



Biodiversity and wetland conservation, transboundary cooperation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Danube River Basin

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Cooperation Development in the Danube River Basin

Danube River Protection Convention

- Signed 29 June 1994, Sofia (Bulgaria);
- Entering into force in October 1998;
- Establishment of ICPDR Expert Groups;
- 1999 ICPDR Secretariat in place;
- High diversity of ICPDR CPs: 9 EU MS / 5 Non EU MS;
- Sofia Declaration signed in 2000 - Non EU MS implement EU WFD/FD as far as possible.



Protection of water & ecological resources



Sustainable & equitable use of water

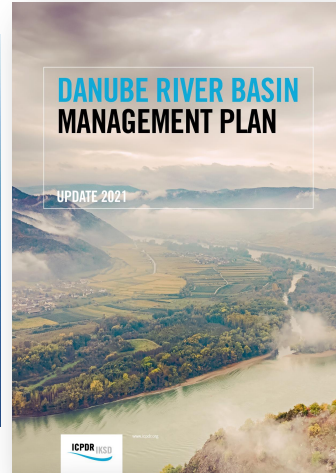


Reduce nutrients & hazardous substances



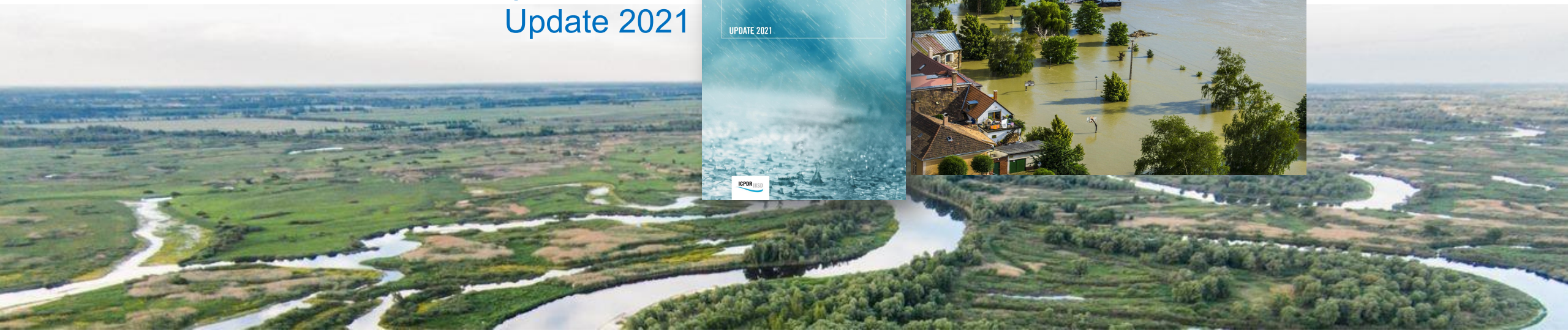
Manage floods & ice hazards

Transforming National RBM Plans into Basin-Wide Ones



Danube River Basin
Management Plan
Update 2021

Danube Flood Risk
Management Plan
Update 2021



Danube RBM Plan / Significant Water Management Issues



**Organic
Pollution**



**Nutrient
Pollution**



**Hazardous
Substances
Pollution**



**Hydromorphological
Alterations**



Effects of Climate
Change (drought,
water scarcity,
extreme hydrological
phenomena and other
impacts)

- Wetland reconnection and conservation addressed under HYMO Alterations
- Biodiversity addressed as part of in Danube River Basin Management Plan (water status assessment; sturgeon conservation) and as separate activity
- Effects of Climate Change identified as SWMI since DRBMP Update 2021.

Transforming Climate Change Effects into Water Resilience

ICPDR as leading and pioneering RBO regarding CC adaptation:

- Guides how to integrate CC adaptation into overall ICPDR planning & management processes
- Supports action in transboundary context: Tool-box of measures
- Influences and feeds into national strategies and actions

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

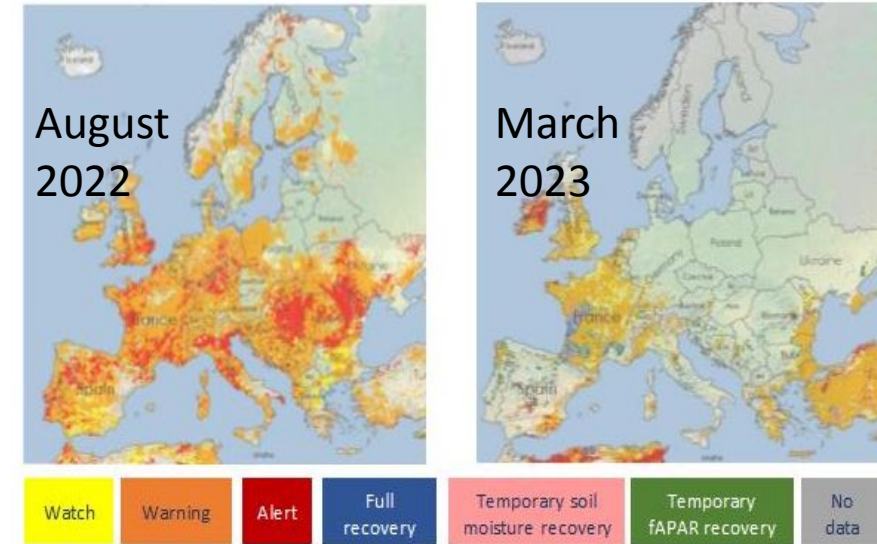
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Droughts and Low Water Levels in the DRB

- No targeted activities so far to assess and manage droughts and low water level situations at the basin-wide level;
- Severe drought events with significant impacts observed in the last decade and recently, **affecting ecosystems, biodiversity and water uses**;
- Alert and warning conditions across the basin (summer 2022) and in RO and BG (winter 2022);
- Internal ICPDR Workshop on Drought and Low Water Levels to be organized in Belgrade on 16 June 2023
- Main goals of the workshop:
 - Understand and identify DRB transboundary needs regarding droughts and low water levels
 - Put forward possible actions on the basin-wide level

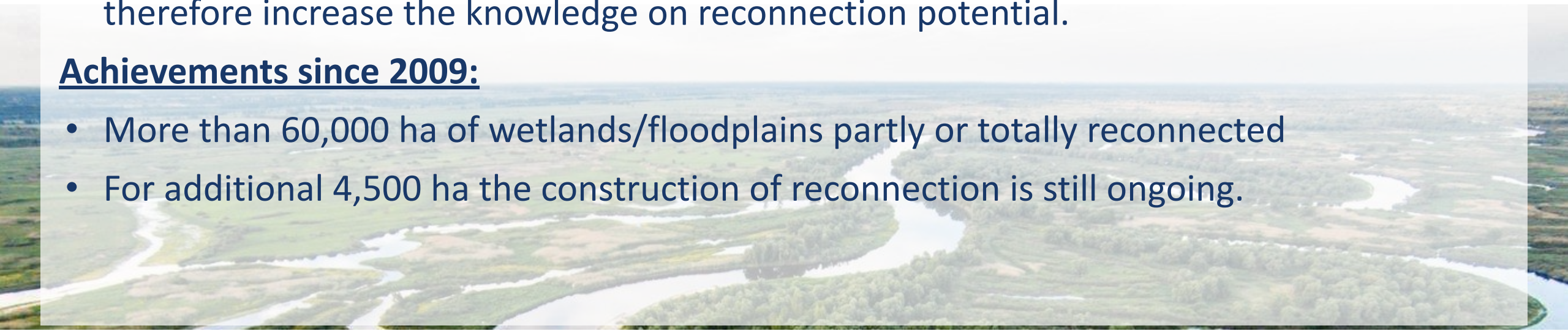


Wetland Conservation and Restoration

- **The ICPDR's basin-wide vision is that floodplains/wetlands all over the DRB are re-connected and restored.**
 - Integrated function of these riverine systems contributes to the development of self-sustaining aquatic populations, flood protection, climate change adaptation and reduction of pollution in the DRBD (**DRBMP 2021**).
- **Flood Risk Management Plans and related activities** are significantly contributing to the compilation of inventories of connected and disconnected wetlands/floodplains and therefore increase the knowledge on reconnection potential.

Achievements since 2009:

- More than 60,000 ha of wetlands/floodplains partly or totally reconnected
- For additional 4,500 ha the construction of reconnection is still ongoing.



Biodiversity Assessment

The current assessment of the available data on biological quality elements includes:

- Preparation of an Aquatic Biodiversity Report underway
 - WFD- based and focus on aquatic biodiversity
 - Assessments within Joint Danube Surveys
 - Significant activities to protect and conserve Sturgeons in the DRB
- Consideration of methods for data collection (including sampling strategies) to ensure comparable data on taxa richness for all biological quality elements, in spatial and temporal extent.
- Incorporating biodiversity parameters into the integrated ICPDR Water Quality Database.
- Selection and use of proper biodiversity parameters for assessment of biodiversity changes in space and time.



Thank you



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