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Zagreb, March 30, 2007

FINAL¹ REPORT
3rd Sava PEG RBM Meeting
March 29-30, 2007
Zagreb, Croatia

I. ATTENDANCE

The PEG RBM held its third meeting on March 29-30 2007. The meeting took place at the premises of the Sava Commission.

Full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this Report.

II. CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr. Dragan Zeljko chaired the session.

III. ADOPTED AGENDA

Thursday, March 29, 2007

1. Opening of the meeting

- Welcome by the Chairman
- Adoption of the Agenda

2. Part I – Report from the 3rd regular Sava Commission’s session

- Brief report from the 3rd ISRBC session – conclusions in relation to the PEG RBM

3. Part II – Development of the Sava RBM Plan

- Structure and the road map of the Sava RBMP –initial PEG RBM version – discussion and adoption

4. Part II – Development of the Sava RBM Plan

- Extended Table of Content for the Sava RB Analysis- discussion and adoption:
- Sava RB Analysis – templates – country presentations on current and future activities;

5. Part II – Development of the Sava RBM Plan

¹ Subject to the SC approval

- Sava RB Analysis - Support actions from the Sava CARDS Regional project for the Sava River Basin-proposal of work plan and timetable;
- Presentation on issue papers prepared by Sava CARDS regional project;
- Other tasks of the Sava CARDS Regional project

6. Part III – Sava information system

- Report on GIS needs assessment
- ToR for Ad hoc GIS EG
- Further steps

Friday, March 30, 2007

7. Part IV – Development of protocols

- Protocols – brief information on current activities

8. Part V –Strategy on implementation of FASRB

- Strategy on implementation of FASRB –presentation of upgraded version;

9. Part VI – Program of work of the PEG RBM for FY 2007

- Water management work plan for FY 2007- presentation and discussion;
- Proposal of program of work of the PEG RBM for FY 2007

10. Part VII – Projects and cooperation

- Brief information on projects and cooperation with other bodies

11. Summary of work of PEG RBM

12. Any other issues

AD.1 – Opening of the Meeting

- **Welcome by the Chairman**
- **Adoption of the Agenda**

After the opening of meeting the Chairman stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Serbia are represented by one PEG RBM member, Republic of Slovenia by two members and Republic of Croatia by three additional experts. An additional expert from Bosnia and Herzegovina also attended the meeting.

The PEG RBM adopted the agenda of the 3rd PEG RBM Meeting as proposed. The summary of activities performed between two meetings of the PEG RBM was presented by the Chairman.

AD.2 - Part I – Report from the 3rd regular Sava Commission’s session

- **Brief report from the 3rd ISRBC session – conclusions in relation to the PEG RBM**

Background documents:

Doc1. –Sava Commission 3 rd session – relevant conclusions

The Secretariat distributed a material containing main points and conclusions in relation to the RBM activities from the 3rd regular Sava Commission session held on 20-21 March in Zagreb.

The PEG RBM group is informed that:

- PEG RBM ToR,
- Program of work for FY06
- Repots from two previous PEG RBM meetings

are accepted by the Sava Commission.

The PEG RBM is also informed that Sava Commission also accepted documents:

- Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB dated March 12 2007 as proposed,
- Structure and the road map of the Sava RBMP –initial version
- Work plan for water management for FY 07

The Chairman stressed that above documents are presented to the Sava Commission before formal discussion on the PEG RBM meeting due to term constraints.

AD.3 - Part II – Development of the Sava RBM Plan

- **Structure and the road map of the Sava RBMP –initial PEG RBM version – discussion and adoption**

Background documents:

Doc2.- Structure and the road map of the Sava RBMP-initial version
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Doc 3 – BiH komentari 19.03.2007 RBM

As agreed on the previous meeting the Secretariat adjusted the UNDP/GEF DRP Project 26th January version of the document and distributed it to the Group members as initial release of the PEG RBM version (dated 12 March 07).

The Chairman informed the Group that written comments on initial document are received from B&H only and gave an explanation of certain solutions in document.

After discussion the PEG RBM adopted following conclusions:

1. Document "Structure and the Road map of the Sava RBM plan" – version of 12 March 2007 is accepted as an initial PEG RBM version,
2. The Secretariat will make some minor changes in document tables based on B&H comments,
3. In next phases of development of "Road map" the key milestones which should indicate responsibility of relevant expert groups should be incorporated in document.

AD.4 – Part II – Development of Sava RBM Plan

- ***Extended Table of Content for the Sava RB Analysis- discussion and adoption:***
- ***Sava RB Analysis – templates – country presentations on current and future activities;***

Background documents:

Doc 4 – SRBA Report – Draft Content 1.0

The PEG RBM took note on presentation about activities performed by the Sava CARDS project between two meetings delivered by Mr. Senad Pločo.

Table of Contents of Sava River Basin Analysis Report

Mr. Pločo also introduced Proposal Extended of Table of Contents of Sava River Basin Analysis Report.

The main points on ToC noted thereafter were:

- The SRBA Report Content is modified Tisza RBA Report Content,
- Chapter Water use and demands is included in ToC on proposal of Serbia and B&H,
- Based on the conclusion of PEG FP in RBM plan should not be included complete Flood management. Flood management activities should be run by the PEG FP.

The PEG RBM proposes several adjustments in ToC and concluded:

1. The Consultant will, based on the PEG input, prepare SRBA Report – Draft Table of Content - version 1.1 and distribute it to the PEG RBM members until Wednesday, April 04,

Templates

Each country explained its position in this activity. It is noted that:

- No comments on templates are received,
- B&H and Serbia submitted template on Sava tributaries ≥ 500 km²,
- Croatia submitted an incomplete initial version of template on Sava tributaries ≥ 500 km² with suggestion that preferable scale for reporting is 1st and 2nd order tributaries ≥ 1000 km²,
- Slovenia has not submitted the template. When they deliver the template on tributaries the preferable scale will be also indicated,

- Preferable scale of analysis for Serbia is 1000km²,
- B&H representatives are expecting that an internal B6H meeting will be organized in order to examine organizational matters and division of responsibilities among institutions in charge for water management in relation to obligation for SRBA activities. It is expected that an official stand on preferable scale will be indicated.

After discussion the PEG RBM adopted following conclusions:

1. Slovenia and Croatia will submit template on Sava tributaries by April 05,
2. Sava CARDS project will analyze received data and harmonize it and distribute adapted version by April 10,
3. Sava countries will send their comments on distributed material by April 13,
4. Sava CARDS project will distribute final templates by April 16,
5. Sava countries will return filled in templates by May 16,
6. Sava CARDS project will provide all necessary assistance to the countries institutions in work on templates. Consultations will be organized on a weekly base with sending the list of questions in advance.

AD.5 - Part II – Development of the Sava RBM Plan

- ***Sava RB Analysis - Support actions from the Sava CARDS Regional project for the Sava River Basin-proposal of work plan and timetable;***
- ***Presentation on issue papers prepared by Sava CARDS regional project;***
- ***Other tasks of the Sava CARDS Regional project***

Background documents:

Doc5-Issue paper 1-Hymo pressures and WFD-final
 Doc6-Issue paper 2-GIS and RIS-final
 Doc7-Issue paper 3-Financing-final

Issue papers prepared by Sava CARDS regional project

Mr. Pločo and Ms. Omerbegović presented already distributed issue papers.

The Group expressed satisfaction with work on the papers and concluded as follow:

1. The PEG RBM accepts presented issue papers,
2. Having in mind matters elaborated in issue papers the PEG RBM recommends to the Secretariat to distribute the papers to all related expert groups of Sava commission.

Other tasks of the Sava CARDS Regional project

Sava CARDS project continuously work on database on stakeholders and projects in the Sava river basin. The templates are already distributed in the countries. Mr. Pločo expressed the need for help from PEG members in order to ensure all relevant data. The database will be presented on next RBM meeting.

On the list of proposed tasks of the Sava CARDS project it is anticipated organization of the joint workshop for RBM, navigation and flood prevention groups. Having in mind that in all groups the chairmen are the members of the Secretariat the Secretariat expressed a doubt of usefulness of organizing such meeting.

The final decision on that task (or possible substitution) will be taken soon based on the Secretariat assessment.

AD.6 - Part III – Sava information system

- ***Report on GIS needs assessment***
- ***ToR for Ad hoc GIS EG***
- ***Further steps***

Background documents:

Doc8-Sava GIS Assessment Draft Report ver1.4
Doc9-Ad Hoc GIS EG TOR draft v1

The PEG RBM took note on presentation “Assessment of needs and use of the GIS in the Sava countries” delivered by Ms. Višnja Omerbegović and, thereafter, adopted following conclusions:

1. The PEG RBM accepts Sava GIS Assessment Draft Report and recommendations for further work on GIS strategy;
2. The PEG RBM accepts Ad Hoc GIS EG ToR,
3. The PEG RBM recommends distribution of all prepared outputs to the GIS EG as soon as it is officially established for further elaboration,
4. The PEG RBM recommends to the Secretariat to send an official letter to all institutions which filled in questionnaire with gratefulness for their participation.

AD.7- Part IV – Development of protocols**- Protocols – brief information on current activities**

The Secretariat delivered information related to activities performed on the work on protocols by the other EGs.

The PEG RBM took note also on decision of the Sava Commission that Ad hoc Legal Expert Group shall coordinate further activities on development of the Draft Protocol on Transboundary Impact with involvement of representatives of the respective Expert Groups of the Sava Commission.

Mr. Milovanović informed the Group about establishment of very large working group (25-30 people) with representatives from all relevant institutions in Serbia with aim to support preparation of protocols. He expressed an opinion that already drafted protocol on transboundary impact needs substantial improvement.

After discussion the PEG RBM adopted following conclusions:

1. PEG RBM appoints Ms. Stanka Koren as its representative for further work on development of the Draft Protocol.
2. The representatives of B&H will investigate possibility of appointment of Ms. Velinka Topalović as the other representative of the PEG RBM in working group and inform the Secretariat as soon as possible,

AD.8 – Part V –Strategy on implementation of FASRB**- Strategy on implementation of FASRB –presentation of upgraded version;****Background documents:**

Doc10-Draft Strategy on implementation of FASRB_Draft_12 Mar
Doc11-BiH komentar 2-Strategy

The PEG RBM took note on information related to preparation of Strategy on implementation of FASRB as agreed on the 2nd PEG RBM meeting. The Secretariat informed the Group that this version of Strategy is accepted by the Sava Commission with request for further update in textual part.

After the presentation the Peg RBM discussed some details in Strategy and adopted following conclusions:

1. The Secretariat is obliged to check the “Table III. Activities, operational tasks and strategic outputs“of the Strategy for possible missing data in column Supporting body,
2. The Secretariat is obliged to check Annex II of the Strategy –Draft road map for possible chronological disorder of anticipated tasks,
3. In next versions of Strategy on implementation of the FASRB accent should be given on development component including concrete projects which can contribute to the implementation of FASRB;

AD.9 - Part VI – Program of work of the PEG RBM for FY 2007

- ***Water management work plan for FY 2007- presentation and discussion;***
- ***Proposal of program of work of the PEG RBM for FY 2007***

Background documents:

Doc12-Water management-Work plan FY-2007_16-02-07

The PEG RBM took note on information related to preparation of water management work plan for FY07 which was presented to the Sava Commission. It is stressed by the Secretariat that plan is in accordance with RBM tasks anticipated in the Strategy. With intention to clarify the further steps in preparation of program of work of the PEG RBM in FY 07 the Chairman announced that Draft Public participation strategy as well as Interim Sava commission project list will be considered on the next PEG meeting.

Some Group members expressed their opinion that frequency of meetings is too intense and that should be taken into account in further planning.

The PEG RBM group concluded as follow:

1. 4th PEG RBM meeting is to be held on June 11-12 in Banja Luka,
2. 5th PEG RBM meeting is to be held on September 11-12. Venue to determined in due time,
3. Tentative time for the 6th and 7th PEG RBM meeting is December 2007 and March 2008,
4. The Secretariat will prepare detailed Program of work for PEG RBM group for the next meeting,

AD.10 - Part VII – Projects and cooperation

- ***Brief information on projects and cooperation with other bodies***

Background documents:

Doc13-Letter-HMZ project

Doc14-Sava Project Proposal Study needs

Doc15-Summary information Life Sava River Basin Project

The Chairman briefed the Group about projects related conclusions of the Sava Commission and requested expert opinion by the PEG RBM on the matter.

The Secretariat (Komatina, Zeljko and Grošelj) informed the Group about following projects:

- a. **“Development and up-grading of hydrometeorological observing, information & forecasting system in the Sava River Basin”**

The Secretariat informed the PEG RBM about its standpoint about development of this particular project and about letter sent to the World Bank.

The PEG RBM adopted following conclusions:

1. The PEG RBM supports the Secretariat's standpoint on previously performed activities by the HMSs of the Sava countries on development of the project;
2. The Secretariat is obliged to distribute the standpoint letter and the "Sava Project Proposal study needs" paper prepared by the Secretariat to the Group members,

b. "Protection of Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin Floodplains"

As requested by the Sava Commission short project document is presented on the Third Meeting of the PEG RBM.

From the short project document it is not obvious what is an "add-on value" of the project to the Sava Commission. The other concern expressed by the PEG members is that project area is limited to B&H and Croatia only. The possibility of inclusion of institutions from Slovenia and Serbia should be investigated in further contacts with project leader.

After discussion the Peg RBM adopted following conclusions:

1. The Secretariat is obliged to request the full project documentation from the representatives of the project and to distribute it to the PEG members as soon as received,
2. The representatives of the project are to be invited to the next meeting of the PEG RBM group to present the project details in order to enable the PEG RBM to give final recommendations to the Sava Commission about involvement in work of the Steering Committee of this project;

c. "SARIB project"

The Peg RBM took note on the presentation of the project delivered by the Secretariat and concluded:

1. The Secretariat shall deliver SARIB project summary to the PEG RBM members,
2. Thereof, the countries shall, thru the PEG members, deliver their official standpoint on results of the SARIB project and their usage for the Sava Commission until end of April;
3. The representatives of the project will be invited to the next meeting of the PEG RBM group to present final project outputs if found necessary and helpful,

d. EU FP-7 projects

"Integrated assessment of the ecological status of water bodies" and "River Basins twinning project"

The Secretariat informed the Group on forthcoming projects and related Sava Commission conclusions. The PEG RBM took note on the information and concluded:

1. The Secretariat shall deliver additional information on the EU FP-7 projects to the group members in order to receive their opinion on the projects. The PEG RBM members will have in mind that deadline for project proposal submission is May 02.

The PEG RBM took note on the information about cooperating activities of the Secretariat with other institutions between two PEG meetings.

AD.11 – Summary of work, conclusions, further steps

The PEG RBM adopted following conclusions:

1. The Draft Report of the 3rd PEG RBM Meeting shall be sent to the PEG RBM members on Monday, April 01 2007. It will be opened for comments until Thursday, April 05 2007 exceptionally;

AD.12 – Any other issues

The Group members requested that official invitation for PEG meetings are sent at least 15 days before scheduled date because of the time needed for approval of official travel. The Secretariat agreed to act as requested whenever possible.