

MID-TERM REVIEW of the MSP UNDP/GEF Project “Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved trans-boundary management for the Tisza River Basin”

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UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP Stakeholder meeting
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

- ◆ An integral part of GEF-Mid-Size Project “Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved trans-boundary management for the Tisza River Basin”;
- ◆ The UNDP pilot and demonstration component will aim at developing, implementation and evaluation of trans-boundary community-led projects that promote sustainable development through integrated land and water management (ILWM) practices at the community level in Tisza countries

PROJECT OVERVIEW (cond't)

The MSP will implement two key components resulting in the following expected outcomes :

- ◆ Adoption of policies and legislation ;
- ◆ Demonstrations of effective floodplain management strategies including the adaptation to increased flood events as a consequence of fluctuating flow regime for, nutrient retention, habitat restoration, and flood management implemented at local level.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- ◆ *OBJECTIVE:* To yield valuable insights and lessons, which will serve to inform the umbrella GEF- project, as well as other trans-boundary integrated land and water management projects through out the region and globally;
 - ◆ *FOCUS:* on community-driven governance interventions, encouraging community ownership of project activities and outcomes.
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DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS (cond't)

- Towards Integrated Land And Water Management in Upper Tisza (UK-RO);
- Making Space For Water in the Bodrog River Basin (SK- RO-UK); and
- Integrated Land Development (ILD) Program To Improve Land Use And Water Management Efficiency in the Tisza Basin (HU-RO-RS).

MID-TERM REVIEW

- Was initiated by UNDP –Bratislava;
 - Provides an in-depth reflection of project progress, priority actions for this phase of the project and for other future UNDP/GEF projects which promote sustainable development through integrated land and water management.
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REVIEW INSTRUMENTS

- Documentation Review;
- Interviews (36);
- Questionnaire (20);
- Field Visit; and
- Achievement Rating.

REVIEW FINDINGS: UPPER TISZA (UK-RO)

- ◆ Relevant for the sustainable development and ILWM within the Upper Tisza Region;
- ◆ Acceptable PM, the problem that emerged has been identified and solved accordingly;
- ◆ For the some components benefits are already visible;
- ◆ Stakeholders participation (Local & National);
- ◆ Sustainable project with good replication capacity;
- ◆ The project activities have a strong support of the local population.

REVIEW FINDINGS: BODROG (SK-UK-HU)

- ◆ It is an ambitious project in “unexplored” territories ;
- ◆ Good PM, the problem that emerged has been flagged on time;
- ◆ Stakeholders participation (Local & National);
- ◆ Sustainable project with good replication capacity;
- ◆ The project activities have a moderate support of the local population (SK-HU).

REVIEW FINDINGS: ILD (HU-RO-SRB)

- ◆ Relevant for the MSP objectives;
 - ◆ Additional efforts needed by PM team to accomplish project objectives given the lifetime of the project;
 - ◆ Stakeholders participation (Local & National) – need for more intersectoral participation;
 - ◆ Sustainable project with replication capacity;
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LESSONS LEARNED

- ◆ Projects that are more practical than theoretical, have a good potential to yield long term successes;
 - ◆ Simple projects design that includes new and more environmentally friendly approaches for the flood management at the community level, that have acceptable potential to be replicable within the region and worldwide;
 - ◆ The projects benefits and activities will very likely persist after the lifetime of the projects ;
 - ◆ The timeline of the project might be inadequate to strengthen the capacity for formulating and implementing adaptive strategies, to strengthen the policy framework ;
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LESSONS LEARNED

- ◆ There are more chances for the project to succeed if it is reinforced by policies and legislation;
- ◆ The lack of efficient policies implementation or finance that may decrease the project sustainability within a longer period of time, the state policies should have more integrated approach and better linkage with local stakeholders;
- ◆ Support by the UNDP, GEF and ICPDR is crucial;
- ◆ Risk mitigation management has not been addressed in a proper way, from the degree of the risk to the management response. Appropriate risk management will improve overall success of the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

- ◆ The new approaches in the area of the ILWM should be introduced and enforced ;
- ◆ Need for the better linkage and cooperation between authorities, stakeholders and decision makers at various levels, i.e., local, regional and national;
- ◆ Suitable and comprehensive risk management that clearly address each of the outputs should be included in the design of the future projects to allow project management to act accordingly and in a timely manner;
- ◆ More detailed explanation of integrated and/ or sustainable is needed. In addition, some approximate bench marks with respect to flood risk mitigation, environmental flow conditions, nutrient reduction, etc;

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

- ◆ The observed and/or anticipated climate change for a projects area should be mentioned and/or commented. To which extend the change in extreme weather conditions will affect expected project outcomes in the future ;
- ◆ There is evidence that more interdisciplinary approach rather than sectoral at both local and national level is required. This will provide necessary ground for the more effective implementation of the variety of projects;
- ◆ Education of the existing and potential stakeholders with respect to ILWM within the Tisza River basin is crucial;
- ◆ Within the next phase of the projects the attention and additional efforts should be made to institutionalize projects results. Follow-up discussions with the relevant Ministries, to cooperate with them on the preparation of the national ILWM strategies for the Tisza River watershed;
- ◆ Nutrient reduction component should be addressed.

Disclaimer

This report is the work of an independent consultant and does not necessarily represent the views, or policy, or intentions of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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