Dealing with climate change in management of the Sava River floodplains

Results of working group session

What do we know?

- Climate change is reality
- Politicians in the region take the issue seriously
- We need better baseline and monitoring data

Data issues

1) No clear idea what is a 100 yr flood ➔ re-analyse and validate data

2) establish ecological information system ➔ make best use of existing infrastructure (WISE, LIFE, DANUBIS)

3) establish effective monitoring system

➔ define indicators for climate change, promote WFD data collection and analysis

Measures today

Build resilience

- Protection of forest cover (get it rewarded)
- Protection of wetlands
- Enlarging floodplains (carbon sinks, biomass production without fertilisers, water buffer)
- Restoring river bed ➔Ground water level in summer not sinking, stop river bed incision, otherwise no more aluvial forests!
- National programme on irrigation and drainage to be reviewed, effects to be assessed (e.g. Danube-Sava canal)

Measures today

Environmental flow

- Restore rain water to the soil
- Reduce water consumption
- Manage dams, ensuring minimum environmental flow: electricity producers need good data why we need how much water when

Measures today

Planning

- Territorial planning: mapping of floodplain areas as basis
- Flood protection system: not very ecological along the tributaries (strongly regulated) ➔ system to be revised following WFD principles

Measures today

Communication, governance, policies

- Raise awareness among decision makers and public, make it „everybody´s business“,
- Promote trans-disciplinary approach
- promote implementation, e.g. through proper funding mechanisms
- Policy framework: already getting better

Measures today

Communication, governance, policies

- Make goverance strucutre flexible, quick to react
- Climate-proofing of infrastructure projects
- Careful cost-benefit analysis of new hydropower plants