

Editorial

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the international community called on countries to prepare IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans by 2005. Since then, the Global Water Partnership has offered substantial support to countries that are trying to meet that call.

One of the ways, central to the GWP, is to bring stakeholders together to discuss more integrated approaches to water management. Since its establishment in 1996, the GWP has organized several thematic dialogues on global, regional and national and local levels. The results were synthesized and presented at World Water Forums in The Hague and Kyoto.

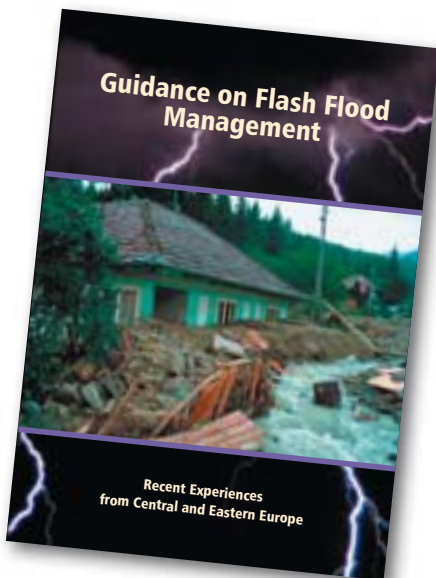
National IWRM Policy Dialogues build on the success of previous dialogues and more importantly, they add a strong partnership element as they were initiated by Water Partnerships and GWP Consulting Partners.

The Dialogues are also well timed to contribute to reporting on the progress of IWRM Plans and Water Efficiency Plans at the CSD-16, slated for 2008, which is indeed a unique opportunity to raise awareness and galvanize political will.

In addition, you will find more news from GWP Partners, a review of the most recent publications, upcoming events and much more. ■

Flood Management Guidance

NEW BOOK SUMMARIZES RECENT FLASH FLOOD EXPERIENCE FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.



One of the outcomes of the regional workshop entitled, "Community Preparedness and Public Participation for Flash Flood Management in Europe", was the finalization of a book entitled "Working towards Flash Flood Management Strategy Preparation" by the World Meteorological Organisation, GWP CEE, GWP Poland and the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management of Poland.

The book includes experiences from the 3 national pilot second-phase flash flood projects and practical recommendations for reducing the devastating impact of flash floods. It targets decision makers in national administrations, researchers and operational managers in the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, mayors and local decision makers.

To view and download the book in PDF form, please visit www.gwpceeforum.org. ■

Calendar of Events

Global Environmental Change
May 19-21, 2008
Sofia, Bulgaria

GWP ToolBox training workshop
June 6, 2008
Chisinau, Moldova

Danube Day
June 29, 2008
Countries of the Danube River basin

NeWater-GWSP Summer School
July 9-19, 2008
Konigswinter, Germany

World Water Week in Stockholm
Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World
August 17-23, 2008
Stockholm, Sweden

The International Water Association (IWA)
11th International Specialised Conference on Watershed and River Basin Conference
September 4-5, 2008
Budapest, Hungary

Dniester River Conference
October 2-3, 2008
Chisinau, Moldova



Mountainous areas, particularly near the mouth of the foothill canyons, are prone to flash flooding

National dialogue in Lithuania: river basin management in the IWRM context

THE MAIN GOAL OF THE DIALOGUE WAS TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.



The dialogue comprised two seminars. The first seminar was held on November 28, 2006 and attracted 95 representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy, municipalities, Regional Environmental Departments, River Basin District Coordination Boards, NGOs, professional associations and private companies.

The presentations covered the entire range of water management issues, including the integration of territorial planning and water management; the environmental, economic and social aspects of river basin planning and the role of coordination boards; river basin management and the IWRM and possible conflicts between the Water Framework Directive and agriculture. The participants appreciated the presentation entitled, "The EU Water Framework Directive as the IWRM in the North" on the similarities between the Water Framework Directive and the IWRM, based on the presentation of Henrik Larsen and Torkil Jonch-Clausen from DHI Water & Environment.

Currently, as the discussion pointed out, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is the most important, legally binding task of governmental institutions in Lithuania. To some extent, IWRM planning and river basin management plans overlap. This has led to the conclusion that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Europe, which is abundant with surface and ground water, can be considered as the implementation of the IWRM. Officials of the Ministry of Environment wanted to find out whether this was also the GWP position and whether they could report on the IWRM to the United Nations using progress in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. However, municipalities could not clearly distinguish these two concepts and were confused by the necessity of their simultaneous implementation.

The second seminar was held on December 1, 2006 on the occasion of the Annual Assembly of the Lithuanian Geological Society in the In-

stitute of Geology and Geography. The event was attended by 146 participants from various institutions. GWP Lithuania made a presentation entitled "IWRM in a Year of Planet Earth" before an audience which had not been very involved in either water resource management or implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

As to the outcomes of the dialogue, GWP Lithuania has signed a long term agreement with the Ministry of Environment to act as the Information Centre on River Basin Management. According to Bernardas Paukstys, GWP Lithuania Director, "this will be a great opportunity to provide a neutral platform for water stakeholders and disseminate IWRM information." GWP Lithuania has been active in the country since 2000 and therefore, the IWRM is not a new concept for governmental agencies and NGOs. The IWRM is well embedded in the Water Law and its regulations as well as the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. However, bringing the IWRM to a wider audience, such as schools and experts outside the water field remains a key challenge for the future.

SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In 2000, the National Commission for Sustainable Development was established to formulate sustainable development policies and coordinate the preparation and implementation of projects in this field by ministries, government bodies and

other institutions. The National Commission for Sustainable Development also reports to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development and other international organizations on the progress in sustainable development.

At the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002, Lithuania adopted the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. The Declaration underlines the fact that sustainable development requires a long-term perspective and broad-based participation in policy formulation, decision-making and implementation at all levels. The signatory countries also committed themselves to monitor progress towards the achievement of sustainable development objectives on a regular basis.

Shortly after the Johannesburg Summit, Lithuania prepared the National Strategy for Sustainable Development which was adopted by the Government in September 2003. One of the main goals is a change of the water governance structure in line with international commitments (the IWRM) and the requirements of the European Union (the river basin management principle). However, even though the IWRM and the basic principles of sustainable water resources management are explicitly mentioned in official policies, plans and strategies, the IWRM has not yet been fully implemented in practice.

On the national level, the Ministry of Environ-



New Year canoe trip on the Merkys River, Lithuania

CREDIT: SIGITAS KALVATIS

ment is responsible for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and reporting to the National Commission for Sustainable Development.

WATER GOVERNANCE: A NEED FOR COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION

Similar to other countries in the region, there are three levels of water management in Lithuania – the national, regional and local (municipal) levels. However, it is obvious that the water management system is too complicated and rather difficult to coordinate.

NATIONAL LEVEL

In Lithuania, the Ministry of Environment is the main governmental body responsible for water management through a network of its agencies, departments, and services. Implementation of the Water Framework Directive is in the hands of the Environmental Protection Agency, which was created in 2003. The Marine Research Centre deals with the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon environment, including the monitoring of surface waters and wastewater in western Lithuania. Across the country, the Hydrometeorological Service is in charge of hydrometeorological observations. The Protected Areas Department manages protected areas and the Geological Survey monitors and protects groundwater resources.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Interior also deal with water issues on the national level. The Ministry of Agriculture is not directly involved in water management and wa-

ter monitoring, however, it has an impact on the quality of water by managing agricultural practices, preventing pollution from diffuse sources and maintenance of the drainage network. The Ministry of Health plays an important role with respect to human health and water. It is responsible for the sanitary control and elaboration of standards of all drinking water and of recreational water bodies (bathing water). The Ministry of Transport is in charge of navigation, and plays a role on river management, regulation and surveillance of inland waterways. Even though the Ministry of Interior is not directly involved in water management, its Civil Security Department deals with the prevention of the effects of extreme weather events and the remediation of accidents.

REGIONAL LEVEL

Counties represent the higher level state administration in Lithuania. The Government appoints the Governor of the County. The Governor controls, among others, the management of water bodies, and protection strips and zones around water bodies. On the regional level, ten Counties share the responsibility for water management. In addition to Counties, the Regional Departments of Environmental Protection, located in eight regional centers, are responsible for the enforcement of environmental legislation and implementation of the environmental policy on the regional level.

LOCAL LEVEL

Currently at the local level 60 municipalities participate in water management by being responsible for the drinking water supply and the

collection and treatment of sewage and discharge of sewage effluents, setting prices for the drinking water supply, collection of sewage and by approving permits for the discharge of effluents to sewers.

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING

After joining the European Union in 2004, changes in policy and water governance helped to introduce IWRM principles and facilitated the Water Framework Directive implementation. Lithuania has designated the following four river basin districts: Nemunas, Lielupe, Venta and Daugava. However, water management institutions in Lithuania are established according to administrative borders and do not reflect natural river basin boundaries.

Nowadays, the main concern of the national water policy is the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and other EU water directives. Although the main EU water directives are already transposed into the national legislation (Urban Waste Water Treatment, Dangerous Substances, Nitrates, Fish Water, Drinking Water, Bathing Water Directive, etc.), the implementation of the directives continue to require considerable effort on all levels.

Implementation of Water Framework Directive and river basin management planning is often confused with the IWRM. Sometimes there is a misinterpretation of the IWRM and river basin management concepts even among water professionals. For this reason, GWP Lithuania will continue with the National IWRM Dialogue series in the future. ■

National dialogue in Romania: finding the gap

GWP ROMANIA, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND "APELE ROMANE" THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, ORGANIZED A NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN BUCHAREST ON APRIL 25, 2007.



Romania Water Partnership

More than 40 participants including governmental officials (the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Internal Affairs), the "Apele Romane" ("Romanian Water") National Administration with its river basin departments, the National Environmental Protection Agency, re-

search institutes (ICIM, INHGA, ISPIF), the National Committee for Emergency Situations, NGOs (CCE Galati, REC-Romania, WWF-Romania) and professional Associations (ARA) discussed challenges and opportunities related to the IWRM and the EU Water Framework Directive. In Romania, current fast economic growth poses a certain threat to sustainable water development, management and use with the economic sector competing with society and the environment for the same precious resources.

The main topic of the dialogue was "IWRM Implementation: Comparison, Achievements and Needs versus EU Water Related Directives". Although the Romania water management system is historically based on the river basin level, there is still some misunderstanding between the relatively new concept of river basin management planning introduced by the EU WFD

after the country joined the European Union in 2007 and the IWRM.

In her introduction to the book "Romanian Water: A Perspective Vision in Light of the EU Water Framework Directive and Integrated Water Resource Management" which was launched during the meeting, Lucia Ana Varga, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Romanian President of ICPDR in 2007, said "Water issues are complex and they are difficult and costly to solve. We simply cannot solve 'historical' problems in one or two years. However, we must meet the 2015 deadline for full compliance with EU water standards, starting from the Danube's spring water to its discharge into the Black Sea".

The importance of the meeting was underlined by the fact that countries have to report on the

IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans preparation at the 16th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2008. The reports submitted for the first time in 2005 and then in 2008 showed outcomes achieved to date and commitments assumed by the countries that participated in the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002.

The dialogue helped decision makers to discuss differences between two inter-related issues – the IWRM and the EU Water Framework Directive and to identify gaps which could then be addressed by GWP Romania and its consulting partners. An example of this is the provision of sanitation services which addresses only settlements over 2000 people and therefore leaves thousands of citizens without proper water treatment. The presentations included case studies from the Danube River basin level in the trans-boundary context as well as experiences from national sub-basins.

DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

As stated above, one of the dialogue outcomes was the brochure entitled, "Romanian Water: A Perspective Vision in Light of the EU Water Framework Directive and Integrated Water Resource Management" produced by GWP Romania in cooperation with the "Apele Romane" National Administration and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The brochure was published in Romanian and English. The primary target groups are non-water professionals, including the media, universities and decision makers in central and local governments.

In addition, participants adopted a Common Declaration which was then submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Romanian Water Director, heads of the "Apele Romane" National Water Administration and other ministry representatives present at the dialogue. The Declaration calls for the

creation of cross-sectoral working groups to analyze aspects covered by the IWRM but lacking in existing water management policies. The identified gaps will then be included into river basin management plans and other key planning documents, such as landscape plans.

WATER GOVERNANCE IN ROMANIA

In Romania, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is in charge of nature protection and water management policies and legislation. Implementation of the policies on the national, regional and local levels is in the hands of the Agency for Environmental Protection and the Apele Romane National Administration. Both institutions cooperate with other agencies which work under the Ministries of Economy, Agriculture, Health, Education and Industry.

The Apele Romane National Administration deals with water management operational issues, the development of a new water infra-

National dialogue in Estonia: the need for cross sectoral cooperation

GWP ESTONIA ORGANIZED AN IWRM DIALOGUE, FOCUSED ON RIVER BASIN PLANNING, ON MAY 9, 2007 IN TALLINN.

More than 50 participants, including governmental officials, regional and local administrators, water stakeholders and non-governmental organizations, discussed river basin management planning in Estonia from IWRM and EU Water Framework Directive perspectives. The topics covered by the dialogue included river basin planning governance, cross sectoral cooperation, the role of local governments and water pricing. The discussion showed that the Water Framework Directive covers most IWRM principles. However, there are still challenges concerning planning, agriculture, hydro-power constructions and other sectors.

One of the outcomes, says Harry Liiv, the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, was that "the Estonian report on Millennium Development Goals, submitted to the United Nations, was based on recommendations of the IWRM Dialogue". In addition, a comprehensive overview and discussion on IWRM and WFD principles, differences and similarities was compiled and translated into English

As a follow up to the dialogue, the Estonian Water Management Committee together with the Estonian Water Association will or-

ganize a discussion about the methodology of assessing the efficiency of water protection measures. According to Liiv, "both institutions have acknowledged that the river basin management plans should be in compliance with IWRM principles".



RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING SET UP

In the future, the Water Framework Directive sets the stage for the organization and planning of Estonian water resource management. The Commission on Water Resource Management, working under Ministry of the Environment, supervises and assists with river basin management planning. In addition to Ministry of the Environment officials, it also includes representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Affairs as well as scientists and experts.

On the sub-basin level, more detailed analysis, administration and development of measures are carried out by means of sub-district river basin management plans. Working groups, comprised of Ministry of Environment agen-

cies and experts, were set up in each sub-basin to prepare management plans. Representatives of stakeholders and experts are also invited to working group meetings.

THE NEED FOR CROSS SECTORAL COOPERATION

As the compilation of water management plans started quite recently, it is inevitable that legislation adopted years ago and within the jurisdiction of other ministries does not include requirements for consistency with water management plans. To improve the situation in the future, the Ministry of the Environment will request the addition of relevant provisions when harmonizing related acts and regulations.

As a result of rapid development in Estonia, it has been difficult to coordinate and harmonize water management plans and different water projects on the national, regional and local levels. During recent years the population in the suburbs around larger cities has multiplied and several industrial enterprises have moved outside these cities. In some regions, especially around the capital city of Tallinn, it has created difficulties in meeting the demand for water and sanitation.

During national consultations, it was discovered that the time allotted for processing detailed and municipal planning was too short for the consideration of all water related is-



CREDIT: CARMEN HAMCHEVICI

structure, investment management, etc. Since 2002, "Apele Romane" has been responsible for the implementation of EU water-related directives, especially Water Framework Directive EC/2000/60. The National Agency for Environmental Protection works with other environment elements, such as air, soil, radioactivity and biodiversity as well as links among these factors and water.

On the international level, Romania closely cooperates with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). Taking into account the trans-boundary character of the Danube River, which is the second longest river in Europe, the ICPDR has established a detailed action plan for the development of the Danube International River Basin management plan. ■

Romanian part of the Danube Delta is a part of the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites

sues. The inconsistency of various spatial plans, development plans and cooperation among different ministries should be considered as an inevitable transition difficulty which shall be overcome in the future.

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

According to a new regulation that took effect this year and that can be considered a big step forward, the requests of municipalities for financing water protection measures from the Environmental Investment Centre are assessed on the basis of the priorities set in the sub-basin management plan. In this way, municipalities have become interested in expressing their problems and are more eager to actively participate in the development of water management plans.

In addition to the water management plans which are made for river basin districts and sub-districts, the Public Water Supply and Sewerage Act obliges local governments to develop more detailed public water supply and sewerage development plans which are consistent with the objectives of river basin management plans.

To comply with stringent legislation, rural municipalities are improving parts of their drinking and wastewater infrastructure with support from the European Union. Upon entering the EU in 2004, Estonia agreed to ensure proper wastewater collection and treatment in all settlements with more than 2000 people by the end of 2010 (the Urban Waste Water Directive) and to supply drinking water for settlements with more than 50 inhabitants by the end of 2013 (the Drinking Water Directive).

Following the requirements of the above mentioned and other WFD relevant directives (the Nitrates Directive, the Sewage Sludge Directive and the Bathing Water Directive) and the monitoring and reporting obligations to European Commission consumes a considerable amount of the limited financial and human resources. Most Environment Investment Centre funds allocated to water resource management have been used to co-finance the above mentioned local water supply and sanitation projects and therefore the possibility of implementing other measures, such as water body remediation, are fairly limited.

WATER PRICING

The Water Framework Directive is the first legal act that introduces economic measures - one of the main IWRM principles - into the EU water policy. In Estonia, the Environmental Charges Act established two main environmental charges concerning water resource management: the water abstraction charge and the pollution charge for the emission of pollutants into a water body, groundwater or soil, which are mainly paid by companies. In addition to these charges, consumers pay for drinking water and sewerage services.

Estonia has gradually ceased to provide water as a free economic benefit and within the last 15 years, it has taken significant steps towards implementing the principle of the real price of water as well as Full Cost Recovery and the Polluter Pays Principle. In 2007, the average price for drinking water supply and wastewater treatment for domestic customers was approximately 1.55 €/m³ and for businesses 2.1 €/m³.

Considering the current water price level, in Estonia water is no longer a free economic benefit; it is valued and its use is monitored and regulated by a permit. The principles of the economic valuation of water and determination of a fair water price with the consideration of social factors have been relatively well observed in Estonian water resource management.

The relative importance of the Water Abstraction Charge in the price of water is low (less than 1/10) and thus it does not have much influence on sustainable water use. It is the price of water, not the Water Abstraction Charge, which encourages domestic consumers and enterprises to save water. At present, the Water Pollution Charge rate is lower than wastewater treatment costs and therefore it does not encourage water companies to decrease pollution loads. The main factor limiting pollution is the amount allowed by the permit for the use of water, because if the amount of discharged pollutants into the environment exceeds the permitted figures, the Pollution Charge rate is multiplied by a factor of 10.

Currently, water tariffs cover the operation and maintenance costs of water companies. Usually water companies admit that current water tariffs do not cover investment costs. According to the estimates of WFD's Article 5 report on Estonia, the average level to which support maintenance, upkeep and investment costs are covered is about 70%. In most EU member states water tariffs are also generally lower than the level of cost recovery. ■

Regional Consultative Water Financing Meeting

THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP AND EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE FINANCING WORK GROUP TOOK PLACE IN TBILISI ON FEBRUARY 5-7.



The meeting was opened by Mr. Zaza Gamcemlidze, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia. The EU delegation to Georgia was represented by Mr. Michal Nekvasil, who pointed out that lack of funding was a key constraint to achieving the water related targets of the Millennium Development Goals. This Meeting among the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) is of high significance to help mitigate this shortcoming. The EUWI looks forward to the next country level initiatives of GWP Central Asia and Caucasus.

Ms. Tamar Beruchasvili, the Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, honored us with her presence at the meeting on the final day. She had just finished hosting the EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) meeting which had been held parallel with the GWP Water Financing meeting. The new ENP+ plans to reach out to Central Asian countries. Alan Hall from the Global Water Partnership Organisation gave a presentation entitled "IWRM Helps to Solve Financing Problems" where 50% of water financing demands are for governance reforms.

A session with international programs and their roles in financing the water sector covered Georgia and the South Caucasus region but also Central Asia in some cases, with contributions from USAID, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the Millennium Development Fund, the UNDP-ENVSEC Project, the TACIS EU - Environmental Coopera-

tion for the Black Sea and others. GWP CACENA and its Country Water Partnerships have the potential to help in bringing coordination in all projects that deal with water resources.

The 60 participants from 8 CACENA countries together with observers from GWP Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) had five "Expert Panels" with introductory presentations and active discussions of the following topics:

1. Assessment of cost reforms in the water resource management system within the EU Water Framework Directive
2. Assessment of existing mechanisms of service fees and setting of benchmarks with legal and organizational aspects
3. Identification of domestic and foreign financing sources
4. Involvement of local organizations in the joint financing of the water sector
5. The role of the GWP in assisting in improved water sector financing

During a discussion, GWP CEE representatives shared their experience gained during the process of EU Water Directive implementation. Milan Matuska, the GWP CEE Regional Coordinator, presented two proposals on how GWP CACENA and CEE regions can cooperate. One way is to write a regional paper, summarizing experiences from selected CEE countries, including examples from trans-boundary river basins, i.e. the Elbe, Oder and Wistula. The other option is to develop bilateral project proposals on different IWRM aspects. "Common projects could be supported by newly established Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds in the new EU member states", says Matuska.

As to the outcome of the meeting, the participants signed a Joint Resolution which will be available in the form of a meeting report together with the results from the Expert Panels. ■



CREDIT: RICHARD MULLER/GWP/CEE

Tbilisi hosted GWP and EUWI Regional Consultative Meeting on Water Financing

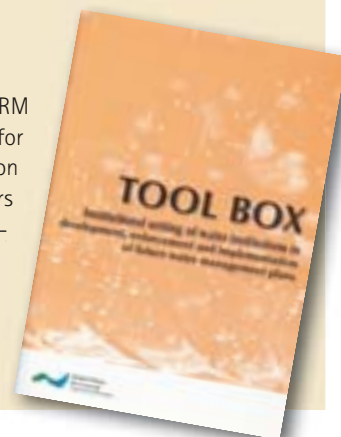
New GWP ToolBox publication

THE BOOK FOCUSES ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, REFORMS OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

As countries begin adopting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), second-order tasks become increasingly important. The repertoire of tools and techniques for planning and executing these tasks however, is not nearly so well developed or comprehensive as those used by more traditional practitioners in the water sector. This constitutes a major resource gap – one which GWP

has been helping to fill since it launched its IWRM ToolBox several years ago. As the GWP rationale for the ToolBox states: "IWRM places novel demands on the policymaker, operator and water user, but offers more comprehensive, efficient and powerful approaches than those tried hitherto."

Key second-order tasks under IWRM include service and infrastructure planning, system and resource modelling, institutional development and/



or reform, financing, policy and law making, conflict resolution, stakeholder relations, public awareness, capacity building and knowledge sharing.

ToolBox

Integrated Water Resources Management

The IWRM ToolBox is already a well known instrument to support capacity building and to increase the capabilities of water professionals in approaching different aspects of water planning.

During the first phase of its existence, between 2001-2003, the ToolBox was used in the GWP Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region in education and training activities tailored to address

the IWRM planning processes. Driven by GWP Central Asia and Caucasus (CACENA) representative initiatives, ToolBox activities were then introduced into CACENA at the end of 2003. Based on the four years of experience gained in CEE and CACENA, these activities included a series of training courses and seminars.

All the ToolBox training courses and seminars aimed to promote the application of IWRM practices. In addition, the CACENA water experts were interested in sharing CEE experience and lessons learned in implementing the new EU water legislation. The courses provided an extensive review of IWRM approaches including:

- water planning and water management
- translation of water policy into legislation
- integrating economics into water planning and policy

- public participation, negotiation of conflicts, awareness raising.

The first book arising from the ToolBox training activities, published in 2004, was devoted to IWRM in the context of the EU policy.

This new publication summarizes the proceedings from the training course held in Batumi, Georgia in the summer of 2007, and deals with institutional arrangements, reforms of water and environmental institutions. The first part of the publication summarizes the presentations based on the ToolBox instruments, while the second part deals with concrete examples of institutional arrangements and organization reforms that have been made in recent years in the CEE and CACENA regions. ■

Danka Thalmeinerova, ToolBox Officer, GWP Secretariat, Stockholm

Managing floods and ships on the Danube

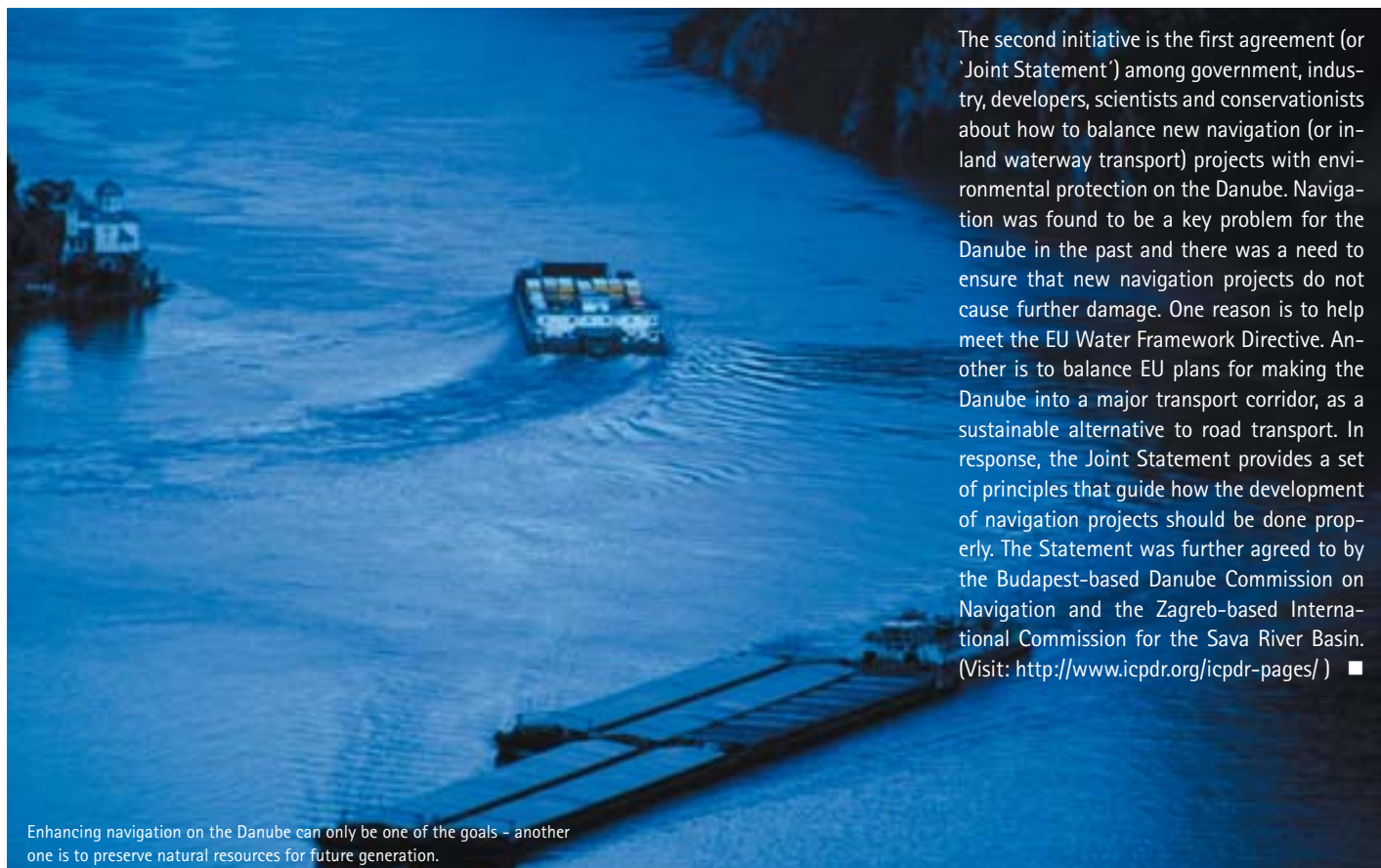
TWO GROUNDBREAKING INITIATIVES WERE LAUNCHED IN MARCH TO HELP REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF TWO KEY PRESSURES ON WATERS, ECOLOGY AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN.

Captained by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Basin (ICPDR), the first initiative is the 'Danube-European Flood Alert



System', the first international system for forecasting Danube floods and providing early flood warning. Danube-EFAS will help Danube countries

to avoid some of the terrible impacts caused by floods in recent years. Using the system, countries will have up to 10 days to prepare crucial activities such as evacuating communities, building sandbag walls and switching off water supplies to avoid potential contamination. The system was developed for the ICPDR by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. (Visit: http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/pr_2008_03_11_efas.htm)



Enhancing navigation on the Danube can only be one of the goals - another one is to preserve natural resources for future generation.

The second initiative is the first agreement (or 'Joint Statement') among government, industry, developers, scientists and conservationists about how to balance new navigation (or inland waterway transport) projects with environmental protection on the Danube. Navigation was found to be a key problem for the Danube in the past and there was a need to ensure that new navigation projects do not cause further damage. One reason is to help meet the EU Water Framework Directive. Another is to balance EU plans for making the Danube into a major transport corridor, as a sustainable alternative to road transport. In response, the Joint Statement provides a set of principles that guide how the development of navigation projects should be done properly. The Statement was further agreed to by the Budapest-based Danube Commission on Navigation and the Zagreb-based International Commission for the Sava River Basin. (Visit: <http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/>) ■

CREDIT: DRPI/ MELLO

High-Level Policy Dialogue



EUROPEAN UNION SANITATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN 2008, THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION.

Women in Europe for a Common Future – in cooperation with GWP Central and Eastern Europe, the European Water Partnership, KIWA Water Research, Coalition Clean Baltic and Coram Industries – organized a High-Level Policy Dialogue entitled "EU Sanitation Policies and Practices in 2008, the International Year of Sanitation" in Brussels on January 29th.

The objective of the High-Level Policy Dialogue was to raise awareness and stimulate political will within the European Union, especially the

European Commission, on the safer management of wastewater in small rural settlements. The proposed improvements were based not only on traditional solutions but also on sustainable and further water saving solutions already applied on a small and medium scale in some EU countries.

The event brought together 70 key experts from all sectors, including GWP CEE sustainable sanitation experts from Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, as well as different EU Commission representatives.

The importance of the event was underlined by

the fact that in some of the EU member states almost 40% of the population still do not have access to safe sanitation. According to a recent GWP CEE study, a total of 20 million citizens in the European Union need access to safe and affordable sanitation.

Therefore, new affordable and sustainable approaches are needed in the EU countries, especially the new member states, allowing for a broader scope of management, financing and technological options better suited to the different needs across the EU.

For more information, please visit www.gwp-ceeforum.org



CREDIT: BOGDAN MACCAROL

The dialogue was well timed for 2008 International Year of Sanitation

International Year of Sanitation: 2008

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DECLARED 2008 THE „INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION“.

The theme is designed to raise awareness and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to reduce by half the proportion of the 2.6 billion people without access to basic sanitation by 2015.

As more than 2.6 billion people world wide are without proper water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, the International Year of Sanitation aims to put these challenges at the forefront of the international agenda.

For more information on the International Year of Sanitation: <http://esa.un.org/iys/>