

# Case Study: Stakeholder involvement in the Danube basin



UNDP | GEF  
DANUBE  
REGIONAL  
PROJECT

# THE DANUBE – BLACK SEA REGION

## the most international basin in the world

- » 1/3rd of Europe
- » 81 Mio Inhabitants in the Danube Basin and 16 Mio Inhabitants – Black Sea Coast
- » 14+3 Countries with diverse cultures, economic and social background

The Black Sea Basin



# DANUBE RIVER BASIN

14 countries working together for protection and sustainable development of the Danube River and the basin

Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova;

Since 16 years GEF/UNDP and EU have supported the environmental process with considerable funding;

Since 1998 International Secretariat for the Protection of the Danube River basin (ICPDR).



# THE DANUBE – BLACK SEA REGION

## Environmental Problems

- » Degradation of ecosystems and reduced biodiversity in the Danube and the BS
- » Pollution by nutrients and toxics
  - » Sources: agriculture, municipalities and industries
  - » Danube having biggest impact on BS



# THE DANUBE – BLACK SEA REGION

## Challenges

- » Institutional development
- » Transboundary cooperation
- » Sufficient resources
- » Stakeholder / NGO involvement
- » Environmental planning and consciousness



# Institutional setting in the Danube River basin

## »International

Donors (GEF and EU) and international organisations

## »Regional

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), Black Sea Commission, Danube Environmental NGO Forum etc.

## »National

Governments, national organisations and institutions

## »Local

NGOs and local authorities, Danube basin population



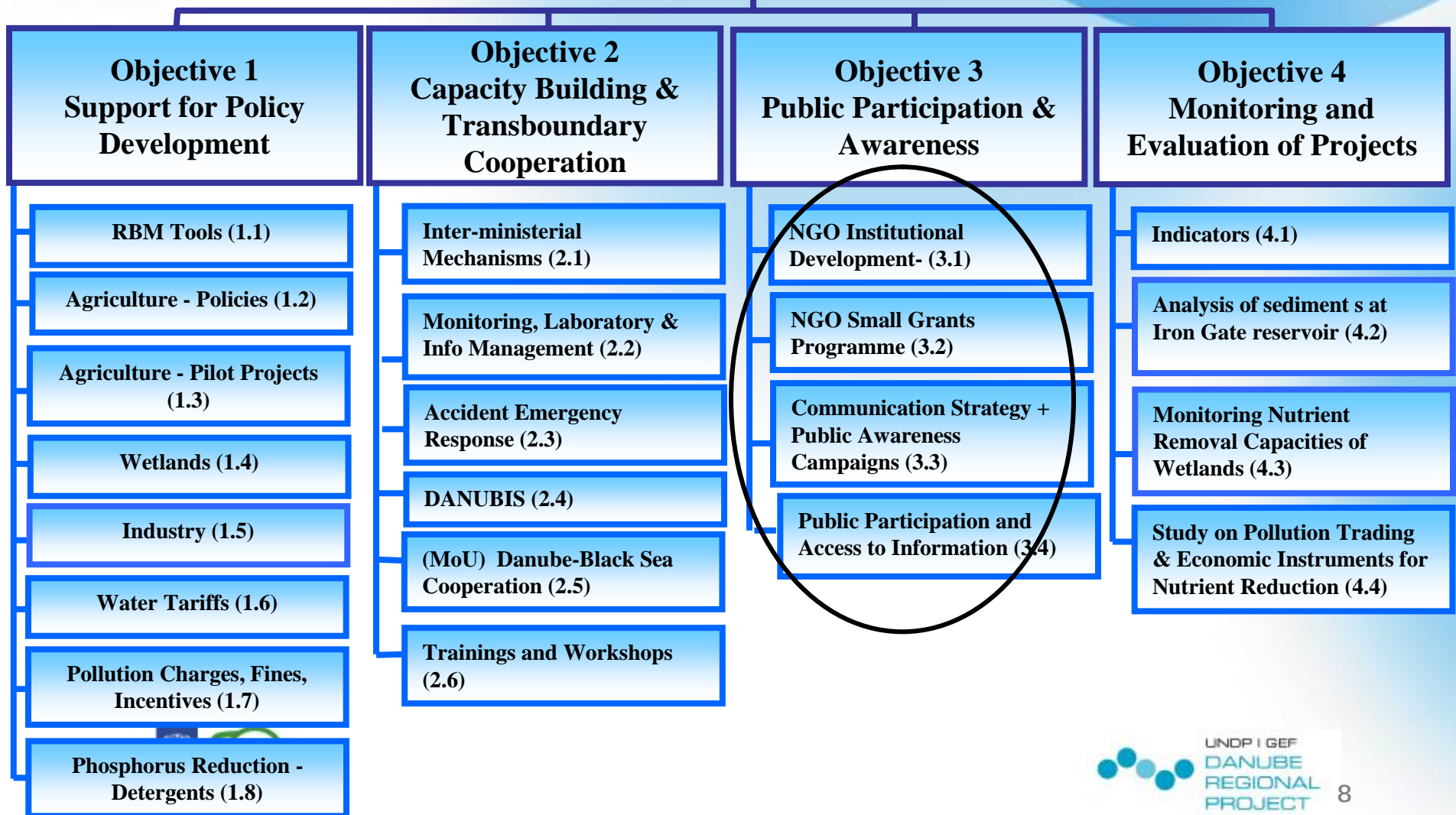
# Stakeholder involvement on the agenda - objectives

To ensure public participation and involvement of key stakeholders in environmental planning and decision making in the Danube

- » Early 90ties, Low stakeholder involvement in the basin;
- » 1992-96 – Environmental Program of the Danube River basin
  - o Institutional development - GEF initiated platform for NGOs,
- » 1997-99 – Danube Pollution Reduction Program
  - o stakeholder focus trough grants and DEF support and development of International Commission (ICPDR)
- » 2001-6 – Danube Regional Project
  - o Substantial support (US\$ 5 mill) for Public participation, access to information, NGOs and Grants



# UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project (2001-2007)



# UNDP/GEF Public Participation projects in the Danube

- » Support the ICPDR in developing mechanism for public participation and stakeholder involvement;
- » NGO project – DEF –establish strong network and rising capacities for Danube NGOs
- » Small Grants Programme – practical activities related to pollution issues, engaging stakeholders and building capacities for NGOs and public;
- » Communication and awareness raising, dissemination of information and building capacities of key partners and stakeholders, Danube population;
- » Access to information – public participation – pilot projects, building capacities for governments and NGOs



## Objective and Results – NGO support

- » raise the capacities and awareness on water pollution issues of NGOs in the Region;
- » establish strong plat-form for NGO participation and network for communication, cooperation and joint activities between Danube stakeholders;
- » develop channel for communication to the Danube population.

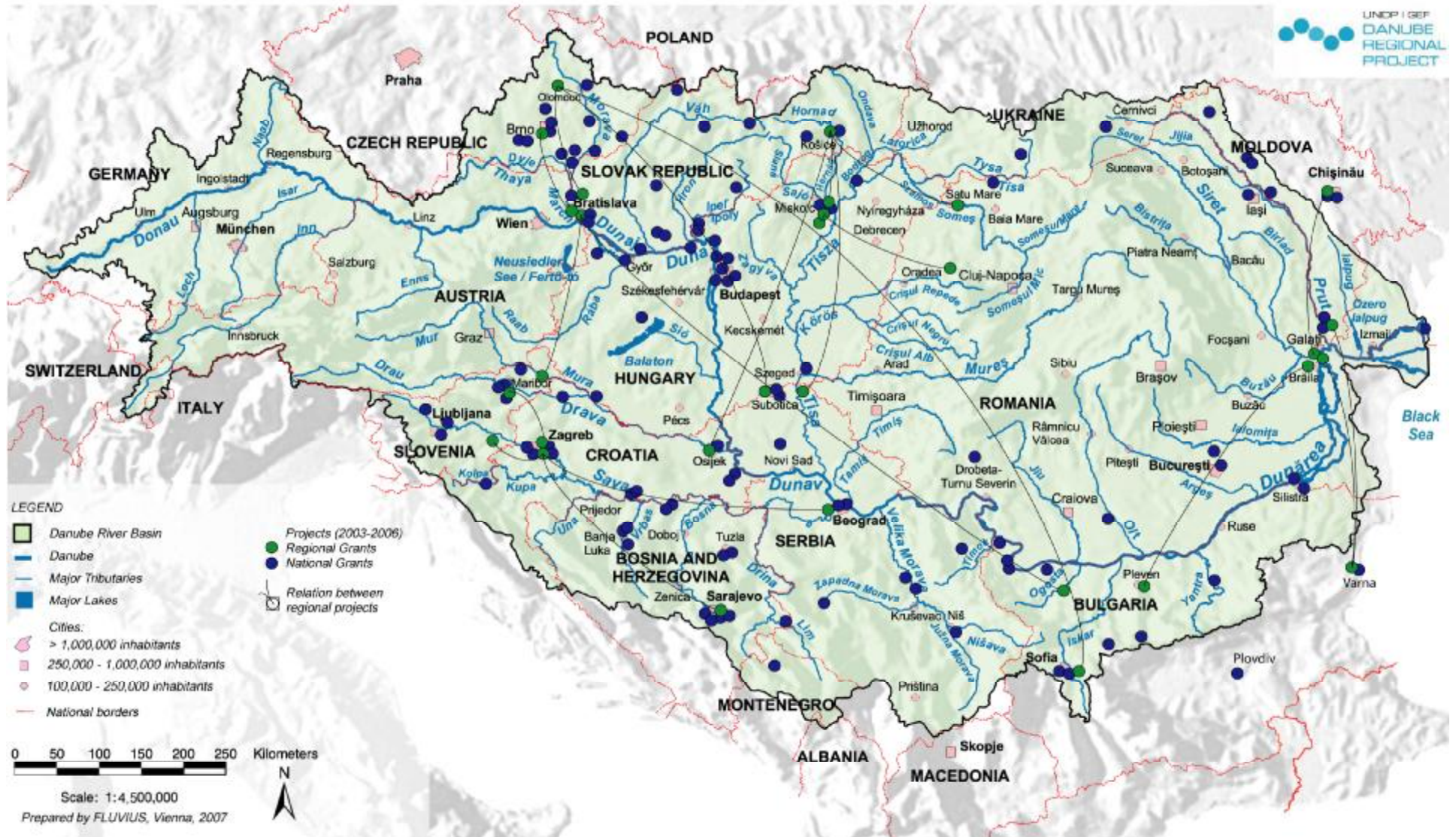


## Objective and results – Small Grants Program

- » Enable NGOs to implement local scale technical pollution reduction projects, model activities / innovative practices;
- » Enhanced technical capacities of NGOs
- » Enhanced communication and cooperation between local stakeholders;
- » Raised awareness amongst general public and key stakeholders on pollution issues.



DRP Component 3.2 NGO Small Grants Programme: Granted Regional and National Projects (2004-2006)



## COMMUNICATION - ACTIVITIES

- » Strategic communication to support the overall goals and objective of the UN project and the ICPDR;
- » Danube Day Campaign;
- » Awareness raising campaigns targeting Danube issues;
- » Capacity building of stakeholders at all levels;
- » Media relations;
- » Information materials, Danube Watch, publications and products.



## Access to information and PP Projects

- » To increase public access to environmental information and promote the participation of citizens and NGOs in protecting the Danube River and its tributaries;
- » Special emphasis on supporting public involvement in the RBM planning process – Water Framework Directive and Aarhus Convention;
- » REC, Resource for Future and New York University



## Access to information in the Danube basin

- » Worked together with public officials and NGOs at national, regional and local levels in 6 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro;
- » At the national level: identified the main barriers to public access to information and involvement
- » development of tools and strategies adapted to national needs;
- » 5 Demonstration projects – testing of approaches - hot-spots – strong NGO involvement



## Result of access to information project

- » Built capacities and awareness of officials and NGOs on importance and tools for Public participation and access to information;
- » Valuable experience from pilot projects to test access to information;
- » National adapted manuals and tools have been developed;
- » Experience and lessons learned have been disseminated throughout the Danube basin.



# Stakeholder involvement Plan for the Daube basin

- » ICPDR Public participation strategy and Stakeholder involvement plan;
- » Based on Water Framework Directive, Stakeholder analysis and River basin management plans;
- » Developed Operational plan for PP in the basin;
- » Tools planned and used:
  - » Dissemination of information;
  - » Consultations – meetings and conferences
  - » Active involvement – Danube Day, open hearings etc.



# Stakeholder involvement Planning

- » Plan developed for the regional level, local management plans;
- » Activities and time-table linked to the Danube River basin Management Plan
- » Plan developed in close cooperation / meetings with stakeholders at all levels;
- » “Living document” will be adjusted and developed;



# Stakeholder involvement Planning

## Successful stakeholder involvement tools:

- » Information materials, Danube Watch, publications, plans;
- » Web and media;
- » Meetings and Conferences (through the expert groups and additional stakeholder meetings);
- » Danube Day (awareness raising in all countries);
- » Danube box (educational tool for teachers and students);



# Ongoing Public participation

- » Sustainable project results through ICPDR Public participation strategy and Stakeholder involvement plans;
- » Stakeholder involvement is ON the agenda in the 14 countries;
- » Public participation activities and awareness raising activities being implemented in all countries, at all levels;



[www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)

