

DANUBE WATCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DANUBE RIVER / WWW.ICPDR.ORG 2 / 2012



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Dear readers,

The ICPDR unites countries and people from an extremely diverse range of backgrounds. Perhaps it was this experience in aligning differing interests that made the ICPDR the ideal vehicle for partnering with private entities. When the Business Friends of the Danube was launched in 2008, following a pioneering cooperation between the ICPDR and Coca-Cola and Coca-Cola Hellenic that began in 2005, it sought to create public-private-partnerships in the interests of improving Danube waters. Since 2008, such partnerships have evolved based on the recognition that governments alone cannot manage water resources. The Business Friends of the Danube aims to create win-win situations for all parties – and for the Danube River in particular.

Membership carries more than just financial responsibilities, and is founded on a commitment to act responsibly as a company. Members have agreed to cooperate with the relevant governments to preserve the uniqueness of the Danube River and its resources over the long term. This fully complies with the spirit of modern corporate social responsibility work, which already showcases many important achievements – you can read more about this in the lead story of this issue of Danube Watch.

Strategies have changed not only in the field of corporate social responsibilities, but also in environmental management. As laid down in the Danube Declaration of 2010, the ICPDR increasingly pursues an inter-sectoral approach. Environmental challenges are not viewed alone; they are matched with social, cultural and economic needs. Integrative planning is the key to sustainable development, creating good conditions to align the activities of commercial players such as large corporations with the objectives of political decision makers – such as the implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

It is clear that the ICPDR countries cannot meet our objectives in water management without actions from the private sector. For the private sector, interdependence is vital too. “No water, no business: It’s as simple as that,” as a manager of one Business Friend of the Danube put it. Fortunately, bringing parties together lies at the heart of the ICPDR’s competences. Uniting public and private efforts to benefit the Danube Basin will ultimately also benefit its people. This issue of Danube Watch puts a focus on the concrete steps that are made to achieve this. I hope you enjoy it!

Philip Weller, ICPDR Executive Secretary



For a free subscription to Danube Watch, or to contribute to Danube Watch, please contact icpdr@unvienna.org

Danube Watch is available on the web at www.icpdr.org



Danube Watch is printed on Arctic Volume, 150 & 100 g/m². Arctic Paper holds a FSC traceability certificate.

IMPRINT

Owner/Publisher: ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Vienna, icpdr@unvienna.org; **Executive Editor:** Benedikt Mandl; **Editor:** Kirstie Shepherd; **Design:** Agentur 7, Sylvia Kostenzer; **Cover photo:** DANUBE-PARKS/Petrescu; **Print:** Druckerei Janetschek, Vienna
Danube Watch is the official magazine of ICPDR, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. Danube Watch enhances regional cooperation and information sharing on sustainable water management and environmental protection in the Danube River Basin. It reports on current issues affecting the Danube Basin, and on action taken to deal with challenges in the river basin. Striving for scientific accuracy while remaining concise, clear and readable, it is produced for the wide range of people who are actively involved in the Danube River Basin and are working for the improvement of its environment.
The ICPDR accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to information or opinions of the authors of the articles in this issue.



ACTIONS FOR THE DANUBE STURGEON

Many organisations, including the ICPDR, pursue actions to research, protect, breed and support the migration of Danube sturgeons, currently feasible only up to the Iron Gates. A task force has formed to coordinate these efforts, involving NGOs, nature reserves and research facilities throughout the Danube River Basin. Upstream readers can now watch a living beluga and other sturgeons in a new exhibition and aquarium, which opened in Engelhartzell, Austria in May.

For more information, visit: www.donau-welt.at



NO SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN BULGARIA

Bulgaria has abandoned its project to build what would have been the country's second nuclear power plant. The 2,000 megawatt facility was planned for the town of Belene, directly on the Danube River. According to government statements, a gas power plant will be built on the site instead. The decision was made because of the construction costs which could not be lowered to less than five billion Euros as demanded by the government.

Learn more about the Belene power plant at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belene_Nuclear_Power_Plant



PADDLING THE DANUBE AS PART OF GLOBAL TRIATHLON

Elvira Kern and Thomas Dietert have an unusual but ambitious goal: a Global Triathlon. They began kayaking the Danube from Ulm to the delta in May and will add to the 2500 km journey with trekking in Asia and cycling in New Zealand. The German travellers will use the trip to promote environmental protection projects. On their Danube tour, they will distribute ICPDR publications, including the Danube River Basin "Facts and Figures", and advertise Danube Day.

Follow Thomas and Elly at: www.driftaway.de



WWF PETITION FOR KOPAČKI RIT WETLANDS

Representatives of WWF and Riverwatchers submitted an international petition against a river channelling project in the Croatian Kopački Rit area. Some 20,160 people signed the petition stating that the project violates EU law and international environmental standards. Roughly 500km² of wetlands, home to 300 bird species, could be severely affected in the effort to develop waterways for inland navigation. Mirela Holy, the new Minister for Environment and Nature Protection in Zagreb, will make the final decision, based on a project assessment that is underway.

Learn more about the petition here: www.amazon-of-europe.com



Credit: ICPDR

ICPDR.ORG: WEBSITE RE-LAUNCHED

The ICPDR has re-launched its website www.icpdr.org. With a wealth of information available from the website, it had become increasingly difficult to find the right information quickly. The new website makes navigation a great deal easier. In addition, the design aims to make the website more comprehensible and allows for specific areas to be highlighted more easily. In the months to come, contents will be gradually updated and developed.

See the new website at: www.icpdr.org



Credit: ICPDR/Mandi

IWANO PROJECT: LINKING ARTISTS FROM DANUBE COUNTRIES

The Iwano Project, DanubeView, is a cooperation framework for female artists from ten Danube countries to express their impressions of 'My View of the Danube' and save them as part of the regional cultural heritage. The project, began by multimedia artist Aleksandar Pedovic from Novi Sad, Serbia, includes a workshop phase and subsequent exhibitions, and each project cycle will also feature a guest from another region.

For more information, visit: www.iwano.org.rs



Credit: everydropmatters.com

BLACK SEA TOOL BOX RELEASED

After spin-off projects in Germany and Southern Africa, the Danube Box has another cousin: the Black Sea Tool Box aims to raise children's awareness of the environmental problems of the Black Sea. The tool box targets teachers of children aged nine to twelve, and is part of the 'Every Drop Matters' project, initiated by UNDP and the Coca-Cola Company with a budget of 7 million USD (5.3 million EUR). With participation from WWF-Turkey and the Black Sea Commission, the Black Sea Tool Box will be an important part of environmental education and is expected to reach two million children.

For more information, visit: www.everydropmatters.com

WELCOME TO NEW ICPDR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

The ICPDR is pleased to welcome new Heads of Delegations: Mr. Drazen Kurecic of the Ministry of Agriculture of Croatia; Ms. Hana Randova of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and Mr. Peter Kovacs of the Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary. The ICPDR Secretariat and Danube Watch are looking forward to supporting the news Heads of Delegation in their endeavours for the Danube River Basin.

Business for the rivers: private initiatives to promote sustainable water use

Water is vital, essential for any life on Earth, so many companies dedicate efforts to the protection of water and associated resources. This aligns them with the work of the ICPDR efforts to implement the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

Healthy rivers with high water quality not only reflect an important aspect of the environment, they are also the basis for sustainable human development. The struggle for good water quality in the Danube River Basin unites the ICPDR and its contracting parties with private players.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) can be defined as a concept of companies that leads to the endorsement of social and environmental policies, measures and targets into otherwise commercial activities. Whilst the concept as such is not new – responsible economic activities have always respected social and environmental needs – recent years have seen dynamic developments in the field of CSR.

Until a few years ago, CSR was a tool of large corporations; today, CSR plans emerge from many small and medium size enterprises. The understanding of CSR has changed, too. A decade ago, companies endorsed projects more or less arbitrarily; today, CSR plans are developed by specialised staff and define clear milestones, measures and schedules much like a business plan does. A highlight of this trend towards ever increasing professionalism was the introduction of an ISO standard for Social Responsibility (ISO 26000) in autumn 2010.

In order to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, action of private players such as companies is vital. Here, Danube Watch introduces nine outstanding companies that give exceptional examples of how corporate action can contribute towards cleaner water and sustainable development.

For more information about some of the current projects that will help achieve the Strategy's goals, turn to the back cover fold-out.

Benedikt Mandl is the Technical Expert for Public Participation and Communication in the ICPDR Secretariat, and the Executive Editor of Danube Watch.



Credit: GE Romania

GENERAL ELECTRICS ROMANIA

General Electrics is an internationally active technology company. Originally from the United States, GE expanded into the Danube River Basin a long time ago. GE Romania started its operations as early as 1984. In recent years, GE has rapidly increased its CSR efforts and incorporated social and environmental issues at the heart of its business strategy through the company's 'ecomagination' strategy.

Products for the energy, water and healthcare sectors now account for 50% of the company's portfolio. Noteworthy products include biogas engines, technology solutions for renewable energies and advanced membrane technology for wastewater treatment. These products help GE's clients to improve their water use efficiency, lower energy consumption and increase the lifespan of water management systems. Internally, GE also sets ambitious goals: by 2015, the company aims to reduce its total water consumption by 25% from a 2006 baseline.



GE imagination at work

Water-intensive industries can recycle water to shield themselves against higher costs or a diminished supply that could disrupt operations. Investing in reuse will position businesses and governments to succeed in a water-constrained economy and will ultimately be necessary to secure a future of water sustainability

Cristian Colteanu, President & CEO, GE Romania, Bulgaria and Republic of Moldova

AGRIUM INC.

Agrium is a major fertiliser company, covering the entire chain from mining raw materials, to selling the final product to growers – small farmers as much as large agricultural corporations. Twenty-two major production facilities in North America, Argentina and Egypt, produce, market and distribute approximately ten million tonnes of fertiliser products per year, making the company one of the most important suppliers of agricultural products and services in the Americas, Europe and Australia.

As fertilisers and agricultural practice can have a direct impact on nutrient and organic substance pollution of water bodies, Agrium's CSR entails measures that limit the over-supply of nutrients to crops. Agrium supports what is called "the 4R system of best management practice in the field": right product, right rate, right time, right place. Its CSR works towards applying fertilisers best to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and losses to water.



There are no easy answers to the challenges that lay ahead, but with the knowledge and drive of our employees we know we can make a big difference in our effort to feed the world responsibly.

Mike Wilson,
President and CEO Agrium

COCA-COLA HELLENIC

A leading European producer of non-alcoholic beverages, Coca-Cola Hellenic (CCH) is also a Business Friend of the Danube and an active supporter of water protection for many years. The company has developed and continues to evolve a comprehensive approach to water stewardship across all 28 of its countries of operation.

Coca-Cola Hellenic has instituted a company-wide water stewardship policy which pursues a sustainable approach to water aimed at meeting international standards. The focus is on ensuring sustainability of water extraction, reducing water use within operations, treating 100% of wastewater, working with suppliers and others to reduce indirect water use and partnering others to protect local watersheds. Through the Green Danube Partnership with the ICPDR, CCH pursues the celebration of Danube Day and launched the Danube Box teaching kit. These projects, as well as local projects initiatives such as a plastic waste collection system in Ukraine, make CCH one of the ICPDR's most esteemed business partners. [See article on page 10.]



“Water is vital for our products, for growing ingredients such as sugar and fruit, and for our production processes. Water supports the life of the communities we serve. By protecting this valuable resource we can ensure that we each survive and flourish together. „

Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith, Chairman of the Coca-Cola Hellenic Social Responsibility Committee of the board of directors

AGRANA

Agrana processes agrarian commodities to produce high quality foodstuffs as well as products for technical applications. Agrana is the leading sugar producing company in central and southeastern Europe, a specialist for customised starch products and a manufacturer of bioethanol and iso-glucose. In its fruit segment, it is the global market leader in producing fruit preparations and a leading supplier of fruit juice concentrates in Europe.

Agrana's key priorities in CSR include both energy efficiency and the recovery and further use of by-products to achieve resource cycles as closed as possible. An example for this multi-stage processing is the bioethanol plant in Pischelsdorf, Austria. Since 2008, the facility has evolved towards full integration as a biorefinery with 100% use of raw materials. At present, the grain processed is – together with bioethanol - turned to high-quality protein for livestock. By the end of 2013, wheat starch and gluten as well as high-purity CO² (captured, purified and marketed by another company) will also be obtained from only one soft commodity at the Pischelsdorf site.



Environmentally-friendly production also involves the reprocessing and reuse of water generated during the manufacturing process. This has been a focal point of investment in AGRANA plants for years.

Johann Marihart,
CEO of AGRANA
Beteiligungs-AG

THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) is a beverage producer with a range of products going far beyond their flagship drink, which makes the brand well known throughout the world. As a global player in fighting thirst, the strong link between Coca-Cola and water is obvious. For years, the CSR work of Coca-Cola has focused on water stewardship. TCCC is a Business Friend of the Danube and cooperates actively with governments, NGOs, international organisations and other companies on a global scale. Through these actions, 23% of the water used for the production of Coca-Cola products can be replenished every year since 2005. Now, Coca-Cola is gaining momentum to go 'water neutral' by 2020.

In 2011, 96% of wastewater originating from the manufacturing was treated, a figure that will grow even further this year. Close partners include UNDP, WWF, The Nature Conservancy and the Water Footprint Network. Through the Green Danube Partnership, Coca-Cola supports activities of the ICPDR, such as Danube Day or the Danube Box. [See article on page 10.]



The future of communities, nature and business depends on responsible water management. To overcome today's water challenges, we must all take extraordinary action. At Coca-Cola, we're utilising innovative techniques and collaborating through world-class partnerships to help ensure the sustainability of this precious shared resource.

Bea Perez, Coca-Cola Chief Sustainability Officer, Chain Europe lead for Hungary

SIEMENS HUNGARY

Siemens is a global technology company originating in Germany. The company has a broad portfolio of green technology products and services aiming to improve efficiency and lead the trend towards renewable energies. In 2011 alone, this allowed Siemens' customers to reduce CO² emissions by 317 million tonnes. The company received the German Sustainability Award and leads the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for Diversified Industrials now for the fourth consecutive year.

To pursue water stewardship, Siemens became a signatory to the United Nations' CEO Water Mandate in 2008. Here, too, Siemens uses two proven strategies: reducing its water consumption and providing the tools to customers to increase their water use efficiency. Siemens Hungary has recently opened a combined cycle power plant in the town of Gönyű, in north-west Hungary. This power plant is the most modern facility of its kind in Hungary. With over 59% net efficiency, Siemens views it as a contribution in helping Hungary to fulfil its EU environmental commitments with regards to CO² emission targets.



We not only offer green solutions, we also 'walk the talk'. Being sustainable means for us being conscious and responsible for our economical, natural and social environment and we believe these aspects cannot be seen or handled separately.

Dale A. Martin, CEO,
Siemens Hungary

DREHER BREWERIES / SABMILLER

Once a regional brewery from western Hungary, Dreher Breweries is now part of the globally active SABMiller corporation. The CSR activities of Dreher are therefore aligned with those of SABMiller, which are based on ten sustainable development priorities. These include environmentally friendly water management. SABMiller aims to reduce its water use by 25% from its 2008 baseline until 2015. It is also a founding member of the United Nations' CEO Water Mandate.

In 2010 and 2011, Dreher Breweries alone saved more than 870,000 hectolitres of water – the equivalent of the annual water use of nearly 1,600 people. The brewery's sustainability strategy won the company the Greenovation Award of the fast moving consumer goods sector. Dreher Breweries uses water from its own wells and has developed a monitoring system that ensures that groundwater wells are not overstrained. Wastewater treatment, too, receives a lot of attention. Over all, the company aims to use only 3.5 litres of water for the production of one litre of beer by 2014.



Why is Dreher Breweries interested in environmentally-friendly water management? Between 85 and 95% of beer is water, so its composition highly influences the taste of beer. Almost every technological step in the brewing process requires water – so this means responsibility towards our environment and future generations. Our employees not only consider water and energy-saving their obligation in the brewery, but are guided by that principle in their everyday lives as well, making us especially proud.

Mandy Fertetics, Corporate Affairs and Sustainable Development Manager at Dreher Breweries

BOREALIS

Borealis is an international corporation with headquarters in Austria, and a provider of chemicals, plastics and raw materials for a broad range of industrial products. Many of these play a role in water management, ultimately being processed into fertilisers or plastic pipes such as those used for water transport.

As a Business Friend of the Danube, Borealis supports activities of the ICPDR. Its commitment to water, however, goes much further. 'Water for the World' is Borealis' flagship CSR programme, improving the lives of more than 250,000 people since the launch of the programme in 2007. Water for the World rests on three main pillars: improving access to water and sanitation in emerging and developing countries; advancing best practices and research in sustainable water management; and education and awareness raising. Borealis promotes a sustainable use of fertiliser and is co-founder of the Stockholm Water Prize. It also supports "Waste Free Oceans", an initiative that works on cleaning up the European coastlines, and the development of European Water Stewardship Standard.



With Water for the World we have established a programme that embraces all aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility: it ensures responsible water stewardship in our operations, supports social and environmental programmes and – as it is connected closely with our core business – adds value and benefits the company.
Dorothea Wiplinger, CSR Manager at Borealis

CARGILL

Cargill is a food and agricultural company. Human food and animal feeds depend on clean water, soil, air and light. Cargill's CSR starts with its own supply chain: freshwater efficiency was improved by 6% from a 2006 baseline, exceeding the goal of 2%. Of the energy Cargill uses, 11% originates from renewable sources. Cargill works actively to reduce its environmental footprint by partnering organisations that demonstrate global leadership in protecting natural resources.

Cargill support projects that protect and improve accessibility to water resources, provide environmental conservation and preservation education, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. One such example is the Danube's Liberty Island project. In 2011, the company donated 56,500 USD to support a project that would reduce alien plant species, replenish natural forests, open the dam by relocating a water pipeline, and remove the build-up of silt on Liberty Island.



We think environmental activities are linked with our business success. We rely on the Danube for our daily operations, so we feel a sense of responsibility to ensure its health and vitality.

Zsolt Kócza, country representative and Cargill's Grain & Oilseed Supply Chain Europe lead for Hungary

Conducting business as a member of the communities one serves

Businesses do not exist in isolation, but impact communities and the environment. One company operating in the Danube River Basin, Coca-Cola Hellenic, demonstrates that understanding that impact can help improve the environment for future generations.



Every creature, every plant on planet Earth needs water to survive. We therefore see it as a duty of people in every walk of life, and businesses of all types, to do what they can to prevent misuse of water, avoid polluting it, maintain its availability and encourage active participation in protecting it today – and for future generations.

Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith, Chairman of the Coca-Cola Hellenic Human Resources Committee and Social Responsibility Committee

Credit: ICPDR/Mello

Investments in water are not just good for the environment; businesses like Coca-Cola Hellenic are proving that investing in water is good for business.

Public-private partnerships are best investigated by studying the process of development from the beginning. A representative of the ICPDR's first Business Friend of the Danube, Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith of Coca-Cola Hellenic, outlines the past, present and future of the public-private partnership from a business perspective.

Danube Watch: Why does Coca-Cola Hellenic focus on water-related projects in the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities?

Llewellyn-Smith: Our focus on water is part of our overall commitment, across all of our operations, to sustainability, not only of our business, but also of the communities we serve. There are two main reasons for this.

One, water is an important ingredient in our soft drinks. It is used in the cleansing processes and operation of equipment in our bottling plants. Accordingly, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve water resources in order to ensure the continued development of our business.

Two, we understand that in order to achieve this goal we must extend our water conservation and educational efforts more widely, so as to ensure its proper management and continued availability. Quite simply, water is essential to our business life and to the lives and livelihoods of everyone.

Every creature, every plant on planet Earth, needs water to survive. We there-

fore see it as a duty of people in every walk of life, and businesses of all types, to do what they can to prevent misuse of water, avoid polluting it, maintain its availability and encourage active participation in protecting it today – and for future generations.

Danube Watch: How do you integrate local projects into the over all CSR strategy of your company?

Llewellyn-Smith: All our commitments to CSR, water included, are carried out, supervised and monitored by the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, which operates under the Board of Directors of the Company.

As protection of the environment is a key policy of Coca-Cola Hellenic, this is communicated at all levels throughout the company. Managers at regional, country and local levels are informed about their obligations, and how to initiate, conduct and report on their CSR activities.

Operational water saving and reduction of pollution were an integral part of our bottling activities for years before the Danube partnership. Since its inception in 2005, the Green Danube Partnership has stimulated further preservation and communications projects. Among these are projects aimed at safeguarding Danube tributaries, catchment areas and wetlands, as well as other major rivers and natural habitats.

Danube Watch: Aside from financial constraints, what are the main obstacles for a company like yours to become active in endeavours for water management?

Llewellyn-Smith: The primary challenge is to communicate the message that the private sector can make a meaningful contribution to achieving public sector goals. Public private partnerships, or PPPs, are increasingly being pursued by both parties, and there is a growing number of examples illustrating their benefits. The Green Danube Partnership is one of them.

A PPP uses a diverse range of strengths and capabilities possessed by each party. In a genuine and trusting relationship the two entities can amplify the contributions

each could make individually and thereby produce better results. Equal partnership and mutual confidence are the essentials.

Danube Watch: How do you deal with criticism that large corporations seek only opportunities for 'green-washing' when they get active in environmental projects?

Llewellyn-Smith: The best, indeed the only, way to counter such comments is to present the facts. In fulfilling our commitment to CSR, Coca-Cola Hellenic employs its communications expertise to channel information about its sustainabil-



SIR MICHAEL LLEWELLYN-SMITH
KCVO CMG

Sir Michael is Chairman of the Coca-Cola Hellenic Human Resources Committee and Social Responsibility Committee. Before taking this office, Sir Michael had a distinguished career in the British diplomatic service. He is currently Vice President of the British School at Athens, Honorary Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, and member of the council of the Anglo-Hellenic League. He is also a historian and author of a number of books about Greece.

ity endeavours to its own employees and the broader community.

Beyond this, we invite our stakeholders to scrutinise our efforts, primarily through publication of an annual Sustainability Report which lists our aims, our achievements – and where we could do better. We invite stakeholders to

comment on our reporting, and propose improvements. We invite independent assessment agencies to conduct a thorough review of our reported achievements. The company's CSR Committee monitors all feedback and ensures that improvements are implemented.

Our willingness to be audited and evaluated has led to recognition of our CSR commitments by FTSE4Good, the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, and the DJ STOXX European Index, as well as a number of other institutions.

Danube Watch: What can a company expect in return for its contributions to environmental management?

Llewellyn-Smith: This takes us back to your first question. Why are we concerned about the environment? Why are we focusing on water? The answer is that we must!

We conduct our businesses as a member of the communities we serve. We cannot be isolated from them. Our sustainability as a business entity is dependent upon the sustainability of the environment in which we operate. Our reward, if that is the right word, for our contribution to managing the environment, helping to protect the Danube and encouraging others to join in our efforts, comes from achieving genuine, measureable results that will support our business and the well-being of all of our stakeholders today and in the future.

Our stakeholders are all those who are in any way touched by our activities. We want to go on producing and selling refreshing, enjoyable, high quality soft drinks in a world that manages its resources responsibly and sustainably. Everyone will benefit from this!

Benedikt Mandl is the Technical Expert for Public Participation and Communication in the ICPDR Secretariat, and the Executive Editor of Danube Watch.



Credit: ICPDR/Blue Rivers, UA

Danube Day and the Green Danube Partnership: joining private with public efforts

Laughing children, tours with wildlife guides, open days at water research facilities: Danube Day is colourful and diverse. On 29 June each year, tens of thousands of people throughout the Danube River Basin join what has become the most successful river festival in the world, and a success story that involved private partners from the very beginning.



Joint efforts such as the Green Danube Partnership allow the international outreach activities of Danube Day to continue to grow.

Danube Day has many faces: every country celebrates it through local, often personal means. Street festivals in Belgrade, lectures in Romania, Facebook-organised flash mobs in Austria – the basin’s diversity is reflected in these manifold events. Over time, Danube Day has grown into the biggest river festival in the world. More than 230 events were held in 2011 with ten thousands of participants, and Danube Day 2012 built on this success. Essential for this growth is a fruitful cooperation between the ICPDR and the Coca-Cola Network: the Green Danube Partnership.

Formally, this partnership entails direct support from Coca-Cola Hellenic and the Coca-Cola Company for various projects on the international level. This is supplemented with further agreements between countries and Coca-Cola Hellenic on the national level. “However, the formal agreement does not really represent the full scope and dimension of the partnership,” says Philip Weller, who facilitated the development of the cooperation as Executive Secretary of the ICPDR Secretariat. “It is a relationship grown out of mutual trust with the shared objective of aligning corporate activities with the work of the ICPDR.”

In practice, the involvement of businesses allows for realisation of projects that the ICPDR would hardly pursue otherwise – such as costly outreach activities associated with Danube Day. Every year, the Green Danube Partnership funds the production of posters,

giveaways and information material. Similar success is found in the Danube Box, a teaching kit on rivers and water. More than a million children have been reached through the kit since its launch in 2006, and the idea has been copied by related projects in Germany, southern Africa and the Black Sea region.

For the Business Friends of the Danube, the Green Danube Partnership is a real show case. It will therefore feature prominently in a symposium and round-table held in Bucharest on 9 and 10 July. ‘Business, Water and Wetlands’ will be discussed in parallel with the Ramsar Convention’s Conference of the Parties. Using corporate commitment to social responsibility is an important issue in the water sector, where pressures from commercial activities are often particularly pressing. The Green Danube Partnership and Danube Day 2012 will make an excellent example of successful cooperation for the event.

Learn more about Danube Day 2012 and where events are held in your area at: www.danubeday.org

For more information on the symposium, please visit: www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop11/main/ramsar/1-31-58-500_4000_0_#10

Benedikt Mandl is the Technical Expert for Public Participation and Communication in the ICPDR Secretariat, and the Executive Editor of Danube Watch.

PLATINA project shaped future of inland navigation in Europe

As the four-year PLATINA project comes to a close, its achievements are proving that success for inland waterway transport is possible when all stakeholders participate.

The four-year PLATINA project will officially end this autumn, but the legacy of integrated stakeholder dialogue will continue. Project Coordinator Gert-Jan Muilerman reflects on the project's past challenges and success.

Danube Watch: How were stakeholders key to the success of the PLATINA project?

Muilerman: We started PLATINA in 2008 as a project with 23 partners from nine different countries and completely different backgrounds. The one thing they all had in common however was that all partners had a genuine interest in the project's results. I think the PLATINA project thereby created an atmosphere and a platform on which sometimes controversial themes could be discussed in a non-controversial and factual way. The participants and stakeholders could develop and discuss content without having to represent formal positions from the beginning. That approach worked for themes related to not only education and image building, but also infrastructure development.

Danube Watch: How were stakeholders key to the success of the PLATINA project?

Muilerman: The toughest nuts to crack are – at least in hindsight – often the most rewarding activities. The interdisciplinary good practice manual on environmentally sustainable waterway planning certainly was such a hard nut, but we did it. Starting bottom up with small working group meetings, the ICPDR created a setting in which different stakeholders could get to know and understand each other's motivation better. Together they elaborated a joint product and came to a common conclusion. Almost unnoticed as a side effect, they learned to respect each other's position and expertise better.

Danube Watch: How were stakeholders key to the success of the PLATINA project?

Muilerman: This spring we submitted a proposal for a PLATINA II project. PLATINA II will - provided that we pass the evaluation successfully - have a very focused approach. Since the research budget will be significantly smaller than for the first PLATINA project, we had to make hard choices: we had to focus on fewer items and had to reduce the size of the consortium. One of the current priorities of the European Commission is the modernisation and greening of the inland waterway fleet. Keeping up with the rapid technological improvements taking place in the road sector will be the main challenge for the years to come. PLATINA II will provide technical expertise and create strategies to retain the relative head start of inland navigation in terms of emissions to air, and it will push logistical innovations that will allow inland navigation to enter new markets.

"Our research definitively was not 'l'art pour l'art' but we very much focused on practically relevant actions... The fact that both Directors General Mr Ruete (DG MOVE) and Mr Falkenberg (DG ENVIRONMENT) fully endorsed the good practice manual during a common appearance at a PLATINA conference in November 2011 is the best illustration of our success."



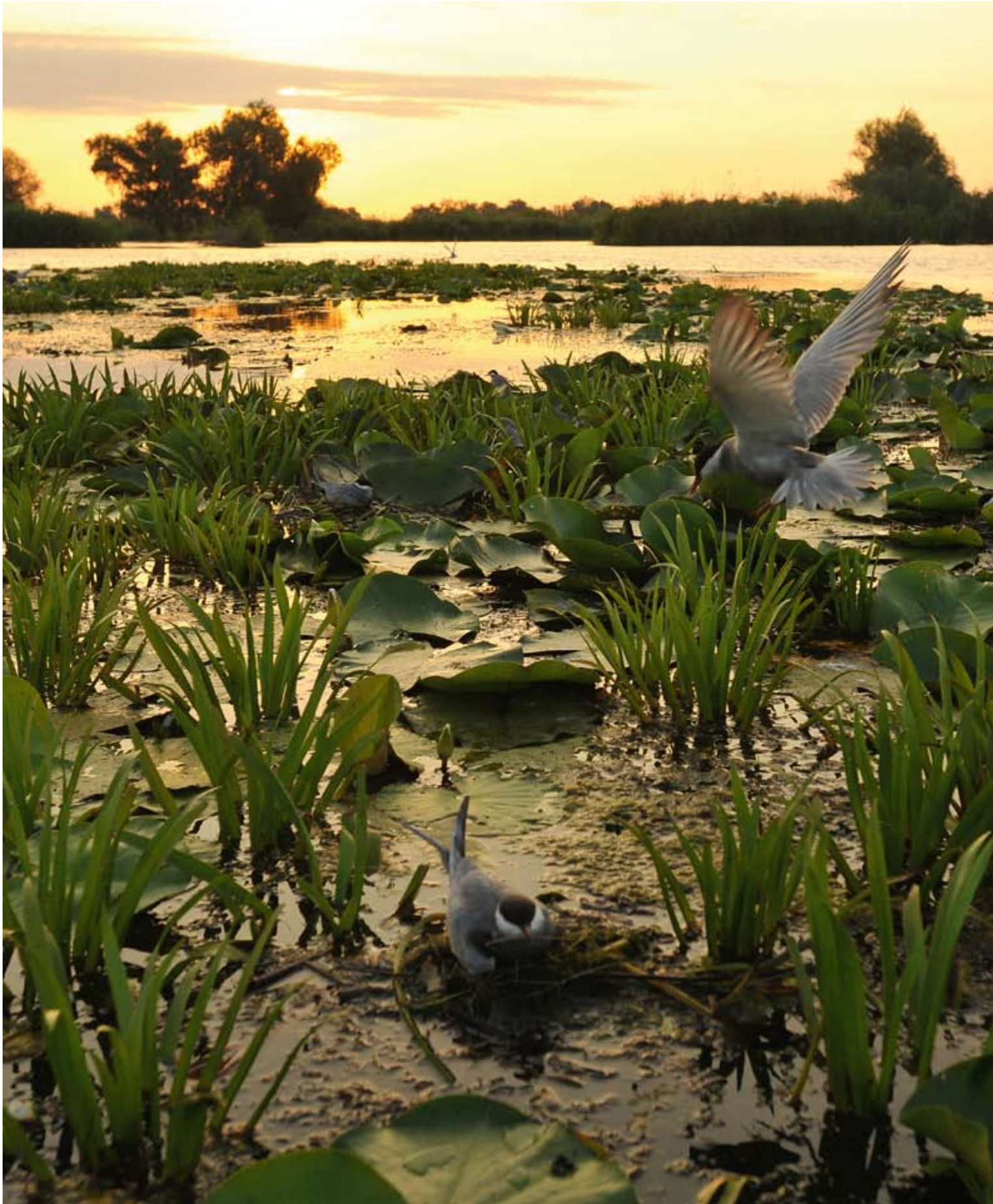
Credit: ICPDR/Mandl

PLATINA

The PLATINA project is a consortium of 23 different players working to promote inland waterway transport in Europe. Organised along the lines of the European Commission's Navigation and Inland Waterway Action and Development programme (NAIADES), PLATINA consists of five work packages in the following policy areas: markets, fleet, jobs and skills, image and infrastructure. PLATINA provides technical and organisational assistance in these fields of action by ensuring the active participation of key industrial stakeholders, associations and Member State administrations. The PLATINA Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning can be ordered free of charge from the ICPDR (icpdr@unvienna.org).

Kirstie Shepherd is a freelance journalist living in Vienna and has called the Danube River Basin home since 2000.

While the first PLATINA project will end this autumn, its programmes for inland waterway transport will remain afloat.





Filmmakers Michael and Rita Schlamberger spent more than two years on location in all seasons. They returned with over 400 hours of material, though only two hours will be included in the finished film.

The Danube – Europe’s Artery of Life

A new documentary reveals how fascination for the Danube – with its romantic shores, its wild nature to its changing landscapes – is inescapable.

The crew trudge through chest-deep water, careful not to disturb any nests hidden in the reed beds. There is no land on which to rest the camera, so they carry their equipment. Ravaged by mosquitoes, which swarm like paparazzi in the thousands, the crew wait for hours until the actors are ready. In this film, however, the actors are birds.

A new film, called ‘The Danube - Europe’s Artery of Life’, presents an elaborate portrait of the Danube River. The two-part series is a journey down the river into the wilds of the Danube Delta and shows the impact of the river on nature and people. Directed by award-winning Styrian nature filmmakers Rita and Michael Schlamberger, the film is a co-production of ScienceVision, ORF Universum, NDR and BR, and was made in association with ARTE and the ICPDR.

Over a period of two years, the filmmakers travelled over 90,000 kilometres – or 30 times the length of the river – and spent 350 days on location documenting all the varying faces of the river. “We were extremely surprised by how many things we didn’t know about the Danube,” says Director Michael Schlamberger. “This is one of the interesting things about filmmaking: you think you know but then you realize you haven’t even been at the bottom of what is possible.”

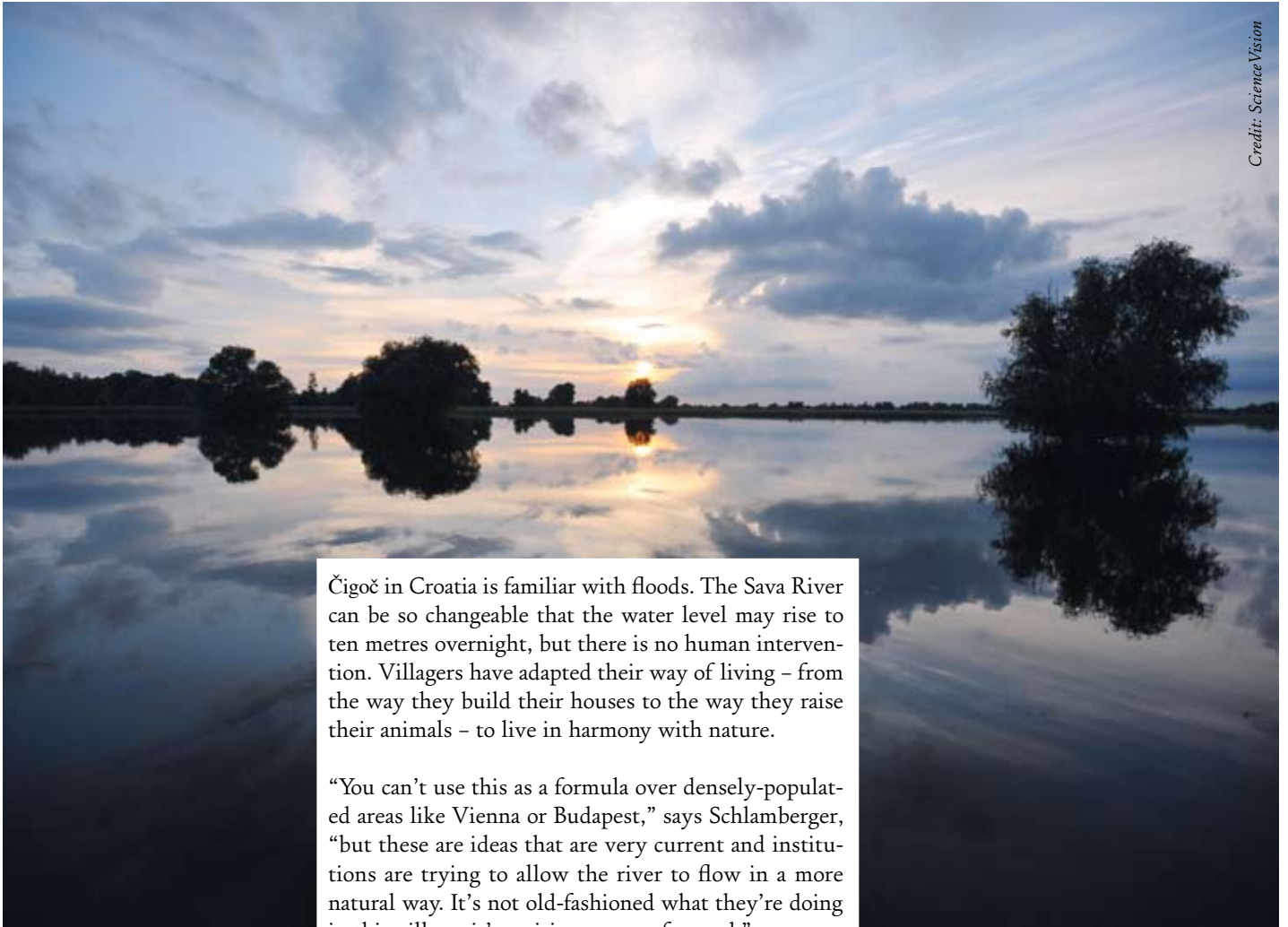
The Danube Delta in the spotlight. The name of the film was inspired by the amazing biodiversity to be found in the Danube Delta. The complex labyrinth of the delta’s waters hosts the largest breeding colony of pelicans outside of Africa and attracts hundreds of thousands of birds to hunt in the fish-rich waters.

“As a filmmaker, when you travel through the delta, you have the feeling you are in Africa or deep in the Amazon Basin rather than Europe,” says Schlamberger, “because it’s this enormous number of animals.”

Influenced by weather and climate, the Danube constantly changes. Temperatures last winter froze the river from Vienna to the Black Sea, providing the filmmakers with truly unique footage.

“From the feeling of being on the Amazon in summer, in the winter you thought you were in Siberia or the Arctic,” says Schlamberger. “There are so many faces of the Danube.”

Living in harmony with the changing river. The unpredictability of the river inspires efforts to try to control it through artificial measures, but Schlamberger and his crew witnessed a community that adapts their lifestyle to the floods of the river. The village of



Čigoč in Croatia is familiar with floods. The Sava River can be so changeable that the water level may rise to ten metres overnight, but there is no human intervention. Villagers have adapted their way of living – from the way they build their houses to the way they raise their animals – to live in harmony with nature.

“You can’t use this as a formula over densely-populated areas like Vienna or Budapest,” says Schlamberger, “but these are ideas that are very current and institutions are trying to allow the river to flow in a more natural way. It’s not old-fashioned what they’re doing in this village; it’s a visionary way forward.”

“The Danube Delta is a vast water wilderness which you wouldn’t think could still exist in Europe,” says the film’s director Michael Schlamberger.

This is one side of life along the river that Schlamberger hopes audiences think about long after the credits roll. “I hope the film makes people think that not everything should be solved or managed by technical means,” he says. “A river is a complex system but there should be ways of dealing in harmony with nature.”

Audiences can be sure to see the romantic side of the river in the film as well, from the snow-capped peaks of the Alpine foothills to the wilderness of the delta. In the end, Schlamberger says, a river is like a good story: “It’s an easy dramaturgy. You go from A to B, from source to the end and you discover things along the way.”

The Danube - Europe’s Artery of Life was broadcast on June 14 and 21 on ORF 2 in Austria. A DVD version of the film will be available in 2013. As a co-producer of the film, the ICPDR is planning viewings in Danube countries in the coming months.

Kirstie Shepherd is a freelance journalist living in Vienna and has called the Danube River Basin home since 2000.





Despite the Danube's importance as a modern waterway for transportation, it still retains the charm of a bygone era and is full of mystery. The river continues to shape the lives of those living in the region – wildlife and people alike.



Credit: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Bringing the experience of Africa's Lake Chad Commission to the banks of the Danube

Lake Chad is Africa's fourth largest lake by surface area. For thousands of years, Lake Chad has been a centre of trade and cultural exchange between people living north of the Sahara and people to the south.

The ICPDR is forging alliances around the world to share experiences on integrated river basin management and to develop innovative and collaborative solutions to water quality and quantity pressures with other international river basins.

The Danube River is proud to call itself the most international river in the world. The influence of the river, however, flows even further abroad, linking European and African water management teams through shared knowledge of integrated water resources management. This model of cooperation serves all regions around the globe.

A commitment to collaboration. The ICPDR is dedicated to exchanging knowledge and experience about water resources management. Encounters with other water body commissions allow the sharing of experiences and solutions to challenges which are more similar than one might expect. A recent exchange brought a delegation from the Lake Chad Basin Commission to the ICPDR.

Sharing responsibility. The Lake Chad Basin Commission was founded in 1964 by the four countries that border Lake Chad: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. The Republic of Central Africa joined in 1994, Sudan was admitted in 2000 but is yet to ratify and Libya was admitted in 2008. Observer status is held by Algeria, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. The responsibilities of the Commission, which is based in N'Djamena, Chad, are to coordinate integrated water resources management, provide policy advice to Member States for decision making, to arbitrate in the case of border conflicts caused by the use of water or land around the Lake Chad as well as to promote regional integration and security.

A region at risk. The lake has lost more than 90% of its surface area because of climate variations as well as the excessive use of surface water for dams, irrigation and the extraction of groundwater caused by an immense population increase in the catchment area. A core problem is the lack of effective transboundary water management to counteract the progressive degradation of the ecosystem and to secure economic development as well as social and ecological sustainability. The population in the basin suffers from drought, deforestation, desertification and erosion, which has led to the loss of

LAKE CHAD

Lake Chad is located in central Africa and is the only large natural above-ground fresh water reservoir in the arid Sahel zone. Currently, the lake is very shallow and covers a surface of about 2,500 km² (area in 1964: 24,000 km²).

The average depth is four metres with a maximum depth of up to seven metres. The intra-continental closed basin covers an area of about 2.3 million km². The basin is characterised by various landscapes: hyper-arid to arid in the north, semi-arid in the centre (Sahel zone) and subtropical in the south. The lake is recharged by two main rivers: the Chari-Logone (95%), and the Komadugu-Yobe, which provides 3% of the annual inflow into the lake. The lake itself replenishes significant aquifers located in the basin.

More than 30 million people are dependent on the water system of Lake Chad, dominated by fishermen, livestock breeders and farmers.

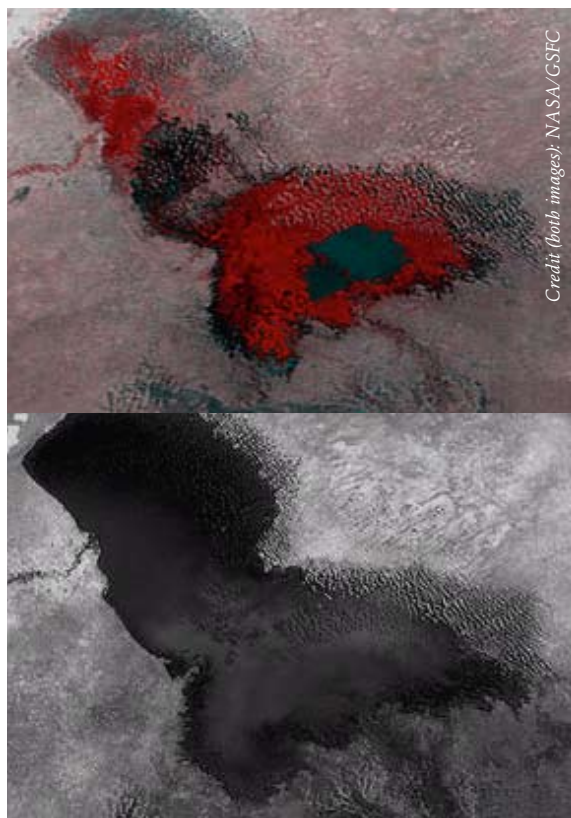
biodiversity. Consequently, poverty, malnutrition and migrations cause social conflicts in the region.

The technical visit aimed to compare the differences in functions and organisation, and to enhance the ex-

change of experience through collaboration between the ICPDR and the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The delegation from the Lake Chad basin Commission included the Executive Secretary, Director General of Operations, Director of Planning, Director of the Observatory, the Legal Adviser, Director of Protocol, Communication and Corporate Services, the Remote Sensing Expert and the Programme-Director for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn, Germany.

One of the challenges of the Lake Chad Basin Commission is to develop integrated and transboundary water resources management with socio-economic benefits. During the visit to the ICPDR, the delegation saw how an international and modern basin commis-

A core problem in the Lake Chad region is the lack of effective trans-boundary water management to counteract the progressive degradation of the ecosystem and to secure economic development as well as social and ecological sustainability.



Seen from space, the disappearance of Lake Chad becomes striking. Above: the lake in 1997. As the Sahara moves south and the lake water retreats, the exposed rich and moist soil (which is high water table) becomes covered by green grasses and crops (which appear as red in the satellite photos). Below: lake Chad in 1963.

sion manages transboundary water regimes under economic, ecological and social concerns in an effective and sustainable way with all member countries. Participants plan to continue the intensive exchange and gratefully thank the ICPDR for the informative presentation and the fruitful discussions.

Sanusi Imran Abdullahi is the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

Gabriele Kessel is the Director of the GIZ-Programme Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Lake Chad Basin.

Restoring Europe's rivers

A new EU life + project RESTORE is sharing ideas and exchanging knowledge on river restoration to give professionals the information they need to bring rivers back to a natural state.

River restoration refers to a large variety of ecological, physical, spatial and management measures and practices. These are aimed at restoring the natural state and functioning of the river system in support of biodiversity, recreation, flood safety and landscape development.



For centuries society has interacted with rivers. They are an integral part of our local environment on which we historically depended for food, shelter and basic survival. Over time environmental pressures have changed rivers and the perception of rivers has changed. Today, less than 20% of Europe's rivers and floodplains are still in their natural physical state. A new EU life + project has an innovative approach to help deliver river restoration.

Restoring natural conditions improves the resilience of the river systems and provides for the sustainable multifunctional use of estuaries, rivers and streams. River restoration directly supports the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive, and national and regional water management policies.

Access to shared knowledge. The main problem faced by practitioners in the field is not a lack of expertise, but a lack of access to shared experiences and knowledge. RESTORE is an EU life + project to share and promote information on European river catchment area restoration. The project aims to bring people together and establish networks through its website, events and conferences, to give professionals the information they need to restore rivers and improve habitats for wildlife.

A recent conference, hosted in Iasi by the Romanian National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, brought together river restoration professionals from Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, the Netherlands and the UK. Participants discussed their experiences and learned how RESTORE can help them communicate good river restoration practices more effectively.

Learning from successful examples. In Romania, former governments had tried unsuccessfully to convert the wetlands into agricultural land, resulting in a loss of floodplains and habitats. With local partners, Romania is restoring some of these areas back to their natural state. Three of the projects were presented at the RESTORE conference in Iasi: the Ciobarcu Wetland, Lower Prut Floodplain schemes and the Danube Delta restoration which is part of the Lower Danube Green Corridor wetlands restoration, initiative. Though two of the sites have been completed (Ciobarcu in 2006 and the Lower Prut in 2010), the projects had not been widely shared until the conference.

The project's website serves as a focal point for knowledge exchange within the European river restoration community. In addition, a wiki-based website of river restoration case studies will be launched in summer 2012. It will be possible to search for river restoration projects using parameters such as cost, substrate, land use or hydropower schemes. Practitioners are invited to contribute river restoration case studies, good practice and research to the database. Contact RESTORE to add river restoration schemes to the database, or upload them directly to the wiki beginning this summer.

For more information, please visit: www.restorerivers.eu.

Toni Scarr is the RESTORE project manager.



Grassroots cooperation brings success to the DANUBE PARKS network

The first project linking protected areas in the Danube region comes to a close, but the network that provides a joint voice for nature and wildlife carries on.

Out of 800 applications in the first call for projects in the EU Programme for European Territorial Cooperation for South East Europe (ETC-SEE), DANUBE PARKS was one of the 40 projects approved. At the close of this three-year project, which ended in February 2012, it is clear the network's success will be long-lasting.

The DANUBE PARKS project officially began in 2009 with support from the ETC-SEE programme, but the roots go back even farther. The DANUBE PARKS network is built on a long-term tradition of bilateral cooperation starting in the 1990s. In 2007, eight protected areas signed the Tulcea Declaration stating the clear intention to form a network. It was this natural collaboration, working from the ground up, that made the project possible.

The DANUBE PARKS network has focused on intense communication to increase knowledge and experience exchange within the partnership, developing transnational strategies and implementing pilot projects. Work centred primarily on six areas: river morphology and restoration, habitat networks, conservation of flagship species, monitoring for Natura 2000 sites as well as nature education and tourism.

Georg Frank, Project Manager of DANUBEPARKS, looks back on the close cooperation that made the project possible.

How is the communication between the participating parks done on a day-to-day basis?

The roots for our transnational network are the inspiring study visits from the past. Whenever the experts of the protected areas came together, it resulted in motivating ideas and visions. In the framework of the EU-funded projects, the co-operation has shifted a bit more to the project managers' level. But the relevance of personal contact is still high; technical communication tools help to arrange all reports and technical questions effectively, but only the meetings, study visits and conferences make us share impressions and emotions and, finally, create a lively network.

What does the future hold for DANUBEPARKS?

If there is the real intent to strengthen the Danube as an inspiring lifeline – as expressed by the Danube Strategy, for example – we also need to strengthen the position of the protected areas: by the enlargement of existing ones, the establishment of new reserves and conservation, restoration and sustainable development of the habitats in its whole. So this development of the habitat corridor along the Danube and its tributaries is a big vision for me.

But for this to occur, politicians and the public must pay more attention to the importance of intact habitats – for the conservation of biodiversity, but also for flood protection, for sustainable regional development and as recreation areas for

“One idea of the project is to create awareness that the natural wealth in these protected areas are a part of European heritage and it's a great value not just to one country, but to the whole of Europe,” says Director of the Donau-Auen National Park and spokesperson for DANUBEPARKS.

local people, but also as tourism destinations. To balance the big discrepancies in the region – the needs of the valuable natural assets in the Lower Danube and lower incomes at the same time the economic needs of communities in the Lower Danube – is probably the biggest challenge in the diverse South-East Europe region. Creating income that is based on these existing natural values should be the goal.

What is the most important achievement from the DANUBEPARKS project?

The most important for me personally is that together – all partners, all colleagues, all experts – we had moments to create big visions. We established a lively and active network, we developed suitable tools for future conservation like the White-tailed Eagle Action Plan, we raised awareness for river dynamics through the Danube-wide monitoring of flagship species, we continued with the step-by-step river restoration approach. However I think we can see these achievements as small steps to bring our protected areas closer together: in terms of cooperation between friends and colleagues, but in particular in terms of the development of a habitat corridor.

And I have learned that each Danube protected area is valuable in a very specific way. Learning more about the greatest values of areas far away has even raised my appreciation for the specific values that are found in front of my home. Hopefully, this is also realised by politicians, stakeholders and the public and adequate priorities and resources are given to the sustainable development of this region in the future.

Learning to see the big picture. Before the establishment of the DANUBEPARKS network, the challenges facing protected areas gave few opportunities to look beyond national borders, with the result that area managers could rarely get a clear picture of the problems of the Danube as a whole. Bringing the protected areas together allowed area managers to learn about other sites, but also to learn how all of these areas and their common challenges are interrelated. Nowhere is this realisation more visible than in the stunning success with flagship species.

The White-tailed Eagle is one of the most well-known and impressive birds in the Danube region. Conserving this species assists preservation of many other species because of the complex and wide range of habitats required by the birds. Building on work that had begun much earlier, DANUBEPARKS developed an Action Plan for the White-tailed Eagle, which defines 37 actions in eight areas of intervention. Accompanying the

plan is an online database that compiles breeding data from all Danube countries. The plan was presented at the International White-tailed Eagle Conference, held in the Duna-Drava National Park in December 2011. The conference was a milestone of cooperation in the field and highlighted the wide range of DANUBEPARKS activities for conservation of the species.

Thanks to the work of the DANUBEPARKS network, the species is slowly making a comeback. When the Donau-Auen National Park began 15 years ago, there were no breeding pairs at all. Today the park has at least four breeding pairs, and this success – like the range of the birds – is wide-reaching. “It’s because the bird population in the Middle and Lower Danube has developed so well in Kopački rit and other areas,” says Carl Manzano, Director of the Donau-Auen National Park and spokesperson for DANUBEPARKS. “Our success is due to the success and the good work of others down the Danube.”

The intention of the Action Plan now is to build on this positive trend and to develop the whole Danube as a backbone for the eagle population in the region. The importance of the partnerships between stakeholders in the White-tailed Eagle's success story underlines the need for transnational cooperation.

Preserving European heritage. An important aspect of the DANUBEPARKS project has been to raise appreciation of the value of these protected areas. "One idea of the project is to create awareness that the natural wealth in these protected areas are a part of European heritage and it's a great value not just to one country, but to the whole of Europe," says Manzano.

Environmental education and tourism are an integral part of nature conservation activities and contribute to a broader support of nature protection programmes. The DANUBEPARKS website contains a database of tourism opportunities in the protected areas, and the network published a tourism brochure, 'Exploring Nature along the Danube River', which provides information about nature tourism along the Danube for individual travellers as well as for the tourism industry.

The Future of the Network. With the adoption in 2010 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the DANUBEPARKS project has become a model of the importance of transnational partnerships, and Priority Area 6 specifically mentions DANUBEPARKS as a "flagship project". However, there is still more work to do. The DANUBEPARKS network has submitted a proposal for a follow up project within the ETC-SEE programme. The main aims of this DANUBEPARKS 2.0 will be to anchor the network more strongly at various levels: internally through capacity-building for project managers, regionally by enlarging the network and externally through a stronger focus on policy work.

At some stage the network will need a stronger institutional grounding. One model to follow may be the Network of Alpine Protected Areas, which is rooted in the Alpine Convention. Following this model, Manzano believes the Danube River Protection Convention might play a larger role in the DANUBEPARKS network in the future.

"We're very happy with the cooperation with the ICPDR – the ICPDR was a kind of Godfather to the DANUBEPARKS network; it helped us in the beginning and all through the way – and we are proud to be an observer within the ICPDR."

For more information or to order specific project brochures, visit www.danubeparks.org.

Kirstie Shepberd is a freelance journalist living in Vienna and has called the Danube River Basin home since 2000.



Credit: Nationalpark Donau-Auen/Kovacs

The sturgeon monument built in the Danube Delta and in the Visitor center of the Donau-Auen National Park illustrates the need for Danube-wide conservation of this flagship species.



Credit: Nationalpark Donau-Auen/Frank

The DANUBE-PARKS network gives protected areas around the basin the opportunity to share experiences in habitat management, conservation of species and monitoring.



Credit: BROZ

A pilot river bank restoration in Slovakia builds on past experience. A DANUBEPARKS'S publication compiles past restoration projects and provides the scientific basis for future actions in river restoration.



Credit: Nationalpark Donau-Auen/Hoyer

DANUBEPARKS developed an Action Plan for the White-tailed Eagle, one of the project's flagship species, which defines 37 actions in eight areas of intervention.

← Bringing various stakeholders together is vital for the conservation and protection of water and freshwater eco-systems in the Danube River Basin. Fold out to learn more about the Agricultural Forum held in Budapest.

Public and private stakeholders discuss agriculture and environment



- 1. Zoltan Szemerey**, Hungarian Landowners Organization and **Manfred Röttele**, TOPPS, Project manager
- 2. Andreas Beckmann**, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme
- 3. Balázs Medgyesi** (left), Commissioner for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Hungary
- 4. Ulrike Gehmacher**, Coca-Cola Hellenic
- 5. Tony Baynes and Tim Copeman**, Coca-Cola Hellenic
- 6. Joachim Heidemeier**, Umweltbundesamt (Germany), and **Michaela Popovici**, ICPDR Secretariat

Credit: ICPDR/Mello

The role of leading companies in contributing to the conservation and protection of water and freshwater eco-systems in the Danube River Basin was discussed at an Agricultural Forum held in Budapest. Alongside the ICPDR as organiser, the event included several companies such as The Coca-Cola Company and Coca-Cola Hellenic, Agrium, Agrana, General Electrics, Dreher and Cargill Hungary, as well as other international businesses. At the forum, participants discussed what companies already do for water protection and how support for these efforts can be provided. For combating agricultural pollution, the ICPDR

has compiled recommendations on best agro-industrial techniques (BAT) for all relevant point discharges of agriculture. These are designed to serve as a reference for decision-makers and local environmental or agricultural authorities to control pollution and improve water quality in the Danube. The forum discussed possibilities to use the supply chains of large corporations to promote and increase the application of BAT among farmers that are difficult to target directly.

All of the presentations that were given at the forum can be downloaded at www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/agricultural_forum.htm



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- 7. **Adriana Mircea Mirela**, GE Romania
- 8. **Daniela Catana**, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Romania
- 9. **Lukas Maier**, Agrana
- 10. **Meglana Plugtschieva**, National Assembly of Bulgaria
- 11. **Wolfgang Stalzer**, ICPDR President 2012



11



ICPDR MEETINGS	For final dates, please consult the ICPDR calendar, available at www.icpdr.org .
1–5/7/2012	SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK
6–13/7/2012	BUCHAREST, ROMANIA 11TH CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, RAMSAR CONVENTION
10–11/7/2012	LVIV, UKRAINE 18TH TISZA GROUP MEETING
21–24/8/2012	SZENTENDRE, HUNGARY 39TH INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DANUBE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
13–14/9/2012	VIENNA, AUSTRIA 15TH GROUNDWATER TASK GROUP MEETING
17–18/9/2012	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY JOINT STATEMENT ON INLAND NAVIGATION MEETING
19–20/9/2012	VIENNA, AUSTRIA 16TH MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT MEETING
20–21/9/2012	LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED JOINT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP DANUBE – BLACK SEA
26–28/9/2012	GRAZ, AUSTRIA 22ND FLOOD PROTECTION EXPERT GROUP MEETING
8–12/10/2012	MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM
15–16/10/2012	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EXPERT GROUP MEETING
18–19/10/2012	PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM EXPERT GROUP MEETING
24–25/10/2012	LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED 36TH RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT EXPERT GROUP MEETING
30/10–1/11/2012	ISTANBUL, TURKEY ENVIROGRIDS FINAL CONFERENCE
DW 03/12	UPCOMING ISSUE River basin management plans in Europe Sturgeon migration Developments in flood management