



A HelpDesk for Flood Management

GWP AND WMO'S ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT LAUNCHED HELP-DESK AT THE 2ND MEETING OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.

The HelpDesk will assist countries in implementing an integrated approach to flood management and will provide guidance on flood management strategy and policy.

The HelpDesk has been created by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) through its Associated Programme on Flood Management, a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and is supported by some 20 partner organizations from governments, academia and international bodies.

The GWP provides oversight to the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) HelpDesk through its role as chair of the Advisory Committee and the Management Committee of the APFM. GWP is also contributing technical expertise through its work to strengthen the flood management provisions within national plans for integrated management of water resources.

"The HelpDesk is an especially timely initiative, given the increase in climate variability and the needs in many parts of the world for more help and advice on coping with floods" says Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary of GWP. Integrated approaches to flood management will promote increased resilience in affected communities, minimize the loss of life from flooding, and maximize the efficient use of flood-prone land in support of livelihood security. Attempts to control floods and provide safety from flooding have failed in numerous places, and flood awareness and preparedness levels in many flood risk areas



are strikingly low. Human loss of life from flooding is at an unacceptable level in many parts of the developing world, despite the availability of approaches to reduce flood risks. Economic losses from flooding are also high. Increased climate variability poses additional risks by affecting the magnitude and frequency of severe weather events. Therefore, the shift from a 'flood control approach' to Integrated Flood Management has to be fostered in a sustained manner.

The HelpDesk will offer on-line visitors several entry points, such as a:

- "Help yourself" section which include Flood Management Tools, Database References and Virtual Discussion platforms
- "Get help" section providing assistance for flood management policy, law and strategy and capacity building programs.

The HelpDesk website address is:
www.apfm.info/helpdesk.htm.

Links to the HelpDesk can also be found on the GWP website www.gwpforum.org and the GWP ToolBox website www.gwptoolbox.org.

Calendar of Events

Danube Strategy
1-2 February 2010
Ulm, Germany

ICPDR Ministerial Meeting
16 February 2010
Vienna, Austria

World Water Day 2010
22 March 2010
Brussels, Belgium

BALWOIS 2010
25-29 May 2010
Ohrid, Macedonia

New on Water Channel

THE WATER CHANNEL LAUNCHED A PLATFORM ON WATER & CLIMATE.



Together with CPWC and GWP, The Water Channel launched a platform on Water & Climate at www.waterandclimatechannel.org. This channel is developed to generate a better understanding of the vital links between water and climate change. Besides over 30 videos you will also find a variety of documents on this topic.

International Water Assessment Center

IWAC IS A PAN-EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SCIENTISTS AND POLICY MAKERS TO SUPPORT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.

The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) is the collaborating centre on integrated resources management of the United Nations

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia, currently hosts the centre. IWAC supports the UNECE Water Convention and its Protocols on Water and Health and on Civil Liability for Damage caused by Industrial Accidents. IWAC is a joint platform for scientists and policy makers to respond to new

challenges in water policy and implementation at national, transboundary and international levels. It builds on a network of leading European water institutions. Other governmental organizations and programmes are invited to join IWAC's activities.

For more information:
www.iwacportal.org

Management plan for the Bic River

GWP MOLDOVA ORGANIZES THE FIRST MEETING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIC RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN ON 5 NOVEMBER 2009 IN CHISINAU.



Representatives of the regional administrative units (rayons), magistrates of the localities situated in the Bic River Basin and sectoral institutions dealing with water management in the Bic River Basin participated in the meeting.

The main goal of the meeting was to identify the main issues, problems and opportunities for the development of the Bic River management plan and activities which could lead to its preparation. In this context, the role of local authorities and their possible involvement in the development of such document were discussed in order to identify the main goals, objectives and project documents needed for the successful elaboration of the management plan.

The meeting was opened by welcoming the representatives of different institutions, which could contribute to the development of the management plan for the Bic River Basin. Vlad Cotet, the Deputy Mayor of the capital city presented the challenges in the field of water management such as the stock of used sludge and reducing the level of smell pollution in the town. He also pointed out the necessity of improving the state of the Bic River ecosystems through the implementation of best technologies on waste water treatment, recycling of used water and improvement of the system of garbage collection and disposal. The Deputy Mayor welcomed cooperation with international institutions such as GWP, which could contribute to the development of such a plan through the transfer of know-how to the Bic River Basin. He mentioned opportunities for sustainable development which could arise from the implementation of good water management practices, the promotion of local trades, rural tourism, organic farming, water infrastructure development, etc. He also mentioned the importance of the development of such plans as a tool for further cooperation within the framework of the Black Sea programme and the EU Eastern Partnership funded programme aimed at developing closer ties of the participating countries with the EU.

GWP Moldova's Dumitru Drumea welcomed the participants and mentioned the importance of

the development of the Integrated Water Resources Management plan for the Bic River Basin as a tool for sustainable water resources management. In this context, the role of GWP in the promotion of such planning was outlined and the national GWP network resources to be used for these purposes were mentioned. Tool-Box activities and resources were also presented to participants as an opportunity for developing different training activities and attracting best water management practices to Moldova and the Bic River Basin.

The UNESCO representative mentioned the support of this institution in the development of the IWRM principles in the planning of the river basins and spoke about UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and opportunities for Moldavian experts to benefit from it. He also mentioned the results and outcomes of UNESCO funded projects on the protection of small rivers in Moldova, including those from the Bic River Basin.

Participants of the event were welcomed by the representative of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, who presented the latest developments in water planning activities in Moldova and the development of new water infrastructure projects funded by different institutions within the framework of the national programme for drinking water supply and sewer network development according to the 2007 Governmental decision. He also mentioned the necessity for the development of flood pro-

tection measures in the planning of river basin activities and the importance of involving of different stakeholders in the development of Integrated Water Resources Management planning in the Bic River Basin.

The way forward

The core team presented materials on the state of the Bic River Basin and a logical framework for a situation analysis. The agenda of the seminar was based on the results of consultation meetings where local authorities expressed concerns about water scarcity in the Bic River Basin, the heavy pollution of water ecosystems, the degradation of the water infrastructure (drainage systems, state of water bodies, waste water loads, etc.) and the necessity for the development of sewer and drinking water supply systems in rural areas. This document was discussed with local authorities before the event.

During the event, participants were informed of the main IWRM principles, opportunities for their application in the Bic River Basin, the main benefits of the IWRM approaches in the planning of river basins, goals and objectives of the management of activities in the Bic River Basin, etc. On the basis of discussions, participants identified other issues in the Bic River Basin, which could be relevant for achieving the main planning objectives for the Bic River Basin, including:

- the promotion of cooperation on the local level for the common management of the Bic River



Chihur River near Varatic village in Moldova.

CREDIT: SERGHEI JURMINSKI AND VALERIU DERJANSCHI



CREDIT: DUMITRU DRUMEA

Flood protection on the Tigeci River in Southern Moldova.

Basin in cooperation with authorities from Romanian institutions dealing with water resources management and municipalities which have planning documents for water management as a tool for rural and urban development

- the attraction of best water management practices in the Bic River Basin for the development of different sectors of the local economy and their adaptation to possible climate change in the region
- the further development of local water infrastructure, which could contribute to pollution reduction (green carcasses, green agriculture, extension of sewer network in localities, etc.)
- educational issues on IWRM for different target groups of the population, experts, authorities, etc., and the introduction of relevant educational curricula in teaching activities in universities

Discussions on IWRM approaches showed great potential for local authorities to develop a management plan for the Bic River Basin according to the main provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive. Concrete activities in this domain should be included in the Action programme for its implementation in the Bic River Basin. In this context, it was underlined that local authorities from the capital city Chisinau could serve as a key institution in the development and implementation of this plan in the Bic River Basin. Participants of the workshop called on Chisinau municipal authorities to develop such documents in cooperation with international organizations working in Moldova, central environmental and water authorities, experts from sectoral institutions and the Academy of Sciences.

Top priorities

A summary of the consultation meetings in the region was also discussed during the Bic River workshop. An integrated situation analysis in the region with regard to the potential for IWRM implementation in the basin was presented. Main discussions focused on the obstacles and activities needed for organizing the development of the management plan and the Action Programme for its implementation. According to the participants, an economic analysis together with an evaluation of the natural potential should be performed in the Bic River Basin. Discussions showed that local authorities depend on the performance of the following issues:

- information on the state of the environment in the Bic River Basin
- proposals for attracting the best water management practices to the Bic River Basin and the sectors of the economy that should be developed
 - better sharing of institutional responsibilities and identification of the modalities of involvement of local authorities in preparing the Bic River Basin management plan and its implementation
 - modalities of involvement of the local population in development and implementation of the provisions of the Bic River Basin management documents
 - an economic analysis for the development of certain sectors of the economy in the Bic River Basin and cooperation with Romanian and international counterparts

International cooperation

Local authorities also expressed their strong

commitment to cooperate with international organizations involved in water resources management. In this context, they were also informed of the activities carried out in the CEE region by GWP, opportunities arising from participation in the GWP network in the CEE and other regions and activities of international Institutions in Moldova (WB, UNDP, Secretariats of International Conventions, etc.). Participants were also informed of the activities under the International Commission for Cooperation for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the main provisions of the Danube River Basin Management Plan prepared by all Danube countries including Moldova. The main achievements of the projects funded in the region from 2005 to 2009 by other local and international institutions were also presented to participants.

Development of the Integrated Bic River Management Plan according to the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive was another topic for discussion during the workshop. Based on the results of the consultation meetings and an analysis of the available statistical sources, the following issues were presented to local authorities from the Bic River Basin:

- Public activities organized by the NGO community in the Bic River Basin aimed at tree planting and cleaning of the banks of the river including the removal of unauthorized garbage dumps.
- a flood protection scheme developed by the ACWAPROIECT Institute in 2001 and complex schemes for the use of natural resources prepared during the Soviet period.
- Outcomes of parliament hearings on water management issues organized in 2003 and Governmental decisions on the development of water infrastructure for the period 2003 –2007 and relevant activities under other national programmes.

Based on the results of the presentation, participants of the workshop agreed on the necessity for better cooperation with international organizations and Romanian authorities. They also mentioned opportunities arising from the signing and implementation of cooperation agreements between Moldavian and Romanian localities and including this item in future agreements for localities, where such documents will be prepared in the future.

Legislative framework

The national legislative framework related to water and environmental resources management was also presented during the workshop. According to legislative procedures, water management activities are under the Law on Environmental Protection.

Legislative Act	Year of Adoption
The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova	1994
The Forest Code of the Republic of Moldova	1979
The Law on Protected Water Belts	1983
The Land Code	1991
The law on Environmental Protection	1993
The Water Code	1993
The Code on Subsoil	1993
The Law on Sanitary-Epidemiological Protection of the Population	1993
The Law on the Protection of Fauna	1995
The Law on Health Protection	1995
The Law on State Ecological Expertise	1996
The Law on Hazardous and Toxic Substances	1999
The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment	1999

Participants of the workshop also outlined the necessity for the development of local laws adopted by the municipality of Chisinau and local district administrations aimed at the support of the initiatives of the village councils in regard to developing a local water infrastructure to improve the drinking water supply and extend the sewer network in rural localities. This initiative was also welcomed by the participants from all of the Bic River Basin administrative districts during consultation meetings in November-December 2009.

Lessons learned

The lessons learned from consultation meetings with local authorities in the Bic River Basin highlighted recent developments in the commitment to strengthen institutional arrangements for capacity building in the management of this basin. One of the most important issues outlined by them and demonstrated in different ways is that actual practices in water resources management in Moldova must be performed according to the IWRM principles and the EU

Water Framework Directive. They also pledged to improve regional cooperation in this domain and welcomed the transfer of water management experience from Central and Eastern European countries to the Bic River Basin, where there is an urgent necessity to develop and implement management plans for sustainable development. It also showed that there is not enough experience on the local level to develop such documents.

Long term perspective

Consultation meetings also pointed to the conclusion that Bic River management projects development and implementation should be more effective and efficient in the long term perspective (2012 – 2015). The consultation meetings approach is an efficient tool for identifying the most effective opportunities for involving local authorities and key stakeholders in management and planning in the Bic River Basin. These opportunities will serve as excellent means to adapt to changing environmental conditions such as climate change and society's demands for improved basic welfare. ■

Written by Dr. Dumitru Drumea

GWP CEE is committed to the sustainable water management of the Danube River

GWP CEE WAS A CO-ORGANISER OF THE 2ND STAKEHOLDER FORUM HELD ON 29-30 JUNE IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA.

The forum was organised by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) on the occasion of Danube Day 2009. Slovakia was the presiding country of the Commission in 2009 and therefore, the Ministry of Environment hosted the meeting in Bratislava.

More than 60 participants from all 14 Danube countries representing stakeholders mainly from water and environment sectors, non-governmental organisations, research, state administrations, from the detergent industry and navigation sector were in attendance. GWP CEE representatives of the CWPs of Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine together with GWPO played active and appreciated roles throughout the meeting.

Philip Weller (ICPDR Executive Secretary) together with Olga Srsnova (ICPDR President for 2009) and Ania Grobicki (GWP Executive Secretary) gave opening speeches.

Danube River Basin Management Plan

The rationale for ICPDR to hold a stakeholder forum is based on the fact that it made a commitment to the European Commission to lead basin planning in the Danube region on the

transnational level. The ICPDR covers 14 countries and is the largest transboundary commission in the world. It has collected data from plans in progress at the national level and built them into the Danube River Basin Management



Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary gives opening speech.

CREDIT: RICHARD MULLER

Plan for the coming six years. The Danube River Basin Management Plan is being developed in line with the European Union Water Framework Directive requirements and timelines. Thus, at this forum, the second key report (the Joint Programme of Measures) was presented to stakeholders.

The meeting was organized in order to actively involve the stakeholders in generating their input in the new Danube River Basin Management Plan which was formally adopted in December 2009. This was done in plenary presentations and working sessions on the three "Significant Water Management Issues" identified in the report, namely:

1. Pollution by organic substances and nutrients
2. Pollution by hazardous substances
3. Hydromorphological (HYMO) alterations

The fourth key theme of concern in the Danube River Basin Management Plan, namely groundwater, was specifically included to be dealt with in each of these three working groups.

In each session, the main results of assessments were presented and proposed measures were discussed. It was stated that measures identified on the national levels will not achieve the environmental objectives of EU Water Framework Directive on the basin wide scale by 2015.

Thus, transition periods will be necessary in organic and nutrient pollution reduction as well as in hazardous substances pollution reduction.

Water paradigm shift

In the final plenary session, which was chaired by Ania Grobicki, reports from the three working sessions were given and discussed. Jozsef Gayer of the Hungarian Ministry of Environment, and the former chair of GWP CEE, concluded that a paradigm shift had occurred towards HYMO alterations which today seem to have a more significant negative impact on the Danube than pollution. Climate change has made the context even more complicated.

Conclusions

In his concluding remarks, Philip Weller identified gaps in the areas of stakeholder involvement from agriculture and industry, and how to deal with the protection of wetlands and fish populations including the sturgeon and the endemic Danube salmon.

In her concluding remarks Ania Grobicki welcomed the numerous suggestions from participants on how GWP could work together with ICPDR, and summarized five areas where GWP can assist, namely:

- Involving sectoral stakeholders (in agriculture and industry) in the basin countries; developing an integrated response through



Pollution by organic substances and nutrients working group

organizing inter-ministerial round tables on the national level; facilitating links with international organizations in the two sectors identified, namely FAO and UNIDO

- Climate change adaptation strategies
- Integrated flood management and linking countries with the WMO/GWP HelpDesk
- Stimulating the financing of programmes and projects through GWP network of financial partners
- Danube stakeholder organisations to join GWP as partners for improved cooperation

The final version of the Danube River Basin Management Plan will be endorsed by the Ministers responsible for water at the Ministerial Meeting in Vienna on 16 February 2010.

The final version of the Danube River Basin Management Plan, together with its annexes and maps, is available at www.icpdr.org

International Danube Day 2009

THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RIVER'S WATER AND RESOURCES BY ALL COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES SHARING THE DANUBE BASIN WAS THE FOCUS OF THE 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DANUBE DAY ON 29 JUNE 2009.



With the theme "Shared Waters - Joint Responsibilities", many educational, entertainment and recreational activities were held in all Danube Basin countries around International Danube Day. The Day was coordinated by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). Governmental and non-governmental institutions throughout the Basin organized festivities, river clean-ups, competitions, workshops, conferences and special events for young people.

The highlight this year was the ICPDR Stakeholder Forum, held on 29-30 June in Bratislava, Slovakia, on the occasion of the ICPDR Presidency of Slovakia. Interested stakeholders from

sectors including agriculture, industry and environmental organizations discussed the management of the Danube as outlined in the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan. This plan is the core element of the European Union Wa-



ter Framework Directive, which is the centre piece of the EU environmental water legislation aiming at improving the water environment. "This Forum demonstrates that the principle of 'joint responsibility' can be brought into practice," says Olga Srsnova, ICPDR President and General Director of the Division of Waters and Energy Sources at the Slovak Ministry of Environment. "To manage our water responsibly is not only an objective for government. It requires the action of all different users, from the person filling their swimming pool to the farmer applying fertiliser to the fields."

International Danube Day events in all countries are also supported by partners from the business

community, in particular the Green Danube Partnership, which was formed by Coca-Cola Hellenic, The Coca-Cola Company and the ICPDR in 2005. Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith, Board Director of Coca-Cola Hellenic, and Chairman of its Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, says: "Throughout Coca-Cola Hellenic operations in 28 countries, we have found that one of the most effective ways to protect and preserve precious water resources is to partner with others. In conducting and supporting Danube Day events we seek to convey this message so that people and other businesses will be inspired to join with us and to engage, to the benefit of the communities of the Danube, in water conservation efforts that will bring about real, long-term change."

International Danube Day commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Danube River Protection Convention in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1994, and has grown each year to become one of the largest river festivals in the world.

To find out more about International Danube Day 2009 events, please visit: www.danubeday.org

Invitation to nominate Steering Committee members 2010

FOUR POSITIONS ON THE GWP STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) WILL BECOME VACANT AFTER THE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN MAY 2010.

Of these two will be selected from the nominees of the GWP regions and two from the self-nominated global pool. For the global pool we will be seeking one person from the water sector and one 'non-water' person.

A Steering Committee member serves in their personal capacity and is expected to work to support the realization of GWP's vision and achievement of its mission. All new Steering Committee members are required to participate in an induction program, to bring them up to speed with the operations and culture of the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee members are not remunerated for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses. It is expected that SC members be available to travel internationally and attend two 3-day meetings per year and it is desirable that they have the time up to 2 weeks so as to be able to effectively contribute to the deliberations of the SC. Members can serve up to two three year terms.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, you are hereby invited to submit nominations for the global pool. This can be done by self-nomination or by nomination by any member, partner or donor of GWP. Two global members are to be nominated at this time. One should be a non-water sector professional, drawn from stakeholder sectors such as energy, agriculture, industry, community development, economics, urban development etc. and one should be a water sector professional.

We are looking for candidates with profiles matching the two sets of criteria below.

The criteria for the Non-Water Sector Professional are:

- Board experience is desirable;
- Internationally recognized professional (from high level educational or applied research establishment, international organization, international NGO, private sector or other similar organization);
- Ability to contribute to helping GWP fulfil its mission and achieve its vision;
- Ability to help GWP reach out beyond the water sector;
- Experience with water use/management issues in professional area of expertise (energy, industry, health, agriculture etc.) is desirable;
- Good working knowledge of English to allow effective participation in the work of the SC.

The criteria for the Water Sector Professional are:

- Board experience (experience with board subcommittee work such as HR, or finances is desirable);
- Internationally recognized water sector professional (from high level educational or applied research establishment, international organization, international NGO, private sector or other similar organization);
- Commitment to GWP's vision and mission;
- Ability to contribute towards the development of GWP's strategic directions;
- Not less than 15 years experience working directly on water issues;
- Good working knowledge of English to allow effective participation in the work of the SC.

Given the current SC composition and the outgoing SC member profiles we strongly encourage candidates with the following qualifications to apply:

- Female candidates;
- Candidates from South Asia, China, Central-America, Mediterranean, Central & Eastern Europe;
- Junior professionals meeting the earlier mentioned requirements;
- Candidates from gender focused/based organizations and networks.

For each nomination, we need a CV, two references and a short explanation of the candidate's interest and commitment in serving as a SC member and what the candidate can contribute. We need your nominations no later than Wednesday 17 March, 2010.

Please send the nomination to Ms Suzanne Strömberg, at the GWP Secretariat in Stockholm, E-mail: suzanne.stromberg@gwpforum.org. Nominations are valid for one year only; however, unsuccessful nominees can be re-nominated an unlimited number of times.

The Nominations Committee will draw on the global pool to identify two candidates for submission to the Sponsoring Partners as part of the normal Steering Committee candidate selection process. The Nominations Committee will take into consideration, candidate profiles and specific needs within the Steering Committee to ensure that there continues to be balanced (e.g. gender, organization, sub-committee skills) representation within the Steering Committee. The names of the candidates will be presented to the Consulting Partners in late May 2010 for finalization and presentation to the Sponsoring Partners in August 2010. ■

For a list of the elected members of the GWP SC 2009-2010, please visit the GWP website: www.gwpforum.org/servlet/PSP?iNodeID=604&iFromNodeID=161

Sustainable Water Management in the Baltic Sea Region



COALITION CLEAN BALTIC (CCB), GWP POLAND AND POMCER GDYNIA ORGANIZE A SEMI-

NAR ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION.

The goal of the seminar, which took place on 18-20 November in Gdynia, Poland on the Baltic Sea coast, was to promote sustainable wastewater management in river basin planning in

the Baltic Sea Region, with a special focus on Southeast Baltic Sea Region (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland).

The seminar drew attention to the possible reduction of Baltic Sea nutrient loads through sustainable sanitation, i.e., natural treatment technologies and eco-sanitation solutions in rural and recreational areas that are feasible from the economic, social and environmental points of view.

The presentations brought positive examples from the educational arena as well as from the implementation of sustainable sanitation tech-

nologies for individual households, including problems related to planning, permitting and running such solutions from the Baltic and Central and Eastern Europe.

In addition, GWP CEE promoted its work on sustainable sanitation and especially the book *Sustainable Sanitation in Central and Eastern Europe – Addressing the Needs of Small and Medium-size Settlements*. ■

For more information on the seminar, go to: www.ccb.se

Open waste water planning helps the poorest



CREDIT: MILAN MATUSKA

Drinking water is supplied by wells.

GWP SLOVAKIA SEEKS THE BEST SOLUTION TO SUSTAINABLE SANITATION INCLUDING WASTE WATER DISPOSAL IN THE VILLAGE OF RICHNAVA IN EASTERN SLOVAKIA.



The village of Richnava is located near the town of Krompachy in the eastern part of Slovakia. Currently, no waste water treatment infrastructure, such as sewage pipes and a waste water treatment plant exist in the village. Local residents as well as the local municipal office

and school have long used individual sinks and leaking cesspools. This however, causes significant ground water pollution. The village has a fast growing population of 2 400 inhabitants, of which 700 have permanent residence in the village. The rest are Roma living illegally in poor dwellings in a nearby forest.

Roma living conditions regarding drinking water and sanitation are completely unsatisfactory. For drinking purposes and basic hygiene needs, they use only two wells with polluted groundwater. Social issues also play an important role, since the unemployment rate of Roma is almost 100%. Therefore, the local population is not able to cover the basic costs of a waste water disposal service. This makes any infrastructure investments unfeasible from an economic point of view.

To solve the sanitation problem, the GWP Slovakia expert team proposed to find the best solution using Open Waste Water Planning. According to Milan Matuska, the Team Leader, the pilot project "could serve as a model for other local municipalities to find sustainable sanitation solutions for their poorest, often socially

excluded inhabitants." The process is described in the book, Sustainable Sanitation in Central and Eastern Europe: Addressing the Needs of Small and Medium-Size Settlements, published by GWP CEE in 2007.

Over next two months, GWP Slovakia will propose suitable waste water treatment alternatives affordable for rural populations to the local municipal office and organize the Open Waste Water Planning process. Local decision makers and stakeholders should then select the proposed alternative that best suits their local urban, natural and social conditions.



CREDIT: MILAN MATUSKA

Roma settlement located above Richnava village.

For more information, contact Milan Matuska at gwpece@shmu.sk

Kosovo water experts visit Bulgaria

BULGARIA SHARES EXPERIENCES WITH KOSOVO ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.

On 29 September – 2 October, 2009, GWP Bulgaria hosted a technical visit of 9 experts, including the Kosovo Water Director, from the Prishtina-based Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning Water Department. During their trip, the Kosovo experts met national experts working on the implementa-

tion of Water Framework Directive/Integrated Water Resources Management in the Danube River Basin Directorate, Regional Inspectorates of the Environment and Hygiene and non-governmental organizations in the town of Plevna.

The Kosovo experts then visited the Gorna Oryahovitsa waste water treatment plant, constructed with the support of the European Union Pre-Accession Structural



CREDIT: GALIA BARDARSKA

Visit to Gorna Oryahovitsa Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Instrument (ISPA). The GWP Bulgaria presentation on the GWP vision and mission and the dissemination of GWP publications were well received. After the presentation, Kosovo Water Director, Mr. Naser Bajraktari, expressed his interest in joining the CEE Regional Water Partnership.

For more information, contact Dr. Galia Bardarska at bwp@dir.bg

GWP Briefing Note

Water is central to the world's development challenges. Whether it is food security, poverty reduction, economic growth, energy production, human health-water is the nexus. Climate change is the spoiler.

No matter how successful mitigation efforts might be, people will experience the impacts of climate change through water. Floods and droughts will be more frequent and severe, rainfall patterns will change, water temperatures will increase and sea levels rise as a consequence of climate change. The Copenhagen conference was an opportunity to make better water resources management the strategic "threat minimiser" in adapting to climate change. Investments in water are investments in adaptation.



The briefing note can be downloaded free from GWP website www.gwpforum.org

Global Water Partnership Appoints New Technical Committee Chair

THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP) HAS APPOINTED DR. MOHAMED AIT KADI AS THE NEW GWP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIR, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009.



"I am proud to announce that the GWP Steering Committee completed its search and has made an outstanding choice," said Dr. Letitia A. Obeng, GWP Chair. "Mohamed is no stranger to

GWP, having been a member of the GWP Technical Committee in the past, and we are happy to welcome him back."

Dr. Ait Kadi is President of the General Council of Agricultural Development in Morocco. He is also Professor in the Department of Equipment and Hydraulics at the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II in Rabat, Morocco. "Dr. Mohamed Ait Kadi comes to us from one of the most water stressed regions of the world and knows firsthand the importance of sustainable water management for development. He shares

our vision for a water secure world," said Dr. Obeng.

Dr. Ait Kadi has made significant contributions in the fields of irrigation and water resources management both in Morocco and internationally. He helped shape the global water agenda as one of the first members of GWP's then-named Technical Advisory Committee. He was nominated by King Mohammed VI of Morocco as a resident member of the King Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology, the most prestigious scientific institution in the country. Dr. Ait Kadi speaks Arabic, French and English.

"I welcome the opportunity to serve as GWP's Technical Committee Chair at this point in GWP's development," said Dr. Ait Kadi. "The world is rapidly entering an era in which water is at the core of several emerging issues. The highest priorities on the current development agenda—food, energy, climate, poverty, conflicts—are all related to water. There is enormous scope for GWP to provide global leadership in technical excellence, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and strengthen partnerships with strategic allies so that water issues are acted on at the highest levels."

In addition to providing overall leadership to the GWP Technical Committee, Dr. Ait Kadi will work closely with GWP's international network to implement the 2009-2013 Strategy.

Dr. Ait Kadi has been a key player in the Moroccan water sector and contributed to drafting the new water law in 1995. He served as Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. He was also appointed Chief Agricultural negotiator of the Morocco-United States Free Trade Agreement. On the international level, Dr. Ait Kadi served as the water and irrigation expert in the International External Evaluation Team of the FAO and member of the advisory panel in the World Bank for the evaluation of water projects. He was member of the founding committee of the World Water Council and initiated the process of hosting the first World Water Forum in Marrakech, Morocco, and was president of its organising committee.

"From water practitioner to academic to senior policy maker, Dr. Ait Kadi combines professional excellence in water resources management with its broad societal linkages. These skills are essential for GWP as a global network concerned with the larger role of water in sustainable development," said Prof. Torkil Jonch Clausen, GWP Senior Advisor and former Chair of the GWP Technical Committee from 1996 to 2003. ■

ToolBox finds its way into academic arena

CORVINUS UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST USES TOOLBOX IN ITS INTERNATIONAL ERASMUS COURSE AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE CURRICULA.

The Department of Soil Science and Water Management of Budapest's Corvinus University offers an international ERASMUS Environmental Management Course in English for agro-environmental engineering students. The course leader is the internationally renowned Professor Emeritus Dr. László Vermes. Integrated Water Resources Management and the implemen-

tation of the Water Framework Directive are the key topics in the course curricula. The lectures introduce them in detail and provide extensive knowledge on how to use existing tools and information sources that are available online. Since 2008, GWP ToolBox is one of the tools introduced to participants during lectures on the Water Framework Directive. They are delivered by GWP CEE Regional Council member János Fehér, Hon. Assoc. Prof. and Senior Scientist of the VITUKI Environmental and Water Management Research Institute of Hungary. Through

the annual ERASMUS Environmental Management Course, knowledge and information about the ToolBox are distributed to a wide range of international graduate students. However, there is a strong need for relevant information and high quality teaching materials about good practices in integrated water resources management. ■

