

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient
Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the
Danube River Basin

Final Report
Development of a Strategy and Concept of
Reporting by the ICPDR

Project Component 2.4: Support for reinforcement of the ICPDR
Information System

May 27, 2004

Prepared by: Dr. Jan Dogterom

Oudebildtdijk 1058, 9075 NK Westhoek, The Netherlands
Tel.: +31-518-491838 Fax: +31-518-491944
Email: j.dogterom@tech.nhl.nl



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Annex I: BSC Reporting Scheme and Procedures on the Implementation of the BS-SAP (BSC 10.13), October 2003.

Summary

The ICPDR, with support of the Secretariat, has at the moment an extensive reporting practice. It is substantially more extensive than the practices at comparable River Basin Commissions. It is complying with the requirements according to the DRPC and activities are added, based on other regional and international agreements (MoU-D/BS JTWG, EU-DABLAS). The Secretariat, with support of Expert Groups, produces at the moment the following reports: the Annual Report, the Joint Action Programme and its periodical reviews, the TNMN Yearbook and many reports on specific topics. In addition, an extensive website and number of databases have been produced: the TNMN and EMIS database. These are regularly updated. The quality of reporting is good and in most cases adequate. The Annual Report 2002 gives moderate attention to status and impact indicators. The JAP covers many more topics than required.

Chapter 6 of this report presents recommendations for the strategy and concept of reporting by the ICPDR, supported by the Secretariat, based on the requirements according to the DRPC. Recommendations are given on the objective, the topics to be covered and the main indicators for each of the reports mentioned. Reviewing the topics to be covered in all reports, it turns out that the following are key indicators: loads of nutrients as pressure indicators, concentration of BOD5 and nutrients as status indicators, ecological indicators to be determined as impact indicators and investments in municipal and industrial WWTP and introduction of BAP as response indicators. The implementation of the DRPC and the WFD (response) should be assessed on basis of the indicators recommended in the indicator report.

There seems to be little reason for major changes in the ICPDR reporting policy. The main issue to pay attention to is to report in an efficient and cost effective way by avoiding duplication and efficient data and information collection. It is advised to give priority in collecting high quality data for the indicators mentioned in Chapter 6.

1. Introduction

Since the establishment of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Commission has built up a system of reporting and provision of information to the Contracting Parties (CP), to other regional and international organisations and to the public at large, which is executed mainly by the ICPDR Secretariat with financial and technical support by the GEF-Danube Regional Project (GEF-DRP). This system of reporting and provision of information is at present very extensive. It consists amongst others of: regular reports as the Annual Report and the Joint Action Programme (JAP) Report, specific technical reports, eg the Report on the Joint Danube Survey, reports and documents of Expert Groups, documents related to various meetings, an extensive database with different components and a very sophisticated and large website with an external and internal domain.

The Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) is quite specific about the obligations of the CP to inform each other on which issues: Arts. 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 22 refer to such obligations. The responsibility of the Secretariat in this process is described in Art. 9 of the Statute of the ICPDR (Annex IV to the Convention): “the International Commission submits to the Contracting Parties an annual report on its activities as well as further reports as required, which in particular also include the results of monitoring and assessment.” Based on this obligation, the ICPDR Secretariat has developed since it started in 1999 the system of reporting and provision of information. In practice, the term “further reports as required” has been used to justify the production and publication of a wide range of reports and documents. The fact that the GEF-DRP provided financial and technical support has enlarged the possibilities of the Secretariat to cope with all the requests for producing and publishing these reports and information. Moreover, the ICPDR has entered into regional and international cooperation programmes, which established additional reporting mechanisms like the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Black Sea Commission (BSC) and the EU Danube-Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS).

Within the GEF-DRP, an activity (in the frame of project activity 2.4-1) has been defined to develop “Reporting Guidelines-Formats and Procedures- in accordance with the DRPC and the ICPDR-JAP.” This activity includes an analysis of present practices on reporting and provision of information and to propose a concept and a strategy for reporting by the ICPDR taking into account the experiences with these practices since the Secretariat started its reporting activities in 1996 and taking into account feasibility and affordability. The latter is relevant since it is expected that the GEF-DRP will not be extended again after the completion of the 2nd Phase in 2006. The GEF-DRP has commissioned an external consultant to implement this activity and has formulated the objective of this assignment as follows:

Objective

The objective of this assignment is to propose an overall concept/strategy of reporting by the ICPDR , taking into account the reporting obligations under the Danube Convention, investment activities and policy measures identified in the ICPDR-JAP and the DABLAS Task Force.

This assignment is not addressing a concept/strategy for reporting obligations by the CP to each other, but addresses specifically the role of the Commission, supported by the Secretariat, in reporting to the CP and the public. The recommended concept and strategy should be feasible and affordable also after 2006. This report presents the results of this assignment.

2. Reporting requirements according the Conventions

At present there are 6 River Basin Conventions in West and Central Europe, which have the same objective: protection against pollution. These are the Rhine (1976/1999), the Danube (1994), the Elbe (1990), the Oder (1996), the Meuse (1994/2002) and the Scheldt (1994/2002). There are more conventions for smaller basins (Saar, Moselle) and also for lakes or seas, like the Bucharest Convention (1992) for the Black Sea.

All Conventions regulate the establishment of an International Commission as the governing body and a Secretariat to support the Commission. All Secretariats have tasks to support reporting by the Commissions. The European Environmental Agency (EEA) has produced a summary of reporting obligations within the framework of international environmental conventions incl. those on river basins and seas (ref. 1). The reporting obligations of CP to each other and the reporting obligations of the Commissions to the CP, in practice usually done by the Secretariats, are described in the Conventions.

2.1 Danube

The DRPC is specific about the obligations of the CP to inform each other on which issues: Arts. 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 22 refer to such obligations. The responsibility of the Secretariat in this process is described in Art. 9 of the Statute of the ICPDR (Annex IV to the Convention): “the International Commission submits to the Contracting Parties an annual report on its activities as well as further reports as required, which in particular also include the results of monitoring and assessment.” Arts 18 and 22 say that the Commission has to report to the Conference of the Parties on policy issues concerning implementation of the Convention.

2.2 Rhine

The obligations of CP to inform each other are formulated in Art. 5. The responsibility of the Secretariat is formulated in Art. 8.3: “the Commission reports yearly on its activities to the Contracting Parties”.

2.3 Elbe

The Elbe Convention has no specific articles that regulate obligations of CP to inform each other. Art. 4 stipulates that the CP have to inform the Commission. The responsibility of the Secretariat is formulated in Art. 13: “the Commission produces for the CP at least every two years an Activity report and further reports as required, in which in particular the results of investigations and assessments should be included”.

2.4 Meuse

The obligations of CP to inform each other are formulated in Art. 3. The responsibility of the Secretariat is formulated in Art. 4.4 (i): “the Commission publishes an Annual Report as well as further reports as required”.

2.5 Scheldt

The obligations of CP to inform each other are formulated in Art. 3. The responsibility of the Secretariat is formulated in Art. 4.4 (i): “the Commission publishes an Annual Report as well as further reports as required”.

2.6 Oder

The obligations of CP to inform each other are formulated in Art. 4. The responsibility of the Secretariat is formulated in Art. 14: “the Commission shall provide the Contracting Parties with an activity report at least every two years and, if necessary, with further reports, in particular on measures taken and the results of analyses and their evaluation”.

At present, the Oder Secretariat does not produce an Activity Report (personal communication with the Head of the Secretariat). It was agreed in the Commission, that the Expert Groups would produce Annual Reports but in practice this does not happen at the moment. Reporting to the Commission is limited to “protocols”.

2.7 Black Sea

The Bucharest Convention has no specific articles on the exchange of information between Contracting Parties. The Arts. 86 and 87 of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) formulate reporting tasks for the Secretariat. These include an Annual Report to the Commission on the progress of implementing the SAP, presenting also recommendations for enhancing implementation and/or adjustment of the SAP, and a comprehensive report every five year to the Black Sea States and the general public to assess implementation of the SAP, containing recommendations to enhance implementation and/or recommendations for amendments.

In a separate document, endorsed in the 10th meeting of the Commission in October 2003 (BSC 10.13), the reporting process to the Commission by the Secretariat was formalized. There will be 2 reports produced: (1) a State of the Environment of the Black Sea Report and (2) a Report on the Implementation of the SAP. These reports will be produced yearly for the Commission and will be the basis for 5-year reports to the Contracting Parties. For further details: see annex I.

3. Comparative analysis of reporting practices in different international conventions and agreements

A quick comparison of reporting practices in 6 basins of West- and Central Europe shows, that there is usually a comprehensive “Annual Report” or “Activity Report” (Elbe and Oder every two years) and further reports as requested. The Elbe Annual Report (Tatigkeitsbericht) is very short (6 pages) and mainly refers to special reports per topic. The websites of the Commissions provide lists of publications which roughly can be divided into 3 categories: (1) regular, legally requested reports, like Annual Reports, (2) printed versions of databases (emission inventories, monitoring data) and (3) numerous reports on specific topics like ecology, flooding, warning systems, special assessments etc. All topics covered in the regular reports are listed and compared in box 1. They are indicated by Chapter or by “yes”. In the latter case, there is not (yet) a report to be consulted; the topics to be covered are described in the draft work programme for the D-BS JTWG (30 March 2004) and in a special document for the BSC (annex I). In this column there are some question marks, since it is not clear from the text in the document whether these topics will be covered.

Box1: Comparative analysis of reported topics in different international conventions and agreements

	AR ICPDR, 2002	JAP ICPDR, 2001-2005	D-BS JTWG, 2004	BSC/SAP (BSC 10.13), 2003	AR ICPR, 1999/2000	AR ICPE, 2003	AR ISC, 2002	AR, ICPM, 2002	AR, ICPO
Subject and Convention Article									
Ecology, Art. 6 and 7		Ch. 3.3, 3.8	Yes	yes	Ch. 1.6			Ch. 13	
EMIS, Art. 5 and 8	Ch. 5	Ch. 3.2, 3.4, 3.7, 3.10, 3.11	Yes	yes	Ch. 1.5				
TNMN, Art 9	Ch. 4	Ch. 2.2, 2.3, 3.5, 3.6	Yes	yes	Ch. 1.5, 2.13	yes	Ch. 5	Ch. 11, 12, 14	
Research, Art. 15				yes					
AEWS, Art. 16	Ch. 6	Ch. 3.9		yes	Ch. 2.11, 2.12	yes			
Investments	Ch. 8	Ch. 3.2, 3.15	Yes	?			Ch. 4		
Flood protection	Ch. 7	Ch. 2.6, 3.12			Ch. 1.4	yes	Ch. 4		
Accident prevention, Art. 6	Ch. 9	Ch. 3.9		?					
Operational and Institutional Framework	Ch. 1	Ch. 3.15		yes	Ch. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7		Ch. 1, 2	Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10	
Finances and budgets	Ch. 2				Ch. 2.8, 2.9	yes		Ch. 8	
Implementation of the WFD	Ch. 3	Ch. 3.14	yes		Ch. 1.2	yes	Ch. 3	Ch. 15	
Information systems	Ch. 10			yes	Ch. 1.7, 2.10			Ch. 7	
International and regional cooperation	Ch. 11	Ch. 3.1		yes	Ch. 1.8	yes	Ch. 6		

The box shows, that the ICPDR Annual Report is the most comprehensive, although the absence of chapters on ecology and research is striking, followed by the ICPR Annual Report. The ICPDR JAP, published in 2001, is a comprehensive Action Programme, covering many topics, including chapters on wetland and floodplain restoration and water quality standards. The progress with the JAP will be reported in 2004 and 2006. The reporting process in the BSC is different: there will be a yearly status and trends report and a yearly report on implementation of the BS-SAP. These are the basis for five year reports to the CP.

4. Reporting requirements according EU Directives

Most CP to the DRPC are member or candidate member of the EU and have to comply with the reporting requirements in the EU Directives. These are reports from the countries directly to the European Commission. The ICPDR and the Secretariat are not officially involved in this process. Still it is useful for the Secretariat to be aware of the scheme of reporting to the EU of some of the most relevant EU Directives, since some topics are shared and information can be exchanged which will save double work. A special case is the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), where the Secretariat has taken up specific tasks.

4.1 Nitrate Directive

Art. 10 and annex V give the reporting obligations of the Nitrate Directive. Member states have to submit a report to the Commission every four years, 1996 being the first year. The report should be on the introduction of good agricultural practices, polluted waters, vulnerable zones, monitoring results and action programmes.

4.2 UWWT Directive

Art. 16 and 17 give the reporting obligations of the UWWT Directive. Member States have to publish situation reports on the disposal of urban waste water and sludge every two years and they have to report every 2 years on the programme of implementation of the Directive, 1994 being the 1st year.

4.3 IPPC Directive

Art. 16 gives the reporting obligations of the IPPC Directive. Member States have to send reports on the implementation of this Directive every three year, 1998 being the 1st year. The report should be on limit values per industry and the application of best available techniques.

4.4 WFD Directive

The WFD Directive has a very strict and extensive reporting regime. Many articles contain reporting requirements, incl. the topic and the deadlines. The ICPDR is supporting this process by producing together with the CP the so called Roof Reports. Roof report 2003 deals with Article 3 and Annex I. This information is due to the European Commission on 22 June 2004. The information concerns the competent authorities, the geographical coverage of the basin and international relationships. Roof report 2004 deals with Article 5, Annex II and III and with Article 6, Annex IV. This information concerns (Art 5): analysis of characteristics, review of pressures and impacts and the economical analysis of water use and (Art 6) a register of designated areas. This information is due to the Commission on 22 March 2005.

5. The Websites

5.1 ICPDR

The ICPDR has a very comprehensive website. It has by far the biggest content and is the most complete website of all websites consulted for this report. The website presents practically all documents produced by the Secretariat and the ICPDR Expert Groups. It also presents the ICPDR databases: EMIS, TNMN and Joint Danube Survey. For access to the internal part of the website, special authorization is needed.

5.2 Others

All River Commissions have websites. Usually the websites present the institutional structures and governing bodies, legal documents (the Conventions), the action programmes, news on expert groups and a list of publications. Compared to the others, the website of the Rhine Commission has a unique structure. The site is structured on basis of the main topics: the Rhine, the Commission, Ecology, Water Quality and Emissions, Flooding and Media and Publications. Only the Scheldt Commission has a log in function. The Black Sea website is partly under construction yet.

6. The strategy and concept of reporting

6.1 Strategy: Core task of reporting and extended services

The requirement for reporting by the ICPDR with support of the Secretariat is formulated with an “open end”: “an Annual Report and further reports as required”. The practice is, that the Secretariat produces 2 regular reports: the Annual Report and the JAP report, and that a long list of special reports is produced and published related to the results of the Expert Groups, to the results of special projects, like the Joint Danube Survey, and to the results of contractors. The Secretariat is facilitating and supervising this process of reporting and is involved in writing these special reports. Many of them are financially supported by the GEF-DRP. In addition to this, the Secretariat is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the TNMN and EMIS databases. These are databases, which are regularly updated and the results are published in the TNMN Yearbooks and the Emission Inventories. There are special databases on the Joint Danube Survey database and the DABLAS inventory.

For the strategy of reporting by the ICPDR, it seems reasonable to keep a close connection to the obligations, as formulated in the DRPC. The content of the Convention should be the basis for the reporting strategy. The topics for reporting are given in the relevant articles of the Convention. These articles are: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16. The topics are summarized in art 12. Arts. 18 and 22 give an additional reporting task to the ICPDR: to produce a review on the experience acquired with implementing the Convention. It is not specified with what intervals. Proposals concerning amendments or additions to the Convention should be submitted “as appropriate” (art. 18) and be discussed at the Conference of the Parties (art. 22).

The **core task** of reporting is given in art. 12 and concern the following topics:

1. The general condition of the riverine environment; this is detailed in art. 5 and 9
2. Application and operation of BAT and results of research and development; this is detailed in art. 6, 7, 8 and 15 (NB: BAP is not mentioned in art. 12, but should be included)
3. Emission and monitoring data; this is detailed in art. 8 and 9
4. Prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact; this is detailed in art. 5
5. Regulations for waste water discharges; this is detailed in art. 7
6. Accidents involving hazardous substances; this is detailed in art. 16

The strategy of reporting could thus be formulated as follows:

The ICPDR will take reporting responsibilities on topics that are covered by art. 12 of the Convention, further detailed in the articles, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16. In addition, the ICPDR will report on experience implementing the DRPC and submit proposals concerning amendments or additions to the Conference of the Parties “as appropriate”.

In order to fulfil these tasks, the ICPDR needs input and support from the CP and this is organised now through the Expert Groups. Other requests on reporting should be considered as “extended services” and be granted if they are explicitly endorsed by the ICPDR and fit into the working scheme of the Secretariat. The load of reporting should be feasible and affordable, independent from the support of outside donors.

6.2 Recommendations on the concept

6.2.1 Principles

The concept of reporting by the ICPDR is based on the strategy. The core tasks and the topics mentioned have to be covered in regular, preferably standardized reports. The Annual Report has to be

yearly; intervals of reporting for other reports depend on the decisions of the Commission. The following paragraphs present the recommendations on the concept of reporting for each type of report. They present the objective of reporting, the topics, the indicators to be used (if relevant) and a very brief indication of a procedure of production.

6.2.2 Annual report

The Annual Report is the main channel of reporting on the assessment of pressures, the status of the Danube River, trends in changes in status and impact and the results of the interventions of the ICPDR and the CP (response). It should in principle be the most comprehensive report. It is an appropriate vehicle to exchange the information as described in art. 12 between the CP and to report to the public and the international organizations like the EU and IFIs. It seems reasonable that it presents a summary on topics as described in arts. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16 with emphasis on the TNMN results (including the ecological impact assessment), the EMIS inventories, the AEWS, the investment programmes in WWTP and BAP and the implementation of the DRPC and the WFD. The Annual Report 2002 has a very moderate chapter on water quality and information on ecology (impact) is missing. It is to be considered to strengthen these chapters.

Objective: The objective of the Annual Report is to present a comprehensive summary of the activities of the ICPDR to the CP, the public at large, in particular in the Danube Basin, and relevant regional and international organizations. The report should present the development of institutional structures and interventions and should give a reliable assessment of pressure, status, impact and response indicators.

Topics: see the Table of content of the Annual Report 2002 with an extended chapter on water quality and a new chapter on ecology, including wetland and flood plain restoration.

Key Indicators: loads of N_{tot} and P_{tot} , in particular at discharges of the main tributaries and the Black Sea; accidents; floods; concentration of BOD5, N_{tot} and P_{tot} ; ecological indicators to be determined; investments; introduction of BAP; implementation of the DRPC and the WFD

Procedure: as usual

6.2.3 Progress reviews of the JAP

Art. 8 of the DRPC requires periodical reviews of the Joint Action Programmes. According to this article, the JAP is based on emission inventories (the EMIS database) and includes the measures to be taken to reduce pollution loads from point- and non-point sources. The JAP is the framework for investment decisions and thus has a strong relationship with EU- DABLAS.

The 1st JAP covers many other topics; actually it is a comprehensive Action Programme on all issues addressed by the ICPDR, including paragraphs on wetland and flood plain restoration and water quality standards. The 1st progress review is planned to be published in the summer of 2004; the next one in the summer of 2006.

Whether or not to stay in the JAP progress reviews to the core content, according to art. 8, or extend the content to other activities, depends on the policy of the ICPDR. It can be considered to shift some of the topics from the JAP progress reviews to the Annual Report.

Objective: The core objective of the report on the JAP is to provide the information for prioritisation on basis of urgency and efficiency in investment decisions by national governments and international financing institutions, coordinated and facilitated through DABLAS.

Topics: The core topic of the JAP report is the presentation of the EMIS database, the ranking of investment projects (see annex 1 and 2 of the JAP) and the measures to reduce pollution from non-point sources.

Key Indicators: pollution loads from point- and non-point sources (pressure indicators), in particular nutrients; investments in WWTP (industry and municipalities); introduction of BAP (response indicators)

Procedure: EMIS inventory as usual; the progress reviews of the JAP to be determined

6.2.4 Yearbook TNMN

Art. 9 of the DRPC requires cooperation in the field of monitoring. This requirement has been met with the establishment of the TNMN. Based on the data collected, the CP shall periodically assess the quality conditions of the river and the results need to be presented to the public by appropriate publications. This is the basis for the production and publication of the TNMN Yearbooks.

Objective: The TNMN Yearbooks are published to inform the CP and the public on the quality conditions of the Danube River and progress made by measures taken aiming at prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impacts.

Topics: The TNMN Yearbook presents the results of the TNMN; the presentation includes an assessment of the ecological status and of trends in concentrations and loads of the selected determinands and an evaluation of significant changes.

It is to be considered to strengthen the reporting on the assessment of the ecological status by selecting additional ecological indicators e.g. a flag ship species (endangered species??) or a limited number of critical species at the top of the food web.

Indicators: agreed list of TNMN determinands; a limited number of ecological indicators could be added (state and impact indicators).

Procedure: according the present agreements in the MLIM Expert Group and in compliance with the EU-WFD

6.2.5 Art. 18/22 Review

Art. 18 and 22 address the review of the policy issues concerning the implementation of the DRPC and reporting this to the Conference of the Parties. No time frame is mentioned: it should be done "as appropriate".

Objective: The art. 18/22 Review is presented to the Conference of the Parties to initiate decision making on amendments and/or additions to the Convention

Topics: Analysis of main pressures (agriculture, industrial and municipal sources of pollution); assessment of key developments regarding chemical status and ecological impact of the basin and of the north-western shelf of the Black Sea; assessment of implementation of JAP, in particular on investments; justified and specific recommendations on amendments and/or additions to the Convention.

Key indicators: point- and non-point source pollution; number of accidents (pressures); key state indicators: BOD5 and nutrients; impact: key ecological indicators in Danube and Black Sea; response indicators: investments, implementation process of DRPC and WFD

Procedure: to be determined

6.2.6 D-BS JTWG

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ICPDR and the BSC of November 2001 provides the basis for reporting by the D-BS JTWG. The draft workplan of March 2004 gives further details. A reporting format and reporting procedures should be developed by June 2004. Topics to be covered according the MoU are: load assessment and ecological status assessment. Topics mentioned in the draft work plan are: harmonization of the monitoring programmes, development of ecology status indicators, assessment of point- and non-point sources and implementation of the WFD. Two types of reports are mentioned: a yearly report on input loads and ecological status assessment of the Black Sea and a report every 5 years on measures taken to reduce inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances in line with the JAP and the BS-SAP. These measures include policy measures and investments. A review of the results of the JTWG will be undertaken in 2007.

Objective: A yearly report is published to inform the ICPDR and the BSC on trends in input loads, in particular of nutrients, and the ecological status of the north-western shelf of the Black Sea. A five year report is published to inform the ICPDR and the BSC on reduction of pressures (=responses), in particular nutrient loads (point- and non point sources) and on the progress with implementation of the WFD and the BS-SAP.

Topics: : Analysis of main pressures (agriculture, industrial and municipal sources of pollution); assessment of key developments regarding chemical status and ecological impact of the north-western shelf of the Black Sea; assessment of implementation of JAP, in particular on investments and introduction of BAP; assessment of the implementation of the WFD and the BS-SAP.

Indicators: Nutrient loads at Danube discharge; at the north-western shelf of the Black Sea: nutrient concentrations, oxygen regime and ecological status indicator(s); investments in municipal and industrial waste water treatment plants; introduction of BAP; implementation of the WFD and the BS-SAP.

Procedure: ICPDR and BSC collect and assess information on indicators as part of their own internal routines and reporting obligations. The results are combined in a yearly report on loads and ecological assessment of the north-western shelf of the Black Sea; every five years the report is extended with assessment of trends in point- and non-point sources, supported by data on investments, and information on progress of implementation of WFD and BS-SAP.

6.2.7 Other Reports

In addition to the reports mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the ICPDR publishes at the moment a long list of reports, produced by the Expert Groups or contractors. The main channel of reporting is the website. Hard copies are distributed on a limited scale and mainly to experts involved and hardly to the public at large. The objective of publishing is to distribute the results of technical studies. The publication of these reports could be regarded as “extended services”. It can be a case by case decision whether or not to put a specific report on the web and/or print it, depending on quality, usefulness, feasibility and affordability.

6.2.8 Website

The ICPDR Website is a very useful tool for information of the CP and the public. It gives access to practically all activities of the ICPDR, its Expert Groups and the GEF-DRP. The databases can be consulted and used for further study after permission to access the internal part has been given. As such it is also a management tool. The structure is strongly related to the organisational structure and the operations of the ICPDR itself. It has a “static” part (information on institutions, legal documents, etc) and a “growing” part (news, reports and other publications, updated databases etc). This website

requires a substantial effort to maintain and keep updated. It clearly distinguishes itself by its content from the websites of all other River Basin Commissions.

As long as this website can be maintained in this way, there is no need for reconsideration. It is advised to reconsider the “website policy” shortly before the GEF-DRP will be finished.

6.2.9 Instruction for the Secretariat by the ICPDR

The responsibility of the Secretariat to support the reporting requirements of the ICPDR is based on art. 9 of the Statute to the DRPC and has a very open formulation: “an annual report and further reports as required”. A written instruction by the ICPDR for the Secretariat does not exist. It may be considered to produce such an instruction describing the type of reports, the objective of each report, the main topics and the interval of reporting.

7. Literature and websites

1. European Environment Agency, EEA support to the European Community in reporting obligations within the framework of international environmental conventions, Technical report 62, 2001
2. Annual Reports of the following River Basin Commissions: Danube, Rhine, Elbe, Meuse and Scheldt
3. Various Reports and Documents of the ICPDR, DABLAS, D-BS JTWG and BSC

Websites:

ICPDR: www.icpdr.org

ICPR : www.iksr.org

ICPE : www.ikse.de

ICPO : www.mkoo.pl

ISC : www.isc-cie.com

ICPM : www.cipm-icbm.be

BSC : www.blacksea-environment.org

Annex I: BSC 10.13

Tenth Meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution 27-29 October, Istanbul, Turkey

BSC Reporting Scheme and Procedures on the Implementation of the BS SAP

Implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution as well as the Strategic Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea provide for establishing the proper reporting system on the progress according to regionally agreed criteria. Specifically the articles 86 and 87 of BS SAP say:

It is advised that the Secretariat of the Istanbul Commission annually report to the Commission on the progress made in implementing this Strategic Action Plan. The report should also contain recommendations for enhancing implementation and adjustment of this Strategic Action Plan, taking into account the Bucharest Convention and the Odesa Declaration. The Istanbul Commission should consider the report and decide on any enhancements and/or adjustments which may be necessary to secure implementation of this Strategic Action Plan.

It is advised that a comprehensive report, assessing the implementation of this Strategic Action Plan, be prepared by the Istanbul Commission, upon the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies, and presented to the Governments of the Black Sea states and to the general public every five years. The report should also contain recommendations for enhancing implementation of the Strategic Action Plan as well as recommendations for its amendment, with a view to adopting any further actions which may be required to secure the rehabilitation and protection of the Black Sea.

The first report on the State of Environment of the Black Sea and the Report on Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea, 1996 – 2001 was based purely on the national reporting to the Black Sea Commission. The lesson learnt from this experience showed that in order to be able to compare national information and to make fair assessment of the progress with implementation of BSSAP more attention should be paid to formalize reporting requirements, formats, layouts, etc. Moreover reporting to the BSC should be regularly exercised by the Black Sea coastal states on the annual basis. Taking into account the European experience, needs for compatibility of reported data on national, regional and European level, expecting the future accession of some Black Sea coastal states to European Union as well in the complete absence of well elaborated and established procedures and reporting formats due to delayed establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission, the BSC Permanent Secretariat in agreement with the subsidiary bodies of the Black Sea Commission adopted the well established reporting requirements of the European Environmental Agency as the first approach.

Based on the above provisions the BSC Permanent Secretariat in cooperation with BSC institutional network undertook the efforts to formalize the reporting process to the Black Sea Commission

The sequence of reports to be presented to the BSC by the Permanent Secretariat and BSC institutional network for approval shall follow the arrangements provisioned in the BS SAP:

1. The five years report on the State of the Environment of the Black Sea, 2006 and the five years Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea, 2001-2006 are due by the year 2007 when next meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Bucharest Convention shall be convened.

2. Annual reports to the Black Sea Commission on the same subjects shall be produced for operational purposes and shall feed the BSC five years reports. Under the careful consideration of the available information and taking into account the time necessary for the development of regional databases to be supported by GEF the first annual report will be produced in 2004. Its production as expected under MOU between BSC and EEA will be assisted by EEA in order to ensure streamlining of information on the national, regional and European levels.

The five years scientific report on the State of the Environment of the Black Sea (SOE) with a thorough analysis of driving forces, pressures, state, and impacts shall be the main subject of this report. The SOE Report will incorporate the national reporting to the Black Sea Commission, results of the relevant scientific studies for incorporation of which a mechanism shall be developed with assistance of EEA. In order to do this a special working group that will focus solely on the preparation of SOE report shall be established. The request for assistance in organizing this process has been made to the GEF BSERP Project. The task of this group shall be to translate the technical reports of different projects into relevant information for the assessment of the Black Sea Environment, to elaborate an agreed layout of this report, to consult the content of this report with different stakeholders, to prepare this report for publication. The SOE report shall clearly distinguish the information gaps from the knowledge gaps that will influence the future scientific activities in the region.

The five years report on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (SAPIR) shall show the efficiency of regional cooperation, measures introduced by the Black Sea Coastal states, and indicate the potential problems that will require more attention.. The SAPIR report **shall be indicator-based** with thorough analysis of political, legislative, regulatory and technical measures implemented by the Black Sea coastal; states over the period of five years. It shall also serve as a basis for any amendments, revisions, changes in the Black Sea Convention, its Protocols and corresponding BSSAP. The preparation of indicator-based SAPIR report will be assisted and published by EEA as proposed in the Joint Work Plan between BSC and EEA under the corresponding MOU.

The approach implied by the BSC institutional network and the BSC Permanent Secretariat is to clearly identify the impact of policy measures on the state of the environment of the Black Sea. Therefore the BSC Permanent Secretariat in cooperation with BSC institutional network elaborated and tested a set of questions related to each article of the BSSAP that has to be answered **by the national focal points annually** and submitted to the BSC Permanent Secretariat through the member of the Black Sea Commission of corresponding Black Sea Coastal State. The **BSC Activity Centers** will analyse submitted data, compile thematic reports and distribute them to the focal points for comments and explanations. *The BSC Permanent Secretariat* will integrate thematic reports in the BSC Annual Report, discuss the report on the meeting of the relevant **Advisory Groups** and submit it to the BSC for approval.

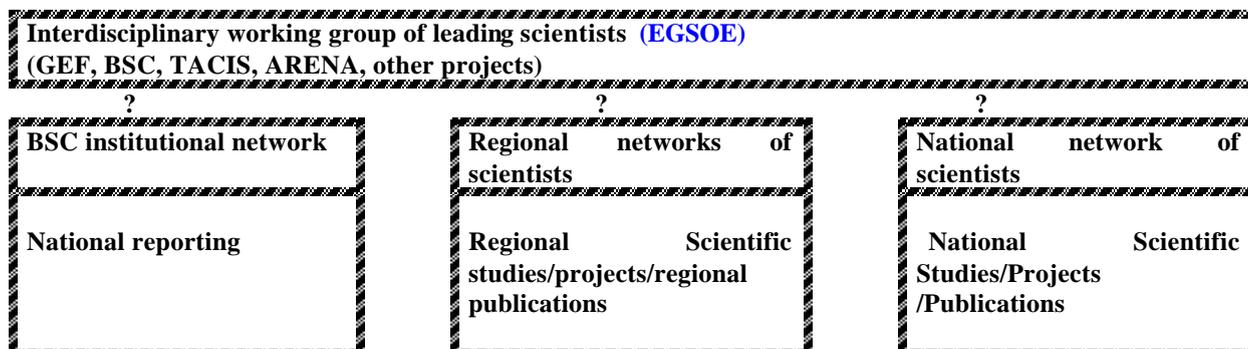
The formats for annual submission of data to the Black Sea Commission were drafted by the Permanent Secretariat and discussed and adopted by the Advisory Groups. For these reporting formats the following approach was followed:

- When the reporting requirements of EEA were developed, these formats were tested for the Black Sea Commission
- When the reporting requirements were not elaborated the reporting requirements of the relevant conventions dealing with this issues were explored and adjusted for the purposes of the Black Sea Commission
- When the reporting requirements were not elaborated to cover the article in question, the reporting formats were elaborated by the Permanent Secretariat.

The information flow, expected involvement of supporting projects and timetable are presented schematically.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE BLACK SEA, 2006

1. SOE Information Flow



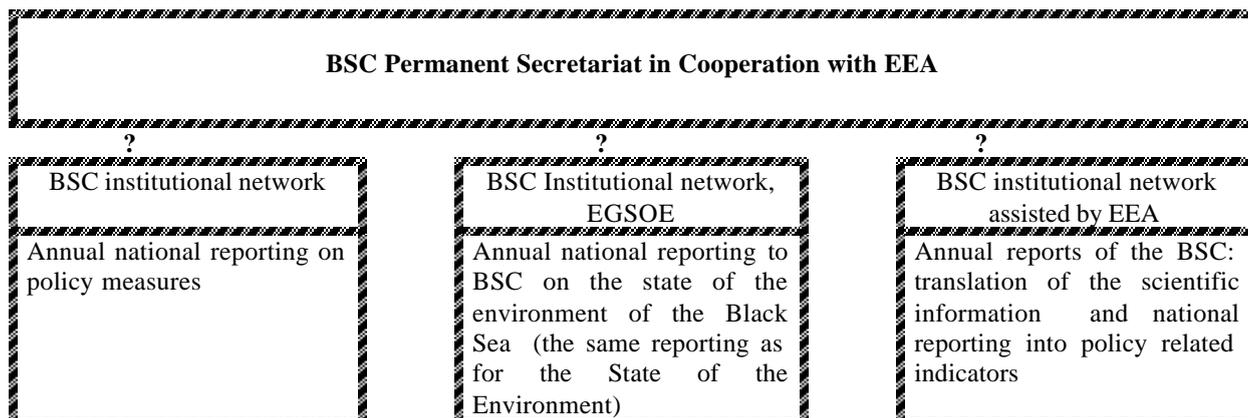
2. SOE Timetable

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Deadlines</i>	<i>Leading Institution</i>	<i>Financial sources</i>
Establishing <i>interdisciplinary expert group of leading scientists</i> and developing the operational scheme for organization of the preparation of the report (EGSOE)	Second half of 2004	BSC, GEF	GEF, ARENA,
Inventory of available scientific knowledge and databases	December 2004	EGSOE, BSC institutional network	GEF, ARENA, other projects
Elaboration of Report Layout	March 2005	EGSOE	GEF, ARENA, other projects
Establishing mechanism for cooperation with on-going and emerging projects	March 2005	EGSOE, BSC, EEA	BSC PS, GEF, ARENA, Other Projects
Preparation of the State of the Environment Report	September 2006	EGSOE, BSC institutional network	GEF
Editing and Publication Of SOE, 2006	March 2007	EGSOE, GEF, BSC PS	GEF

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR
REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION OF THE BLACK SEA (SAPIR)**

2001-2006

1. SAPIR Information flow



2. Timetable

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Deadlines</i>	<i>Leading Institution</i>	<i>Financial sources</i>
Fine tuning the reporting formats to BSC on policy measures	April, 2004	BSC institutional network, GEF	BSC, GEF BSERP, TACIS
Annual national reporting to the BSC on policy measures	September 1 st of each year, starting from 2004	National focal points through BSC member	In – kind contribution by Black Sea Coastal States
Annual national reporting to BSC on state of the environment (the same as for SOE)	September 1 st of each year, starting from 2004	National focal points through BSC member	In – kind contribution by Black Sea Coastal States
Establishing mechanism for cooperation with on-going and emerging projects	March, 2004	EEA, BSC	EEA, BSC
Preparation of indicator-based annual reports	Starting from 2004	BSC PS, BSC institutional network EEA for the year 2004	BSC PS, EEA, GEF, TACIS
Preparation of indicator based five years report in the Implementation of BS SAP 2001-2006	December, 2006	EEA, BSC PS, BSC institutional network	BSC PS, EEA, GEF
Printing of indicator based five years report in the Implementation of BS SAP 2001-2006	March, 2007	EEA	EEA, BSC