

## Thank you for your contribution to the GWP!

AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP, TAKING PLACE ON AUGUST 20, 2006, IN STOCKHOLM, TWELVE INDIVIDUALS WERE PRESENTED AWARDS FOR THE ROLE THEY HAVE PLAYED IN THE FIRST DECADE OF GWP'S EXISTENCE.

The award, which consisted of a small glass sculpture in the shape of a drop together with the GWP anniversary publication that was launched at the same event, was meant as a token of appreciation to those that made significant contributions to the organisation, especially in its early years.

The selection process was a rather informal one. A number of GWP 'friends', former committee members etc, were asked to nominate three people they thought had been key in GWP's development. The nominations resulted in the list of twelve individuals, listed below together with their connection to GWP.

**Maureen Ballestero** / former Chair of GWP Central America  
**John Briscoe** / former World Bank donor

**Tabeth Chiuta** / former Executive Secretary for GWP Southern Africa  
**Bert Diphooorn** / former Dutch donor  
**Meike van Ginneken** / former Network Officer for Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America  
**John Hodges** / former British donor  
**Johan Holmberg** / former GWP Executive Secretary  
**Torkil Jonch-Clausen** / former GWP Technical Committee Chair  
**Simi Kamal** / member of the GWP Technical Committee and GWP South Asia  
**Janusz Kindler** / former Chair of GWP Central and Eastern Europe  
**Khalid Mohtadullah** / former GWP Executive Secretary  
**Ismael Serageldin** / former GWP Chair

In addition, the GWP Patrons, HRH the Prince of Orange and Prof. Kader Asmal, were presented the award in gratitude of their contributions to GWP. Also Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden was presented the glass droplet in appreciation of her participation in the anniversary celebration. ■



Janusz Kindler, GWP CEE Senior Advisor

## Calendar of Events

### Tool Box seminar

*International seminar on IWRM Tool Box for academic fellows*

**September 8–9, 2006**

*Svaty Jur, Slovakia*

### European Large Lakes Symposium 2006

*Ecosystem changes and their ecological and socioeconomic impacts*

**September 11–15, 2006**

*Tartu, Estonia*

*GWP CEE Stakeholder meeting in Moldova*

**October 26–27, 2006**

*Chisinau, Moldova*

*GWP CEE Regional Council Meeting*

**October 28–29, 2006**

*Chisinau, Moldova*

*National IWRM Dialogue in Hungary*

**November 13, 2006**

*Budapest, Hungary*

*National IWRM Dialogue in Poland*

**November 14, 2006**

*Warsaw, Poland*

*National IWRM Dialogue in Bulgaria*

**November 23–25, 2006**

*Arbanasi, Bulgaria*

*National IWRM Dialogue in Lithuania*

**November 28, 2006**

*Vilnius, Lithuania*

*National IWRM Dialogue in Ukraine*

**December 4, 2006**

*Kiev, Ukraine*

# Serbian farmers Participate in United Nations Pilot Project for Reducing Danube pollution

FARMERS IN RURAL VOJVODINA, SERBIA, WERE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AIMED AT HELPING FARMERS IN SEVEN DANUBE RIVER BASIN COUNTRIES.



All eight demonstration farms have livestock production including pigs, cows and chickens, and crop production such as maize, sunflower and barley. Bad farming practices are a main source of nutrient and toxic pollution seeping into local water bodies that lead to the Danube and Black Sea. Bad practices include the poor storage of manure and slurry (liquids with high solid concentrations) from livestock, manure and slurry distribution onto farm fields, the poor protection of chemical storage facilities and faulty application of pesticides.

The Vojvodina farms are representative of farming practices in Serbia and six other Danube countries participating in the project where agriculture is both a key economic sector and pollution source. The other countries are Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

To help reduce pollution, the project, financed by the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) Danube Regional Project (DRP) and implemented by Danish company Carl Bro, is training farmers in



Training about control field sprayer

CREDIT: S. MILOSEVIC

applying best agricultural practices (BAPs). To date, project successes include the training of farmers and farming advisory services in fertilizer planning, and designing and constructing manure storage and slurry tanks.

The project is trying to raise finances from the state and private sectors, to construct manure stores and slurry tanks and purchase equipment. A campaign has informed local and national Serbian media at seminars and demonstration sites. Recently, farmers and journalists were flown to an international farming fair in Denmark to learn about the latest advances in BAPs.

Besides providing environmental advantages, farmers also benefit economically from BAPs through reduced expenditures on fertilizers and

pesticides, more cost-effective farming practices and the improved quality of their products. Project partner organizations in each of the seven countries have developed national plans for disseminating results and transferring know-how from the Vojvodina farms to farmers, farming advisory services and local authorities through trainings, publications and media relations. *"More such projects are needed to increase the understanding, and support the application, of BAPs in the Danube countries,"* said Slobodan Milosevic, Project Team Leader.

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Calf from pilot farm



Farmer ready for handling agrochemicals

CREDIT: S. MILOSEVIC

# LIFE brings life to the Sur

IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE, SUR STANDS FOR WETLAND.

The Sur wetland is located a mere 6 kilometers from Bratislava, the capital city of Slovakia. Today's surface was formed in the Late Tertiary Period, when neighboring hills were lifted up and the Sur area was lowered. Sea and lake sediments and later, the Danube River, filled the lowland. During end of the Ice Age, the Sur dropped further down and created a shallow basin which attracted creeks from the surrounding hills. Supplied with plenty of water, a swamp forest grew on the organic mud and peat in the lowest part.

In the 17th century, swamps were a natural defense of the town of Svaty Jur against Turkish invaders. For local people, the wetland supplied fresh fish, birds and wild animals. The situation deteriorated in the "industrialization" era which

to catch water in the spring time. For the Sur, spring floodwater is critical to the life of its ecosystems for the rest of a year. Unfortunately, the gates did not work.



Since 1952, scientists have tried to declare the Sur wetland as a natural protection reservation due to its rich biodiversity. With a total area of 1100 hectares, the reserve boasts of the largest natural alder swamp forest in Central Europe. It is also home to a variety of rare and endangered plants and animals. The importance of the Sur was underlined by the fact that it was the first wetland in Slovakia declared as an internationally important wetland under the Ramsar Convention in 1990 (Ramsar site No 498).



Rare Iris sibirica in Sur

CREDIT: APOP



Protected Grass Frog *Rana temporaria* in Sur

CREDIT: APOP

called for more agricultural land. Whenever possible, wetlands have been drained and turned into fields. The Sur also suffered as surrounding creeks were trapped into the man made Sur canal which diverted water from the wetland. Despite high expectations, the canal did not help to grow more crops, however, it increased the fire risk and dried up the Sur.

Between 1942 and 1999, the area of flooded meadows dropped from 696 hectares to virtually nothing. The bogs and marches started to disappear and a number of water plant species declined. Not surprisingly, the groundwater level decreased, especially during dry years. The Sur has also suffered from fires. In order to help the wetland, several sluice gates were constructed

Since achieving the status of a protected reserve, the desiccation of the Sur wetland has continued, despite the efforts of scientists, students, volunteers and NGOs. The major problem is the lack of dialogue among users of neighboring land – farmers, municipalities, hunters, gardeners and others. The wetland lies in the vicinity of the capital which is rapidly sprawling into the suburban residential areas. Academia Istropolitana Nova, the Svaty Jur based educational institute, prepared a communication strategy to solve this problem. The results of the project were successfully published in the GWP Tool Box ([www.gwptoolbox.org](http://www.gwptoolbox.org)), as case study No 119. However, they have not been used in managing the wetland on the ground.

## LIFE project

In 2003, the Association of Industry and Nature Conservation (APOP) launched a new initiative to direct more water into the Sur. APOP and its partners – the Water Management Enterprise, Protected Region (CHKO) Male Karpaty, the Slovak Land Fund and the municipality of Svaty Jur – have prepared a project for LIFE. First introduced in 1992, LIFE is an EU financial instrument for the environment and one of the spearheads of the European Union's environmental policy. It co-finances projects in three areas – LIFE Nature, LIFE Environment and LIFE Third Countries.



Later in 2003, the proposal was granted 400,000 EUR from LIFE, out of which the contribution of the project team was 100,000 EUR. The project aims to improve wetland ecosystems in the Sur Nature Reserve through improved water conditions. It will bring more water for the swamp wood forest, plants and animals whose life is totally dependent on this precious resource.

The project has two main parts. The technical part includes the reconstruction and construction of pipes and streams, which bring water to the Sur. The second part is educational and seeks to create a trail to help local people and tourists to become familiar with the reserve. The project will end in 2007; however, more water will continue to flow into the reserve later on. Even the results will be visible in the long run; the project manager says that the project came in the nick of time

Danka J. Thalmeinerova  
APOP, Focal Point of the GWP Tool Box

# DANUBE DAY 2006: Space for Life

DANUBE DAY 2006 WAS A MASSIVE EVENT WITH A MASSIVE IMPACT. REACHING AUDIENCES OF TEN OF THOUSANDS, IT ACHIEVED MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. THE SUCCESSES OF THE THIRD BASIN-WIDE FESTIVAL ARE NUMEROUS: IT WAS CELEBRATED ON A HUGE SCALE; IT INSPIRED CHANGE AND IT MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF THE RIVERS AND THE PEOPLE WHO RELY ON THEM.

## DANUBE DAY



### Celebration fills the Basin

Celebrations stretched across the basin on 29th June 2006. Tens of 1000s of people were involved in organising or attending 130 events in 13 countries. Ministerial events; conferences; awareness raising actions; river clean-ups and youth fests made a day of festivity and achievement. Beating last year's record, 410 government and civil society bodies worked together for Danube Day.

Events ranged from public festivals in major capitals to groups of children gathered on the banks of tiny tributaries in remote rural areas. As ICPDR Presidents, the spotlight was on Moldova to host their biggest and best celebrations yet - they achieved this and more. Towns along the Prut held events attended by Environment Ministers, senior international community and civil society officials and crowds of local people in a grand Danube Week.

Other national highlights included Romania's 7-day celebration; key conference on international cooperation and the Danube Walk - a day of merriment, awareness raising and dancing involving Ministers, officials, NGOs, ICPDR and Galati residents. Hungary's events took place in both Danube and Tisza Basins (incl. Baja, Bata, Gyor, Budapest and Esztergom). Serbia produced a tremendous affair with 70 bodies from 20 towns uniting Danubians. Visitors to Belgrade's flagship event could visit 12 towns in one, enjoying the traditions, food and history of each.

### Inspiring change across the region

Danube Day inspires people to work together for their environment. Cross-border activities promoted Danube solidarity, encouraging peo-



CREDIT: RUZICA JACIMOVIC

Encouraging children to think and act for their rivers: Danube Day 2006 in Belgrade

ple to look beyond boundaries and realise that their actions impact on others. Rivers marking the dividing line between nations became a common bond. The Austrian-Slovak-Hungarian Danube is the link for an annual endeavour: the Three Nations bicycle tour. This year, Danubians from 6 countries travelled one step, and many pedals, further by cycling from Vienna to Gyor. Further south, on the Hungarian-Serbian-Croatian stretch, the river was the uniting force for intrepid adventurers in the Baja-Apatin canoe tour. On the Moldovan-Romanian border, the cutting of a red ribbon on the banks of the Prut by the countries' Environment Ministers symbolically suspended the border for the day.

Slovak rivers provided the impetus for children to send Danube Greetings: messages of international goodwill to the Basin, organised by GWP. In addition, the GWP Greet the Danube



CREDIT: CCHBC/FALLANDER

We proudly present: The Danube Box (Josef Pröll, Minister of Water, Austria; Philip Weller, Executive Secretary, ICPDR; Monika Polster, Coca-Cola Austria, Ulrike Gehmacher, Coca-Cola HBC and Uli Sima, Environment Councillor, Vienna



CREDIT: CCHBC/FALLANDER

Moldovan Environment Minister and ICPDR President 2006, Constantin Mihailescu, gets involved in water quality monitoring during Danube Day festivities on the River Prut

ship blast saw workers sound their ships' horns in tribute to the route-way that provides their livelihoods. Boats from a different era united 3000 Austrians, Slovenes, Hungarians and Croats on the Mura when 20 traditional wooden craft travelled from Cmurek, Austria to Novakovec, Croatia. While American Mimi Hughes had only her own strength and stamina to



CREDIT: ATTILA MOROZCZ

The Mayor of Baja demonstrates his Danube solidarity by taking part in the Waters Unite "Baja (Hungary) – Bezdán (Serbia)" canoe tour

get through a gruelling 2850km Danube swim; a personal mission of social and environmental stewardship.

Inspiring the next generation of Danube users to act for their rivers is a cornerstone of Danube Day. This year involved more children than ever before. The DEF Danube Art Master extravaganza, which annually invites every child in the Basin to create a piece of art, elicited a huge response. In just 4 of the participating countries, over 1300 students entered 1000 artworks including 550 Czech students from the Morava region alone. National winners will travel to Vienna for a two day trip in December, courtesy of Coca-Cola and the ICPDR.

Danube wildlife, particularly fish, was this year's theme. Ukraine river adventures instilled a sense of wonder as youngsters searched for elusive sturgeon. Austria's day focussed on capturing young imaginations with Lobau safaris. Pupils were transported from the Vienna cityscape to an almost untouched natural haven that evoked a sense of wilderness in even the most streetwise. Hungary's MusicFlow DJ fest raised the Danube's 'street cred,' popularising the Danube message to an age-band often ignored in campaigns. In Germany, pupils were captivated by water games and in Slovakia, 700 youngsters from Children's Homes enjoyed a packed fun day.

### Practical actions that make a real difference

Danube Day achieves positive change. Instant results were gained by mobilising people for practical tasks (clean-ups on the Danube, Prut and Delta) and use of new Belgrade rubbish collection boats. Long term success is gained by providing the impetus for officials and locals to improve river management and policy. Events were the catalyst for: improving integration of environmental protection into development plans; progress on flood prevention and water quality plans in Bulgaria and Bosnia & Herzegovina; improved monitoring; and listing of tipping sites.

### Spreading the word

Communication campaigns made the 2006 Danube Day by far the most successful to date. A large part of this was due to the formation of the Green Danube Partnership be-

## Greeting the Danube by "Sounding the Horns"

Again on Danube Day, the sailors of boats sailing on the Danube marked that special day at 11 a.m. by sounding their horns (one short sound and one long sound, three times one after the other with pauses).



CREDIT: MIKLÓS KERESZTES

Greeting the Danube

This is not only a "greeting" to the "old river" but also an expression of respect for the Danube that enables the most environmentally friendly transport possibility – shipping. It is also a way of drawing attention to the natural treasures that the Danube possesses. ■

tween the ICPDR, Coca-Cola HBC and The Coca-Cola Company. This resulted in national media campaigns and support for events. The ICPDR-Coca-Cola Danube Box, an education kit developed for teachers by expert educators has been launched in Vienna. The Danube Box is now available for 18,000 teachers in Austria and the English version is under finalisation. With joint efforts the Danube Box will soon inspire other teachers all over the Danube Basin and bring the kids closer to the rivers.

The ICPDR would like to thank everyone involved in the world's largest river festival. 12 years of international cooperation has resulted in cleaner, safer rivers. The Danube Day partners have made a huge contribution to ensuring these improvements continue. ■

*Suzie Holt lives in Devon, UK and is a freelance environmental communications consultant. She has been involved in Danube Day over the last three years.*

Interesting websites:  
[www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)  
[www.danubeday.org](http://www.danubeday.org)

# Tool Box Seminar



Participants of the Tool Box seminar in Svaty Jur, Slovakia

ON SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2006, ACADEMIA ISTROPOLITANA NOVA HOSTED AN INTERNATIONAL IWRM TOOL BOX SEMINAR, SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR ACADEMIC FELLOWS, IN SVATY JUR, SLOVAKIA.

## **ToolBox** Integrated Water Resources Management

According to the recent survey, IWRM principles, despite their acceptance at the policy level, are not well used in higher education. One of the main reasons is that the design of water policy is not linked to the education system, school curricula are not flexible enough to address new knowledge and educational material can be found in electronic version rather than in academic books.

However, the CEE region has an excellent opportunity to use the Tool Box, especially

in universities and institutes of higher education. Since its launch in 2001, the Tool Box has been sharing experience in getting IWRM principles into work. It also provides tools for designing national integrated water management plans.

To respond to new challenges, a Tool Box Task Force, in cooperation with the Academia Istropolitana Nova and GWP CEE Regional Secretariat, organized a seminar which brought together junior teachers from 8 CEE countries. The main objective of the seminar was to introduce the Tool Box as a source of knowledge on IWRM in university education. University teachers, dealing with water and/or environmental issues were the primary target group. In total, 15 participants from Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia Slovenia, and Ukraine attended the seminar.

Generally, there are many universities that have environmental (water resources) curricula in CEE countries. However, there are a

limited number of specialized programs dealing with water resources management. According to the participants, none of the educational programs has focused exclusively on IWRM. Some programs are of a short-term nature, co-funded by EU education schemes such as Leonardo and Socrates. However, the programs often close down when the external support dries out. This could be solved by embedding IWRM in the mainstream curricula, which is unfortunately rarely used due to the lack of a systematic approach, knowledge, expertise, and study materials.

The first part of the seminar gave an insight into the Tool Box philosophy. The main idea was to show that Tool Box case studies can be used for assignments related to water management, development and use. Tool Box offers real life cases

which can be analysed and compared, using the tool system.

In the second part, the participants presented their experience with using IWRM in their respective universities. They discussed the potential of educational institutions with respect to the adoption of new multidisciplinary knowledge, opportunities for the training of teachers and the role of universities in providing assistance to governments in complying with EU water legislation.

During the final part, the participants had direct on-line access to the Tool Box web page and assessed the possibility of using it in real education. Here are some of their comments:

- the tools are structured in such way that it fits into the broader IWRM picture
- the case studies might be used as a "template" in exercises and group works
- it provides up-to-date information and applies a holistic approach
- the presented case studies are checked for content and quality

- the cases can be replicated in projects, and developed and adjusted to the specific reality of each country.

The participants also noticed that at the moment universities do not have any common platform for exchanging experience and information. Teachers lack methodological support and have to deal with "ad hoc" topics which ap-

pear in the curricula. In some countries, teachers are invited to support policy making, though this is not systematic.

The seminar was concluded by the following recommendations:

- Tool Box deserves broader promotion electronically and in print.

- University libraries are a natural resource for Tool Box publications.
- Teachers need further assistance in training on IWRM through Tool Box in seminars, summer schools, etc.
- GWP should support the educational community in its efforts to bring IWRM closer to the young generation. ■

## Integrated River Basin Management in Slovenia

SLOVENIA RIVERS FEED TWO MAJOR BASINS – THE DANUBE RIVER AND THE ADRIATIC SEA BASINS

In 2000, Slovenia started work on the international Danube River Basin Management Plan in cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

A year later, Slovenia chose eco-regions and watercourse types and set the number of basins and sub-basins, in line with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). These are the keystones for the preparation of the so-called river basin management plans. The officials very soon found out that there was not much time left, if they wanted to comply with WFD deadlines.

As a result, Slovenia has begun preparation of river basin and sub-basin management plans for larger watercourses, such as the Kokra, Dragonja, Drava, Idrijca, Kolpa, Kamniška Bistrica and Sava rivers. This included a pilot experiment involving the Krka River.

In this context, it was necessary to carry out field work which would provide up to date information for the river basin management plan. Interdisciplinary expert teams prepared the plans which ensured that they were integrated across sectors, such as water use, agriculture and environmental protection. In the case of trans-boundary rivers and their tributaries, the preparatory work was done in cooperation with authorities and specialists in neighbouring countries.

### Integrated water management plans

Integrated water management plans are keystones for future water management, as they take into account the hydrological, hydro-morphological, ecological, as well as technical and nature protection features of an area. The plans also consider the developmental needs and development potential of the area. However, it is very important to ensure appropriate administrative arrangements for the river basin in question, including the establishment of competent administration and inspections.

To date, experts have compiled information on the quality, quantity and dynamic status of the water regime, ecological conditions and water use, as well as activities influencing waters. They have prepared scenarios to ensure enough water for animals and plants without compromising the developmental needs of humans.

Stakeholders, the interested public and NGOs took an active part in the development of proposals and guidelines for water management and action programmes. These documents represent an expert basis for the decision making process at local, regional and national levels. In addition, the documents define the tasks and responsibilities for integrated and sustainable water management.

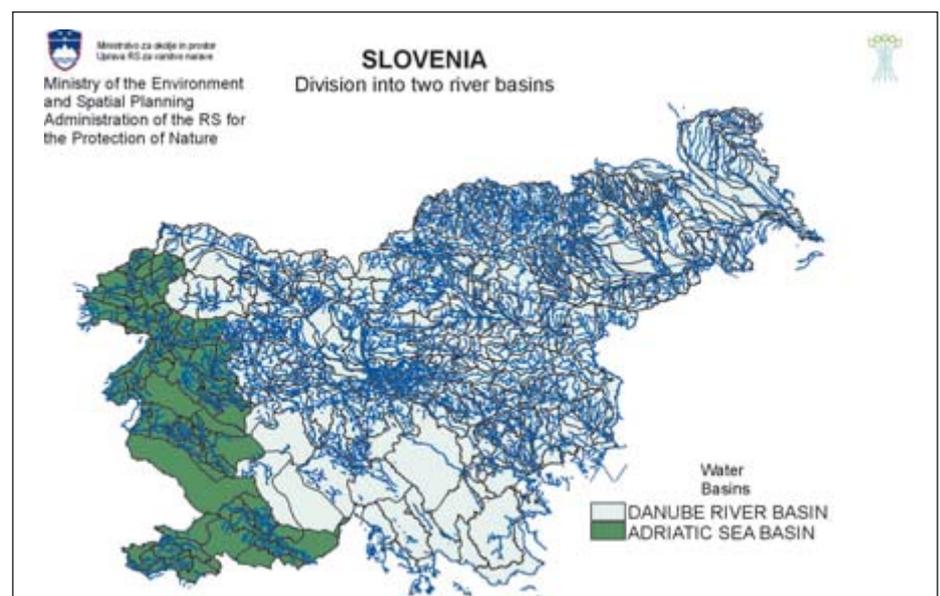
### The objectives of the plans are to:

- protect the hydrological, hydro morphological and ecological potential of waters;
- keep up with environmental standards, pollution limits and international conventions on

- get the public and interested organisations on board, to inform and consult them on a timely basis regarding the preparation of plans.

Given the above, it may be concluded that the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive represents a major challenge for Slovenia, as it requires considerable interdisciplinary work, innovation and, in particular, the readiness of experts, administrative officers, authorities, non-governmental organizations and individuals to engage in dialogue and demonstrate tolerance.

However, only the implementation of these plans will bring about the expected results and fulfil set goals. Therefore, a national regulation on integrated water management should be adopted in order to provide the necessary guidelines. In Slovenia, the responsibility for overall management and financing of the integrated plans shall be taken over by governmental bodies, e.g. development agencies. ■



the protection of the environment and nature;

- ensure and promote rational use of water resources, in particular in industry through the introduction of closed circuit cooling water instead of flow-through systems;

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# New IWRM forum for the Cris River in Hungary

THE CRIS RIVER BASIN SPREADS ACROSS THE SOUTH-EASTERN PART OF THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN.

The Cris River Basin is a semi-dry area; however, it is often hit by floods. As a result, water management is high on the local agenda. Many barrages used for navigation and better water use can be found on the Cris River. The barrage was built one hundred years ago in Bokeny, not far from the city of Csongrad. It was the first sluice in Central Europe that had a ferro-concrete structure. The 100-year anniversary of the unique barrage was celebrated at a scientific memorial meeting.

On the occasion of this meeting, five water NGOs decided to set up a collaboration forum to take common action on water-related issues. The forum, initiated by the GWP Hungary Foundation, consists of the Hungarian Hydrological Society, the Hungarian Water Utility Association, the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers, the National Association of Water Management Companies and the GWP Hungary Foundation.

The main goal of the forum is to strengthen the spirit and activity of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Hungarian water management. It also supports the implementation of the European WFD (Water Framework Directive). According to the forum, the process of river basin management planning should not only rely on ecological aspects but on the IWRM as a whole. This is important because attention has to be drawn not only to the protection of the environment but also to the economy and social welfare.

Co-operation is also necessary because in Hungary, as in all former socialist countries, changes are ongoing. During the transformation process, it is crucial that water-related decisions be based on expert opinion. The new forum brings together the intellectual capacity that will support more integrated approaches to water management. ■

Gyula REICH

*President of the Board of Trustees  
GWP Hungary Foundation*



IWRM forum signatories

CREDIT: GWP HUNGARY