

Screening Template

Significant Water Management Issues

Drina River Basin

Annex 2

Country: fill in name of country...

Prepared by: ... (fill in name of Ministry or Organisation) ...

Date: ... (fill in date of preparation)...

ECRAN - XXXXX

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Beneficiaries:

**ECRAN beneficiary countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*,
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Reference: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux>.

Significant Water Management Issues Screening Template

1. Background

The water management issues can be derived on the basis of the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and mainly relate to quality aspects.

The most common problems affecting our water environment are pollution, abstraction and modifications to the physical habitat. However it is also important to consider the increasing pressure from the floods climate changes or due to the presence of invasive alien species.

According to the Article 14 (1) (b), at least two years before the beginning of each river basin planning period, the national Competent Authority for the development of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the related Program of Measures (PoM) has to publish, for each river basin district, a summary of the significant water management issues (SWMIs) which it considers arise for consideration in that district.

The overview must be published for consultation for a period of 6 months and should set out, for the river basin district, the main pressures and impacts which will need to be addressed in the River Basin Management Plan and the Program of Measures.

The main purpose of the summary is to highlight the approach to identify significant issues and present a screening template for completion.

2. What are significant water management issues?

Significant water management issues may arise from:

- ongoing human activity (e.g. farming, abstraction);
- historic human activity (e.g. abandoned mines, contaminated land);
- new development (e.g. increasing demand for drinking water supplies).

The significant water management issues are the pressures acting on the water environment to be considered in the preparation of the Program of Measure to achieve the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.



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The significant issues are those issues that warrant the most attention at the river basin district level during the first river basin planning cycle (2015-2021).

The most relevant questions in connection with the identification of the SWMIs are:

- To what extent does the respective SWMI impact adversely on the achievement of the WFD's objectives for each category of water body in the river basin district?
- To what extent is the evidence that the selected SWMI is likely to impact on WFD's objectives based on sound and validated scientific evidence?
- To what extent will the measures already being implemented in the river basin district fail to address current issues by 2021?

The SWMIs need to be identified in the Drina RB, valid for the whole Drina sub unit. However, significant issues will differ geographically between the sub-basins/sub-units or at the national level, and shall therefore be presented by sub-unit Drina.

3. The role of the Significant Water Management Issues in the preparation of the Program of Measures and the River Basin Management Plan

The WFD requires a programme of measures (PoM) to be established for each river basin district. The measures implemented as part of the programme should enable water bodies to achieve the environmental objectives of the WFD. The PoM must be established and be made operational according to the established timeline.

The types of measures currently available to address the significant issues are described in the Annex 3. It is essential to identify gaps where additional measures may be necessary at an early stage to allow time to develop and incorporate new measures into the PoM (Figure 1) for the first river basin planning cycle.

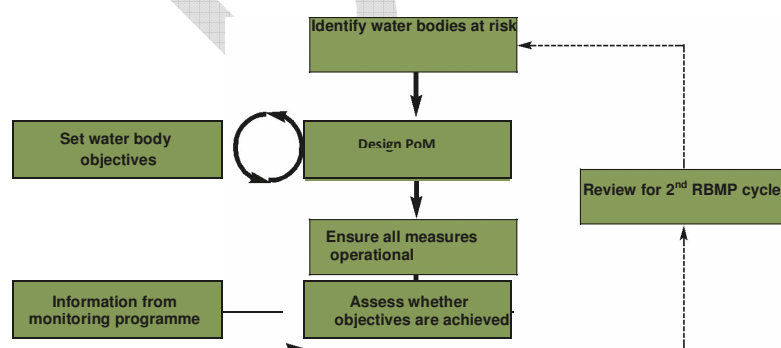


Figure 1. Program of Measures cycle



The RBM Plan and the PoM clearly focus on the selected SWMIs. In addition, the important transboundary groundwater bodies are dealt with as a separate item. In particular, the identified significant pressures, status information and the PoM would refer individually to each SWMI and groundwater.

For each SWMI and groundwater, visions and operational management objectives need to be identified to guide the countries in the Drina RB in the developing exercise of the PoM and the Drina RBM Plan. The visions need to be based on shared values and should describe the principle objectives for the Drina RB with a long-term perspective. The respective management objectives describe the steps towards the environmental objectives in the Drina RB in an explicit way - they would be much more detailed than at the Sava or Danube basin levels, but less detailed than at the national water body level in each of the involved countries.

Overall, the visions and management objectives need to reflect the joint approach among the three Drina RB countries and support the achievement of the WFD objectives in a sub unit of the Sava sub basin, respectively Danube River Basin District, recognized as a unique area. In the Drina RB there are three national parks (the Durmitor National Park in Montenegro, Sutjeska National Park in Bosnia and the Tara National Park in Republic of Serbia), and the second deepest canyon in the world, the Tara River Canyon, an UNESCO World Heritage site.

4. The concept for the identification of the SWMIs in the river basins

The most often identified SWMIs in the river basin districts are presented in the Table 1.

Pressure type	Key sectors
Diffuse source pollution	Agriculture Forestry Urban development Sea and coastal water transport
Point source pollution	Collection and treatment of sewage Aquaculture Manufacturing Refuse disposal Mining and quarrying
Abstraction and flow regulation	Electricity generation Public water supplies Agriculture
Changes to morphology	Historical engineering Agriculture Electricity generation Urban development Land claim
Invasive alien species	All sectors

Table 1. Significant Water Management Issues



4.1 The concept for the identification of the SWMIs in the Danube RB

The **Danube** Basin Analysis (2004) identified initially four Significant Water Management Issues for the Danube River Basin District:

1. Pollution by **organic** substances
2. Pollution by **nutrients**
3. Pollution by **hazardous substances**
4. **Hydromorphological** alterations.

Alterations regarding quantity and quality of transboundary **groundwater** bodies have been added to a later stage and considered in the preparation of Danube River Basin Management Plan (2009).

4.2 The concept for the identification of the SWMIs in the Sava RB

The **Sava** RBMP (2013) follows the methodology and processes applied at the Danube River Basin level, which were developed and agreed upon by the Danube River Basin countries. The same four Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs) as agreed upon at the Danube River Basin level (organic, nutrient, hazardous substances pollution and hydromorphological alterations), and issues regarding groundwater were found to be of basin-wide concern.

The processes with regard to the Sava RB went beyond the elaboration of existing information and included the possibility of collecting the missing data, filling in gaps and collating the latest information and statistics, which allowed for a better analysis of the pressures and impacts and a proposal of measures.

However, the water management issues in the Sava RBMP were discussed at a more detailed scale than for the Danube RBMP; the following criteria were applied regarding the selection of water bodies:

- The Sava River and its tributaries with a catchment size of $>1,000 \text{ km}^2$ and rivers of a basin-wide importance (Sotla/Sutla, Lašva and Tinja; area $<1,000 \text{ km}^2$);
- Trans-boundary and national GWBs which are important due to the size of the groundwater body (area $>1,000 \text{ km}^2$), or for those $< 1,000 \text{ km}^2$ trans-boundary GWBs which are important due to various other criteria, e.g. socio-economic importance; uses, impacts, pressures, interaction with aquatic eco-system.



4.3 The basic concept for the identification of the SWMIs in the Drina RB

The countries in the Drina RB have developed their national and regional strategies to complement the Sava and Danube RBM Plans and, where it was necessary, addressing several significant water management issues.

Investigations have also been, through various projects, and will be undertaken to identify other relevant issues and their significance in the Drina RB.

Significant issues need to be identified separately for each water body category (rivers, coastal and groundwater) because the pressures differ between the water body types. Artificial and heavily modified water bodies need to be included in the relevant water body category.

The SWMIs need to be defined in terms of the pressure type and the source (i.e. industry sector or activity) of the pressure. For example, point source pollution from the collection and treatment of sewage, and morphology from land claim, etc. Describing the significant issues at this level of detail will enable the Competent Authorities in the countries in the Drina RB, to identify existing measures and gaps in these measures.

Even though a pressure may not impact the entire length or area of a water body, the whole of the water body will fail to comply with good status if the Directive's objectives are not achieved in a significant part of the water body.

It is essential that, in addition, investigations to be undertaken to identify other relevant issues and their significance on the Drina basin-wide scale such as: **climate change**, flood/drought events, and changes in sediment transport due to erosion, or **navigation**.

The Drina basin is affected by floods, and this requires regional dialogue to balance competing demands for flood protection, hydropower production, and ecosystems needs.

Issues like the need for **integration of water quality and water quantity** due to changes related to water quantity through flood and drought events take an equally important role in the Drina RB.

The inter-linkage of **flood management**, flood protection measures and measures to achieve the objectives of the EU WFD will be aimed for to ensure best possible solutions. Moreover, the water management issues will be reviewed on a regular basis, e.g. the importance of water **scarcity and droughts** and the need for water saving measures, in the context of the discussion on adaptation of climate change.

Further, **hydropower represents a SWMI in the Drina water management**.

The Drina RB is also impacted by other anthropogenic pressures of more local nature. **Inappropriate land use and management** and zoning have resulted in **significant soil erosion**



along the river banks. The **absence of proper wastewater treatment facilities** at the municipalities and industrial units, the disposal of untreated sewage into the river has resulted in point and diffuse pollution in the basin.

The SWMIs selection in the Drina RB need to be based on the basin – wide approach, knowing that the waters of the Drina and its tributaries are strongly connected to local economies, living standards and environmental values, requiring therefore, coordination of actions to increase effectiveness and efficiency, sharing of experiences, approaches and information and creating solidarity between the countries sharing the Drina river basin.

At the same time, the basin-wide approach will take into account the different conditions in the Drina countries, such as the natural conditions and the socio-economic aspects.

As starting point, **the scale of the national as well as of the Joint Programmes of Measures of Drina RB level needs to be agreed** to ensure the basin-wide overview of the collection of national measures.

Suggestions are made:

- rivers with catchment areas $>1000 \text{ km}^2$
- lakes $> 20 \text{ km}^2$,
- rivers and lakes of important international sub-basins (catchment areas $>500 \text{ km}^2$) and
- transboundary groundwater water bodies $> 1000 \text{ km}^2$.

Through the Drina JPM, it is expected that the Drina countries can report national measures for catchment areas $<1000 \text{ km}^2$ and/or will provide a description of measures (number of measures, finances), which will be undertaken in the catchment areas $<1000 \text{ km}^2$, and therefore to highlight additional efforts in the Drina RBM Plan - if considered of importance for the basin-wide level.

4.3.1 Screening template for selection of Drina SWMIs

Based on the above considerations, for the preparation of the PoM for Drina RB, a simplified screening template is proposed. The selection of the SWMIs is linked to the work carried out on identifying pressures and impacts on the water environment in Drina RB, to ensure **a target-oriented Drina River Basin Management Plan and an appropriate Joint Programme of Measures**.

This process, coupled with monitoring programmes, will provide scientific information upon which to base the summary of significant water management issues.

In addition to the scientific information, other aspects must be taken into account, such as social, economic and governmental issues. This exercise is the first stage in gathering this information in the Drina RB for selection of SWMIs.



A follow up process will be organised which will consist in the following steps:

- identification of the **general cross-cutting issues** between the SWMI in the Drina RB based on the specific selected Significant Water Management Issues. The cross-cutting issues will set the joint frame for the compilation of the Drina RBM Plan and its Program of Measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives by 2021 or latest 2027.
 - Definition of the **long term visions** corresponding to each of the SWMIs identified, for achieving the WFD objectives
 - Description of the related **management objectives** for each of selected SWMI in the Drina RB.
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Screening template

Please return completed exercise, by 15 Feb 2015, to:

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Name: _____

Organisation: _____

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Interest in WFD: _____

Basin/Sub basin/Sub-unit/Catchment of Particular Interest: _____

1. Please list the **top 5 significant water management issues** facing Drina RB Against each issue write a priority score of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the highest priority and 5 the lowest).



Describe in brief the issue and priority of concern, for instance, whether it is a specific policy issue such as absence of water abstraction controls, nitrate/phosphorus controls or a hydromorphological alteration, or a general concern, for example, lack of co-ordination within Government. State whether the problem is at river basin or community level.

No	Issue	Priority

2. Do you think the whole Drina RB faces the same significant water management issues, or are there significant differences, between catchments, sub-units, or between urban/rural areas, for example?



3. How should these issues be addressed?

4. Are there **barriers** that prevent these issues from being addressed?

Please provide examples of possible solutions, such as increase community (local) participation, increased education and media coverage including making the public more aware of the real cost of providing drinking water and connection to sewer, suggestions as to reorganisation of existing structures for more effective delivery of services.

Barriers:

Possible solutions:

5. Please list what you consider to be other significant water management issues in the Drina RB.

Any further comments
