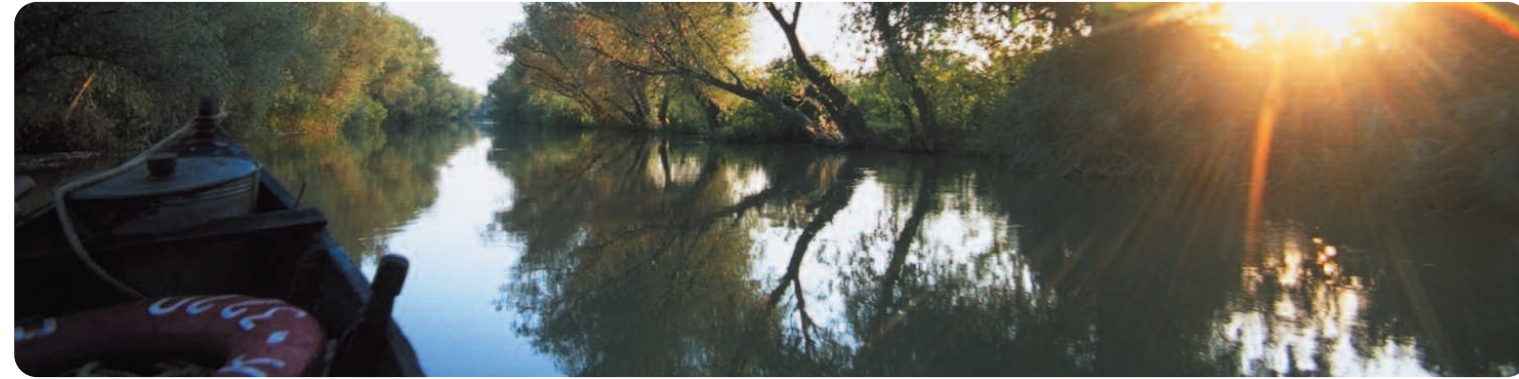


WHAT IS THE DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT?



The Danube Regional Project (DRP) is one of the world's most international environmental projects.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the United Office for Project Services (UNOPS) it covers the entire Danube Basin – and works closely with the Governments and people of the 13 participating Danube countries.

Its central partnership is with ICPDR, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

The ICPDR implements the Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River. This international convention is vitally important. Its central objective is protecting the Danube, one of the world's greatest rivers, by reducing pollution and protecting the Danube's natural ecosystems.

The Danube Regional Project's work covers a wide range of activities, from working in partnership with Governments and major industry to supporting small farming initiatives. In brief, the DRP is indeed working for the Danube and its people.

The Expert Groups cover themes like river basin management, implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, pollution control and monitoring, accident prevention, flood protection, ecological aspects of land use and protected areas, as well as economic analysis.

The Project has 6 full time staff and at any time is coordinating up to 80 activities, ranging from technical issues and planning to communication work. Some of these are supported through grants: others are commercial contracts.

We are very committed to working with and involving the people of the Danube. Wherever we can, we work with local expertise, local organisations and local businesses.

HOW DOES THE DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT WORK?

Because the DRP was initiated by the United Nations, it inevitably works closely with – and for – the 13 Governments of the Danube Basin, all of them members of the UN.

The ICPDR and its Expert Groups (appointed by the Governments) guide the DRP on its work, as do the Governments themselves and Danube Basin NGOs.

This leads to one of the most important features of the Project: its ideas are not imposed from above or afar – they are the very ideas of the people of the Danube.

WORKING WITH BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENTS AND NGOs



The Danube Regional Project's work is centred on partnership.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

have a major impact on the environment and life of the Danube Basin. The DRP is keen to ensure that this is a positive impact. We support business and industry in changing practices to reduce Danube pollution.

We work directly with commercial interests by commissioning studies, technical reports and practical projects in the Danube Basin, for which commercial enterprises are among those invited to tender.

NGOS

reflect citizens' environmental and social concerns in the Danube Basin, and we are dedicated to supporting them. We supply training, equipment and technical support and help to strengthen networks. Through our grants schemes we support dozens of NGOs in the region, on topics ranging from ecological education in primary schools, public awareness raising activities to wastewater treatment and protection of wetlands.

GOVERNMENTS

– at the local and national levels – are the voice of the people of the Danube. DRP works with them: in fact, we work for them: they guide our work through our regular meetings and discussions, through ICPDR's Expert Groups, and they lead us through their presence at the United Nations, which implements the DRP.

COMMUNICATION

– DRP is committed to openness and the sharing of information. We encourage our partners to communicate, and support them in doing this. We want to see the right information reaching the people of the Danube Basin in a way that is helpful, positive and understandable.

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?



The work of the Danube Regional Project is dedicated to the conservation, rational use and protection of the Danube's water and its quality. It achieves this through transboundary cooperation and organisational capacity building – including through the provision of grants.

Professionals and decision-makers concerned with the Danube and its waters are vital stakeholders.

The DRP's activities centre on the Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, and a key focus is strengthening the capacity of Danube countries and Danube organisations to implement the Convention.

By holding workshops, seminars and conferences, and by regularly presenting at international meetings, the DRP ensures that the effects of its work are recorded, recognised and shared.



DRP meets regularly with all stakeholders in the basin. Transboundary issues are being discussed and solutions are being sought.

The Danube river is one of the most important trading routes of Europe.



WHY THE DANUBE?



A globally successful project

"After three years of operation in the Danube River Basin, the DRP has been appraised by all beneficiaries as very successful and helpful to each of the Danube countries.

The DRP has supported and strengthened the cooperation amongst the 13 ICPDR member states through very efficient and targeted activities".

Phil Weller, Executive Secretary, ICPDR

The Danube flows 2,778 km from its source in Germany to its delta at the Black Sea. But it is more than a line on a map and a political boundary - it is an immense basin that drains water from 18 countries. The Danube is the most international river basin in the world. And for 80 million people, it is home.

80 million people, and their industry, farming and cities inevitably have a major impact. Pollution remains a serious problem. Toxic substances are a threat. Deforestation and destruction of natural floodplains have contributed to the devastating effects of the floods that have raged through the region over recent years.

www.undp-drp.org

DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT

WORKING FOR THE DANUBE AND ITS PEOPLE



AUSTRIA | BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | BULGARIA | CROATIA | CZECH REPUBLIC | GERMANY
HUNGARY | MOLDOVA | ROMANIA | SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO | SLOVAKIA | SLOVENIA | UKRAINE

"Anyone who is a stakeholder in the Danube is also a stakeholder in the Danube project" .
Ivan Zavadsky, Project Manager, DRP

The Danube Regional Project works closely with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; with the Governments and representatives of the 13 Danube nations (plus the EU), with organisations and institutions in the region and beyond, and with the people of the Danube Basin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
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But where there are problems there are solutions.

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) supports and helps the Danube countries in developing effective mechanisms for pollution reduction, for environmental management and for regional cooperation. DRP invests in research and practical initiatives, from research on environmentally friendly farming to Accident Emergency Responses.

For the Danube and its future, the Danube Regional Project is a major contributor to the region.



DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT WORKING FOR THE DANUBE AND ITS PEOPLE

