

International Roundtable

Petersberg Process Phase II  
Principles for Multipurpose Water Management  
in the Sava River Basin

# Zagreb Recommendations 2006

15 – 17 November 2006, Zagreb, Croatia



Organised by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment,  
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

With the assistance of the International Sava River Basin  
Commission (ISRBC) and hosted by Croatian Waters

In cooperation with the World Bank (WB), the German Federal Ministry for  
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Global Environment  
Facility (GEF) and the Global Water Partnership–Mediterranean (GWP-med)



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The Petersberg Process has its origins in a 1998 joint initiative by the German Government and the World Bank. In March 1998, a high-level Round Table on Transboundary Water Management was held at Petersberg near Bonn. The meeting's central message was that cooperation in the water sector could serve as a catalyst for close regional cooperation and peace (Petersberg Declaration). More international conferences followed, some of which had a regional focus. Based on the experiences and outcomes during Roundtables in the initial phase, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the German Federal Ministry for International Cooperation and Development and the World Bank decided to initiate a second phase of the Petersberg Process.

Phase II of the Petersberg Process focuses on the concrete implementation of transboundary water management in catchment areas in South-Eastern Europe<sup>1</sup> and is intended to merge current developments and to highlight options for future cooperation in transboundary water management (rivers, lakes and groundwater).

Phase II was launched with a Round Table in Berlin in December 2005 that brought together national representatives from the region as well as representatives of international organizations. It was confirmed that major actions in South-Eastern Europe are needed for

- institutional strengthening and capacity building as a basic condition for effective cooperation on trans-boundary water resources management
- improving the conditions for investments to support cooperative water resources management

In pursuing these objectives a series of Round Tables have been planned. The Round Table on Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin addressed the following major thematic blocks: aquatic and environmental ecosystems, flood mitigation, navigation, hydropower as well as multipurpose water management.

Participants in the roundtable in Zagreb included representatives from government agencies with responsibilities in water management as well as in infrastructure investment planning and financing, representatives from regional and local authorities as well as other Sava Basin stakeholders from various international organizations and financial institutions active in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> A second element of the Petersberg Process focuses on transboundary water management issues in Africa under the leadership of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in cooperation with the World Bank.

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# Zagreb Recommendations

## “Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin”

### A. OVERVIEW

#### 1. Petersberg Process – Phase II and Athens Declaration Process

The International Roundtable “Principles for Multipurpose Management in the Sava River Basin” is the second workshop of Phase II of the Petersberg Process, a joint initiative of the German Government and the World Bank. The Petersberg Process was launched in March 1998 to facilitate dialogue on water as a catalyst for regional cooperation. A series of roundtables covering transboundary water issues at international levels led to Phase II, where the theme is "sharing benefits." Phase II focuses therefore more on operationally oriented cooperative activities concerning transboundary water issues at the local, national and international level. The activities of the Petersberg Process under Phase II in South-Eastern Europe are closely linked to the Athens Declaration Process. That process was initiated in 2003 between the Greek Government and the World Bank and focuses on actions to promote sustainable management of transboundary water resources in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Activities in South-Eastern Europe during Phase II of the Petersberg Process will also complement the Stabilization and Association processes of the European Union (EU) and the Mediterranean Component of the EU-Water Initiative.

#### 2. Partners in the Process

The International Roundtable was organized by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the World Bank with the assistance of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) and in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Global Environment Facility (GEF, especially the GEF/IW:LEARN Project) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med). In line with previous Petersberg Round Tables this meeting was organized as an informal policy dialogue on transboundary water cooperation and convened experts and decision-makers in the water sector and provided a forum for addressing current challenges and lessons learned in this field. Participants were representatives from government agencies with responsibilities in water management as well as in infrastructure investment planning and financing, representatives from regional and local authorities as well as Sava Basin stakeholders from various organizations and financial institutions active in the region.

#### 3. Focus of the International Round Table in the Sava River Basin

The Roundtable in Zagreb addressed issues of Integrated Water Resources Management in relation to the European Union Water Framework Directive, focusing on aspects of competing uses in the Sava River catchment area, which is shared between the countries Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and very small parts of Albania. The following major issues were addressed into the roundtable: ecosystems, flood mitigation, navigation, hydropower as well as multipurpose water management. The important linkages

to governance, finance as well as to capacity building and technology transfer were also thoroughly discussed.

#### 4. Themes for Discussion

Phase II of the Petersberg Process provides support to catalyse existing opportunities to foment cooperation on trans-boundary river, lake and groundwater basins in South-Eastern Europe. In this regard, the International Roundtable “Principles for Multipurpose Management in the Sava River Basin” was built around the following major competing uses in the Sava River Basin:

- aquatic and environmental ecosystems,
- flood mitigation,
- navigation,
- hydropower.

Consideration was given, in particular, to the integrated planning and management of the Sava River Basin and to related integrated concepts like the European Water Framework Directive. Links to other regional initiatives, mechanisms and agreements were addressed, including the ongoing and proposed programs for the Danube River Basin, and of successful examples from other comparable transboundary basins.

## **B. KEY OBSERVATIONS**

#### 5. Obtain the Political, Economic and Environmental Benefits

The Petersberg Process – Phase II and the Athens Declaration Process support measures to obtain political, economic and environmental benefits that may be realised through effective cooperation in management of transboundary waters. An important role lies in the exchange and the consolidation of knowledge and experience on current trends and emerging issues in water management. Support is provided, on a selective basis, as well for the development of international water basin commissions or similar organisations where clear political commitment exists and conditions are appropriate for development and implementation of management programs. Assistance should be broad in scope and include the important linkages between land use and water management at the regional level. Actions should be complemented by activities to support effective water policies and strategies in the countries cooperating at the regional level.

#### 6. Facilitate a Broader Range of Participants in the Dialogue

A common understanding of cooperative management objectives is critical for effective management of international water resources. The primary responsibility for ensuring equitable and sustainable water resources management rests with governments. But it requires the participation of all stakeholders who use and / or protect water resources and

their ecosystems. Special attention is needed to facilitate a broader range of participants in the dialogue, taking into account a participatory integrated assessment of needs and options, so that people affected have the opportunity to participate in decision-making and share in project benefits.

#### 7. Enable Investments Activities by the Exchange of Ideas and Experience

The increasing junction of local and national interests in South-Eastern Europe, facilitated by the overall process of European political and economic integration in the region, provides a basis to expand transboundary water management efforts. The knowledge and skills needed for multipurpose water management change as new knowledge is generated and new needs emerge. Concerted exchange of ideas and experience in this field can support the creation of conditions that enable public and private investment activities.

### **C. MULTIPURPOSE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

#### 8. Water among competing Demands

Water needs to be equitably and sustainably allocated, with the view to ensure the functioning of ecosystems, and to satisfy basic human needs and different economic uses. Allocation mechanisms have to balance competing demands and take into account the social, economic and environmental values of water. They should reflect the links between inland and coastal water, growing urbanisation, land management requirements, the need to maintain ecosystem integrity, the threats of desertification and environmental degradation as well as the vulnerability regarding climate change.

#### 9. Creating Synergies by a common Agreement

Water is a vehicle to promote regional co-operation. In a trans-boundary setting it can create synergies among different users and uses (like e. g. aquatic and environmental ecosystems, flood mitigation, navigation, and hydropower). The use of existing infrastructure can be enhanced by moving from single- to multipurpose management. Co-operative management of shared waters is best served by long-term commitments. The joint signature of an agreement by all parties sets the standard for co-operation. Active strategies should support the exchange of water-related knowledge, develop reciprocal understanding, and lead to concrete solutions.

#### 10. Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin

- The initial step for true multipurpose water management in the shared Sava River Basin is the need to identify the main drivers of sustainable development (navigation, hydropower, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, ...) and prioritise them (e. g. through cost-

benefit-analysis) in accordance to the needs at national and regional level. As new needs emerge and new knowledge is generated over time, there exists the possibility of priority changes in time (e. g. water supply vs. industrial use vs. ecosystem restoration). The adaptation to changing challenges should be reassessed at a regular basis.

- Besides the main sectoral users of the water from the Sava river basin as a whole, there exist specific upstream and downstream benefits exist for each of the four countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia). Both regional and country-specific concerns and benefits need to be recognised and considered for true multipurpose river basin management.
- Successful development, design and implementation of multipurpose water management must be based on sound information, and the effective consultation and active involvement of institutions at various levels of cooperation (local, national, regional and international). Increased knowledge is needed everywhere. Sharing research and technical information about the Sava River Basin could be a starting point for developing joint plans and programs, which have to be harmonised with different national and international legislations. For example, data and knowledge sharing should contribute to better land use planning, with the different kinds of water use taken into account.
- People and organisations assuming new roles in multipurpose water management in the Sava River Basin must be able to meet their new responsibilities. Expert groups, national institutions, the public, ...: all have to be trained in their respective responsibilities and cooperation and should be coordinated by the International Sava River Basin Commission. The fulfilment of this new role can be facilitated by the secretariat having a strong mandate with a clear information management task (integrated system, cooperation and public participation).
- Multipurpose water management in the Sava River Basin should be better linked with other on-going complementary agreements and processes of political and economical integration in South-Eastern Europe, especially the European Integration Process. Specific programs and legislation (e. g. the European Water Framework Directive) as well as other institutions outside the region (e. g. ICPE, ICPDR) are valuable examples of frameworks but have to be adjusted to the case of the Sava River Basin.

## **D. MOVING FORWARD**

### **11. Sava River Basin Analysis**

The effective execution of multipurpose water management in the Sava River Basin needs to bring all water users to the information sharing and decision making tables. Although there exists a lot of knowledge already, a Sava River Basin Analysis leading to the identification of the main issues, in particular with regard to the trans-boundary multipurpose water use, is still pending.

## 12. Ecosystem Services

Both intrinsic and economic value of ecosystems and ecosystem services has to be recognised in water allocation and multipurpose water management. There exist a lot of examples in the industrialised countries where the neglect of the ecosystem needs caused at the end a lot of negative socio-economic impacts. Therefore ecosystems should be protected and preserved, or restored. This will maintain the wide range of services that healthy ecosystems provide and the livelihoods that depend upon them. A realistic assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services would guide options of sustainable development in the Sava River Basin.

## 13. Promote participatory Sharing

Decisions on projects in the Sava River Basin should be taken after a participatory integrated assessment has taken place of needs and options, taking a precautionary approach into account. Actions to improve the performance should be a high priority. All risks, costs and benefits should be fully accounted for. The role of sectoral planning processes in sustainable development should be directly demonstrated.

## 14. Cooperation with other Initiatives and Processes

There are a lot of institutions and initiatives active in the region. Inter alia the European and compliance with its Directives, particularly the Water Framework Directive, has significantly influenced the development and adoption of trans-boundary management initiatives in South-Eastern Europe. The Water Framework Directive has provided a uniform reference point for planning and standards supporting integration across different policy areas concerning water. Application of this and strong partnerships with the international community could be a catalyst for a successful reform. Especially the coordination and cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the Danube Navigation Commission should be strengthened. It may be worth considering that the International Sava River Basin Commission takes up a lead role on a sub-basin flood management plan in the Danube Basin.

## 15. Dissemination of Information

Information about the Petersberg Process, the Athens Declaration Process, the GEF-IW:LEARN project and transboundary and multipurpose water management is available at [www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de) and [www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net) / [www.iwlearn.net](http://www.iwlearn.net). The sites provide background materials, general information as well as specific information and presentations of this multipurpose water management workshop.

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International Roundtable

Petersberg Process Phase II

**Principles for Multipurpose Water Management  
in the Sava River Basin**

15 – 17 November 2006, Zagreb, Croatia

**Program**

**Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process**  
**Principles for Multipurpose Management in the Sava River Basin**

**Zagreb, 15 - 17 November 2006**  
(at Croatian Waters, Av. Vukovar 220)

PROGRAM

**15 November - Wednesday**

14:00 – 14:45 Registration

15:00       **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**  
Germany / Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and  
Nuclear Safety (*Mr Thomas Stratenwerth*)  
World Bank (*Mr Anand K. Seth*)  
International Sava River Basin Commission (*Mr Kemal Karkin*)

**Report from the International Roundtable on Integrated Shared Lake Basin  
Management in Ohrid**  
Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (*Mr Dimitris Faloutsos*)

**First Block**

**Water Framework Directive as basis for Multipurpose Water Management  
in the Sava River Basin?**

Moderation *Mr Thomas Stratenwerth* and *Mr Dejan Komatina*

15:30       **Status of the Water Framework Directive Implementation in the Danube  
River Basin with focus on Multipurpose Water Management**  
(*Mr Philip Weller*)

**Approach of the International Sava River Basin Commission**  
(*Mr Dejan Komatina*)

**Overview of ongoing multilateral activities in the Sava River Basin**  
Worldbank (*Mr Stjepan Gabrić*)  
GEF / IW:LEARN (*Mr Mish Hamid*)  
European Agency for Reconstruction (*Mr Branko Mikašinović*)  
UNDP / GEF (*Mr Ivan Zavadsky*)

Euronatur (*Mr Martin Schneider-Jacoby*)  
CARDS Project of the European Commission (*Mr Senad Pločo*)  
SARIB-Project (*Mr Tarik Kupusović*)

18:00 Summary of the first day

19:30 Reception

## **16 November - Thursday**

### **Second Block**

#### **Thematic Sessions on Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin**

Moderation *Mr Thomas Stratenwerth*

09:00 Introduction to the thematic sessions by the moderator

#### **Multipurpose Water Management & Aquatic and Environmental Ecosystems**

facilitated and reported by *Mr Branko Bošnjaković* and *Mr Mitja Bricej*

##### Initial Presentations

- Management of Aquatic and Environmental Ecosystems in South-Eastern Europe (*Mr Mitja Bricej*)
- Valuation and Payment Mechanisms for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management (*Mr Branko Bošnjaković*)

11:00 Coffee Break

#### **Multipurpose Water Management & Flood Mitigation**

facilitated and reported by *Mr Martin Socher* and *Mr Danko Biondić*

##### Initial Presentations

- Flood risk management in the trans-national Elbe Basin – the ICPE as platform for cooperation (*Mr Martin Socher*)
- Flood Mitigation in the Sava River Basin (*Mr Danko Biondić*)

13:00 Lunch Break

#### **Multipurpose Water Management & Navigation**

facilitated and reported by *Mr Volker Mohaupt* and *Mr Tarik Kupusović*

##### Initial Presentations

- Waters and Navigation in the EU: Recent Water Framework Directive Recommendations for Better Policy Integration and Good Practice in Managing Ecological Impacts (*Mr Volker Mohaupt*)
- Navigation within the Sava River Basin: present conditions and further development (*Mr Tarik Kupusović*)

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 **Multipurpose Water Management & Hydropower**  
facilitated and reported by *Mr Alessandro Palmieri* and *Ms Marina Babić-Mladenović*

Initial Presentations

- Multipurpose Water Use and Hydropower in Serbia (*Mr Nikola Marjanović / Ms Marina Babić-Mladenović*)
- Hydropower potential of the Sava River Basin (*Ms Milica Djurić*)
- Hydropower in a Multipurpose Approach (*Mr Alessandro Palmieri*)

18:00 end of day two

19:30 Dinner  
Restaurant

**17 November - Friday**

**Third Block**

**Recommendations and Future Steps**

Moderation *Mr Thomas Stratenwerth* and *Mr Dejan Komatina*

09:00 **Rapport of the Working Sessions and Roundtable on Recommendations and Future Steps**

- Multipurpose Water Management & Aquatic and Environmental Ecosystems (facilitated and reported by *Mr Branko Bošnjaković* and *Mr Mitja Bricelj*)
- Multipurpose Water Management & Flood Mitigation (facilitated and reported by *Mr Martin Socher* and *Mr Danko Biondić*)
- Multipurpose Water Management & Navigation (facilitated and reported by *Mr Volker Mohaupt* and *Mr Tarik Kupusović*)
- Multipurpose Water Management & Hydropower (facilitated and reported by *Mr Alessandro Palmieri* and *Ms Marina Babić-Mladenović*)

supplementary statements and discussion by all participants

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Conclusive remarks and next steps**

Presentation of the conclusions of the roundtable (*Ms Franca Schwarz*)

International Sava River Basin Commission (*Mr Mitja Bricelj*)

World Bank (*Mr Alessandro Palmieri*)

Germany / Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (*Mr Thomas Stratenwerth*)

International Roundtable

Petersberg Process Phase II

**Principles for Multipurpose Management  
in the Sava River Basin**

15 – 17 November 2006, Zagreb, Croatia

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International Roundtable

Petersberg Process Phase II

**Principles for Multipurpose Water Management  
in the Sava River Basin**

15 – 17 November 2006, Zagreb, Croatia

**Summary of Findings from the Working Sessions**

The international Roundtable included thematic sessions on multipurpose water management that have specific importance for the Sava River Basin, namely (i) aquatic and environmental ecosystems, (ii) flood mitigation, (iii) navigation, and (iv) hydropower. Linkages to governance, finance as well as to capacity development and technology transfer were also discussed. A summary of findings from the respective Working Groups is provided below.

### **Multipurpose Water Management & Aquatic and Environmental Ecosystems**

(facilitated and reported by *Mr Branko Bošnjaković* and *Mr Mitja Bricej*)

- Sustainable Development and IWRM are based on economic efficiency, environmental effectivity and social equitability. Water-related ecosystems represent not only an intrinsic value, but also are an essential socioeconomic asset. This asset is an integral part of any water-related development planning.
- In water management, problems occur and are addressed through a mix of instruments: Command and control, infrastructural (i. e. purification, filtration), making use of ecosystem services, ... The choice of instruments for water management should be based on a valuation of costs and benefits of each option, stakeholder inputs, appropriate scale (local, national, basin), different conditions (bio-physical, geographic, political and socioeconomic), and lessons-learned from other countries experience.
- Key ecosystem services include the quantity (afforestation, conservation agriculture, flood plain restoration) and the quality (extensification of land use, conversion of cropland, integrated pest management, organic farming, pollution quotas). All ecosystem services are closely related to land use management and spatial planning. Advantage of services is to contribute to both economic efficiency and good ecological status.
- The main recommendations for effective Multipurpose Water Management & Aquatic and Environmental Ecosystems are:
  - Understand overall status of the water environment in the region and the implications for main economic activities in a transboundary context (water supply (quality/quantity), flood management, navigation, hydropower).
  - Adopt a risk management approach.
  - Make an inventory of potential transboundary conflicts resulting from differing interests and uses of water-related ecosystem services.
  - Identify practical tools to prevent cross-sectoral and transboundary conflicts (in particular, existing international legal instruments).

### **Multipurpose Water Management & Flood Mitigation**

(facilitated and reported by *Mr Martin Socher* and *Mr Danko Biondić*)

- Presentations focused on the experiences with flood risk management for the Elbe River Basin and the flood mitigation in the Sava River Basin.
- The discussion led to the following recommendations:
  - Need for strategic approach towards flood risk management in shared river basins.
  - Give trans-national commissions and working groups strong mandate (or protocols) and focus on big issues.

- Integrate national institutions for performing the work (transposition and implementation) in the partner countries.
- Integrate headwater and upstream countries in flood forecast and early warning systems.
- Make a clear hydrological structure of the river basin.
- Establish information platform in the internet in order to minimise efforts for information exchange.
- Integrate river wetlands into flood protection schemes also with a view to meet the requirements of WFD.
- Integrate flood risk management with spatial planning, civil protection, agriculture and forestry.

### **Multipurpose Water Management & Navigation**

(facilitated and reported by *Mr Volker Mohaupt* and *Mr Tarik Kupusović*)

- Presentations focused on the recent implementation recommendations from the European Union Water Framework Directive and the prospects of the rehabilitation of the Sava.
- A feasibility study of navigation should include among other things especially: evaluation of the whole traffic and logistic system, private and recreational traffic needs, impacts on other uses and vice versa, impacts on „good status“, ecologic efficiency, cost-benefit analysis (incl. external and running costs). After the feasibility study further decisions on rehabilitation should be done. In this regard, harbours play an important role in the whole traffic systems.
- There exist already many additional information, inter alia the following:
  - The International Sava River Basin Commission, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube, and the Danube Navigation Commission have mutual observer status.
  - Slovenia joins the Sava navigation protocol to be informed.
  - Morphological assessment exists (of Sava and will be actualised in 2nd joint Danube survey 2007 as well as of some small pilot basins in the EU-CARDS project)
  - There are several international experiences, inter alia from Germany: business transport needs (>345 days navigability, for container ships) and moratorium on new dams for navigation.
- The discussion led to the following main recommendation: include an open dialogue in the feasibility study (public tendering for a multi-user consortium and public results discussion meeting with relevant stakeholders):
  - An enhanced cooperation with the ICPDR will be beneficial for the Sava Commission in its tasks to provide the framework for cooperation between the riparian countries, and coordinate relevant activities. Relevant potentials should be further explored. The establishment of a common set of principles for navigation and nature protection should be explored.
  - There exist the need to identify the trade-offs between navigation (a developmental activity - one of the water uses in the river) and nature conservation. Sectoral Environmental Assessments can be used and serve this task. Available, appropriate, methodologies to assess the externalities created should be used to support decision making.
  - Experiences and lessons learned in other river basins from outside the region (e. g. Elbe, Danube; here with regard to navigation and its possible impacts to the status of natural resources) should be used.

- A comparable methodology to assess possible hydro-morphological alterations as a result of interventions for the rehabilitation of the waterway should be developed for the whole Sava river basin (-> Danube?).
- Market forces have to be taken into account since these will – up to a point - define cost-effectiveness and the viability of investments made for the development of navigation in the Sava River.
- Make integrated planning and assessment of all uses.

## **Multipurpose Water Management & Hydropower**

(facilitated and reported by *Mr Alessandro Palmieri* and *Ms Marina Babić-Mladenović*)

- Regarding hydropower and social sustainability the following has to be taken into account:
  - Create an enabling environment (e. g. Petersberg II Process/ Athens Declaration)
  - Involve representative stakeholders in the assessment of needs and options to meet those needs.
  - Consider all options (structural/ non structural; demand/ supply).
  - Reach a decision in a timeframe compatible with the needs to be addressed.
- The intermediate disturbance hypothesis is an important tool for hydropower in environmental sustainability: The hypothesis predicts that species richness will be highest at intermediate levels of disturbance; high levels of disturbance reduce diversity while low levels of disturbance allow competition to reduce diversity.
- Economic analysis under uncertainty: the role of modern decision support systems. Simple, yet robust enough to simulate trade-offs among sectors and purposes, development scenarios (including economic analysis), emergency management (contamination control, flood protection etc.), adaptation to climate variability (water availability scenarios), ...
- Emerging views in hydropower:
  - Do not compromise the environment to seek short term development, yet.
  - Do not let underdevelopment become the enemy of environment.
  - Modernize existing plants, update their operation.
  - Complete/ modify schemes under construction.
  - Plan and built new sustainable plants.
- Suggestions for next steps:
  - Workshop to agree ToRs for a shared DSS.
  - Adopt a risk-based approach to development with particular reference to social changes and climate variability.
  - Make realistic assessments of the resilience of ecosystems to guide sustainable development options.
  - Address existing hydropower schemes in parallel to the development of new ones.

International Roundtable

Petersberg Process Phase II

**Principles for Multipurpose Management  
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**Summary Conclusions (Powerpoint Presentation)**



## Petersberg Process (Phase II) / Athens Declaration Process

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

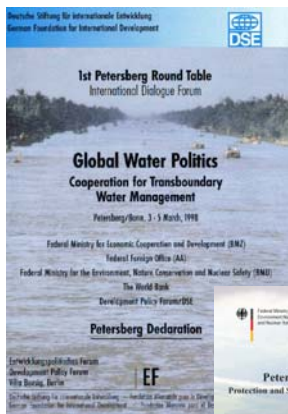
Summary Conclusion by Franca Schwarz

Zagreb (Croatia)  
November 2006



### 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 mangement + focus on a set of key areas)



### 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).



## 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](http://www.bmu.de) and [www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net)

