



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
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Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

International Roundtable Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin

Summary Conclusion by Franca Schwarz

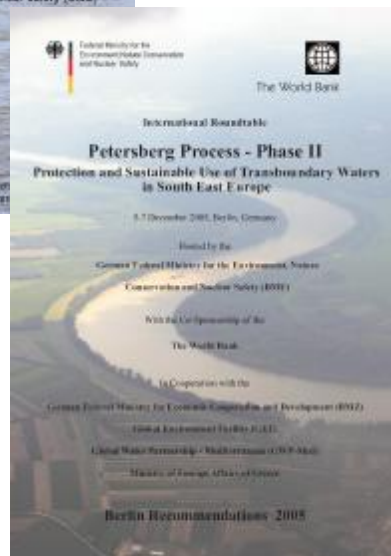
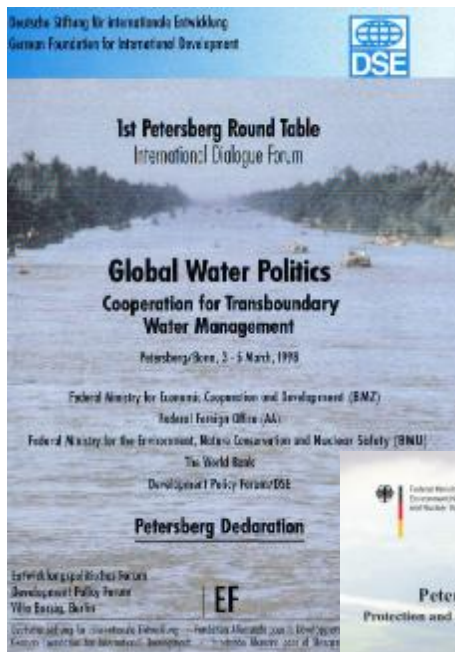
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Petersberg Process

- Joint Initiative of the German Government and the World Bank since 1998.
- Water is a catalyst for international Cooperation and Peace.
- Actual Focus: Strong cooperation with the Athens Declaration Process in implementation of transboundary cooperation in water catchment areas (rivers, lakes and groundwater) in South-Eastern Europe and Africa.
- Roundtable in December 2005 concluded the continuation of the process (dialogue forum for identification of new ideas and challenges in trans-boundary water management + focus on a set of key areas)





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Focus of the actual process:

- support measures to obtain the political, economic and environmental benefits that may be realised through effective cooperation in management of transboundary waters
- focus on a set of key areas and conduct activities at an increasingly local level to facilitate a broader range of participants in the dialogue
- support the creation of conditions that enable investments activities by the exchange of ideas and experiences



Multipurpose water resources management

- in a transboundary setting can create synergies among different users (aquatic and environmental ecosystems, flood mitigation, navigation, hydropower, ...)
- opportunity to improve the use of existing infrastructure investments and to optimize operations by moving from single- to multipurpose management
- the signment of the agreement of all parties sets the standard for the cooperation (here: Framework agreement for the Sava River Basin)

Multipurpose water management in the Sava River Basin

- Need to identify and prioritize (cost-benefit-analysis) the main drivers of sustainable development of the shared Sava River Basin (navigation, hydropower, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, ...), taking into account the opportunity of priority changes in time (e. g. water supply vs. industrial use) adaptation to the changing challenges have to be updated and upgraded.
- Besides various user needs different benefits exist for each of the four countries (upstream and downstream).
- Various cooperation levels (local level, national and international) have to be coordinated. Joint plans and programs of users and countries (technical / research and in harmonization with different legislation) e.g. land use planning has to be taken into account the water use (capacity limits of planning through water management).

Multipurpose water management in the Sava River Basin

- Experts groups, national institutions, participation of the public, ... in the Sava Basin have to be trained in their supportive responsibility and cooperation and should be coordinated by the common secretariat (strong mandate) with a clear information management (integrated system, cooperation and public participation).
- Harmonization and transparent action between all stakeholders needed (competence and role of the secretariat / common body = coordination mechanism with strong political linkage to national bodies)
- Recognition of on-going complementary processes of political and economical integration in the region (especial European Integration Process) + existance of programs and legislations (e. g. EU-WFD) and institutions (e. g. ICPE, ICPDR) give very valuable examples but have to be adjusted for this special case.



Proposed activities

- Finalisation of a common Sava River Basin Analysis and identification of main issues, in particular for trans-boundary multipurpose uses.
- Realistic assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services (including their socio-economic values) to guide options of sustainable development in the Sava River Basin.
- Ensuring integration of sectorial planning processes.
- Continue and strengthen cooperation especially with ICPDR and Danube Navigation Commission (ICSRB may take lead on sub-basin flood management plans).



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Dissemination of information

Background material, general information as well as information and presentations of this multipurpose water management workshop will be made available at

www.bmu.de and www.watersee.net