SUMMARY

of the Annual Report of the ISRBC for the Period April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011
In accordance with the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) is supposed to submit the annual report on its work and activities to the Parties.

This publication provides a summary of the Annual Report of the ISRBC for the financial year 2010 (FY 2010), corresponding to the period as of April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011.

Six sessions of the ISRBC were held during the reporting period (the 20th to 25th Sessions), contributing to further intensification of the ISRBC activities and a new progress towards the achievement of the principal goals of the FASRB, namely:

- establishment of the international regime of navigation on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries,
- establishment of sustainable water management in the Sava River Basin, and
- prevention/limitation of hazards such as floods, droughts, ice and accidents, and reduction/elimination of their negative consequences.

The summary of the ISRBC activities is presented in the following text, while the integral version of the Annual Report is available on the ISRBC web-site (www.savacommission.org).
PAVING THE WAY FOR FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FASRB

Updating of the Strategy

In order to respond to a steady progress in the FASRB implementation during the last years, as well as to recent processes and initiatives on the Sava, Danube and European level, relevant for the FASRB implementation, an updated Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB and the accompanying Action Plan for the Period 2011-2015, have been developed.

Further development of protocols to the FASRB

Considerable efforts have been made towards further development or finalization of protocols to the FASRB. The Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation to the FASRB has been ratified by two Parties so far. The Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB was signed on June 1, 2010, at the central event within the Sava Day 2010 celebration. The Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations to the FASRB, as well as the Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB, have entered the process of final harmonization preceding the signing of the protocols.

Preparation of the 3rd Meeting of the Parties

Significant efforts have been invested into the organization and preparation of the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB, to be held at Brdo (Slovenia), on May 31 and June 1, 2011. At the Meeting of the Parties, the implementation of the FASRB and the work of the ISRBC will be reviewed and discussed, and directions for the future work will be determined. A special session of the Meeting will be dedicated to funding opportunities for the FASRB-related projects, with the aim to inform the representatives of the international financial institutions, funds and programs on the priority projects of the ISRBC and discuss opportunities for implementation of the projects within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and other appropriate frameworks.

Strengthening the cooperation with Montenegro

Given the mutually expressed interest of the ISRBC and Montenegro to enhance further cooperation, several official contacts have been made so far, related to possibilities for Montenegro to become a Party to the FASRB in due time. Accordingly, a proposal was addressed by the ISRBC to Montenegro on transitional possibilities of cooperation till the expected full membership.
Further development of the first *Sava RBM Plan*

Following the acceptance of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report ([http://www.savacommission.org/publication](http://www.savacommission.org/publication)) by the ISRBC in 2009, the activities related to preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan* in line with the *EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD)* have continued through an EC-funded project and under the coordinating role of the ISRBC. A number of documents, such as background papers (flood management, navigation, invasive species, sediments and hydropower), issue papers (groundwater, organic and nutrient pollution and hydromorphology), and discussion papers (significant water management issues, economy, etc.), were prepared, serving as building blocks for the *Sava RBM Plan* preparation.

The activities undertaken in FY 2010 resulted in two draft versions of the *Sava RBM Plan*, which were thoroughly analyzed and discussed at the meetings of the Permanent Expert Group of the ISRBC for River Basin Management.

In order to inform wider public on the achievements made so far, the publication *Sava River Basin Analysis Summary* ([http://www.savacommission.org/publication](http://www.savacommission.org/publication)) has been prepared in the official languages of the ISRBC and in English, and disseminated.

**Fostering public participation in the *Sava RBM Plan* preparation**

The following activities have been performed during the FY 2010 in this regard:

- The information on development of the *Sava RBM Plan* has been disseminated on the official ISRBC web-site and other means of communication (e.g. *Sava NewsFlash*) on a regular basis;
- Active participation of the NGOs, observers at the ISRBC, has been ensured, yielding a valuable contribution to the process through their comments and recommendations;
- A workshop on significant water management issues in the Sava River Basin was organized (September 2010), to discuss the issues with a wide range of stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental institutions from all Sava countries;
- The stakeholder identification process has been launched in cooperation with UNESCO and GWP-Med, with the aim to mobilize the public and key stakeholders to be involved in carrying out and achieving the goals of the *FASRB*.

**Dealing with important RBM-related issues**

Further efforts have been made to integrate the water protection with the issues, such as navigation, climate change and groundwater, through implementation of the ISRBC projects or a follow-up of relevant external projects.

The *Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*, aiming to facilitate the establishment of sustainable sediment management in the basin, has entered the process of final harmonization preceeding the signing of the protocol.

The *Draft Protocol on Transboundary Impacts to the FASRB*, aimed to contribute to securing the integrity of the water regime in the basin and elimination or reduction of transboundary impacts on waters of the other parties caused by economic and/or other activities, has been developed and is currently under reconsideration at the ISRBC level.
Participation in testing of the ICPDR’s Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS)

Through the testing, the functioning of the system in the Parties and the operative structure and capacities within relevant organizations and institutions are reviewed. An announced test of the AEWS, initiated by the ISRBC, was performed in September 2010, involving the information units, decision making units and expert units, which compose the Principal International Alert Centers (PIAC). The results showed that the system is working according to expectations, with minor difficulties.

Training of the PIAC staff from the Parties

Following the analysis of results of the tests, performed in the framework of Permanent Expert Group of the ISRBC for Accident Prevention and Control, a new training course for the operational staff of the PIACs was organized in cooperation with the ICPDR, with the aim to increase the capacity of the PIAC’s staff in the Parties.

Dealing with emergency situations in the basin

To enhance the cooperation of the Parties in the emergency situations which have or could have impact to water and aquatic eco-system, a roundtable with representatives of ministries for water management and environment, as well as the agencies and administrations for civil protection from the Parties, was organized. A part of the meeting was dedicated to discussion on the Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations to the FASRB, prior to its final harmonization by the Parties. The protocol aims to prevent and limit hazards, and to reduce or eliminate adverse consequences of accidents and natural disasters on water, water regime and aquatic eco-system.
REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD RISKS

Strengthening the legal framework for cooperation

The Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB, the basic document defining the cooperation of the Parties in the field of flood management, has been finalized and signed by the Parties in June 2010. By this Protocol, the four Parties committed themselves to develop a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRM Plan) in line with the EU Flood Directive, to define objectives, measures, mechanisms of coordination and modes of cooperation in flood defense emergency situations. Through an UNECE-funded project, the ISRBC started with the preparation of the Program for development of the Sava FRM Plan, the initial flood vulnerability assessment and the assessment of potential climate change impact on flood management in the basin.

Building the hydrologic and hydraulic models for the basin

A hydrologic model for the whole Sava River Basin and a single shared hydraulic model of the entire Sava River, being the first georeferenced models ever produced for the whole area, have been developed in cooperation with the USACE and national institutions of the Parties. The hydraulic model includes a comprehensive database, consisting of more than 3300 georeferenced cross-sections of the Sava River and its several major tributaries and canals, as well as data on levees, storage areas, bridges, etc., in a GIS form.

The models will be shared among the Parties, with the intention to update information as it becomes available, and to be used for the flood hazard and risk mapping, as a support to the flood forecasting and warning system, as well as for future flood protection projects.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND NAVIGATION

Improving the safety and technical standards of navigation

A number of documents, being fully in line with the corresponding EU rules, have been developed in this regard, namely:

- amendments to the Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin, based on the new harmonized version of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI);
- amendments to the Rules on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster’s Licenses in the Sava River Basin;
- Album of Bridges for the Sava River (the first ever for the Sava River);
- Indicator of River Kilometers for the Sava River (renewed after 50 years);

Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation

The Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation to the FASRB, signed by the Parties in 2009, was ratified by BA and HR. The Protocol is aimed at prevention, control and reduction of pollution originating from vessels, establishment of technical requirements for the equipment of port facilities, and other reception stations, development of the best available techniques, informing, development of spill response measures and monitoring of water quality.

The ISRBC continued to participate in the project Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube (WANDA), which is expected to provide a harmonized waste management system for the Danube Basin.

Rehabilitation and development of the waterway infrastructure

BA, HR and RS have continued with regular maintenance of the fully established marking system on the Sava and Kupa Rivers. In order to further upgrade the planning and maintenance of the marking system, the preparation of a web application for development of the Marking Plan and for regular updating of the marking system has been launched. In addition, the Rules for Definition of Winter Ports and Winter Shelters on the Sava River Basin, defining minimum requirements for the winter ports and winter shelters, have been developed and adopted.

The efforts of the ISRBC and the Parties to finalize the planning phase of the waterway rehabilitation (i.e. detailed design and other documentation), have continued. Funding for the detailed design of the waterway from Belgrade to Sisak was secured and the activities are expected to start in 2011.

The initial activities on the development of Sava RIS (i.e. the detailed design and prototype installation) were performed and fund raising activities for implementation were initiated.

Development of nautical tourism

As the first step, the Nautical and Tourism Guide for the Sava River, providing informative waterway maps and information about the main tourist attractions has been published.
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES SUPPORTING THE FASRB IMPLEMENTATION

Establishing an integrated information system for the basin

Based on the Sava GIS Strategy, which was finalized and adopted by the ISRBC in 2008, and the implementing documents for the Sava GIS establishment, which were prepared in 2009, the first phase of the implementation has been launched through the EC grant to the ISRBC for preparation of the Sava RBM Plan. The expected outcome of this phase is the setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities, including the Sava GeoPortal, tools, services and products, by 2012. A major part of the necessary hardware was purchased and the tender documentation was prepared so far.

Improving exchange and use of hydrological and meteorological data in the basin

In cooperation with the national hydro-meteorological services of the Parties, the 2006 Hydrological Yearbook of the Sava River Basin was issued in 2010, being the first yearbook prepared since the year 1986, when the last Hydrological Yearbook for the whole Yugoslavia was issued by the Federative Hydro-meteorological Institute. Initial activities on preparation of the Hydrological Yearbook for 2007 and 2008, which will also include the data from Montenegro, were performed.

In addition, the development of a hydro-meteorological data exchange system has been launched, with the objective to provide the users with a permanent access to basic information on the water regime from one point, i.e. the ISRBC web-site.

As a part of a good cooperation with the national hydro-meteorological services of the Parties, a meeting with the directors of the services was held, in order to present the status of the relevant ongoing activities of the ISRBC, as well as the status of two important projects, which are currently in the preparatory phase (hydrological study, hydro-meteorological information and flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava River Basin), and to discuss and agree upon further steps in realization of these activities.

The 2006 Hydrological Yearbook of the Sava River Basin
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Strengthening the network of partners beyond the Sava River Basin

Efforts have been made by the ISRBC to further improve the cooperation with a large number of international organizations, with a special emphasis on the following ones:

- ICPDR and Danube Commission, not only in terms of a coordination of activities, but also within the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*;
- UNECE, by launching a pilot project on linking the flood management and climate change in the Sava River Basin;
- European Commission, through the cooperation within the EC-funded preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, and the development of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*.

Further improving links within the Sava River Basin

A continued cooperation with the national institutions has taken place, addressing not only the *FASRB* implementation in general, but also specific issues, such as development of the *Sava RBM Plan*, operation of Principal Alert Centers, rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River, development of nautical tourism and preparation of projects. The tradition of annual meetings with captains from port master offices has been maintained. A successful cooperation of the ISRBC with the regional chambers of commerce/economy has resulted in the preparation of the *Nautical and Tourism Guide for the Sava River*.

Further strengthening the stakeholder involvement and public participation

In order to reflect the transparency of the *FASRB* implementation, stakeholder involvement has especially been fostered through the sessions and other meetings organized by the ISRBC, the development of the updated *Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB*, the *Action Plan for the Period 2011-2015* and protocols to the *FASRB*, as well as through public presentations of the ISRBC projects. The relevant information was continuously communicated to stakeholders and wider public via the official website of the ISRBC, the *SavaNewsFlash* bulletin and other publications (*Sava River Basin Analysis Summary* or the *Hydrological Yearbook of the Sava River Basin*), press releases, conferences, workshops, etc.
The Sava Day celebrations deliver an added value to promotion of the FASRB implementation and the ISRBC itself. In 2010, the central event within the Sava Day celebration was held in Gradiška (BA), on June 1. The central celebration included the signing of the Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB, and other activities, such as opening of the exhibition of the best photos from the Sava River Basin.

In addition to the central event, a wide range of specific (country-priorities-dependant) activities and events were performed in cooperation with the national institutions and partners from the business sector, i.e. Coca-Cola, including sportive-recreational events, thematic mini fairs/events, promotion of the Sava River tie, or implementation of a river protection project involving young population.
ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT AND LEGAL SUPPORT

A permanent legal support was provided within the work of the ISRBC, its permanent working groups and the Secretariat, involving preparation of various types of written documents and work of the Ad-hoc Legal Expert Group of the ISRBC.

The following activities have been performed in this regard:
- Analysis of the arbitration rules applicable to the ISRBC in the procurement procedures;
- Development of the Guidelines for Interns to the ISRBC;
- Review and analysis of all legal documents of the ISRBC in terms of functionality of work of the ISRBC and improvement of its regulations;
- Upgrading of the Rules of Procedure of the Sava Commission and the Rules on procurement procedures;
- Development of the ISRBC Principles for Cooperation with Business Sector.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Budget of the ISRBC for the financial year 2010 was adopted in the total amount of 537,500.00 Eur, consisting of the regular annual contributions of the Parties in the total amount of 487,960.00 Eur (i.e. 121,990.00 Eur per country), and of grants of the EC and UNECE for implementation of the projects, in the amount of 49,540.00 Eur.

The ISRBC derives the most of the income for the General Fund from the regular annual contributions of the Parties. The other inflows come from other sources: transfers from the Reserve Fund, grant funds of different institutions/organizations for implementation of special projects, interests, etc. In FY 2010, the total inflow into the General Fund was equal to 543,184.63 Eur, while the total expenditures amounted at 532,317.75 Eur, thus making a 98% realization of the planned amount.

The inflows into the Special and Trust Fund come from several sources: additional contributions of the Parties, grant funds of different institutions/organizations for implementation of projects, and transfers from the Reserve Fund. The total assets of the Special and Trust Fund in FY 2010 were 429,789.31 Eur, while the total expenditures were 270,796.83 Eur.

During the financial year 2010, development of internal and external financial management of the ISRBC continued. Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC in FY 2009 has been performed and presented to the ISRBC. Adjustments of the Rules of procurement procedures were adopted by the ISRBC.