DRP Small Grants - Wetland Projects

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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)
DRP Small Grant Projects - examples

Sagittaria CZ: Improved fish pond management
Tinca SK: macrophyte cleaning action on Danube oxbow

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

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
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

Ex. Stakeholder involvement
River Coalition – Sosna SK

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

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
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

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)
This particularly refers to river/floodplain restoration projects.