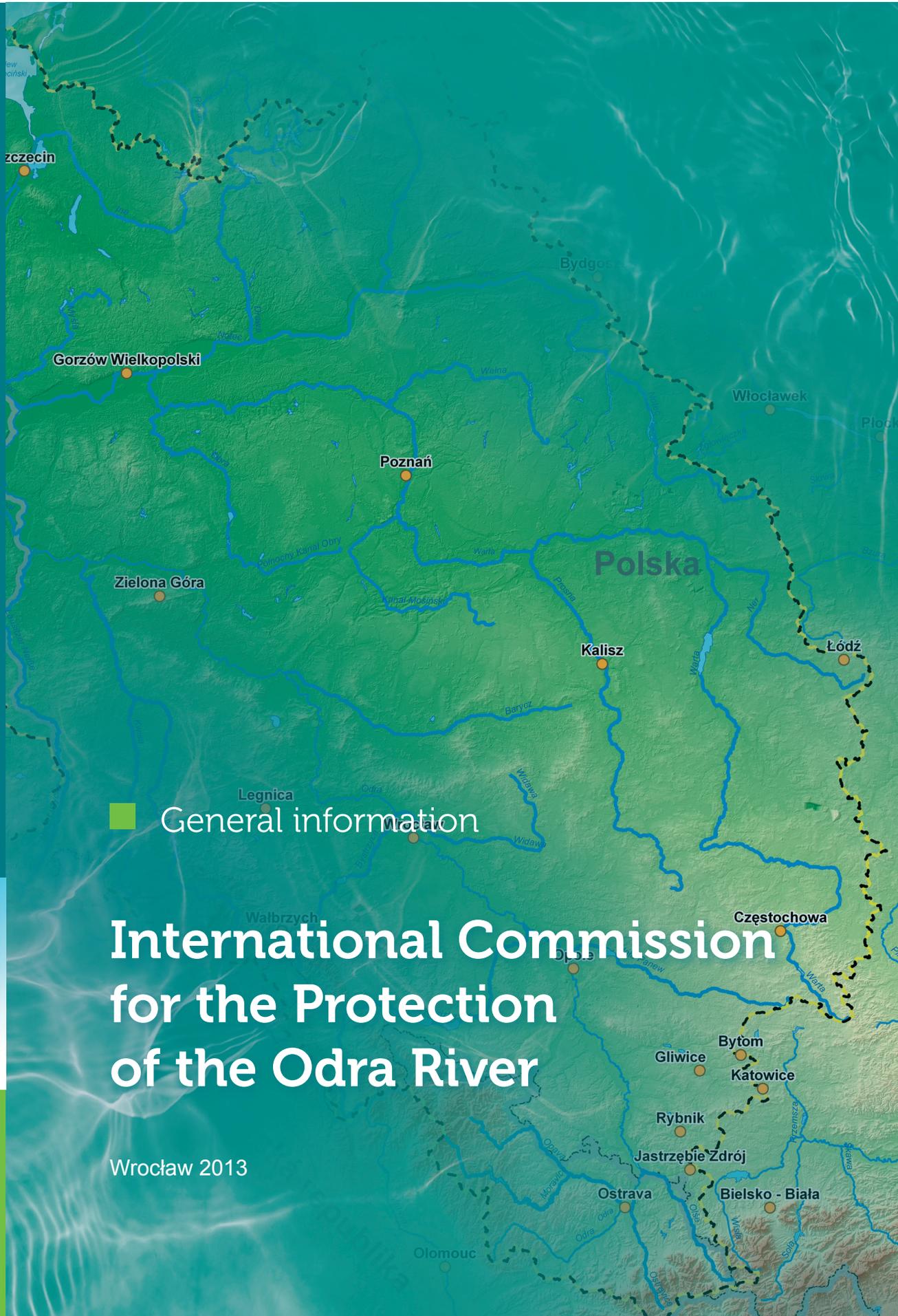




Międzynarodowa Komisja Ochrony Odry przed Zanieczyszczeniem
Internationale Kommission zum Schutz der Oder gegen Verunreinigung
Mezinárodní komise pro ochranu Odry před znečištěním



■ General information

International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River

Wrocław 2013



Table of contents:



Introduction.....	3
General information on the Odra River Basin District	5
Objectives of the ICPO.....	8
ICPO structure.....	12
ICPO organizational structure	14
Working Groups.....	15
Competent authorities	17
Addresses.....	19
Publications	21
History	22
Other activities.....	31

Introduction

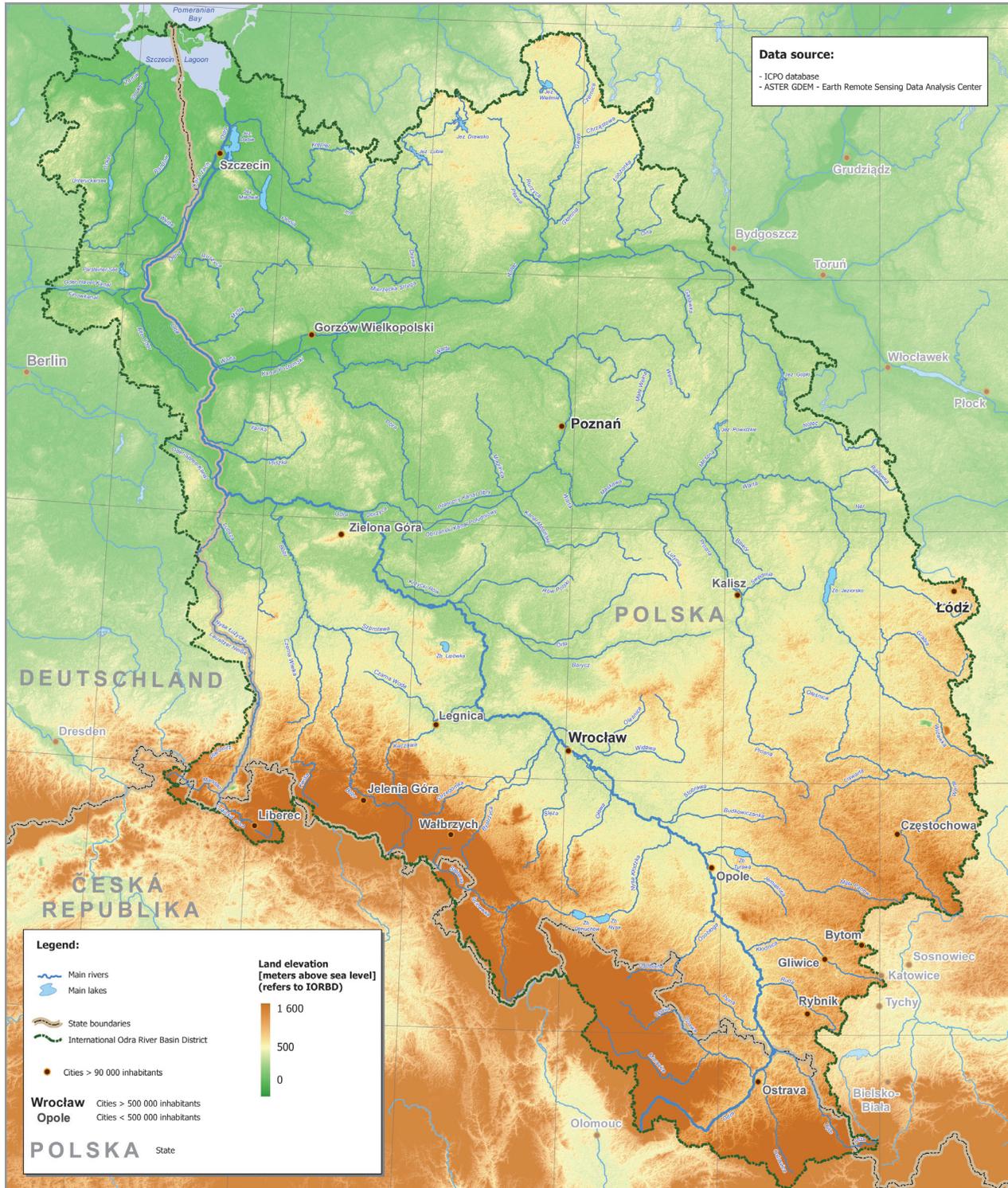


The name of the “International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River”, is rather unfamiliar to some people. Those who come across this unidentifiable name, tend to ask themselves a question of: “What does it exactly do?”.

The main purpose of this brochure is to provide answers to both, the above mentioned question, as well as those concerning the ICPO’s responsibilities. It briefly sums up the history of ICPO, its aims and objectives along with other fields of activity. We hope that the brochure will broaden the awareness regarding the environment protection and encourage people to further explore the issue.

We also have confidence that in terms of ICPO’s impact on improving the condition of International Odra River Basin, the Commission will become as widely recognized organization dealing with the issue of environmental protection, as for example Greenpeace or World Wildlife Fund.

International Odra River Basin District – Physical Map



General information on the Odra River Basin District



The Odra River is 854.3 km long with 741.9 km in the territory of the Republic of Poland. Due to its regulation, the length of the river run was shortened by more than 20% in relation to its original length. The entire Odra River Basin District is 122.512 km² (118.861 km² excluding the Szczecin Lagoon), whereas the river's annual average runoff to the Baltic Sea amounts to 18.5 billion m³. The above-mentioned numbers rank the Odra River as the sixth longest tributary of the Baltic Sea. The International Odra River Basin District also encompasses the Szczecin Lagoon along with the catchment areas of the watercourses flowing directly into the lagoon, Świna Strait along with the eastern part of the Usedom Island and the western part of Wolin Island, excluding the Peene Strait and Dziwna Strait. 87.6% which amounts to 107.274 km² of the International Odra River Basin District is found in Poland, 5.9% which equals to 7.217 km² is in the Czech Republic, whereas 6.5% which amounts to 8.021 km² is found in the Federal Republic of Germany. The above figures also take into account the area of the Szczecin Lagoon with a totals of 3.651 km², of which 1.217 km² is within the boundaries of the Republic of Poland, whereas 2.434 km² in the territory of the

Federal Republic of Germany. The source of the river is in the Czech Republic in the Mountains Oderské vrchy, on the top of the hill Fidlův Kopec at the altitude of 634 m above sea level in the south-east part of the central range, and ends its run flowing into the waters of the Szczecin Lagoon. For the first 47 km, the Odra River has a character of a mountain stream. The drop of the river from Ostrava to the mouth of the Warta is about 27 cm/km, however below Schwedt it drops under 5 cm/km. 22% of the Odra River Basin District is located 300 meters above sea level, 54% – between 100–300 m above sea level, 24% – below 100 m. The Odra River is navigable and it forms a waterway from Kędzierzyn-Koźle (including the Gliwice Canal that starts in the city) down to the Szczecin Lagoon. 24 weirs are found along the distance of 186 km from Kędzierzyn-Koźle to Brzeg Dolny. This stretch of the Odra River is called “canalized”. Another weir is under construction below Brzeg Dolny in Malczyce, below which the Odra River has a character of a free-flowing river, which is without any hydraulic structures.

The most important left tributaries of the Odra River are: the Opava, the Nysa Kłodzka, the Oława, the Bystrzyca, the Kaczawa, the Bóbr and the Nysa Łużycka/Lužická Nisa/Lausitzer Neisse (*Lusatian Neisse*). The most important right tributaries are: the Ostravice, the Olza/Olše, the Kłodnica, the Mała Panew, the Stobrawa, the Widawa, the Barycz and Warta, which is the largest tributary of the Odra River, constituting about 40% of the average Odra River flow. The Warta River flows into the Odra River on its 617.6 km in Kostrzyń. The catchment area of the Warta equals 54.000 km², which constitutes about half the area of the Odra River Basin District contributing to the asymmetry typical for this catchment – vast right and small left-side area. Particularly important is the Lusatian Neisse, with the length of 252 km and the catchment area of 4.395 km². The river flows into the Odra River on the 542 km of the river's run. Its catchment area, similarly to the Odra River, is within the boundaries of three countries: Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic.

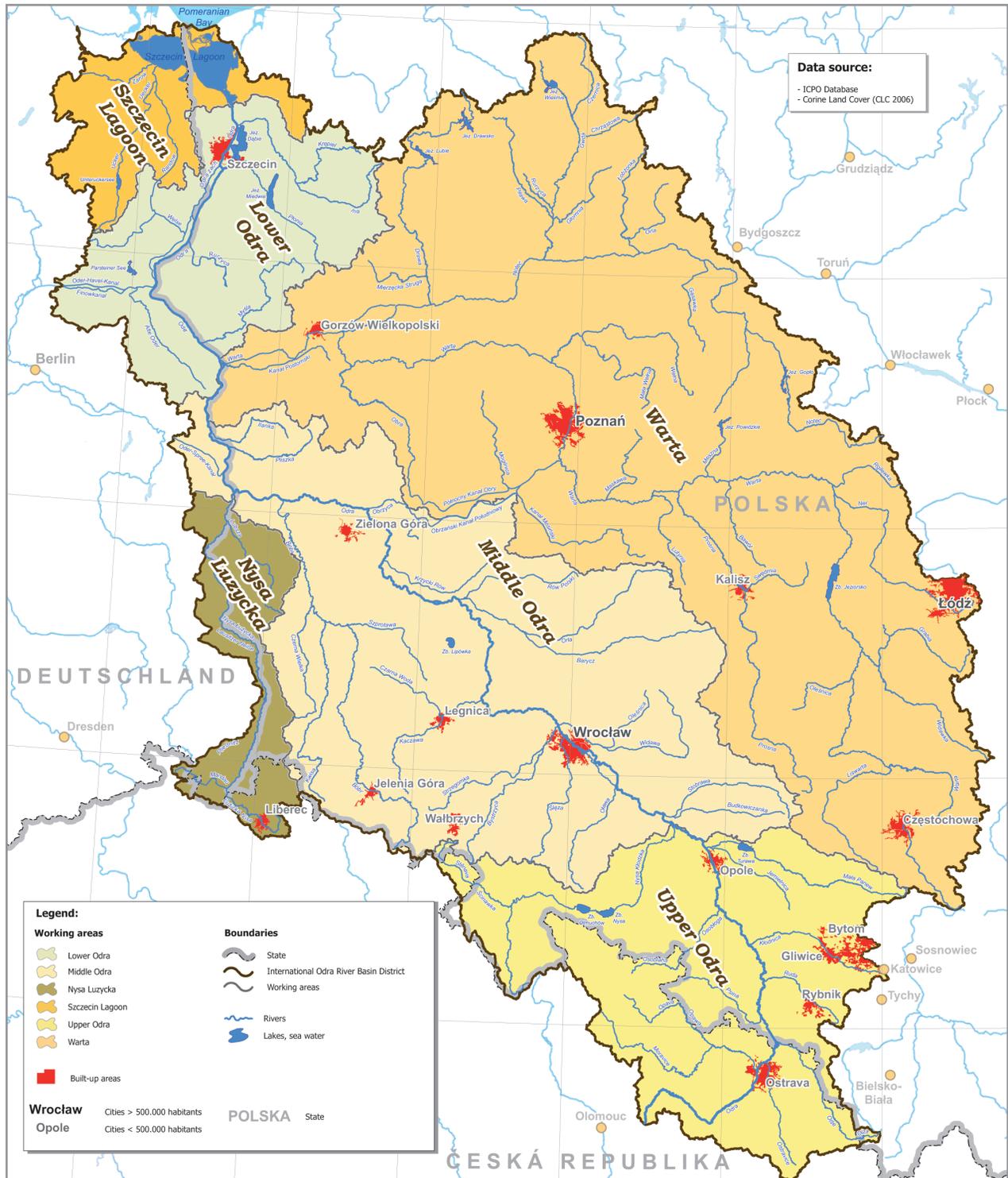


The climate of the International Odra River Basin District is increasingly more influenced by the continental factors from the west of Europe, thus it is known as the temperate continental climate. The average annual precipitation in most parts of the International Odra River Basin District varies between 500–600 mm, however in the mountainous areas it is between 1000–1400 mm. There are unique natural habitats along the Odra River Valley and the slopes of the river's proglacial valley. Moreover, numerous plant and animal species protected under international conventions, currently found in the Red List of Vulnerable and Endangered Species in Poland, as well as rare species under legal protection are found there. Nearly the entire Odra River Valley has been studied to determine if it meets the requirements of the Natura 2000 for natural sanctuaries. Consequently, about 1.700 km² (nearly 47% of the catchment area) meet those requirements.

The International Odra River Basin District has been divided into 6 sub-areas to make the cooperation between countries within the catchment area develop smoothly. Therefore: the stretch from the source of the Odra River up to the mouth of the Nysa Kłodzka and its basin is called the **Upper Odra River**, farther down to the mouth of Warta – **Middle Odra River**. Next areas – **the Nysa Luzycka** and **the Warta** – encompass the range accordingly: the basin of the Nysa Luzycka and the Warta basin. The area of **Lower Odra River** is a stretch from the mouth of the Warta to Trzebież, whereas the coastal waters along with the Szczecin Lagoon and the catchment area of the streams running into the Szczecin Lagoon is the area of **Szczecin Lagoon**.



Odra River Basin District – Overview Map



0 25 50 Km

Scale 1:1 500 000

Polish National Reference System 1992



The International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River (ICPO) is one of international commissions functioning in Europe that deal with rivers and lakes, whose catchment areas fall within the territories of more than one country. The ICPO was established on the basis of a Convention signed in Wrocław by the Governments of the Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and by the European Community on 11 April 1996. The Convention entered into force on 26 April 1999. As a natural consequence of EU accession of Poland and the Czech Republic on 1 May 2004, the European Community resigned from its ICPO membership. According to the Convention, the ICPO is financed by the contributions paid by all Contracting Parties.

Objectives of the ICPO

1

Coordination and implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Odra River Basin District



On 23 October 2000 the European Parliament and the European Council adopted a document called in short the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The directive sets a framework for common operation in the field of water policies and is a breakthrough in a comprehensive and effective water protection in the European Union, while being beneficial for both humans and nature. The directive puts in order, standardizes and joins the protection of all waters, beginning with ground waters, through lakes and flowing waters, to transitional and coastal waters. Therefore, many European legal regulations pertaining to the protection of waters were joined in one directive and supplemented with modern aspects of water protection. The following were implemented: integrated river basin management model, river basin management plans and programs of measures, which shall result in obtaining good ecological status of waters. It is crucial that the directive is implemented within the catchment areas in a coordinated way by all countries located in or around them. The goal of the Water Framework Directive is to reach until 2015 a good ecological status of waters throughout the entire European Union.





Until the Water Framework Directive entered into force, water management and protection were regulated by series of legal acts of the EU member countries. The acts partially overlapped or were partially supplemented by legal acts of the European Community. The International Odra River Basin District stretches between the territories of the Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. Therefore the countries agreed that the coordination of the 2000/60/EC directive implementation shall be within the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River. The fundamental idea of the Water Framework Directive is to manage the waters within the entire catchment area, regardless of administrative or national boundaries. Consequently, the catchment area was subdivided into six major areas, each comprising of one or several partial catchment areas. The aim of the subdivision was to improve the cooperation when implementing the Water Framework Directive on a regional level among the ICPO member states.

Coordination and implementation of the Flood Directive in the Odra River Basin District

2

One cannot remain indifferent towards catastrophes such as floods that in recent years have become more commonplace. Ever-increasing human population and consequently loss of natural habitats make these natural disasters more severe. Therefore, a Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007, commonly known as the Flood Directive, was established in 2007. Its main aim is to reduce flood damages and establish “a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks”.

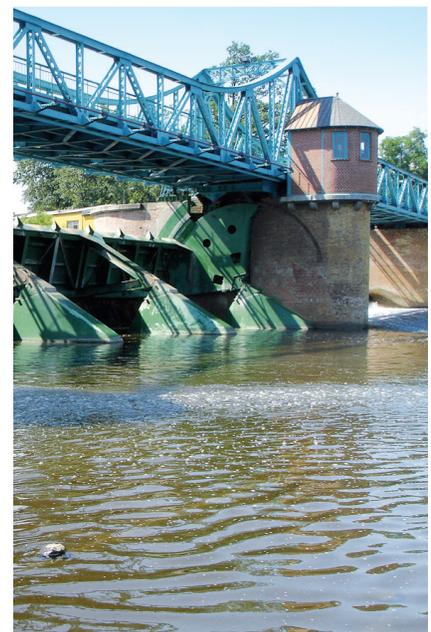
In ICPO, a **working group G2 “Flood”** is in charge of the **Flood Directive implementation** in the International Odra River Basin District.

The Flood Directive defines the frameworks for the implementation stages:

1. Preliminary flood risk assessment for river basin districts formulated by 22 December 2011 by Member States.

G2 “Flood” has already prepared this document, together with four maps depicting, among other places, areas especially vulnerable to flood events and the areas where flood has occurred in the past. The report on preliminary flood risk assessment is submitted to the European Commission. It describes the main characteristics of the International Odra River Basin District, flood risk assessment, assigns the areas where the flood event is probable and defines the further actions planned in regard to the Flood Directive implementation.

2. By 22 December 2013 Member States will draw up flood hazard maps and flood risk maps.
3. By 22 December 2015 on the basis of these maps there will be drawn up flood risk management plans.



Preventing the pollution of the Odra River and the Baltic Sea by contaminants



For centuries rivers have been a source of life-giving water. We all use this priceless and irreplaceable resource, therefore continuous elimination of the most harmful substances that contaminate waters and organisms is so important.

The ICPO prepares surveys of point sources of pollution and estimates water pollution, proposes limit values for the discharge of waste waters as well as water quality requirements. It proposes action programs for the reduction of pollution, safeguards to prevent and deal with unforeseen pollution incidents and establishes a uniform warning and alert system.

The Commission coordinates the implementation of the Water Framework Directive that, among other things, includes a list of chemical substances that pose a threat to the environment and are often harmful to humans and other living organisms. The substances are called priority hazardous substances. The directive obliges the member countries to limit the concentration of the elements and chemical compounds down to their neutral levels, consequently to the improvement of the condition of waters.

Achievement of the most natural aquatic and littoral ecosystems possible with the corresponding species diversity

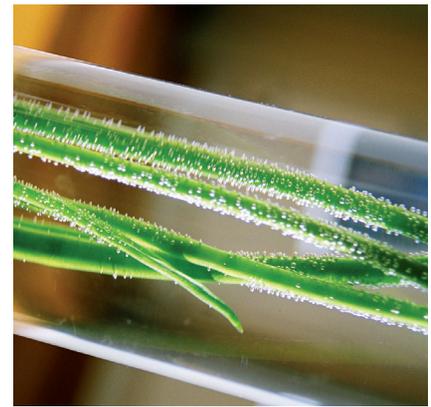


River ecosystems are one of the least human-altered habitats in Europe. The Odra River and most of its tributaries are important ecological passageways with a relatively low level of natural environment alterations (in relation to the most of the EU rivers). There are seven national parks within the area of the Odra River Basin District. In the territory of Poland they are: Karkonosze National Park (Karkonoski Park Narodowy), Table Mountains National Park (Park Narodowy Gór Stołowych), Wielkopolska National Park (Wielkopolski Park Narodowy), Drawno National Park (Drawieński Park Narodowy),

Ujście Warty National Park (Park Narodowy Ujście Warty) and Wolin National Park (Woliński Park Narodowy); in the territory of Germany it is the Unteres Odertal National Park (Nationalpark Unteres Odertal). Moreover, within the Odra River Basin District there are also landscape parks, nature preserves and other forms of nature sanctuaries. Many areas, especially in the river valleys, are intended for protection within a framework of the NATURA 2000.

The ICPO documents the ecological importance of various biotope elements, including the eco-morphology, and drafts proposals for the maintenance, restoration and protection of aquatic and littoral ecosystems. Moreover, by proposing water quality objectives, it takes into account the intended conditions for the protection of the Baltic Sea and the aquatic and littoral ecosystems.

Due to the trans-border character of the Odra River valley, it is obvious that the environment protection of one of the important ecological waterways of Central Europe must have an international character.

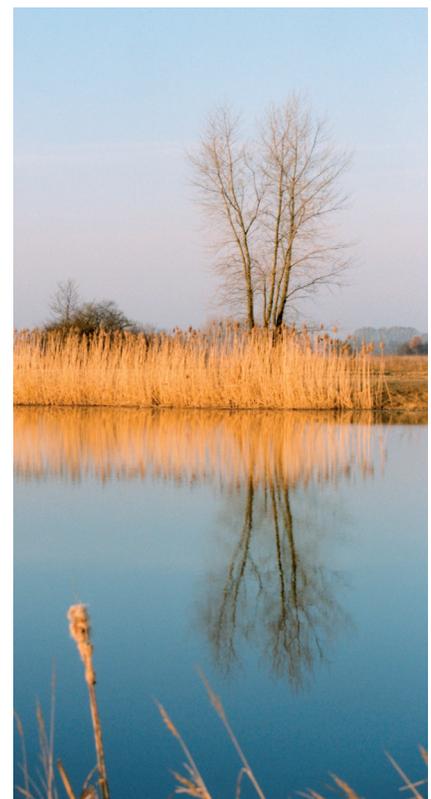


Permitting utilization of the Odra River, in particular the production of drinking water from bank filtrate and the use of its water and sediments in agriculture

5

Poland has a mean annual water resources per capita of approximately 1.600 m³, almost three times less than the mean value for Europe. In relation to Europe, Poland and the Czech Republic and some regions in Germany are countries especially poor in water resources. However the demand for water – especially in agriculture – has been sharply increasing, creating a situation where lack of clean water is becoming an increasingly greater challenge.

The ICPO proposes joint measurement and analysis programs to demonstrate the quality and quantity of the waters and the quality of the sediments. It develops standardized methods for the classification of the waters, discusses planned and existing types of utilization of the waters which may have important transboundary repercussions. The Commission promotes cooperation on scientific research projects and the exchange of information, in particular on the state of modern technologies to prevent and reduce water pollution.



ICPO structure



Main decisions of the ICPO are made during the plenary meetings. The work of the ICPO is conducted in its working groups, which are composed of experts appointed by each delegation. For the purpose of achieving specific objectives, the working groups draw up action programs which are submitted by the Commission to the Contracting Parties as proposals and recommendations.

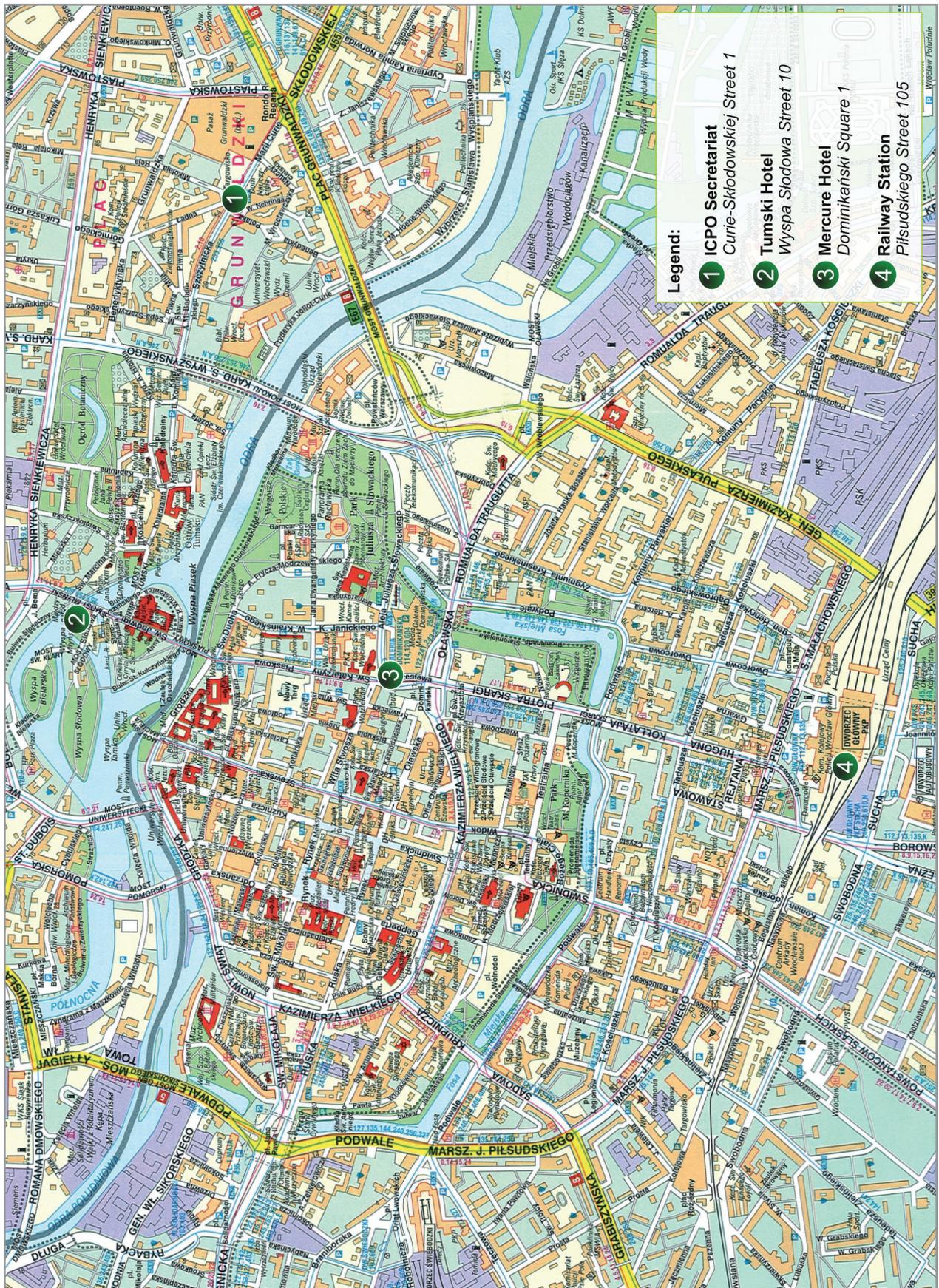
The chairmanship of the Commission is held by each Contracting Party delegation in turn for a three-year term. The delegation holding the chairmanship for a given period designates the Chairman of the Commission for that period. The Chairman represents the Commission and chairs ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Commission and Heads of Delegations meetings.



The ICPO Secretariat has its headquarters in Wrocław. It was established to realize and help with tasks defined in the ICPO Convention. The Secretariat supports the Commission, the Chairman of the Commission, the Heads of Delegations and the working groups in their tasks, it organizes meetings within the framework of the Commission, handles the circulation of correspondence among the Commission members and provides translations as well as interpretation during meetings.



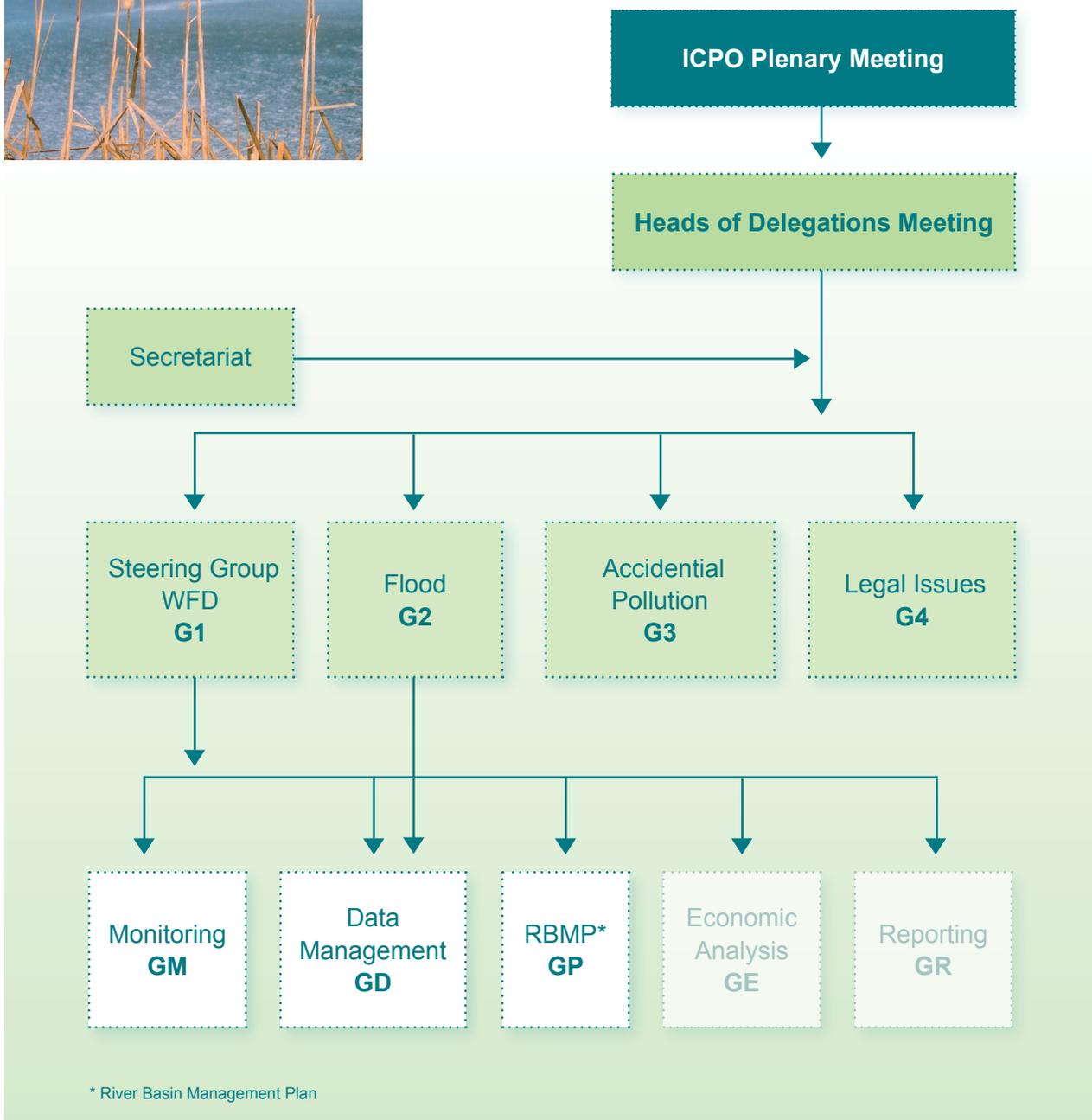
Central part of Wrocław



ICPO organizational structure



The International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River is a platform coordinating primarily the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2006/60/EC, and currently, also the European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks 2007/60/EC within the International Odra River Basin District. After the Water Framework Directive entered into force the ICPO has adapted its structure to meet the requirements of the directive's implementation. The current organizational structure has been in effect since 1 July 2005.



Realization of various tasks in the ICPO takes place in working groups and sub-groups made up of specialists who are appointed by the ICPO delegations. The groups elaborate programs designed for achieving certain goals. The draft programs and recommendations are then submitted to the Contracting Parties for approval. The working groups have been appointed on a basis of Article 9 of the ICPO convention. Current organizational structure includes the following working groups:

Steering Group WFD G1

The main objective of the G1 is the coordination of the Water Framework Directive implementation. Among other things, the group draws up a work plan and timetable for the elaboration of river basin management plans and assigns its realization to particular working groups. It supervises the work and informs the Heads of Delegations about any difficulties in realization of the Water Framework Directive. It also elaborates strategies for informing the public.

Flood G2

One main objective of the G2 is the implementation and coordination of the EC Flood Directive on international level. Another task of the group is the monitoring of the implementation of the *“Program for flood prevention in the Odra River Basin District”*, and resulting from it – analysis and modernization of the data base used for the assessment of a flood course.

Moreover, the group is responsible for analyzing development plans, which are drawn up to minimize the potential of flood damage, estimating costs and the assessment of ecological influence and results. The group draws up proposals pertaining to the improvement of flood reporting and forecasting system, it cooperates with institutions that deal with flood issues (e.g. cooperation with NGO’s in the Odra River Basin District).

Accidental Pollution G3

The scope of the group’s activities includes updating the International Warning and Alert System as well as designing the International Contingency Plan for the Odra River. The group also prepares guidelines for preventive measures in order to minimize the risk and influence of unforeseen pollution. Moreover, the G3 group regularly updates the list of potential sources of accidental pollutions.

Legal Issues G4

The G4 is responsible for legal interpretation of the ICPO Convention as well as the Rules of Procedure of the ICPO, or any potential additional procedures passed by the Commission. The group draws up complementary legal regulations, clarifies procedural issues and assists in organization of the ICPO.

<p>Data Management GD</p>	<p>The priority of the GD sub-group is to support all ICPO groups with data and GIS services. So far the group was responsible e.g. for the drawing up of maps of the International Odra River Basin District for the Water Framework Directive implementation. The GD elaborates conceptions for concerning applications of an ICPO GeoPortal as well. The GD also prepares the HWS-GIS project concerning the preparation of flood hazard maps in accordance with the Flood Directive as an additional GeoPortal application.</p>
<p>Monitoring GM</p>	<p>The GM sub-group is responsible for drawing up a monitoring system for the International Odra River Basin District that is based on national monitoring points and national data. The objective of the GM group is the identification and presentation of quality and quantity status of waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, as well as deficits in relation to the WFD goals and long-term development trends.</p>
<p>RBMP – River Basin Management Plan GP</p>	<p>The GP sub-group has been assigned a task of identifying the significant water management issues for the International Odra River Basin District. The group also coordinates activities related to elaborating national river basin management plans and programs of measures. Besides the above, the GP group supports bilateral cooperation on transboundary surface and groundwater bodies and in protected areas.</p>
<p>Economic Analysis GE</p>	<p>The main objective of the GE sub-group is to coordinate the exchange of data and information pertaining to economic issues within the area of water management in the International Odra River Basin District as well as the elaboration of adequate parts of the report on economic aspects that is submitted to the European Commission. The group activity was suspended until further notice in 2012.</p>
<p>Reporting GR</p>	<p>The GR sub-group was assigned a task of drawing up the structures of reports for the European Commission, such as the Report pertaining to monitoring programs. The group has been suspended from 2007.</p>

Competent authorities

The International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River is a platform for coordination of joint international projects and cooperation of decision-making institutions of all three Contracting Parties in the water management and environment protection sector. In all the ICPO member countries, the above-mentioned issues are coordinated by competent authorities.



In the **Polish** part of the Odra River Basin District, the responsibility for the process of the Water Framework Directive is held by the President of the National Water Management Authority (Krajowy Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej) supported by: The Regional Water Management Board (Regionalny Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej) – in Gliwice (the Upper Odra River Water Region), in Wrocław (Middle Odra River Water Region), in Poznań (Warta Water Region) and in Szczecin (Lower Odra River and Szczecin Lagoon Water Region).



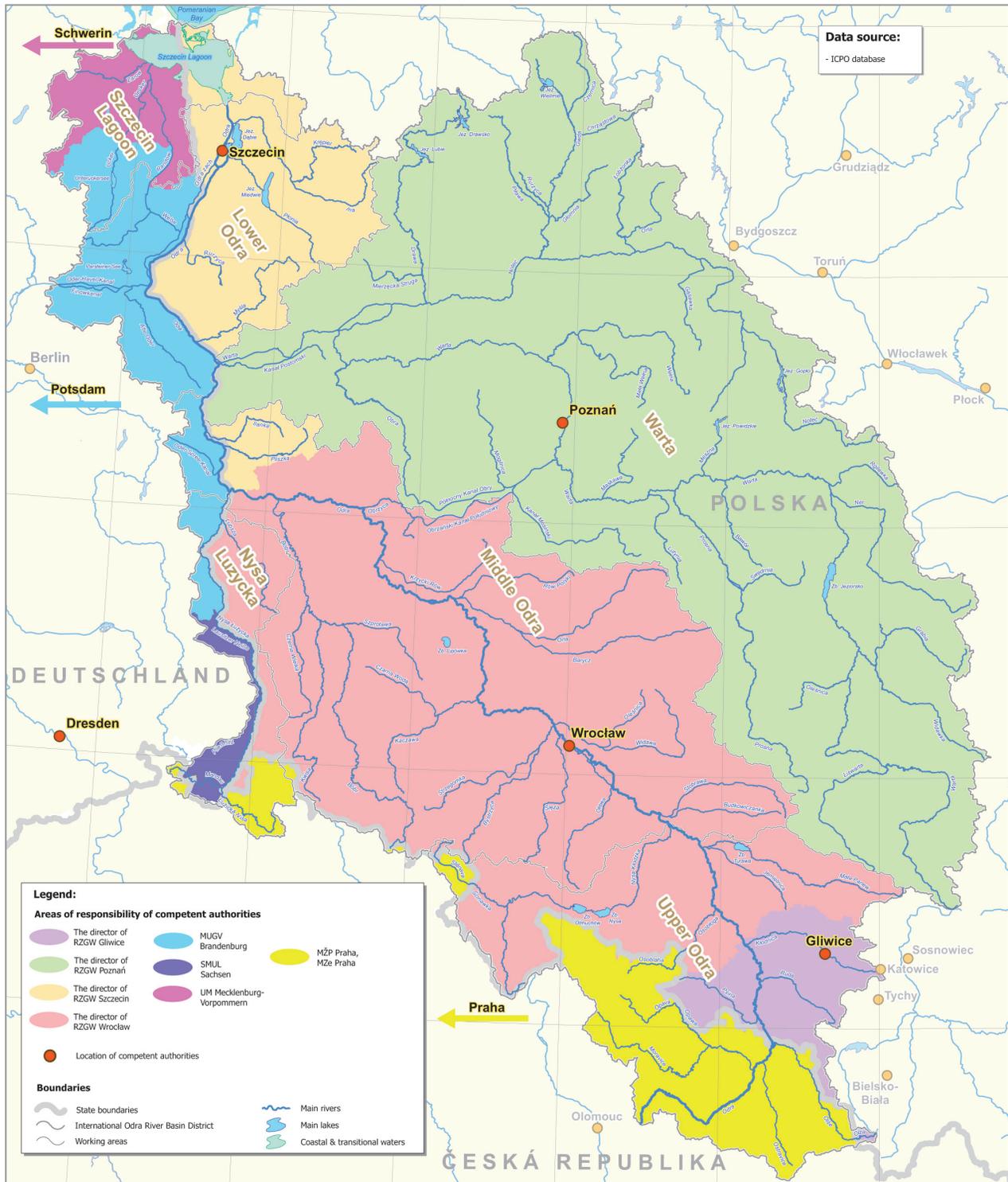
In the **Czech Republic**, the responsibility for the process of the Water Framework Directive is held by the Ministry of the Environment (Ministerstvo životního prostředí ČR) and the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministerstvo zemědělství ČR). The ministries are supported by the following institutions: T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute (Výzkumný ústav vodohospodářský T. G. Masaryka), Czech Environment Inspection (Česká inspekce životního prostředí), Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny ČR), Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (Český hydrometeorologický ústav), Labe River Basin Authority, state enterprise (Povodí Labe, státní podnik), Ohře River Basin Authority, state enterprise (Povodí Ohře, státní podnik), Odra River Basin Authority state enterprise (Povodí Odry, státní podnik).



In the **Federal Republic of Germany**, the competent authorities are: Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Brandenburg (Ministerium für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Brandenburg), Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment and Consumer Protection Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), Saxon State Ministry for the Environment and Agriculture (Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft). The following institutions are supervised by the above-mentioned authorities: State Office of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Brandenburg (Landesamt für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz Brandenburg) as a watermanaging office and as a higher-level authority, National Office for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology (Landesamt für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Geologie), State Bureau for Agriculture and Environment (Staatliches Amt für Landwirtschaft und Umwelt), Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology (Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie). All work is coordinated by German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in Bonn (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit).

Moreover, within the boundaries of the International Odra River Basin District, there is a bilateral cooperation in the field of water management under separate agreements. The cooperation between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany is defined in the Agreement on the cooperation in the field of water management on the border waters of the two countries signed on 19 May 1992. The 21 March 1958 Agreement on water management on the border waters signed by the then – Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is still a valid base for the cooperation in the field on the Polish – Czech boundary. Currently the new Polish–Czech Agreement is being negotiated. The agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic on the cooperation in the field of water management on the border waters was signed on 12 December 1995 and entered into force in 1997.

Odra River Basin District – Competent Authorities



0 25 50 Km

Scale 1:1 500 000

Polish National Reference System

Addresses

	Name	Address	Contact
 Republic of Poland	Ministerstwo Środowiska (The Ministry of Environment)	ul. Wawelska 52/54 00-922 Warszawa	tel. +48 22 57 92 722 rzecznik.prasowy@mos.gov.pl www.mos.gov.pl
	Krajowy Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej (The National Water Management Authority)	ul. Grzybowska 80/82 00-844 Warszawa	tel. +48 22 372 02 60 kzgw@kzgw.gov.pl www.kzgw.gov.pl
	RZGW Gliwice (The Regional Water Management Board in Gliwice)	ul. Sienkiewicza 2 44-100 Gliwice	tel. +48 32 777 49 50 fax +48 32 777 49 99 dyrekcja@gliwice.rzgw.gov.pl www.gliwice.rzgw.gov.pl
	RZGW Wrocław (The Regional Water Management Board in Wrocław)	ul. Norwida 34 50-950 Wrocław	tel. +48 71 337 88 00 fax +48 71 328 50 48 sekretariat@rzgw.wroc.pl www.rzgw.wroc.pl
	RZGW Poznań (The Regional Water Management Board in Poznań)	ul. Szewska 1 61-760 Poznań	tel. +48 61 856 77 00 fax +48 61 852 57 31 sekretariat@rzgw.poznan.pl www.poznan.rzgw.gov.pl
	RZGW Szczecin (The Regional Water Management Board in Szczecin)	ul. Tama Pomorzańska 13A 70-030 Szczecin	tel. +48 91 441 12 00 fax +48 91 441 13 00 sekretariat@szczecin.rzgw.gov.pl www.rzgw.szczecin.pl

	Name	Address	Contact
 Czech Republic	Ministerstvo životního prostředí (MŽP) (Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)	Vršovická 1442/65 100 10 Praha 10	tel. +420 2 6712 1111 fax +420 2 6731 0308 info@mzp.cz www.mzp.cz
	Ministerstvo zemědělství (MZe) (Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic)	Těšnov 65/17 117 05 Praha 1	tel. +420 2 2181 1111 fax +420 2 2481 0478 www.eagri.cz www.mze.cz
	Výzkumný ústav vodohospodářský T.G. Masaryka (T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute)	Podbabská 2582/30 160 00 Praha 6	tel. +420 2 2019 7111 www.vuv.cz
	Česká inspekce životního prostředí (Czech Environment Inspection)	Na Břehu 267 190 00 Praha 9	www.cizp.cz
	Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny (Nature Conservation Agency)	Kaplanova 1931/1 148 00 Praha 11	tel. +420 283 069 242 fax +420 283 069 241 aopkcr@nature.cz www.ochranaprirody.cz
	Český hydrometeorologický ústav (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute)	Na Šabatce 2050/17143 06 Praha 412-Komořany	tel. +420 244 031 111 fax +420 241 760 689 chmi@chmi.cz www.chmi.cz
	Povodí Labe, státní podnik (Labe River Basin Authority, state enterprise)	Víta Nejedleho 951 500 03 Hradec Králové	tel. +420 4950 88 111 fax +420 4954 07 452 labe@pla.cz www.pla.cz
	Povodí Ohře, státní podnik (Ohře River Basin Authority, state enterprise)	Bezručova 4219 430 03 Chomutov	tel. + 420 474 636 111 fax + 420 474 624 200 poh@poh.cz www.poh.cz
	Povodí Odry, státní podnik (Odra River Basin Authority, state enterprise)	Varenská 49 701 26 Ostrava	tel. +420 596 657 111 fax +420 596 612 666 info@pod.cz www.pod.cz



Federal Republic of Germany

Name	Address	Contact
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)	Robert-Schuman-Platz 3 53175 Bonn	tel. +49 228 99 305-0 fax +49 228 99 305-3225 www.bmu.de
Ministerium für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Brandenburg (Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Brandenburg)	Postfach 60 11 50 14411 Potsdam	tel. +49 331 866 0 fax +49 331 866 7069/ 7070 www.mugv.brandenburg.de
Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment and Consumer Protection)	Paulshöher Weg 1 19061 Schwerin	tel. +49 385 588 0 fax +49 385 588 6024 poststelle@lu.mv-regierung.de www.um.mv-regierung.de
Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft (Saxon State Ministry for the Environment and Agriculture)	Archivstr. 1 01097 Dresden	tel. +49 351 564 0 fax +49 351 564 2209 poststelle@smul.sachsen.de www.umwelt.sachsen.de
Landesamt für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz Brandenburg (State Office of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Brandenburg)	Postfach 60 10 61 14410 Potsdam	tel. +49 33 201/ 442-0 BdP@LUGV.Brandenburg.de http://www.mugv.brandenburg.de/info/lu
Landesamt für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Geologie (National Office for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology)	Goldberger Str. 12 18273 Güstrow	tel. +49 3843 / 777-0 fax +49 3843 / 777-106 poststelle@lung.mv-regierung.de www.lung.mv-regierung.de
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Several documents and projects within the framework of the water protection and water management were elaborated during the work of the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River. Full versions of the following publications are available on the ICPO webpage:

- A book from the Conference in June 2011, entitled: "Future requirements for flood risk management and sustainable water management in the Odra river basin"
- The Odra, as you don't know – Fish, Birds, Insects
- International Warning and Alarm Plan for the Odra
- Implementation monitoring of the Program for flood protection in the Odra River Basin District
- Requirements for the objects located in the flood-hazard areas
- Program for flood prevention in the Odra River Basin District
- Macrozoobenthos of the Odra River 1998–2001
- Flood reporting and forecasting system in the Odra River Basin District
- Joint strategy and rules for flood prevention in the Odra River Basin District
- Odra River Basin District – flood 1997
- Evaluation of the implementation stages of investments of the rapid measures for the protection of the Odra River 1997–1999
- Program of rapid measures for the protection of the Odra River 1997–2002

Moreover, the ICPO has elaborated reports for the European Commission within the framework of the coordination of the Water Framework Directive:

- 2004 Report* – contains information about the extent of the Odra River Basin District, competent authorities, the range of their competences as well as about international cooperation
- 2005 Report* – informs of the characteristics of surface and ground waters of the catchment area as a result of human impact on the environment as well as economic analysis of water use
- 2007 Report* – presents monitoring programs of quality and quantity of surface and ground water along with monitoring of protected areas, pursuant to Article 8 of the Water Framework Directive
- 2009 Report – River Basin Management Plan, pursuant to Article 13 of the Water Framework Directive



* Full versions of the above-mentioned documents on: <http://www.mkoo.pl>

History



1990

The Commission dates back to **1990**. During the conference held in Ronneby (Sweden) on **2–3 September**, on the initiative of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish party takes measures to bring into existence the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River. The idea for the Commission is to be based on the Commission of the Rhine River. The aim of the initiative was to have the three countries: Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic with participation of the European Union cooperating in the field of water management within the entire Odra catchment area.

1991

The Minister of the Environment Protection, Maciej Nowicki, initiates the first meeting of experts on **29–30 January 1991** to deal with the creation of ICPO in Wrocław.

1991–1993

The text of the joint Convention is settled during nine consecutive negotiation rounds organized during these years.

1995

Another meeting of experts is held on **6–9 November 1995** in Wrocław. During the meeting, the ICPO Convention is ultimately formulated and unified in three language versions: Polish, Czech and German.

1996

The signing of the ICPO Convention along with a Declaration of the Convention's signatories, which enables the ICPO to function as an Interim Commission, takes place on **11–12 April 1996** during the first meeting of the Interim International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River. During the course of the meeting, Leszek Bagiński is appointed to the post of the Interim ICPO Chairman and the first three Working Groups are instituted:

First Working Group responsible for the action program – management assigned to the Republic of Poland;

Second Working Group responsible for exceptional pollution events – management assigned to the Czech Republic;

Third Working Group responsible for legal aspects and administration – management assigned to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The headquarters of the Secretariat is located in Wrocław on Norwida Street. On **27 June 1996** Alfred Dubicki is appointed to a post of the first director of the Secretariat of the ICPO.

After the flood in the Odra River Basin District, the ICPO organizes an extraordinary meeting on **1–2 September 1997**. Consequently, **Fourth Working Group “Flood”** is established and assigned a task of compiling a joint report *“The flood in July 1997 in the Odra River Basin District”*. The work lasts nearly two years and is eventually published in three language versions in 1999. On **4–5 November 1997** the ICPO is a coorganizer of the International Conference “Odra River – chances and challenges in the light of European experience”.

1997

“Ecology” Working Group is appointed during the Third Meeting of the Interim ICPO held on **15–16 March 1999**. Radosław Gawlik is appointed to the post of the new Commission Chairman. The ICPO Convention enters into force on **28 April 1999** after the ratification processes are finalized in all the countries that make up the ICPO Contracting Parties. It is resolved on **22–23 July 1999** that the first term of the Commission Chairmanship during the period 28.04.1999 to 31.12.2001 shall be given to the Polish party. All previously organized working groups officially begin their activities on **1 September 1999**. First Conference of the Environment Protection Ministers on the ICPO is held in Wrocław on **2–3 December 1999**. The participants of the conference adopt the Commission’s work: *“Program of rapid measures for the protection of the Odra River 1997–2002”* and *“Joint strategy and rules for flood prevention in the Odra River Basin District”*, which also appear as the ICPO publications.

1999

On **1 February 2000** the ICPO Secretariat receives the status of a permanent Secretariat. Hartmut Müller becomes the new Director of the Secretariat. The ICPO new logo, a recognizable symbol of the Commission, is approved on **11 April 2000**. On **4 August 2000** The Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Poland appoints Janusz Zaleski as the Commission’s Chairman.

2000

The new year brings further changes. On **5–6 March 2001** Leopold Zubek is nominated as the new Director of the Secretariat. The **Sixth Working Group** responsible for the coordination of Water Framework Directive implementation is established on the above-mentioned dates. Towards the end of the year, on **13 November 2001**, the Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic nominates Jaroslav Kinkor as the ICPO Chairman.

2001



2002

Jaroslav Kinkor becomes the new Chairman of the ICPO. The official takeover of the Commission Chairmanship by the Czech delegation for the period of 2002–2004 takes place on **21 January 2002**. On **8 May 2002** the ICPO obtains a common consent of all the Convention Parties to act as a coordinator in the process of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive within the boundaries of the international Odra River Basin District. A workshop on the coordination is organized in Wrocław on **2–3 September 2002**. The workshop becomes a starting point for the organizational changes within the ICPO.

The Convention of the ICPO along with the rules on granting ICPO observer status for international and national organizations is resolved in written procedures on **5 November 2002**). Consequently, on **12–13 December 2002** the observer status is granted to the organizations WWF and Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland.

2003

On **4–5 December 2003** the Commission approves the first draft of the 2004 Report as well as the structure of the 2005 Report. Moreover, mandates for new working groups, sub-groups and ad hoc groups are approved. Chairmen and their deputies are appointed in the groups of the new ICPO structure which are to be effective until **1 February 2003**.

2004

As of **1 May 2004**, Poland and the Czech Republic become the EU members, thus the Odra River Basin District lies entirely within the boundaries of the European Community.

The year is also the first reference year in the timetable for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. In **June 2004** the ICPO finishes and submits the 2004 Report on the transboundary Odra River Basin District to the Convention Parties. Similar reports are to be prepared and submitted to the European Commission by the EU states for all transboundary catchment areas.

2005

On **13–14 January 2005** the Czech Republic hands over the Chairmanship of the Commission to the Federal Republic of Germany. Thomas Stratenwerth becomes the new ICPO Chairman. This, however, is not the only important event of the year. In **March 2005** the ICPO finalizes the 2005 Report and submits it to the Convention Parties. The report, among other things, includes the characteristics of the Odra River Basin District and a first analysis on the status of water bodies. On **11 May 2005** the proposal for a new ICPO structure is discussed, tasks for particular groups are assigned, group members appointed and decision-making procedures defined. On **9 September 2005** Heide Jekel is appointed for the German Head of Delegation. On **15–16 December 2005** the Commission approves mandates for all the groups and sub-groups of the new ICPO organizational structure.

At the beginning of **December 2005** the ICPO receives a termination notice of the ICPO Convention from the European Commission party – after Poland and the Czech Republic have joined the European Union the entire Odra River Basin District lies within the boundaries of the European Community, therefore the EC as the party to the Convention of the International Commission for the Protection of Odra River has no



longer been necessary. Consequently, the text of the Convention needs to be adapted, also with regard to the financial contributions. Therefore the Commission agreed to get an “*Amendment to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River*” drafted.

Two changes occur in the ICPO Secretariat. On **1 May 2006** Piotr Barański becomes the new Director of the Secretariat. Whereas on **20 June 2006**, a contract for a new ICPO Secretariat office location (M. Curie-Skłodowskiej Street in Wrocław) is signed.

2006

In **March 2007** the ICPO, in accordance with the requirements of the European Commission, submits the 2007 Report to the Convention Parties, which pertains to the monitoring programmes for waters in the Odra River Basin District. Therefore, on **23 October 2007**, a successive European Union directive pertaining to the flood risk management is brought into effect. Simultaneously, in accordance with the ICPO decision, the coordination of the implementation is given to the “Flood” Group G2.

2007

On **6–7 November 2007** the ICPO, with co-financing of the Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Wrocław, organizes in Wrocław an international conference entitled “*THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE IN THE ODRA RIVER BASIN DISTRICT*”.



The aim of the conference is to exchange experience and present progress in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the home countries of the ICPO members.

On **11 December 2007** the commission approves all three language versions of the “*Amendment to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River*”, asks the delegations to enable the official signing of the document by all parties and then to ratify the amendment according to the national provisions.



On the same day in the General Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Wrocław, an official handover of the chairmanship for the next three years takes place between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland. Mariusz Gajda (photo) becomes the new Chairman.

2008

On **9 January 2008** Janusz Zaleski (photo), in accordance with the decisions of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Poland, is nominated for the second time as ICPO Chairman.



One month later, on **7–8 February 2008** tenth meeting of Financial Auditors takes place, during which the audit of the ICPO expenses is finalized with a positive result. The ICPO expense audit is conducted by financial auditors appointed by the Ministers of the Environment of: Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany.



The official signing of the “*Amendment to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River*” takes place during the 13th Heads of Delegations Meeting on **25 June 2008** in the Secretariat headquarters. The Convention is signed by Andrzej Sadurski of Polish delegation and Heide Jekel along with Michael Morgenstern of German delegation in the presence of Breeda Foody, the Convention Depository representing the European Commission.



On behalf of the Czech delegation, the document is signed by Karel Bláha on **27 November 2008** in Brussels in the presence of Ida Jacobsen as the Convention Depository.



On **1 May 2009** the contract with Mr. Barański as a Director of the Secretariat was extended till 1 May 2012.

2009

In the end of the year the ICPO-Secretary starts with the art contest “*The river in the eye of a child*” at first in Poland. Especially there are chosen primary schools situated in the Odra River Basin. The children are encouraged to paint pictures, as they see the river. The best 12 pictures are selected and then published in the form of a calendar. In the next years the announcement also starts in the Czech Republic and in Germany.

2010

On **13 January 2010** Mr. Dvořák takes over the function of the Czech Head of Delegation in the ICPO replacing Ms. Jáglová.

In March the ICPO finalizes, in accordance with the requirements of the European Commission, the River Basin Management Plan (Report 2009) and submits it to the Convention Parties.

On **7 December 2010** in the ICPO Secretary in Wrocław, an official handover of the chairmanship for the next three years takes place between the Republic of Poland and the Czech Republic. **Mr. Pavel Punčochář** becomes the new ICPO Chairman from 1 January 2011 till 31 December 2013.



2011

The Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany having completed the ratification of the “Amendment to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River” and this Amending Agreement enters into force on 14 January 2011.

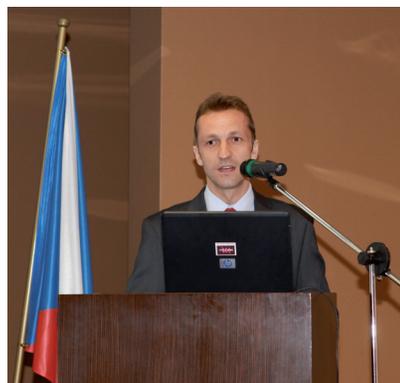
On **22–23 June 2011** the ICPO organizes in Wrocław a second international conference entitled: “Future challenges for flood risk management and sustainable water management in the Odra River Basin”.

On **14 February 2011** Mr. Wiśniewski takes over the function of the Polish Head of Delegation in the ICPO replacing Ms. Dembowska.

On **31 May 2011** Mrs. Randová takes over the function of the Czech Head of Delegation instead of Mr. Dvořák.

On **22–23 June 2011** the ICPO organized in Wrocław a second international conference entitled: “Future challenges for flood risk management and sustainable water management in the Odra River Basin”.

The aim of the conference was to exchange experience and practices in the field of flood protection of the Odra river basin on the area of Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany, connected with Flood Directive Implementation and the first cycle of planning, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.



The conference was divided into two thematic blocks: “The flood risk management at the International Odra River Basin District” and “The requirements for sustainable water management on the international level”, then divided into the following sessions:

1. Water Framework Directive requirements and implementation
2. Risk and flood danger in the Odra river basin
3. Hydraulic engineering and ecology according to spatial planning
4. Further implementation of the Flood Directive
5. Monitoring



During the conference there were 18 papers. The conference served as a platform for the knowledge and experience exchange. It also helped to popularize the issues connected with Flood Directive. In the ICPO schedule for the following years, there is also the time for the next meetings of this kind.

In **October 2011** there were appointed new Financial Auditors for the years 2012–2014 from the Czech Republic and Germany. The existing Polish auditor was nominated for his next cadence.

The activities within ICPO do not remain unnoticed outside our continent. In the beginning of **December 2011 Chinese delegation visited Europe and, among the others places, decided to come to Wrocław**. The representatives of Chinese Ministry for Water Resources expressed their interest in the work of the Commission, especially in the Polish - German and Czech transboundary cooperation.

Along with two representatives of UNESCO – IHE Institute for Water Education they visited Secretary on 9 December 2011. The aim of the meeting was to exchange the experiences, ideas and concepts connected to the water management issues.

During the meeting, major achievements in water and soil conservation and objectives and measures for water and soil conservation in China were discussed. We were also introduced to the flood control and drought relief in this area. The Secretariat, together with the invited guests from Czech and Germany, described the main ICPO activities, the risk- and water management on the transboundary river network and the process of EC map making.



2012

On **1 May 2012** the contract with Mr Barański as a director of the ICPO Secretariat was extended till 1 May 2015.

In the first half of the year, ICPO finalizes the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and publishes it on its website. The document was drawn up according to the guidelines of Flood Directive.

Other activities

Apart from implementing the directives and taking care of the river, ICPO patronizes and helps in organizations of various events, in order to reach the wide public and spread the awareness of the ICPO activity. Thanks to such initiatives, the Commission and its areas of work becomes more familiar to the society.

Art contest "River in the eyes of a child"



The idea for the art contest of schoolchildren was born in 2010. At first the competition was held in Poland, then in the Czech Republic. The participants of the contest were the 4th grade children.

The aim of contest was to make children familiar with the problems of water management, water pollution, flora and fauna of the Odra river. Until now, we have assessed over 300 posters showing the river and its surroundings. In the year 2012, the contest was organized in Germany.

Twelve pictures are chosen for each edition to be then published in a calendar. The Secretariat also organizes an award giving ceremony, where each child is given a set of promotional materials and bookish prize. The children are also given brochures from the series "The Odra river as you don't know" – Fishes (part 1) and Birds (part 2), which were published by ICPO in order to promote ecologic education.



Canoeing and boat racing

Tumski Hotel, right on the bank of the Odra river, readily organizes various water events. The Secretariat employees have already took part in **Rowing Regattas**, which were part of the Odra River Days event. They also raced in the **Tumski CUP**, on the so called Dragon Boats – taking 3rd place in 2010.

Every time there are several teams competing with each other, whose members are the representants of various institutions and companies, usually connected with water issues.

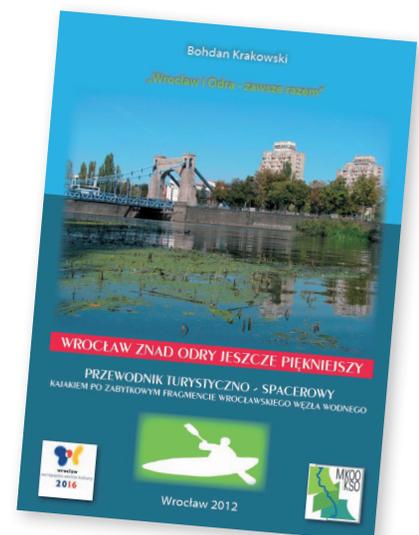
Before the contests, ICPO set up its stand with promotional materials, where one could gain some information about the Commission.



Publishing tourist guide to canoeing

The role of the ICPO does not boil down to the protection of the Odra, the Commission also promotes the river. Odra's recreational potential has been long underappreciated, therefore the opportunity to encourage Wrocław inhabitants as well as tourists to explore the river was readily embraced.

The Tourist Guide to Canoeing presents Odra kayaking routes, descriptions of main historical buildings and places of interest along water trails. The guide includes informative maps of the waterways and the basin of the river. The Tourist Guide to Canoeing offers information on the main paddle signals and navigation signs.



ICPO cartoon characters

Children are one of the most demanding audiences, therefore in order to direct their attention to the difficult problems of water management, the Commission created the ICPO cartoon characters. **Anna The Fish**, **Felix The Cormorant**, **Vaclav The Turtle** and **Klaus The Mosquito** are the members of ICPO team, who, through short stories, encourage children to explore the very subject. Cartoons are placed on various ICPO gadgets and soon will be installed on the ICPO website. What is more, comic strips with ICPO cartoons will soon come out.



We invite you to visit our webpage:
www.mkoo.eu



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