



INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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**7th Sava PEG RBM Meeting
REPORT¹
Zagreb, Croatia – March 11-12, 2008**

¹ Final version-Accepted by the SC on its IX Special Session (April 07-08.2008)

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Minutes of the meeting

AD.1 Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the Chairman

Mr. Zeljko opened the meeting at 11:30 and welcomed all participants to the meeting. He notified that representatives of all Sava countries are present.

The full list of the participants is attached to this report as Annex I.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The PEG RBM adopted the agenda of the 7th PEG RBM Meeting.

Following items are added to the draft version of the agenda sent to the Group:

5.2 LIFE/SDC project

➤ Short information

5.3 Joint Sava Survey 2009

➤ Short information

and

9.1 Sava Day

➤ Short information on planned activities and timetable

The full text of the adopted agenda can be found in document Ref. No.: 3-08-3/2-2-PEG.1.

1.3 Brief report on activities performed between 6th and 7th PEG RBM Meeting

Mr. Zeljko briefed the Group about the activities between the two meetings. He informed the attendants that the 4th regular session of the Sava Commission was held on January 09-10 and explained conclusions of the session related to the work of the PEG RBM. The briefing was based on excerpts from the SC meeting report distributed earlier to the Group (Meeting doc: AD 1.3 Excerpts from Draft Report_IV Regular Session_Jan 11 2008_Sec).

Mr. Zeljko, together with Mr. Komatina and Mr. Grošelj, informed the Group about the other Secretariat's activities in reporting period.

Main issues presented can be summarized as follow:

- Latest draft version of Strategy on implementation of the FASRB was distributed to the members of the SC and approved thereafter without remarks. This version will be distributed to the PEG RBM immediately after the meeting;
- List of priority project of the SC should be upgraded by the end of March with basic data on each proposal. Projects already identified through the work of water management related expert groups are:
 - o OPF Environment Sava River,
 - o Sava hydrology study,
 - o Flood mapping study,
- The SC applied for GWP-Med membership;
- The Secretariat will meet the representatives of the WB on Thursday, 13th of March. The subject of the meeting will be the climate change and

disaster mitigation activities of the WB and possible participation of the SC as a pilot area-project.

The Group is also informed that:

- Serbia will provide the nomination of the 2nd PEG RBM member on the next SC meeting;

After the presentation the Group stressed the need for a closer interaction among PEG RBM and the SC members in order to secure efficient work of the PEG RBM.

AD.2 Adoption of the report of the 6th PEG RBM meeting

No comments were received on the report of the 6th PEG RBM meeting.

- ✚ The report was adopted by the Group as proposed (Doc. Ref. No.: 3-07-27/3-2-PEG.1).

AD.3 Sava RB Analysis Report

3.1 Water quality chapter

- Final report by the Sava CARDS project
- Gaps and further steps

At the beginning of work on the agenda item 3.1 the Chairman excused Mr. Pločo, the Sava CARDS project leader for absence due to illness. The Group agreed to proceed any mayor remark or question to Mr. Pločo for comment or further explanation if needed.

Document AD 3.1 Gap analysis_summary submitted by the Sava CARDS project is briefly analyzed by the Group with reference to AD 3.1

SAVA_WQ_Draft_2_consolidated.

The Group firstly commented general remarks and statements given in the document by the Consultant and passed through overview tables afterwards. The main general remarks and comments on the gap analysis document and water quality chapter as well can be summarized as follows:

- General concept of work on the Sava RBA WQ chapter was planned on the basis of data preparation and submittal by the countries and the consultant's preparation of the chapter thereafter with necessary quality checking;
- Final result has not met the expectations because the harmonization of text submitted by the countries practically doesn't exist.
- Most probable reason for such result is permanent delay in data delivery to the Consultant;
- The part of the chapter on pressures is practically useless either because of missing country data (i.e. agricultural data) or missing common (harmonized) criteria for already collected data (i.e. on point sources). Further discussion is needed;

After discussion on general conclusions provided by the Consultant in the gap analysis the Group discussed about specific issues given in the summarized table of the document (page 3-5).

The countries had provided explanations on each gap recognized in the table. Thereafter the PEG RBM concluded:

- ✚ The countries will submit all available data and texts to the Secretariat in accordance to the gap analysis table by May 1st at latest;
- ✚ In the same period the countries will submit any comment or explanation on the Consultant's remarks and/or comments given in the gap analysis if found necessary,

- ✚ For comments-footnotes 19 and 20 the Secretariat will ask for further explanation from the Consultant;
- ✚ Taking into account that currently elementary data on Sava river water quality is not available the Group recognizes urgent need for assessment of actual status of water quality. The criteria on which the countries will provide reports on water quality are to be further discussed and agreed upon.

3.2 Water quantity issues

- Countries' presentations on performed activities
- Further steps and timeline

Reported status of the activities:

Slovenia: Ongoing activity;

Serbia: In the process of contracting, expecting to start soon;

Croatia: Ongoing activity, certain problems with different national data base structures;

B&H: In Federation not started yet, no information for RS.

Issues rose and solved on data collection and templates:

- Generally, data collection and analysis should provide answers on water balance;
- Industry: only those installations which are not connected to a public supply systems (with its own intakes) should be taken into account;
- Tributaries: Take into account the tributaries for which are estimated possible water quantity problems.

After discussion the PEG RBM concluded:

- ✚ In order to make necessary analysis for the next RBM meeting all prepared data on water quantity should be submitted to the Secretariat by May 20th.
- ✚ The Secretariat will immediately forward the data to Mr. Milovanović, the representative of Serbia as the leading country for this chapter.

3.3 Flood management

- Information on PEG FP SRBA related activities

Mr. Zeljko informed the Group about PEG FP activities related to SRB Analysis. He explained that the PEG FP agreed on forms for data collection on its last meeting and started to work on the issue. He emphasized that the forms prepared for a data collection are not only for the purposes of the SRBA but also for other PEG FP planned activities.

The PEG RBM will be informed regularly on the PEG FP related activities.

The PEG RBM acknowledged the information.

3.4 Mapping needs for the Sava RBA report

- Presentation of already collected GIS data
- Presentation of the initial list of maps

Mr. Grošelj presented data delivered in GIS form for the purposes of the SRBA as well as a map compiled with those data.

The issue of official administrative boundaries submittal is raised again.

- ✚ Slovenia and Croatia will prepare missing GIS data on catchments in accordance with the agreed list of Sava tributaries.

The Group continued the work with discussion on proposed initial list of maps for the purposes of the SRBA Report (Doc. AD 3.4 Sava RBA report_draft_content_maps).

Thereafter the Group agreed as follows:

- ✚ Remove proposed:

Map 6 "Surface Layers Permeability in SRB"

Map 10 "Annual deviations for the years corresponding to the significant droughts"

Map 25 "Risk to reach the Environmental Objectives- Other Significant Sources Pollution"

from the initial list;

- ✚ According to the modified list of maps inform the Secretariat by the end of March which country data are available for each currently proposed map. The information should be accompanied by necessary explanation (source of data, scale etc.);
- ✚ The Secretariat will summarize collected information and prepare it for the next Ad hoc GIS EG meeting.

3.5 Other SRBA activities

- Terms of reference for hydrology

The Group reviewed the ToR for hydrology (AD 3.5 SRBA Hydrology ToR Draft2) and proposed a modification in Part 2 of the document – Data sources as follows:

-For preparation of the Report Consultant will use data published in:

Added item 8: Other relevant projects;

Thereafter the Group concluded:

- ✚ The modified ToR (Draft 3) is ready for submittal to the SC for approval;
- ✚ The Group suggests to the Secretariat to distribute the ToR to the PEG FP for review as well.

AD.4 SRBM Plan

4.1 Sava RBM Plan project proposal

- Information on project status

Mr. Zeljko reported about the activities on the project preparation. He emphasized the obligation taken on the meeting with Mr. Romero (DG Environment) during the ICPDR RBM25 meeting in Prague and informed the Group that the Secretariat provided requested information and proposals to the EC on time (AD 4.1 Sava project administration-SC proposal). He also informed the Group that certain modifications are proposed in Outline project fiche - Technical assistance in the preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (AD 4.1 OPF Environment Sava River-original by EC). The proposed modifications can be found in document AD 4.1 OPF Environment Sava River-SC Comments.

He also informed the Group that no feedback is received from the EC until the meeting.

Thereafter following conclusion is made:

- ✚ The Group agrees with the actions taken by the Secretariat as well as with the proposals given to the EC.

4.2 Data collection activities

- Information on joint ICPDR-ISRBC data collection proposal

Ms Dragana Spasić (ICPDR) presented an overview on the work plan for the data collection toward the DRBM Plan development.

Firstly, Ms Spasić presented the original and modified proposal of DRBDM Plan timetable with special emphasis on data collection deadlines.

According to the modified proposal data collection activities should start in May and finish in October 2008.

She also stated that:

- Data will be collected to update and fill the data gaps of the Danube Basin Analysis

and

- To report the measures of the national PoMs regarding each SWMI to be part of the JPM

Data will be collected for

- The basin wide scale (rivers: catchment areas >4000 km²) and
- Sub basin scale (Tisza and Sava catchment areas >1000km²)

She also informed the Group that the mode of data collection is generally agreed on the meeting between the two Secretariats which took place on November 21 2007 in Wien.

Other details can be found in AD 4.2 Data Collection - DS Sava RBM mtg presentation.

The representatives of the Sava Secretariat (Komatina, Grošelj and Zeljko) who participated on above mentioned meeting stated that:

- no formal conclusions had been made on the meeting on preferable mode on joint data collection activities;
- interest for avoiding data collection is expressed from both sides;
- The Sava Secretariat has expected further discussion on the best option for the data collection activities as well as on the content of the templates related to the scale of analyses.

Discussion of the PEG RBM members can be summarized as follows:

- The Group is not able to discuss the proposed templates (and data to be collected through them) without final draft of the proposed templates;
- Only Slovenia will be able to provide information on national PoM;

The Secretariat informed the Group that the representative(s) of the SC is also invited to participate on meeting on data collection in Wien on April 2nd and that there is a need for the PEG RBM input to formulate the standpoint of the SC before meeting.

Thereafter the Group concluded:

- ✚ The Secretariat will, as soon as possible, request the final version of the templates from the ICPDR and immediately redistribute it to the PEG RBM for review and comments;
- ✚ The Group members will send their comments to the Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than the end of March;

AD.5 Cooperation and Projects

5.1 Sava CARDS Project

- Sava CARDS supporting activities –final report

The PEG RBM discussed document submitted by the CARDS project (AD 5.1 Sava CARDS Assistance to the Sava Commission-final report).

There were no conclusions on the issue.

5.2 LIFE/SDC project

- Short information

Mr. Grošelj informed the PEG RBM about recent contacts with the project representatives. He stated that final agreement on mutual cooperation is not reached yet. He also showed the map of the project target area.

In discussion afterwards the Group again stressed the need that all data potentially submitted by the project for the purposes of the SC should have an origin from the official country institutions. One of possible ways to ensure such

status of data can be through the project Steering committee if representatives of the responsible institutions are represented in the Committee.

Based on above statement the Group made following conclusion:

- ***The Secretariat shall request the list of the Steering Committee members from the project and distribute it to the PEG RBM.***

5.3 JSS 2009

- Short information

Mr. Grošelj briefed the Group about ongoing activities for the preparation of JSS 2009. The Group acknowledged the information provided.

There were no conclusions on the issue.

AD.6 Sava information system

6.2 Database on stakeholders and projects

- Sava CARDS final report
- Information on PEG NAV activities

Mr. Zeljko presented an overview paper on current status of databases prepared by the CARDS project. He also informed the Group that the PEG NAV also started to collect relevant data from the navigation field.

The countries commented the paper afterwards.

The Group concluded:

- ✚ All activities on the databases should be finished and final results submitted to the Secretariat by the end of May at latest.

All conclusions from previous PEG RBM meetings related to the final database form still stand.

AD.7 RBM Work plan and programme for FY 2008

7.1 Work plan and programme for FY 2008-discussion and adoption

The Group discussed the two submitted documents.

Thereafter the Group accepted:

- ✚ Water management Work plan for FY08 (Doc. Ref. No: 3-08-3/3-2-PEG.1)

And

- ✚ PEG RBM Programme of Work for the FY 2008 (Doc. Ref. No: 3-08-3/3-2-PEG.1)

AD.8 Protocols

8.2 Protocol on Transboundary impacts

- preparation of Annex I of the Protocol

Ms Žižanović Dakić had provided an overview of work on Protocol. Key points of her discussion can be summarized as follows:

- Only two Sava countries were parties to the ESPOO convention at the beginning of work on the FASRB;
- From December 2007 only B&H is not a party to the Convention;
- The main idea of the TBI Protocol preparation was to correlate it with the FASRB and ESPOO;
- Sava Commission is seen as the joint body anticipated by the Convention;
- Final adjustment of the text of TBI Protocol is planned after agreement on Annex I is reached;

Mr. Grošelj briefed the Group about further adjustment of working document for preparation of Annex I, originally made by the Secretariat in accordance with the conclusions from the 5th PEG RBM meeting.

Mr. Milovanović stated that he can not provide his opinion without representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection.

Ms. Koren also agreed that environmental experts must be included in work on preparation of Annex I of the Protocol.

Ms. Anđelić stated that due to her absence from the previous meeting and lack of relevant country information she is not able to provide her opinion on contents of the Annex. She will try to collect all relevant information on the issue.

Mr. Cibilić informed the Group that the meeting between representatives of water and environment sector in Croatia took place on March 7th in order to define a standpoint of Croatia on the PEG RBM meeting.

The main conclusions from that meeting were:

- Ministry of environmental protection, physical planning and Construction, as responsible national institution for implementation of ESPOO Convention, hasn't yet decided on what installations or economic activities may have a transboundary impact. The process of defining national approach is in the course;
- Due to above mentioned facts Croatia is not currently in position to accept any items which is not taken originally from the ESPOO Convention;
- On forthcoming Bucharest ministerial meeting (19-21 May 2008) it is expected that, among others, the Sava countries (Croatia, B&H, Serbia and probably Slovenia) will sign „**Multilateral agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context**“. If it happens the need for a separate Protocol on TBI and its Annex will become questionable and the subject of further discussion.

Key issues recognized during discussion with big potential influence on the work on Protocol were:

- When B&H will become the Party to the Convention and consequences of that on the TBI Protocol,
- Preparation of "regional" SEE Agreement which is ready for signing on the forthcoming meeting in Bucharest in May-who will sign the Protocol?

Taking into account all above mentioned facts the Group concluded that:

- ✚ Wise approach will be to wait for relevant answers (B&H-ESPOO and "Bucharest" Agreement) before making final conclusions on our TBI Protocol and Annex of the Protocol;
- ✚ The best option for the TBI Protocol must be chosen by the Sava Commission itself.

AD.9 Any other issue

9.1 Sava Day

- Short information on planned activities and timetable

Mr. Komatina informed the Group on activities and timetable planned for the first celebration of the Sava day.

Preliminary list of the activities can be found in document AD. 9.1_Sava_Day_activities.

The PEG RBM acknowledged the information.

The Chairman gave a brief overview of work and thanked to all participants for their contribution. Meeting was closed at 16:00.

Annex I: List of participants

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Annex II: List of meeting documents and presentations

Agenda item No:	Title	ENG	HRV	SLO	BIH-BOS	BIH-HRV	BIH-SRP	SRP
AD 1.2	PEG RBM7-Adopted Agenda							
AD 1.3	Excerpts from Draft Report_IV Regular Session_Jan 11 2008_Sec							
AD 2	PEG RBM-6th meeting_11-12_12_2007_DRAFT REPORT PEG RBM 6th Meeting Report-Annex I LoP							
AD 3.1	Gap analysis_summary							
	SAVA_WQ_Draft_2_consolidated							
AD 3.3	Chapter on Flood management for SRB Analysis ver1.1							
AD 3.4	Sava RBA report_draft_content_maps							
	Sava RBA report_draft_content_maps_1							
AD 3.5	SRBA Hydrology ToR Draft2							
	AD 3.5 SRBA Hydrology ToR Draft3							
AD 4.1	OPF Environment Sava River-original by EC							
	OPF Environment Sava River-SC Comments							
	Sava project administration-SC proposal							
AD 4.2	Data Collection - DS Sava RBM mtg presentation ICPDR							
AD 5.1	Sava CARDS Assistance to the Sava Commission-final report							
AD 6.1	CARDS Databases status							
AD 7.1	PEG RBM Programme of work for the FY 2008							
	Water management_Work plan for FY08_Draft_12-03-2008							
AD 8.1	List of activities EIA_3							
AD 9.1	Sava Day 2008 - predlog aktivnosti_06-03-2008							