

Sediment Management in the Sava River Basin

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Introduction:

The Sava River Basin is shared by five countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, while a negligible part of the basin area also extends to Albania.



Fig. 1: Overview of the Sava River Basin.

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), having noted the need to deepen the cooperation and to implement jointly agreed activities aimed at ensuring preconditions for sustainable sediment management in the basin, have ratified a Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB (Protocol) which entered into force in October 2017. The Protocol emphasizes the importance of the sustainable sediment management to maintain water regime, to promote active international cooperation to enhance appropriate policies and to reinforce and coordinate action at all appropriate levels. It promotes sustainable sediment management related to quality and quantity sediment issues and sustainable sediment management solutions, which carefully balance the socio-economic and environmental values which need to be set within the whole Sava River Basin. The Protocol represents legal foundation for the implementation of the activities agreed by the Sava countries, via their joint platform – the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

Implemented activities:

It is important to emphasize that significant steps have already been made in terms of implementation of above mentioned Protocol, even before its formally entering into force. At the level of the Sava River Basin and within the framework of a cooperative effort associating the UNESCO Venice

Office (UVO), the ISRBC, the European Sediment Network (SedNet) and the UNESCO-IHP, International Sediment Initiative (ISI), the ISRBC has initiated a project *Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using Sava River as a Showcase* resulting in:

- Organizing the training course on basic sediment issues (October 2012);
- Drafting the Guidance on Sustainable Sediment Management– Part I (draft finished in 2013);
- Implementing of the projects:
 - Estimation of the Sediment Balance of the Sava River (2013); and
 - Proposal of the Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River Basin (November 2015);
- Establishment of pilot sediment monitoring stations in Sremska Mitrovica (RS) and Slavonski Brod (HR) (2017);
- Development of Program for development of Sediment Management Plan (2017).

Future steps:

Taking into account that the Protocol on sediment management as an international agreement is in force, future activities on the basin level will be focused to the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol. The main tasks in this regard are:

- Development of the Sava River Basin Sediment Management Plan harmonized with the River Basin Management plan for the Sava River Basin;
- Establishment of the coordinated system for sediment monitoring;
- Exchange of sediment data within the Sava riparian countries through the existing Sava Geoportal.

Considering the complexity of the future activities support from the international and national funds would be needed to ensure the implementation of planned tasks.

References: [1][Framework agreement on the Sava river basin](#); [2][Protocol on sediment management](#) [3][Estimation of Sediment Balance for the Sava river](#) [4][Proposal on establishment of Sediment Monitoring system in Sava river basin](#)