

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

Component 1.1-9

**DEVELOPMENT OF SAVA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN –
PILOT PROJECT**

RER/03/G31/A/1G/31

Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia

Inception Report

Vienna, 28 February 2006

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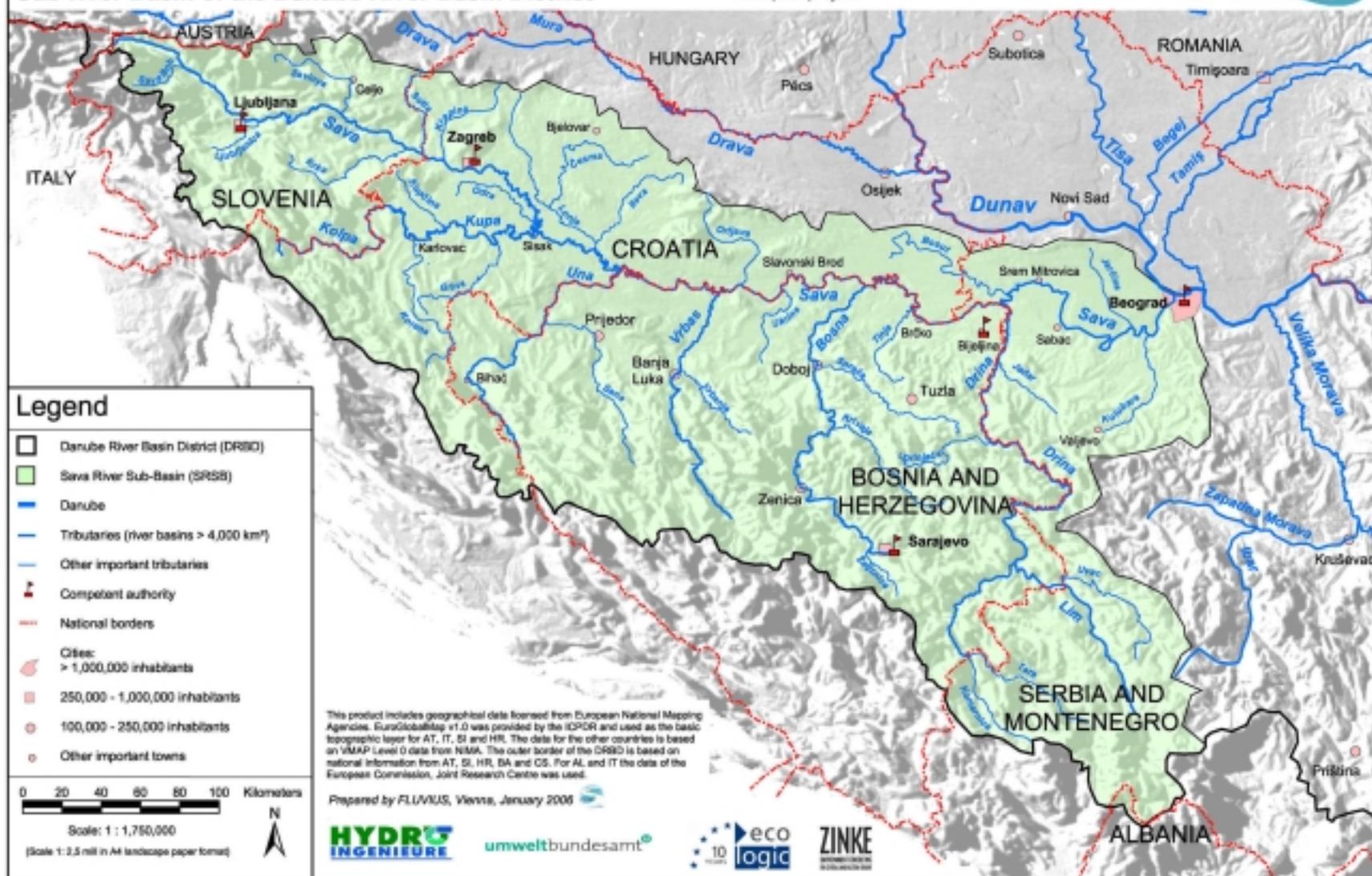
Acronyms & Abbreviations

BA	Bosnia and Hercegovina
CARDS	(EU) Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation
CS	Serbia and Montenegro
Cons.	Consultants
DRB	Danube River Basin
DRP	Danube Regional Project
EAR	European Agency for Reconstruction
EC	European Commission
EG	Expert Group
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
HR	Croatia
HMWB	Heavily Modified Water Bodies (according to WFD)
HYDRO	HYDRO Ingenieure Umwelttechnik GmbH
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ISPA	(EU) Instrument for Structural Policies for Accession
MA	(ICPDR Expert Group on) Monitoring and Assessment (formerly MLIM)
PA	(ICPDR Expert Group on) Pressures and Measures (formerly EMIS)
PoM	Programme of Measures (WFD)
PP	Public Participation
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RM	Regional Meeting
RR	Roof Report
RS	Republika Srpska (Entity within BA)
SC	Sava Commission
SGP	Small Grants Programme of the DRP
SI	Slovenia
ToR	Terms of Reference
TL	Team Leader
UBA	Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Austrian Federal Environment Agency)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WFD	EU Water Framework Directive
WG	Working Group
WS	Workshop

Sava River Basin Overview Map

Sub-river Basin of the Danube River Basin District

GEF-DRP Support to the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (WFD) - DRB pilot project



Legend

- Danube River Basin District (DRBD)
- Sava River Sub-Basin (SRSB)
- Danube
- Tributaries (river basins > 4,000 km²)
- Other important tributaries
- Competent authority
- National borders
- Cities:
- > 1,000,000 inhabitants
- 250,000 - 1,000,000 inhabitants
- 100,000 - 250,000 inhabitants
- Other important towns

0 20 40 60 80 100 Kilometers

Scale: 1 : 1,750,000

(Scale 1:2.5 mil in A4 landscape paper format)

This product includes geographical data licensed from European National Mapping Agencies. EuroGlobalMap v1.0 was provided by the ICPDR and used as the basic topographic layer for AT, IT, SI and HR. The data for the other countries is based on VMAP Level 0 data from NIMA. The outer border of the DRBD is based on national information from AT, SI, HR, BA and CS. For AL and IT the data of the European Commission, Joint Research Centre was used.

Prepared by FLUVIUS, Vienna, January 2006



1 Introduction

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) supports and complements the activities of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) to provide and sustain a regional approach to the development of national water management policies and legislation in the DRB.

The pilot project for the development of a Pragmatic Sava RBM Plan constitutes an activity (1.1-9) within the DRP's objective regarding the "*Creation of sustainable ecological conditions for land use and water management*". The actual assignment is based on the outputs and outcomes of Phase 1 (April 2003 to February 2004) in which important data and information on water management and socio-economic issues of the WFD have been collected in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia & Montenegro.

Phase 1 has provided a first overview in quality and quantity of data gaps on WFD implementation, strongly varying from country to country and depending on the innovative character of a specific WFD subject, compared with the level of water management and economic data bases in Sava countries in the past 15 years. Even though several efforts by the Sava countries were undertaken in 2004 and 2005 to fill in these gaps (partly with support of the ICPDR and GEF-DRP), many gaps do still exist and some can be filled in in the course of this GEF-DRP support (i.e. by February 2007).

Therefore, this GEF component rather focuses on **sustainable capacity building of national institutions** but not on simply delivering a package of upgraded data by an outside Consultant team.

The **objective** of this assignment is to support the development of a Pragmatic Sava RBM Plan until February 2007, while in the long-term (by 2009) a Sava RBM Plan completely in line with EU WFD requirements and ICPDR guidance should be completed by Sava countries (facilitated by the Sava Commission). This RBM Plan, together with the related national RBM plans, will serve as the main instruments to start concrete actions with regard to transboundary issues in the Sava river basin and will also constitute the basis for future investments by international and bilateral donors.

It was only in July 2005, that the **Sava Commission (SC)** started to officially exist, and its Secretariat started to be built up only in January 2006. Its Sava Expert Groups are expected to become operational only after this Inception Period. All these bodies are important counterparts of this GEF Component.

Other important counterparts are EC CARDS projects, in particular the CARDS Regional Sava project (11/2004 to 10/2007) which also aims at support the national capacities in WFD implementation (partly through local pilot implementation projects). Other relevant support projects exist in Bosnia & Hercegovina and Croatia (CARDS national programme), Slovenia (ISPA pilot implementation project), and in Serbia & Montenegro (projects by the European Agency for Reconstruction). Some link was also established to the GEF-DRP Component 3.1. NGO Small Grants Programme, where in 2006 a new regional grant will be implemented by NGOs from all Sava countries (leader: Green Action, Zagreb).

Due to the fact that at the time of actual start of this Component work (mid November 2005), there is

- A substantial time gap between the end of Phase 1 (February 2004) and the start of Phase 2 of this Component;
- Various national progress made by Sava basin governments in the organisation and capacity-building of water management as well as in their preparedness to implement the WFD (e.g. past inputs into Danube Roof Report chapters, current drafting of national WFD reports);
- Changed assistance needs with respect to the WFD and the river basin cooperation;

it was agreed with the DRP Office to **invest more time than originally planned for the Inception Phase** to verify the planned activities in comparison with the present needs and to

specify the most beneficial activities under the given work Tasks 1-4 of the ToR. This has also resulted in small adjustments of the Project and Task titles (see below).

It is further very important to link and communicate the planned Sava activities with the work going on at **ICPDR** level, especially in the RBM Expert Group. This has released in December 2005 a "**Road Map for the development of the Danube RB District MP 2005 to 2010**", which includes various activities on the PoM development at sub-basin and Danube basin level (e.g. Danube key issue papers on Hydromorphology, organic and nutrient pollution, and hazardous substances; task group work on the economic analysis; a "basic structure" of the RBMP etc.). Such coordination will also be important with the second pilot basin next to the Sava, i.e. the Tisza where the drafting of a RBM Plan has already started: The adapted transfer of the drafted Tisza templates for WFD reporting to the Sava basin within the GEF Sava Component is of special interest for the RBM EG.

This progress on WFD implementation at Sava and Danube level is thus creating positive circumstances for practical assistance to the Sava countries and for starting to work on the transboundary dimension and preparing the Sava RBMP. In addition, the work on the Sava RBMP will provide insights on the practical implications of the approach chosen for the preparation of the Danube RBMP as described in the road map.

Together with the other WFD-related projects going on in the Sava region, this GEF Component has therefore the potential to result in an "added value" at both the Sava countries and the Danube basin levels.

2 Activities during the Inception Phase and its main results

2.1 Start of Activities, Kick-off Meeting and first contacting

Right upon their awarding, the Consultants hold their first meeting on 16 November 2005 with the DRP Office and the ICPDR Secretariat. This served to agree on the first contacting of Beneficiaries, the preparation of the Kick-off meeting and the overall organisation of work. A few days later, the Consultants distributed an excerpt of their offer to the DRP to all key stakeholders (Sava basin governments, CARDS Regional Sava project, CARDS water quality project in BA, SC Secretariat).

The official Kick-off meeting (13 December 2005) right after the ICPDR Annual Conference served the DRP Office and the ICPDR Secretariat to present the new Consultants team who then explained their draft execution concept to the Beneficiaries. This meeting also served to learn about the local expectations and to agree on the next steps of the Inception Period. Special participants present were the designated Executive Secretary of the Sava Commission and the Team Leader of the CARDS Regional Sava project. Details of the meeting are given in Annex 1 (Meeting Minutes).

Prior to this meeting, the Consultants met with the TL of the CARDS Sava project to assess fields of cooperation and possible overlapping.

2.2 Inception Mission (Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade: 17-20 January 2006)

This mission served to present to national water management authorities and experts in HR, BA and CS the planned content of the DRP Component, and to identify and specify the concrete content of the project and to learn more about the assistance needs in Croatia, Bosnia & Hercegovina and Serbia & Montenegro. For preparation of the meetings, the Consultants distributed a table of potential issues for support within the WFD. This table was then also discussed and filled in during the mission.

Three Consultants met during this mission with some ten national representatives in each city and jointly concluded their findings. Side meetings were held with the Team Leaders of the CARDS Regional Sava projects, the Bosnian CARDS projects on Water Quality (Programme 2003) and Water Institutions capacity building (Programme 2002). Another meeting was held with the European Agency for Reconstruction regarding their Serbian support activities (monitoring, WFD twinning).

The mission results are as follows:

- There are a lot of activities promoting and supporting WFD implementation in the Sava countries, most with assistance of international projects (see below). It is therefore crucial to avoid duplication of work, and to carefully assess and address the gaps.
- The pool of relevant national experts dealing with WFD implementation in all Sava countries is relatively small, and they work both on national water management tasks as well as on international tasks (input into ICPDR work, Sava Commission, international assistance projects).
- Additionally, Croatia has started its pre-accession negotiations with the EC which could address inter alia potentially new transition periods for the fulfilment of EU legislation (including water management regulations): This leads to uncertainties on the HR capacity to present all WFD-related capacity and information gaps.
- Thus, all relevant institutions are confronted with a very heavy work load, linked with limited resources available for any new activity.
- On the other hand, this GEF Component is welcomed too support the countries in completing the Danube River Basin Roof Report and in developing the main transboundary key issues, the preliminary program of measures and the structure of RBM plan for the Sava.
- Further, this GEF assistance focusing on the development of a RBMP in accordance with the WFD comes with good timing, not only for the finalisation of Danube RR and CARDS Sava pilot projects, but also for a good start of the Sava Commission and its Secretariat. Regular supervision of activities and close coordination with the ICPDR shall be secured through the GEF Component's Steering Committee (tentatively named "*GEF Sava Working Group*")
- In order to prevent misunderstandings or wrong expectations, the following adjustments to the overall title of the GEF Component and its tasks have been proposed and discussed with the Beneficiaries, reflecting the specific content of activities:

Old Component title:

Development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan – pilot project

Revised Component title:

“Support to the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (WFD) – DRB pilot project”

Revised Task titles:

- **Task 1: “Gap analysis for the completion of the Danube RR and assistance to current WFD activities”**
- **Task 2: “Support to the description of key transboundary issues (Pressures and Impacts)”**
- **Task 3: “Support to the development of topics for a Programme of Measures”**
- **Task 4: “Structure of the Sava River Basin Management Plan”**

Therefore, it is important for the GEF Component to:

- Provide assistance closely related to the institutions' current work and most pressing WFD activities (Task 1)
- Produce, with the support of Local Consultants, a concise, up-to-date gap analysis based on the recent work performed in the countries (Task 1)

- Help preparing the next steps of WFD implementation (transboundary issues, selection of measures, structure of RBM Plan) closely linked to the upcoming needs at the Sava basin level (Tasks 2-4)

Details of the Mission results are given in [Annex 2](#) (Inception Mission Report).

2.3 Drafting of the Inception Report

Based on the above findings, the Consultants revised their offered services and prepared a draft Inception Report, which they discussed and agreed with the DRP Office and ICPDR Secretariat, before distributing it on 3 February 2006 to all Beneficiaries, the Sava Commission Secretariat and the CARDS Regional Sava project.

2.4 Results of the Inception Workshop (Zagreb, 22 February 2006)

Objective of this workshop was to agree on the Inception Report and related future activities. Thanks to the participation of all key stakeholders (representatives of the 4 Beneficiary countries, Sava Commission Secretariat, ICPDR, DRP office, Cards Regional Sava project, NGO "Green Action as well as the International and Local Consultants), this workshop could produce agreement on the overall work plan and all pending issues. Important items were the actual work under Task 1.1 (the new Sava templates will first be circulated for comments and later filled in with *meta data*), Task 1.2. (linking the identified gaps with the assistance subjects also in the CARDS Sava workshops) and on the role of the Sava Commission and its new RBM Expert Group with respect to this DRP component management.

The workshop **Minutes** and the finalised Inception Report were circulated and endorsed for publication at the DRP webpage. The Minutes of the workshop are attached in [Annex 3](#).

3 Co-operation with other technical assistance projects

Based on the need for strong co-operation and coordination mentioned above, the project team has established close links to the relevant international projects:

3.1 EU-CARDS-Regional Sava Project

Main link and coordination has been immediately established with this project, since its timing and content complements very much with the GEF Sava Component.

It became evident that it is important to stress the differences in the main levels addressed in the two activities:

- The **CARDS Sava project** provides important baseline information about the WFD for national institutions and supports the execution of concrete local pilot projects (preparation of River Basin Characterisation Reports) in three sub-basins of the Sava (Kupa/HR, Vrbas/BA, Kolubara/CS). It is a large EU assistance project running over 3 years and includes various WFD capacity building with national and regional workshops.
- The **GEF SAVA Component** has a regional perspective, starting with a support of national institutions to report to the Danube basin WFD Roof Report and then addressing the Sava basin's transboundary dimensions through the development of the Sava basin Roof Report. It is a small UNDP assistance project running over 16 months.

It has become clear that the experts in the beneficiary countries involved in both cases are to a large extent identical, mainly due to the relatively small water administrations.

3.2 Other relevant assistance projects

The most important projects are:

- CARDS BA: River basin programme - capacity building of water institutions (water law, GIS system, setting up water management companies)
CARDS national programme 2002: *ends in March 2006*

Water quality management plan incl. monitoring network (CARDS national programme 2003): *April 2005 – March 2007*
- CARDS Serbia Capacity building of the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Directorate for Water (twinning project): *to be started in April 2006*
- ISPA SI Preparation of the Krka river basin management plan (pilot sub-basin): *November 2004 – September 2006*
- GEF-DRP SGP Granted project on “Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in the Sava river basin” (*January – December 2006*)

Here, the links to the GEF Component are not so specific; but it has been agreed to exchange information and provide inputs to each other as necessary.

4 Co-ordination with other activities at the Danube basin level

This Sava basin activity will regularly coordinate with the Danube basin activities in two ways:

- It provides **regular feedback** from the work underway at the Sava level to the relevant ICPDR bodies (Secretariat, Expert Groups etc.) and the DRP project office. Of special interest is the transfer of knowledge and experience gained esp. on the first steps towards a Sava RBMP.
- It uses recent outputs from the Danube level (e.g. specifications of the Danube basin Road Map e.g. point 2.2.2. “Management of key issues for PoM” issue papers on nutrients/organic pollution, decision scheme defining priority need of measures etc.) or from other Danube sub-basins (in particular the **Tisza**) for the work at the Sava.

Important: Such inputs must be available to the GEF Component until September 2006 in order to be taken into account within the short timeframe of this Sava Component.

5 Methodological approach for project implementation

Based on the above the methods applied use the following approach:

- The GEF-DRP time and budget constraints limit the capacity to provide support to the Beneficiaries or to work on a similar level like e.g. the CARDS Regional Sava project. Compromises include to focus on a few priority subjects (WFD issues), on a small number of travels/meetings/workshops, on short-time assistance with limited preparation and reporting.
- In Task 1, the assistance will - as good as possible - meet current assistance needs of Beneficiaries and link to other WFD support activities, notably the CARDS Regional Sava project, and to the ICPDR work.

- In Tasks 2-4, the GEF assistance will initiate and support the needed preparation works aiming at a Sava RBM Plan. This assistance will produce a structured outline for a RBM Plan but with agreed strategic elements (transboundary key issues, topics for a Programme of Measure, structure of the future Sava RBM Plan).
- Complementing specific assistance issues raised at the CARDS project has been considered as a positive contribution of this project, esp. since the expert group targeted is similar;
- While the GEF assistance will focus on three (HR, BA and CS) of the four Sava countries, Slovenia will be invited to attend and actively participate into all regional workshops in order to assure Sava basin-wide view, assessments and results.

6 Work Plan for project execution

The aim of the Inception Phase has been to specify the content, timing and outputs of the specific tasks of the project based on interactions with and needs of the different Beneficiaries. This has resulted in the agreed activities presented below. This description is based on the TOR given by GEF-DRP and on the Technical Proposal of the International Consultant team, but was further developed and specified during the Inception Phase.

6.1 Description of activities under each Component Task

6.1.1. Task 1: Gap analysis for the completion of the Danube RR and assistance to current WFD activities

Task 1.1.: Gap Analysis for WFD implementation in the Sava RB

Objective: *Identify the most important gaps of information and capacity to implement the WFD, specifically the Danube Roof Report and the upcoming Sava Roof Report.*

Execution: The Gap Analysis will start already during the Inception Phase, assessing the quality of national information received for the Danube Roof Report at the ICPDR Secretariat in 2004 and 2005 as well as from the GEF-DRP Phase 1 results, and indicate first gaps. This will be further discussed with Beneficiaries, making use of a simple overview table comparing the WFD implementation chapters in HR, BA and CS and agreeing on those issues that should receive priority assistance (*quality analysis*). The first result is the list of priority issues for assistance:

- **Groundwater** (including classification, delineation esp. in karst situations, risk assessment, information gaps);
- **Surface water** (point and diffuse pollution, hydro-morphological alterations, HMWB, reference conditions, risk analysis);
- **Economic analysis** of water use for the RR reporting;
- **Socio-economic aspects** for the preparation of the RBMP in the transboundary context (HMWB and other exemptions, new modifications - navigation), cost-effectiveness of measures, cost recovery

Other issues of potential assistance are:

- European experiences with the fulfilment of **relevant EU Directives** / possibilities and limitations for the beneficiary countries: Urban waste water, drinking water etc.]
- European experiences with the **setup of water management institutions**: competencies and reporting, both horizontal (between ministries) and vertical (central – decentral).

In the second step, the Tisza WFD Report templates will be transferred to the Sava basin and used for an extended *gap quality analysis*. These Tisza templates have been developed in 2005 by the Tisza countries and the ICPDR RBM EG, and can serve as models for the Sava. In communication with the ICPDR Secretariat, the Intl. Consultants will adjust them to the Sava level. The completion of the templates will be performed by the Local Consultants and focus on the clear indication related to the *availability and quality* of WFD-required data and information (*meta data*). Differences from outputs already reported on the DRB Roof Level and the newly developed information will be identified and assessed. The contents and filling-in of the new Sava templates will be closely coordinated with the Beneficiary authorities.

The filled-in Sava template meta data further facilitate the Intl. Cons. in communication with the Local Cons. and the Beneficiaries to conclude the Gap Analysis and to specify more exactly the assistance to be provided in Task 1.2.

Outputs: A Gap Analysis for each Sava country, including the filled-in WFD templates for the Sava RB (limited to *meta data*). These can be further used by the Beneficiaries and Sava Commission for future development.

No.	Activities	Time
1.2	Prepare the gap analysis and instruct Local Consultants	Jan. – Mar.
1.3	Expand the gap analysis with Local Consultants, using the Tisza templates	Mar. – June
1.4	Conclude results from Local Cons. (filled-in Sava templates), identify and develop capacity building measures based on the found gaps	End April - June
1.9	Produce report (Gap Analysis)	Sept. 2006

Task 1.2.: Assistance on selected WFD Issues

Objective: *Support the three Sava countries in their concrete WFD reporting, addressing selected issues and using different assistance tools.*

Execution: Based in the main topics of assistance identified, prioritised and specified during the Inception Phase and through the Gap Analysis, the Intl. Consultants will offer assistance in three ways:

1.2.1. Transfer of international experience with WFD reporting via **in-situ working sessions** closely linked to the CARDS Sava project: Relevant **Technical** (subject-specific) **CARDS workshops** are planned for

- May and October 2006 (on Pressures, Economic Analysis, Socio-economic aspects)
- May and October 2006 (on Hydromorphological Alterations, HWMB).

Plan is to make use of these CARDS workshops where relevant national experts will be present (i.e. prevent organising a similar event) and to complement the CARDS project with those WFD fields where the GEF-DRP project can contribute to the preparation of WFD reports.

At the DRP working sessions (tentatively on the first day), presentations will be given by Intl. Consultants on how to address identified, specific WFD topics in national and regional WFD reports. This will include discussions with the national government experts, who are then asked to report from their specific problems and to comment on the international advises. The contents/presentations will be coordinated with the CARDS consultants and will rather start with the ICPDR view to the Sava region. The exact topics of DRP presentations and the allocation of available capacities of Intl. Consultants within the CARDS workshops will be agreed in the coming weeks on the base of the gap analysis. These joint workshops will reduce the number of regional meetings that all participants are asked to attend within the EU and GEF assistance, i.e. save time and costs.

Two Intl. Consultants will attend one day each and provide the described assistance. GEF-DRP funds will further cover an extra day involvement into the workshops but not the costs of local participants (extra night, catering) at the two workshops nor their travel.

1.2.2. Transfer of international experience with WFD reporting via interactive working sessions in Vienna (Federal Environment Agency). Here a small group of national government experts will be invited to stay for some 3 days to present their reporting problems to a number of different EU experts available in Vienna. This action will allow more detailed expert discussions as well as reflections how to best cooperate at Sava basin level with the WFD reporting.

Working Sessions are planned in June, with days 1 and 5 being travel days and days 2 to 4 providing the working sessions (small group presentations, personal discussions to assess the concrete problems). Topics of these sessions will depend in the results of the detail gap analysis (see Activity 1.1.), but may include groundwater, GIS, institutional set up.

GEF-DRP funds will cover the costs of up to 12 local participants (incl. per diem, travel) from HR, BA and CS. More experts can attend at their own costs.

1.2.3. As another assistance tool, the Intl. Consultants offer an **electronic Workshop Follow-up** to the national government experts. This is meant as a communication service where the items and procedures presented and discussed in workshops and meetings before can be checked and improved in the following months (all governments plan to finish their national WFD reports in December 2006 to the ICPDR). This interactive support (i.e. mails with questions) is based on the completion of draft national WFD reports (in English), on interim results in the CARDS pilot projects and on some recent insights of the Intl. Consultants into the national reporting situation. It is provided without travel and personal meetings and at a tentative volume of two working days of Intl. Consultants per Beneficiary country.

Outputs: A short report describing the various WFD subjects addressed and the related assistances provided, including – to the extent possible – an evaluation of the success.

No.	Activities	Time
1.5	Prepare regional assistance in coordination with the CARDS Workshops	March 2006
1.6	Provide assistance to Beneficiaries at the CARDS Technical Workshops	May/Oct.
1.7	Provide assistance to Beneficiaries at a Workshop in Vienna (capacity building)	June-Sept.
1.8	Provide electronic follow-up assistance to Beneficiaries	Apr. – Nov.
1.9	Produce report (assistance)	Dec. 2006

6.1.2. Task 2: Support to the Description of Key Transboundary Issues (Pressures and Impacts)

Objective: *Initiate and support the agreement on key transboundary issues for the Sava RB.*

Execution: This activity is the first step into preparing the Sava RBM Plan and will be very important for the further work at the Sava level and especially for the Sava Commission. It will be based on similar work done in other river basins (e.g. Rhine, Meuse, Tisza), and make use of documents developed at the ICPDR (incl. GEF-PRP Transboundary Analysis 1999).

Based on international experience on developing key transboundary issues, the Intl. Consultants will ask (via a template) the Local Consultants to discuss and develop an initial

list of key transboundary issues with the national government experts. The results will be assessed and merged by the Intl. Consultants for discussion and agreement at a regional workshop, tentatively in Sarajevo (as day 1 of a 2.5 days workshop addressing also Task 3). This process will make use of the Danube key issues (see the related new RBM EG issue paper) at the Sava level.

The regional workshop will conclude preliminary key transboundary issues for the Sava basin. It will be linked to the workshop under Activity 3.5.

Output: A short report on agreed list of preliminary key transboundary issues for the Sava basin.

No.	Activities	Time
2.2	Prepare template for and execute national consultations	July – Aug.
2.3	Assess regional results and design draft criteria and issues for the Sava RB	Sept.
2.4	Organize regional consultation meeting	Sept.
2.5	Regional Consultation Meeting (Discussion of criteria and issues)	Oct.
2.6	Reporting (list of preliminary key transboundary issues)	Nov. 2006

6.1.3. Task 3: Support to the Development of Topics for a Programme of Measures

Objective: *Initiate and support the agreement on the topics (strategic priorities) of the future Programme of Measures.*

Execution: Taking into account the early stage of WFD implementation in 2006 (compared to the need to prepare an RBMP by 2009), it was agreed with ICPDR and the Beneficiaries that in this GEF Component focus will be on the topics of such Measures that are expected to best contribute to achieve the WFD objectives in the Sava basin in the future. Therefore, the focus of this Task will be on a regional discussion and agreement on the types of such Measures that are best suitable for addressing the key transboundary issues of the Sava region. Again, the development of this Activity will be based on international experience, i.e. the Intl. Consultants will ask (via a template) the Local Consultants to discuss and develop an initial list of types of Measures with the national government experts. The results will be assessed and merged by the Intl. Consultants for making concrete proposals for criteria and contents of the PoM (discussing sub-basin WFD objectives), which then will be discussed and finalised at a regional workshop (tentatively in Sarajevo).

The execution of Task 3 will be linked to that of Task 2 (Activity 2.6), which will help to make best use of the available time and funds of all experts to be involved (day 2 of a 2.5 days workshop).

Output: A short report on agreed list of preliminary priority types of Measures for the Sava basin. General recommendations on how to develop Sava basin objectives based on Danube basin experience.

No.	Activities	Time
3.2	Prepare template for and execute national consultations	July – Aug.
3.3	Assess regional results and develop criteria/process for selecting measure topics (transboundary issues) for the Sava RB	Sept.
3.4	Regional Meeting (discussion of the PoM topics)	Oct.
3.5	Reporting (preliminary topics for Programme of Measures)	Nov. 2006

6.1.4. Task 4: Structure of the Sava River Basin Management Plan

Objective: *Initiate and support the agreement on the structure of the future Sava RBM Plan.*

Execution: Taking into account the early stage of WFD implementation in 2006 (compared to the need to prepare an RBMP by 2009), it was agreed with ICPDR and the Beneficiaries that in this GEF Component a structure for the Sava RBM Plan will be produced. This will be based on the EU (CIS) and ICPDR (Road Map) guidances but also reflect the current Sava results and consultations, i.e. what character/content and quality of such a Plan can be expected by 2009.

The Intl. Consultant will also prepare a draft “Road Map” for the Sava RBM Plan, tuned with the new Danube RBMP Road Map. Even though this was not foreseen in the ToR, it was found useful by the Beneficiaries and the Sava Commission to have such a document available for further discussions.

The draft Sava RBMP structure as well as the proposed Road Map will be presented and discussed at a final, 2-days regional workshop (tentatively in Belgrade). This meeting will also serve to summarise and conclude the overall results of the DRP Component.

As regards the aspect of **public participation**, it was agreed that, different to the ToR, the general PP strategy for the Sava basin prepared by the REC will be reviewed, taking into account that strategy already developed for the Danube basin. The findings of the review on the Sava PP strategy will be presented at the final workshop.

Output: A short report on agreed RBMP structure and related Road Map as well as the findings of the reviewed PP strategy for the Sava basin.

No.	Activities	Time
4.2	Prepare draft structure and Road Map for Sava RBM Plan	Dec.
4.3	Organize regional workshop	Dec.
4.4	Review the Sava Public Participation strategy	Dec. 2006
4.5	Workshop (discussion of the RBM Plan structure; conclude Component results)	Jan. 2007
4.6	Brief meeting report with RBM Plan structure and draft Final Report	Febr. 2007

6.2 Input of the Local Consultants

The Local Consultants will be involved resp. providing key input in the following activities:

Task no.	Activity	HR	BA	CS	SI
0.6	Inception Workshop				
1.3.	Prepare and conduct Gap Analysis				
1.4	Conclude Gap Analysis				
2.2.	Natl. consultation Key Transb. Issues				
2.5.	WS – discussion of criteria and issues				
3.2.	Natl. consultation – topics for PoM				
3.5.	WS – discussion of criteria and topics				
4.5.	Concluding Workshop				

6.3 Timing of activities/milestones and reporting schedule

6.3.1. Timing and Milestones

6.3.2. Reporting schedule

Deliverables	Date
1. Inception Report	March 1, 2006 (middle of month 4)
2. Roof Report Gap Analysis	Until July 15, 2005 (end of month 8)
3. Report on provided WFD assistance (Task 1)	Until December 15, 2005 (end of month 13)
4. Preliminary List of Trans-boundary Key Issues (Task 2)	Until 15 November 2006 (end of month 12)
5. Preliminary Topics for Programme of Measures (Task 3)	Until 15 November 2006 (end of month 12)
6. Structure of Sava River Basin Management Plan (Task 4)	Until February 15, 2007 (end of month 15)
7. Draft Final Report	Until March 15, 2007 (end of month 16)
8. Progress Reports	15 June 2006, 15 November 2006

6.4 Work Organization

The project activities will be undertaken in close cooperation with the relevant ICPDR expert groups (RBM EG, MA EG and PM EG), the Sava Commission Secretariat, the Sava CARDS project and national authorities coordinating the implementation of the WFD.

The main steering body supervising the execution of this assignment, will be the **GEF Sava WG**. It will include representatives from the following bodies:

- The Beneficiary countries (HR, BA, CS and SI)
- The Sava Commission Secretariat
- The ICPDR
- The GEF-DRP

Meetings of the Sava WG should preferably coincide with the planned regional Component workshops in October 2006 and January 2007 (concluding WS).

The International Consultants considers co-ordination meeting(s) with the ICPDR RBM EG important, and will try to attend and report at these meetings, when-ever possible (e.g. In February 2006 in Budapest).

6.5 Risks and assumptions

Number of involved parties: The project involves a great number of parties located in the Sava region bearing the risk of organizational and administrative difficulties. Moreover, the Sava river basin covers parts of the territory of 4 states, making it necessary to work in a transboundary context with sometimes differing cultural approaches. However, the Consultant Team, has gained experience and knowledge in coordinating all parties, partly already involved during Phase 1 of the GEF-DRP project and the preparation of the CARDS Sava project.

Development of Gap Analysis: This activity will be based on available information from former GEF projects (DRP Phase 1), ICPDR (e.g. Secretariat and RBM EG) and on the current work on WFD reports undertaken by Beneficiaries. Some gaps will become evident from the filling in of the new Sava RR templates by Local Consultants. No detail check of

gaps or upgrading of such information will then be possible under this Component. The gap evaluation for the region and the conclusion for capacity building measures will be communicated from the Intl. Consultants to the Beneficiaries but no meeting/workshop will be done.

Design of preliminary criteria: The discussion between the riparian states on preliminary criteria for the identification of significant transboundary key issues as stipulated in Task 2 could be difficult and long lasting due to the political dimension of this issue. However, the Consultant Team will seek to adjust the criteria prior to the discussion with all involved parties so that the process of criteria identification can be carried out smoothly during the meeting. Not only in this context, the Consultant Team benefits from related experience and contacts gained in the GEF Pollution Reduction Programme (1997-1999), in similar processes at ICPDR level (e.g. drafting of the Danube Roof Report) and in Phase 1 of the GEF-DRP project.

Sustainability: In the Consultant Team's point of view the careful selection of people to be assisted is crucial for a sustainable project success, as knowledge can only be multiplied in the ministries and related institutions and be available in future if imparted to people who personally deal with WFD related issues.

Cooperation with relevant authorities: The project bears to some extent the risk that authorities are not fully willing to cooperate in developing a basin-wide RBM plan. This could influence the communication between the Consultant Team and the respective authority or – especially due to the aftermath of the Yugoslavian wars – between different national authorities.

Broad TORs spectrum: Comparing the broad TORs spectrum with the limited budget and time frame, this GEF Sava Component will address specific aspects within river basin management. Thus, the Consultant Team seeks to underline this basin and interdisciplinary orientated approach during the capacity building process by all means while the concentration on selected aspects will be based on a prioritization process developed during the capacity building.

Number of participants in capacity building measures: Due to the limited time and budget, some 12 participants can become involved in the capacity building sessions at the UBA (Federal Environment Agency) in Vienna. The Consultant Team aims at extending the capacity building to more persons from national institutions in two ways: First by addressing WFD issues during the national consultations and at two CARDS workshops where it is expected that the same group of national experts (representatives of national authorities) will attend. Here, mainly simple issues will be assessed already and some capacity building provided. Second, by providing the training in Vienna on more complex WFD issues in such a way that its key contents can be easily disseminated at national level by the Vienna training participants upon their return back home. The Consultant will also provide the national authorities an electronic follow-up support to assure that assistance is also available after the personal discussions and that some new questions can still be checked with the Consultants.

7 Annexes

7.1. Annex 1

Minutes of the GEF-DRP SAVA Kick-off Meeting Vienna, December 13, 2006
December 21, 2005

Participants	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representatives of the ICPDR (Philip Weller, Birgit Vogel, J. Bachmann) ▪ Representatives of the GEF-DRP (Peter Whalley, Viennelyn Baba) ▪ Representatives of Bosnia & Herzegovina (Naida Andelic, Velinka Topalovic) ▪ Representatives of Slovenia (Mitja Bricelj, Stefanija Novak) ▪ Representatives of Serbia & Montenegro (Nikola Marjanovic, Miodrag Milovanovic, Milan Dimkic, Mladen Vucinic) ▪ Representatives of Croatia: <i>not attending!</i> ▪ Representative of the Sava Commission Secretariat (Dejan Komatina) ▪ Representative of the Cards Regional Sava Project (Senad Ploco) ▪ Representatives of the DRP Consultant Team (Paul Schaller, Alexander Zinke, Ulrich Schwarz, Martin Edthofer, Georg Windhofer, Thomas Dworak)

Start of Meeting 3:10 p.m.

A)	Opening and introduction by Mr. Whalley (GEF-DRP) and Mr Weller (ICPDR Secretariat)
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Purpose of the meeting was to present the awarded Consultant team and to discuss the focus and timing of the Inception Phase.

Mr Bricelj excused Mr Ostojic (HR) who could not attend and stressed that the Sava Commission is strongly committed to this project.

B)	Presentation of the Consultant team and their project concept by Mr. Schaller
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See Annex!

C)	Issues which have been discussed and commented during the meeting:
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Mr Whalley stressed that the ToR had been discussed and distributed to all HoDs for discussion before the tendering process (i.e. summer 2005), and the DRP team had incorporated any comments received. Further, the list of the upcoming project activities has a certain flexibility to adapt to the local needs to be expressed during the Inception Phase. Mr Zinke stressed that these ToR are the base of the Consultants offer and of the contract with the DRP. The project has to be seen as a support, not as a full solution for all problems.

The comments made by some country representatives indicated that a detail reflection of the planned work had not been possible so far but will be subject of the meetings in January.

Participants were reminded of the projects' *specific objectives* (capacity building for WFD reporting, support for developing the Sava RBM Plan) and of the results from DRP-Sava Phase 1 (e.g. "*pragmatic Sava RBM Plan, preliminary Programme of Measures*", "*Sava Working Group*"),).

The work split up into 4 Tasks will result in increased capacities of the Beneficiaries to respond to WFD implementation and reporting. Correspondingly, output in February 2007 will not be a WFD Programme of Measures or a Sava RBM Plan but only some model resp. its structure (skeleton, grid), based on the guidance by the ICPDR for the Danube RBMP and the Tisza RBMP. This grid will have to be filled in by the governments in the future. The Beneficiaries asked to adapt the project title to the actual work and main output; this will be concluded in the Inception Report.

Another important character will be the close coordination with similar projects in the region, namely the CARDS projects. All key persons/institutions involved are aware of the need to prevent overlapping of support projects (as strongly encouraged by Mr Ploco). This could be achieved by early tuning the activities and subjects as well as by sorting out the differences (e.g. this project will focus on transboundary key issues, the regional CARDS project on local pilot basins). The same understanding lies with the leading role that the ICPDR and the Sava Commission with their Expert Groups play (e.g. ICPDR WFD road map and work plan).

Serbia-Montenegro emphasizes to concentrate on what is "left to be done". Mr. Ploco points out that participants to attend these trainings or seminars have partially become tired of these activities. A joint idea to be checked will be the option to link some workshops of the CARDS and DRP projects.

Serbia-Montenegro underlined again their limited resources and need for assistance. The main gap (e.g. for writing the WFD reports) is the lack of funds and limited human resources in the Beneficiary countries. A balance has to be found between new capacity building (e.g. workshops) and the limited availability of Beneficiaries. This is recognized by DRP, ICPDR already in the ToR and by the Consultants in their proposal from September.

On request of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the CVs of the proposed local consultants will be provided in December to check their WFD competence.

The DRP requests again that HoDs nominate contact person(s) for the Consultants team.

Next steps suggested by the Consultants (personal meetings in the countries in mid January, Inception Report at end of January, Inception Workshop in mid February) were agreed by the Beneficiaries.

Further, the Sava countries will agree their needs and expectations on this project prior to the mission in January.

End of meeting: 4:50 p.m.

7.2. Annex 2

GEF-DRP Sava Component - Phase 2

Main Findings from the Inception Mission (17 – 19 January 2006)

This mission was conducted by the GEF international consultants (Alexander Zinke, Team Leader, Georg Windhofer/UBA and Eduard Interwies/Ecologic) to identify the main assistance needs with respect to the Component objective, i.e. a support to Sava countries for preparing the Sava RBM Plan based on a list prepared by the Consultants. The following text highlights the main topics of discussion and related findings from the meetings in Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade.

- The national participants welcomed the international support and the beginning of Phase II of the GEF-Sava project, pointing out their willingness to co-operate in reaching the projects' objectives.
- The International Consultants presented the outline of planned works (Tasks 1-4), aimed at identifying and addressing the current needs of Beneficiaries in terms of WFD implementation (especially Roof Report 2004) and of the upcoming development of a SAVA RBM Plan. This will take into account similar activities under way in other assistance projects (esp. CARDS) and benefit from the experience gained in EU Member States. This clarification helped to assess the potential work content of the DRP Component.
- Government representatives and national experts have provided the following comments to the objectives (TOR) and to the activities suggested for the implementation phase:

1.1. Results from the meeting in Zagreb, Croatia (17 January 2006; 9:00 to 14:30)

Participants: 13, including representatives from the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Croatian Waters, the Sava Commission Secretariat, the CARDS-Regional Sava project - national office.

- Current problems in Croatia (HR) that need to be considered to specify the future work (HR input) are a general lack of staff for supporting and implementing projects, limited resources due to the important and complex political negotiations on the EU accession as well as the existence of many other international projects for water management requiring staff inputs. Therefore, it is important to further clarify in the coming days what support is desired by and useful for the Croatian side. A long discussion took place on this aspect, also in terms of complementing other international projects on water management.
- The WFD characterisation report for four basins (including the Sava RB) is underway and will be finalised at the end of 2006.
- Concerning **Task 1**, the HR side stressed that they do not see major needs for assistance concerning WFD implementation and ICPDR reporting beyond the current activities of other projects (mainly the CARDS project). As the general WFD issues and EC Guidelines are already well known to the HR experts, there are less assistance needs than for other Sava countries.
- **Task 2** was considered by HR as a central point of the project and of particular added value/innovative benefit (esp. since the CARDS SAVA project does not cover transboundary aspects, including the Kupa case study, which does not address the SI side). It will be crucial to have content-oriented discussions on these aspects in order to go a step forward towards a joint management of the Sava; in this context, information on other WFD European transboundary basins may be valuable.

- Concerning **Task 3**, it was clarified that no specific sets of measures will be developed by this project, but a more general, strategic approach, which will address topics of intervention and discuss strategic options available for RBM.
- The precise content of **Task 4** was clarified: it will not develop the content of the RBMP for the Sava RB but its outline, serving as a basis for further work and basin discussions.
- Additionally, the **Sava Commission Secretariat** pointed out its willingness to co-operate, but stressed that in its current starting phase they can provide only limited input.
- The HR side requested the replacement of the proposed Local Consultants by two others (both participated at the meeting); a decision on their involvement will depend on consultations with the GEF office.

Follow up:

By 27 January 2006, specific assistance needs will be communicated from the proposed Local Consultants to the International Consultants, based on further interactions with the HR government and its experts.

1.2. Results from the meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (18 January 2006, 10:00 to 13:30)

Participants: 15, including representatives from the State Ministry for Economy and Transport, State Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Federation Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Federation Ministry for Environment Protection, RS Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, RS Water Directorate – Vrbas Basin Unit, Public Company for Water Management in the SAVA Basin.

- The BA side gave some information of the current status of their national contribution to the Danube Roof Report 2004 (to be finalised by December 2006). The Typology and the Reference Conditions will already be finalised by the end of April 2006.
- The BA representatives gave also short insight into the complex structure of their still developing administrative units, and mentioned the intensified cooperation with ICPDR (DRP comp. 3.4; expert from ICPDR soon to be based at Min. For. Trade & Econ. Relat.).
- About 20 national and international projects related to water are going on, which are limiting the personnel resources in all relevant administrative units.
- A very constructive discussion addressed the **4 planned Tasks** and the needs for this project in more detail along the provided list of WFD topics. Marked in two levels of importance the list was agreed.
Main needs pointed out were *Economic Analysis, Groundwater and Diffuse Pollution*. Further needs for assistance were mentioned for *HMWB, Typology, Hydro-morphology*, the basic Measures according to several other *EU Directives relevant for the WFD, Economic Instruments and the Institutional Setup*.
- The BA government proposed as Local Consultants the Institute for Water Management in Sarajevo (Federation BA) and the Institute for Water Management in Bijeljina (RS), both of them being strongly involved in the preparation of the WFD reports.

Follow up:

The above mentioned topics will be once more checked among the BA experts and results communicated until 27 January 2006 to the International Consultants.

1.3. Results from the meeting in Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro (19 Jan.; 09:00 to 13:30)

Participants: 11, including representatives from the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Water Directorate, J. Cerny Institute, CARDS Regional Sava project - national office, designated DRP Local Consultant.

- CS representatives asked to pay attention to the difference between the general river basin management tasks, including subjects such as flood protection and navigation, and the specific RBM duties under the WFD.
- The CS Characterisation according Art. 5 of WFD is already finished for catchment areas > 4000 km², the characterisation for catchment areas > 500 km² is presently under way.
- The Tisza basin characterisation report for the will be ready in December (draft in June).
- The proposed Local Consultant (Mr. Petkovic) was confirmed by CS representatives and then invited to attend the 2nd part of the meeting. One of his tasks could be a check of other Sava basin studies in relation to transboundary issues and measures.
- In a more detailed discussion the structured list of WFD topics were worked through with the following main issues marked for potential assistance by this GEF Component:
Analysis of the characteristics of surface water; Risk assessment for surface water and groundwater; Economic analysis; GIS in accordance to Reporting (DRB GIS and WISE); Public participation ; Institutional Setup
- **TASK 1:** Focusing on the above mentioned WFD topics the CS side showed deep interest for assistance from this GEF Component.
- **TASK 2:** As the most downstream country in the Sava Basin, transboundary issues are very relevant for Serbia. E.g. it is important to know from who could have emitted certain pollution. A Sava basin-wide database for point sources could be a helpful tool.
- **TASK 3:** The assistance need for cost effectiveness of measures was repeated under this specific discussion. The public participation in the Sava Basin according to the WFD should be closely linked to the activities at Danube Basin level (ICPDR).
- **TASK 4:** The discussion was focused on a common understanding for the definition of "Compiled pragmatic SAVA RBM Plan".
- The establishment of the suggested *Sava Working Group* as a kind of Component steering committee should be discussed and agreed at the Inception Workshop.
- *A revised title of this DRP component* discussed with the Serbian side could be:
SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAVA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (WFD) - DRB PILOT PROJECT

Follow up: The above mentioned topics will be once more checked among SCG experts and results communicated until 27 January 2006 to the International Consultants.

1.4. Meetings with similar EU Support Activities

Meetings were held with the CARDS projects (Senad Ploco (Regional - Sava project), Martin Wolf (BA - Water Quality Management project), Hans Wormgoor (BA – Water management. Capacity) and with the European Agency for Reconstruction in CS (Simon Davies). Special cooperation opportunities with the first project were further explored.

2 CONCLUSIONS

- On this basis, the Inception Report will try to specify in which form this assistance can be provided, securing strong linkages with the assistance activities under the CARDS SAVA-project. The draft report will be discussed and agreed at the Inception Workshop, tentatively set for Wednesday 22 February in Zagreb.
- Due to the limited budget of this GEF Component it is foreseen to focus on quality instead of quantity of activities, and therefore a selection of the topics termed by the Beneficiaries countries will be done by the Intl. Consultants.
- The main tasks of Local Consultants still depends on the Inception Workshop results.

7.3. Annex 3

Minutes of the DRP SAVA Inception Workshop

Hrvatske Vode, Zagreb, February 22, 2006

25 Participants / Representatives from
▪ ICPDR: Birgit Vogel
▪ GEF-DRP: Ivan Zavadsky, Peter Whalley
▪ Croatia (HR): Karmen Cerar, Jelena Ambrenac, Gorana Cosic-Flajsig, Davor Hadim, Elisabeta Kos
▪ Bosnia & Herzegovina (BA): Naida Andelic, Velinka Topalovic
▪ Slovenia (SI): Lidija Globevnik
▪ Serbia & Montenegro (CS): Miodrag Milovanovic, Jovanka Ignatovic, Ruzica Jacimovic, Mladen Vucinic
▪ Sava Commission Secretariat : Dejan Komatina
▪ Cards Regional Sava Project: Senad Ploco
▪ NGOs: Irma Popovic, Green Action
▪ DRP Consultants Team: Paul Schaller, Alexander Zinke, Georg Windhofer; Slobodan Petkovic/CS, Haris Alisehovic & Slobodan Cubrilo/BA, Roko Andricevic & M. Petricec/HR

Time: The Workshop lasted from 9 to 12:30, ending with a joint lunch.

The Welcome was given by Karmen Cerar (HR Ministry for Agric., For. and Water Mgmt.) and Ivan Zavadsky (DRP Office). He expressed his satisfaction that the GEF Phase 2 is now on the way and noted the visible interest of the Beneficiaries. He further underlined that Slovenia is a legitimised DRP partner and should be strongly involved in this WFD cooperation process in the Sava Basin.

Lidija Globevnik expressed the regrets of Mr. Bricelj that he can not attend and that she was asked to represent SI at this workshop.

Revised Component Approach

The Intl. Consultants presented the revised content and activities of the Component, which take into account the Beneficiaries' comments and the Inception Mission results (17-20 Jan.).

Statements by Participants and results of joint discussions

SI supports the project and tries to contribute as much as possible. Recommendation was made to link to on ongoing WFD research projects (e.g. SARIB). SI further recommended for Task 1 to make use of all GIS data available in order to secure more synergies.

HR stressed again their lack of staff capacities to deal with concrete WFD data and proposed that the planned work should involve also other HR stakeholders (institutes and faculties)

CS confirmed its support for this project which they assume can also be useful for other river basins. They asked especially Task 1 to be well coordinated with the Beneficiaries. CS thanked the Consultants for their efforts to meet the new assistance needs and asked to improve some wording in chapter 6. They stated their experience from the Tisza Roof Report drafting process, requiring several months of work to collect and evaluate the required data and information. Such work can not be achieved for the Sava in the course of this DRP Component but its related outputs can be useful for the Sava Commission.

BA also confirmed its support and expects that this project will help them to make more progress in their delayed WFD implementation process.

Sava Commission:

The ICPDR PS mentions the future importance of the Sava Commission related river basin management and emphasises the need for cooperation between the ICPDR and the Sava Commission. The outputs of the Sava DRP could serve both commissions as basic information for the upcoming planning steps. As soon as established, the ICPDR PS appreciates the communication of the Sava working groups and their responsible experts.

- Action 1: The SC Secretariat will keep the ICPDR and DRP office informed about their progress. The DRP office will send a letter to the Sava Commission Secretariat to clarify the management and implementation of this component with respect to the Sava RBM EG.

Sava WG (Steering group for the GEF Sava Component)

Its structure and members indicated in the draft Inception Report chapter 6.4 were agreed.

- Action 2: The DRP office will ask the Beneficiaries to nominate their WG representatives.

Task 1.1 Gap Analysis: The discussion regarding the quality of information to be collected via the WFD templates concluded that first-of-all *meta data* should be filled in by Natl. Consultants to illustrate the countries' **current status of availability and quality** of required WFD data and information. This process should further be extended until June 2006.

- Action 3: The Consultants team in discussion with the ICPDR Secretariat will develop new templates for the Sava Basin reporting based on the Danube and Tisza templates. By 8th March 2006 the templates will be sent to the Beneficiaries and Natl. Consultants for comments and should be returned until 15th March 2006 to the Intl. Consultant.

Task 1.2 WFD Assistance: The Consultants confirmed that their presentations and assistance during the CARDS technical workshops and the Vienna working session will be as specific as possible (making use of the gap analysis results) and will respond to the concrete questions raised by government experts. This will thus also bring benefits for the work presently going in the CARDS Sava pilot basins but the GEF Consultants do not have the capacity to provide continued and in-depth support of the pilot RBM reports.

Task 2 and 3: CS asked that the outcomes of Tasks 2 and 3 will be called "*preliminary*" in order to allow future discussions at a broader scale.

Task 3 Key Transboundary Issues: The Beneficiaries stressed that some Sava key water management issues are not covered by the WFD, in particular flood protection. The ICPDR Secretariat responded that still the starting point of this GEF component should be WFD Art. 5, i.e. an issue like flood protection can be mentioned at this stage (e.g. in the road map) but should be further developed later on at the level of Sava Commission.

SI asked if Task 3 would also develop a set of Sava objectives. ICPDR responded that Sava countries and Sava Commission together with this project should start the process of developing objectives using the experience gained on the Danube level.

Task 4 Structure of Sava MP and PP: The NGO representative asked to pay attention to other projects addressing public participation, namely the DRP component 3.4 and a new PP activity under the Sava Commission. These should be compared with the REC PP strategy for the Sava basin and the new Sava NGO project on WFD implementation (DRP small grants programme).

- Action 4: As the DRP Sava component has not the capacity to make such an extended comparative assessment the DRP promised to check for some additional input.

HR asked if this project would include a workshop to share the experiences of the accession process from Slovenia with other countries in the Sava Basin. DRP responded that an

additional workshop on these issues is planned and this would build on this current Sava RBM component.

A few small adjustments were agreed for chapter 6.4.

The DRP office thanked the participants for attending the meeting, and asked the Intl. Consultant to circulate the draft minutes for comments and to annex the final version to the Inception Report. The latter will be published on the DRP home page in March 2006.