

# Managing environmental risks in the Danube Region Strategy

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# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ Danube Region Strategy Pillars

A. Connecting the Danube Region

B. Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region

■ To Manage the Environmental Risks (PA5)

C. Building Prosperity in the Danube Region

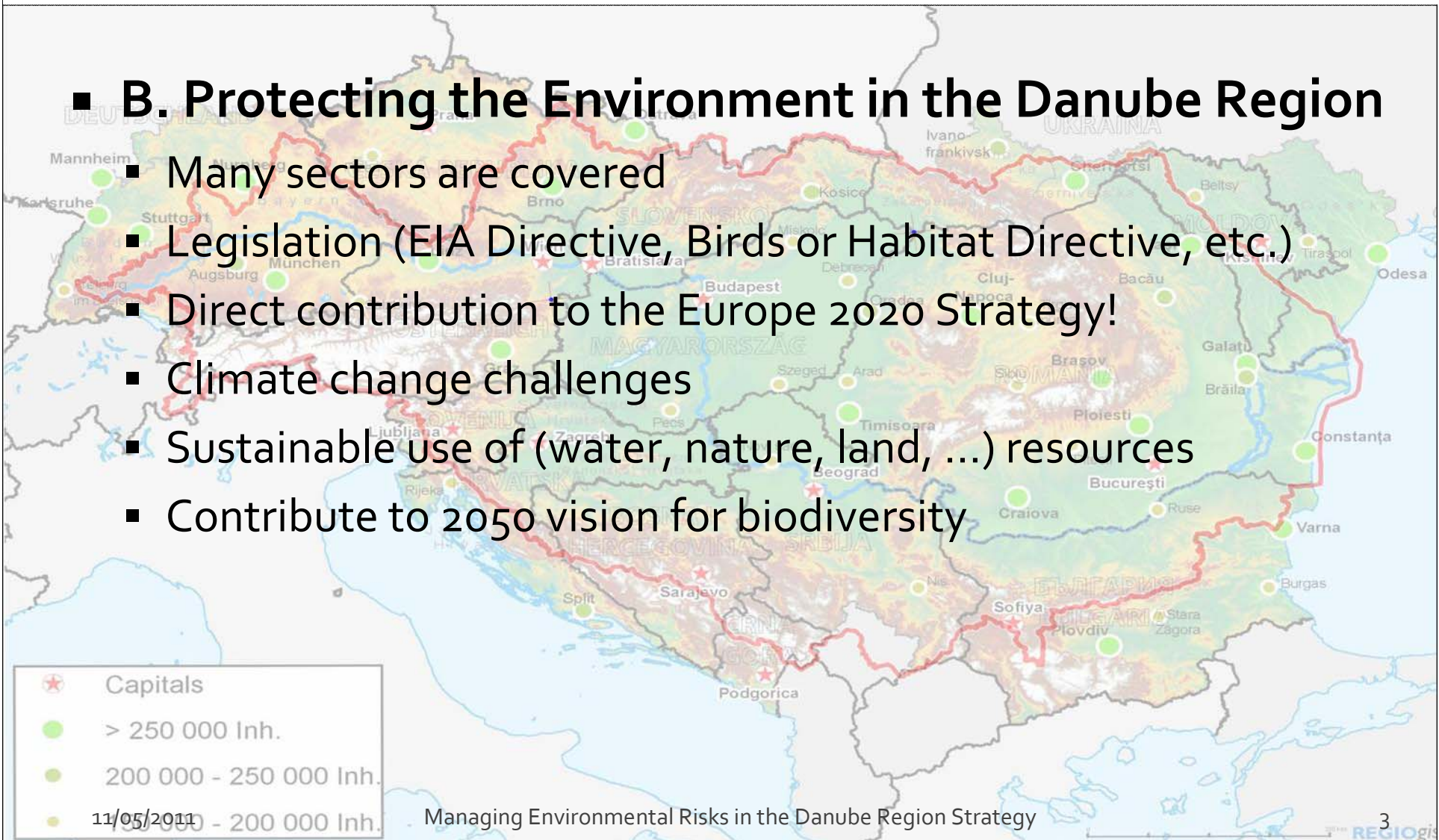
D. Strengthening the Danube Region



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## ■ B. Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region

- Many sectors are covered
- Legislation (EIA Directive, Birds or Habitat Directive, etc.)
- Direct contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy!
- Climate change challenges
- Sustainable use of (water, nature, land, ...) resources
- Contribute to 2050 vision for biodiversity



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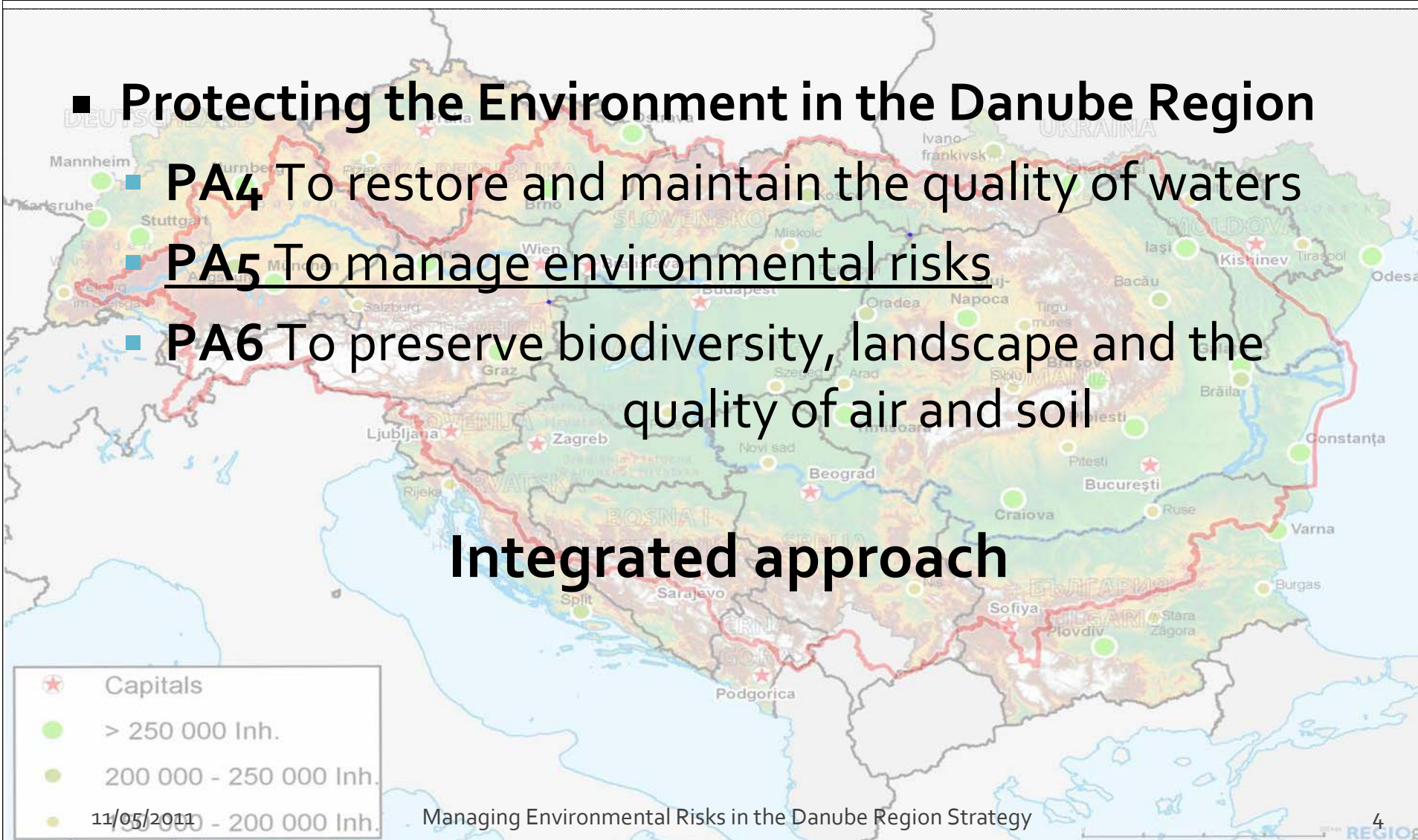
## ■ Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region

■ PA4 To restore and maintain the quality of waters

■ PA5 To manage environmental risks

■ PA6 To preserve biodiversity, landscape and the quality of air and soil

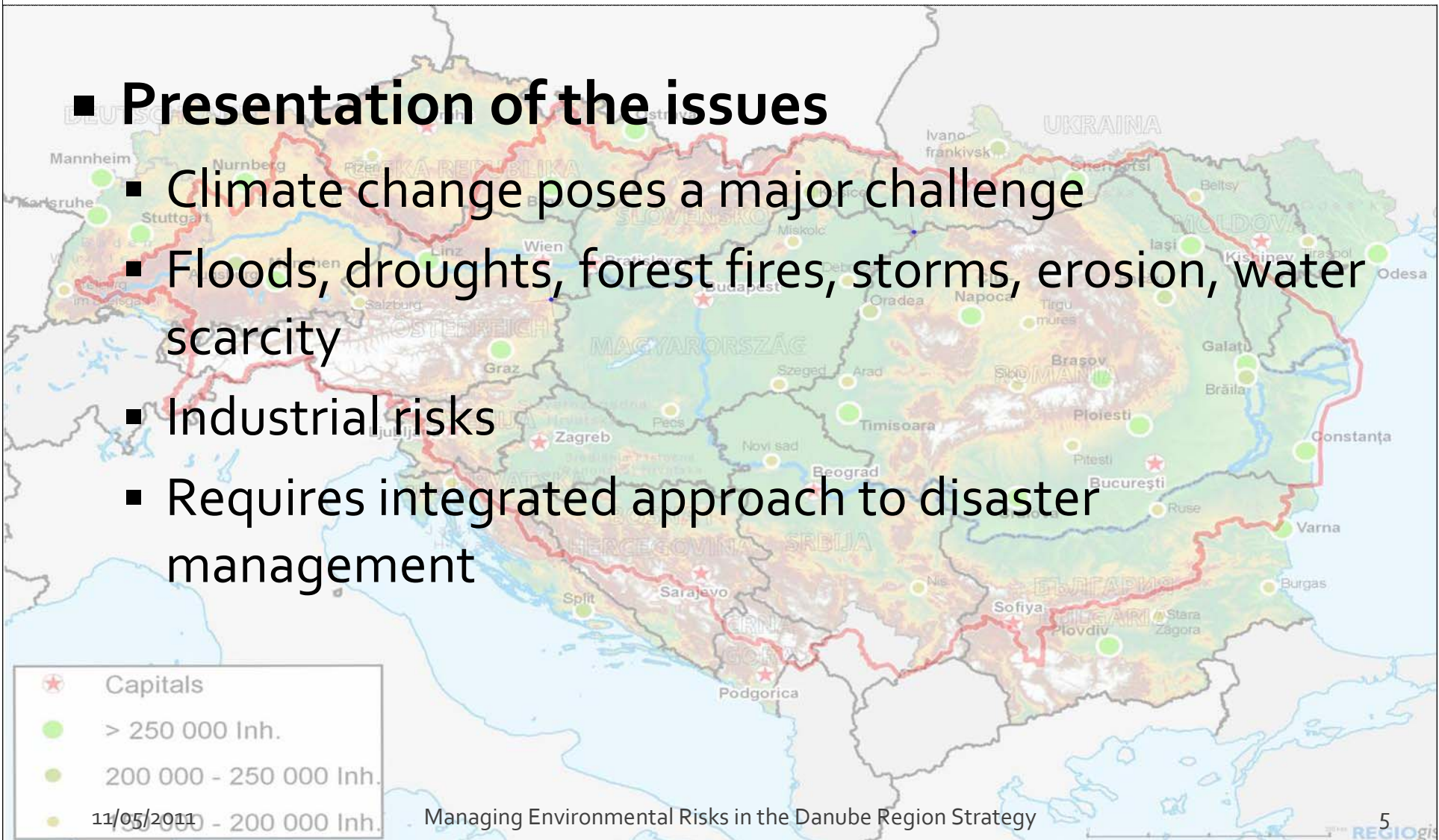
**Integrated approach**



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## ■ Presentation of the issues

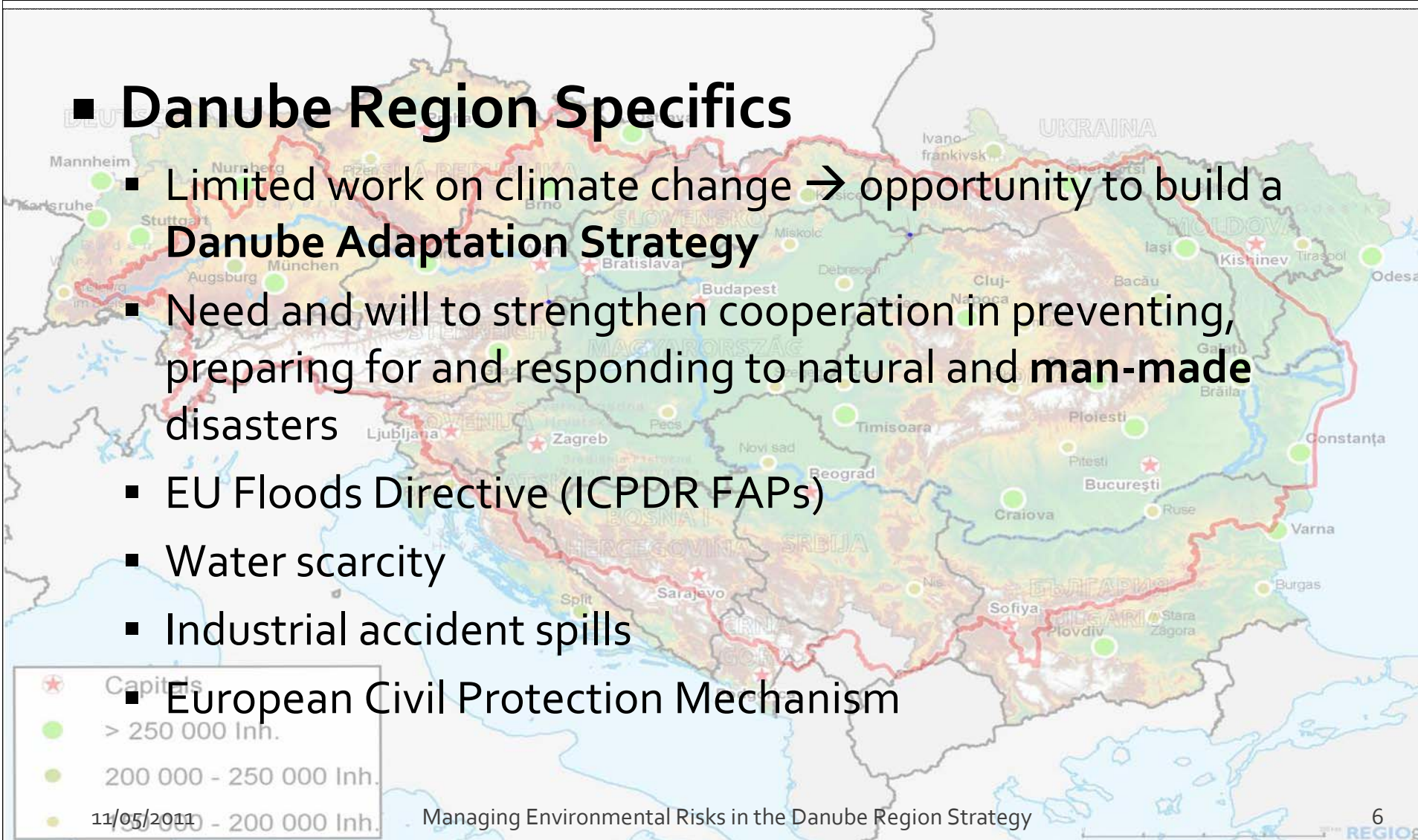
- Climate change poses a major challenge
- Floods, droughts, forest fires, storms, erosion, water scarcity
- Industrial risks
- Requires integrated approach to disaster management



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## ■ Danube Region Specifics

- Limited work on climate change → opportunity to build a **Danube Adaptation Strategy**
- Need and will to strengthen cooperation in preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and **man-made** disasters
- EU Floods Directive (ICPDR FAPs)
- Water scarcity
- Industrial accident spills
- **European Civil Protection Mechanism**



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## ■ Actions

- To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin**
- To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including "green infrastructure")**



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## ■ Actions

3. To extend the coverage of the European Floods Alert System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other's national systems)
4. To strengthen operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets

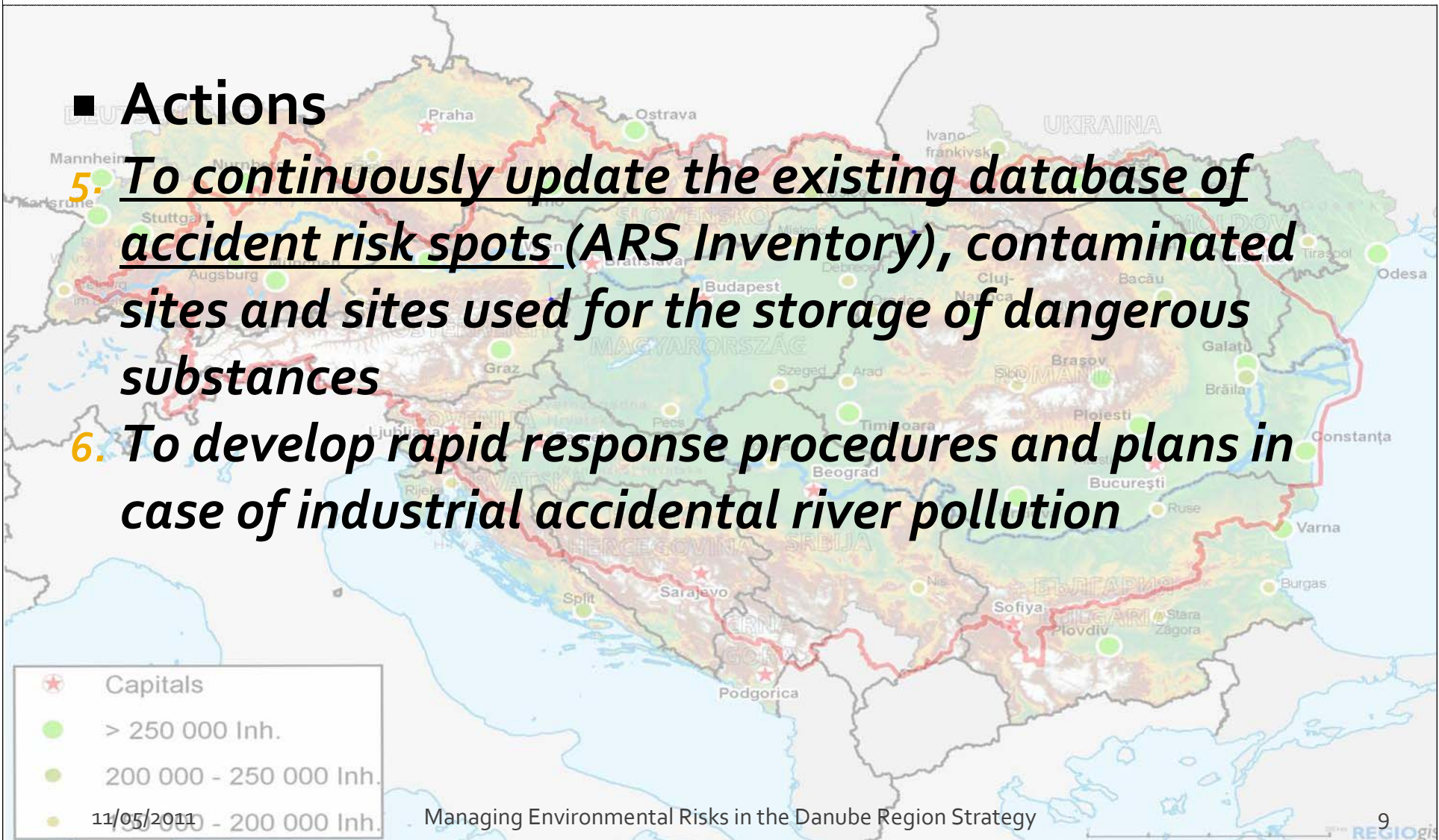




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## ■ Actions

5. To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances
6. To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution

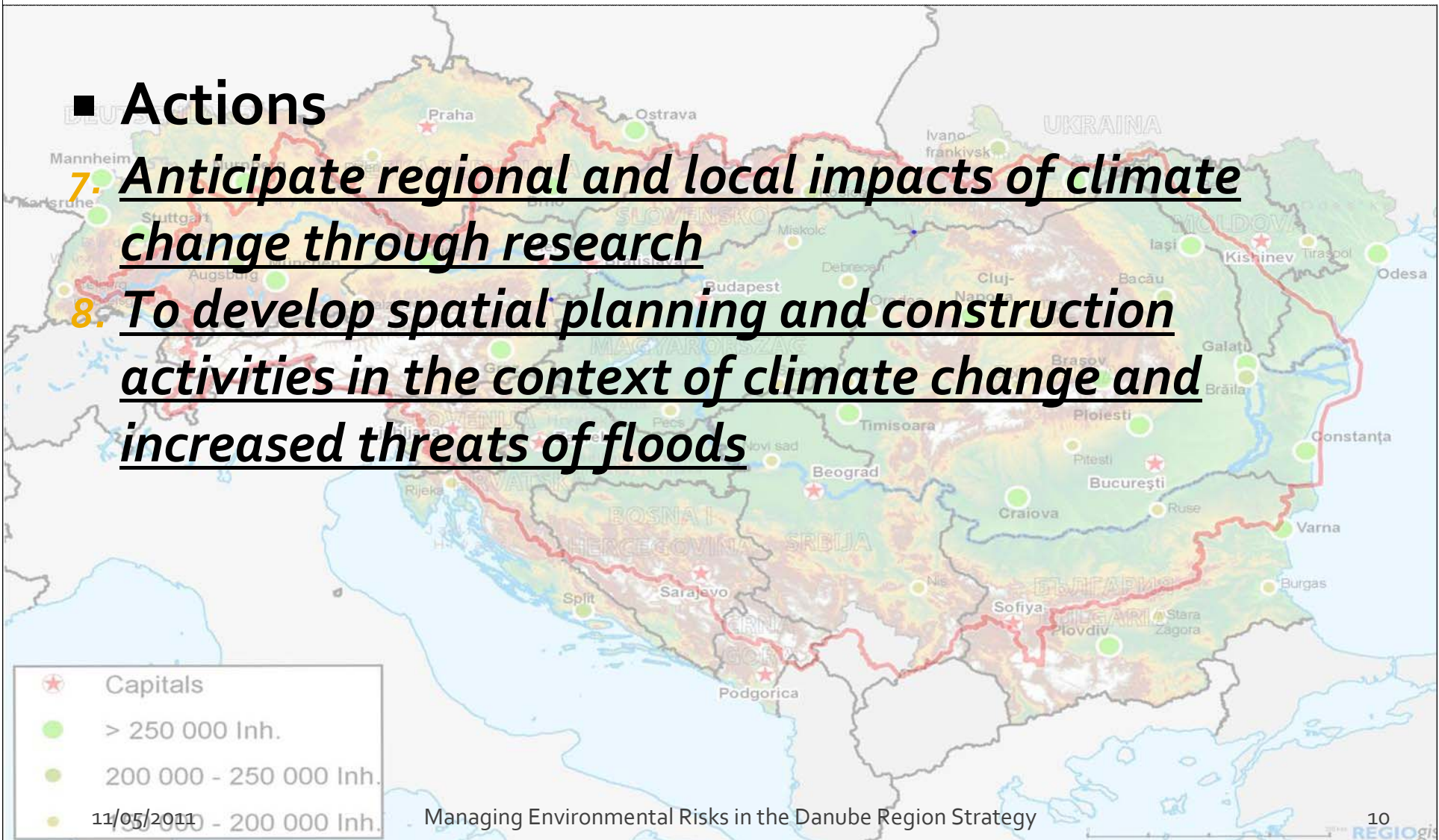


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## ■ Actions

**7. Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research**

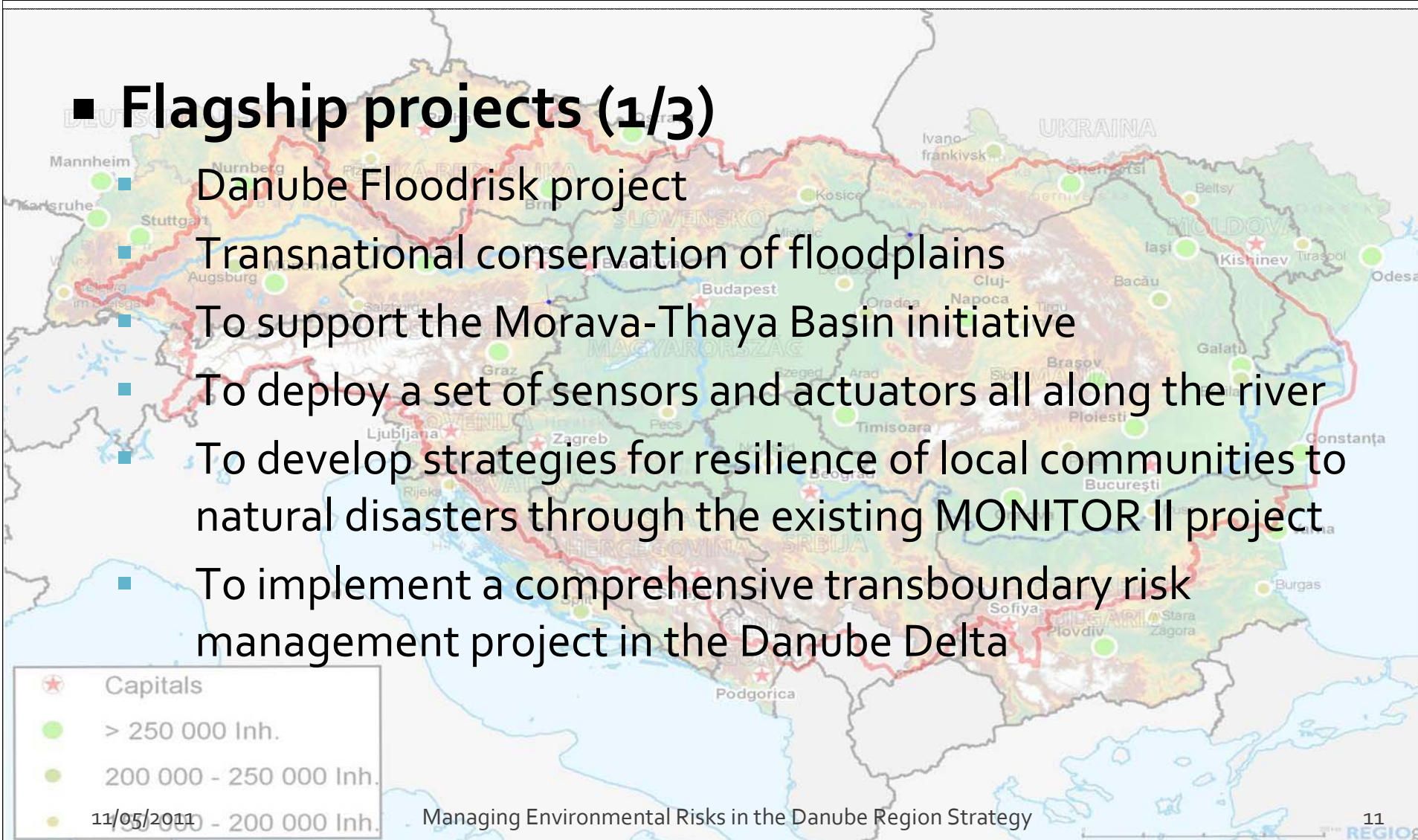
**8. To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods**



# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ Flagship projects (1/3)

- Danube Floodrisk project
- Transnational conservation of floodplains
- To support the Morava-Thaya Basin initiative
- To deploy a set of sensors and actuators all along the river
- To develop strategies for resilience of local communities to natural disasters through the existing MONITOR II project
- To implement a comprehensive transboundary risk management project in the Danube Delta



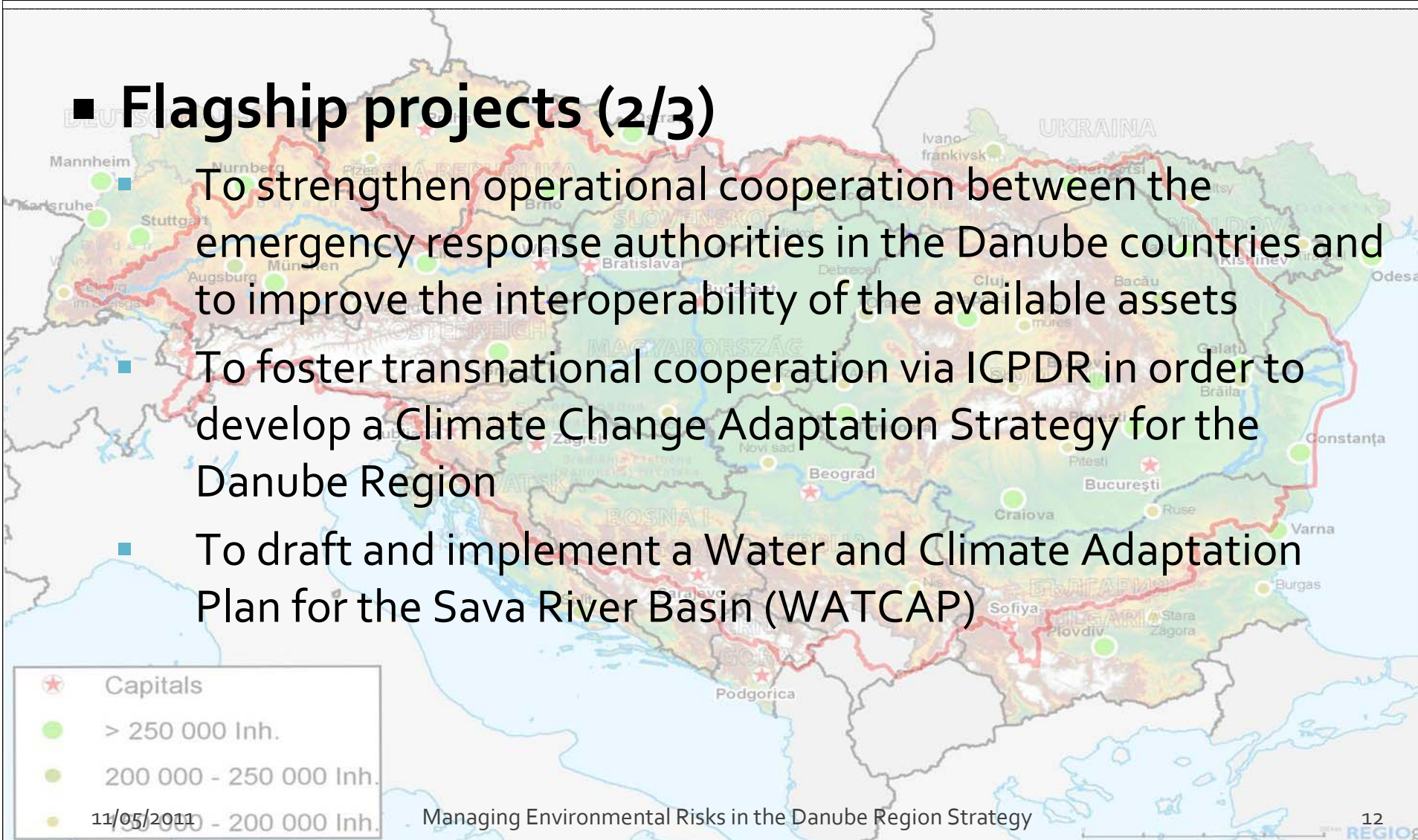
# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ Flagship projects (2/3)

To strengthen operational cooperation between the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets

■ To foster transnational cooperation via ICPDR in order to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Danube Region

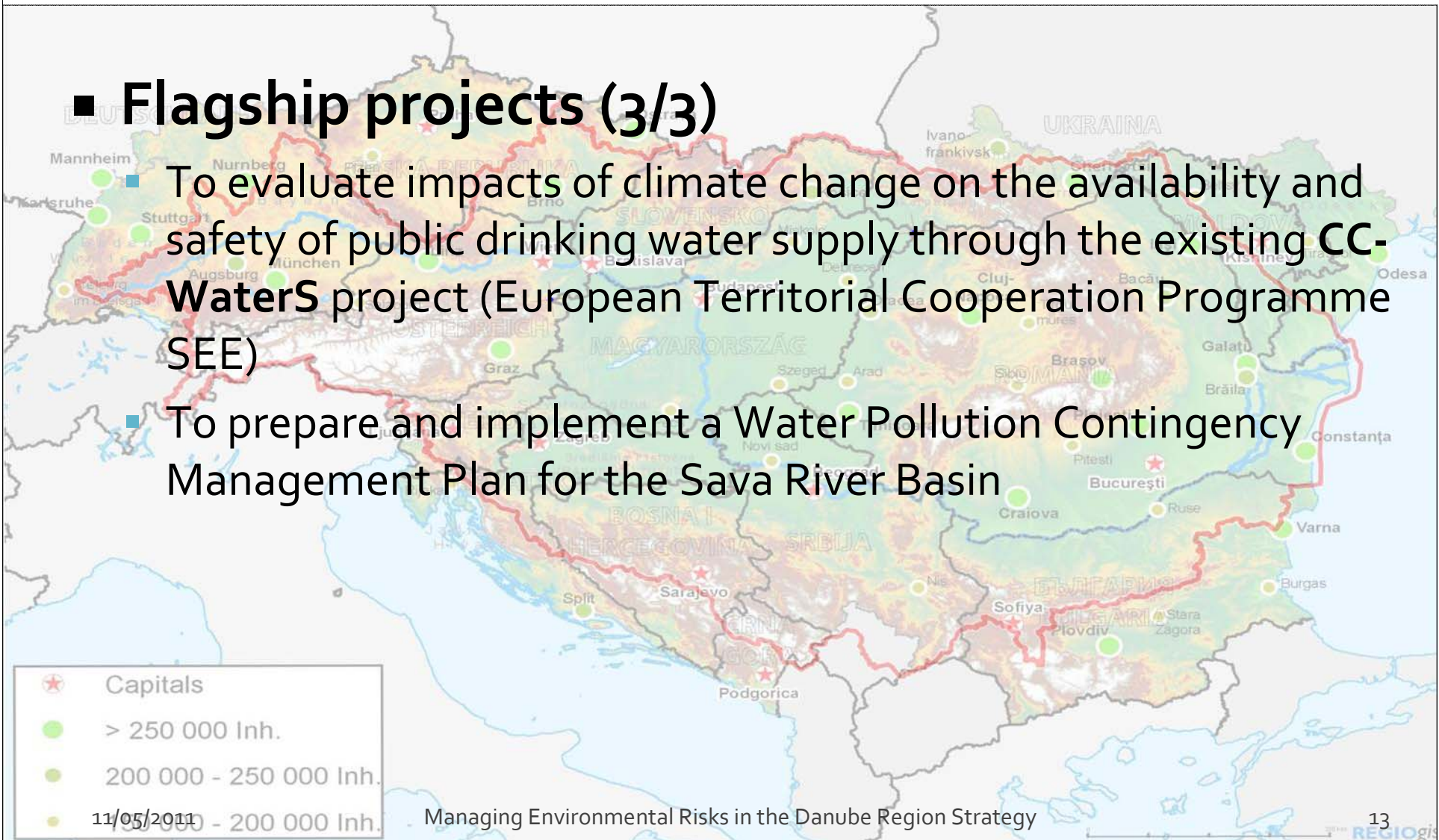
■ To draft and implement a Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin (WATCAP)



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## ■ Flagship projects (3/3)

- To evaluate impacts of climate change on the availability and safety of public drinking water supply through the existing **CC-WaterS** project (European Territorial Cooperation Programme SEE)
- To prepare and implement a Water Pollution Contingency Management Plan for the Sava River Basin



# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ Priority Area 5 Coordinators

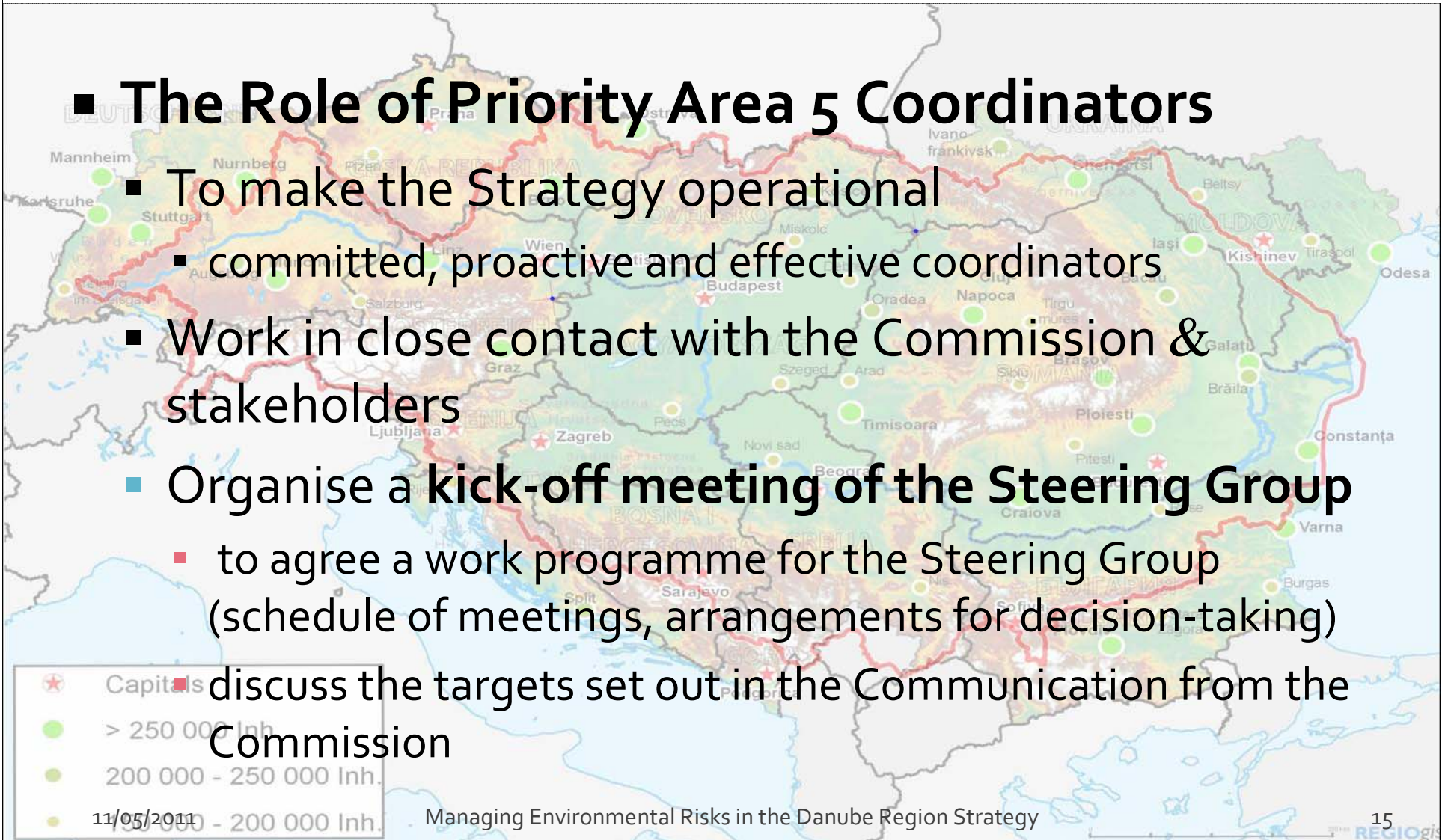
- Petra Szavics (Romania)
- István Kling (Hungary)
- Péter Bakonyi (Hungary)



# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ The Role of Priority Area 5 Coordinators

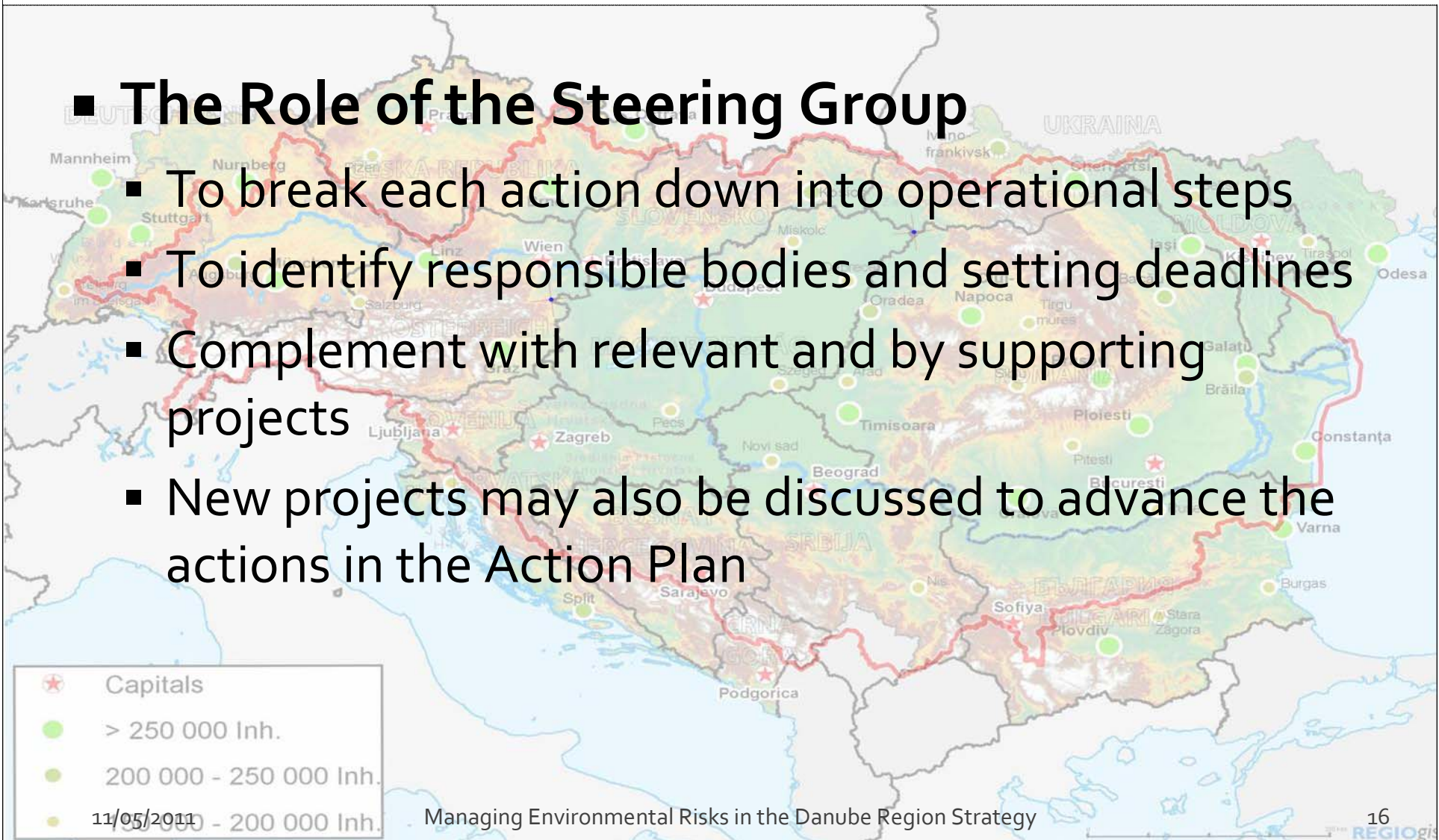
- To make the Strategy operational
  - committed, proactive and effective coordinators
- Work in close contact with the Commission & stakeholders
- Organise a **kick-off meeting of the Steering Group**
  - to agree a work programme for the Steering Group (schedule of meetings, arrangements for decision-taking)
- discuss the targets set out in the Communication from the Commission



# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ The Role of the Steering Group

- To break each action down into operational steps
- To identify responsible bodies and setting deadlines
- Complement with relevant and by supporting projects
- New projects may also be discussed to advance the actions in the Action Plan





# The 5th Priority Area

## ■ Next Steps

- the Strategy was endorsed by the EU Council for General Affairs on 13 April under the Hungarian Presidency
- 8-10 May → Joint Meeting of the Coordinators of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- End of May → Kick-off Meeting for the NPACs



# The 5th Priority Area



Thank you for your attention