

Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference

Parallel Work Session III

Hydromorphological Changes

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Present status in the Danube basin (I)

- **3 main hydromorphological driving forces**
 - hydropower, navigation, flood defence
- **Navigation affects nearly all parts of the Danube and lower parts of tributaries**
- **Extent of pressures varies between upper, middle and lower Danube basin, e.g.**
 - upper Danube/hydropower and navigation
 - lower Danube/flood defence measures

Present status in the Danube basin (II)

- **> 80% of the Danube is “at risk” or “possibly at risk” due to hydromorphological changes**
- **Large part of the Danube and tributaries provisionally identified as HMWB**
- **Some of the provisionally identified HMWB will be designated as HMWB by 2009**

Future infrastructure projects

- **Planned hydropower plants and expansion of navigation (Trans-European Networks)**
- **Further threaten the Danube and tributaries**
- **May lead to a deterioration of the current status of water bodies affected**
- **Need to minimise impacts and compensate damage through mitigation measures**

Gaps in information and proposed follow-up

- **General lack of data and assessment methods on hydromorphological alterations**
 - Harmonised methods needed
- **Interrelationship between hydromorphology and ecology/biota hardly considered yet**
 - Further research and common methods needed (sampling, ecological classification systems)

Proposed follow-up in restoration

- **Migration pathways needed on barriers along the Danube and tributaries**
- **Restoration of fish habitats needed**
 - make use of experience gained in previous restoration projects

Main questions

- Do you perceive the specific problem area of hydromorphological changes, as presented in the **Roof Report**?
- Are your **priority issues** adequately reflected? Do you have any further concerns?
- What could be **possible approaches** to minimize relevant impacts especially on the transboundary level?

Statements from Stakeholders:

- 1 Jürg Blösch, IAD
- 2 Otto Pirker, Austrian Hydro Power

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