 - National network of DEF member NGO's is having a very good cooperation and has already worked on several projects together. Currently Green Osijek is work together with NGO ZEO Nobilis on a Green Agenda project in Eastern Croatia.
 - In 2006. Ecological association Green Osijek worked on the project called Osijek water forum funded by REC Hungary. The project was implemented in cooperation with Green Action from Zagreb. The goal of the project was to increase cooperation between different sectors (NGO's, public institutions, industry, etc.) on issues related to waste water management in Osijek (river Drava) and to increase public participation related to those issues. During the project we organised four round tables with representatives of those sectors and came to a mutual solution to establish an online section (on www.zeleni-osijek.hr website) which contains contacts from all relevant stakeholders (Ministries, Croatian waters, local industry) and is free for all public to raise questions and send comments about waste water management and pollution in Osijek area.
 - National member NGOs were regularly contacted and informed on different issues via e-mail, phone calls or in person. We agreed that we will prepare common statement on state of waters in Croatia, hydro-power position paper and to work more on Water management strategy that was in the Parliament adoption stage. We sent out comments on the draft strategy as DEF, and several press releases.
 - With Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management we have regular communication concerning different subjects like DD, DAM and WFD implementation, mainly via e- mail and phone calls, but also on meetings.
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**
 - We were actively working on commenting of draft Water management strategy an participated at public hearings.
- **Capacity building**

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - "Save the Drava" campaign is still active. We focused more activities on nature protection promotion, as Regional Park on national level and Biosphere reserve on trans-boundary level.
 - We started to monitor developments of plan to built Danube-Sava canal, together with NGO Green Action and Friends of Kopacki rit
- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

- Green Osijek organised the celebration of International Danube Day in Eco centre Zlatna Greda on 24 June. There were about 300 visitors and participants from the region. Since at the time we were in the middle of implementation of the crossborder cooperation project Via Pacis Panonniae (Bike route Osijek – Sombor) the highlight of the Danube Day was this new cooperation and connecting the two banks of the river. There were performances by Croatian and Serbian music and dance ensembles, horse carriages and bicycles for rent.
- On 30 September 2006 we organised an opening event for the Osijek – Sombor bicycle route Panonian peace route. There were more than 500 participants on this event that took place in Eco centre Zlatna Greda. The Panonian peace route is 75 km long bike route which connects cities of Osijek and Sombor and also connects two very valuable nature protected areas on the Danube – Nature park Kopacki rit (Croatia) and Special nature reserve Gornje Podunavlje (Serbia), local inhabitants and ecological and cultural values.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**

- **General Assembly**

Green Osijek started the preparations for organisation of GA in Osijek in October 2006 but problems occurred because we didn't receive necessary payment for organisation on time and therefore were forced to postpone the GA and find the alternative solution.

- **Fundraising Activities**

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
- **DEF Leaflet**
- **Wetland Campaign, publications**

HUNGARY

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

- We have maintained a DEF webpage in Hungarian language throughout the year. We have actively contributed to the development of the international webpage of the DEF. We reserved the new domain of the DEF, <http://www.def.org.hu>.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

- We participated the annual Hungarian meeting of Green NGOs in Veszprém, and co-ordinated two very successful section meetings on Forest Protection and PP in the implementation of the WFD. More than 100 other organizations were interested and represented there.
- Also, collaboration was strengthened by participating at many national and international environment-related events: workshops, conferences and meetings on wetlands, WFD and public participation, health and environment, nature protection, European integration, Water and Culture, Danube Day events, etc.

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- We held a very successful meeting for the Hungarian member organizations in March. We prepared two project proposals, one of which is about the strengthening and extending of the DEF network in Hungary, as well as its promotion.

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**

- With the co-operation of several Hungarian member organizations, we won two additional grants for networking and executing water policy related activities in Hungary with success.
- **Capacity building**
- We hired an office, furnished it, supplied it with facilities and there were 1,5 employees working in. We have taken over the responsibility to run the Secretariat of the DEF.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
- We were actively involved in the evaluation of national project and legislation plans, as well as in the public participation process in relation to the WFD. Two DEF representatives were nominated to Ministerial committees in Hungary.
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
- Three of the NGOs in the DEF network in Hungary were actively involved in lobbying in relation to the Novo Virje Hydropower Plan plans, Danube Navigation improvement plans and bed material extraction on our rivers. Considerable improvement achieved in the case of Novo Virje is partly thanks to NGO activities, in which we were represented.
- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**
- We are maintaining sub-regional co-operation within the Central Danube region. Central Danube floodplains working group was established in 2001, with Hungarian, Serbia and Croatian participation, and various events and fieldwork, as well as a regional Danube Day international conference and international transboundary canoe tour is being organized in order to promote our aims and activities. In autumn 2006, with the sad fact of the passing away of our horizontal advisor, David Reeder, our programmes were hindered a bit, but we gained new energy by deciding to fulfil the project as he dreamed about them. We decided to commemorate his achievements every year by naming one of our international events, the canoe tour after him, keeping his memory and using this as additional strengthening of our co-operation.
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
- DEF Hungary has actively taken part in organizing Danube Day 2006. We were represented at the central ministerial event at a stand where different activities for children could be carried out, and promotional material and information was available. Our representative gave a TV interview on Danube Day occasion about our activities. We organized the Danube Art Master competition for children the third time, with increasing success, and the 3rd Regional International Danube Day conference in Baja, accompanied by a Danube painter's exhibition opening, which was much appreciated. On this occasion we collaborated with different municipal, regional, state and educational institutions, and other NGOs.
- 2nd Waters Unite canoe tour, organized by the Central Danube Floodplains Working Group of DEF was this year 5 days long! It was a very important event here, as almost 40 people from 4 different nationalities canoed around for five days on the Danube, the Danube-Tisza-Danube Channel in Serbia, dead branches and finally the Ferenc-feed Channel with provisional border crossing set up the second time for this purpose. Even the Mayor of Baja was rowing in one of the canoes. We will surely organize this event next year again.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- Hungarian NFP was represented at both Board Meetings organized in 2006.
- **General Assembly**
- In the project period, no GA was held, however, Hungarian NFP and Holocén member organization are very actively organizing the forthcoming one.
- **Fundraising Activities**
- We have won two successful project proposals for the Hungarian part of the network.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
- DEF Bulletin translation and preparation of the Hungarian version went according to the MoA.
- **DEF Leaflet**
- Leaflet was edited, translated and printed in Hungarian.

- **Wetland Campaign, publications**

- Wetland campaign was launched in Hungary, and our press releases were translated and published over the Internet.

MOLDOVA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

- In 2006, a vast array of publications related to Prut and the Danube have been issued, the Ecological Movement of Moldova participating with articles in the magazine "Natura" and publishing the following:
 - the Prut calendar;
 - a set of book signs with photos and information about the small tributaries of Prut (18000 issues)
 - a poster on Prut – 3000 issues
 - the Prut and Danube Almanach – a book gathering articles about Prut and the Danube – historical mentions, modern opinions, description of the places, Danube week, problems, traditions related to the places, religion and many other subjects, even traditional fish dishes. (1000 ex) – released especially to NGOs, schools, and mayoralities of the villages in the Prut basin. It is the first such a book in Moldova.
 - DEF publications
 - Special issues of Natura related to the Agricultural Pollution Control Project (reduction of nitrate pollution in the Danube and Black Sea area)
 - Radio broadcasts: National level - National Radio – 2 broadcasts every month about the environmental problems in the Prut River Basin; also broadcasts on Radio Vocea Basarabiei and Radio Sanatatea. Various broadcasts at local level.
 - TV – Prut related transmissions, and a film about Prut.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

- Communicating with the ICPDR – 2 meetings with Philip Wheller – on Danube Week, at Cahul and Galati, and in October, at the Forum of NGOs and Business sector.
- EMM was one of the organizers of the Forum of the NGOs and Business sector.
- October – a meeting with the leaders of the Alliance for a Clean Prut, in which there were discussed ideas about projects on Prut, in cooperation with Romania
- October – a meeting with the ECCG leaders
- The EMM as DEF NFP took part in all the national and international meetings taking place in Moldova related to water issues, and NGO cooperation.

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- The Experts database of EMM was further extended.
- A meeting with the Minister of Environment, at which it was agreed on another meeting involving the Minister of Education, NGOs and representatives of the Minister of Environment regarding the ecological education in schools. The meeting was scheduled in March.

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**

- A meeting with the NGO "Mediul si sănătatea" in December regarding the ecological education in schools and universities.
- EMM proposed National the Ecological Fund to organize a contest of projects for cleaning and tree-planting in the Prut area, for March-April 2007, with the involvement of NGOs, schools and local authorities. The Ministry agreed on the idea and now it has to be decided the amount given (said around 500.000 lei – about 30.000 Eur).
- EMM lobbied the idea and took part in the discussion that resulted in the decision of changing the statutes of 3 areas into „Wetland protected areas“. One of these is the lakes area between Cahul and Giurgiulesti, in the Lower Prut (the other 2 are on upper and lower Nistru).

- **Capacity building**

- New organizations joined DEF

- The relationship with the mass-media has improved – the organization now has more contacts in the local media.
- EMM initiated in December a meeting between 25 “green” journalists and the Minister of Environment. Also, it was agreed for a National meeting of the “green” journalists to take place in the spring of 2007.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

• Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region

- The EMM actively involved during the meeting of the Ministers of Environment of Moldova and Romania during the Danube Week, advocating and stressing the importance of Transboundary cooperation on the following areas:
 - Protected areas in general
 - Wetlands on the Prut
 - Rural and ecological tourism
 - Common informational and educational projects
- EMM promoted and undertook the project “SOS small rivers”, whereby children in the Prut River Basin learn how to estimate the purity of the water, by studying the natural signs near the water. It is a transboundary project as well.

• Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region

- EMM lobbied the changing of the statutes of 3 areas into „Wetland protected areas”. One of these is the wetlands area between Cahul and Giurgiulesti, in the Lower Prut (the other 2 are on Nistru).
- Also, the organization lobbied and continues to lobby the extension of the protected areas in Moldova and the creation of a National Park on the Upper Prut, and the annexation of the Lower Prut Wetlands to the Danube Delta World Biosphere Reserve.
- The EMM lobbies several projects on biodiversity to be done in cooperation with Romania – collaboration between the areas Cahul (Moldova) – Galati (Romania) and Padurea Domneasca Reserve (Moldova) – Botosani County (Romania), mainly on protected areas. It had several presentations at various meetings and discussions with the Romanian stakeholders.
- The EMM representatives had several meetings with the President of the Parliament’s Commission for Ecology, in which they sustained the improvement of the Moldavian environmental legislation and its bringing up to par with the European legislation and the Water Framework Directive.
- EMM issued one opened letter to the Minister of Environment regarding the creation of a National Parks in the Upper Prut region. It published it in Natura magazine as well.
- The organization continued its campaign, which is now lasting for several years, against the oil extraction in the Lower Prut Wetlands area by REDECO and the gypsum extractions from the Upper Prut region by Knauf.

• Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level

- A delegation of EMM and the Alliance for a Clean Prut had a visit to 3 National Parks in the North of Romania, in order to gather information and experience about the way the parks are managed and establish relationships with their administration, for further creating a National Park in the North of Moldova, on the Upper Prut.
- The presidents of EMM and of the Alliance for a clean Prut had a meeting with the administration of the Danube Delta World Biosphere Reserve.

• Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events

- The EMM was one of the organizers and the active participants in the Danube Week and the expedition, from its start in Costesti, to its end in Galati, Romania.
- The Alliance for a Clean Prut had 4 projects connected to the Danube Day, organizing the events at Costesti-Stanca, Ungheni, Leova and Cahul.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

• Meetings of the Board

EMM representative took part in the DEF Board Meeting in Bratislava, in December

- **General Assembly**

There were no General Assemblies during this period

- **Fundraising Activities**

The EMM lobbied, and succeeded to obtain the organization of a grant for financing various water-related and educational projects in the Prut river basin for around 40000 USD, from the National Ecological Fund.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**

Translated and published in Natura magazine in June.

- **DEF Leaflet**

Translated and available at the organization.

- **Wetland Campaign, publications**

In process. Not printed yet.

ROMANIA

Exchange of information and co-operation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

ECCG and Danube Environmental Forum Network (DEF)

ECCG holds the status of national focal point (NFP), its president being Board Member and Speaker for the Lower Danube Area (Romania, Bulgaria, Rep. Moldova and Ukraine).

The 2006 ECCG/DEF component implies:

- Strengthening the national network: capacity building enhancement and members' capabilities to respond to trans-boundary pollution issues, mainly on nutrients and other toxic substances
- Maintain, improve communication, dissemination of information and secure feedback
- Increase visibility of the Danube Environmental Forum network in Romania, and in Europe by focusing on hot environmental issues, especially those requiring international support
- Focus on the NGO/DEF self-sustainability issue

All the above-mentioned have been achieved within the following objectives:

- **The exchange of information and cooperation among DEF/NGOs and capacity building**

- To this, the ECCG
 - Maintained the link between the DEF network and Secretariat, securing the dissemination of information whenever requested
 - Had the DEF Bulletins prepared, translated, printed and disseminated
 - Reported, issued press releases and statements about all the events the ECCG representatives either attended or held (singly or jointly)
 - Upgraded and maintained the DEF-related web site and, also,
 - Secured transfer and processed information from ICPDR, EU DG ENV, EEB, WWF, towards DEF network and the country member organizations;

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key national & international organizations**

- Secured information and communication flow among the NGOs and stakeholders. ECCG has achieved lucrative relationships with more than 150 environmental NGOs, and larger European networks: European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Regional Environmental Centre Office, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme Bucharest and Vienna Offices, many others, including Peace Corps, USA, helped both ECCG and the DEF to become more visible

Also, collaboration was strengthened by participating at many national and international environment-related events: workshops, conferences and meetings on wetlands, WFD and public

participation, health and environment, nature protection, European integration, Water and Culture, Danube Day events, etc.

Prepared and held presentations on the outputs within the Prut Basin River management, TEN-T in Romania, SEA and EIA related procedures

- ***Developing the DEF network of experts, and establishment of national consultation meetings.***

- ECCG has maintained the NGO/DEF specific database that proved to be quite difficult, due to the unexpected changes in the governmental, NGOs or political fields, and also cash flow.
- Participated at 5 international national consultation meetings to ensure NGO involvement in water protection issues at Iasi, Bucharest, Dunavatu de Jos, and, within the DRP Component 3.4, in March, at Belgrade, and in October, at Szentendre, Hungary.
- Participated at 9 national consultation meetings securing the proper NGO involvement in dealing with the issues about WFD policy, Danube Delta protection, cross border co-operation, public participation, navigation, SEA for SOP, the Dalmatian Pelicans, whether held in a village (Mastacani, Dunavatu de Jos) or towns (Tg. Mures, Iasi, Bucharest, Galati, Tulcea)

- ***Within the co-ordination of DEF policy activities at the national level,***

ECCG has supported the activities of the WPT WG, also ensuring the participation of some of the members in water-related European events, providing support letters to organizers

- As for the WFD implementation process in Romania, ECCG has been a constant participant to the national and regional events, invited to hold presentations, identify problems and solutions from an NGO perspective.
- Within the past six months, ECCG provided relevant information to the WPT members whenever requested
- Member of the Prut Basin Committee, ECCG representatives assisted the national and basin authorities in relation to WFD implementation, mainly focused on WFD economic analysis (art. 5), and public participation issues
- Provided support to other NGOs in their WFD related activities: Focus Eco Center, ALMA RO, AEM, etc.

- ***'Enhancing the NGO role in the Danube River and Black Sea regions and promotion of mechanisms of partnership in the decision making process concerning water management',***

ECCG contributed to formulation and implementation of policies in the Danube Region, by participating/holding/presenting at events: meetings, conferences, roundtables, etc

'Within the specific component of

- ***'Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects that may threaten the Danube ecosystems',***

ECCG continued cooperation with the NGO Community, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and Ministry of Environment and Water Protection (MoEWP), regarding both the

- mechanisms for reaction upon hot policy to mitigate the negative navigation impact at sub-regional level for the Prut River and Danube Delta, and
- Compliance with the EIA procedures for the project 'Improving the Inland Navigation Conditions Project for the Calarasi-Braila stretch of Danube' and submitted for EU funding by Romania's Ministry of Transport.

ECCG input consisted of presentations, organising Info-stands, producing and distributing informative materials to raise awareness on hot issues during national, regional and international meetings at Kishinev (Rep. Moldova), Tg. Mures and Bucharest (Romania).

Equally important for the ECCG was to make the best of the 'International Danube Day' –related events and activities in order to raise awareness on the need to further secure protection and conservation of the water ecosystems.

- DANUBE DAY Exhibition within the June 27- 29 International Conference, in Galati, Romania:

ECCG and its partners WWF- DCP and GWP put on display informative panels under various titles, among which "The Danube River- Unique. Living. Threatened", and SOS STURGEONS'

From an NGO perspective, the conference works focused on the navigation benefits with the environment paying the price rather than integrating environmental concerns into the current and future projects;

Priority highlighted by the NGO representatives: the balance between economic trade interests and the environment protection need to be urgently restored.

- On October 12, in Bucharest, an international workshop on Alternatives for Sustainable Navigation on the Lower Danube ECCG representative, the Peace Corps Volunteer, Elie Teichman, participating on behalf of Petruta Moisi as DEF Speaker

- **Promoting the NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

ECCG continued its involvement in the DRP 3.4 Component (leader- Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern (REC) together with the USA Resources for the Future and the New York University School of Law) and participating at the component related events: 1 national (Tg. Mures) and 1 regional Szentendre, (Hungary).

ECCG also established cooperation with river basin governmental institutions and other organizations in dealing with wetland conservation efforts and projects, such were

- RIZA (Netherlands) for the CIOBARCIU Wetland, Romania
- WWF DCP Office and the UNDP SGP related office in Bucharest for the Lower Danube Green Corridor programme.
- NGOs should be considered the missing link on a local and a regional level, mainly when smaller wetland restoration projects are developed; also to secure a wider dissemination of the educational/ informative materials and communication tools, and connecting environment protection activities with the business sectors.

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

The Danube Day Event consisted of varied and complex activities, ECCG participating at them all, whether conference, trip, or cultural.

In June, the DAM competition was finalized, promotion of Danube week secured, and promotion materials were designed and printed.

On June 22, within a '**Joint Romanian –Moldovan Cultural Event**', the Danube Day festivities were jointly launched by the ministers of environment of Rep.of Moldova, Mr. Constantin Mihailescu (also the 2006 ICPDR President), and Mrs. Sulfina Barbu, Romania, , at STANCA COSTESTI RESERVOIR /DAM, on the PRUT RIVER , at the border between the two countries

Participants: ambassadors, high officials from banking institutions, Peace Corps Volunteers (Moldova), NGOs/DEF National Focal Points, REC Office Cahul (Moldova), orchestra and folk players, singers and dancers, adults and children from the Costesti village, sportsmen from Rep Moldova (horse racing competition).

Eco Counselling Centre Galati had 3 representatives, president- Petruta Moisi, a staff member, Stelian Chivu, and one volunteer. Altogether participated at the Stanca- Costesti Event, displayed banners/ info materials, distributed topic related materials, produced by ICPDR, by the ministry and by ECCG; had Radio, "Natura ` Newspaper and TV interviews

- International Conference "Past and Future in Establishing Cooperation in the Danube River Basin, Galati, June 27-29. Ministers of environment, deputy ministers of transport, top officials from international and EU institutions and scientific experts took important decisions.

Participating NGOs were NFPs (ECCG and EMM), NGO Coalition for the Prut River, WWF-DCP, and Global Water Partnership (GWP).

Their representatives made their concerns heard and visible about the un-sustainability of the current transport policy, and delays in implementing the Green Corridor Programme, but also voiced out their hopes in a more constructive partnerships and dialogue with local authorities.

- NGO Danube Exhibition: 2 Info Stands and 10 thematic panels:
- Cultural festivities were organized along the River Walk, in Galati town, and launched by ICPDR President and Romania's Minister of Environment.
- ECCG organized the DAM Award Festivity, and invited Romania's Minister of Environment, Mrs. Sulfina Barbu, to offer the awards to the 6 winners. Press Release was distributed, as well.
- Announcement of the Photo Competition was made

➤ Cultural Youth Event

Approx. 600 persons viewed the exhibition and got materials.

- Special DD Cruises: the ECCG guests were teachers and students from two schools:
- Catamarasti School, from up North Bucovina, Suceava County, and from the Mastacani Village, Galati County. They were invited to a 3 -hour cruise along the Danube, enjoyed by approx. 70 participants.

The DD Volunteers' Day on July 1: ECCG, together with another NGO (CENTRAS), has finalized the Danube Day wide range of activities by inviting everybody on the Pontoon board for a 2- hour pontoon cruise along the Galati stretch of the Danube. 48 participants altogether shared ideas and exchanged experiences.

On behalf of DEF, within the past months, ECCG participated at 7 events, preparing for them, reporting to DEF Secretariat and entering the information into the organization web page, as well. Events were also interconnected with the Black Sea ecosystem conservation management and policy issues.

The WATER EVENTS, ECCG attended:

- **Black Sea Forum, Bucharest Summit, June 5**, that aimed at increasing the visibility of the dialogue and partnership management in a context marked by the need to adopt new political, economic, security, social, environmental and cultural complex and varied realities.

The leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Rep. Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Turkey and Russian Federation (Observer) discussed how to make the Black Sea region a better place for their citizens and for a common future.

Representatives of international NGO leaders, among which DEF and Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) got involved mostly in the workshop sessions.

The NGOs future role will be to hold all the leaders accountable for the promises made and the decisions taken in the years to come.

- The ICPDR **4th Standing Meeting of the River Basin Management (RBM) WG Experts** held on 8-9 June at Kishinev, Rep. Moldova. The DEF recommendations were taken into considerations and incorporated into the final strategic items related to the future development of the ICPDR..
- The International Conference "**Past and Future in Establishing Institutions on Danube Cooperation**" brought together high European and international decision- makers at Galati, Romania, on **June 27-29**.

The celebration of 150 years of the Danube Commission and its cooperation with other governmental and business institutions proved to be the perfect opportunity for debating current hot issues such as: history and diplomacy, the environment protection, transboundary cooperation, standardization and economic perspective within the European Corridor VII Danube-Main-Rhine waterway.

In a way it proved to a follow-up of the Odessa Conference, and foreplay to the Pan -European Conference on Inland Navigation Transport held a few months later, in September, in Bucharest. For the participating NGOs, such as ECCG/DEF and WWF the conference proved to be a challenge in ways to highlight the impact of the economic activities on the aquatic ecosystem, mainly on the protected and future NATURA 2000 areas, and fauna species, such as the sturgeons.

The conference was also linked with the Danube Day festivities, 3rd edition, Galati hosting the international event.

In August,

- A Fair (weekly) event, at Mastacani Village, focused on rural community involvement in protecting the water sources by applying alternative waste water treatment facility (reed-bed), and
- A NGO meeting focused on 'protecting the Danube Delta' issue and held at Dunavatu de Jos (inside the Delta area)

In September, ECCG participated at 4 important events:

- ICPDR high-ranking Meeting held in Bucharest, preceding the Pan European Conference of Transport Ministers. Its output was a 'statement', result of the joint work of the ICPDR, Danube Commission, Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, Sava River basin Commission, WWF and DEF.
- Public Participation under the DRP 3.4 , at Tg. Mures, and
- Summit on " Lower Danube Green Corridor", led by WWF-DCP at Ruse, Bulgaria

In October, ECCG participated at

- International Symposium "Water management and Environment" on wetland restoration issue, in Iasi, Romania

- DEF-UNDP "International Waters" project launching event in Bucharest,
- International Workshop ", in Kishinev, Rep, Moldova", also in the frame of the ICPDR DRP programme, and
- Workshop "Protecting the Curly Dalmatian Pelican" held at Tulcea, Romania

Another co-funded ECCG participation was to an international seminar within the WWF-DCP Programme "**Lower Danube Green Corridor- challenges and opportunities**", in Bucharest

In November, ECCG attended several other events, such as

- NGO Meeting in Predeal, Romania on "The Right to a Clean Environment"
- GEF SGP Exhibition on NGO led projects, in Bucharest
- ' NGOs and Structural Funds' and how to raise funds for wetland restoration projects, in Bucharest, and also
- NGO Working group Meeting in Predeal (Romania) on SEA for SOP

In December, ECCG participated at a meeting organized by Romania's Ministry of Environment and Water protection in Bucharest on ' NGO projects for nutrients' reduction and protection of aquatic ecosystems.

• **Activities related to DEF Organization**

➤ **Meetings of the Board**

ECCG got involved in the re-structuring of the DEF Secretariat, preparation and development of two Board Member meetings, one in April at Baja, Hungary, and the 2nd in December at Bratislava (Slovak Rep)

General Assembly

The DEF General Assembly is to be held in February 2007 in Hungary.

Fundraising Activities

ECCG raised co-funding from

- the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg;
- Global Water Partnership (GWP) for Danube Day activities, only
- A WWF- funded project proposal was jointly designed together with the Business Centre from Kahul (Rep. Moldova), and CEIE from Sofia, Bulgaria, to be launched early 2007.

Comment:

ECCG developed a wide range of activities many of these co-funded from other sources, thus making the reporting quite difficult as the implemented projects interrelated There may be some disparity between the narrative and the financial reports.

While the financial report stayed focused mainly on

- National events (meetings, workshops, working group meetings), although several of these had an international component, such as the 03.10 IASI event
- National WFD policy activities
- Production of DEF related materials, and
- Danube Day events

The Narrative report is much more detailed as it clearly may be seen.

ECCG input:

- Recommendations on inland waterway transport topics
- Focus on the need for an active dialogue among national and international experts on how to promote sustainable inland navigation waterway transport, especially on the Lower Danube.
- Involvement in the ICPDR initiative and process for 'achieving a common understanding and joint statement on development of inland navigation and environmental protection in the DRB'
- Increased public awareness on the threats posed by the unsustainable projects already funded and further developed in the DRB
- Involvement in the public consultation process regarding the local TEN-T related project, participating at the local meetings held at Cernavoda, Galati, and Bucharest.
- Produced informative materials 'SOS -the Danube', 'Protecting sturgeons', etc.

DEF Publications (editing and printing)

DEF Bulletin 2006, 1500 copies.

Wetland Leaflet, 1500 copies

Their distribution was secured within the ECCG led activities whether workshops, conferences or cultural events.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

- All relevant water related information as well as information on different "environmental events" was disseminated to the DEF network in Serbia and to other environmental related institutions when necessary.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

- Cooperation with national electronic NGO network "Volvox" have been existing for four years now and it is used as a tool for spreading information that reach all ecological NGOs in Serbia and also great number of different experts.

- Besides, this autumn cooperation with NGO network "Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)", based in Athens, was established through youth exchange program that took place in Greece. That was a chance for presenting DEF and DEF SM activities to the NGOs from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Macedonia.

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- Network of DEF experts from Serbia was developed in the first project phase and during this period expert network was only updated.

- Consultation meetings were focused on the Sava and the Tisa River since in that watershed areas, though on different stages, activities on preparing management plans taking place. Consultations related to the Sava issue involved NGOs that are active in the Sava watershed area in Serbia (Ecological Movement of Sremska Mitrovica, Ecological Movement of Sabac, Friend of Forest "Zabran" from Obrenovac, "Paradise Islands" from Uzice and Society for Healthy Food and Environmental Protection "Vrelo" from Novi Sad. We discussed possibilities and ways of NGO's and wide public involvement in Sava River Management Planning that is already taking place. The focal point for gathering NGOs from the Tisa basin is NGO "Tisa klub Kanjiza". Model and experiences we already have in Sava region will be used also for the Tisa watershed area.

- In July we had also one meeting with deputy director of Directorate for Water Management Ms Dragana Milovanovic when we discussed WFD related activities and possibilities of regular informing public on achieved results.

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**

- The focus of policy activities in this period was related to public participation activities in the Sava River management Planning and WFD implementation. We initiated cooperation with Sava CARDS project manager in Serbia in order to coordinate public participation activities and avoid overlapping and repeating and to express NGO's demands and requirements regarding Sava River Basin Management Planning. On the other hand we also presented our view on how public participation should be functioning and apart from bottom up flow of information, necessity for further capacity building of NGO sector was expressed as the first precondition of equal participation and proper watching of water management activities conducted by the government.

- Policy activities were also oriented toward wetland management and Ramsar convention implementation. During September management plan for Ramsar Site "Slano kopovo" near Novi Becej was finished. Plan was created in accordance to the Ramsar guidance requirements and will be implemented by the NGO Hunter Society Novi Becej. In the process of preparation of the plan NGOs that deal with wetland management were involved as well as experts from the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection, Institute of Nature Protection of Serbia and managers of the Ramsar sites in Serbia. That was the big contribution to the implementation of the Ramsar convention in Serbia.

- In the same time in Special Nature Reserve „Zasavica“, wetland near Sremska Mitrovica, several educational activities and fieldtrips was organised for schoolchildren in order to promote values of wetland and brochure that was prepared during the DRP pilot campaign on wetlands.

- **Capacity building**

- Priority of capacity building in past four years was focused on the two main topics: Water Framework Directive in general and wetland management. There were several stages of capacity building that was made through number of trainings, informal consultation meetings and information sharing. The whole process led from training focused in general on WFD, role of wetland in nutrient removal and wetland management and end up in concrete NGO involvement in river management and wetland management planning. Watching activities made by government and at the same time working on our education we succeeded in becoming party that must not be neglected in the whole process of water management from local to national level.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**

- Contribution to the public participation strategy that should be officially used by the Sava Commission was a big step forward in improving public involvement in water management and WFD implementation. International NGO Committee that involves NGOs from all four Sava countries created proposals for public involvement in Sava Management Planning which was welcomed by the Sava Commission.

- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**

- NGO network in Serbia is strong enough and ready to react on any hot environmental issues that might cause human health damage or destruction of the environment.

- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- NGO cooperation was promoted in Sava river watershed area.. Result was creating of the International NGO Committee that is a watchdog of the activities implementing by the Sava Commission as well as all activities implemented by the national governments.

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

- Danube Day celebration was organised by DEF Serbia`s members in Prokuplje and Kraljevo. Events were organised by Ecological Movement "Ibar" and ecological Society "Toplica" and financially supported by the local government of the mentioned towns and Directorate for Water Management.
- Activities involved clean up actions, educational gathering of the schoolchildren and competitions in rowing. All activities took place by the banks of the Toplica and Ibar river.
- Danube Art Master competition was organised in cooperation with Directorate for water management and invitation for participation in the competition was sent to all primary schools in Serbia. Proclamation of winners took place during the central Danube day celebration in Belgrade organised by the Directorate for Water Management.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**

- Member of DEF board Ms Mirjana Bartula was prevented to participate at the Board Meeting held in Bratislava due to health reasons.

- **General Assembly**

- Eleven participants from Serbia applied for participation at GA in Miskolc.

- **Fundraising Activities**

- At present fundraising activities are focused towards keeping alive established International Sava NGO Committee and further capacity building and NGO policy activities. Besides educational program for schoolchildren and teacher on the role of the youth in sustainable development is under preparation.

Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**

DEF Bulletin was translated into Serbian, printed and widely distributed.

- **DEF Leaflet**

New DEF leaflet was printed last year and widely distributed and is being distributed when necessary.

- **Wetland Campaign, publications**

Wetland Campaign, publications was translated, printed and distributed to all relevant stakeholders including not only NGOs but also governmental institutions.

SLOVAKIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

Under this assignment, the NFP will coordinate following activities:

- **Dissemination of information**

- Together with several NGOs whom are not member of DEF, the communication and common activities were realised for the increasing of the knowledge and information (f.g. Global Water Partnership (GWP CEE), NGO Slatinka Zvolen, NGO STUŽ and NGO CEPA / Friends of Earth).
- DEF Slovakia participated being represented in all working meetings and working groups organised by the Ministry of the Environment for the National Strategy on Implementation of WFD in the Slovak Republic.
- Slovak issue of the brochure Wetlands and WFD has been prepared and submitted to the printing company. Distribution of the brochure will be provided on the beginning of 2007.
- The draft of the DEF Leaflet was distributed for commenting within DEF SK network. Comments from other experts are included, leaflet is in print.
- Within several DEF members the communication and exchange of information was realised. The draft of the "Methodology of the water bodies monitoring" was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and distributed and commented by DEF SK.
- With regards of the World Environment Day (June 5th) the open campaign on the relation of land management and practices and heavy floods was stated. Several information on this issue was delivered to competent departments. The campaign is managed by the NGO – DEF member Ludia a voda.
- DEF SK was involved in the presentations at the occasion of the Danube Day on June 29th organised by the MoE and Slovak Water Management Authority – Danube River Water Management Unit Bratislava.
- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**
- For the whole reporting period, the communication, discussions and exchange of information among relevant NGOs active in the water issues was ensured via e-mail conferences, at direct

meetings and on various forum. Common approach was agreed and applied in formulation of NGO positions to government proposals and different kinds of policy documents.

- DEF membership in the Slovakia was reorganised – passive members were requested for the confirmation of their willing to continue in the work of the DEF. New membership of the DEF SK network was confirmed by the written form from the side of the all member. 7 NGO´s constitute Slovakian DEF membership.
- DEF SK was also directly involved in the second workshop “Partnerships for sustainable management of water catchments areas” organised by member SOSNA with the cooperation of the Slovak Water Management Authority in Košice (Eastern Slovakia) in September 2006
- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**
 - After the interim communication selected representatives and experts of the DEF SK were nominated to the working groups established by the MoE for the implementation of WFD according of the National strategy for the WFD implementation. In following working groups were included officially representatives od DEF SK:
 - WG for water catchment management planing
 - WG on the water monitoring
 - WG on HMWB
 - WG for PA
 - WG for puplic participation
 - DEF SK representatives participated on relevant of consultation meetings at various levels, related to water management, wetland restoration and restoration activities as general.
- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level**
 - Daphne permanetlly monitored and coordinated communication targeted to process of preparation of the state water policy f.e. to the draft of State Water Management Conception or Flooding-Prevention Policy.
 - Daphne continues the work in the Public participation WG and Wetlands WG of the DEF Water Policy Team.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**
 - In 2006 DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology has organized a DRP-funded campaign to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands in river basin management (RBM) in Slovakia. It was linked to the “International Wetlands Campaign” of the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) which includes DAPHNE as a member. Campaign was targeted on regional and local decision-makers and water managers. It began with evaluation of current perception of wetlands within the target group. The survey done on 105 representatives of the target group shown, that majority – 93% of respondents were aware of any importance of wetlands, however only minority was aware of any socio-economic importance of wetlands (except nature protection). Majority of respondents could not refer to any concrete example where wetlands help to solve problems within RBM.
 - From October to November 2006 DAPHNE has organized 10 seminars throughout Slovakia as part of the campaign. The seminars covered all river basins of Slovakia and provided sharing of knowledge between nature conservationists (DAPHNE and the State Nature Conservancy staff) and the water managers (Slovak Water Management Enterprise and regional and local environment officers). Through the seminars the water managers obtained information about the values and functions of wetlands (presented by DAPHNE) and their particular presence in the certain river basins of Slovakia (presented by SNC). Except these participants gained also basic information about the current schedule and development of the Water Framework Directive implementation with regard to River Basin Management Plans elaboration which will start in 2007. Examples of successful projects on including wetlands into the RBM were also presented.
 - The seminars enabled discussions between two important stakeholder groups in the river basins about local ‘wetland issues’. DEF has been represented on each of the seminar as a NGO platform which helps to create bridges between the governments and the local stakeholders. Except

providing successful examples of inclusion wetlands in the RBM, representatives of DEF Slovakia helped to promote discussion on wetlands issues in the river basins. The seminars succeeded to identify some barriers in better incorporating wetlands into RBM. Among other issues, conflicts within legislation, lack of communication and coordination between relevant actors within the river basins, complicated landownership and insufficient funding were identified.

- Altogether 289 participants took part on 10 workshops, which include 122 representatives from Slovak Water Management Enterprise, 82 local decision-makers and 41 participants from the State Nature Conservancy.
- By its active involvement in the formulation and implementation of water and nature related policies in Slovakia, DEF SK also contributes into the overall implementation of the policies at the Danube Region level. The concrete evidences can be found in other paragraphs of this report.
- DEF SK with the cooperation of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Daphne an State Nature Conservancy, the projet "Wetland Protection within the FWD" was run since October till November 2006. The project was supported by the GEF Danube Environmental Programm and consisted of the scale of workshops organised within whole Slovak Republic. Overall 13 workshops with close cooperation with State Water Management Authority from Eastern Slovakia (3 – 5 of October), through middle Slovakia (17 – 20 of October) and finally in the Western part (30 Oct. – 3 of November) were run with the participation of more than 300 representatives of state water administration and management, state nature conservancy, selfgovernments and municipalities, experts, ngo´s and other. The topic was the common discussion of the importance of WFD and wetland protection within and between of water management authorities and nature protection. The importance of NATURA 2000 and water catchment areas protection was one of the most important item of the presentation. Summarisation, analysis and findings from the argumentation from all parts of participation were summarised and sent to the MoE as a result of above project.
- DEF SK was invited to its presentation in several other activities and invited for cooperation f.e. in the strategic annual meeting of Global Water Partnership (September 2006) or during the final presentation of the project Mijava River Protection (August 2006).
- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**
 - DEF SK commented and was invited to the expert contribution the to several official draft of governmental documents and methodologies prepared for the FWD implementation and obligation, f.e. methodology of the monitoring, references, managemnet planing and other..
- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**
 - DEF SK was invited and participed in the Danube Day held in Bratislava on June 29th 2006. This event was organised by the MoE and City of Bratislava.

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- Daphne provided assistance in organisation of the DEF Board Meeting in Bratislava in December 2006.
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Publications

- **DEF Bulletin**
 - Slovak version of DEF Bulletin 3/2007 is prepared in print. As were previews issues, after publishing the whole edition will be distributed to various stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin is accessible to all upon request also in PDF format.
- **DEF Leaflet**

DEF Leaflet is in the printing company, will be distributed since January 2007.

- **Meetings of the Board**
 - Daphne representative participated at DEF Board meetings held on 14 – 16 of December 2006 in Bratislava in order to contribute to evaluation of activities to next future of DEF, mainly specifation of priorities for upcoming time and to discussion on strategic issues and individual activities listed in the work plan.
- **General Assembly**

No General Assembly was organised during the period of the contract.

- **Fundraising Activities**

Daphne submitted 2 proposals in order to raise funds for continuation of its policy and restoration activities in Slovakia.

SLOVENIA

Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building

- **Dissemination of information**

DEF Bulletin

- DEF Bulletin number 1 and 2 of 2006 is in the translation process. It will be printed in late January 2007 in 500 copies in full colour and distributed to various societies and stakeholders. The DEF Bulletin will be as always accessible to all upon request also in *pdf* format.

Cooperation with DEF Secretariat

- There was active cooperation at DEF Board Meeting and General Assembly as well as during DEF E-Mail Conferences.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

Meetings

- We have several, usually monthly meetings with the GWP national representative, Institute for Education, MOPE- Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy, ICPDR national representative HoD, national Ramsar and CEPA committee. The topics of the discussions were co-operation, coordination with NGO and governmental bodies and coordination main activities related to environmental issues.
- Additional we have several meetings on different levels (local, national) with stakeholders about e.g. NATURA 2000, protected areas, dumps areas regular meetings with other members of DEF on national level (Radoživ, PEC, Forum za Pohorje) and other organisations (GWP Slovenia, Institute for education, Hunter association, etc...)

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- Our data base of experts exist from 2004, it is also available and in international data base of DEF experts. More or less all experts participate on our various meetings, e.g. on the meeting for the Sava day.

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**

- Two our members (Milan Vogrin, Sava Osole) are actively involved in the DEF Water Policy Team. Both are active on national level too. Both participate in various national committees and working groups in relation to the WFD implementation.

- **Capacity building**

- Our national network of DEF members is small but very effective. All societies are active on various aspect of environmental problems and are also involved in local, regional and national level of decision-making process.
- As each year we also this year succed on the tender of Ministry of Environment and Spatial planning for NGO. We received some financial support for our work as well some other organisation which is member of DEF network.

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**

- Two our members (Milan Vogrin, Sava Osole) are actively involved in the water policy related activities on national level and actively participate on various meetings on national level coordinated by national Ministry for Environment.

- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- We are actively involved in Sava river basin activities. Moreover, with colleagues from Croatia, Bosnia and Hecegovina and Serbia we succed on tender of REC where we start and succesfully finished with the project entitled "Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin".

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

- ***Danube day 2006***

- We coordinated national activities for the Danube day 2006 with the help of the Ministry for Environment, Physical planning and Energy. For the DD we organised national art master competition for the primary schools in Slovenia which belong to the DRB. All participants was invited to the final presentation in Cerknica (famous lake) on the Sava day (2nd June).
- In centre of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, on Sava day, children build a dragon - a city symbol from stones from river Sava and inform inhabitats about problems related to drinking water. Activity was organised mainly by secondary school from Ljubljana and Ljubljana municipality. Note about the event will be published in DEF bulletin and various newspapers.
- As in previous years downhill on the river Mura was organised by PEC, SEG and support of DPPVN/DEF. This was again international downhill - rafting with various boats with participants from Austria, Slovenia and Croatia.

- **Activities related to DEF Organisation**

- **Meetings of the Board**

- DEF board member from Slovenia is Milan Vogrin. He was not able to participate on the board meeting in December in Bratislava due health problem.

- **General Assembly**

At least two of us will be on the board meeting which will be in Miskolc in February 2007.

- **Fundraising Activities**

We succed on tender of national Ministry of Environment who found some of our activities. Also we received fund from REC for a project directly linked to DRB.

- **Publications**

- **DEF Bulletin**

DEF Bulletin, both numbers for 2006 is in the translation process. It will be printed in late January 2007 in 500 copies in full colour and distributed to various societies and stakeholders in printed version or as pdf by e-mail.

- **Wetland Campaign**

We are actively involed for a longer period already in wetland campaign. Here we succesfully cooperate with various stakeholders. During last three years we succesfully organised various activities, e.g. national workshop about wetlands and various themes related to them.

UKRAINE

For the period from June to December 2006 main attention of the activity of the activity of NFP DEF in Ukraine was paid to strengthening the DEF network and development of possibilities in solution of the problems of transboundary pollution of the rivers in Danube basin, in particular of the rivers Uzh, White and Black Tysa, which are polluted by chemical and toxic agents.

- **Exchange of Information and Cooperation among NGOs and Capacity Building**

- **Dissemination of information**

- DEF Bulletin 1-2|2006 was translated, prepared to printing, printed in Ukrainian and distributed via mail and at seminars and conferences
- Communication with DEF Secretariat and other members was stabile, and worked upon request.

- **Strengthening of information exchange and cooperation among NGOs and other key international organisations and existing networks**

- National member NGOs were regularly contacted and informed on different issues via e-mail, phone calls or in person.
- NFP participated in the seminar "Assessment of development of catastrophic floods" (June 15-16, 2006, Ismail, Danube Delta). Together with Chernivrtsi organization of the national ecological center "Krona", the Ukrainian public forum of NGOs in the Danube basin (December 2-3, 2006, Chernivtsi) was organized.
- NFP participated in the IV International Water-related Forum "Aqua-Ukraine-2006" and in the International Forum "Ecological technologies – 2006". NFP took part in the Seminar, organized by the All-Ukrainian ecological NGO "MAMA-86" "Public participation in solving problems of water supply and ecosanitation for everybody in Ukraine"

- **Developing a Network of DEF Experts and establishment of national consultation meetings**

- NFP DEF Ukraine worked on establishing and strengthening business contacts with existing Ukrainian NGOs dealing with water problems, like "Ukrainian river network, All-Ukrainian ecological organisation "MAMA-86". Within the framework of this cooperation a common expert group on the water problems is being formed in Ukraine.
- A national meeting "WFD and wetlands conservation in Ukraine: Propritities and risks" (Lviv) was held. The aim of the meeting - to inform the community about international and national legal tools in protection and conservation of water objects and wetlands. Number of participants: 20 from the Carpathian region and Danube delta region (Ukrainian part of Delta).

- **Coordination of DEF policy activities at the national level:**

- Gathering and evaluating information about progress, providing relevant information to the DEF Water Policy Team;

- **Capacity building**

- NFP distributes information about DEF policy, assists in involving new organizations in the DEF network building in Ukraine

Enhancement of NGO role in the Danube Region: Promotion of Mechanisms of Partnership in the decision-making process concerning water management within the Danube region

- **Contributing to Formulation and Implementation of Policies in the Danube Region**

- Disrtibution of information about international environmental policy in the Danube region amon local authorities (Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk State Departament on Nature Protection, oblast Council), Rakhiv and Velyko-Bereznianska district councils of Uzhgorod oblast.

- **Lobbying activities and monitoring of development projects, which may threaten the Danube Region**

- Lobbying activities on involvement in the events related with handling the unknown pesticides in the basins of small rivers, discharging into Tysa river and on the problem of water pollution with nitrogen from farming in the basin of the river Tysa and Uzh.

- We regularly promote the ideology of DEF on DEF water policy at seminars, conferences, ministerial meetings (conference "Sustainable development of Carpathian mountains: state-of-the art and strategy of activity" , November 9-10, 2006; Slavsko village: International Water-related Forum "AQUA-Ukraone-2006" (September 19-21, 2006, Kyiv).

- **Promoting of NGO cooperation at the sub-regional level**

- Cooperation witch such NGO networks, as Ukrainian river network, National Ecological Center of Ukraine, All-Ukrainian ecological NGO "MAMA-86" creates the conditions for cooperation at the sub-regional level.

- **Organization and Participation in Danube and Water Events**

- Our organisation together with Ukrainian river network, NGO "Pechenigy", "MAMA-86", a net of organizations of the National Ecological Center of Ukraine through which we disseminated widely information about Danube Day 2006 celebration.
- Worldlab (NFP DEF Ukraine) has translated into Ukrainian and distributed among переклав на національну мову і розповсюдив серед шкільної молоді інформацію про schoolchildren information about International School Art Competition of Danube Master-2006 "Danube Rivers – space for life". The most active participants of the competition were pupils and Young people from the Danube Delta (a detailed information can be found in our report on holding Competition "Danube Master – 2006").

Activities related to DEF Organisation

- **Meetings of the Board**
- **General Assembly**
 - NGO Ukraine participated in GA (Hungary) to evaluate activities of the 6 months and discuss future activities
- **Fundraising Activities**
 - Searching for possibilities to obtain further funding for activities of DEF network at the national level;

Publications

- DEF Bulletin 1-2/2006 was translated and printed;
- **Wetland Campaign, publications**
- DEF Brochure "Wetlands in River Basin Management" was translated, edited and printed in Ukrainian

ANNEX 7

DEF PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS – PROVIDED ON CD

WORKING FOR THE DANUBE AND ITS PEOPLE

www.undp-dnp.org