

ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

Action 10: ***“To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”***.

Action - “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”. ICPDR has identified 900 spots where water flows are discontinued to the point of preventing fish migration. In the current DRBMP it is agreed that 108 migration aids will be built, which is a good start but which needs to be expanded in the coming years. It is also vital to implement fully the jointly agreed Sturgeon Action Plan and to invest into further research on fish migration routes and behaviour.

→ **Example of project - “To make the feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gates”**. The sturgeon and other fish population are decreasing because of the existence of big dams that prevent the fish migrating and thus reproducing. One of the biggest obstacles is the Iron Gate hydroelectric dam between Romania and Serbia. A feasibility study on the possibilities of fish migration through the dam should be carried out. (Lead: Romania and Serbia; Deadline: end 2012)

→ **Example of project - “To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube”**. Trans-boundary solutions need to be found for the problem of riverbed incision and the lack of sediment. Hydropower dams and dredging activities on the Danube cause serious problems in the balance of the sediment of the river system, which drives the deepening of the riverbed on free flowing river sections. Co-ordination within the framework of the Strategy will help ensure identification and implementation of best solutions. This is also an important project in relation to flood prevention.

→ **Example of project - “To examine biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin”** - The project should focus mainly on integration of EU environmental directives in Sava river countries. A system for efficient exchange of data will be established and know-how transfer between project partners and other relevant institutions in the Sava River Basin will be provided. The ecological status of the Sava River Basin will be evaluated on the basis of data collected. Outcomes of the project will serve as the basis for application of the EU directives and sustainable water management activities which are crucial for the Sava River Basin Management Plan, as well as the management of natural assets and protected areas. (Lead: ISRBC, Deadline: 2014)

Milestone n°1: Revision and update of the ICPDR ecological prioritisation approach for addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin

Work 1: Revision and update of methodology with support from EU Grant

Output 1: Updated methodology

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2012

Work 2: Application of new methodology with updated data from 2013 data collection

Output 2: Revised and updated ecological prioritisation approach

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2013

Milestone n°2: Application of the approach for 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan

Work: Application of revised and updated ecological prioritisation approach as support in decision on Programme of Measures of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan

Output: Agreed measures on addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2015

Milestone n°3: Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams

Project: Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams

Output: Assessment on technical possibilities for restoring continuity and related costs

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: Still open; Discussions with FAO are ongoing but other possible financing mechanisms have to be investigated

Responsible: Romania and Serbia with support from ICPDR

Deadline: As soon as possible

Milestone n°4: To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube

Project: Danube Sediment Management - Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin

Output: Transparent harmonised database on sediments, sediment balance, pressures and impacts analysis, proposals for solutions for improving sediment transport and establishing a dynamic balance in the Danube River Basin

Status of the project: submitted project

Funding: the 4th call of the SEE Programme

Responsible: Lead Partner - Budapest University of Technology and Economics; Other partners from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia

Deadline: end of 2014

Milestone n°5: Study on the improvement of longitudinal continuity of rivers with operational changes in existing installations and low cost improvements in the light of the specific needs of various migratory fish species and taxa (coordination with PA6)

Output: Study on specific needs and operational regimes for various installations. Best practices and recommendations.

Responsible: HU, Danube region countries

Deadline: 2014

Milestone n°6: Examination of the biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin

Project: Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin - SEWABIS

The project will focus on integration of EU environmental directives in SRB. A system for efficient exchange of data will be established and the ecological status of the Sava River Basin will be evaluated on the basis of data collected.

Outputs: Common sampling strategies, protocols and methodologies developed; Status of biological diversity of taxa and habitats provided; Ecological and chemical status assessed.

Status of the project: submitted project

Responsible: Lead Partner: Jozef Stefan Institute (SI), Other Partners from SI, SK, BA, HR and RS

Funding: The project proposal has been submitted to TCP SEE

Deadline: June 2014