

**INVESTMENT**GEF **USD 978,102****PROJECT DURATION**

2005–2007

NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- Poor agricultural practices, including the inappropriate use and over-application of fertilisers and pesticides
- Water pollution

EARLY NUTRIENT BMP “WINS”

- Information materials and capacity building for farmers

BULGARIA

Sustainable Land Management Project

Project Summary and Scope

The project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Environment and Waters and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The overall goal was to enhance capacity for preventing land degradation and establish a coherent and sustainable land management policy that contributes to protecting ecosystem health, integrity, functions and services, while promoting sustainable livelihoods in Bulgaria. It focused on providing institutional and technical support, strengthening financial mechanisms and mobilising resources for sustainable land management.

Project outcomes were:

- A sound land management policy and a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for sustainable land management.

Best Practices

- **Publication of a brochure on good agricultural practices** — There were two editions of the brochure, 5,000 copies of which were disseminated to stakeholders.
- **Training of government experts** — More than 250 experts from regional inspectorates and the National Agricultural Advisory Service were trained during the project.
- **The implementation of two demonstration projects** —
 - 1 The practical implementation of options for the sustainable management of degraded lands through re-cultivation with organic waste compost in the municipality of Boichinovtsi, implemented by the Razvitie Community Centre in the village of Lehchevo.

The main activities included terrain investigation; planning the compost site; constructing the compost site; separating the waste; supplying the heaps and obtaining high-quality compost; ensuring the environment-friendly use and maintenance of the site; restoring degraded land; building awareness, providing information to the public and disseminating good practices.



Benefits included the restoration of degraded land; the protection of water from contamination with nitrates; the utilisation of organic waste to obtain organic compost; and the building of local capacity for preparing and implementing sustainable land management projects (implementing an effective new technology for composting and utilising biodegradable waste).

- 2 The practical implementation of options for sustainable land management regarding livestock breeding through the construction of an environment-friendly common village manure heap in the municipality of Boliarovo, implemented by the NGO Bolyarovo and the municipality of Dalgopol, implemented by Arkusgas Ltd.

The main activities included terrain investigation; planning the facility; building the facility; safeguarding the facility ecologically (draining, green fences etc.); regulating the use of the facility; ensuring the environment-friendly utilisation of organic waste; building awareness, providing information to the public and disseminating good practices.

Benefits included making the settlements more environmentally friendly; introducing good sanitation practices; protecting soil and water from contamination with nitrates; producing the organic fertilisers necessary for the introduction of organic farming; and building local capacity for the preparation and implementation of locally significant projects (developing a model project).

Other Key Successes

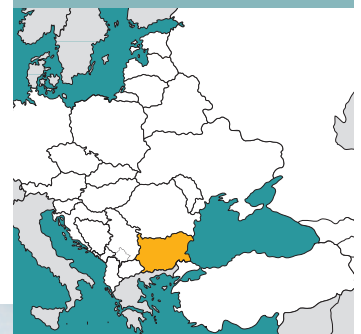
- The development of a national sustainable land management strategy.
- An educational programme and masters programme on sustainable land management.

Key Agricultural BMP Indicators

- Adoption of environment-friendly practices in three municipalities.
- Adoption of improved manure handling and storage facilities by 30 percent of farmers in pilot areas.
- Over 600 farmers supported directly by experts from the National Agricultural Advisory Service in access to EU funding.

Further Information

Ministry of Environment and Water, 22 Maria Louisa Blvd, Sofia 1000, Tel.: (359-2) 940 66 43, Tel./Fax: (359-2) 981 32 01, E-mail: slm@moew.government.bg, Website: www.unccd-slm.org



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

