



TISZA RIVER BASIN

Establishment of a Basin Management Framework for the Integrated Management of the Tisza Transboundary River (Tisza MSP)

Project Summary and Scope

The Tisza River basin has lost over 80 percent of its wetlands and floodplains over the past 150 years. This project, implemented within the structure of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), follows 15 years of activity by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the Danube–Black Sea basin. It will implement community-based demonstration projects to reduce pollution, mitigate flooding impacts and develop an integrated river basin management plan.

The overall project comprises three demonstration projects, addressing the different environmental problems impacting wetlands and floodplains. These demonstration projects highlight the multiple benefits of improved wetlands and floodplain management to ecosystems and livelihoods throughout the region. This approach will also assist in reducing nutrient loads in the basin.

The nutrient emission model MONERIS (Modelling Nutrient Emissions in River Systems) will facilitate the assessment of potential nutrient reduction scenarios through the implementation of different management measures — for example, wetlands and floodplain reconnection, changes in agricultural practices etc.

The results of the demonstration projects will be an important input to the integrated river basin management plan, providing practical examples and experiences for future replication elsewhere in the basin.

INVESTMENT

GEF grant	USD 1,000,000
UNDP co-financing	USD 200,000
Country co-financing	USD 400,000
EU co-financing	USD 180,000
UNEP co-financing	USD 50,000
ICPDR co-financing	USD 100,000
Total	USD 1,930,000

PROJECT DURATION

2008–2011

NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- Loss of wetlands/floodplains
- Inappropriate use of wetlands/floodplains
- Impacts of floods on water quality

EARLY NUTRIENT BMP “WINS”

- Wetland/floodplain inventories, nutrient source apportionment, integration of water quality and quantity management to reduce pollution



Best Practices

The demonstration projects are expected to show examples of:

- **The development and testing of strategies for combating floods and flood-induced pollution**, with wide stakeholder involvement.
- **Changes in land use that improve floodplains and wetlands** and lead to the reduction of nutrient loads.
- **The implementation of integrated land development programmes** to highlight the ecological benefits of land and water management.
- **Improvements to upland stream management** to reduce erosion.
- **The installation and operation of small community packaged wastewater treatment plants.**

Key BMP Indicators

The project will report key stress reduction indicators showing the future nutrient reduction capacity of wetlands and floodplains in the Tisza River basin, including:

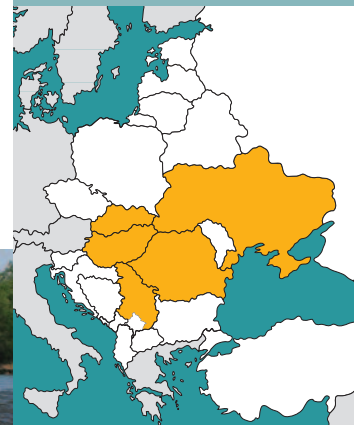
- Reduced nutrient pollution through improved policies on the use of wetlands and floodplains.
- The number of hectares of wetlands nationally approved for restoration.
- The number of kilometres of floodplains approved for reconnection.

Replication Approach

The Tisza MSP is already replicating experiences from earlier GEF interventions in the Danube River basin, and through the successful completion of the demonstration projects it will provide evidence and experience for the governments of the Tisza River basin (and the wider Danube River basin) for the replication of the activities.

Further Information

Contact: **Peter Whalley** (Tisza MSP Project Manager) and the ICPDR webpage for Tisza River basin activities: <http://www.icpdr.org/undp-gef-tisza>



About the Living Water Exchange

The Living Water Exchange, a GEF/UNDP project promoting nutrient reduction best practices in Central and Eastern Europe, will share information and accelerate the replication of the most appropriate nutrient reduction practices developed from GEF and other investments in the region.

For more information, please visit <http://nutrient-bestpractices.iwlearn.org/> or email Chuck Chaitovitz chuck@gef.org

