

Forum

of Stakeholders of the Project

„Preparation of Documentation for River Training Works
on the Critical Sectors of the Danube River in Serbia“

Date:	26-10-2012
Duration:	10:00 - 14:00
Venue:	Directorate for Inland Waterways, Francuska 9, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
Host:	Directorate for Inland Waterways (Plovput)
Chaired by:	Ivan Mitrovic, Directorate for Inland Waterways

Meeting Minutes

from the fifth meeting of the Stakeholders' Forum

MMs prepared by:	Milica Curcic, Ivan Mitrovic , Jasna Muskatirovic (Plovput)
Photos:	Luka Krivokuca (Plovput)
Version:	Draft
Date of preparation:	26-10-2012
Distributed for comments:	30-10-2012
Final version:	14-11-2012



Agenda

Time	Subject
09:45	Registration
10:00	Welcome speech, agenda, organizational issues
10:10	Meeting Minutes of the third meeting of the Forum
10:20	Annex I to the General rules for the organization and work of the Forum - members
10:30	Transparency of the process
10:40	Analysis of the evaluation of the work of the Forum
10:50	Protected species and areas – Presentation of PZZP
11:10	Morphological processes and river training works – Presentation of WWF
11:30	<i>Pause</i>
12:30	Methodology of definition of critical sectors
13:00	Alternative solutions for the critical sector Bezdán
13:45	Conclusions, next meetings timetable, closing words
14:00	Until the next meeting



List of Participants

Ime i prezime/ Name and family name	Organizacija/ Organization	Skr. / Abbr.	Zemlja/ Country
Dušan Dobričić	Direkcija za vode (Nacionalni ICPDR koordinator) / Directorate of Water (National ICPDR Coordinator)	DzV	RS
Duška Dimović	Svetski fond za zaštitu prirode / World Wide Fund for Nature	WWF	RS
Duško Isaković	Međunarodna komisija za sliv reke Save / International Sava River Basin Commission	ISRBC	RS
Georg Rast	Svetski fond za zaštitu prirode / World Wide Fund for Nature	WWF	DE
Mr Gordana Karović	Aqua et Archaeologia	AetA	RS
Igor Dorčić	Udruženje kapetana Srbije / Ship Masters Association of Serbia	UKS	RS
Mr Ivan Mitrović	Direkcija za vodne puteve / Directorate for Inland Waterways	plovput	RS
Ivana Dmitrović	Energoprojekt	EP	RS
Dr Jasna Muškatirović	Direkcija za vodne puteve / Directorate for Inland Waterways	plovput	RS
Ljubiša Mihajlović	Direkcija za vodne puteve / Directorate for Inland Waterways	plovput	RS
Marko Tucakov	Pokrajinski zavod za zaštitu prirode / Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina	PZZP	RS
Michel Zuijderwijk	Witteveen Bos	WB	NL
Mićun Stanić	Ministarstvo energetike, razvoja i životne sredine, / Ministry of Energy, Development and environment	MERŽS	RS
Milica Ćurčić	Direkcija za vodne puteve / Directorate for Inland Waterways	plovput	RS
Nataša Đereg	Centar za ekologiju i održivi razvoj / Centre for Ecology and Sustainable Development	CEKOR	RS
Nenad Božulić	Udruženje kapetana Srbije / Ship Masters Association of Serbia	UKS	RS
Roberto Zanetti	Witteveen Bos	WB	NL
Slobodan Krstović	Nacionalna alijansa za lokalni ekonomski	NALED	RS



	razvoj / National Alliance for Local Economic Development		
Tanja Lukić	Ministarstvo saobraćaja / Ministry of Transport	MS	RS
Zoran Novaković	Privredna komora Srbije / Serbian Chambers of Commerce	PKS	RS
Žaneta Ostojic Barjaktarević	Direkcija za vodne puteve / Directorate for Inland Waterways	plovput	RS

Mrs. Ostojic Barjaktarevic, the Director of the Directorate for Inland Waterways, officially opened the meeting, welcomed participants of the fifth meeting of the Stakeholders' Forum for the project "Preparation of documentation for river training works on critical sectors of the Danube River in Serbia", and gave the floor to the chairman of the Forum, Mr. Mitrovic (Directorate for Inland Waterways). Mr. Mitrovic welcomed participants of the meeting and presented the agenda for the fifth meeting of the Forum.

Mr. Mitrovic presented the **MMs from the fourth meeting of the Forum**. He said that, in accordance to the General rules on organization and work of the Forum, all comments from the participants of the meeting delivered until 29th of September 2012 have been incorporated into the text, and that this document is available to the public since 04th of October, through the web site of the Directorate for Inland Waterways, at the section Stakeholders' Forum.

Mr. Mitrovic informed participants about activities which are being performed in realization of the Article 8 of the General rules on organization and work of the Forum (**Transparency of the work of the Forum**). He informed participants that since 26th of June 2012 (the first meeting of the Forum) until 26th of October 2012 almost 3.500 hits to the Forum section of the web site have been recorded, and that the number of hits from abroad rose as well. After this, he informed participants of the meeting about meetings and conferences on which the project and the work of the Stakeholders' Forum have been presented:

- 4. *Joint Statement* workshop, 17-18. September 2012, Budapest
- 23. Conference Danube – The River of Cooperation, towards realization of goals of the Danube strategy – the Role of NGOs, 23. September 2012, Belgrade
- PIANC InCom Commission, 02-03. October 2012, Brussels
- Exchange of experiences between projects „East of Vienna“ and „Preparation of Documentation for River Training Works on the Critical Sectors of the Danube River in Serbia“, 08-09. October 2012, Vienna and Orth
- 11. Assembly of the Ship Masters Association of Serbia, 20. October 2012, Donji Milanovac
- 16. Conference of the Serbian Association for Hydraulic Research, 22-23. October 2012, Donji Milanovac (paper Morphological Changes of the Danube River presented)

After this, Mr. Mitrovic (Plovput) informed participants of the meeting about the planned activities related to the project and Stakeholders' Forum:



- 3. Working groups meeting within the EUDRS (EU Strategy for the Danube Region), 07. November 2012, Belgrade
- Steering group meeting for the PA 1a of the EUDRS, 08. November 2012, Belgrade
- 1. Annual Forum of the EUDRS, 27-28. November 2012, Regensburg

Mr. Mitrovic (Plovput) reported that the article about the work of the Stakeholders' Forum has been prepared and that it will be published within the next edition of the Danube Watch (ICPDR Magazine).

Mr. Mihajlovic (Plovput) presented the draft version of the 3-D animation of the critical sector Preliv. He said that such 3-D animations will be prepared for all critical sectors (the ones for which main design will be prepared) in the following period, in order to make the subject of this project more understandable for the general public.

Mr. Tucakov (PZZP) held the presentation on **protected species and protected areas along the Danube River**. He elaborated which protected areas exist along the Danube River in Serbia. He pointed out that some critical sectors are overlapping with the areas on which protected species exist, near the Danube River, as well as in the river itself. He also said that several critical sectors are overlapping with the protected areas. Mr. Zanetti (WB) asked if that means that no river training works on those critical sectors will be possible to execute? Mr. Tucakov (PZZP) answered that there are several types of protected areas with different level of protection, and that all works which influence these areas should be performed in line with the previously obtained conditions related to nature and environmental protection. Mr. Tucakov (PZZP) welcomed approach of Plovput in implementation of this project, related to proper submission of the request for issuing prefeasibility and feasibility conditions from the Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina and other relevant authorities. He emphasized that some river training works can also have positive effects on the environment and nature (such as chevrons and sand bars created downstream). Once again, he pointed out the importance of environmental protection and said that in Vojvodina 521 areas of strictly protected species are identified, and that some of those species live on sand bars and in the river bed, on stretches which are identified as critical for navigation. He emphasized the importance of the fact that documentation within this project is being prepared in line with the national legislation, as well as in line with the EU legislation. Mr. Rast (WWF) raised a question from which year are the data on population for important bird areas (IBA) that have been delivered from the PZZP for this project? Mr. Tucakov (PZZP) answered that the data are from the period 2000-2009. Mr. Rast (WWF) asked if the exact fish spawning areas are identified. Mr. Tucakov (PZZP) answered that the fish spawning areas are identified, but that there is no constant monitoring of population data. Mr. Rast (WWF) stated that chemical quality of the sediment is also important issue and that if the sediment is polluted on areas on which river training works will be performed, it can damage the living world of the Danube River. At the end, Mr. Tucakov (PZZP) said that after the development of the morphological model it will be possible to evaluate impact of river training works on the nature and the environment.

Mr. Rast (WWF) held the presentation on **morphological processes** and impact of river training works on environment and ecosystems. He pointed out the impact of river training structures on bed incision and lowering of the ENRs and follow-up as well as cumulative effects (not to underestimate basic causes like the deficit in sediment transport already from upstream sections as well as historical riverbed rectification). He stated that this problem



was identified in many countries in Europe, in which now the process of lowering the structures, artificial bed load supply (already practice) and even reversal of riverbed incision is considered and partly implemented. Mr. Rast (WWF) said that this adaptability should be kept in mind during the process of designing new river training structures. He also said that it would be desirable during the design phase to look at the old maps when there were no or at least much less river training structures on the river, and to understand the natural features of the riverbed with its underlying morphological processes. This approach helps in designing appropriate structures in relation to natural processes and to avoid creation of artificial riverbed features which are at risk to be unsustainable. This does not mean that the historical condition or landscape is reference for future ones, but essentially a reference for the typical (river section specific) morphological processes which provide morphological features and habitat for species. All participants of the meeting agreed on this proposal. Finally, Mr. Rast (WWF) emphasized importance of preserving the river dynamics after the construction of river training structures, e.g. to avoid creation/initiation of woody islands instead of dynamic open sandbars (habitat for endangered little ringed plover and perennial plants) and to sustain riverbank erosion cliffs (habitat for sand martin) and dynamic shallow underwater sandbars as fish spawning sites. Finally Mr. Rast referred to the Joint Statement and its second main pillar relating to improvements of environmental conditions. In this respect opportunities for rehabilitation and improvement of existing river training structures should be also part of the general design approach. Examples could be creation of detachments of now closed groynes, local depressions in crest level of existing groynes which are now above current design level (more than 0.5 m above ENR), also to limit development of woody vegetation in groyne fields (additional benefit for flood protection).

Mr. Zuijderwijk (WB) presented the **methodology on definition of critical sectors**. He elaborated the definition of the critical sector as a part of the river in which required dimensions of the fairway are not fulfilled in relation to the low navigation level, according to the Recommendations of the Danube Commission. Recommendations of the Danube Commission for the fairway parameters are related to width, depth (ENR) and bend radius. Ms. Muskatirovic stated that it was necessary to do the calculation of the new low navigation levels based on the data for the period 1980-2010. Mr. Zuijderwijk (WB) said that this was performed, and that the designed low navigation levels were determined with the use of the 1-D hydraulic model, including the discharge duration of 94%, for the 30 years period 1981-2010. Mr. Zuijderwijk (WB) said that the data used for the 1-D model include fairway axes (X,Y coordinates), cross sections on 200m from 2011, discharges and water levels. Mr. Stanic (MERŽS) asked if it is possible to forecast the trend of ENRs in the future. Mr. Zuijderwijk (WB) answered that on the observed stretch of the Danube River from Bezdán to Backa Palanka it can be assumed that the level of ENRs will be dropping 1 cm annually.

Mr. Zuijderwijk (WB) presented **alternative solutions for the critical sector Bezdán**. He elaborated briefly the current situation on this critical sector and pointed out places on which fairway parameters for safe navigation are not fulfilled. Then, he presented three alternative solutions for this sector. Finally, he presented the results of the multi-criteria analysis and said that the option 3 scores as the best option for this critical sector (analysis of all alternatives is available at the Plovput's web site, in the section Stakeholders' Forum). All participants of the meeting agreed that this options should be further tested with the morphological model, as well as to perform optimisation of structures in terms of exact location and size.



After presentation of the critical sector Bezdan, the timetables of the next meetings of the Forum have been discussed. It was confirmed that the sixth Stakeholders' Forum meeting will be held on **14th of December** 2012. Venue and exact timing of the meeting will be defined in due time, in accordance to the timeframe set within the General rules on organization and work of the Forum. After kind words from Forum members about the way in which the meeting have been organized and chaired, and expressed willingness to continue activities within the Forum, Mr. Mitrovic thanked all participants for their active role in the Forum, with which the third meeting of the Forum was officially ended.

Next steps

Activity	Responsible	Deadline
Uploading of the documentation from the fifth meeting of the Forum to the web site of Plovput (agenda, list of participants, presentations, photos)	Chair person	30-10-2012
Delivering comments on the draft version of the MMs from the fifth meeting of the Forum to the chair person	All	09-11-2012
Distribution of the final version of the MMs to participants of the fifth meeting of the Forum	Chair person	14-11-2012
Uploading the final version of the MMs from the fifth meeting of the Forum to the web site of Plovput	Chair person	14-11-2012
Distribution of the draft agenda for the sixth meeting of the Forum	Chair person	20-11-2012
Delivering comments to the draft agenda for the sixth meeting of the Forum to the chair person	All	25-11-2012
Distribution of the final version of the agenda for the sixth meeting of the Forum	Chair person	27-11-2012
The sixth meeting of the Forum	All	14-12-2012

