Danube River Basin Management Plan

The Danube – Challenges and Progress

ICPDR
Philip Weller
Danube Parks Ranger
Training, September 20, 2010
The Danube is a diverse region - ecologically and socially.
From the Black Forest to the Black Sea
Water is an element that connects diverse natural ecosystems and people.
European Lifeline

• Danube, 2,857km
  (Amazone 6,788km, Rhine: 1,320km)
• 27 large and over 300 small tributaries
• Danube River Basin: ~ 800,000km$^2$
• Important for: agriculture, industry, drinking water, ..
• Historical and cultural symbol
• Highly important ecosystem
  (Kopacki rit, Danube Delta, …)
Signed
on 29 June 1994
in Sofia - Bulgaria

DRPC is a legal frame for cooperation to assure the protection of water and ecological resources and their sustainable use in the Danube River Basin.
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<th>Contracting Parties</th>
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implement the Danube River Protection Convention:

- strengthen international cooperation
- ensure sustainable water management
- ensure conservation, improvement and rational use of surface waters and ground water
- reduce inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances
- control floods and ice hazards
- reduce pollution loads of the Black Sea
The EU Water Framework Directive
Danube River Basin Management Plan

Finalised in December 2009

Reflects

- Water status of the DRB waters
- Significant Water Management Issues

Includes

- Joint Programme of Measures
- Evaluation on measures implementation

Enables

- Conclusions on investment and funding
Status/Potential of Rivers - 2009

Ecological Status

- Ecological Status Good or above 3,446 rkm (14%)
- Ecological Potential Good or above 2,048 rkm (8%)
- Ecological Status Moderate or worse 6,987 rkm (28%)
- Ecological Potential Moderate or worse 6,284 rkm (25%)
- No data EU MS 346 rkm (1%)
- No data Non EU MS 6,006 rkm (24%)

Chemical Status

- Good 11,180 rkm (45%)
- Failing 6,815 rkm (27%)
- No data EU MS 1,116 rkm (4%)
- No data Non EU MS 6,007 rkm (24%)
Significant Water Management Issues

- Organic Pollution
- Nutrient Pollution
- Hazardous Substances Pollution
- Hydromorphological Alterations
Status of urban wastewater development

6224 agglomerations >2000 p.e.

4969 aggl. (21 mil. p.e.) 2,000 -10,000 p.e.

1255 aggl. (73.6 mil. p.e.) >10,000 p.e.

From 137 aggl. ≥ 100,000 p.e. (43. mil.p.e.) producing 46% of the total wastewater load generated, 21 aggl. (21% of the generated load) have no wastewater treatment.
Nutrients pollution reduction by 2015

**Nitrogen**

- Management objectives and EU WFD objectives not ensured
- N emissions to surface waters in 2015: 12% lower. Loads to the Black Sea still far above (40%) the load of the 1960’s.

**Phosphorous**

- P emissions to surface waters in 2015: 25% lower. Load to the Black Sea still above (15%) that of the 1960’s

⇒ Introduction of Phosphate free detergents in the DRB
Hazardous substances pollution

Groundwater protection

Lack of knowledge on hazardous substances in the Danube River Basin

Environmental objectives will not be achieved and further measures are needed

About 60% of the basin population depends on groundwater

Nitrates are the major groundwater contaminants

Groundwater use needs proper balance
River and habitat continuity interruption

Restoring lateral and longitudinal connectivity for fish and other organisms.
Wetland Restoration and Protection


Protecting and restoring Danube floodplains
Flood Protection

17 flood action plans for the sub-basins in the Danube catchment area;

Joint implementation of the EU Floods Directive in the Danube River Basin;

EU project Floodrisk (€ 6.5 mil) developing joint flood risk maps for the Danube and defining a common methodology.
Trans National Monitoring Network - TNMN
Our goal is to work together with other sectors to ensure that the decisions of those sectors do not damage the environment and that synergy between environmental protection and economic development can be found.
Need for Intersectoral Cooperation

Navigation
Energy – Hydropower
Water Supply
Agriculture
Nature Protection
Tourism
Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin

Joint Statement on Guiding Principles

Inland navigation and inland navigation infrastructure is an important element in ensuring sustainable development, particularly in the context of regional cooperation. Inland navigation has a significant influence on the development of trade and transport. It can, however, also have a significant influence on the environment, particularly in the context of the EU Water Framework Directive, which sets the "good ecological status" of all water bodies. Designing and building navigation infrastructure requires careful consideration of the environmental impact. The Danube River Basin is the longest river in the European Union, stretching across 10 countries and 21% of its length is located in Austria. In 2001, the European Commission endorsed the "Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Management of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin" as a way to reconcile the management of inland navigation and environmental protection in the Danube River Basin. The "Joint Statement on Guiding Principles" is a general framework for the development of inland navigation and environmental protection, aiming to ensure sustainable development.
Sustainable Waterway Planning
Hydropower
Fish migration aids
Agriculture and Land Use
Factor Affecting Water Quality
Process Towards Climate Change adaptation
Slogan: „Get Active for the Rivers“

Danube Day – promoting Danube solidarity
Outreach

DANUBE DAY

29. Juni  
WWW.DANUBEDAY.ORG

„Solidarity across the Basin“
- Linking people
- Joining forces
“Connecting people with the Danube!”

Danube campaign over 2.5 years (Sep 2011 until Feb 2014)

Objective:
Increase **awareness about Danube benefits for people** and enhance the **support for the river values**. Expand **public support for water protection and remediation of deteriorated water bodies** as a target of European water policy (EU WFD).
Danube Campaign

Travel with the exhibition to Danube cities 2012 + 2013
The Ship Negrelli
For further information see [www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)

Thank you for your attention!