Large Rivers Vol. 16, No. 1–2
Arch. Hydrobiol. Suppl. 158/1–2, p. 7–28, September 2005

Scientific concepts and implementation of sustainable transboundary river basin management. Summary report on the 35th IAD-Conference, April 19–23, 2004, in Novi Sad (Serbia and Montenegro)

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With 5 figures and 2 tables in the text

Abstract: The 35th Conference of the International Association for Danube Research (IAD) in Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro, focused on the general topic “Scientific concepts and implementation of sustainable transboundary river basin management”. About 130 scientists from 15 countries attended the conference and 92 contributions were published in the scientific proceedings (Teodorović et al. 2004). This article provides a review and synopsis of the conference topic and proceedings, and comments on the role of IAD in Danube River Basin management. Implementation and scaling are stressed, and new paradigms are evaluated in the context of water and other natural cycles in particular.

Key words: Catchment approach, limnological concepts, sustainability, transboundary, public awareness, implementation, Danube.

Introduction

The 35th IAD-Conference aimed at elucidating the main topic “Scientific concepts and implementation of sustainable transboundary river basin management”. While earlier IAD-Conferences presented mostly contributions to the classical biological and limnological disciplines, and the 33rd and 34th IAD-Conferences focused mainly on floodplain conservation and biodiversity (Bloesch 2002a, 2003), we concentrated on transdisciplinary riverine concepts that provide the scientific basis of a sustainable transboundary river basin management. Despite the fact that these concepts are well developed and river basin management widely recognized and accepted by governmental bodies, a significant and obvious lack of implementa-

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0945-3784/05/0158-0007 $ 5.50
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DOI:10.1127/lr/16/2005/7
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