

*Benefits of bilateral
cooperation on transboundary
waters – Romanian experience*

*Ministry of Environment and Forests
Water Resources Management Directorate
Romania
Andreea HÂRCEAG, adviser*

97.8 % of the Romanian surface are included in the Danube River Basin

30% of the Danube River Basin is in Romania



Organization of the water sector in Romania

- Ministry of Environment and Forests – central public authority in water management sector
- National Administration “Apele Romane” - implementing authority of water management policy
- National Institutes (e.g. National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, National Meteorological Administration)

Ministry of Environment and Forests

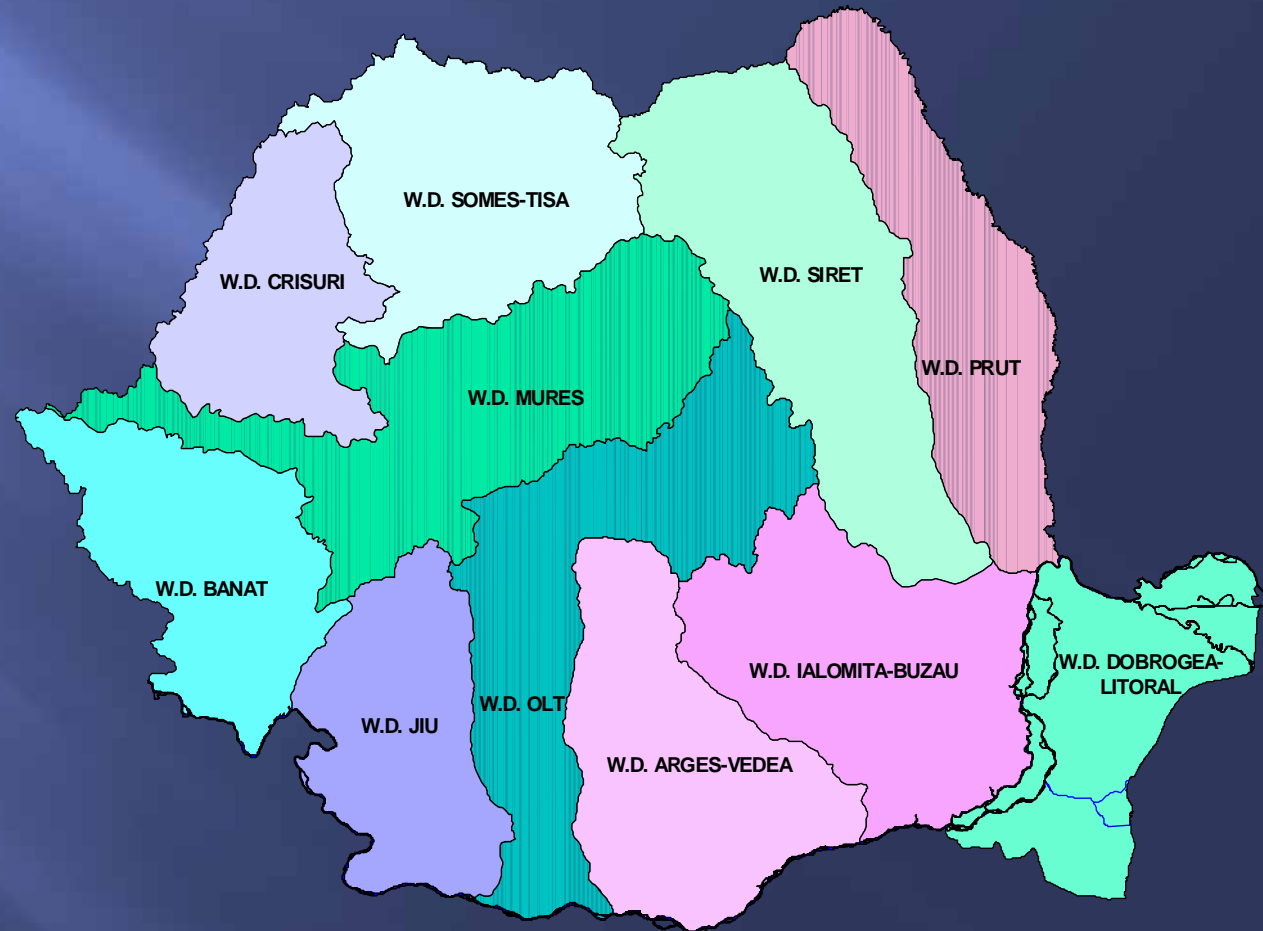
- ✓ Elaborates the environmental protection and water management policies at national level and the specific regulations for these activities.
- ✓ Ensures and coordinates the implementation of the Government's policies on environmental protection and water management, accomplishing the role of state authority for synthesis, coordination and control in these fields.
- ✓ Ensures international cooperation in water field, including transboundary cooperation within the framework of the bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries.
- ✓ Is responsible for the implementation of the Directives related to water, including the Water Framework Directive 60/2000/EC

National Administration "Apele Române"

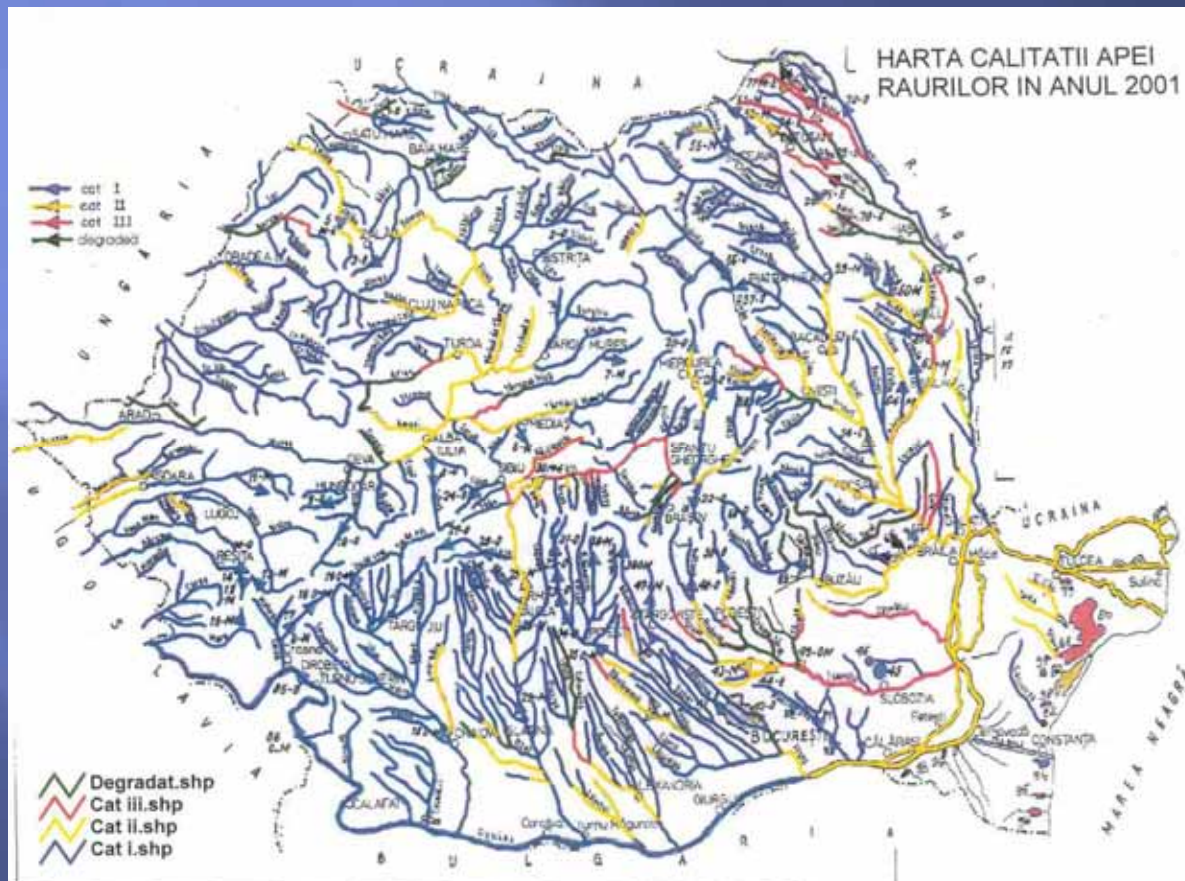
Basic management
unit: river basin
11 river basins
11 river basin
administrations

Activities:

- water resources
management
- water protection against
pollution
- flood control
management
- application of
international water
agreements.



Water Resources



relatively dense hydrographical network

surface waters – inland rivers, natural lakes and reservoirs, Danube river and ground waters

important number of rivers that cross the border; Tisa, Prut and Danube rivers form a part of the Romanian boundary

Water Resources Management

➤ *Collaboration at different levels:*

Bilateral
Regional
International

➤ *Implementation of international/regional acts:*

- *Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992);*
- *Convention on Cooperation for Protection and Sustainable Use of Danube River (Sofia, 1994);*
- *Convention on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest, 1992);*
- *EU Water Directives (eg: Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive);*
- *Bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries.*



Bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries (1)



Main Objectives:

- Exchange of data and information in the field of water management;
- Implementation of the necessary measures with the aim to improve the water quality and to prevent its pollution;
- Emergency situations management (e.g.: floods, accidental pollution, drought), based on specific common regulations;
- Water quality assessment based on common water samples;
- Achievement of joint projects and programmes;
- Achievement of experience exchange in the field of specific activities of water management.



Bilateral cooperation:



Bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries (2)

- ▶ Between Governments or Ministries responsible for water management
- ▶ For each Agreement is set up a Joint Commission (JC) or is appointed a Governmental Commissioner (GC)
- ▶ Annually Session of the JC or GC
- ▶ Protocol of the Session approved by the Government (Governmental Decision) and published in the Official Journal
- ▶ Secretariats of the JC or GC - ensured by the Water Departments (Water Resources Management Directorate –MoEF)
- ▶ Working groups on different fields of water are set up and technical regulations are established and implemented
- ▶ Activities between Sessions – working groups meetings and Working Programme implementation

Bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries (3)

- Joint Commission
 - Chair
 - members/secretary
- Permanent or ad-hoc Subcommissions on:
 - floods
 - water quality
 - hydrometeorology and water (quantity) management
- Experts Groups
(Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova)
- Government Commissioner /Plenipotential
- Deputy Commissioner
- Working Groups at the level of river basin (Tisza, Siret and Prut and the Danube River)
- Experts Groups
(Ukraine)

Bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries – main provisions (4)

- Scope
- Goals
- Definitions
- Objectives
- Basic principles
- Way / forms of co-operation
- Joint Hydrotechnical Commission (Structure, Tasks)
- Exchange of data and information, research, development and co-ordination
- Covering the expenses
- Settlement of disputes
- Final provisions

Bilateral agreements with the neighboring countries (5)

- Cooperation based on specific REGULATIONS:
 - Mutual exchange of meteorological and hydrological data
 - Assessment of water quantity and quality (water samples, monitoring, intercalibration)
 - Mutual agreement/approval of hydro-technical works
 - Procedures to follow in case of accidental pollution
 - Flood protection
 - Joint programme of monitoring for costal waters





Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Ukraine on the cooperation in the transboundary waters field (Galati, 30 September 1997)



- Based on the provisions of the Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (Helsinki, 1992) and the Convention on co-operation for the protection and sustainable use of Danube (Sofia, 1994)

- Principles of cooperation:
 - Maintain and improve the water quality
 - Rational use of water
 - Prevention, control and reduction of water pollution
 - Precautionary and “polluter pays” principles



Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Republic of Moldova regarding the cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of Prut and Danube Rivers, Chisinau, 28 iunie 2010



- Based on the provisions of the Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (Helsinki, 1992) and the Convention on co-operation for the protection and sustainable use of Danube (Sofia, 1994) as well as on the relevant provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive
 - Regulation on operation and maintenance of the Hidrotechnic Knot Stanca-Costesti on Prut river, 1986 – in process of renewing
 - May 2011, Romania (Ordinary meeting of the Joint Commission and December 2011, Republic of Moldova (Extraordinary meeting): agreed on Rules for the Joint Commission, establishment of the subcommissions; in progress the development of specific technical regulations.



**The Agreement between the Government of Romania and
the Government of Republic of Hungary on the
collaboration for the transboundary waters protection and
sustainable use**

(Budapest, 15 September 2003)

- Continues the former Convention (25 June 1986), but takes particularly into account the relevant provisions of the WFD
- Provisions of the Helsinki 1992 Water Convention and 1994 Convention of the Protection of the Danube River
- Objectives (article 3):
 - To achieve “good status” of water
 - To prevent the alteration of water status and to control the pollution
 - To prevent, to limit and to control the transboundary harmful effects (of floods, drought, accidental pollution)
 - To develop the surveillance and assessment systems for water status
 - To ensure the sustainable use of water resources



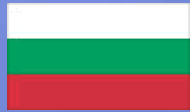
Agreement between the Government of P.R of Romania
(today Romania) and the Government of FPR of
Yugoslavia (today Serbia) concerning water engineering
issues related to boundary and transboundary systems
and watercourse (Bucharest, 7 April 1955)

- Provisions regarding:
 - Water-course regulation
 - Flood control
 - Protection against pollution
 - Hydropower production

- Romania initiated the process of negotiation of a new agreement in 1996
- First round of negotiation in 2010; two more rounds in 2011.



Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Water Management of Romania and Ministry of Water Management of Republic of Bulgaria on the cooperation in water management field - Bucharest, 2004



- Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (Helsinki, 1992), Convention on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of Danube (Sofia, 1994), Convention on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest, 1992);
- EU Legislation
- Regulations on hydrological data and information transmission, on water quality assessment of Danube River in the common Ro-Bg transboundary water bodies – in progress
- Regulations on WFD, exchange of information on accidental pollution of the Black Sea coastal waters, monitoring of coastal waters – approved during the second meeting of the Joint Commission (Bucharest, 17 November 2011)

Bilateral agreements on transboundary waters - importance

- ✓ Avoid and solve problems on transboundary water management
- ✓ Establish clear obligations and rules
- ✓ Develop co-operation on specific regulations related to water quality and quantity
- ✓ Develop the professional relations between the similar regional bodies responsible for transboundary water management
- ✓ Contribute to the protection of people and environment in case of accidental water pollution and floods
- ✓ Contribute to the decreasing of water pollution at regional level; identify and develop studies/projects in the field of water management
- ✓ Ensure the legal basis and institutional framework for the achievement of WFD objectives within the transboundary water basins
- ✓ Provide the framework for harmonizing national interests in the border area

THANK YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION !