

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF THE GREAT RIVERS OF THE WORLD: "TAKING ACTION FOR WATER AND CLIMATE" 23-25 October 2017 - Rome, ITALY

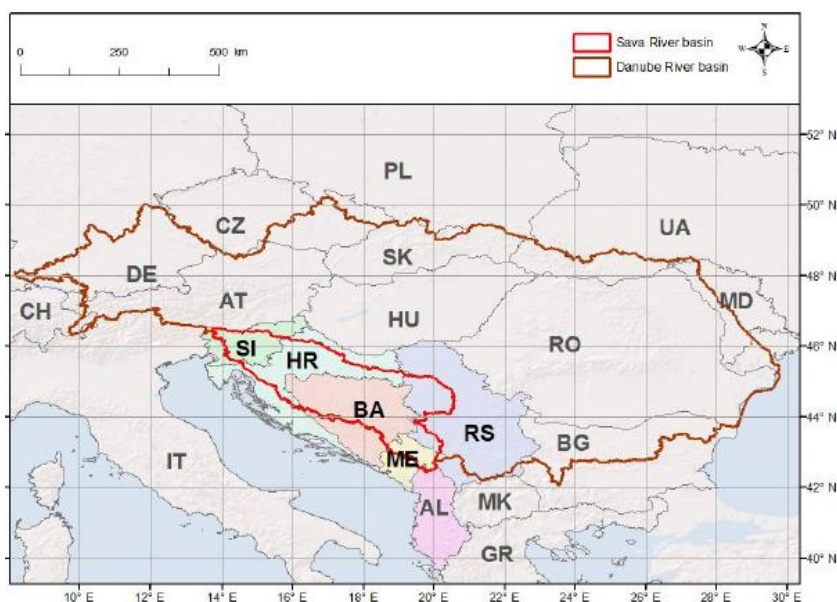
"Transboundary water and climate readiness initiative"

PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Development of the climate adaptation strategy and basin-wide priority measures for the Sava River Basin

BASIN AND COUNTRIES – REGION:

The Sava River Basin is a major drainage basin of South Eastern Europe with a total area of 97,713.20 km². It is one of the most significant sub-basins of the Danube River Basin, comprising 12% of this basin. The Sava River basin is the second largest Danube tributary catchment by area size. It encompasses 12% of the Danube basin, draining into the Black Sea. The Sava represents the third longest tributary of the Danube and its largest tributary by discharge. The basin area is shared among six countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania.



ORGANIZATION CONCERNED:

Main beneficiaries of the project are the International Sava River Basin Commission and the four riparian countries plus Montenegro.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND CONTEXT:

Climate change poses significant and complex challenges for transboundary water basins worldwide. As climate change increases over the coming decades, transboundary cooperation on adaptation and

basin-wide resilience building strategies is essential to advancing sustainable development and ensuring social and political stability for basin countries and their people.

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia (subsequently Serbia & Montenegro and then Serbia) signed and ratified the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) as a unique international agreement, which integrated many aspects of water resources management and established the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), with the legal status of an international organization.

Comprehensive and recent studies provide relevant analysis and recommendations in order to tackle climate impacts in the coming decades. An outline of the climate adaptation strategy is being developed now by the Sava River Basin Commission under a project supported by the International Office for Water (IOWater) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The outline is defining pathways for development of water related adaptation measures and linkages to other sectors including navigation, hydropower, agriculture, tourism and environmental protection. The next logical step will be to develop a full climate adaptation strategy for the basin based on acquired knowledge and experience. In addition, the Sava transboundary approach should be coordinated and consistent with the provisions of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Danube River.

AIMS OF THE PROJECT (WATER & CLIMATE...)

The objective is to develop climate adaptation strategy for the Sava River basin and make prioritization of resilience-building measures.

The project will achieve this objective through launching a participatory process involving main stakeholders from all riparian countries.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS

The French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, IOWater, UNECE & the International Scheldt Commission are supporting the International Sava River Basin Commission and its thematic expert groups through a specific technical assistance to foster the coordination process between the riparian countries adaptation strategies and agendas and with the Danube Basin strategies.

Main activities involved in this process will include:

- Assessing available information and identifying gaps.
- Consulting with countries and international experts on selection of vulnerability assessment targets and methodologies.
- Carrying out critical vulnerability assessments to gather information about climate change exposure and impacts on relevant sectors as well as assessing adaptive capacity.
- Organizing workshops to discuss and design potential basin-wide adaptation and capacity-building measures.
- Consulting stakeholders to evaluate cost-benefits and prioritize proposed adaptation measures.
- Making recommendations on integration of priority measures into existing strategies and plans.
- Validating the investment plan associated to the strategy
- Selecting priority measures and initiating a feasibility study for their implementation.

International experience and lessons learned from other transboundary basins addressing climate change challenges (for example, Dniester and Neman) will be made available to the Sava Basin countries. Being a member of the pilot basins addressing climate change issues open opportunities for regular exchanges and sharing experiences.

The project will ensure active participation of riparian country's authorities, Sava River Basin Commission, NGOs, academia and other interested stakeholders. Major activities, eg. vulnerability assessments and development of adaptation measures, will contribute to capacity building among decision makers. Gender issues will be taken into account while preparing and executing the project.

Project long-term sustainability of the results will be ensured through integration of proposed adaptation measures into existing strategies and plans, strengthening capacity of key stakeholders and widely communicating the project results and lessons learned.