

# UNDP/GEF DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT

## Final Seminar

Bucharest, 21-22 February 2007



## WHY THE PROJECT

- » DRB – the most international basin in the world (10% of Europe, 81 Mio Inhabitants, 18 Countries with diverse cultures);
- » Countries in particular political situation, regional social and economic disparities;
- » Need for the Danube and Black Sea protection - nutrient and toxic pollution, ecosystems damage.



## WHY THE PROJECT

- » GEF Intervention in the basin since 1992 and Danube Environmental Programme implemented jointly with EU (Phare/Tacis);
- » GEF Danube/ Black Sea Strategic Partnership;
- » Sustainability of transboundary cooperation/Danube River Protection Convention – legal and institutional framework;
- » Response to key drivers for policy changes and joint actions in the basin.



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## KEY DRIVERS FOR POLICY CHANGES AND JOINT ACTIONS

- » Reduction of nutrients input into the Black Sea ( MoU between two Commissions and GEF Danube – Black Sea Strategic Partnership);
- » EU Accession Process;
- » Implementation of the EU Water framework Directive in DRB and Danube River basin Analysis 2005.



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## OBJECTIVES

### Danube Regional Project

- » To reduce nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube and Black Sea ecosystems and reinforce transboundary cooperation and stakeholder involvement in pollution reduction;
- » To complement the activities of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and strengthen the capacities of the ICPDR and Danube countries to cooperate in solving of transboundary problems.



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## OBJECTIVES

### DRP Final Seminar

- » The objectives of this Seminar are to present and get feedback from the Danube countries on the key achievements, lessons learned of the DRP;
- » To discuss and outline follow-up activities.



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# DRP FINAL SEMINAR

## 21/22 February 2007

- » Background documents:
  - » Overview Document;
  - » Project Fact Sheets;
  - » 15 years of managing the Danube Basin.
- » Overview of project activities by themes:
  - » Future Danube initiatives
  - » Round table discussions
  - » Expected outcomes
  - » Conclusions



### » Final DRP Steering Committee Meeting

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# UNDP/GEF DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT

## Facts and Figures

- » Duration: 5 years (2002 - 2007)
- » Executing Agency: UNOPS in cooperation with ICPDR
- » GEF Financing: USD 17,24 million
- » No. of Contracts: 307 (130 within SGP)
- » No. of Workshops, etc.: 69
- » Total No. of Participants: 1646



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# SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

## What happened

- » **Strengthening Institution(s)** – regional level (ICPDR), national level, other stakeholders;
- » **Improving Management Tools** – river basin management, nutrient management, Danube GIS, tariffs and charges;
- » **Developing Policies** – agriculture, industry, land-use and wetlands, phosphate detergents;
- » **Promoting Public Participation** – NGO strengthening, Small Grants Programme, public participation and access to information;
- » **Implementing Pilot Projects** – river basin management, best agriculture practice, wetlands



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# ACHIEVEMENTS

- » **Institutional Level:**
  - » DRPC/ICPDR
  - » EU accession process in Danube countries
- » **Policy Level:**
  - » agriculture, industry, wetlands, etc.
- » **Technical Level**
- » **Stakeholders level:**
  - » NGOs (DEF);
  - » Local governments (water utilities);
- » **Cooperation with the Black Sea region**



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## ACHIEVEMENTS

- » UNDP/GEF DRP was instrumental for policy/legal/management reforms in the Danube countries, which led to measurable environmental improvements (reduction in pollution loads and improvement of water quality).
- » Numerous tangible environmental improvements were made at local level through demonstration and pilot activities – way forward to replicate throughout the entire basin.



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## ACHIEVEMENTS (continued)

- » UNDP/GEF DRP, together with EC assistance, was essential as a catalyst for progress meeting EU accession challenges and vice versa.
- » UNDP/GEF DRP together with EC assistance, made significant interventions to reduce nutrient pollution, in effect, through their respective nutrient pollution reduction efforts, both UNDP/GEF and the EU helped meet each other's goals.
- » Transboundary nutrient pollution reduction strategies were mainstreamed into national strategies and plans.



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## WHAT IS NEXT

- » Final Seminar :
  - » to present and get feedback from the Danube countries on the key achievements and lessons learned;
  - » to discuss and outline follow-up activities.



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## WHAT IS NEXT

- » Broadly disseminate the results of the UNDP/GEF DRP, intensify the cooperation between all countries to maintain the important progress that has been made and to use the UNDP/GEF intervention in the D/BS region as a model for other regions;
- » Complete the RBM plans and efforts at sub-basin level;
- » Further expand the capacities and tools for policy analysis/development at regional and national levels;



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## WHAT IS NEXT (continued)

- » Intensify the coordination of sectoral policies, influencing the environmental status of the waters and aquatic ecosystems;
- » Develop the basin-wide nutrient management platform effective in stabilisation/further reduction of nutrient pollution of the Danube River Basin and the Black Sea;
- » Further expand and/or strengthen the DRB/ICPDR stakeholders basis, particularly further develop/increase involvement of business in the programmes/projects aimed at the implementation of the DRPC and the EUWFD in DRB.



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