

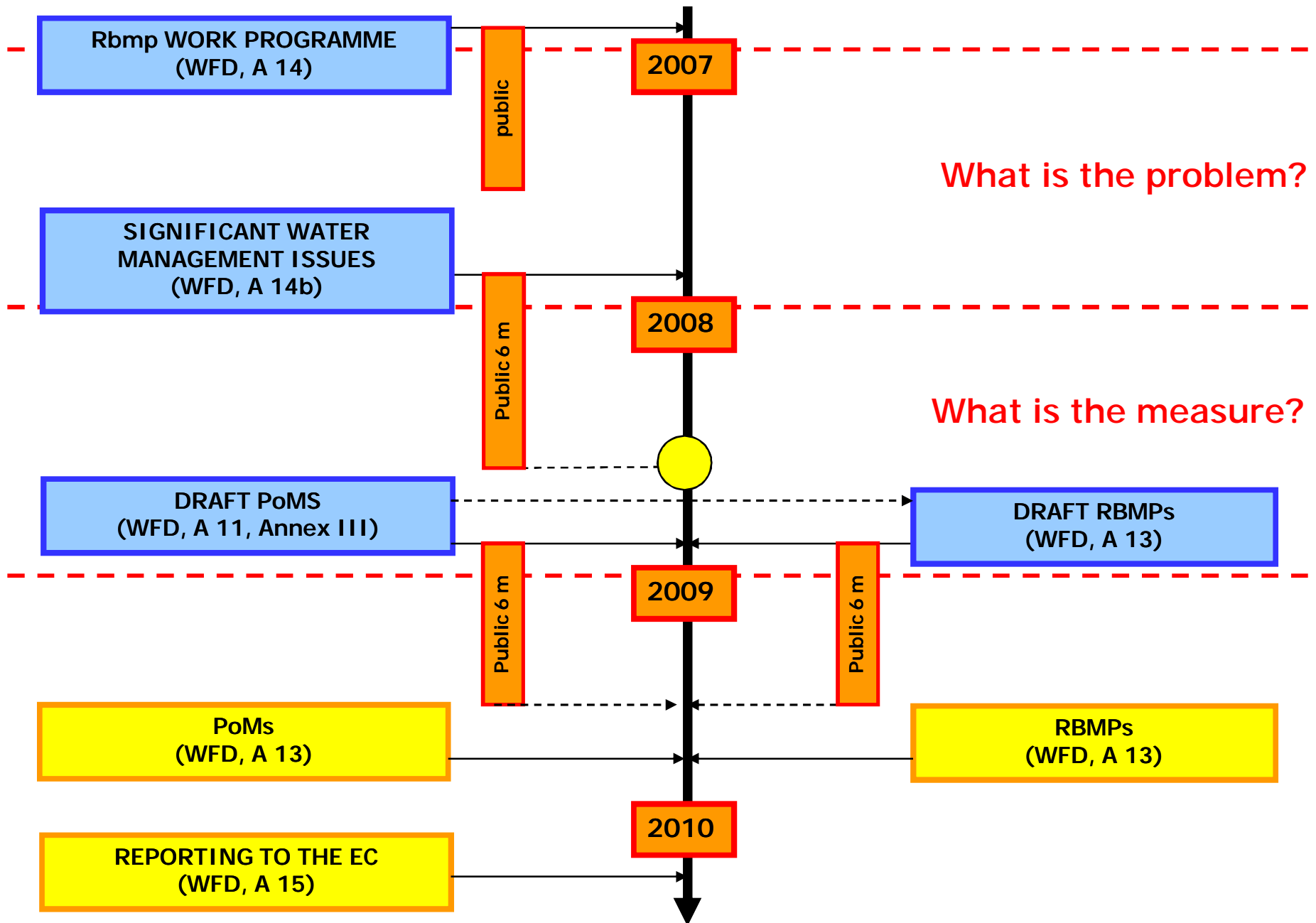


# Drava River Vision Declaration: Follow Up Actions

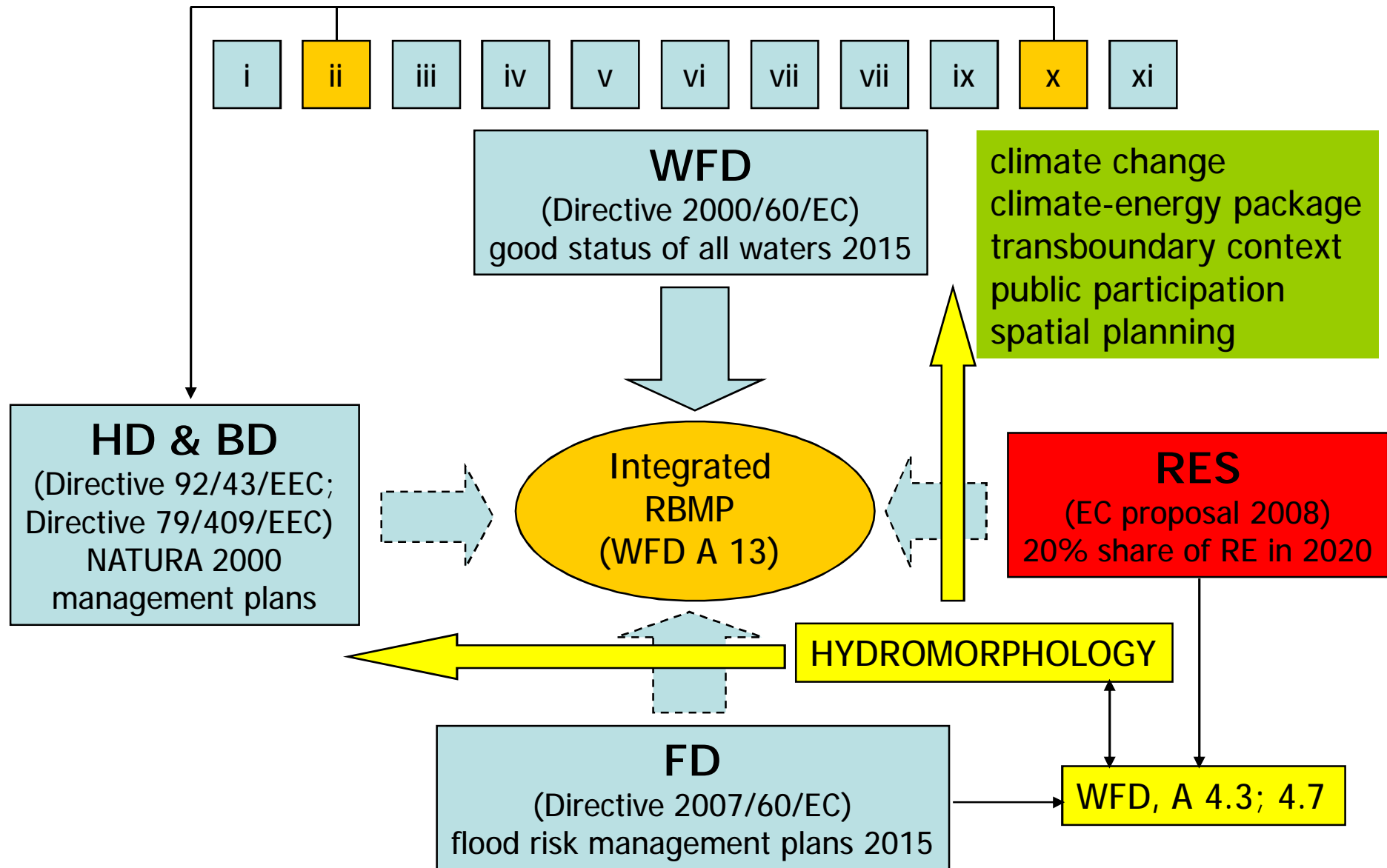
## Panel Discussion

Drava River Vision Symposium  
Maribor, 23-25 September 2008

# the RBM planning process (WFD)



# the integrative RBM planning process



## key questions to the Symposium

- What we are already doing in the planning process?
- What can we do better?
- What else do we need to do?
- What else can we do?
- Is something missing in the planning process?
- What are the best practices?
- Who else is involved in the process?
- What would be the follow up?

# The Drava River Vision

# Declaration

1. Model for integrated implementation of EU policies.
2. To enhance flood protection through the improvement of flood warning systems and through increased information exchange.
3. To enhance flood protection through protection and restoration of water retention areas along the Drava River.
4. To continue and further develop restoration of the Drava River and its floodplains.
5. To maintain and further develop the Drava river as an "ecological backbone".

6. To re-establish the ecological connectivity of the Drava River for migratory fish.
7. To establish the Drava River as a cross-border recreation area.
8. To use opportunities for the Drava River to be a connecting lifeline for different nations.
9. To undertake integrated river basin management rather than fragmented sectoral measures.
10. To undertake further development of the Drava River area in partnership with its resident human populations.

## Session 1

## Nature Conservation

1. Status of protected areas in the Drava River Basin.
2. Future development of protected area network in the Drava River Basin.

## key messages of the session 1 nature conservation

- Nature Conservation is a key sector/partner in the integrated RBM
  - 55% hydroelectrical power use
  - 45% free flowing river
  - 90% loss of gravel banks
  - 2m deepening of the river bed
- Problems (loss of sedimentation, dynamics, space) need to be better addressed in seeking solutions for sustainable RBM

## key messages of the session 1 nature conservation

- Nature conservation and water sectors have to work together with a common aim
- We need to enhance involvement of other sectors (eg. forest sector, municipalities, NGOs)
- Funding opportunities (Natura2000 can help in co-funding river restoration and securing flood retention areas)
- Implementation: national and EU legal requirements - transboundary and cross sectoral cooperation

# key messages of the session 1

## nature conservation

- Building on existing structures (eg. EU obligations for river basin management plans can be facilitated by including Natura2000 obligations and management)
- Natura2000 sites, as long as not transferred into national legislation, are not yet “protected areas”
- In some countries river basin management plans cannot be approved without biodiversity (Natura2000) components
- Existing protected area network in the Drava River Basin form a sufficient structure for designating a transboundary MAB-Biosphere Reserve – a unique opportunity now!

key messages of the session 1  
nature conservation

**“Conserving nature is not only for protection purposes but also to enjoy it!”**

## Session 2

# Hydropower Utilisation

1. Existing hydropower infrastructure in the Drava River Basin.
2. Future hydropower infrastructure developments in the Drava River Basin.

## key messages of the session 2

### hydropower utilisation

- Hydropower is one of the main drivers impacting river ecology
- Measures to minimize impacts of existing plants are feasible and on the way (fish bypass, ecological minimum flow, habitat restoration,...)
- Further development of new plants: conflict of interests do exist (Habitat Directive, WFD, Renewables Dir.)
  - No general (automatic) hierarchy of interests
  - Ecological requirements have to be taken into account much more than before

## key messages of the session 2 hydropower utilisation

- To improve understanding and acceptance - discussion with HP-Stakeholder should start at a very early stage
- Transparent decision tools/ planning mechanisms are needed to ensure sustainable water management of river basins

## key messages of the session 2 hydropower utilisation

- Creative potential has to be activated to find win-win-solutions – environmentally sound way of hydropower use has to be ensured
- Implementing WFD-River Basin Management Plan (agreed by the public) has to contain all of these considerations and aspects
- Awareness on ecologically sensitive river stretches is essential for hydropower planners and decisionmakers

## Session 3

## Flood Protection

1. Existing flood protection infrastructure in the Drava River Basin.
2. Future flood protection infrastructure developments in the Drava River Basin.

## key messages of the session 3 flood protection

- sustainable flood management is applied to whole length of the river, not fragmented to the sections of the river
- historical data shall be taken into consideration when setting up flood management vision
- river bed stability is an important part of flood management
- flood forecasting is the most important factor for the flood defence, consequently the improvement of transboundary forecasting methods is needed

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# The Drava River Vision

# Follow Up Actions

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1. solutions for enhanced flood protection, low water and drought management with non structural adaptation measures for the international DRB (DRV Declaration, point 2, 3, 4)

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2. development of criteria for sustainable use of renewable resources utilisation in the international DRB (DRV Declaration 6, 9)

## follow up actions

1. solutions for enhanced flood protection, low water and drought management with non structural adaptation measures for the international DRB (DRV Declaration, point 2, 3, 4)
2. development of criteria for sustainable use of renewable resources utilisation in the international DRB (DRV Declaration 6, 9)
3. communication strategy for the international DRB (DRV Declaration 1, 10)

solutions for enhanced flood protection, low water  
and drought management with non structural  
adaptation measures  
for the international DRB

- nomination of a core group of members from 5 riparian states
- cooperation with the expert groups of the ICPDR and the ISRBC
- workshop in spring 2009 on the strategy for the EU funds project proposal (INTERREG)

## development of criteria for sustainable use of renewable resources in the international DRB

- nomination of a core group of members from 5 riparian states
- expert meeting for the development of the strategy

## communication strategy for the international DRB

- nomination of a core group
- authorities, educational institutions, business sector
- cooperation with the expert groups of the ICPDR and the ISRBC
- workshop in spring 2009 on the strategy for the EU funds project proposal (LIFE+)

**Thank You  
for Your Contribution  
to the Drava River Vision Symposium!**