

# Stability Pact for SEE

Working Table II

## Sava River Basin Initiative



# Background

- Prior to disintegration of former Yugoslavia, the Sava was a river basin of national interest
- Now, it belongs to four countries: Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, and FR Yugoslavia

For these four countries, the basin catchment area is 60-70% of their land and source of >80% of total available water.....



# Sava River Basin Faces Major Problems

- Commercial traffic cannot resume without rehabilitation of waterways, ports and other supporting infrastructure
- Lack of environmental infrastructure and institutional mechanisms for addressing transboundary impacts is causing serious environmental concerns in the basin
- In spite of these problems, there has been no framework for cooperation among the four countries to rehabilitate, develop, and manage the basin

## GENESIS OF SAVA BASIN INITIATIVE

In June 2001 Stability Pact launched the Sava Initiative to provide a Forum to the four Sava Countries for addressing these Problems

# First Step of Sava Basin Initiative

In Sarajevo on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2001 four ministers representing Sava Basin countries signed a Letter of Intent:

- Calling for finalization of draft of International Framework Agreement by the end of June 2002
- Entrusting Stability Pact to support the Sava Basin countries in this undertaking

# Letter of Intent

## Objective of Cooperation:

- To establish navigation of the Sava river and its tributaries and to regulate the international regime of navigation;
- To promote the sustainable management of Sava Basin waters and related resources;
- To foster the integrated economic development while taking into account environmental aspects of the Sava Basin region and the well being of its people.
- To define the proper institutional framework to suit these objectives



# Fulfilling the Objectives of the Letter of Intent

March 12th, 2002: the start of process

**On March 12th 2002 in Brcko the Sava basin countries unanimously appointed :**

- **Ambassador Dervisbegovic as regional co-chair of the Sava Initiative ;**
- **Two Working Groups (composed of appointed National Delegates)**
  - International Framework Agreement Working Group to finalize the IFA**
  - Rehabilitation & Development Working Group to devise the first Action Plan**

# Fulfilling the Spirit of the Letter of Intent

Sava Initiative:  
an initiative from the countries by the countries

- The two Working Groups are tasked to :
  - **Develop a mutually beneficial way to address their common problems through an integrated approach**
  - **Actively pave the way for a “coordinated sub regional player” to Danube Commission, Danube Cooperation Process, ICPDR, and DABLAS**

## The Sava Countries Have Made Remarkable Progress Since March 12, 2002

- IFA Working Group has developed a well articulated draft agreement
- R&D Working Group has developed a set of priority regional projects and prepared significant components of an Action Plan

## Key Characteristics of the Sava Initiative

The main characteristic is the countries' will to pursue cooperation:

- *In a regionally agreed, legally binding, and enforceable way in line with EU and international law;*
- *By developing an innovative process which enables the countries to choose flexible tools to achieve commonly agreed objectives*

# Status of the IFA

The Sava countries have made remarkable progress in crafting the IFA:

- A comprehensive agreement has been prepared and agreed to by the IFA Working Group
- Barring unforeseen issues, the Parties are expected to initial the agreement this month, with signing of the agreement to follow

# Status of the Action Plan

- Through 4 Subgroups, the RD Working Group has identified a priority agenda focused on:
  - Navigation
  - Integrated Water Management & Environmental Quality
  - Economic Development
- The Working Group is now focused on preparing a coordinated plan to execute this agenda

# Outlook for the Initiative

The progress of the two Working Groups clearly shows the Sava Basin countries determination to:

- Make the Sava Initiative a success
- Allow the cooperation process to firmly take root

# Potential Impact of the Initiative Extends Beyond the Sava

- The Sava Initiative is the beginning of a process of cooperation that could become a model for other international river basins in the region
- Also, through this cooperation process the Initiative contributes to the stabilization of SEE not only in economic but also in political terms



# The Sava River Basin Initiative:

A Historic Agreement for Cooperation  
A Vital Opportunity for Sustainable  
Development

# Next Steps: Support is Needed

- It is clear that the Sava Basin countries are committed to the success of the Initiative
- Expectations of the countries are high that actions will be forthcoming once the framework agreement is signed
- *To keep the momentum the Sava Initiative needs more support NOW*

Urgent action is needed *from the international community...*

- Signing of the IFA will send a strong signal to the international community of the commitment of the Sava countries to the process of cooperation
- The Stability Pact is committed to helping the countries engage the international community in this process as required

# Discussion:

How can we work together to ensure the long-term success of this historic agreement?

## **PRIORITY NEEDS FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO THE SAVA BASIN ACTION PLAN:**

### **1. Assistance in Start-up of the Commission**

<b>Objective (s)</b>	<b>Support Needed</b>	<b>Tasks to be Completed</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Ensure smooth start-up of Sava Commission	Provide interim staffing for Commission Secretariat assistance until permanent Secretariat is fully staffed, and associated TA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Coordination of Parties in executing early implementation of IFA</li><li>2. Organization and staffing plan for permanent Secretariat</li><li>3. Information clearinghouse for Parties and international community</li><li>4. Contracts/grants administration</li></ol>	January-December 2003

## 2. Navigation

Objective (s)	Support Needed	Tasks to be Completed	Schedule
Reopen Sava Basin to commercial navigation (immediate need)	Funding and TA for restoration of navigation waterway to its condition in 1990, i.e., to Category IV from mouth of Sava to Brcko and to Category III to Sisak (Priority I)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearing unexploded ordnance from riverbed, in Ostruznica area</li> <li>2. Removing debris of collapsed bridges</li> <li>3. Bathymetric survey and rehabilitation plan for existing waterway, building on work already completed by Croatia and by OHR for parts of BiH</li> <li>4. Execution of rehabilitation plan (selective dredging, marking, debris clearing, operationalizing navigation devices, etc.) to bring waterway up to minimal navigation standards</li> </ol>	<p>Immediate Immediate Completed by April 2003</p> <p>Completed by December 2003</p>
Improve navigation over longer term.	<p>1). Funding and TA for improvement of navigation to Category IV for the entire navigable waterway (Priority II)</p> <p>2) Funding and TA for improvement of navigation to Category Vb (Priority III)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comprehensive bathymetric survey</li> <li>2. Development of plan to establish Category IV on the entire navigable waterway, including feasibility study and EIA if required.</li> <li>3. Development of regulatory framework for Category IV navigation (including dredging standards and facilities management)</li> <li>4. Development &amp; integration of navigation information system and river traffic monitoring (CRORIS and YURIS)</li> <li>5. Reconstruction of collapsed bridges</li> <li>6. Execution of rehabilitation plan</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of plan and feasibility study to achieve Category Vb navigation</li> <li>2. Development of regulatory program to achieve Category Vb navigation</li> </ol>	<p>Early 2004 Completed by</p> <p>December 2004 (Based on plan)</p> <p>(Based on plan) (Based on plan)</p> <p>(Based on plan) (Based on plan)</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2005</p>

### 3. Integrated Water Management/Environmental Protection

Objective (s)	Support Needed	Tasks to be Completed	Schedule
Establish sound information base for management of Sava Basin	<p>1) TA to implement a basin-wide Geographic Information System (GIS)</p> <p>2) Funding and TA to improve state of data and monitoring systems for water regime, including "hot spots"</p>	<p>1. Inventory existing data, establish data needs, and identify data gaps</p> <p>2. Identify water quality "hot spots" and sources</p> <p>3. Inventory protected areas</p> <p>4. Develop and implement a GIS system</p>	<p>Ongoing; to be completed January 2003</p> <p>Mid-2003</p> <p>February 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p>
Develop Sava Basin Management Plan	(To be determined, based on clarification of support to be provided by UNDP/GEF for pilot basin management plan for Sava)		Pilot plan to be initiated in 2003
Implement hazard warning & alarm system	Funding and TA to develop and implement basin-wide warning & alarm system	1. Inventory existing systems and situations in each Sava country	Ongoing; to be completed January 2003
Implement flood management and control	<p>1) Funding and TA to assess and repair existing flood control structures</p> <p>2) Funding and TA to develop and implement comprehensive basin-wide plan</p>	<p>1) Inventory existing situation, including review of flood management system developed for Yugoslavia</p> <p>2) Develop TOR to address immediate hazards</p> <p>3) Develop comprehensive basin-wide flood management plan</p>	<p>December 2002</p> <p>January 2003</p> <p>2003</p>

#### 4. Regional Economic Development

Objective (s)	Support Needed	Tasks to be Completed	Schedule
Reconstruction & development of ports and intermodal transport facilities	<p>1) Funding and TA for project preparation and feasibility studies</p> <p>2) Demining as required</p>	Project preparation and financing for rehabilitation of Brcko (BiH), Samac (BiH), and Slavonski Brod (CRO) ports; improvement of Belgrade port (FRY)	<p>Demining: 2003-04 Brcko, Samac: 2004-05 Belgrade: 2004 Slavonski Brod: 2008</p>
Energy: construction of hydropower facilities	Funding and TA for feasibility studies	Vrhpolje, Buk Bijela; and Foca/Srbinje facilities (BiH)	2007
Improved food production: irrigation/drainage systems	<p>1) Funding and TA for technical and feasibility studies</p> <p>2) Demining related to Posavina System</p>	<p>1) Demining related to Posavina System</p> <p>2) Rehabilitation of Odzak, Svilaj subsystems (BiH); and Croatian area</p> <p>3) Rehabilitation of Semberrija (BiH), Srem (FRY), and Macva (FRY) irrigation systems</p>	<p>January 2004</p> <p>Odzak/Svilaj: January 2005 Croatian area: 2009</p> <p>2004-06</p>
Tourism development	<p>1) Nautical tourism for Sisak-river Kupak (CRO)</p> <p>2) Financing for marshland protection programs for Bardaca (BiH) and Sremska Mitrovica (FRY)</p>	<p>1) Master plan and project preparation</p> <p>2) Master plan, project preparation and financing</p>	<p>Nautical tourism: 2005</p> <p>Marshland protection programs: 2004</p>
Harmonization of regulations and institutional systems to support sustainable development	Studies, training and TA to strengthen management of development	<p>1) Improved regulatory system for sand and gravel mining</p> <p>2) Improved regulatory system for managing construction and excavation activities</p> <p>3) Training on economic evaluation, pursuant to Water Framework Directive</p>	Training/institutional strengthening activities should begin immediately



**STABILITY PACT**  
FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE