



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Promoting Replication of Good Practices for Nutrient Reduction and Joint Collaboration in Central and Eastern Europe

GEF ID#: 2746, PIMS ID#: 3505, Project Status: Completed



Key results:

1. 20 years worth of GEF IW nutrient reduction projects in Central and Eastern Europe were inventoried and analyzed for best practices.
2. Four demonstration projects in four countries were completed, showcasing successful nutrient reduction strategies to key stakeholders.
3. Nutrient reduction best practices and replication strategies were disseminated and promoted at conferences, on-line, and through reports and other means.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The goal of this project, also known as the Living Waters Exchange (LWE), was to accelerate the replication of nutrient reduction (NR) projects in 15 countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Non point-source pollution (i.e., agricultural activities and storm water runoff) increase nutrient loads in rivers and seas, leading to eutrophication ("dead zones"); nuisance levels of algae and aquatic vegetation; increased drinking water treatment costs; and an imbalance of aquatic species in ecosystems. The GEF International Waters programme has been promoting solutions for NR in the region for 20 years, and the project sought to leverage this experience to foster future work. There were three main objectives:

- 1) To inventory and assess GEF NR experience in the region and identify best practices.
- 2) To identify and demonstrate successful replication strategies for NR
- 3) To disseminate and promote replication strategies to practitioners and decision makers

RESULTS: PROCESS

Objective 1 of the project was the identification, capture, analysis, and summarization of NR best practices. Outcomes sought included a clearer understanding of good practices and lessons learned in NR projects; a better understanding of the NR expertise needs of project practitioners and stakeholders; and a better understanding of the nature of criteria for and categories of good NR experiences.

INDICATOR #1: Comprehensive search and capture of GEF and non-GEF NR projects in Central and Eastern Europe regions. [**Target:** An inventory of NR projects and a database catalogue complete and online.]

The LWE identified 38 nutrient relevant projects with more than 138 NR practices. Twenty-eight of the projects were related to agriculture and/or wetlands restoration issues. The database is complete and integrated into the project website: www.nutrient-bestpractices.iwlearn.org

INDICATOR #2: Comprehensive review of key NR project attributes. [**Target:** Analysis of project information including in-depth interviews.]

23 interviews completed, plus face-to-face meetings with selected GEF project managers

INDICATOR #3: Good/Best practices, criteria and categories for NR developed. [**Target:** 20 categories complete and posted; attributes included in the final report of outcomes.]

Criteria were developed for good NR Practices and 20 categories developed, along with a basic definition of Best Agricultural Practice (BAP). 12 BAPs were identified, including 8 with a high potential impact for NR: Riparian Buffers; Nutrient Management; Manure Management; Ecological/Organic Production; Wetland Restoration/Creation; Erosion Control; Grazing Management; and Cover Crops. A final report and database were completed.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

Objective 2 of the project was the demonstration of successful NR replication strategies, and Objective 3 was the dissemination and promotion of these strategies, best practices, and lessons learned.

INDICATOR #1: Selection of good NR practices and lessons learned. [**Target:** 2-page summary for each of 17 good NR practices completed and posted on IW:LEARN.]

Twenty 2-page summaries plus four demonstration summaries completed and posted in English and Russian.

INDICATOR #2: Selection and implementation of replication pilot projects focused on agriculture practices and wetlands. [**Target:** Implementation of two replication pilot projects, including peer-to-peer exchanges, for identification of replication opportunities.]

Four demonstration sites selected and four demonstration projects (DPs) in four countries implemented, centred on low cost NR intervention strategies. One Peer-to-Peer exchange held at each of the four DP sites, creating new commitments to build capacity, replicate projects, provide further co-financing etc.

INDICATOR #3: Summarizing and dissemination of NR good practices, lessons learned, and successful replication strategies. [**Target:** Dissemination via IW:LEARN, RBEC-COP, Water Wiki & Russian-English printed materials.]

Project website completed, including a database of practices from GEF Projects and online display of all core project outputs (DPs, Best Agricultural Practices, etc.) The final report, priority practices summary, policy recommendations summary and project highlights summary are complete. . Also completed were articles in the REC publication "Green Horizon", videos on 2 DPs complete, and numerous other presentations. IW:Learn, RBEC-COP, Water Wiki, and bilingual reports were all utilized.

INDICATOR #4: Project information disseminated at major conferences. [**Target:** Dissemination at World Bank Regional Nutrient Reduction Conference and at the International Waters Conference IWC5.]

The project and its results were presented at the GEF/World Bank Danube River Enterprise Pollution Reduction project regional conference in Belgrade, October 2010. At IWC5, a plenary and a workshop were held to discuss information needs and interest in cooperation and replication with other GEF project managers from Central/Eastern Europe.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

The scope of the project did not include an implementation stage of any specific local initiatives; therefore this category of measurable results is not applicable.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Outreach to GEF project managers requires continuous follow-up; face-to-face meetings and relationship building is a key element of ensuring responses and collaboration.
- It is important to develop a standardized system to identify and collect NR measures and data. It is equally important to begin NR and cost/measure efficiency data collection early in a project.
- Demonstrations provide a strong opportunity to showcase that effective low-tech, low-cost NR interventions can be developed locally.
- Peer-to-peer exchanges that have the right stakeholders (experts, policy makers, practitioners/farmers) involved are a solid format to share experiences and see NR interventions first hand. Mechanisms for one-on-one follow-up with farmers are also important.
- Co-finance for DPs is critical to ensuring local commitment and smooth and complete project implementation.

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