

Wetlands Workshop Tulcea, 18 April 07

Working Group A

Learning from History

- Previous experiences from across the basin on good/bad examples
 - Prut (MD) 2 regions with different successes - dependant on good management unit
 - Difficult to get local residents to accept wetlands – need better awareness & common logo for Danube wetlands
 - Problems with making Ministries understand the multiple benefits of wetlands
 - Local people only want protection from flood
 - BG – lot of energy devoted to awareness raising – but without strong high-level support/understanding results limited

Learning from History - 2

- Previous experiences from across the basin on good/bad
 - Reconnection can have short-term problems (e.g. flushing of nutrients)
 - Wetlands can have multiple managing authorities – communication problems
 - Land ownership problems
 - The Green Corridor – how can lessons from here be updated in light of WFD / Natura 2000?
 - UA example of Danube Lake used as fish pond and drinking water. Competing needs for water and requiring competing management options. Poor co-ordination – setting priorities!

Needs - 1

- Inventories including ‘application of wetlands’ – necessary for establishing baseline and understanding
- High-level support (backed-up by legislation)
- Better understanding of, e.g., nutrient retention by wetlands
- Clear success stories to demonstrate to all stakeholders the benefits of wetlands.
- Promotion of the benefits
- Understanding of the ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ in wetland restoration

Needs -2

- Clarity over objective of wetland management – flood, nutrient retention etc.
- Updating of training of water engineers within universities
- Inventory of 'good examples' of restored wetlands across Danube and good management examples
- Clarity over what will be gained by wetland restoration
- Impact of fluctuating climate and the added benefit of restoring wetlands under these conditions

Options for the future

- Stepwise approach to reconnection
- Targets for vision
 - 20 - 30 % would not be seen as a threat! But is this ambitious enough?
 - To recover 50% of the 'lost' wetlands
- Estimates of benefits from increased wetlands (env. Social, economic, biodiversity etc.) vs. cost. (should be linked to % restored for what reason and where, etc.)
- Vision –combining wetlands into RBMP to ensure complete integration into water management
- RBMP – could provide clarity over responsibilities / management on wetlands

Summary

- Need good managers!
- Better awareness raising for public.
- 'Logo' for Danube wetlands?
- Inventories including potential use
- Stress national support via legislation
- Benefits of restoring wetlands need to be better presented