



SLOVAKIA

The draft RBMPs for the Danube³⁰ and the Vistula³¹ (Dunajec & Poprad sub-basins) were assessed in April 2021. Their contents and approaches are very similar, allowing the findings to be presented together. Overall, the draft RBMPs are poor and unambitious on achieving the good status objective, as 24% of water bodies in the Danube and 19% in the Vistula are exempt. The draft RBMPs do not include an inventory of planned development projects relevant to article 4(7) exemptions; and the pre-assessments included in the plans do not address cumulative effect or impacts on biological quality elements. Since 2018, no update has been provided regarding the implementation of measures or their effectiveness under the previous RBMP's PoM. Five of the selected topics are considered in the draft RBMP as Significant Water Management

Issues, and the main findings of the assessment are detailed below:

Removal and adaptation of barriers: The draft RBMPs include a map and a list with location information of river barriers. However, the total listed number of barriers is underestimated. A prioritisation for barrier removal, developed by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, was considered insufficient and a re-laboration will be the task of the Revitalisation and Fishery Expert Groups. Current monitoring focuses only on fish populations and excludes sediment flows. Partly based on the lack of cost-benefit assessments, the majority of measures target the installation of fish ladders (although some are missing or not operational, as shown by figure 15), and only very small barriers are planned to be removed.

30. Reference: SK40000

31. Reference: SK30000



PROTECTED FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS ARE LISTED IN THE DRAFT RBMPs FOR THE DANUBE AND THE VISTULA IN SLOVAKIA, BUT THERE IS NO DEFINITION OF THE WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE GOOD STATUS.

Figure 15: Small hydropower plant Hronská Dubrava built in 2011 on the Hron river. Although the fish pass was part of the construction, it is not operational. The operation of environmental measures is insufficiently dealt with.



River and wetland restoration: Protected freshwater ecosystems are listed in the draft RBMP, but there is no definition of the water quantity and quality requirements needed to achieve good status. A restoration priority list is established based on clear criteria, but not sufficiently incorporated into the PoM, and there is no clear statement in the draft RBMP on the area or number of ecosystems which will be restored. Only very generic references are made to nature-based solutions and natural water retention measures in the context of flood mitigation; their uptake remains unclear. The budget for freshwater ecosystem restoration is not specified.

Water allocation and abstraction control: All significant water abstractions are identified in the draft RBMP, as well as a list of all planned infrastructure impacting ground or surface water flow regimes. However, impact assessments are missing. The information about abstraction control measures is unclear and not specific.

Drought and flood management and climate proofing: The draft RBMP addresses drought management; however, there is only a recommendation for further assessment of ecological flows. On flood management, the description of objectives and requirements, and possible synergies between the RBMP and the Flood Risk Management Plan, are vague.

Economic instruments and budget adequacy: Cost recovery information does not follow a clear methodology and is only provided for sewerage and water treatment, water supply and hydropower. It does not address flood protection, navigation, irrigation and other water abstractions. The figures provided in the draft RBMP refer to remediation infrastructure (98% of costs recovered), water management services (84%) and hydropower (77%). Exemptions to cost recovery are unclear, and not properly justified. The total PoM budget is €1.7 bn, with little detail provided.

		SK	
Topic		Danube	Vistula
1	Removal and adaptation of barriers		
	1. Identification of the problem		
	2. Prioritisation		
	3. Cost-benefit analysis and monitoring plan		
	4. Ambition		
2	Hydropower		
	1. Pressures and sectors		
	2. Inventory of planned projects		
	3. Justification and exemptions		
	4. Criteria and thresholds		
	5. Plans for refurbishment and decommissioning		
3	Inland navigation		
	1. Pressures and sectors		
	2. Inventory of planned projects		
	3. Justification and exemptions		
	4. Criteria and thresholds		
	5. 'Working with nature'		
4	Freshwater ecosystem protection and restoration and NBS		
	1. Protected areas and their status		
	2. Prioritisation		
	3. Restoration targets		
	4. Nature-based solutions (NBS)		
	5. Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)		
	6. Sound financial mechanism		
5	Water allocation and abstraction control		
	1. Identification of significant water abstractions		
	2. Prospects of new water abstractions, related infrastructure and land uses		
	3. Review of abstraction permits		
	4. Abstraction control		
6a	Drought management		
	1. PoM "climate checks"		
	2. Drought management plans		
6b	Flood management		
	1. PoM "climate checks"		
	3. Link with the Floods Directive		
	4. Land use and flood management		
7	Agriculture		
	1. Assessment of pressures		
	2. Gap analysis and measures		
	3. Diffuse pollution		
8	Coal mines (and combustion)		
	1. Assessment of the problem		
	2. Priority hazardous substances		
	3. Climate change		
	4. Justification and exemptions		
	5. Cost recovery		
	6. Liabilities		
9	Economic instruments and adequacy of budget		
	1. Cost recovery calculation for sectors		
	2. Cost recovery rates and exemptions		
	3. Budget		
10	Exemptions		
	1. Number of exemptions		
	2. Gap analysis		
	3. Art. 4(4) and 4(5) exemption justifications		
	4. Article 4(6) exemption justifications		
	5. Article 4(7) exemption justifications		
11	Review and update on the implementation of the previous RBMP		
	1. Implementation of measures		
	2. Effectiveness of measures		

		LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE				
		high	good	moderate	poor	N/A
RELEVANCE	Not applicable or relevant for the RBD					
	This problem/ challenge has already been solved in the second RBMP					
	One of the many problems/challenges in this RBD					
	One of the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI)					
	The main problem/challenge in this RBD					

Table 21: Overview of the performance of the draft 2022-2027 RBMPs Danube and Vistula (Slovakia) on key topics by indicator.