

## Achievements and Challenges for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea

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### Black Sea Basin



*An unique enclosure of  
international waters, shared  
by 23 countries with  
substantial differences in  
socio-economic standards  
and legislative frameworks  
for water management.*

**We have overcome together many barriers in regional cooperation, including information, scientific and technical uncertainties, enforcement limitations, issues of sovereignty, conflicting state and national interests, and political rivalries. Six Black Sea coastal states are the Contracting Parties of the Black Sea Convention: BG, GE, RO, RU, TR, and UA**

**Basis for our Achievements:** *The Bucharest Convention, its Protocols and Declarations and permanent improvement of the legal grounds and scientific background of activities toward incorporation of river basin principles and practices.*



*Establishing common environmental objectives, assessment criteria and principles of management through convergence of legislative frameworks among the Black Sea coastal states on one hand and among the Danube and Black Sea regions on another.*

**Achievements:** *recent developments in improvement of legal grounds and policy measures for the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution:*



- **The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol, 2002; Annexes II and IV to the Protocol, 2006**
- **Strategic Action Plan on the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution 1996; amended 2002**
- **Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (ICPBS) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) on common strategic goals, 2001**
- **Black Sea Port State Control Memorandum of Understanding, 2002 with an independent Secretariat**
- **Black Sea Contingency Plan - Part one "Oil and Oil Products", 2003**
- **Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program 2006-2011 with QA/QC system**
- **Black Sea Information Policy and System is uploaded**

## Achievements



Commission on the Protection  
of the Black Sea Against Pollution

### In progress:

- **Draft Protocol on the Land-Based Sources of Pollution, being negotiated among the Black Sea coastal states. It accounts of new principles and absorbs the best available practices from other conventions and European policies;**
- **Initiation of a study on the feasibility of developing a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management;**
- **Draft Legally Binding Document (LBD) for Fisheries and Conservation of the Living Resources of the Black Sea;**
- **Draft Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity Conservation Protocol;**
- **Proposed Work Programme to Enhance the Implementation of the Black Sea LBS Protocol Taking into Consideration the GPA Objectives.**

## Achievements: *in Strategic Action Plan implementation*



Commission on the Protection  
of the Black Sea Against Pollution

### Policy actions undertaken in relation to:

- ***Environmental Safety of Shipping*** - Black Sea Region Marine Spill Response Exercise Manual, Guidelines for Oil Spill Exercises under the Black Sea Contingency Plan; Regular drills of communication officers and preparation of DELTA exercises;
- ***Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources*** - Reports of the assessment methodologies for the anchovy and turbot stocks in the Black Sea (proposals for standardized methodology and implementation at the regional level), List of Proposed Fisheries Indicators and their visualization;
- ***Pollution Monitoring and Assessment case*** -Setting up and further development of the Black Sea Integrated Pollution Monitoring and Assessment System, Capacity building through training and prepared manuals
- ***Integrated Coastal Zone Management*** -Development of a draft for Black Sea Regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, Development of ICZM Tools and Techniques Guidelines; pilot projects on spatial planning are being implemented;
- ***Conservation of Biodiversity*** - Development and approval of the Annexes to the Protocol on the Protection of the Biological and Landscape Diversity, Marine protected areas issues, Capacity building through training and manuals, habitat mapping initiated;
- ***Land-based Sources of Pollution Management*** - Development of the Annexes to the new draft Protocol on Land-based activities, Check Lists for Investigation and Assessment of Industrial Plants with Substances and Preparations Which Are Hazardous to Water as well as pipelines (ICPDR) are discussed in Black Sea states.

**Achievements:** *BSC continues to study carefully the possibility of convergence its basic principles and practice with the requirements of the EU legislation, looking also for the necessary means for their implementation in a foreseeable future through:*



***Active and wider cooperation with:***

- **GEF** — Black Sea Environmental Recovery Project in support to the Convention implementation;
- **EEC DG Environment - *SAP Gap Analyses*** of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution **and *DABLAS TASK FORCE*** - Black Sea component of the DABLAS Investment Projects Database; Guidelines "Good Practice in the Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plants Funding";

The DABLAS Task Force was set up by Environment Ministers of the Danube-Black Sea Region in 2001 and chaired by the European Commission. It comprises representatives from the countries in the region, the ICPDR, the Black Sea Commission, International Financing Institutions (IFIs), the Project Preparation Committee, interested EU Member States, other bilateral donors and regional/international organisations with relevant functions. It aims to identify priority objectives common to the region for water infrastructure related investment projects ensuring an efficient and co-coordinated action between all financial instruments operating in the region.

So far many projects were completed and there are currently 39 Projects in the pipeline, in various stages of preparation, to reflect new priorities and opportunities for water infrastructure related investment in the region.

***Achievements: in Cooperation***



- **ICPDR** - through Joint Danube/Black Sea Technical Working Group;
- **EEA** - through EMMA Working Group, Adopting a Memorandum of Understanding (Year 2003) and a Joint Work Programme, towards improvement of Chemical monitoring and Assessment, participation in development of European Marine Strategy;
- **JRC** - Memorandum of Understanding **signed** (2007) towards improvement of Black Sea Biodiversity and Eutrophication Assessment Schemes, incorporating new technologies in the work of the Black Sea Commission - Satellite Monitoring and Assessment of Sea-based Oil Pollution, work program is under preparation.

## Achievements: *in Cooperation*

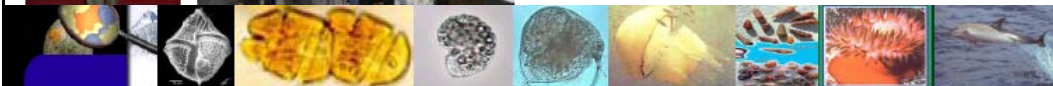


- **ACCOBAMS** - Memorandum of Cooperation (2002) and Joint Work Programme; Draft Black Sea Cetaceans Conservation Action Plan;
- **UNEP** -Pro-active participation in the UNEP Regional Seas process, new LBS Protocol elaboration, Joint BSC/UNEP Action Against Marine Litter;
- **IAEA** - took a responsibility of drafting the radioactivity chapter for the State of the Black Sea Environment Report and renewed commitment to support the radioactivity component in the Black Sea;
- **HELCOM, ESPOO Convention, Convention on Conservation of Biodiversity;**
- **OSPRI** and other private sector organisations - implementation of the Contingency Plan, Oil-spill preparedness regional exercises.

## Achievements: *improvement of cooperation in science, research and public outreach*



- **Organized and conducted the First Biannual Scientific Conference of the Black Sea Commission in 2006**
- **Preparation of the first draft for Black Sea Scientific Plan**
- **Prominent Scientists Awards**
- **Celebration of the International Black Sea Day**
- **Awards for service to protect the Black Sea environment**



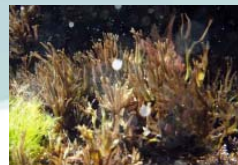
## Summary of achievements



- Strengthening of regional governance institutions and processes of the Convention implementation
- Creation and sharing of knowledge, strengthening of science-policy cooperation
- Incorporation of stakeholders participation, development of public awareness, outreach campaigns
- Demonstration of clear ecological improvement in the Black Sea



## Challenges Ahead:



Recent investigations indicate a substantial improvement of the Black Sea environment due to economic breakdown in transition countries and measures taken in the Danube river basin. **In all probability the economic situation in the region will improve and this will be linked to a higher nutrient turnover in agriculture as well as to increase in emissions if no adequate measures are implemented.**

**The main Challenge within the Danube-Black Sea basin is to increase economic prosperity without endangering the ecological recovery of the Black Sea.**

**Priorities remain: combating eutrophication, elimination of input of hazardous substances, halting the decline of biodiversity, improving the safety of navigation and response capabilities, overcoming the common dilemma of overuse and mismanagement.** One of the significant problems that will require attention of the Black Sea Commission is changes induced by *global climate change*.

## Challenges



- **Development of investment and scientific projects to increase the financial support in implementation of the Bucharest Convention and SAP.** Specifically to promote action and investment on nutrient reduction through improved sewage collection, treatment and disposal; Reduction of riverine input of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to the BS; Assist in developing *integrated management* in the region;
- **Preparation of realistic BS SAP (outstanding and full of enthusiasm joint effort of BSERP, BSC and EC)** based on the updated TDA and GAP analysis, on the Ministerial Report on Implementation of the BS SAP 2002-2007 and State of the Black Sea Environment Scientific Report. The process started in 2006 and aimed at formulation in the SAP2007 pragmatic short-term management targets, long-term Black Sea Quality Objectives and visions on new approaches with the account of current European and Global developments, to be presented at the Ministerial Meeting in June 2008.
- **In LBS of Pollution and ESAS activities**
  - **Further development of control** on hazardous substances, including oil pollution, oil spill preparedness;
  - **Urgent** (a) Finalisation of the draft LBS Protocol; (b) Fast and efficient negotiation process; and (c) Adoption and ratification of the LBS Protocol; Establishment/enhancement of appropriate administrative infrastructure that will ensure efficient implementation of the LBS Protocol;

## Challenges



### **In this relation:**

1. Regular maintenance of the Hot-spots List, with appropriate detailed characterisation and prioritisation - hot spots have not yet figured prominently in national priorities investments;
  2. Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices; Marine Litter Action Plan;
  3. Promote assessment and control of diffuse sources of pollution, *particularly nutrients from agriculture and forestry*, based on common methodology;
- **In Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**
    1. Achieve regular and comprehensive reporting on *National monitoring programmes* (incl. intercomparison exercises, further support to *Quasimeme exercises -mandatory QA/QS*), bathing water quality;
    2. Reporting on *implementation activities*;
    3. Development of shipping opportunities network;
  - **In Biodiversity and Fishery**
    1. Combat habitat destruction and physical alteration of the coastline. Avoid *inadequate policies with respect to fisheries and coastal zone management*;
    2. Signing and ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol;
    3. Improved control on ballast waters to prevent introduction of *exotic species*;
    4. Species Conservation Plans, Enhancement of Marine Protected Areas, Priority Habitats List, Fundraising for assessment of abundance and distribution of the Black Sea cetaceans

## Challenges



- Enhance 'visibility' through *increasing political and public awareness* on the economic, social and environmental importance of coastal and marine resources;
- *Strengthen enforcement of existing legislative norms and regulations*, which address agriculture, fisheries, urban waste water management, restructuring of industries, port facilities etc. Raising issues related to ICZM (finalising strategy) and development of a procedure for Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context;
- **Further development of cooperation mechanism with EC DGE, ICPDR, GEF, BSEC, PABSEC, UNEP (GPA; Regional Seas), UNDP, EU JRC, OSPAR, MAP, HELCOM, ESPOO Convention, EUROGOOS, Ballast Water Convention, local environmental organizations and private sector.**

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!**



*sighting of the monk seal  
in 2005, this marine  
mammal was  
considered as extinct in the  
Black Sea*

