Wetlands and the Danube River Basin Management Plan/Joint Programme of Measures

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Birgit Vogel
ICPDR
birgit.vogel@unvienna.org

CONTENT

- Rivers and wetlands – general concept
- WFD & DRBM Plan & Wetlands
- Results of the Danube Basin Analysis
- Danube River Basin Management Plan
  - Steps towards the JPM
  - Vision/management objectives for wetlands
Concepts of River Ecology

Connection wetlands/floodplains

- multidimensional landscape - systems
- highly dynamic nature
- disturbances key element
- complex connectivity conditions
- heterogeneous habitat complex
- shifting mosaic, steady state
- outstanding high biodiversity

Connectivity / dynamics
Functioning dynamics between riverine systems and connected wetlands do have a positive effect on the ecological status of rivers.

EU WFD & Danube River Basin Management Plan
ICPDR – River Basin Management

EU Water Framework Directive
- implementation = highest priority
- obligatory for all EU MS
- obligatory for all EU Accession Countries
- all other Danube states committed themselves to implement (Sofia, December 2000)

Objectives Danube River Protection Convention

WFD & Wetlands

- Water Framework Directive is no Wetland Directive
  - wetlands are addressed in very specific way
    - if negative effect on water body – part of WFD
  - protected areas
- EC CIS document
- ICPDR Issue Paper on wetlands for the DRB
- National legislation
Danube River Basin Management Plan

......has to be compiled by 2009/10
good coordination mechanisms and a clear strategy including timelines are needed

Part A
Roof Level

Part B
Sub-Basin/national Level

Part C
Sub-Unit Level

Common structure in all parts of the RBM Plan.

Competent authorities jointly coordinate Part A. Part C is coordinated on the national level

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RBM Plan – 4 Phases

⇒ PHASE I: Identify Competent authorities

⇒ PHASE II: Danube River Basin Analysis

COMPLETED

⇒ PHASE III: WFD compliant monitoring network

COMPLETED

⇒ PHASE IV: Final RBM Plan

CURRENTLY PERFORMED
TO BE COMPLETED 12/2009

ÖPHASE I: Identify Competent authorities
ÖPHASE II: Danube River Basin Analysis
ÖPHASE III: WFD compliant monitoring network
ÖPHASE IV: Final RBM Plan
Danube Basin Analysis

- First comprehensive analysis of the entire Danube River Basin
- Basis for any future river basin management planning
- Identification of significant water management issues

Significant Water Management Issues

Agenda Item: 3.1
Identification Significant Water Management Issues

Risk due to hydro-morphological alterations:
- DE
- AT
- SK/HU
- HU
- HR-CS
- CS/RO
- BG/RO
- RO

Pressures:
- Intermittence of longitudinal continuum
- Interruption of lateral continuity of rivers

Hydromorphological Alterations

Pressures

Morphological Alterations
- Intermittence of longitudinal continuum
- Interruption of lateral connectivity of rivers

Hydrological Alterations

Other hydromorphological alterations
Hydromorphological Alterations

Drivers

Key Drivers
- Hydropower generation
- Flood defence
- Navigation

Other Drivers
- Water abstraction
- Gravel abstraction
- Recreational activities

Impact HYMO Alterations

Wetland Loss

Area of historical floodplains in the study area: 41,600 km²
Area of remaining floodplains in the study area: 4,000 km²
A floodplain loss of more than 90%
Danube River Basin Management Plan & WFD
**INTEGRATED DRBM PLAN**

- Development of **Joint Programme of Measures (JPM)**
  - largely based on national measures
  - measures on supra-national level
- **Basin wide approach**
  - address issues which are not dealt with in the same way on national level (e.g., nutrient management)
  - integrated approach
- **Long term visions**
  - definition of management objectives on basin wide scale

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**DRBM PLAN**

**Steps**

- **towards the final Danube RBM Plan**
- **Issue Papers for all Significant Water Management Issues**
  - Hydromorphological Alterations incl. wetlands
- **Document on SWMI**
  - First outline of DRBM Plan/Joint Programme of Measures (JPM)
  - Publication end 2007
- **Inclusion into DRBM Plan/JPM for implementation**
INTEGRATED DRBM PLAN

…..is the aim.

⇒ Achievement of environmental objective:
  good ecological/chemical status

⇒ Holistic approach
  ⇒ Integration of RBM with wetland management

⇒ Consider all functions, uses, pressures/impacts and future infrastructure projects

Integration of DRBM Plan with flood management.

Effect on wetland management

Visions & Management Objectives

Development of visions and management objectives for DRBM Plan to achieve WFD objectives

⇒ operational and describe steps towards environmental objectives in DRB (basin wide scale)

⇒ described in quantitative, semi-quantitative, verbal way

⇒ bridge gap between national and international level

⇒ help illustrate implementation success = criteria
Visions & Management Objectives

Wetlands and Floodplains

Vision development for lateral connectivity in the DRB

….will lead to definition of concrete management objectives

Wetland Vision Example

⇒ Development of semi-quantitative objectives
  ⇐ 80% wetland loss – management objective indicates aim for future work and financing needed to reconnect a specific number/area (ha)/percentage of wetlands/floodplains

⇒ Inventory of disconnected wetlands/floodplains

⇒ Inclusion flood retention and pollution reduction

⇒ Consideration of ‘no net loss’ principle
  ⇐ Wetlands should be conserved whenever possible. If wetland areas are converted for other uses ⇒ offset through restoration and creation of other wetlands.

⇒ Priority setting of wetland functions towards integrated RBM Plan
Vision, JPM and Wetlands

Restoration Potential in the middle and lower Danube? Priorities?

Semi-quantitative management objectives?

Vision?

Questions

- Which measures need to be taken in wetlands to improve riverine status?
- What key issues need to be included in the DRBM Plan vision?
- What are the management objectives?
- What are the priorities of functions and measures?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
birgit.vogel@unvienna.org