



Drina River Basin Nexus Assessment: Governance Desk Study

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Roadmap

- Overview of the global/regional context for governance
 - UN and EU
 - Regional river basin organizations & planning processes (Danube, Sava)
 - Energy cooperation in the region
- Governance in the Sava Nexus Assessment
- Launching analysis of governance in the Drina
 - Context & common issues
 - Actors
 - Laws
 - Policies and planning cycles



UN/EU Context

UN Context

- SDGs 16-17: inclusiveness, accountable institutions, effective implementation. Rio Principle 10.
- All three countries are parties to the Water Convention, Espoo Convention, and Aarhus Convention, and have started to implement these conventions through legislation and policy documents

EU Context

- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia are all on their way to EU membership, with its associated accession requirements
- Harmonization with EU legislation has advanced to different degrees in the countries, i.e. with respect to approximation of the EU Water Framework Directive



Regional river basin organizations & planning processes

- There are robust water governance mechanisms in place at the regional level of the Danube River Basin, primarily through **ICPDR**
- There are robust water governance mechanisms at the regional level of the Sava River Basin, including the **Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)** and its implementing body, the **International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)**
- Gaps: there is no equivalent organization to the ISRBC at a regional level for the energy, food, and ecosystem sectors
- Gaps: some sectors are not geographically oriented towards RBO level (energy, agriculture)
- Other regional planning/coordination takes place through transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments



Energy cooperation in the region

- The European **Energy Community** aims to extend the EU's energy market to a number of South Eastern European countries, on the basis of a legally binding framework
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia are three of the eight countries involved, and have committed to: implement the relevant EU energy acquis, develop adequate regulatory frameworks, and liberalise their energy markets
- As part of this, all three have established targets for renewables by 2020 as part of implementation of the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive, and have created **National Renewable Energy Action Plans** setting out how they will meet these targets
- Several instruments can promote good governance – e.g., "Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development in the Danube Basin"



Biodiversity and land use/food/agriculture

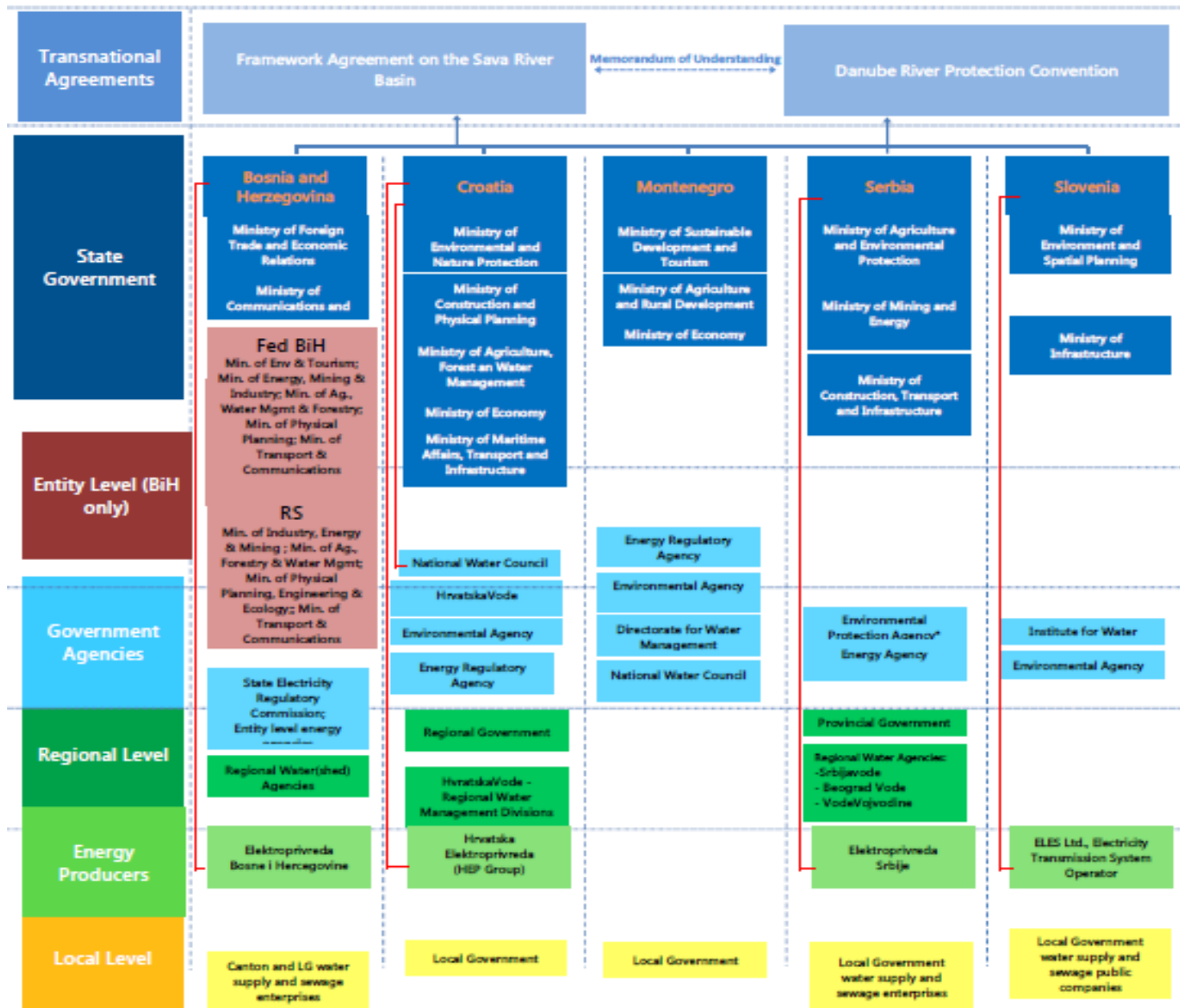
- The international governance framework on protection of biodiversity is well-developed but requires national implementation
 - 5 UN biodiversity-related conventions
 - EU Natura network

- EU membership will mark a major shift in governance in agriculture (CAP)
 - Dynamic area under constant reform
 - Land use and agriculture tend to be determined more on a national level in comparison to other sectors
 - Agricultural lobbies are important actors



Governance Aspects of Sava Nexus Assessment (2015)

- The Sava Nexus Assessment analyzed the above-mentioned transboundary governance context, along with a broad overview of actors, institutions & legal frameworks on national levels.
- **Governance solutions presented on:**
 - Improving intersectoral coordination
 - Examination of organizational mandates in light of nexus analysis (possible revision)
 - Assuring common standards of participation, transparency and accountability across sectors and in transboundary context



*Environmental Protection Agency of Republic of Serbia is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection



From Sava to Drina

- Gaps: some sectors were less well represented
- Needs: Planning cycles, Geographic scales, Strategies for reaction to changes on EU/regional level, Feedback from project level to strategic level, experience with permitting etc
- The Drina Nexus Assessment provides an opportunity to:
 - “zoom in” – particularly on national and transboundary governance in particular sectors, and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms
 - assess the potential of integrated permitting processes
 - further refine the Governance aspects of the Nexus Methodology



Context & Common Issues

- The importance of the energy sector and its impact on governance in the Drina
- Need for additional wastewater treatment infrastructure and overall improved management of wastewater and waste
- Need to fill data gaps regarding risks to water quality from waste and wastewater



Actors

- Further progress made in identifying actors in the three countries, especially in the areas of energy and water management
- Overall, there is a need to create further mechanisms for horizontal coordination between policymakers on nexus issues, and to strengthen mechanisms that already exist
- In some countries, legislation enables the creation of bodies that could obtain input from a variety of stakeholders on environmental issues; in some cases there are implementation issues



Laws

- Constantly changing laws to keep pace with EU requirements creates progress, but also means implementation often lags behind law creation
- In particular, there is often a lack of necessary secondary legislation (i.e. by-laws, regulations) for key pieces of environmental legislation
- Laws on integrated permitting potentially a very good tool but not yet functioning optimally



Policies and Planning Cycles

- Need to address delay in creating important environmental policies, strategies and action plans, and to ensure their full implementation
- In some cases, need for improved implementation reporting for existing plans/strategies
- Potential to better align policy timelines and related planning cycles



Thank You

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