Major solutions achieved in transboundary water cooperation in the Sava river basin

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Legal background for cooperation

Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB; 2000)
  • signed and ratified by SI, HR, BA and RS (entered in force in 2005)
  • implementing body: International Sava River Basin Commission (est. 2005)

Objectives of the FASRB
  • international regime of navigation
  • sustainable water management
  • sustainable management of hazards (floods, droughts, accidents involving water pollution, etc.)

Protocols to the FASRB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROTOCOLS to the FASRB</th>
<th>signed</th>
<th>in force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Flood Protection</td>
<td>June 1, 2010, Gradiška,</td>
<td>Nov. 27, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Sediment Management</td>
<td>July 6, 2015, Brčko</td>
<td>Oct. 08, 2017</td>
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</tbody>
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Joint plans and programmes

Sava River Basin Management Plan (2014, 2022)

**Objective:** to achieve ‘good status’ of all waters and prevent its deterioration (EU WFD 60/2000/EC)

- 1st Sava RBMP adopted at the 5th MoP in 2014
- 2nd Sava RBMP to be approved at 9th MoP in November 2022

Sava Flood Risk Management Plan (2019)

**Objective:** to establish joint objectives of flood risk management (EU Flood Directive 2007/60/EC)

- 1st Sava FRMP adopted at the 8th MoP in 2019
- development of 2nd Sava FRMP – ongoing, PFRA elaborated

Outline on Sediment Management Plan (2022)

**Objective:** to provide an analysis of existing sediment management practices and define further steps for a full-fledged SMP

- supported by the UNESCO, adopted by the ISRBC in March 15-16 2022
Joint plans and programmes

Sava – Drina River Corridor integrated development programme (2017)

Objective: to facilitate integrated transboundary water resources management and development along the Sava and Drina River Corridors

- ISRBC adopted a cross-sectorial Joint Action Plan for the Sava River Basin
- supported by the World Bank
- two phases of process, planning period of 10 years,

Outline of the Climate Adaptation Strategy and basin-wide priority measures for the Sava River Basin (2018)

Objective: to identify priority basin-wide measures, to suggest modalities and to assess cost estimates for a full scale CCA

- supported by the French Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the UNECE
Joint systems and data exchange

**Accident Emergency and Warning system (since 1997)**
- established and maintained by the ICPDR
- activated whenever there is a risk of transboundary water pollution

**Sava GIS/HIS ([www.savagis.org](http://www.savagis.org), [www.savahis.org](http://www.savahis.org)) (since 2015)**
- established and maintained by the ISRBC
- information from the Sava RBMP, Sava RB Analysis, Sava PFRA report, Sava FRMP available
- information (real-time and processed historical data) from more than 300 hydrometeorological stations available online

**Flood Forecasting and Warning systems (since 2018)**
- established and maintained by the ISRBC and Sava Countries
- fully operational flood forecasting platform which integrates existing hydrometeorological data and models as a support to the regular warning dissemination
Common projects

WATER-FOOD-ENERGY-ECOSYSTEMS NEXUS in the Sava and Drina River Basins (2016)
  • supported by the UNECE
  • main objective: to foster transboundary cooperation by identifying intersectoral synergies and determining measures for compensation of tensions due to multiple needs of riparian countries for water resources
  • sectors included: water management, agriculture and energy

  • supported by the EU Interreg programme
  • main objective: reduction of environmental risks related to accidental pollution and floods on transboundary water courses
  • sectors included: water management, civil protection and navigation

Sustainable Historic Environments holistic reconstruction through Technological Enhancement and community-based Resilience – SHELTER
  • supported by the EU Horizon 2020
  • main objective: increasing resilience, reducing vulnerability and promoting better and safer reconstruction in Historic Areas
  • sectors included: water management and cultural heritage protection
Benefits and lessons learned

Benefits of the process
• improved cooperation and increased level of mutual trust among the countries
• enhancement of cross-sectoral cooperation on national and international levels
• implementation of projects of common interest
• enhancement of stakeholder involvement (stakeholder forums, Sava Youth Parliament)

Lessons learned
• sound legal framework required
  • FASRB
  • Protocols to the FASRB
• solid institutional framework required
  • regional network of institutions / people (political and expert levels)
  • achievements / ongoing activities
  • mechanism for preparation and implementation of regional projects
• the way passed as well as the way to go is a demanding, but beneficial process
Thank you

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