



Danube Day Statement

The Danube River Basin is home to more than 80 million people and the UN community has been involved in and supported activities related to the protection and prudent use of the Danube River since 1992.

During these years Governments and the International community have worked together to improve and maintain the living conditions of the inhabitants of the Danube River Basin, and promote the sound use of the river's natural resources for drinking supply, agriculture, industry, fishery, tourism, power generation and navigation.

To facilitate these goals, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through grants from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has focused on assisting in capacity building of national and local governments, communities and NGO's of the Danube countries, supporting policy development, legislative changes, strategic planning and institutional strengthening.

The ongoing UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project facilitate the further implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention in developing institutions, tools, policies and pilot projects and the current project provides a framework for coordination, dissemination and replication of successful practices for further investment projects in the Danube and Black Sea region.

The environmental challenges cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. The UN community is therefore proud to have been able to contribute to strengthening the capacity of the Danube countries to address these challenges at global, national and community levels, seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through various projects.

Ten years have passed since the signing of the International Convention of the Protection of the Danube River Basin. This Convention has brought a range of impressive results already, we, at UNDP, are particularly proud that our contribution has increased the capacities of the people and the governments of the Danube countries to handle future environmental challenges in the Basin.

We wish you all a successful Danube Day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalman Mizsei', is located below the text.

Kalman Mizsei
UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS

June 29, 2004