

Factsheet

Bottleneck: Bulgaria

Transboundary Bulgaria - Romania

Name: Improvement of the navigation on the Danube River in joint Bulgarian-Romanian sections – Belene and Bathin

Danube Km: 530-520 (Bathin) and 576-560 (Belene)

Budget: 138 million EUR, which will be financed by EU funds starting in 2007

Final Beneficiary: Bulgarian Ministry of Transport

WWF Recommendations

It is WWF's position that the precautionary principle must be applied, and no new projects for inland navigation on the Danube River be initiated until a basin-wide strategic environmental assessment be carried out. This ensures that no further or new negative ecological impacts occur. All potential local and basin-wide impacts must be assessed prior to project implementation.

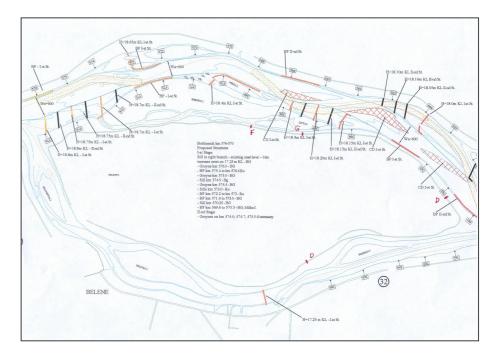
Background

This project is based on the results of a PHARE Study to improve navigation on the Danube in Bulgaria and Romania (1999).

Project details

The objective of this project is to improve the parameters of the navigation fairway in the specified critical sections.

More specifically, this means a depth of 2.50 m under "0" conditional water



level for both river sections; this will ensure minimum a 3.50 m draw depth at low water navigational levels. In addition, the width of the navigation route will be 180 m.

The project involves the following measures:

- Surveying activities topographic survey, exploration and geology for model researches, drilling, etc.
- Construction of river groynes, sidearm cut-off for the purpose of regulating of water flows, riverbank fortification, and dredging.

Conflict

The lower section of the Danube that makes up the Bulgarian-Romanian border is one of the most natural stretches along the whole river.

The project location in Belene is next to the Persina Island, which is part of a Nature Park.

Project status

Preliminary studies have already been carried out. The project, which is foreseen to begin in 2007, should take four years to be completed.

Contact

For more information about this project, please contact:

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