Conclusions
Wetlands Working Group B

Final Wetlands Workshop of the
UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
18-20 April 2007, Tulcea (RO)

Questions

⇒ Which measures need to be taken in wetlands to improve riverine status?
⇒ What key issues need to be included in the DRBM Plan vision?
⇒ What are the management objectives?
⇒ What are the priorities of functions and measures?
Which measures need to be taken in wetlands to improve riverine status?

- Lateral connectivity: it is important to consider where and how to open/re-connect wetlands.
- Sediment dynamics/sediment considerations
- Need for feasibility study for specific cases
- Water level increase through measures
- Before connection future function of wetland has to be defined (flowing water/or standing water condition)

Which measures need to be taken in wetlands to improve riverine status?

- Information and involvement of local authorities in measure design (they know the situation)
- For measure selection & implementation involvement of governmental bodies and local stakeholders
- Restoration needs are different but no ‘common rule’
  - mostly relates to flood protection, nutrient reduction from agricultural pollution, change of microclimate
Which measures need to be taken in wetlands to improve riverine status?

**Motivation**

- Plan flood retention and wetland restoration on basin wide level
- Motivation for wetland restoration
  - Flood protection
  - Habitat restoration
  - Pollution control – nutrient retention
- Wetlands are multifunctional system and their restoration is a solution for many problems (part of vision)

**Wetland & Flood protection**

- Reconnected wetlands cannot be automatically flood retention areas
- Has to be seen on the basin wide scale
- Retention areas offer new ecological potential, which has a positive influence on ecological status
- Flood retention areas are efficient and needed also outside the current dykes
- Combination/cross-compliance with ecological objectives
- Information on/management of water fluctuations resulting from reservoirs is important on any downstream wetland management
Wetland conservation and restoration addresses/solves several pressures in the DRB (flood, nutrient pollution)

- Win-win situations

**Vision – lateral connectivity**

- Wetlands are multifunctional systems and offer multifunctional solutions
  - Flood protection
  - Nutrient retention
  - Habitat/morphology improvement (river & wetland)
  - Recreation

- Two env. objectives: GES and functioning wetland

- Maintenance and conservation of existing wetlands to maintain GES

- Economic benefits

- Social benefits

- *No net loss* principle

- Hydromorphological and ecological sustainability
**Vision – lateral connectivity**

**Actions**

- **Basis**: 80% of wetlands are lost
- **Which wetlands should be part of the DRBM Plan?**
  - Disconnected/deteriorated wetlands for which measures should be taken
- **Update of inventory including function of wetland**
  - **Selection criteria:**
    - Which ones can be excluded for restoration?
    - Which ones are very valuable?
    - Which ones are easy to restore?
    - Size/catchment scale
    - Wetland use
    - Topography

**Proposal: Management Objective**

- **WWF study 1999**
  - Map part of Danube Basin Analysis
  - Estimation for restorations potentials:
    - 240,000 ha (Danube River)
    - 292,000 for whole investigated area (more than 50% restoration potential)
- **17 wetland sites – 5 green corridor sites**
- This could be the management objective
- **Data collection from countries on national measures**
- **Translation to the basin wide scale**
  - Illustration of implementation success until 2015
Vision – lateral connectivity

Proposal: Management Objective

✧ Other studies to be considered
  ✧ Green corridor
  ✧ Study Danube Delta Institute
  ✧ WWF study on flood retention areas
  ✧ Natura 2000 inventory

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!