Possibilities of transboundary cooperation on the development of sustainable tourism in the Sava River Basin

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Zagreb-HR, May 8, 2018

Samo Grošelj,
Deputy secretary, ISRBC
Framework

- **Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin** (FASRB)

  Sustainable development of the region through **transboundary water cooperation**

- **Particular objectives – to establish:**
  - Sustainable **water management**
  - Sustainable **hazard management** (floods, droughts, accidents, etc.)
  - International regime of **navigation**

- **ISRBC**
  (4 member countries + Montenegro)

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Scope

- **Management plans**
  (river basin, flood risk, sediment, climate adaptation, contingency)

- **Integrated systems**
  (information, forecasting, warning)

- **Economic activities**
  (navigation, river tourism, ...)

- **Policy**
  (harmonization, policies / guidelines, protocols to FASRB)
Tourism development

- Determination of the Parties for development of sustainable tourism within the activities of the ISRBC

*Ministry declaration 2009:*
Perceive great potentials for development of tourism in the SRB in environmentally friendly manner and encourage the Parties to jointly investigate the possibilities in this regard
Tourism development

The Many Faces of Sustainable tourism

Ecotourism

Culturally and/or Socially Conscious Tourism

Recreational Tourism

Geotourism

Nautical Tourism

Rural Tourism

Adventure-based Tourism

Traditional Mass Tourism

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Nautical tourism

- **Cooperation**
  - Ministries responsible for navigation
  - Chambers of Commerce

- **Nautical and tourism guide for the Sava River (2010)**

- **Future activities**
  - Development of Master plan
  - Establishment of infrastructure (e.g. construction of floating platforms)
Nautical tourism

- Promotion
  - Navigation Sisak – Beograd (Sava Day 2007)
  - Events in the cities along the Sava River
Eco-tourism

- Combination of ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ approach
- Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines (2013)
- Project „Sava Ecotour” (2014/15)
- Future activities
  - Master plan
  - Guidance implementation
  - Promotion
Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines

• **Purpose**
  - *Provide expert contribution* to unified approach to sustainable development of ecotourism in wetland areas of international importance;
  - **Outline the scope of work** for Master plan for development of ecotourism in the SRB

• **Scope**
  - sustainable management at different policy levels (international, national and local);
  - technical measures to be implemented
  - stakeholder involvement
  - determinations of funding possibilities

*Link: Guidelines*
Sava ECOTOUR

- Project title:
  - *Transboundary Ecotourism Development using Sava River Basin as a showcase*

- Initiated by ISRBC and REC

- Applicants:
  - Agency for development of SMEs of Srbac Municipality, APIS (*Lead Applicant*)
  - Public Institution Lonjsko Polje Nature Park
  - Nature conservation movement Sremska Mitrovica, SNR Zasavica
  - Public institution Ljubljana moors park

- Main objective:
  - to **implement and connect** wetlands alongside the Sava river through eco-tourism in order to increase the touristic value of wetlands.

- Implemented in 2014/2015 through TAF
Recreational tourism

- **Rafting, kayaking and canoeing** *(Sava Day)*
- **Cycling** *(Sava Day)*

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Culturally and/or Socially Conscious Tourism

- Promotion of local habits/crafts/gastronomy (Sava Day)
- Sava Youth Parliament (Sava Day)
Sustainable tourism development

• **Meetings at ministries for tourism in the Parties organized** (Nov.-Dec. 2016)
  – Promote further regional cooperation

• **Roundtable** (Zagreb, 7 Mar. 2017)
  – Establishment of permanent mechanism for cooperation
  – Identification of transboundary projects

• **Joint statement On regional cooperation on development of sustainable tourism in the Sava River Basin** signed (Bled, 15 June 2017)

• **Establishment of TTG** (ISRBC Decision-15/17)
Sustainable tourism development

• JOINT ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAVA RIVER BASIN
  – accepted by the ISRBC in June 2017
  – prepared with support of the World Bank
  – a milestone for integrated river basin management and socio-economic development in the region,
  – **Priority Area 4: Sustainable river tourism**
    • **Action 4.1:** Development of a _Sava River Nautical Way from Brežice in Slovenia to Belgrade in Serbia_ and integration with other sustainable tourism products, actions and activities.
    • **Action 4.2:** Development of _Transnational Sava River Bike Lane_ and integration with other sustainable tourism products, actions and activities.
    • **Action 4.3:** Promotion of _eco-tourism in the Sava River Ramsar sites and other protected areas_ and integration with other sustainable tourism products, actions and activities.
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