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International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau

ICPDR Annual Report 2005

/// Deutschland /// Österreich /// Česká republika /// Slovensko /// Magyarország /// Slovenija /// Hrvatska /// Bosna i Hercegovina /// Srbija i Crna Gora /// România /// България /// Moldova /// Україна ///



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Foreword

The year 2005 was a year of planning and self-development, as well as partnership-building and awareness-raising to prepare for future tasks. The number of observers to the ICPDR also increased this year, and progress has been made to expand cooperation with the Danube Navigation Commission, the Black Sea Commission, as well as with the public, stakeholders and the business sector. The first Stakeholder Conference of the ICPDR took place in Budapest on the occasion of the second Danube Day, June 28-29. This conference was a significant step towards a broader partnership with the key players in the Danube Basin.

The coordinated implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) was a major focus of ICPDR activity. The Danube River Basin Analysis Report 2004 was submitted to the EU in March and included the analysis of river basin characteristics, pressures and impacts, the economic analysis, and the register of protected areas. Several important steps were taken this year to further prepare for the next phases of WFD implementation: development of monitoring and related report by the end of 2006 and preparation for public involvement in the river basin planning process.

Significant progress was made in the field of sub-basin cooperation through the official establishment of the Sava Commission and the successful launch of the Tisza River Basin cooperation for the implementation of the Tisza Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2004. The ICPDR encourages further sub-basin initiatives as they are important frameworks for integrated river basin management and flood management planning works. Preparation is under way for similar cooperation strategies for the Prut River Basin and the Danube Delta.



Our Danube family was made complete in 2005 when Bosnia and Herzegovina officially joined the ICPDR on July 11. To facilitate integration of all the newest ICPDR member countries, three presidential missions were carried out in September in Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Commitments from these countries are appreciated and the ICPDR, in cooperation with the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, provides tailored assistance to support their efforts.

The supportive role of the UNDP/GEF to the ICPDR has to be emphasised in a wider context as well. To ensure the sustainability and quality of the current level of activities, the ICPDR counts on similar continued support from the GEF and other sources. The core of our work, however, relies on the strong commitment from each country and well-structured international cooperation.

This introduction can only provide some of the highlights – the annual report itself contains detailed information on the activities and achievements of the ICPDR and its partners in cooperation in 2005. I hope that the national and joint efforts will lead to even stronger cooperation, to meet the future challenges and improve the environment in the Danube River Basin.

István Öri
Hungarian State Secretary of the
Ministry of Environment and Water and
ICPDR President 2005

1. Meeting future challenges together: Operational and Institutional Framework

2005 was a year of institutional change, focusing the efforts of the ICPDR and bringing the entire basin together to achieve its future goals.



The ICPDR Stakeholder Meeting in June 2005 brought together over 100 representatives from various stakeholder groups

The entire Danube River Basin had reason to celebrate in 2005, as Bosnia and Herzegovina became a formal Contracting Party to the ICPDR.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was the last remaining country in the basin to ratify the Danube River Protection Convention. With Bosnia and Herzegovina as a full member, it closes a gap in the convention and brings all the waters of the basin, from the Black Forest to the Black Sea, together for the first time.

“This is truly a cause for celebration”, says Philip Weller, Executive Secretary of the ICPDR. “With the entire basin working together we can make a significant effort toward achieving the goals of the ICPDR”, says Weller.

By ratifying the convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina has committed to cooperating with the other 12 countries and the European Commission on essential concerns of water resources, and to undertake appropriate legal, administrative, and technical measures to improve the environment and water quality in the basin.

Furthermore, Ukraine pledged more active involvement in the ICPDR and has paid their past dues. The ICPDR will continue toward more active participation from all members.

Getting the public involved

The Danube River Basin faces challenges that can only be met through participation at the local level and throughout the basin.

Public participation is a central element to river basin planning, and the input of stakeholders is necessary for developing management strategies that really work. With these principles in mind, the first Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference was held in Budapest on June 28-29. (For more on the Stakeholder Conference, see page 32.)

Active involvement of the public has been a core principle since the Danube River Protection Convention was signed and observers play a valuable role in the work of the ICPDR. With the right to participate in ICPDR decision-making and expert group meetings, observer partnerships have proven to be successful in ensuring that a variety of approaches shape the current water management in the Danube River Basin.

Over 90 passenger ships were registered for travel on the Danube in 2005, bringing thousands of people to enjoy the beauty of the region. Now the tourism industry and its interests also have a voice within the ICPDR.



Observers add expertise

The active involvement of the public is a core principle in sustainable water management. This basic fact had already been recognised, when the Danube River Protection Convention was developed. By the end of 2005, 12 organisations have taken this possibility and have been granted observer status of the ICPDR:

- Danube Commission for Inland Navigation
- Danube Environmental Forum (DEF)
- Danube Tourism Commission (Die Donau)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP-CEE)
- International Association for Danube Water Research (IAD; in the framework of SIL)
- International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (BSC)
- International Working Association of Water Works in the Danube Basin (IAWD)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
- UNESCO/IHP – Regional Cooperation of the Danube Countries
- VGB PowerTech e.V.
- WWF International - Danube Carpathian Programme

In 2005, the Danube Tourist Commission joined the group of observers actively participating in the work of the ICPDR. The Danube Tourist Commission works to promote tourism along the river and raise the international profile of the entire region. Members of the association bring a history of cooperation to the ICPDR, and have worked closely to mobilise their tourism partners for Danube Day celebrations.

VGB PowerTech, a voluntary association of power and heat generating utilities also joined the ICPDR family of observers in 2005. VGB PowerTech's members represent nuclear, fossil, hydro, and other renewable power plants from 420 companies in 29 countries throughout the world, including in Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, and Slovenia. Cooperation with VGB PowerTech ensures the valuable input from this important business sector. For the international power industry, VGB PowerTech is the competence centre for economic and ecological energy and heat supply.

The ICPDR is committed to have more involvement by groups and observers.

Restructured for performance

To structure the work needed for future years more effectively, the ICPDR has reorganised its expert bodies and the Secretariat. This reorganisation was necessary to ensure that the ICPDR had the appropriate resources and structures in place to meet future challenges.

“The update of the ICPDR structure was an intense and well-planned process”, says Knut Beyer, chairperson of the ad-hoc Strategic Expert Group. “The new structure was developed in discussion with all expert bodies and we hope that the ICPDR is now ready to respond to the challenges posed through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the ICPDR Flood Action Programme”, says Beyer.

These changes do more than simply rename groups or shift responsibilities, the changes to the ICPDR structure reflect a sharper focus on needs. Creating groups focused on deliverables and much less on general topics will provide the push needed to complete requirements for the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The new expert bodies structure of the ICPDR is made up of permanent expert groups, task groups, ad-hoc expert groups, and an expert pool.

A streamlined focus

Permanent expert groups meet the requirements specified under the Convention, but also in relation to the implementation of the WFD and the Flood Action Programme. Permanent expert groups include the Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group, the Pressures and Measures Expert Group, the Flood Protection Expert Group, and the River Basin Management Expert Group.

The River Basin Management Expert Group will continue to serve a critical role in ensuring basin-wide coordination in fields of activities related to the implementation of the WFD. This expert group will serve as a coordination forum, integrating the work of the other expert groups in the products needed for the WFD.

The expert pool will be created with experts nominated from the countries for inclusion in a database of possible experts for assistance and involvement in specific tasks required by an expert group or a task group.

Delivering on demand

A more efficient work structure also means a more efficient use of time. Task groups will be established under the responsibility of the permanent expert groups (and with the approval of the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting or the Standing Working Group), with experts from existing expert bodies and/or additional experts. This should provide the best setting to deal with specific tasks that are in many cases time-limited and needed as input to the work of the expert groups.

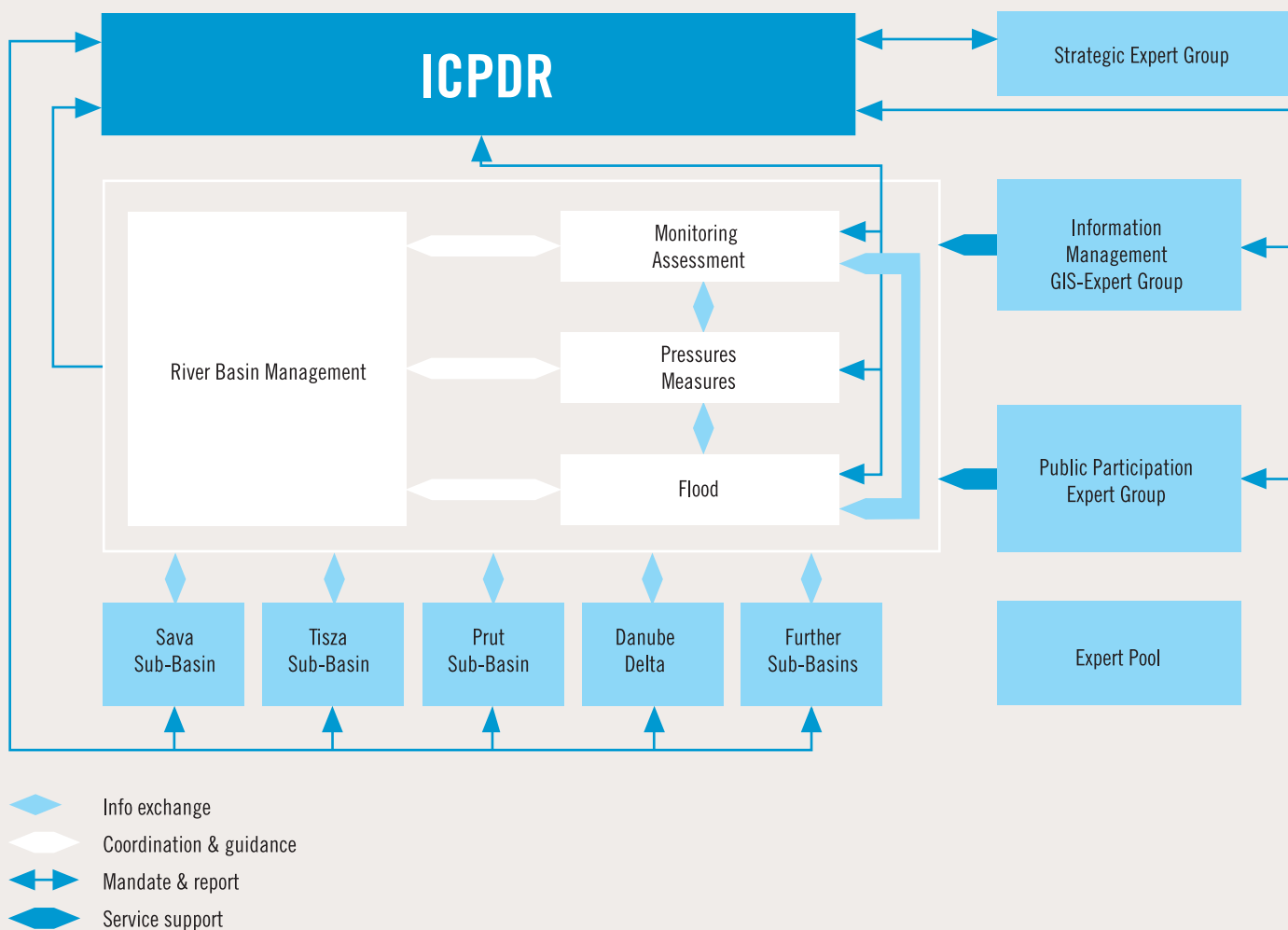
Task groups are not always intended to include representation from all countries, but will include experts specifically needed for a particular task. Several task groups dealing with accident prevention, accident warning systems and groundwater monitoring have been formed.

The ad-hoc expert groups, formed for specific tasks, presently consist of three groups: the Strategic Expert Group, the Public Participation Expert Group, and the Information Management-GIS Expert Group.

The next few years will be challenging ones for the Danube River Basin, but with a complete family of Danube nations and a new structure geared toward efficiency and results, it is hoped that the ICPDR will be ready to meet those challenges.

Relationships among the ICPDR organisational elements with streamlined working groups and a reorganised structure designed for performance, the ICPDR is ready to meet the challenges of the EU water legislature

GRAPH 1



//// Bosna i Hercegovina //// Srbija i Crna Gora //// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland //// Österreich //// Česká republika //// Slovensko ////

2. Danube Check-up: Hydrological Situation & Water Quality

Understanding the hydrological status and water quality of the Danube and its tributaries requires a close interaction with the river.

Collecting information requires experts in monitoring and laboratory management, as well as thousands of field experts. “The specific character of these tasks means that work is non-stop – spring, summer, autumn and winter,” says Liviu Popescu, chairperson of the Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management Expert Group. “There is no stopping due to cold, heat, rain, or snow.”

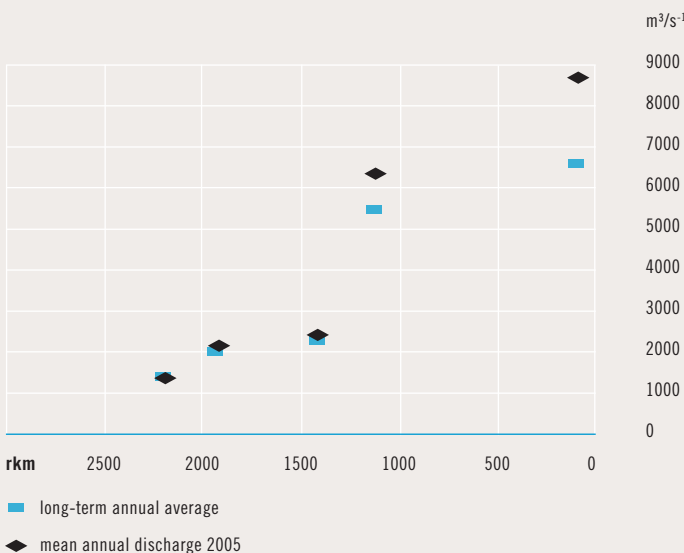
Discharge levels

The total discharge of the Danube River was 274.4 km³ in 2005, which was about 132.5% compared to the long-term average of 207 km³ total annual discharge. In terms of the average mean flow its value in 2005 was 8700 m³s⁻¹ compared to a long-term average of 6500 m³s⁻¹.

Total precipitation and discharge levels in the upper Danube River Basin in 2005 were around the long-term average. While the average values indicate a rather standard year, several extreme hydrological events were recorded in 2005 – especially in April, July, and August.

The mean annual discharge along the Danube in 2005 clearly shows the elevated values compared with the long-term annual average values.

GRAPH 2



Rising waters

Floods in these months were caused by cyclones drifting from the Adriatic Sea causing heavy rainfall in Alpine regions. The most severe of these events occurred August 21-27 and resulted in very high discharges of the Danube and the Iller, Isar, and Inn tributaries. Gauging stations in Bavaria Germany recorded the highest water level ever. August was also a severe month in Slovenia, where the highest precipitation was 74% above the average.

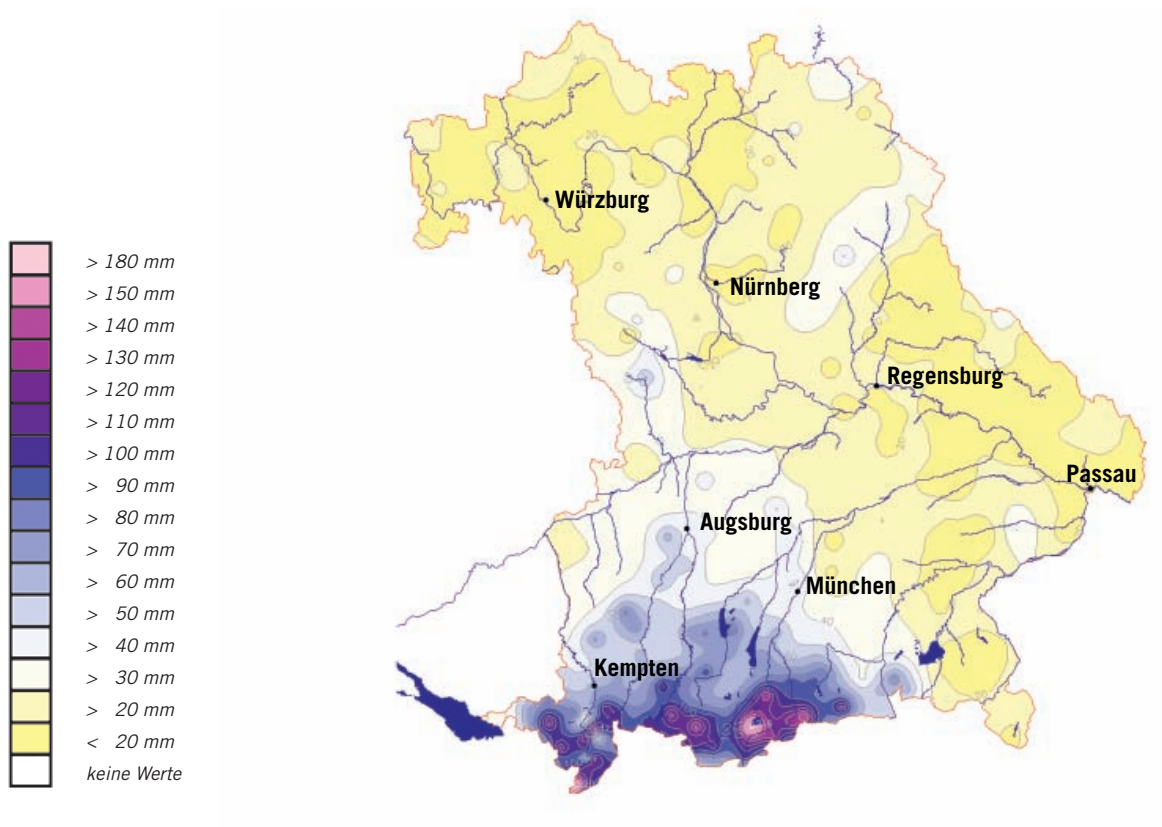
Weather in the central and lower Danube region differed as in previous years from that of the upper part of the river. The central and lower Danube recorded annual precipitation of 20-35% above the long-term mean value. In Serbia and Romania extreme precipitation in April, July, and August caused severe floods with catastrophic consequences (see page 26). Hungary observed no extreme hydrological events on the large rivers, however local meteorological events caused catastrophic floods on the catchments of several small creeks.

These variations in precipitation levels between the upper and lower Danube River Basin in 2005 created differences in the hydrological situation of the river. Discharges in the upper Danube were around the long-term average, while run-off conditions of many streams in the lower Danube were substantially higher, resulting in an increased average Danube flow downstream from Hungary.

////// Slovenija //// Hrvatska //// Bosna i Hercegovina //// Srbija i Crna Gora //// România ////

The graph shows the high precipitation during a period of only 24 hours in August 2005 in Bavaria, Germany

GRAPH 3



България /// Moldova /// Україна /// Deutschland /// Österreich /// Česká republika /// Slovensko /// Magyarország /// Slovenija /// Hrvatska /// Bosna i Hercegovina /// Srbija i Crna Gora ///

2005 was an especially “wet year”: The table below shows the values of the total precipitation in 2005

as well as the relative precipitation in the same year when compared to long-term annual averages in the Danube basin

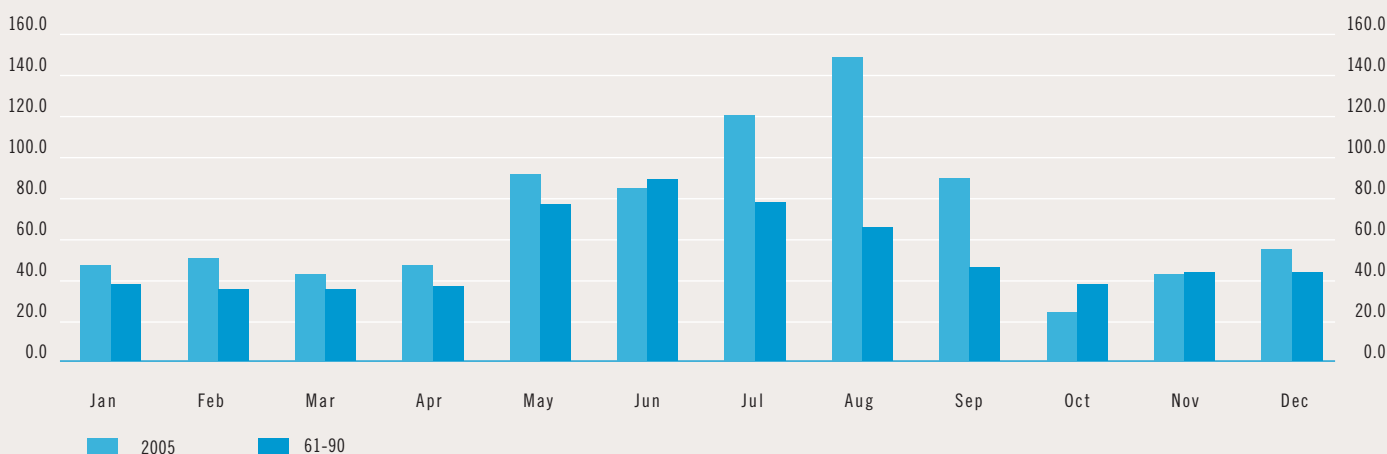
TABLE 1

Country	Total annual precipitation in 2005 [mm]	Relative annual precipitation in 2005 [%]
Germany	975	99
Austria	1020	99
Czech Republic	692	96
Slovakia	549	95
Hungary	745	124
Slovenia	1377	98
Serbia and Montenegro	814	121
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1045	102
Romania	867	134
Ukraine	1060	95

Looking at the precipitation in Romania in 2005

shows a high average monthly precipitation compared to the long-term average pattern (1961-1990)

GRAPH 4



Pollution due to accidents

A number of pollution accidents on the Danube and its major tributaries were reported in 2005, however these accidents generally had only a local influence with negligible impacts on water quality on a larger scale. More information on accidents that triggered the Danube Accident Emergency Warning System can be found on page 24.

During the floods in Bavaria, suspended solids were washed into the rivers and sediments were removed. This resulted in temporary increases in concentrations of phosphorus and heavy metals. No contamination by any hazardous substances was reported, however. Finally, several local accidents occurred in Serbia near Novi Sad and Belgrade increasing concentrations of ammonium, total petroleum hydrocarbons, and the phenol index.

Water quality trends

As in recent years, no significant changes in water quality were observed in Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, or Serbia and Montenegro.

General water quality in Bavaria was not influenced by the floods – last year's trend shows a slight decline in nutrients. Priority and hazardous substances were at low levels or not detectable at all. Only one group of substances – pesticides (Isoproturon, Metolachlor, and Terbutylazin) – were measured at elevated concentrations in the spring of 2005. This can be explained by the long winter, which was followed by intense farming activities in the spring. Another effect of the cold winter was the noticeable low water temperature and the subsequently high concentrations of ammonia. In June, however, water temperatures were higher, particularly in Alpine rivers.

In terms of national water quality classification schemes, problems with some parameters were reported in several countries: aluminium and microbiological parameters in Slovakia; mercury and microbiology in Croatia; and dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, COD-Mn, and nitrates in Bulgaria as a consequence of flooding.

//// Srbija i Crna Gora //// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland //

Marks of historic flood events
can be found along the Danube River.
But during the last decade
the abundance of floods has risen.



3. Integrated River Basin Management: Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive

When the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) was adopted in December 2000, it quickly became clear that its implementation in the Danube River Basin would be a tremendous challenge.

The WFD brings major changes in water management practices. Most importantly, it introduces the river basin approach for the development of integrated and coordinated river basin management plans for all European river systems. All thirteen countries cooperating under the Danube River Protection Convention agreed to make all efforts to implement the WFD, even non-EU member states which are legally not obligated to do so.

Implementation of the WFD is the ICPDR's number one priority as the common platform and possible stimulator of national implementation work in the basin. The Danube River Basin Management Plan is the guiding basis to perform effective measures in order to reach the WFD environmental objectives by 2015 and the ICPDR is committed to bringing together the efforts to create this critical plan at the multinational and basin-wide level.

There are several phases to the development of the River Basin Management Plan. In March 2005, the analyses of river basin characteristics, pressures and impacts, economic analysis, and establishment of the register of protected areas was completed and sent to the European Commission (Danube Basin Analysis 2004).

The Danube Analysis Report

With the completion of the Danube Basin Analysis (or Roof Report 2004) the countries of the Danube River Basin are halfway towards meeting their goal of an integrated river basin management plan. "It is an outstanding achievement that the Danube Basin Analysis has been finalised in time and with such high quality," says Joachim d'Eugenio, chairperson of the River Basin Management Expert Group. The Danube Basin Analysis "sends a signal across the EU and sets a benchmark for everyone else considering the size of the basin, the number of countries involved, and the serious challenges that the region is facing", says d'Eugenio.

The Danube Analysis Report was the first general characterisation and analysis of the entire basin. The report also preliminarily identified water bodies which are at risk of failing to meet the WFD environmental objectives. The report's findings led to the identification of key water management issues: pollution by untreated organic discharges, nutrients, and hazardous substances, as well as hydromorphological alterations. These key water management issues are the focus of the upcoming phase within the Danube River Basin Management Plan preparation.

The Danube Analysis Report is available on CD-ROM and can also be downloaded at the ICPDR Website: www.icpdr.org

The Path to the River Basin Management Plan

A number of supporting documents, including the Strategic Paper for the Development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan and the Road Map (which includes the work plan) were created to guide the necessary coordination for preparation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. Issue Papers on key water management issues will be developed in 2006 and early 2007.

The Strategic Paper provides overall guidance for the implementation process until the completion of the RBM Plan by 2009/10. The paper deals with issues identified in the Danube Analysis Report, including the definition of the Danube River Basin district and its sub-units, the coordination mechanisms, the outline of the river basin management plan, and the reporting schedule for the European Commission. The Paper was revised and extended in 2005 to cover all issues related to the preparation of the river basin management plan.



To spread the findings of the Danube Analysis Report as widely as possible, the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project supported the ICPDR in making the short summary version available in seven Danube languages.

While the Strategic Paper is independent and closed, the Road Map is a flexible document that can adapt to specific situations and will be updated each year. The Road map provides more detailed guidance than the Strategic Paper and identifies the milestones and major implementation steps needed to accomplish the tasks required by the WFD.

The Road Map consists of three parts. The text part of the Road Map is used to further outline strategic steps, summarize different management scenarios, and draw conclusions for management steps.

The work plan is an operational plan which includes different aspects for each WFD issue. The integrated Operational Plan for Public Participation transforms the overall strategic approach into practical activities indicating relevant timelines which are directly linked to the Road Map.

To develop the Programme of Measures, which will form part of the Danube River Basin Management Plan, the ICPDR is currently taking necessary steps following the overall strategy.



The coming years will show if integrated river basin management can be put into practise – bringing together the water needs of all users throughout the basin.

Issue papers for each key water management issue are being developed, thematic workshops will be organised on those issues and ICPDR task groups will be established to work on the issues. To meet the tasks of the management plan, monitoring networks will be adapted, and intercalibration will be finalised. Coordinating information exchange with other river commissions will continue as well.

Well on our way

The Danube River Basin Management Plan must be completed by December 2009, and we are well on our way and on schedule to meet that goal. Furthermore, the management plan offers a unique opportunity to work together. “For the first time, all countries in the basin have contributed and are sharing information on environmental problems”, says d’Eugenio. “Only by sharing analyses and experiences, will it be possible to develop solutions that will be supported by all governments”.

4. Looking after the Danube: Pollution Control Strategies

The new look of the ICPDR pollution control strategy

Fully integrating the EU policies into national and basin-wide pollution control strategies is a long-term challenge of the ICPDR.

Regular updates of emission inventories are fundamental to the identification, evaluation, and control of water pollution hazards. A new system to collect and estimate emission data for the whole Danube River Basin has been designed in line with EU regulations, with the aim to bridge the efforts of the non-EU member states in the Danube River Basin that will use the European Data Collection Systems or methodologies.

“During the preparation of the Roof Report, it became apparent that the assessment principles on which the existing ICPDR emission inventories are based, are not totally fulfilling the requirements needed when implementing the EU Water Framework Directive”, explained Joachim Heidemeier, chairperson of the Pressures and Measures Expert Group. “We need to resolve those issues to get a clearer picture for the River Basin Management Plan. Furthermore we need reliable forecasts of the future development of the municipal waste water treatment in the Danube Basin, as this will have a very strong influence on the nutrient input from the Danube to the Black Sea.”

Assessing regional problems

The ICPDR’s water pollution abatement activities continue to focus on the effective coordination of regional problems. Under the Danube Basin Analysis Report 2004, the ICPDR completed an assessment of pressures on the basin’s water bodies, including point and diffuse sources of pollution. This assessment allows for the identification of water bodies which are at risk of failing to meet relevant EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives.

To reach the WFD objectives and to tackle the pressures resulting from diffuse sources, the pollution control strategy of the ICPDR will rely significantly on the Common Agricultural Policy Reform of the European Union.

Implementing the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive

Significant water pollution problems persist throughout a large part of the basin despite effective implementation of EU and national policies in most of the Danube countries and the substantial economic and social benefits of reducing water pollution.

The implementation of the requirements contained in the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive is a prerequisite for an effective and efficient implementation of measures curbing point source pollution in the frame of the implementation of the WFD.

To focus state efforts on priority performance goals and to reduce the level of reporting burden, the ICPDR targeted the goal of having a basin-wide pollution database toward three specific programme activity measures – municipal, industrial, and agricultural – for point and diffuse sources of pollution.

Thus the project ‘Development of Urban Wastewater Treatment in the Danube River Basin, in line with the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive’ which will be implemented in 2006 and 2007, will provide a comprehensive overview of the status, development plans, cost estimates for implementation, and the anticipated impacts of these measures in terms of nutrient and organic pollution loads for 2006-2015. The project will be based on the existing data collections of the ICPDR – specifically the new Emission Inventory and the DABLAS database on priority investments.



/// Magyarország /// Slovenija ///

Keeping the rivers clean is not only important for the natural environment – more and more people are spending hot days along the rivers' shore.

Use of the E-PRTR in the Danube Basin

Clear understanding of the benefits of reducing pollutant levels is necessary. Stakeholders need to be prepared – on either an individual or sector basis – to recognise that the economic and social costs of some forms of pollution prevention or control may not be justified by the long or short-term benefits linked with proper acting.

In order to avoid double work it is intended that the ICPDR utilises the reporting under the newly developed E-PRTR programme (which requires national pollutant registries) to address the environmental impacts of large point and certain diffuse sources, as specified in the EC Regulation No 166/2006.

“The UN-ECE protocol and its EU-implementation, E-PRTR, are projects aimed at raising public awareness and involvement and thus improving the environmental performance of industry,” says Heidemeier. “As the PRTR also includes discharges from municipal treatment plants bigger than 100,000 population equivalents and

inputs from certain diffuse sources it will also provide a more comprehensive overview of discharges and inputs of hazardous substances in the Danube Basin”, Heidemeier says.

It is hoped that this source of information will add to data availability and the reliability of the ICPDR emission inventories. “Given the fact that all Contracting Parties are involved in the development of PRTRs”, says Heidemeier, “we will have the chance in the future to get this overview without additional data requests, which is indeed a very effective solution”. Results will also contribute to setting up the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

Improvements in wastewater treatment

In addition to improved application of policies, specific efforts were undertaken throughout the basin to improve wastewater treatment. While the German part of the Danube Basin is not considered a sensitive area under EU legislation, the process of improving the nitrogen and phosphorus reduction in urban wastewater treatment plants con-

Hrvatska //// Bosna i Hercegovina //// Srbija i Crna Gora //// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland //// Österreich //// Česká republika ////

tinues. All wastewater treatment plants in Bavaria larger than 10,000 population equivalents fulfil the requirements of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, if they were discharging to a sensitive area. Significant attention is being paid to the Isar River, which is an important Danube tributary. Along this alpine river 11 wastewater treatment plants are now equipped with UV-disinfection to achieve bathing water quality in the Isar (which is reported as a bathing water under the EU Bathing Water Directive).

In Austria in 2005, 1,432 wastewater treatment plants larger than 50 population equivalents, including 650 treatment plants with more than 2,000 population equivalents, were in operation. Approximately 90 % of these wastewater treatment plants accomplish tertiary treatment. The other plants are operated with biological carbon-elimination (and partial de-nitrification). In April 2005, the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant at Vienna was finalised. The design capacity was enlarged to four million population equivalents based on BOD5 and in addition to the existing phosphorus elimination the tertiary treatment was extended to nitrification and de-nitrification.



Major attention in the Czech Republic is still focussed on compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive; this is also included in the Czech Strategy for financing of the Directive No. 91/271/EEC approved by the Government. Technological improvements were made to a number of wastewater treatment plants and several plants are under reconstruction. In general, the quality of wastewater discharges improved with relation to Ntot concentration and to organic pollution parameters.

In Hungary and Slovakia, the whole of which are identified as sensitive areas, the process of adapting wastewater treatment plant operation to EU legislation is in progress. In Slovenia, technical improvements aiming at N-reduction were performed in several smaller wastewater treatment plants. By now, all wastewater treatment plants in Slovenia in areas larger than 100,000 inhabitants have been adapted to the EU-directives on nitrogen removal.

The improvement in water treatment is still a challenge in the lower Danube. In the Bulgarian part of the Danube River Basin, 16 settlements were served by wastewater treatment plants covering 46% of the population (slightly above the all-country average of 40.5%). In Romania, 1,359 wastewater treatment plants were in operation in 2005 of which 41 % achieved the required performance level.

Coordinating efforts for pollution control

The Joint Action Programme, which was adopted by the ICPDR in 2000, committed the countries to substantial pollution reduction by the end of the year 2005. The EU Water Framework Directive has added strength to the efforts to coordinate actions in support of integrated river basin management and pollution control and reduction.

Throughout the basin, planning and construction is under way to reduce municipal and industrial wastewater discharges. Regulatory demands for tertiary treatment are variable among countries, depending primarily on the classification of the sensitivity of surface water resources in national legislation. The majority of the pollution control projects undertaken in recent years, nonetheless, have tertiary treatment technology, as a result of legislative transposition during the EU accession period.

Based on an analysis of 354 pollution reduction projects (focusing on Total N and Total P removal) approximately 5% of the reduction has been achieved by projects completed by 2003. This percentage has increased to between 10-15% by 2005. It is questionable, however, whether all projects planned for completion by 2007 will actually be realised by that time. It is estimated that 85-90% of the expected pollution reduction will be carried out through projects completed after 2005.

Among these 354 projects covering all sectors, 93 projects are fully financed, representing 33% (1247 MEUR) of the total 3822 MEUR estimated investment cost. An additional 115 projects have secured partial funding and/or have more or less completed the planning stages but have not yet attained financing

The ICPDR will report on the implementation of the Joint Action Programme for the period 2001 to 2005 in 2007.

The table is based on an analysis carried out under the ICPDR Joint Action Programme and the DABLAS 2004 Project and provides an overview on reduction of pollution and the need of further investments in wastewater treatment plants

TABLE 2

	Number of Wastewater Treatment Plants				Reduction of pollution			
	No tertiary	N removal	P removal	N & P removal	P PE (M)	Σ BOD t/yr	Σ N t/yr	Σ P t/yr
Fully financed	7	8	17	33	9.9	63.419	15,542	3,224
Partially finance	21	17	4	34	12.8	150.000	23,160	4,555
Planned	17	5	1	26	3.5	52.000	5,700	1,285

Estimated reduction of total nitrogen and total phosphorus from 354 investments reported

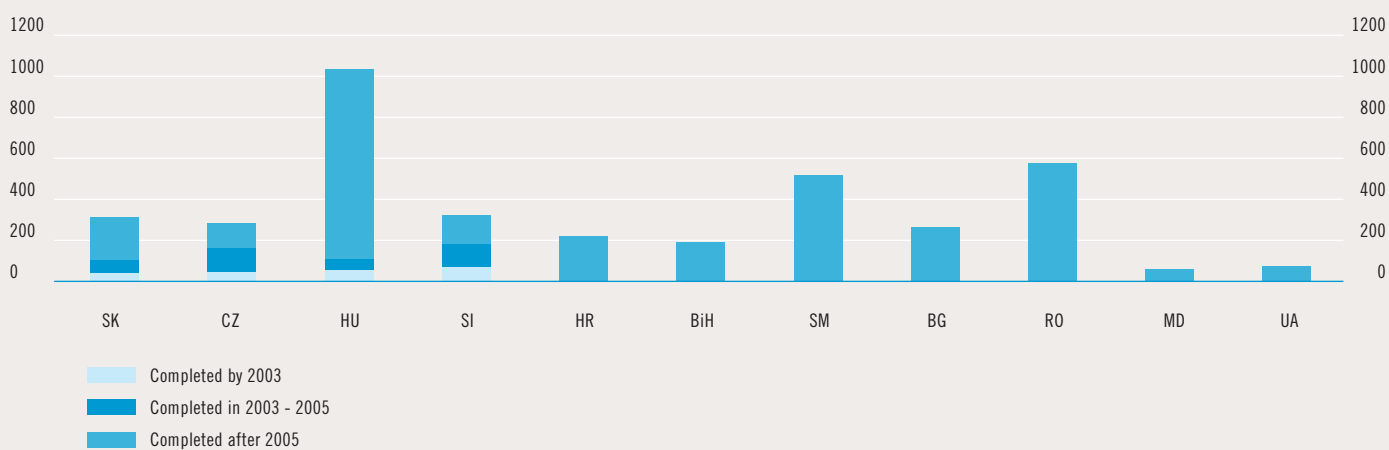
TABLE 3

Estimated Pollution Reduction from Investment Projects Reduction / period	End 2003	2003 - 2005	After 2005
Σ N t/yr	7,800	7,700	51,000
Σ P t/yr	1,300	1,400	9,000

Overview on realised and planned projects in selected Danube Countries. Investments in Germany and in Austria are not included

The information of the Czech Republic refers only to the investments made in the Danube River Basin (respective Morava River Basin)

GRAPH 5



Česká republika // Slovensko // Magyarország // Slovenija // Hrvatska // Bosna i Hercegovina // Srbija i Crna Gora // România // България // Moldova //

5. Accident Prevention in the Danube River Basin

An effective way to minimise risks stemming from environmental disasters is to develop accident prevention strategies.

The ICPDR established a prevention policy under the Joint Action Programme and developed a comprehensive concept of accident prevention. This concept is based on creating inventories of potential accident risk spots in the Danube River Basin and implementing safety measures to minimise risk potential.

In previous years, identifying accident risk spots was done by ICPDR experts based on evaluating the nature and quality of the dangerous materials that are capable of causing water pollution that were handled in these installations. This analysis only reflects potential dangers, however – the actual danger level can only be determined based on the analysis of safety measures in place. To address this, the ICPDR in cooperation with the German Umweltbundesamt developed checklists that would serve as tools to analyse the real risks.

Providing practical training

To implement the checklist methodology at the national level in the Danube Basin, training and practical site experience are needed to get regional experts accustomed to the methodology and to ensure a harmonised approach throughout the whole basin. Moreover, it was agreed that the application of the checklist methodology should be done in industries of the same branch despite countries having different technological status or using different safety measures.

Refineries were chosen as a target industry, and the first pilot visit and training was held at the PCK Refinery in Schwedt, Germany in September 2005 and supported by the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.

The seminar was held in a spirit of cooperation with fruitful discussions, and the overall impression from participants was highly positive. “The refinery checklist training course was excellent,” says Aurel Varduca, chairperson of the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group. “The material was very relevant and the whole presentation was very well organised.”

The pilot visit in Schwedt demonstrated that the checklists are well-suited to use in guiding a plant examination. A second training will be held in 2006 at a refinery in Romania.

Checklists for Industrial Tailings Management Facilities

The checklists and recommendations for industrial tailings management facilities were included in the project entitled ‘Transboundary cooperation for hazard prevention in the Kura River Basin’ managed by the German Umweltbundesamt. The ‘Safety of industrial tailings management facilities’ checklist was developed according to the best available techniques given in the document ‘Management of tailings and waste rock.’

The scope of this checklist includes the tailings and waste rock management facilities governed by the provisions of the following directives and international agreements: EU SEVESCO II Directive, UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, and the UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water-courses and International Lakes (United Nations, Economic Committee for Europe).

The industrial tailings management facilities checklist is relevant for related UNEP activities on reducing risk from mining. The ICPDR will tailor these documents to the Danube River Basin. “When taking the mining activity potential for accident pollution into consideration,” says Varduca, “the subject is extremely relevant for the Danube Basin.”

Inventory of contaminated sites in flood-risk areas

Relevant safety and precautionary measures must be adopted to prevent adverse impacts from the inundation of landfills, dump sites, and storage facilities where harmful substances are deposited.

The ICPDR is working on an inventory of contaminated sites in flood risk areas and developing methodologies to assess and rank the risks in these areas. Critical support for this task has been secured through the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, which has contracted the Austrian Umweltbundesamt to improve the assessment methodology and develop checklists for site inspections of high-risk contaminated sites. The draft assessment methodology was prepared in 2005; finalisation and testing is planned for 2006.

Deutschland //// Österreich //// Česká republika //



//// Slovensko //// Magyarország //// Slovenija //// Hrvatska //// Bosna i Hercegovina ////

Sharing knowledge and expertise is a core principle of ICPDR's work: In September 2005 the participants of the Training Workshop on Accident Prevention the PCK Refinery Schwedt/Oder (Germany). This workshop was organised by the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.

6. Fast alerts for effective response: The Danube Accident Emergency Warning System

Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. But thanks to an upgraded Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS), messages about those accidents can be sent just as quickly.

The satellite communication of the AEWS was replaced in 2003 and 2004 with an internet-based information system using GMS/SMS messages to alert the Principle International Alert Centres. 2005 was the first year of operation for the new system, demonstrating the same high level of service, but with a significant increase in cost-effectiveness.

“The new GMS/SMS system is better for the AEWS first of all from the financial point of view,” says Aurel Varduca, chairperson of the ICPDR Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group. “More than this, however, the new system provides for the optimisation of standard forms and other logistic issues,” says Varduca.

Overview of the AEWS events in 2005:

A ‘no’ in the column ‘Transboundary Impact’ indicates that no transboundary impact was identified the respective country

TABLE 4

Site & date of accident	Affected River	Primary Pollutant		International messages	Trans-boundary Impact
Osijek (Canal Palcic), Croatia, 23.02.2005	Vuka River / Drava	Mineral oil	PIAC 13 ► PIAC 07 PIAC 07 ► PIAC 13	“Requests for Information” “End of Alert”	HR: NO
Gönyü-Komárom, Hungary, 17.03.2005	Danube	Mineral oil	PIAC 05 ► PIAC 04 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05	“Requests for Information” “End of Alert”	HU: NO
Somes river basin, Romania, 21.03.2005	Somes	Floating garbage (PET)	PIAC 05 ► PIAC 08 PIAC 08 ► PIAC 05	“Request for Information” “Standard Message”	RO: NO
Prešovo, Slovakia 24.05.2005	Hornad	Mercury	PIAC 05 ► PIAC 04 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05	“Request for Information” “End of Alert”	SK: NO
Sap-Palkovičovo, Slovakia, 03.10.2005	Danube	Mineral oil	PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05	“Warning pollution” “End of Alert”	SK : NO
Hainburg, Austria, 20.10.2005	Danube	Mineral oil	PIAC 02 ► PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05	“Warning pollution” “Standard Message”	Not reported
Pivara, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 05.11.2005	Sava	Mineral oil	PIAC 07 ► PIAC 14 PIAC 14 ► PIAC 07 PIAC 14 ► PIAC 07	“Requests for Information” “Standard Message” “End of Alert”	BA: NO
Sacuieni, Romania 18.11.2005	Ier river	Beet pulp	PIAC 08 ► PIAC 05	“Warning pollution”	RO: NO
Gruia (harbour), Romania, 25.11.2005	Danube	Oil	PIAC 08 ► PIAC 13 PIAC 08 ► PIAC 13 PIAC 08 ► PIAC 09 ► PIAC 13 PIAC 13 ► PIAC 08 ► PIAC 09	“Request for Information” “Warning pollution” “Warning pollution” “Standard Message”	Not reported
Petro Bistra / Pilova, Romania 28.11.2005	Viseu River	Waste water (cyanide content reported)	PIAC 05 ► PIAC 11 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 08 ► PIAC 11 PIAC 08 ► PIAC 04 PIAC 04 ► PIAC 05	“Request for Information” “Warning pollution” “Request for Information” “Standard Message” “End of Alert”	UA: NO RO: NO
Giurgiu (harbour), Romania, 21.12.2005	Danube	Mineral oil	PIAC 08 ► PIAC 09 ► PIAC 13	“Warning pollution”	Not reported

Accident alerts

The most frequent cause for accident alerts in the Danube River Basin were oil spills. The Danube AEWS was activated eleven times in 2005, and seven of those events were oil spills.

Navigation is the most common source of such spills, and oil losses during ship operation or ship accidents are most often to blame. Two major ship incidents were recorded in 2005. A Romanian cruise ship was destroyed by fire in October near Palkovicovo, along the

Slovak stretch of the Danube. In December, the Slovak pusher-tug Polana sank at Giurgiu in the Romanian section of the Danube. A serious fire in the engine room was the cause.

For all incidents recorded in 2005, the pollution was contained to the event area and did not enter any downstream countries. The important point, says Varduca, is that “in 2005 no transboundary accidental pollution was recorded.”



7. Rising Waters: Flood Protection in the Danube River Basin

The Danube River Basin struggled to cope with devastating floods that swept through the region in spring and summer 2005, ravaging communities and causing million of euros in damages.

In April, strong rains in the Banat area of Romania, along with melting snow in the mountains and soil saturated with water led to floods with a hundred year probability in the Timis, Caras, and Barzava River Basins.

Two more flood waves took place in Romania in July (in the Arges, Olt, Jiu, Siret, and Prut River Basins) and August (in the Mures, Olt, Somes, Tisza, and Siret River Basins). Torrential rains in a short time span resulted in a huge increase in the discharge of small rivers (or even dry valleys) and led to flash floods in the mountains and floods with a thousand year probability in downstream river basins. The extensive deforestation in some areas of Romania further decreased water retention and accelerated flooding.

High water mark

Heavy rain also fell in southern Bavaria in Germany and in Vorarlberg and Tyrol in Austria. Torrential rains like those in Kockel-Einsiedl/Bayern – where the 24 hour maximum of 217 mm corresponded to a two hundred-year probability – combined with a reduced soil retention capacity due to previous rains led to floods in south-western Austria and in the Bavarian River Basins of the Iller, Lech, Loisach, and Isar.

A dramatic situation arose also in Tyrol, where a flood wave with a probability of once in two hundred years took place along the River Inn at Innsbruck, and massive flash floods with recurrence intervals of more than once in five thousand years were estimated for the Lech at Steeg, the Trisanna at Galtur, and the Sanna at Landeck. Massive flash floods resulted from the highest ever recorded discharges on these Tyrolean streams.

Calculating loss

The damage caused by the year 2005 floods was massive. Over 1.5 million inhabitants were affected in Romania, and 93,000 houses, 9,000 bridges, 590 social and economic buildings, and 15,000 km of roads were damaged or totally destroyed. More than 12,000 people were evacuated, and 76 people were killed.

In Serbia, the Timis flooded two villages and caused approximately €14 million in damage to houses and agricultural production. Floods in the upper Danube Basin also had severe economic repercussions; the total cost of damages in Bavaria amounts to €175 million, and the preliminary estimate of economic losses in Austria is €700 million.

Taking action

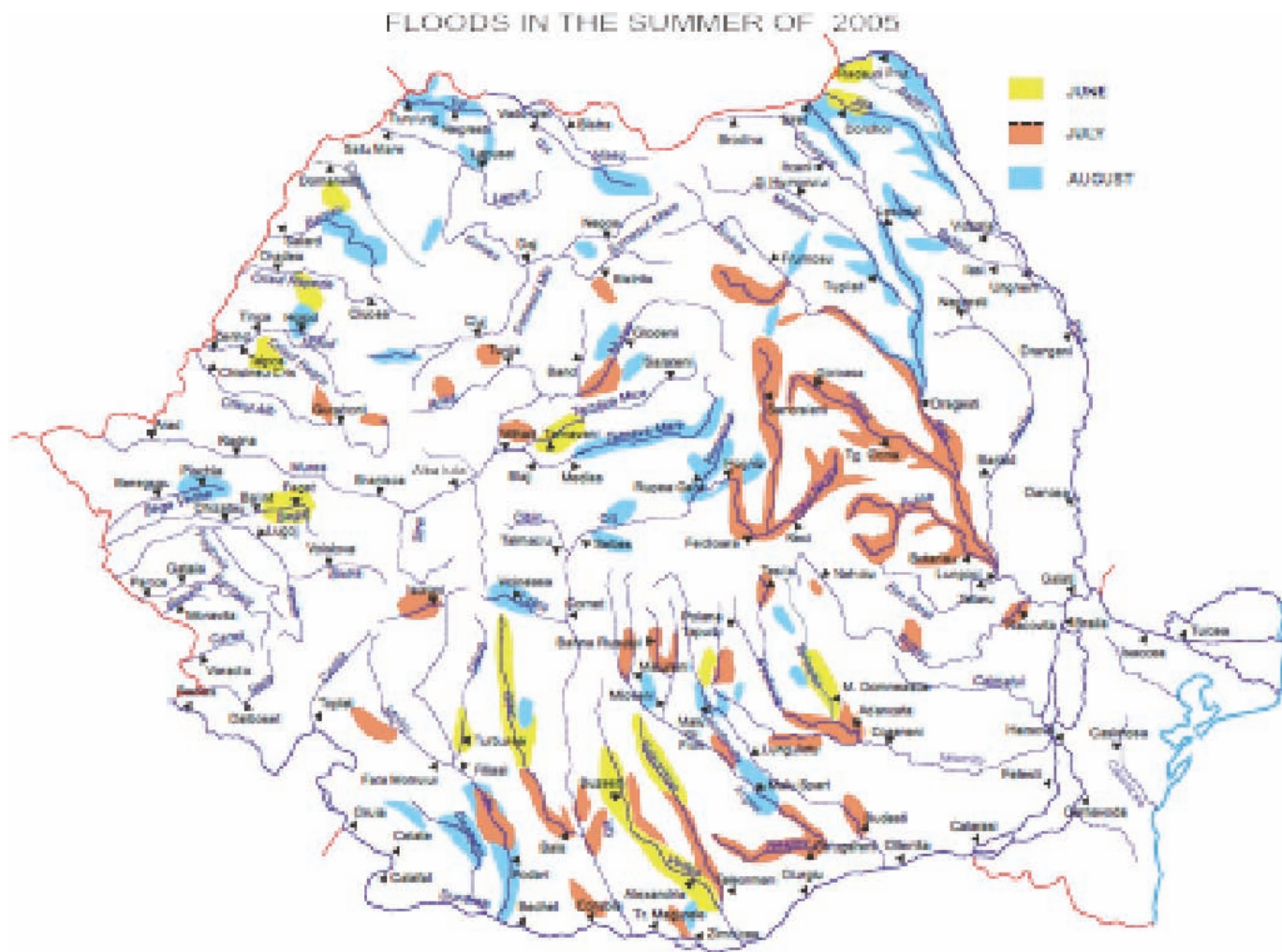
“The devastating floods in spring 2005 underlined the importance of changing the paradigm from defence against floods to assessing and managing the risk of floods”, says Sandor Toth, chairperson of the Flood Protection Expert Group. “It is not enough to rely on the existing flood embankments anymore,” says Toth, “the strategy has to be expanded in any case into a river basin-based, interdisciplinary approach that builds on natural retention capacity and appropriate land-use across the whole catchment with the aim to reduce run-off and to minimise the damage potential in flood-prone areas”, says Toth.

The Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection in the Danube River Basin was adopted at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting on 13 December 2004. Implementation of the Action Programme began in 2005, focussing on its major targets: achieving long-term and sustainable management of flood risks, protecting human life and property, and encouraging conservation and improvement of water ecosystems.

The Flood Protection Expert Group began assessing the existing flood forecasting and warning systems in all Danube countries. Slovakia prepared a national report on the assessment of flood monitoring and forecasting to serve as an example to use when compiling other national reports. Moreover, the Danube Flood Alert System based on the LISFLOOD model is being developed by the EC Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy.

The graph shows the areas affected by the 2005 summer floods in Romania

GRAPH 6



Ukraina // Deutschland // Österreich // Česká republika // Slovensko // Magyarország // Slovenija // Hrvatska // Bosna i Hercegovina //



From the Alps to the Danube Delta - spring and summer floods kept the Danube countries busy.

Cooperation is critical

A common approach in the assessment of flood-prone areas and the evaluation of flood risk is essential for setting priorities as well as for further technical, political, and financial decision-making. The ICPDR cooperated in 2005 with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) on flood risk mapping. Joint EEA/ICPDR questionnaires in the frame of this Neighbourhood Project were prepared and completed in 2005, and a summary is available on the EEA website.

The ICPDR Flood Action Programme aims to keep the process of flood protection in harmony with river basin management planning as required by the EU Water Framework Directive, especially on the sub-basin level. The sheer size of the Danube River Basin means that “the detailed tasks of action planning can only be done on the level of sub-basins or sub-units,” says Toth, “where the real problems can be identified.”

8. ICPDR Information Systems

Open communication is vital to building public participation and to inform the general public about the activities of the ICPDR

Danube Watch, the quarterly magazine of the ICPDR, fosters regional cooperation and information sharing and offers a responsible discussion of the trends, issues, policies, and management of the river basin. Danube Watch strives for accuracy while remaining concise, clear, and readable. It is produced for a wide range of people who are actively involved in the Danube River Basin and are working for improvement of its environment.

Four issues of Danube Watch were published in 2005 – all in the newly developed design. The re-launch of the magazine has proved to be a success, and the new, fresh style of the articles accompanied by larger dynamic pictures and fold-out maps has been received positively by readers.

Production of two Danube Watch issues in 2005 was supported by the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project. In 2005, 10,000 copies of Danube Watch were printed per issue and distributed for free. Danube Watch can also be downloaded from the ICPDR website.

Two other publications were produced in 2005 to highlight the work of the ICPDR. The Danube Analysis Report 2004 was published on CD-ROM, including all maps and annexes, as requested by Article 5 of the EU Water Framework Directive.

A shorter summary of the findings of the Danube Analysis Report was also published, to be distributed to the public throughout the Danube Basin. This report has been translated into several languages of the region, including Bosnian, Czech, German, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, and Ukrainian – all with the support of each country.

The production of these publications was made possible through the support of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.

ICPDR Databases

Sharing information is a key part of the ICPDR's mission. With that goal in mind, all users who have registered with the DANUBIS system have been given access to both the Transnational Monitoring Network Database and the Emission Inventory Database. Under the cooperation with the DABLAS Task Force, the DABLAS database has been improved and updated.

Data from the Aquaterra Danube Survey was also integrated with the existing database from the Joint Danube Survey, forming a common basis for easy access to water quality data from surveys of the Danube and its tributaries.

Information Sharing

Facilitating the information sharing is an important aspect of the work of the ICPDR.

To meet the increasing public demand for information, the ICPDR website was revised, reorganised, and redesigned in 2005. The ICPDR Secretariat, together with the German government and the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project ensured that financial resources were available for these tasks.

The goal of the internal ICPDR Information System (DANUBIS) is to support the delegations and expert groups to meet the challenges of the Danube River Protection Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive.

Danube River Basin Geographical Information System

Using the feedback from the River Basin Management/Geographical Information System Expert Sub-Group, the Austrian Umweltbundesamt completed the final report of the system definition for the Danube River Basin Geographical Information System (DRB GIS). The final report was approved in June 2005.

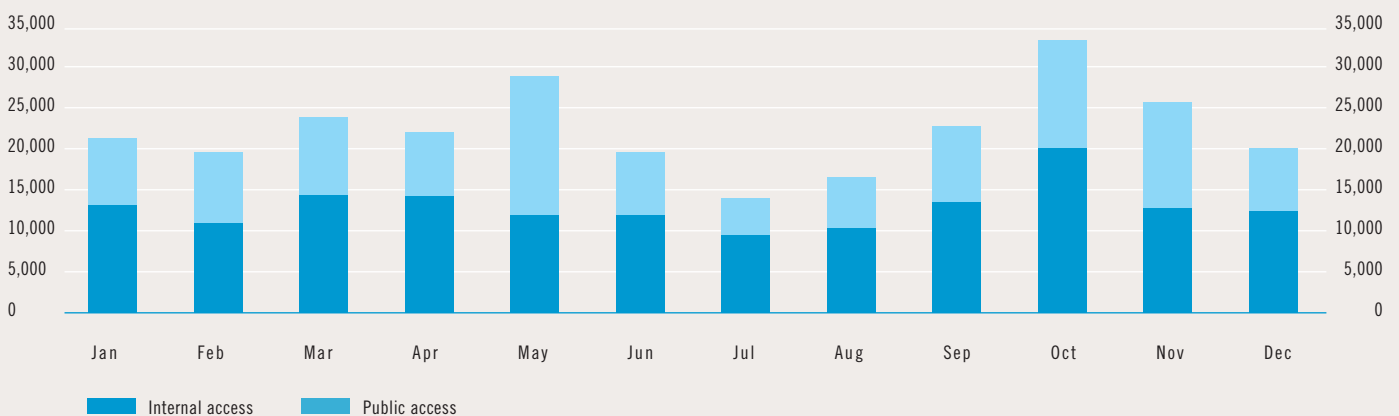
“This is not just another document,” says Eva Sovjakova, chairperson of the Information Management and GIS Expert Group. “The report is a summary of the findings of how to ensure the interoperability of the ICPDR GIS with the work of the contracting parties. This makes it an indispensable manual for all the countries participating in the DRB GIS Project,” says Sovjakova.

The next step will be to provide a prototype system by January 2006, which will demonstrate how data can be uploaded to a central system, validated and viewed over the web.

From the beginning, special attention has been given to the future interoperability of the DRB GIS with other programmes including the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) and the INSPIRE Directive from the EU Initiative for Harmonisation of Geographical Data. “Now we shall be able to cooperate more effectively on data input and learn to respect the specifics of the geographical infrastructure of each country,” says Sovjakova. “The DRB GIS is a challenge and also an excellent field trial for preliminary evaluation of the process of implementation of the EU INSPIRE Directive.”

The chart shows the use of the ICPDR internal and external websites throughout the year (in page views per month)

GRAPH 7



//// Magyarország //// Slovenija //// Hrvatska //// Bosna i Hercegovina //// Srbija i Crna Gora //// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland ///

9. Putting People at the Heart of the Danube: Danube Day and Stakeholder Conference

Based on the success of the first Danube Day in 2004, the celebration of the Danube River Basin continued in 2005. Held on 29 June, the 11th anniversary of the signing of the Danube River Protection Convention, Danube Day brought together people from all over the basin under the slogan 'Danube Rivers – more than just water.'

Motivated by TV and radio spots (in Serbia and Montenegro, Hungary, and Bulgaria, for example), newspaper ads (in Romania, Moldova, and Slovakia, for example), and spots in public transport (in Austria, for example) people were mobilised to think about the Danube Rivers and the ways in which they influence the lives of those living in the basin.

Over 250 activities were organised, all as diverse as the cultures and languages found throughout the basin.

Some highlights of Danube Day:

- To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Tour International Danubien" (TID), more than 100 people travelled in canoes, kayaks, and rowboats down the Danube.
 - Over 50 sportsmen and women cycled with the International Association for Danube Research from Vienna to Bratislava, waving the flag of Danube Day.
 - Over 400 children participated in the International Danube Art Master, a school competition organised by the national water ministries, together with the Danube Environment Forum, and the ICPDR.
 - Over 4000 children from all over the Danube Basin participated in the international school competition "Danube Art Master", which was organised jointly by the national governments, the Danube Environmental Forum and the ICPDR.
- All national winners were invited to spend a weekend in Budapest in October, where the international winner was crowned by Istvan Őri, ICPDR President 2005.

A full list of Danube Day activities is available at www.danubeday.org.

The 6A class from secondary school "Auf der Schanz", Germany won the 'International Danube Art Master 2005' competition. Their colourful, creative, artistic sculpture depicted children from Danube countries waving flags together on a boat on the Danube. Sculpture materials included a collage of stones, plants and wood taken from around the river.



*Impressions of
Danube Day 2005
– celebrated
throughout the
Danube River Basin.*

Österreich /// Česká republika /// Slovensko ///



Cooperation starts with discussions, leading to understanding and possibly to a shared vision for the future. The ICPDR Stakeholder Conference, organised on Danube Day 2005, was an important step in this direction.

One river, many interests

The first ‘Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference’ was held on Danube Day, 28-29 June, in the historic chambers of the Budapest City Hall. Organised by the ICDPR, in close cooperation with 2005 Presidency-holder Hungary, the conference was supported by the European Commission, the Global Water Partnership Hungary, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, and the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project.

The goal of the conference was to strengthen the input of interest groups in the discussions and decision-making processes of the ICPDR, and to receive feedback on the Danube Analysis Report 2004 and the ICPDR Flood Action Programme. “This conference should not only inform stakeholders,” said ICPDR President 2005 Istvan Óri, “but we would like to go a step further and enable their active involvement.”

Listening and learning

In addition to a conference report, which summaries the discussions and input received, the ICPDR launched a written feedback process to provide another possibility to raise concerns stimulated by the Danube Analysis Report or the goals of the Flood Action Programme.

Feedback received from stakeholders is currently being analysed by ICPDR working groups. In June 2006 the ICPDR will issue a report on the result of the stakeholder dialogue and how it has shaped the work in the region.

10. Working together: International and Regional Cooperation

The sustainable management of natural resources is a common responsibility, and cooperation at the regional and international level is critical

Since rivers know no borders, it is only through a joint effort that environmental problems of the Danube River Basin can be addressed. To achieve its goals, the ICPDR cooperates with regional and international agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the business and scientific communities.

The UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

The Danube Regional Project (DRP), financed by UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has been active in the Danube River Basin since December 2001. The primary goal of the DRP is to reduce pollution of the Danube and its tributaries by nutrients and toxic substances, in order to improve water quality, restore ecosystems of the Danube-Black Sea Basin and strengthen transboundary cooperation among countries in the region.

81 million people share the Danube river basin. Only broad cooperation, involving national and international institutions, can ensure that the ecological and economic value of the river can be preserved for future generations.

Hrvatska /// Bosna i Hercegovina /// Srbija i Crna Gora ///



/// UkraїHa ///



Progress in 2005: In 2005, most project components were in the stage of full implementation. The Project Team focused on the coordination of ongoing activities, and continued with preparations for remaining activities, in cooperation with ICPDR Expert Groups and Technical Experts of the Secretariat.

Within the DRP's first objective: 'Creation of sustainable ecological conditions for land use and water management', work began on the largest project components – agricultural policies and pilot projects, industry, wetlands – while activities related to tariffs and charges continued. DRP also supported the development of a prototype for the Danube GIS that will be an important tool for the ICPDR in reporting needed for the Danube RBMP.

The activities of the second DRP objective: 'Capacity building and reinforcement of transboundary cooperation for the improvement of water quality and environmental standards in the Danube River Basin' began, and focussed in particular on the development of Monitoring, Laboratory, and Information Management Tools aimed at reinforcement of the Transnational Monitoring Network; the Pilot Project on Refineries to develop and apply checklists for the assessment of complex industrial sites; and M2 methodology for the assessment of contaminated sites at risk from flooding. Attention was also given to further strengthening of the ICPDR information system DANUBIS.

The DRP supported the process of developing a new visual identity and branding for the ICPDR. A basin-wide workshop was also organized to facilitate discussions within the ICPDR about the future orientation of ICPDR activities.

The third DRP objective, 'Strengthening of public involvement in environmental decision-making and reinforcement of community actions for pollution reduction and protection of ecosystems' was designed to support and strengthen the Danube Basin NGO community and strengthen public involvement in and awareness of environmental issues.

The DRP cooperated closely with and supported the Danube Environmental Forum network (DEF) in work plan and communication strategy preparation as well as in the process of developing new branding and a visual identity. With support from the DRP, DEF capacities were increased over recent years. The DEF was involved in a number of wetlands campaigns financed by the DRP in Slovenia and Serbia and Montenegro and more are planned. In addition, the participation of the DEF in the DRP Small Grants Programme increased the capabilities of DEF members to implement projects.

Within the Small Grants Programme, the DRP is financing a series of national and regional projects addressing issues such as agriculture,



The Black Sea is one of the regional seas most damaged by human activity. Almost one third of continental Europe drains into it. Contaminants and nutrients enter the Black Sea mainly via river run-off (such as from the Danube, Dnieper, Don) and by direct discharge from land-based sources. There the management of the Black Sea itself is the joint responsibility of all countries sharing its large drainage area.

wetlands restoration and wastewater treatment. These projects are implemented by local NGOs and the programme is coordinated by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC). In 2005 the second call for project proposals within the Small Grants Programme was launched: in total 60 national projects and 5 regional projects were awarded and will be implemented in 2006.

The DRP's largest component on Public Access to Information, implemented by a consortium led by the REC, continued with a series of national and regional workshops held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro to finalise a needs assessment and to start the development of specific outputs including national guidelines for public participation. Two study tours were organised in the USA and the Netherlands with participation from all involved countries. Pilot project activities started in Romania (September), Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia (October), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (November).

Based on the DRP Communication Strategy, the DRP started with implementation of its Media Plan. It has included story submissions to international environment-related media such as the ICPDR 'Danube Watch', and media assistance and capacity-building for DRP technical projects, NGOs applying for DRP Grants and the ICPDR. Highlights included press releases that were prepared and distributed

internationally for the ICPDR's 'Danube Art Master' competition and for the launch of the DRP regional grant projects.

Most of the activities for the fourth DRP objective, 'Reinforcement of monitoring, evaluation and information systems to control trans-boundary pollution, and to reduce nutrients and harmful substances', were under preparation and discussion with ICPDR experts. Coordination and work plan preparation activities were started for the 'Analysis of Iron Gates Sediments' project in cooperation with institutes from Hungary, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro.

The project will continue with assistance to the non-accession countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine) to participate in the implementation of the EU WFD and in particular project related activities. The DRP will place a special emphasis on cooperation with these countries to strengthen their abilities to participate on an equal basis within the regional framework.

Since most of the project activities will be finalised by the end of 2006, an Exit Strategy was outlined to define the scope of the DRP support to the ICPDR until the end of project and identifies which activities of the DRP should have a follow-up by the ICPDR for continued implementation and defines the role of governments, institutions and other stakeholders in order to assure sustainability of project results.



Supported by the Alcoa Foundation, a large awareness-raising campaign was launched in Arad in November 2005.

The Danube-Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group

Discussions in 2005 led to strengthened efforts to share information on the influence of the Danube on the ecological status of the north-western shelf of the Black Sea. A technical report, 'Improving the understanding of the Danube River impact on the status of the Black Sea' was presented at the 8th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR (December 12-13, 2005) by the Danube-Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group, which is composed of representatives of the Black Sea countries, the ICPDR, and the Black Sea Commission as well as the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project and the UNDP/GEF Black Sea Recovery Project.

For the Danube, the data on the pollutant loads discharged to the Black Sea is based on the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN) station in Reni. For the Black Sea, the Black Sea Commission prepared a statement on historical data on Black Sea water quality indicators and on the methodology for the development of the Black Sea monitoring system necessary for collecting the data on the agreed indicators. This information will be used to assist in the further development of the monitoring system of the Black Sea.

It is essential that both commissions ensure that all contracting parties deliver the required information on agreed parameters and indicators in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Cooperation with the ALCOA Foundation

Following the 2004 ALCOA grant for the Cris / Körös River Basin, the laboratory officially opened on 9 November 2005 in Oradea, Romania. Representatives from the ICPDR and the ALCOA Foundation highlighted the excellent cooperation existing between the Romanian and Hungarian partners and the additional environmental investments and business sector partnerships that were prompted by the grant.

The specific objectives of the second ongoing ALCOA Foundation grant, implemented in the Mures / Maros River Basin, support the monitoring efforts of Romania and Hungary in transboundary areas.

Due to the new laboratory equipment at the Arad laboratory (TOC and N total analyser and Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer), the necessary analysis of the Mures / Maros River can be carried out in response to the ICPDR and WFD reporting requirements from 2005 on. The grant will also provide effective educational opportunities that will allow professionals to gain experience with the appropriate equipment, learn about new assessment techniques, and enhance their perception on water pollution impacts.

“ALCOA’s grant to the ICPDR reflects our commitment to the environment, which is based on the principle of sustainable development”, said Juerg Furrer, Director of EHS (Environment Health and Safety) ALCOA Europe. “At ALCOA and all our worldwide facilities, we are not just in the business of making aluminium, but in safeguarding the communities and environment in which we live and work.”

A round table discussion on ‘Water quality, present and future – a worldwide problem’ was organised in Arad on Danube Day, 29 June 2005, with representatives from the ICPDR, ALCOA, and of the two beneficiary countries: Hungary (Lower Tisza Environmental Protection Agency Szeged, Lower Tisza Water Directorate Szeged, SC Marosvíz, Mez_hegyes Stud-Horse Farm), and Romania (Ministry of Environment and Water Management, National Administration of Apele Romane, Mures River Directorate, Banat River Directorate, Crisuri River Directorate, Public Health Directorate, S.N.I.F.) as well as from the local authorities: the Prefect, the Council of the County, the Mayor of Arad and other stakeholders from Mures River Basin.

Cooperation with GEF-EFEM

The objectives of the two-year French GEF project ‘Transboundary River Basin Management of the Körös/Crisuri Rivers’ are to improve the capacity of the Romanian-Hungarian Bilateral Commission as well as to assist in the preparation of the basin characterisation and procedures for a preliminary transboundary, harmonised river basin management plan in line with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The project implementation is based on the agreement between the Hungarian and Romanian Governments on the protection and sustainable use and utilisation of transboundary waters, and is financed by the French GEF.

The implementation of the Körös/Crisuri Project is coordinated by the ICPDR, through a steering committee consisting of representatives from Hungary, Romania, the ICPDR Secretariat and the project team.

The project has one component on project management and four on technical issues.

Work Package	Project activities
A	Project management - Setting up the working groups structure, follow up and general project coordination
B	Enhancement of response to accidental water pollution
C1	Support for the structuring of the Körös/Crisuri River Basin Information System “KOCRIS”
C2	Support for the current implementation of the WFD
C3	Support for the future preparation of a harmonised Körös/Crisuri river basin management plan in a participative process

The implementation of the project activities began in 2005 with missions organised by the project team to both participating countries. During these missions the project methodology for each work package was presented and input from the countries was received.

Cooperation with the Danube Black Sea Task Force

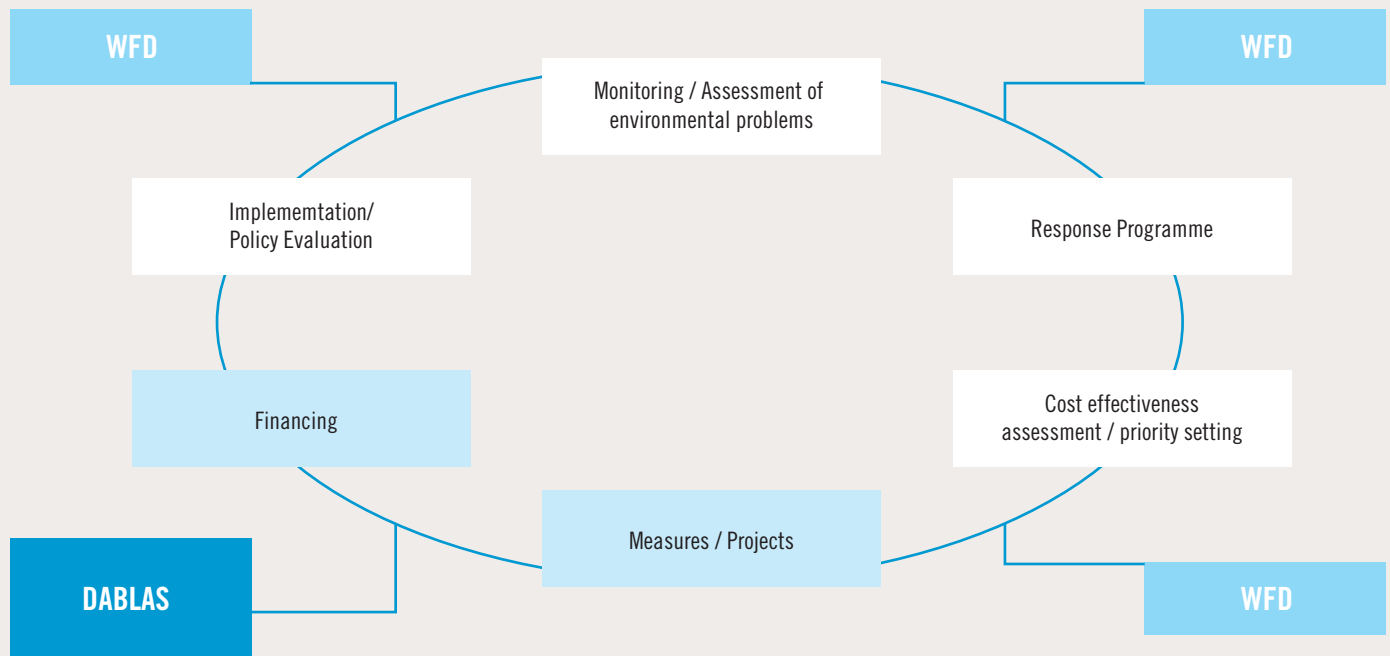
The Danube Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS) adopted a work program for 2005/2006 in June 2005, and a DABLAS Implementation Working Group was established to continue work on several activities, including the projects pipeline development and improvement of pollution reduction reporting following the DABLAS initiative.

The DABLAS Implementation Working Group agreed on new tasks in December 2005, which will be implemented jointly with the ICPDR Secretariat: they include the preparation of a strategy on how the DABLAS initiative could facilitate the financing of measures identified during the WFD implementation process, as well as the identification of special initiatives for the Black Sea and Danube Basin countries.

It was underlined that especially in EU Member States and Accession Countries, where the WFD is the driving force for integrated river basin management, DABLAS should focus on facilitating and speeding up the financing of the programme of measures as requested by the WFD.

This graph illustrates how the DABLAS initiative could support the implementation of the WFD in EU Member States and accession Countries

GRAPH 8



For all other Danube and Black Sea countries, DABLAS should explore which elements of the WFD implementation process could be beneficial for the countries and facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices.

In the Black Sea region outside the Danube River Basin, additional efforts are necessary to establish an efficient analysis and financing process based on the principles of the WFD (including coastal waters). The lessons learnt from the Danube River Basin could also be transferred to other river basins discharging into the Black Sea.

Cooperation with Coca-Cola

On June 1, The Coca-Cola Company and its largest European bottler Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company S.A. (Coca-Cola HBC) signed an agreement with the ICPDR for the joint protection and preservation of the Danube River. The aim of the partnership is to engage people in local activities that contribute to protecting and restoring the ecosystems of the Danube River Basin.

Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith, Board Director of Coca-Cola HBC, says “Through this agreement we are seeking to extend environmental initiatives outside those applied to our own operations and reach out to engage in and contribute funding for high profile programmes across the communities we serve in the Danube River region.”

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This cooperation encourages the participation of other leading companies, and brings together local governments, educational institutions, and NGOs for hands-on projects in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Coca-Cola played a significant role in the Danube Day 2005 celebrations throughout the Danube River Basin: In Hungary, Coca-Cola supported, among other projects, the distribution of ribbons, T-Shirts and informational material to approximately 50,000 people. In Slovakia, Coca-Cola helped produce posters to promote awareness about water and waste management issues. In Serbia and Montenegro Coca-Cola supported the programme, 'Our river, Our future' to raise environmental awareness and communicate their achievements in corporate social responsibility. In Romania, Coca-Cola supported the 'Danube Art Master' competition. In Bulgaria, Coca-Cola helped prepare educational leaflets on preservation of the Danube that were distributed in Sofia and cities along the Danube.

"We at The Coca-Cola Company feel it is our duty to protect and celebrate the Danube, as we recognise that its ecosystem provides us with a rich environment where we, and the communities where we operate, can prosper", says Salvatore Gabola, Director of European Public Affairs of the Coca-Cola Company European Union Group.

In addition Coca-Cola has also provided technical support for the development of the 'Business Friends of the Danube' fund as well as support for the development of educational material about the Danube River Basin.

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11. Budget and Financial Contributions

Regular Budget Financial Year 2005

The 7th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR, held in Vienna 13-14 December 2004, approved the budget of €842,223.90 for the year 2005.

Slight revisions were made to this budget in the category of Administrative Costs in the budget chapters 'Equipment' and 'Other'. The total for this category remained the same, however. The revision of the 2005 annual budget was approved by the ICPDR president on 17 January 2006. The final breakdown of the regular expenditures per budget line is as follows:

Budget Financial Year 2005	Approved rev-1 in Euro	Approved rev-2 in Euro
A) Administrative Costs		
1. Staff	544,000.00	544,000.00
2. Services	150,000.00	150,000.00
3. Equipment	20,000.00	10,000.00
4. Other	87,000.00	97,000.00
Subtotal Administrative Costs	801,500.00	801,500.00
B) Operational costs	40,723.90	40,723.90
Overall Total	842,223.90	842,223.90

By the end of Financial Year 2005, the total contributions received were €800,042.93. The contribution from Serbia and Montenegro in the amount of €42,111.20 was outstanding on 31 December 2005. At the Eighth Ordinary Meeting 11-12 Dec 2005, Serbia and Montenegro explained the reasons for the delay in paying their contribution and noted that the payment would be made at the beginning of Financial Year 2006. To offset the deficit on 31 December 2005 resulting from the outstanding payment, the amount of € 9,982.68 was used from the Working Capital Fund (WCF).

Ukraine successfully fulfilled its financial obligation for the Financial Years 2003 – 2005. The ICPDR acknowledges the full payment of the contributions from Ukraine with appreciation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina deposited the instrument of ratification to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 April 2005 and became a full contracting party to the Danube River Protection Convention. The contribution of Bosnia and Herzegovina was originally set to 5% per year. It was decided at the 8th Ordinary Meeting December 12-13, 2005 that the contribution from Bosnia and Herzegovina would be 1% of the overall total and that this amount would go to the WCF.

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Special Funds 2005

In addition to the regular budget, special funds provided by various donors have allowed the ICPDR to undertake special activities in support of the Danube River Protection Convention beyond those possible through the regular budget. All financial contributions to the ICPDR are shown separately in the account of the ICPDR.

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Support for Expert Group activities

Based upon the agreement between the ICPDR Secretariat and the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project (DRP), the ICPDR paid the meeting participation costs for Expert Group members from eligible countries and other important activities or events of the ICPDR (Danube Day 2005, Danube Watch Magazine, etc.). In 2005 a total of €158,032.91 was disbursed for these purposes. Reimbursement of €68,212.48 from the DRP was made by 31 December 2005. The balance of €89,820.43 is expected in due course in 2006.

Analytical Quality Control (AQC) 2004

Since 2001 voluntary contributions have been received by the ICPDR from contracting parties to carry out a quality control assurance programme for water quality analysis. Contributions were provided in 2004 by Hungary (€11,000.00), Slovakia (€2,000.00), Romania (€2,300.00), Germany (€4,500.00) and Austria (€2,200.00). The contributions from Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania were transferred directly to VITUKI Plc, and the German and Austrian contributions were paid through the ICPDR Secretariat.

ALCOA Foundation

Two separate projects have been supported by the ALCOA Foundation to improve the capacity of monitoring in the transboundary rivers between Romania and Hungary.

The first grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 covers the costs of purchasing and installing various water quality monitoring instruments in Romania. This equipment was installed and put into operation in 2004 and 2005. A second grant of \$262,000.00 was received in 2005 for supporting cooperation in the Mures / Maros river basin. The funding for this activity was received and the initial payments made in 2005 to Apele Romane which is carrying out the major portion of the work.

Danube – Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS II)

The DABLAS II project assisted the ICPDR to evaluate the accomplishments realised in 11 countries of the Danube River Basin, in terms of policies, legislation, regulations, and investment projects. The DG Environment of the European Commission provided financial support for these activities totalling €124,000.00. The project was completed in 2005.

UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

The ICPDR, as partner of UNESCO-WWAP, participated in this project to enhance the activities and programmes undertaken by UNESCO-WWAP. The ICPDR used funds provided in 2004 by the German government for a Danube section of the second UN World Water Development Report to be issued in 2006 and for preparation of a larger report which was completed in 2005. The project account has now been closed.

EU Project “Stakeholder Participation and Danube Day” 2005

The EU provided a grant to the ICPDR in 2005 to support the Stakeholder Conference, the Danube Day 2005, and to assist in the development of the Danube GIS. The activities under this project have been completed and the final payments will be made in 2006.

Transboundary Management of the Körös/Crisuri Basin

The ICPDR will receive over a three-year period a management fee totalling €50,000.00 from the French GEF for managing a major project for river basin management along the Körös/Crisuri River Basin. The project will continue into 2006 and the first payment instalments were made in 2005 and associated expenses to the ICPDR paid from this amount.

Danube Box – Education material

In cooperation with the Coca-Cola HBC and The Coca-Cola Company, an education kit is in preparation. The kit will be produced first in German and then translated into English and other languages of the basin. This project, supported by Coca-Cola, has been prepared by a group of environmental education experts. The first phase of the project is intended to be completed in 2006, but will be continued for several years.

Analytical Quality Control 2005

Payments for the 2005 Quality control programme were received from Germany and Austria. The expenses for this activity will be paid early in 2006 to Vituki which is carrying out the programme.

Preparation for JDS 2

The German government provided a grant of €9,500.00 to the ICPDR for work needed to prepare funding for the Joint Danube Survey in 2007. The funding strategy, documents, and initial contacts with funders have been made and ongoing efforts are underway to secure the needed funding. All expenditures for the initial work were made in 2005 and the grant obligations fulfilled.

REGULAR BUDGET Financial Year 2005 – Contribution Financial Year 2005

Contracting Parties	Contribution Keys ¹ in %	Contributions in Euro Planned	Actually paid
Germany	12.82	108,000.56	108,000.56
Austria	12.82	108,000.56	108,000.56
Czech Republic	10.69	90,012.77	90,012.77
Slovakia	9.26	78,020.67	78,020.67
Hungary	10.69	90,012.77	89,943.00
Slovenia	10.69	90,012.77	90,012.77
Croatia	9.26	78,020.67	78,020.67
Serbia & Montenegro	5.00	42,111.20	0.00
Bulgaria	5.00	42,111.20	42,111.20
Romania	9.26	78,020.67	78,020.67
Moldova	1.00	8,422.23	8,422.23
Romania	9.26	78,020.67	78,020.67
Ukraine	1.00	8,422.23	8,422.23
European Union	2.50	21,055.60	21,055.60
Total Contributions	100.00	842,223.90	800,042.93

1) Minor differences are due to rounding

Expenditures Financial Year 2005

	Approved budget in Euro	Expenditures in Euro	Engagements in Euro	Status as of 31 December 2005 in Euro
A. Administrative costs				
1. Staff	544,000.00	526,701.40	8,309.59	8,989.01
2. Services	150,500.00	119,173.58	17,567.77	13,758.65
3. Equipment	10,000.00	4,339.44	2,035.00	3,625.56
4. Other	97,000.00	87,804.34	3,555.15	5,640.51
Sub-total A	801,500.00	738,018.76	31,467.51	32,013.73
B. Operational costs	40,723.90	40,539.34	0.00	184.56
Overall total (A + B)	842,223.90	778,558.10	31,467.51	32,198.29

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ANNEX

Composition of the ICPDR in 2005

1. PRESIDENT

Hungary	Istvan ÖRI	Permanent State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water Budapest
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2. HEADS OF DELEGATION

Germany	Fritz HOLZWARTH	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Robert Schuman Platz 3, 53175 Bonn
Austria	Wolfgang STALZER	Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Section VII Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna
The Czech Republic	Jaroslav KINKOR / Jan HODOVSKY from Jun 05	Ministry of Environment Vrsovicka 65, 10010 Praha 10
Slovakia	Marian SUPEK	Ministry of Environment, Division of Water Namestie L'Stura 1, 81235 Bratislava
Hungary	Gyula HOLLÓ	Department River Basin Management, Ministry of Environment and Water Fö utca 44-50, POB 351, 1394 Budapest
Slovenia	Mitja BRICELJ	Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning Dunajska cesta 48, 1000 Ljubljana
Croatia	Zeljko OSTOJIĆ	State Water Directorate Ulica grada Vukovara 220, 10 000 Zagreb
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mehmed CERO,	Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment M.Tita 9a, 71000 Sarajevo,
	Reuf HEDZIBEGIC from Jun 05	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Musala 9, 71000 Sarajevo
	Borislav JAKSIĆ	Ministry for Urbanism, Construction, Communal Issues and Ecology Trh Srpskih Junaka 4, 78000 Banja Luka, Republika Srpska
Serbia and Montenegro	Nikola MARJANOVIĆ	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water 2a Bulevar Umetnosti, 11000 Belgrade
Bulgaria	Nikolai KOUYUMDZIEV	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water Bd. Maria Luisa 22, 1000 Sofia
Romania	Lucia Ana VARGA	State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water Management 12 B-dul Libertatii, Sect. 5, Bucharest
Moldova	Constantin MIHAILESCU	Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources 9 Cosmonautilor str., 2005 Chisinau
Ukraine	Anatolij V. GRYTSENKO / Stepan LYZUN from Nov 05	Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP) 03035 Uritskogo str., Kiev
The European Commission	Helmut BLÖCH	EC DG Environment, Unit Water and Marine Protection 1049 Brussels, Belgium

3. SECRETARIAT

Philip WELLER	Executive Secretary
Igor LISKA	Technical Expert for Water Management & Water Quality
Mihaela POPOVICI	Technical Expert for Water Management & Emissions Pollution Control
Ursula SCHMEDITJE / Birgit VOGEL from Aug. 2005	Technical Expert for River Basin Management
Károly FUTAKI	Information Management & Administration Officer
Julia KÖLBLINGER / Anna KOCH from Feb 05	Finance Officer
Jasmine BACHMANN	Expert for Public Relation & Communication
Sylvia KERSCH	Management Assistant
Marija KOSTIC	Intern-Tisza Management
Charlotte KJELLANDER	Office Support

4. CHAIRPERSONS OF THE EXPERT GROUPS AND EXPERT SUB-GROUPS

Expert Group on River Basin Management (RBM EG)	Joachim D'EUGENIO	European Commission, DG-Environment 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Expert Subgroup on GIS (GIS ESG)	Eva SOVJAKOVA	Department of Water Protection, Ministry of Environment Vrsovicke 65, 100 10 Praha 10, Czech Republic
Expert Subgroup on Economics (ECON ESG)	Ibolya GAZDAG	Ministry of Transport and Water Management Dob ut. 75-81, 1077 Budapest, Hungary
Expert Group on Ecology (ECO EG)	Adriana KLINDOVA	Ministry of Environment, Nature and Landscape Protection Dept. Namestie Ludovita Stura 1, 812 35 Bratislava, Slovakia
Expert Group on Emissions (EMIS EG)	Joachim HEIDEMEIER	Umweltbundesamt Postfach 330022, 1419 Berlin, Germany
Expert Group on Monitoring, Laboratory and Information Management (MLIM EG)	Liviu POPESCU	Senior Expert, ICIM Research & Engineering Institute for Environment Spl. Independentei 294, Sect. 6, 77703 Bucharest, Romania
Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG)	Aurel VARDUCA	ICIM Research & Engineering Institute for Environment Spl. Independentei nr 294, Sect. 6, 77703 Bucharest, Romania
Flood Expert Group (Flood EG)	Sandor TOTH	National Directorate for Environment, Nature Conservation and Water Management Marvary u. 1/c, 1012 Budapest, Hungary
ad hoc Strategic Expert Group (S EG)	Knut BEYER	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, WA I 6B Robert Schuman Platz 3, 53048 Bonn, Germany

5. OBSERVER STATUS PER 31.12. 2005

Danube Commission for Inland Navigation	International Working Association of Water Works
Danube Environmental Forum (DEF)	in the Danube Basin (IAWD)
Danube Tourism Commission (Die Donau)	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Global Water Partnership (GWP-CEE)	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
International Association for Danube Water Research (IAD; in the framework of SIL)	UNESCO/IHP – Regional Cooperation of the Danube Countries VGB PowerTech e.V.
International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (BSC)	WWF International - Danube Carpathian Programme

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