

DRP Small Grants - Wetland Projects

DRP Final Wetlands Workshop, Tulcea 18 April, 2007

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Overview of granted NGO Wetland projects

- » *Few simple wetland projects: many often combined with BAP, waste mgmt., land use etc.*
- » *Grant Round I 2005: 1+7 projects (1+4 assessed)*
- » *Grant Round II 2006: 10 projects (8 assessed)*

Typical activities:

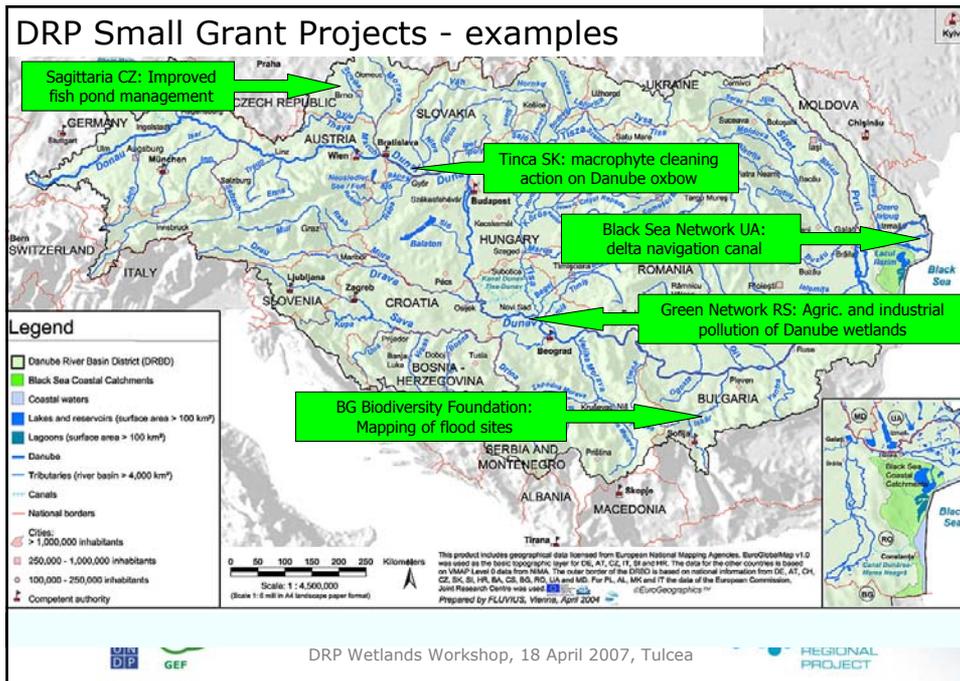
- *site cleaning, small restoration actions*
- *nutrient management efforts,*
- *monitoring and stakeholder awareness raising (media and field work)*



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DRP Small Grant Projects - examples



Ex. Pond Management Projects

- » Nutrient reduction via reduced inflow of nutrients (introducing buffer strips, BAP)
- » Removal of excess weeds
- » Replace of alien by local species (macrophytes, fish)
- » Restore self-purification capacities and natural character
- » Introduce monitoring and a (new) management plan

Ex. River Policy Projects

- » Campaign to prevent DOE canal in CZ & SK
 - » Media work and publications ag. big interest groups
- » New protection and mgmt. of Slovak Danube
 - » Lobbying for new forest management plans (1500 ha): replace invasive by local species
 - » designation of >1400 ha of new protected areas
 - » dissemination of a *bilingual* brochure about floodplain benefits



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Ex. Local nutrient retention

SOVS BirdLife, SK objective:

- » Restore the wetland and reduce the agricultural impact on Zitava river (Vah RB)
- » Improving 80 ha grassland in a floodplain (renewal of habitats and removal of biomass) and converting 15 ha of surrounding arable fields into grassland (with local farmers)
- » Better serving for nutrient and flood retention



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Restoration of floodplain meadows

Plot of 1 m² of grass taken from intact meadow to restoration site.

Mowing of restored meadows and removal of biomass (3.9 t N/yr) by volunteers



Monitoring of restoration process



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Ex. Stakeholder involvement

River Coalition – Sosna SK



Reconnection of a Hornad side-arm - funded by US Steel

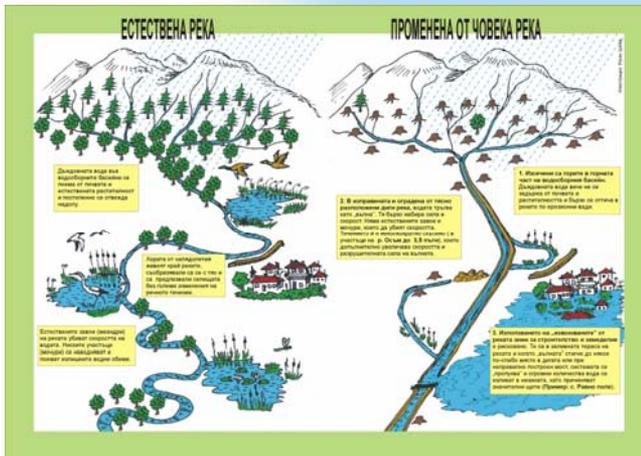


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Ex. Flood Retention

BG Biodiv. Foundation: *More space for Rivers!*



After floods 2005:
Digital mapping of current flood capacities of Ossam and Iskar rivers - bottlenecks and natural retention areas
-> Gvmt. Flood Action Plan



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Lessons

- » Success is a local experience: Focusing on small concrete action may be more relevant for locals and land users than a big intl. campaign
- » Translate wetland benefits for the stakeholders: specify the € value of its services
- » Allow big (private) partners to show off their socio-ecological image
- » Think long-term: bank cleaning vs. forestry plan



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Lessons II

- » Never work alone! Share responsibility and success

Ex. meadow mowing competition on Krnica creek/SI



- » Work with teachers – provide curriculum and identify year-round activities



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Lessons III

No relevant (wetland) project can be realised in one year and with \$ 5000

but a well prepared project will find a donor (...one day)



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This particularly refers to river/floodplain restoration projects



GEF

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