Final Report

Submission Date:

07.06.2016

for the project

Project Title: ‘Mapping priority wetland sites for restoration’

Beneficiary/Project Leader: CEEweb for Biodiversity

Project Acronym: 'PrioREST'

Country: Hungary

Project Number: 02-14-C3_PA06

Name of Contact Person: Ms. Sarolta Tripolszky

(if there is a new contact person for the project, please also provide contact details (Phone and email))

Priority Area: PA 6 – Biodiversity, landscapes, air/soil quality

in relation to the

“Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects – TAF-DRP II”

by

Consultant: Hydrophil GmbH

Name of Author: Mr. Martin Edthofer, Mag. Elisabeth Samec

Implementation Period: From 23.02.2016 to 06.06.2016
1. Introduction

The aim of the final report is to provide a detailed summary of the TAF-DRP services delivered by the expert team throughout the implementation period as well as recommendations for follow up actions by the beneficiary.

As stated in the TAF-DRP application form, the beneficiary commits to “base the follow up report on the planned follow up actions listed in section 5 of this application form, as well as on the expert’s recommendations”.

2. Summary of the TAF-DRP Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of the future project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CEEweb for Biodiversity has been involved in several wetland restoration projects (e.g. in Romania, Estonia and Slovakia) and is currently producing a report on wetland ecosystem services and assessing the improvement of ecosystem service flows in the course of 15 Central and Eastern European wetland restoration projects. CEEweb wants to continue with wetland restoration at a larger scale for which support from TAF-DRP was requested. The future objectives for the larger scale project comprise:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO1 - To establish the baseline by conducting participatory assessments and collection of data for improving the knowledge base and monitoring issues;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO2 - To set up a restoration expert network for the Danube Basin countries supporting dialogue and implementing capacity building measures;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO3 - To implement selected measures / interventions in pilot restoration projects to improve the conservation and support the integrated management of habitats focusing on relevant transnational bio-corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level of maturity and state of play at the end of TAF-DRP Services:</strong> Draft concept for a joint project proposal to be used for further project development involving new partners and submission under the second call of the DTP in late 2016; plus funding possibilities for those projects, either not eligible under DTP or having the need for much higher investments for their projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of TAF-DRP services</td>
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TAF-DRP – Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects

FINAL REPORT

Page 2 of 9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has there been major change to the objectives of the TAF-DRP services as defined in the inception report?</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
<td></td>
<td>All TAF objectives defined in the inception report have been achieved (with slight modifications with respect to the stakeholder workshop - instead of a real face-to-face meeting, a web conference was organized).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have there been major modifications in the content of the services delivered?</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
<td>If applicable: Please provide details of modified activities in Annex 1 Roadmap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which outputs have been achieved for each activity?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please indicate final outputs for each activity in Annex 1 Roadmap</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Which overall results have been achieved?                               |     |    | Technical: The consultant discussed and advised the beneficiary regarding the strategic direction of future restoration projects with the goal to up-scaling restoration activities in priority habitats in the Danube Basin towards a more strategic, transnational approach and to look for new partnerships, also by increasing the geographical scope (with a focus on Balkan countries). Besides wetland restoration, there was an agreement to include also restoration measures for grasslands - as extremely valuable ecosystems, but heavily degraded and often forgotten (related outputs, such as template for priority restoration projects and the final 'Project Portfolio' are attached).  
Conceptual/methodological: The consultant provided substantial advice to the beneficiary to further develop the concept, e.g. by identifying interested parties and their needs, as well as collecting, analyzing and tailoring proposals for pilot restoration activities in priority wetland and grassland habitats.  
Legal: -  
Financing/economic: The inception report stressed the fact that detailed cost estimates for big restoration projects are not feasible within the TAF, as comprehensive feasibility studies are needed; therefore, only basic draft budget estimates (small and medium size investments) for pilot projects have been included in the project portfolio. In addition, the consultant provided information on possible funding sources (the related output 'overview of potential funding sources' is attached).  
Partnership: As mentioned above, one of the TAF objectives was to increase CEEweb's nework and to establish new partnerships. Besides new partners interested in a restoration network, the stakeholders for each of the potential pilot projects were identified.  
Other: - |
| Have you encountered major | ☐ Yes |    | Due to the late approval of the Inception Report (nearly two |
difficulties in the implementation of the services (e.g. access to information, communication with beneficiary, commitment of beneficiary, resources, etc)?

| No |

- the work started only late February. At that time the beneficiary was fully occupied by the organization of an INTERREG Conference and therefore, communication with the beneficiary was extremely difficult or even absent and delays in TAF activities occurred. This was also expressed in the mid-term review. Nevertheless, it has to be stated that after this period a very good and constructive cooperation with CEEweb can be reported.

## Financing sources for the future project

Which financing sources and options for the future project have been identified? Please indicate the most “promising” financing sources identified for the project

- **EU funding source(s):** Interreg Danube Transnational Programme
- many other funding possibilities described in a detailed document, due to the huge interest of partners for Green Infrastructure projects; some might not be eligible under the DTP (e.g. proposals from Albania) or have higher funding needs, therefore research on other funding opportunity was included.
- **Other public funding source(s):**
- **Other:**
### 3. Recommendations for follow up actions by the beneficiary

Recommendations for follow up actions are established by the expert team and agreed with the beneficiary.

Basis for the follow-up recommendations are those listed by the beneficiary in the application form (section 5), adjusted/modified where needed to build on the outputs and results of TAF-DRP services. Please define max. 6 follow-up actions:

**Background:** The beneficiary commits to submit to the MU a follow-up report on implementation of these recommendations within approx. 6 months after validation of the final report. Exact deadline will be communicated to the beneficiary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Publishing a list of wetlands to be restored in the DRB region, their importance for biodiversity, and society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Publish report, data and communication materials on chosen restoration sites (photo, short project info) on CEEweb's website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Promoting the project as joint DRB initiative among local, regional, EU decision makers and authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inform potential local partners about financing possibilities and start project planning, as adequate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Submission of at least 10 applications for habitat restoration projects to diverse EU/national/private funders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annexes

Following documents are to be attached to the final report:

- **Final roadmap incl.** final outputs per activity and recommendations for follow-up actions by the beneficiary, validated by the beneficiary

- **All outputs** produced by the expert team for each activity are to be attached to this report, in particular reports, pre-feasibility studies, project descriptions, meeting reports/minutes, etc.
  - Invitation letter for possible restoration projects
  - Distribution list of invitations - contact database
  - Overview - list of initial responses (end of April 2016)
  - Continuation letter to interested parties
  - Template - instructions for structuring the project proposal
  - Summary of skype call (09 May 2016)
  - Protocol of the web conference (23 May 2016)
  - Project Portfolio for the restoration of wetland and grassland priority habitats (without maps and photos) - Annex: summary sheets for each of the pilot projects including all information
  - Overview of Potential Funding Sources for Restoration Projects
  - Background document as a basis for joint DTP project

- **Completed and signed timesheets** for the project leader, senior and junior experts (for the Managing Unit only), covering the implementation phase (the inception phase is here excluded).
## Annex 1: Roadmap – Description of Activities delivered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activity according to inception report</th>
<th>Changes in activities delivered (if applicable)</th>
<th>Planned outputs according to inception report</th>
<th>Final outputs incl. brief description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1        | 1.1. Identification of new potential partners and selection of priority sites for restoration  
1.2. Elaboration of a template for structuring priority restoration project proposals | no changes | 1.1. Up to 10 potential priority restoration sites selected with committed partners for implementation  
1.2. Agreed template | After elaborating a distribution list (contact database), invitation letters were sent out to a wide range of possibly interested parties. Over 30 expressed their interest coming from public authorities, NGO, scientific- or business organizations. The proposals were analyzed and for the selected, most promising ones, additional information was requested (see continuation letter and template to further structure the project proposals). |
| 2        | Development of summary project proposals for each of the selected priority site | no changes | Draft summary sheets for each of the sites (up to 10) including stakeholder analyses | After the selection process, summary sheets according to the structure of the given template were prepared for each of the proposals. In total, 16 project proposals for the restoration of wetland/grassland priority habitats are included in the attached 'Project Portfolio' (due to the huge size of proposals, maps and photos have been removed from this document). Separate summary sheets for each of the project proposals are available including maps, photos, budgets, if available, etc. |
| 3        | Holding a stakeholder workshop | Stakeholders have been identified, but instead of the originally planned face-to-face workshop in Budapest, a web conference was organized. | • Stakeholder workshop held;  
• Minutes of the workshop available. | Due to the limited financial resources of the beneficiary as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by travel, we decided to organize a web conference which was held on 23 May 2016. In total, 13 people attended the |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activity according to inception report</th>
<th>Changes in activities delivered (if applicable)</th>
<th>Planned outputs according to inception report</th>
<th>Final outputs incl. brief description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Explore possible funding options</td>
<td>no changes</td>
<td>Overview of potential funding sources and their requirements</td>
<td>The document regarding funding sources was elaborated with inputs from the beneficiary. It is structured into several sections (Programmes of the European Union, United Nations funds, other funds and useful links and selected national funding possibilities). Within these sections, the document provides an overview of the respective programme, the description/comments, priorities, deadlines and amounts, if available, criteria for eligibility and web links. The document includes also funding opportunities not necessarily linked with ecosystem restoration work, but might be useful for some NGOs dealing with other important issues contributing to the overall goal, such as research, gender issues, strengthening civil society, etc. Due to the limited resources under the TAF project, the document makes no claim to be complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Activity according to inception report</td>
<td>Changes in activities delivered (if applicable)</td>
<td>Planned outputs according to inception report</td>
<td>Final outputs incl. brief description</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Assist and advise the beneficiary in preparing the proposal for a full project and finalize the summary sheets for each of the priority sites</td>
<td>no changes</td>
<td>Background information to justify and understand the project scope, inputs and advise to the intervention logic, main components, partnership and governance structure..</td>
<td>Summary background document to be used as a basis to further develop a joint proposal to be submitted under the next call of the DTP. The document provides basic information on the background and context, problems to be addressed as justification for the full proposal, purpose, specific objectives (as a proposal), and other issues, such as governance issues, project partners, etc. The finalization of the summary sheets for priority sites - see under Activity 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Interim Review and final report</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Subject: Looking for potential partners for wetland /grassland restoration activities

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

CEEweb is a regional network of 50 conservation organizations from 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe. We are active in restoration of natural areas and are looking for partners to extend our current activities in this field.

In the framework of an international project, we have been restoring three important wetland sites in Estonia, Slovakia and Romania in 2015. Our member organizations have concluded a large number of similar projects and are European level experts. The organisation’s staff is active on highest European level in restoration related policy making and connected capacity building. The European Commission and private foundations support our activities. Our goal is not only to restore the natural values, but to help increase the recreational and tourism capacity of regions, to provide new jobs and income, and improve environmental and life quality of people especially in deprived areas.

As a continuation of our ongoing activities we would like to extend our project portfolio with another 10-20 wetland or grassland restoration sites in Central and South Eastern Europe. We aim to submit a joint project proposal for funding to the Danube Transnational Programme in late 2016 and support the sites in funding other national/regional funding sources, too. We are approaching you to explore your interest in joining our initiative. We want to raise the following questions:

- Do you have unused or degraded wetlands (lakes, rivers, oxbows) or grasslands (overgrown meadows, orchards) in your land/municipality/district that you would like to improve?
- Would you like to establish nature-based recreation and tourism or explore other kind of economic opportunities in this area?
- Are you interested to get information about possible EU and non-EU funding to support such activities?

If your answer is yes to at least two of the above questions, we would appreciate if you could send us the following information:

- What is the name of your site? (e.g. wetland, grassland area) Where is it located? Can you send us any maps or photos?
- Who is the owner and what is the major land use form (e.g. agriculture, fishing etc.)?
- What would you like to achieve in the site? What is your goal?
- Would it be a low cost project or is there the need for substantial funding? Can you contribute anything, e.g. small co-financing, human resources and assistance in implementation, etc.?
- Can you provide an English speaking contact person?

This request for joining the initiative will be sent out widely in Danube-Carpathian countries; incoming proposals will be analysed using a set of criteria and the most promising ones will be selected. For the chosen ones we will get in contact with you for more details to prepare the full project.

In case you are interested, please send a reply with relevant information by 15 April 2016 to:
Sissi Samec  sissi.samec@chello.at
CC: Sarolta Tripolszky sarolta@ceeweb.org

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. We would be happy to answer them!

We are looking forward to hearing back from you!

Yours sincerely,

Sissi Samec  Sarolta Tripolszky
Consultant  Fundraising and Innovations Officer
Environment & Development  CEEweb for Biodiversity
Mobile: 0043-699-19204312  Telephone: +36 1 398 01 35
E-mail: sissi.samec@chello.at  E-mail: sarolta@ceeweb.org

CEEweb for Biodiversity  is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.
### TAF-DRP ‘Mapping Priority Wetland Sites for Restoration (PrioREST)’

**Initial responses to request for proposals – an overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegov.</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>wetland</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Thank you very much for replying to our invitation regarding restoration. We have received 26 replies from 12 countries forming an impressive “restoration project portfolio” in our region. This gives us the motivation to bring this initiative forward. With this letter I would like to inform you about our planned next steps.

Currently in the framework of a Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP) we have capacity until the end of May to work out the initial ideas into more elaborated project fiches, which can then be presented to donors. Together with this letter you received further instructions on how to improve the project fiches. Please be in contact with my colleagues Sissi Samec and Nenad Peric with regard to this. You will also be able to use the finalised project fiches for your own purposes.

Following this, CEEweb will look for funding opportunities in support of the prepared project proposals.

We proposed so far the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP), however, we would like to call your attention to the fact that the Danube Transnational Programme’s main aim is to affect policy making and implementation on transnational issues through the development of common orientations, frameworks and strategies, transnational tools and services, preparation of transnational investments, training and capacity building. The Programme funds practical restoration work (e.g. infrastructure work) only to a limited extent (15-18% of the overall project budget) in the form of limited pilot actions. Thus restoration actions in the amount and level you proposed would not be possible through this form of funding. For this reason, other sources or modes of funding might be sought for (e.g. private donors, Natural Capital Financing Facility, project writing consultancy, others).

As the initial information you sent doesn’t allow us to really understand how we could help you achieve your goal, we will organise two web conferences (one for EU and one for accession countries), where our aim is to find out how CEEweb can help you most in bringing your intentions forward. Discussion points will include:

- Would you like to be part of a DTP project that first of all aims at policy, strategy building & capacity building (and funds practical work only to limited extent)?
- Would you like to become part of a CEE restoration expert network?
- What support do you need most to bring your initiative forward, what are the main hindrances?
- Do you need capacity building, and exchange (e.g. between more experienced and newcomers on the topic related to restoration)? Which topics are the most interesting?
- Would you find individual fundraising support (e.g. project writing support) useful?
Please let us know if you could participate in the web conference on the 23rd May. The web conference would last 1,5 hours each. In order to participate please send reply with the name, email address and Skype address of the person who will represent your organization by 18 May 2016 to:

Nenad Peric nenadp90@gmail.com
CC: Coralie Loppin coralie.loppin@gmail.com
CC: Sissi Samec sissi.samec@chello.at

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. We would be happy to answer them!

We are looking forward to hearing back from you!

Yours sincerely,

Sarolta Tripolszky
Fundraising and Innovations Officer
CEEweb for Biodiversity
Telephone: +36 1 398 01 35
E-mail: sarolta@ceeweb.org

Sissi Samec
Consultant
Environment & Development
Mobile: 0043-699-19204312
E-mail: sissi.samec@chello.at
Instructions for structuring the project proposal
(Examples have been taken and partly adapted from one of the proposals received)

Title of the project
The project title should be short, concise, and preferably refer to a certain key project result.
Example:
   Restoration of the freshwater marsh Azmaka in Atanasovsko Lake

Location
Define exactly where the project interventions will take place.
Example:
   Azmaka marsh is located in Atanasovsko lake north of Burgas, Bulgaria, in direct proximity of the Black Sea

Size
Define the exact size of the area you want to restore and where your activities take place
Example:
   2 hectares freshwater marsh

Site description
Short description of the area, specifically as regards the values of the site
Example:
   The freshwater marsh Azmaka was one of the most important feeding and roosting sites for many bird species. Atanasovsko lake is located at the Via Pontica migration flyway and is typical bottleneck migration site for the migrating soaring birds from Northern, Eastern and Central Europe (up to 240,000 storks and up to 60,000 raptors). Around Atanasovsko Lake – a hyper-saline lake – more than 300 bird species of all 446 occurring in Bulgaria have been watched, many of them globally threatened, listed in the Annex 1 of the European Birds Directive and in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria (84 species). It forms also a priority habitat according to the Habitats Directive, the coastal lagoon, which is extremely rare habitat in Bulgaria. The area is the largest salt production site (average 50.000 tons per year) in the country and the largest deposit of curative mud. Salt has been produced for more than 100 years. The dykes and barriers constructed for production create proper conditions for breeding of many species. Since the lake does not freeze in winter, it is a site with international importance for the concentrations of wintering waterfowl.

Biodiversity features
Here you should refer specifically to important biodiversity features, important ecosystems (freshwater ecosystems, such as lakes, rivers, wetlands; grassland, forests, etc.); make special references to important and threatened fauna and flora species as well as habitats.
Example:
   Of the birds occurring there, 127 species are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004), 19 of them being listed in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 28 in SPEC 2 and 80 in SPEC 3 as species threatened in Europe. The area provides suitable habitats for 105 species, included in Annex 2 of the Biodiversity Act, which need special conservation measures, of which 103 are listed also in Annex I of the Birds Directive. Examples of breeding birds: the Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta, the Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis and the Kentish Plover Charadrius
alexandrines; the biggest concentrations of migrating White Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus, the Dalmatian Pelican Pelecanus crispus, the Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus and the Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus; favourite night roosts for pelicans and storks; considerable numbers of Pygmy Cormorant Phalacrocorax pygmeus and Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia; exceptionally rare and globally threatened Slender-billed Curlew Numenius tenuirostris. Besides bird species and other species, Atanasovsko lake features a considerable diversity of habitats.

Status
The status describes the type of protection, if any
Example:
Atanasovsko Lake was designated as Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar Convention in 1984 and its territory was enlarged in 2003. In 1989 the lake was designated as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. In 1998 the area it was appointed as CORINE Site because of its European value for rare and threatened bird species. Since Bulgaria joined the European Union, the site is designated as a NATURA 2000 site (BG0000270).

Problems / justification
The problem statement provides a description of the specific problem(s) the project is trying to address and to solve. Furthermore, the project proposal should point out why a certain issue is a problem for the community or society as a whole, i.e. what are the negative implications.
Example:
Over the course of years the marsh has become overgrown with reeds and accumulated a substantial layer with silt and decaying organic matter. They worsened the physicochemical, hydro biological and environmental conditions of the swamp and have a significant negative effect on hydrobionts (water species) and related habitat and species. Its depth is very low and it doesn’t have any fish populations. Built in the past hydraulic structures – sluice and its components are physically old and do not perform its function. The marsh is also nutrient loaded from the adjacent lands and from the Azmak River that mouths to the marsh. Azmaka is not anymore a feeding place for several rare water birds.

Ownership
Specify who is the owner of the land and who is currently managing the land – sometimes this is very complicated, as there are many owners and users
Example:
The site is state property and managed by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Burgas

The main goal
The goal should provide a broad statements that indicates what you hope to accomplish; it focuses on how a situation will be changed as a result of a successful project, not what a project will do.
Example:
The main goal of the project is to restore 2 ha freshwater marsh important for the conservation of important birds species that occur in the area of Atanasovsko Lake

Objectives
Project objectives specify what the project is going to achieve; there can be several project objectives, but all need to show a direct contribution to project main goal and ideally, all of them should have measurable project outputs.

Example:
1. to increase water volume and freshwater area of Azmaka marsh
2. to create areas with free water surface
3. to remove the aquatic vegetation and part of the reeds

Proposed results
Describe what will be the end result of the project (measurable indicators should refer to initial situation and to improvements).

Example:
1. Increase of the water volume of Azmaka marsh by xx %
2. Free water areas – the surface increased by xx %
3. The increase of the territory covered by freshwater would increase extremely biodiversity there and especially the number of typical plankton species (need for a measurable indicator)
4. By removing the aquatic vegetation and part of the reeds, water basins will be re-occupied by fish, zooplankton and zoobenthos, which will have multiple benefits such as decreased eutrophication and improved water quality for the water biota (both parameter can be measured)
5. The restoration action will result in enhancing the favourable feeding and roosting habitat for Glossy Ibis, Collared pratincole, Ferruginous duck and other priority species (regular bird census)

Target group and stakeholders
Define the target group and who will benefit from the project; you have to identify all stakeholder – persons, groups, organizations, ..... that have certain responsibilities as regards the project content or those who can be affected by the project. This is very important as many of them need to be involved in the project implementation and need to be informed as early as possible.

Example:
– Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Burgas
– Municipality
– Interested universities, scientific institutes
– NGOS

Investment
Ideally, here a more detailed budget should be available, specifying the costs for each of the interventions.

Example:
low cost project with maximum budget 20.000 EUR

Co-financing
You should specify, if there are any possibilities for co-financing, e.g. from municipalities, communities, state budget, other project sources and what are the in-kind contributions of your organization.

Maps / Photos
If available, also web sites and other relevant background information.
Web Conference (Mid-term Meeting) within the Technical Assistance Facility
for Danube Region Projects / PrioREST

Protocol of the Web Conference
on Wetlands and Grasslands Restoration

Date: 23 May 2016, 14:00 – 16:00

Registered Participants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ms. Sarolta Tripolszky</td>
<td>Hungary, CEEweb, Innovation and Fundraising Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ms. Coralie Loppin</td>
<td>Hungary, CEEweb, Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ms. Monika Kotulak</td>
<td>Hungary, CEEweb, Natura 2000 Policy Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ms. Verica Stojanovic</td>
<td>Serbia, Institute for Nature Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mr. Milivoje Kravac</td>
<td>Serbia, Institute for Nature Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ms. Jelena Ilic</td>
<td>Serbia, ORCA – Organization for Respect and Care of Animales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ms. Jelena Kurtovic</td>
<td>Croatia, Institute of Marine Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ms. Ivana Mijic Oljacic</td>
<td>Serbia, Tourist Organization for the Municipality of Ruma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mr. Viktor Bjelic</td>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Center for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mr. Dusan Jelic</td>
<td>Croatia, Croatian Institute for Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mr. Ferit Hysa</td>
<td>Albania, Environmental Association (inputs via mail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Kanka</td>
<td>Slovakia, Institute of Landscape Ecology (inputs via mail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ms. Sissi Samec</td>
<td>Austria, hydrophil consultant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Registered but not attending due to different reasons:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mr. Artur Nebunu</td>
<td>Moldova, Ecological Counseling Center Cahul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mr. Damijan Denac</td>
<td>Slovenia, Birdlife Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mr. Jiri Koptik</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Junipera</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Mr. Andrey Ralev</td>
<td>Bulgaria, Balkani Wildlife Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ms. Amira Kunto</td>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Center for Ecology and Energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The joint meeting was accessible via computer, tablet or smartphone by the following the link: [https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/736778485](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/736778485) (Access Code: 736-778-485) and followed the proposed agenda:
their interest).

**Ad 2. Introduction round**

*Verica Stojanovic* works as a botanist in the Serbian Institute for Nature Conservation since 2004. She suggested projects about grasslands and wetlands habitats.

*Milivoje Krvavac* works as a zoologist and associate in the Institute for nature Conservation since 2013. He is involved in grasslands project.

*Jelena Illic* works for ORCA in Serbia and she is involved in advocacy work, animal welfare and nature conservation issues, biodiversity conservation. She proposed activities related to Provala Lake in the Municipality of Bač and wants more information about the program itself, which activities can be involved, etc.

*Jelena Kurtovic* works for the Croatian Institute of Marine Biology Croatia, a public institution for the management of protected areas, protecting and managing 41 protected areas. She suggested the restoration of brackish marsh ecosystem, a special ornithological and ecological reserve; and wants to know what the initiative is about.

*Viktor Bjelic* works for the Bosnian Center for Environment, with projects involving one type of wetland (although it is a Ramsar site, the wetlands doesn’t have any protection on national and local level). The interest is to protect and restore the wetland which is endangered by adjacent unsustainable management practices, e.g. growing corn and using chemicals.

*Ivana Mijic Oljacic* works with the Tourist organization of Municipality of Ruma, Serbia, dealing with the restoration of wetland area in this protected wetland habitat.

*Dusan Jelic* works in the Croatian Institute for Biodiversity, amongst others on the development and sustainable use of wetlands. They applied with proposal for restoration of small tributary of river Odra, near Zagreb. The area is very famous for biodiversity and is close to urban area, lots of problems with waste disposal.

*Robert Kanka* (via email): “although I´m not extremely experienced according to practical restoration measures, I’ve published approx. 10 scientific articles related to wetlands and floodplains, I was a member of consortium writing restoration project proposal within HORIZON 2020 related to wetlands (unfortunately it was not approved)”.  

*Ferit Hysa* (via email): works as project coordinator for the Environmental Association ‘Lilium albanicum’.

**Ad 3. Discussing the following questions:**

- Would you like to be part of a DTP project that first of all aims at policy, strategy building and capacity building (and funds practical work only to limited extent)?
Sarolta: what is most needed, only funds for infrastructure or interested in joint transnational Interreg project? Only 15% can be spent in implementation of Green Infrastructure, rest in policy tools, strategy and so on; it is a must to include governmental institutions, they are the main target group of Interreg projects.

Sissi: informed the participants that the next call of the DTP is end of November or January 2017; still a long time can be used for preparation of project.

Verica and Milivoje: interested, but need more time to discuss with their chief, didn’t have enough time; would like to hear opinions of others, then will let us know.

Jelena Illic: discussed with the organization, would be interested in project that does deal with infrastructure work but also with advocacy, capacity building and strategy. Didn’t quite understand what activities are preferred? What ideas for the joint projects? Very interested, have lots of contacts with public institutions, municipalities and people they can be involved.

Saro: DTP has different focused areas, could have something developing ecological connectivity and environmental pillar, restoration of the area, strong tourism focus, tourism product development, and how to connect the restoration with these topics.

Jelena K: about joining the project, can involve with other areas, not all of them are applicable to the areas of restoration they suggested. Want to know what kind of program, then will discuss with her boss to know, if interested or not.

Viktor: as NGO (Sarolta: they can be partners but it cannot be a project just by NGOs) so can be a partner in Bosnia but have to find institutions. Not sure it’s possible but will set up meetings with other institutions and will come back to us. But majority of program is capacity building and one of priorities is development of SME, not sure how his organization could benefit from this. Rather see the restoration and advocacy action, than capacity building but will research if interest from institutions.

Ivana: Tourist organization is very interested, but still interested in actual restoration of wetlands.

Dusan: public institute, so it’s ok for participation; majority of projects concern active restoration in the field but it’s part of large scale project; so partly was more advocacy and capacity building, development of touristic resources, so could switch more towards this side of the projects, will fit then in any case.

Questions: do you have funding for other part of the project? Dusan: That part not secured funding but promise, there is a contract of corporation with water management authority, which will include it into the yearly budget but need to provide specific plans and see technical part of how should be used for flood protection.

Sara: This could be financed by Interreg as pilot implementation plan. Dusan: They have project development of cross border strategy with Slovenia for flood protection so he knows most activities can go within Interreg.
Robert (via email): “I’m working at scientific institute and we’re dealing with the projects/tasks related to policy and strategy building, of course within the several levels of implementation and broad spectra of ecosystems – so we’re able to cover potentially such expertise; according to funding of practical work – the Modra’s municipality is very interested in such support, they have a site with a high value according to priority habitat of EU with high potential to be restored”.

Ferit (via email): “Yes”.

- Would you like to become part of a CEE restoration expert network?

Skipped as all participants already expressed their interests.

- What support do you need most to bring your initiative forward, what are the main hindrances?

Verica: would like to recover the area ‘Kladovo Sands’ which is more important than the proposed wetland site, because there is a habitat of one plant species under Habitats Directive, and there exists only one N2K site for this plant in Serbia. Colleagues from Hungary have a plan to recover this plant, we want to have information exchange with Hungarian experts. More interested in grassland types than wetlands.

Jelena Illic: developed the proposal with the help of the Municipality of Bac; they said budget is the main problem, need more time to speak with them to decide on needs other than infrastructure work on the site. Different funding options? NGO never did infrastructure work before, more advocacy organization, looking for partnership so would be more capacity and advocacy work; supporting their needs to organize coordinate activities on the ground.

Question: how to fit this kind of partnership? Because the municipality is managing the site, NGO has developed the proposal with them, they have needs to develop GI, they have proposed it they are opened for collaboration with them, capacity building will be part of the work;

Sara: advocacy not so much included but communications activities are, so there is space for that.

Sissi: within the DTP, priorities for investments, there might be one specific objective : 2.3 foster restoration and ecological corridors : possible actions involve promotion of awareness raising activities. There are several activities that might fit in the proposal we already have.

Jelena K.: we can fit with different kind of activities, in respect to ornithological reserve, we need financial resources, at least to finance basic studies in terms of impact of the sea on coastal erosion, or preliminary studies in terms of restoring the banks and marsh ecosystems. In terms of tourism, its near a UNESCO sites so would be good to have sustainable management there, it is corridor for birds - should be linked to tourism as well.

Sissi: many investment programmes have improvement of knowledge base, in this case, we have to
check if the proposal fits under the DTP because it is related to coastal ecosystem, not eligible under the DP. J has checked and Croatia is eligible. But she didn’t check the special work on coastal ecosystem. As partners they are eligible but activities have to be checked.

Viktor: wants to work on capacity building and coordinating activities, organizing any kind of workshops and meeting; there are several SMEs in the area so there is possibility to work with them in improving their capacities, mostly they are dealing with restaurants and hotels. Tourism possibilities are here. We have already too many studies, we don’t need more, we need to act; we can coordinate activities but still main hindrance is financing / co-financing. Main issue: bringing water back to the wetland, now it’s dried out for 2 years, after that we can talk about tourism, and other activities. Restoration of the wetland, have to find a way how to bring the water to the wetland, there are possibilities but no management, try to work on solving the issue with institutions relevant for water management and environmental protection. Need to agree with institution, need funding for advocacy work, coordinating. Get more info about partners from Bosnia.

Ivana: the proposed initiative for the protected habitat is at the very beginning, we can divide them to several projects, include new ideas like research, education of local people, tourism products, sustainable management. Just started to work.

Dusan: we need to go through the nature impact assessment (appropriate assessment – AA, according to the Habitats Directive), working on preparation of infrastructure is part of the project and leave out the infrastructure itself; we need socio-economic studies, cost-benefit studies and impact assessment studies and to define all the technical measures included in the infrastructure project idea (in Croatia have to develop idea and then actual project). What you plan to do in terms of infrastructure within the area (project goes to EIA) and the area they are working on in N2K network so needs to be included. And the monitoring of the state of the biodiversity at this point, can be monitored after the restoration. Need to complete the AA (quite long process + complex area because within Odra river there is quite big amount of toxic mud, needs to be removed with machinery; The Odra river is cut in half by a water protection canal; the lower part is a N2K protected area and the upper part is contaminated with toxic mud; if reconnected, the lower part will be polluted. The AA will not be simple.

Ferit (via email): “I need the capacity building, information, network and small grants”.

Robert (via email) “I think we have very good know-how and knowledge in ecological way, we are less experienced in technical solutions but we some experiences; the main hindrances now are the time necessary for more detailed site investigation and more focused project aim”.

Sarolta is summarizing the interests:
- project writing
- financial support
- funding more for advocacy work
- need to complete studies, others have already finalized studies, but need implementation.
• How much would you benefit from exchange of experiences and networking? If interested in this kind of exchange, which topics are of interest?

Verica: wetland area are more interesting for local people because of bird watching; we would like to engage our tourist organization of the town Kladova, they have the support of the municipality, they have connection with tourist organization, etc. so can develop their connections related to wetland not to ‘Kladova sand’. Important as it is a N2K site and most important thing is to remove waste from the area which is small; we have to do it now, last chance to take measures to stop destruction of the area. Interested in exchange of experiences and networking, but not sure in which way. Would like to hear other people’s opinion.

Jelena Illic: interested to be part of any networking event if related to restoration topics, one of the topic interested is restoration of landscape and agri-environmental measures.

Jellina K.: interested in capacity building not only for this kind of ecosystem but also for marsh ecosystems, grasslands – good restoration practice, what kind of implementation, monitoring tools, etc.

Viktor: institutions / beneficiaries need capacity building and networking; private companies would be interested. From the point of restoration, find a way to connect with other grassland / wetland restoration projects, bring positive example to country.

Ivana: interested in topic of restoration, interested in transforming arable fields back to the original status and managed to increase water level; before we cannot do anything in the field of tourism, if don’t have water and a pond again. Need for information exchange and best practices.

Dusan: interested in any kind of development and capacity building, best approach would be to establish a local counsel for decision making and for development of the area for tourism, sport activity, recreation and other activities. Currently, no capacity, but interested in networking with partners from other countries to see similar experience and try to transfer this to our case, to organize some visits before or during the project. Trying to get everybody agreeing on activities; no mutual approach to governance issues.

Robert (via email): “Partly, we´re able to write I think good project, however there is lack of funding related to his implementation”.

Ferit (via email): “I can find individual fundraising support and financial resources”.

• Would you find individual fundraising support useful (e.g. project writing support)? How well do you do with fundraising for projects?

Verica: institute is financed from state budget, but didn’t plan to find projects like this; the institute can help the municipality, e.g. to write project proposal, to provide support with people, etc. but they don’t have opportunity to give money.
Jelena Illic: we are applying for project funding to donors, we need to implement the projects. We have a partnership with the municipality, we don’t need support for writing project but need to find additional funds for this project.

Viktor: funding only from project budget, we don’t have any budget for this kind of activities, the only option is to negotiate – not an easy task.

Ivana: we don’t have any funds for this project right now.

Dusan: we have the capacity for proposal writing, just need for the activity itself.

Sara: GI is a big topic for CEEweb and members are dealing a lot with restoration; we already have a network, you are free to join CEEweb, each NGO can join as full member, and if public institution there are other options, we operate as an expert network via Linkedin.

4. Other issues and suggestions (all)

Jelena Illic: what are the next steps?

Sara: summarizing the meeting; we will analyse your answers, we see already the interest in a joint project under the DTP and will come back to you

Viktor: to have time until the next call to see the positions and then having another meeting, deciding to applying for an Interreg project or not. Would it be possible to get a summary of the conference and an outline for a possible joint project to discuss with potential partners? Some parts of the budget committed to small scale biodiversity protection (15 to 18% of the whole budget can be spent) we can try to negotiate with governmental beneficiaries to merge co-financing part for restoration activities.

5. Finalizing the TAF project

Sissi Samec informed participants about the status of the TAF project; after the initial round of project proposals, proposed projects have been checked and missing information requested; 11 new partners provided requested information plus 3 more will provide info during the next days; only 3 new partners announced that they won’t submit a proposal but are interested in capacity building and networking activities.

The TAF project has to be finalized by end of May 2016; the following outputs are scheduled:

- **project portfolio** for wetlands and grasslands restoration projects from Danube Basin countries
- **document with possible funding programmes** – not only from EU funding sources but also UN programmes, and global and national grant-making foundations) describing the programmes, priorities, deadlines for submission of proposals, maximal amounts, eligibility criteria and web links (not all of them will be related to restoration project; for partner organizations the document can be useful to find funding possibilities for other issues, e.g. advocacy work,
6. Future steps and concluding the conference

Sarolta Tripolszky summarized again the discussion points, informed about the future steps after the finalization of the TAP project by analysing the answers and information provided in proposals, collect common points and looking at which objectives of the DTP this would fit (including tourism, local management of the site, restoration activities, awareness, etc.), sort out the possibilities for a joint project and will come back with information.

For those project proposals which don’t fit into a joint DTP project (either geographically, such as projects in Albania, or thematically) CEEweb will seek additional support (most probably through a German Foundation) and try to provide individual funding support. But the main aim will be to develop a joint project proposal to be submitted under the DTP during the next call.
Project Portfolio
for the restoration of wetland and grassland priority habitats in the Danube Basin Region

Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP)

Document title
‘Mapping priority wetland sites for restoration’ (PrioREST)

Document date
05/2016
Editor:
Sissi Samec
1. Introduction ............................................................................................................................. 1
2. Context and methodology ....................................................................................................... 1
3. Project Portfolio ..................................................................................................................... 2
   3.1. Projects in the area Northern Croatia, Northern BiH and Slovenia (Sava tributaries???) ......... 3
      3.1.1. Save and preserve the diversity of the wetland Mosorovac ............................................. 3
      3.1.2. Restoration of the Bardaca wetland ................................................................................... 5
      3.1.3. Restoration of the stream Želin and upper reach of river Odra ........................................ 8
      3.1.4. Restoration of the Dretulja river valley .......................................................................... 12
   3.2. Projects in the area around the Danube Delta, North Eastern Bulgaria and Southern Moldova
       .................................................................................................................................................. 14
      3.2.1. Ecological and Hydrotechnical restoration of Ramsar site lower prut lakes (Beleu) .......... 14
      3.2.2. Restoration of the freshwater marsh Azmaka in Atanasovsko lake .................................. 17
   3.3. Projects concerning other tributaries to the Danube in the Bulgarian, Czech Republic, Slovakia
       and Serbia .................................................................................................................................... 19
      3.3.1. Restoration of the grassland and wetland area: Kladovo sand with Mala Vrbica .............. 19
      3.3.2. Restoration of the wetland areas in the protected habitat “Treskovaca Pond” ..................... 23
      3.3.3. Removal of sludge from the lake Provala in Vajska ........................................................ 26
      3.3.4. Restoration of Sejpy u Modlešovic – Former dry heathland pastures in the floodplain of river Otava ................................................................................................................................ 28
      3.3.5. Restoration of grassland sites with unique biodiversity in the region Spiš ......................... 31
      3.3.6. Restoration of wetlands in the dragoman marsh karst complex ramsar site ...................... 34
   3.4. Projects not within the Danube River Basin (as Defined by the geographical scope of the DTP) .................................................................................................................................................... 1
      3.4.1. Restoration of Shkumbin river branches inside the Shebenik Jabllanica NP .................... 2
      3.4.2. Improving the status of Limpo wetland as an important area for migratory birds ............ 3
      3.4.3. Lura national park restoration for biodiversity conservation ........................................... 7
      3.4.4. Restoration, preservation and valorisation of the special ornithological and ichthyological
             reserve pantan on the Adriatic sea coastline ....................................................................... 12
1. **INTRODUCTION**

Europe is densely populated, nevertheless it features a high biodiversity. In the Danube Basin the wetland and grassland ecosystems offer ideal conditions for a vast diversity of habitats and species, and are especially important for birds, including endangered species. Benefits deriving from these ecosystems are enormous and are building the basis for human well-being.

Parts of these valuable sites are under any form of protection, but increasing human pressure still leads to the degradation or even destruction of priority habitats with following losses of biodiversity and unpredictable impacts on the provided ecosystem services. Although there are many policy instruments and related legislation in place and many projects have been or are being implemented in the Danube Region by various organizations, the status of biodiversity is declining, specifically wetland and grassland habitats are in an unfavorable status.

The European Commission, but also private foundations and business companies are increasingly recognizing the importance of biodiversity and are addressing the issue by providing funds for the restoration and sustainable management of valuable sites. The concept of Green Infrastructure (GI) – broadly defined as a strategically planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings – is more and more recognized.

The implementation of the Green Infrastructure/ecological connectivity concept can significantly contribute to achieving many of EU key policy objectives, and international and national policies and legislation, not only in the European Union but also in non-EU countries, including the Balkan countries located in the Danube River Basin.

2. **CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY**

For the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) programming period 2014 – 2020 and to support the preparation of projects with a clear EUSDR value, the European Commission has decided to establish a Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP). The facility should support the beneficiary to bring a project idea to a further developed concept, easing the way to apply for funding from donors, either from public/private sources, and/or from EU programmes.

In this case, a major component of the TAF project was dedicated to follow up the beneficiary’s work (CEEweb) as regards wetland restoration projects in Central and Eastern Europe. The goals of the organization are to up-scaling restoration activities towards a more strategic, transnational approach and to look for new partnerships for the restoration of priority wetland and grassland habitats, also by increasing the geographical scope.

The consultant helped to identify new partner organization and projects; after the wide distribution of an invitation letter, CEEweb initially received 31 replies from 13 countries containing proposals for 20 wetlands- and 9 grassland projects with the need to be restored. 5 public institutions, 21 NGO, 3 scientific institutions and one tourism organization expressed their interest becoming members of a restoration network. Proposals were analyzed, in all cases additional information was requested (not all initial new partners responded), the information was put into an agreed template and the result is the project portfolio dedicated to the restoration of wetland and grassland habitats in the Danube Basin region. In total 16 proposals are included in this document, three out of them don’t have any
form of protection at all, the others have different protection status, such as Ramsar sites, Important Bird Areas, NATUA 2000, Emerald network and as regards the three Albanian proposals (included, but not in the Danube Basin), two National Parks and one Protected Landscape Area.

Due to the huge size all maps and photos of the projects have been removed, but each proposal is available in a separate file (project portfolio numbered according to the initial submission number) including all relevant material (photos, maps, detailed budget, if already available, etc.).

Not all proposers replied to the request for additional information, therefore, some proposals are not yet in the agreed format and parts of the information is still missing. In case those should be included into a joint proposal under the DTP as pilot projects, the required information has to be added.

3. **PROJECT PORTFOLIO**

The project proposals are clustered around bio-corridors with transnational relevance:

- Projects in the area Northern Croatia, Northern BiH and Slovenia (Sava tributaries??)
- Projects in the area around the Danube Delta, North-Eastern Bulgaria and Southern Moldova
- Projects concerning other tributaries to the Danube in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Serbia and Slovakia
- Projects not within the Danube River Basin as defined in the geographical scope of the Danube Transnational Programme (Albania, coastal area of Southern Croatia)
3.1. PROJECTS IN THE AREA NORTHERN CROATIA, NORTHERN BIH AND SLOVENIA (SAVA TRIBUTARIES?)

3.1.1. Save and preserve the diversity of the wetland Mosorovac

Bosnia & Herzegovina  
(original submission number 02)

Organization: Center for Ecology and Energy  
Filipa Kljajića 22, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
tel/fax: +387 35 249 311  
www.ekologija.ba

Contact: Amira Kunto  
E-mail: amira.kunto@ekologija.ba

Location  
Mosorovac (Mosorov lug) is a wetland area in Lukavac Municipality, geographically located between Turija River and Lake Modrac, and the communities Babice, Bikodze, Puracic and Prokosovici.

Size  
The size of the area to be restored is one hectare of freshwater wetland.

Site description  
Mosorovac is a wetland reach with flora and fauna and represents very important resource of biodiversity for the whole area. Based on research performed by the Ornithological Society “Our Birds” and the study on pond turtles, the existence of some rare birds and ducks as well as pond turtle is proved. Some of the bird species and the pond turtle, which can be found on this area, are on the IUCN Red list. The citizens know very little about all of this.

Biodiversity features  
The study “European pond turtle at the Lake Modrac” (current state, level of endangerment and possibilities for protection) from 2012 concluded that there are at least 4 locations on the Lake Modrac where the pond turtle *Emys orbicularis* occur and that its existence is threatened. *Emys orbicularis* is a protected species and it is on the IUCN Red list. Some of the bird species, which can be found on this area, are also on the IUCN Red list.

In the last two years, 13 white swans found harborage in the wetland Mosorovac. Those are the red peak swans “*Cygnus olor*”. The presence of swans at the wetland Mosorovac shows how important this area is for existence and nesting of birds. At the same time, it is the reason to initiate larger action with the aim to adequately and legally protect ecosystem Mosorovac.

Status  
Mosorovac is a wetland area reach with flora and fauna and doesn’t have any for of protection. It is necessary to initiate large action with aim to adequately and legally protect ecosystem Mosorovac.

Problems / justification  
Because the area of Mosorovac is the property of the Public Utility Spreca, the local citizens think that it is no owned by somebody and use this area to dispose waste and collect woods for heating; hunters hunt without any control and fishermen are fishing without permits. It can be said that this area is “no one’s land” and that people can do whatever they want. That is why its restoration,
protection, the use of this reach biodiversity area for education, its promotion and legal protection is very important.

Ownership
The area of Mosorovac is property of Public Utility Spreca. The main activity of this company is collection, treatment and distribution of water from Lake Modrac to industrial consumers on the area of Lukavac Municipality and Tuzla City.

The main goal
The main goal is preservation of diversity of the ecosystem on the area Mosorovac (Mosorov lug), wetland area in Lukavac Municipality, and initiation to include area of Mosorovac among the protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Objectives
- To conduct a baseline study and the production of awareness raising materials;
- To develop a partnership with relevant stakeholders, such as representatives of government, municipalities, CSOs which work on protection of environment, citizens of local community Prokosovici, Primary school Prokosovici and Lukavac Municipality, to legally protect the ecosystem Mosorovac and to preserve it for future generations;
- To organize cleaning actions of the Mosorovac area;
- To drawing attention of citizens and authorities on importance of preserving the ecosystem for all species of flora and fauna, as part of the food chain on Lake Modrac, and
- To turn Mosorovac into the center for study excursions and education of students in nature.

Proposed results
1. Successfully conducted study in Mosorovacki lug provided information about the diverse flora and fauna of Mosorovac, the level of their endangerment, presence of rare, endemic and protected species. This expert material (brochure and leaflet) serve as a basis for the whole project and the future legal protection of Mosorovac;
2. Successful petition of citizens with aim to include area of Mosorovac among protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
3. Meeting with representatives of relevant ministries held, lobbing to include area Mosorovac among protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
4. Successfully organized two cleaning actions attended by about 30 citizens and 50 students. During these actions the main illegal landfills were removed and the emergence of new ones is prevented. Public utility of Lukavac Municipality was also included in the action. They transported collected waste from this site;
5. With distribution of 3000 brochures and 4000 leaflets the citizens are informed and aware on importance of preservation of ecosystems, habitats that we are all taking for granted, and they will gain ideas for similar projects on the Lake Modrac area;
6. 500 pupils of primary schools, through study trips and distribution of educational material, will learn more about nature and habitats and they will be introduced with main features of the wetland area. They will learn to appreciate the existence of wetland area/wet habitat in close proximity and still in original natural form, while people are trying to restore the same sites in Europe and to bring them in state in which the Mosorovac is now;
7. Meetings with associations of fishermen and hunters were held, as well as two workshops for fisherman and hunters. Prepared and published thematic articles for their education;
8. Three press releases were prepared and published on at least 10 different media;
9. Citizens showed interest that the area of Mosorovac should be included among protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Petition was implemented successfully, and the citizens demand from authorities to specify measures for preservation of habitats which will be
incorporated in some documents of spatial planning and plans for management of natural resources in line with the Law on environmental protection;

10. The project of preservation of ecosystem Mosorovac promotes eco tourism;

11. There are more nature lovers’ visits to this part of Lukavac Municipality.

Target group and stakeholders

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- The Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection
- Lukavac Municipality
- Fishermen and hunters
- Local citizens
- Educational facilities – students and teachers
- CSOs which work in the Lake Modrac region

Investment

The project requires only very few financial resources with an investment of **13.189,00 EUR.** A detailed budget is available in a separate file.

Co-financing

We need funds for the project implementation. We can give our in-kind contribution and help with implementation. We have very good collaboration with NGOs, local citizens and government representatives.

Maps / Photos

Photos are available in a separate file.

You can find more photos on the following link:


3.1.2. **Restoration of the Bardaca wetland**

Bosnia and Herzegovina

(original submission number 21)

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Location

Bardaca Wetland (Bardaca-močvarni kompleks; Republic of Srpska; 3,500 ha; 45°06'N 017°27'E) is situated in the floodplain of the Sava River near the border with Croatia. About half of the Ramsar site comprises of fishponds constructed since the early 20th century and further enlarged in the 1960s for irrigation purposes. Wetland Bardaca is located in the north of Republic of Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in flooded area (estuary of the Vrbas river to Sava river), between right bank of the Sava River and left bank of the Vrbas River. The southeast and the south side are bounded with the
channel Osorna - Borna - Ljevcanica. On the southwest and the west boundary extends along with agricultural land and course of the Matura River. In the north it is bounded by the Sava River, in the northeast and east extends along with the bank of the Vrbas River.

Size
Our intention is to restore the whole area of fish ponds (732-800 ha), but in this moment we would like to start with a smaller part and show that restoration is possible. It would be up to 40 ha (1,15% of the whole wetland area under Ramsar or 5,5% of the area of lakes/fish ponds).

Site description
Bardaca Wetland is an Important Bird Area and Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site). The fish ponds, floodplain forest, meadow and swamp areas supports a range of endangered species and make an important nesting and stopover site for birds. There is a rich fish fauna and habitat for a range of amphibians. This area is very significant for birds in migration period, but also for some endangered species that nest on Bardaca. It was a natural wetland, significant habitat for wildlife (including endemic species) and a station for migratory birds. In the beginning of the previous century, part of it was covered with fishponds and channels have been built to divert water from the Kozara mountain catchment to balance the shortage in summer period of the year. The fishponds have been enlarged in the sixties while irrigation projects have been conceptualized and carried out. A new activity was introduced in the seventies in the form of commercial hunting, including pheasant and wild mallards, breaded on site for this purpose. The wetland has served as a center for cultural activities such as a Summer Painters’ Ecological Colony, an activity that was continuously practiced, as well as commercial activities including agriculture and tourism and many locally organized public gatherings.

Biodiversity features
The 187 bird species have been registered on Bardaca area. Many of them nest, but also to many of them Bardaca is significant for feeding, while nesting or during the migration periods. According to local proposal of endangered species (Obratil, Matvejev, 1998) in the period from 2000-2006 following endangered species have been recorded:


Research studies on the birds of the area have been carried out on a rare sporadic basis. During 2001, Center for Environment undertook new birds observation on Bardaca. Although all seasonal aspects and all habitats were not included, 97 bird species were registered and from that number five species haven’t been mentioned in previous literature about Bardaca area. Till the end of research, presence of 94 species, which are mentioned in previous findings, was not confirmed, which implicate on total disappearing of some species from this area, such as Plegadis falcinellus which nested on Bardaca. After this research, new extensive research about diversity of bird fauna hasn’t been conducted yet.

Three endemic fish species have been registered in the frame of water eco-system Bardaca (*Gymnocephalus schraetzer, Zingel streber, Rutilus pigus*). Their presence has been registered on Bardaca, but because of lack of data and water, regions where they still occur can’t be stated precisely. The most well-known amphibians on Bardaca are as follows: *Triturus vulgaris, Triturus*

The groups of mammals are rare in the swamp areas, but they occasionally appear for catching plunder, when water drops. There can be found different species of field voles, small herbivorous animals, foxes, rabbits, moles, hedgehogs, weasels and bats.

**Status**

Bardaca wetland was designated as Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar Convention in 2007 and as Important Bird Area. There is no any protected status under national/entity law, although protection was initiated few times.

**Problem justification**

At the present, Bardaca’s biodiversity is endangered because of the land user’s limited experience in sustainable management and use of natural resources (he started intensive agricultural practices such as growing corn and use of fertilizers and pesticides). The hydrological regime has been interrupted by the construction of channels, pump stations, and damming of nearby streams as well as lack of water due to climate change and long droughts. The lack of water and poor water management lead to change of the agriculture production from fish to corn that resulted in drying out of significant parts of lakes for agricultural purposes.

In the project 80-100 ha (12,5% of total area of Bardaca fish ponds (former fish ponds - today cornfields)) would be restored by the revitalization of channels, water pumps and other water infrastructure in order to return water in fish ponds. Established cooperation with farmers would be improved through introducing them to water-friendly agricultural practices and methods. The local population will benefit from fish pond production through re-employment, because the transition to growing corn and extinguishing fish pond production, a larger number of workers lost their jobs.

**Ownership**

The site is still with unclear property status. The state property was declared by the court and it is managed by the private owned company that made appeal to the higher court on decision of the state owned ownership. Process is still ongoing but there is a clear need to protect and revitalize the area that is under international protection and that Government few time declared the urgency for its protection.

**The main goal**

The main goal of the project is to restore a channel system which brings freshwater to Bardaca fish ponds. This will be a base for restoring the diverse natural values of Bardaca and bringing to the previous state which was recognized when it was declared as Ramsar site, so we can create conditions for state protection and wise use of the area. Simultaneously, we’ll start processes of conservation and designation of the Bardaca Wetland as protected area according to the national laws.

**Objectives**

1. to increase water volume in fish ponds and freshwater area of Bardaca wetland
2. to create areas with free water surface
3. to remove barriers and establish the water flow through the system of channels

**Proposed results**

1. Increase of the water volume of Bardaca wetland by 20 %
2. Free water areas – the surface increased by 12,75 %
3. The increase of the territory covered by freshwater would increase extremely biodiversity there and especially the number of typical plankton species (need for a measurable indicator)

4. By removing the barriers and waste from the channels, water will be passed into water basins/fish ponds and will be re-occupied by fish, which will have multiple benefits such as biodiversity restoration and re-employment of local workers

5. The restoration action will result in enhancing the favourable feeding and roosting habitat for birds (regular bird census) and other species.

Target group and stakeholders

**MINISTRY:** Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republic of Srpska; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Srpska

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Srbac Municipality

**PUBLIC BODY FOR WATER MANAGEMENT:** Public utility for water management “Vode Srpske”

**SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS:** Institute for Protection of Culture, Historical and Natural Heritage of Republic of Srpska, Faculty of Natural Sciences (owning facilities for students accommodation and research on Bardaca wetland)

**OTHER STAKHOLDERS:** Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund of Republic of Srpska, private companies, interested universities, scientific institutes, local communities and agriculture land owners, CSOs, media

**Investment**

Low cost project with maximum budget of 20.000 EUR.

**Co-financing**

Organization will try to provide support and co-financing from Public utility for water management “Vode Srpske” through regular fund for maintenance of the channels and Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund of Republic of Srpska for restoration and initial support for designation of the protected area.

**Maps / Photos**

Map and photos are available in a separate file.

**3.1.3. Restoration of the stream Želin and upper reach of river Odra**

**Croatia**

(original submission number 08)

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**Location**
The project area will include the entire area around Odra river including its source streams and the floodplain around it. The source of the river Odra is located in the wider area of town Velika Gorica (streams Kosnica, Ribnica, Želin and Siget), in the Central Posavina region of Croatia (Figure 1).

Size

Total length of the stream Želin where most of the direct restoration will be carried out is around 2 km. The entire affected area will include the catchment area of the Odra which covers 604 km² and has total length of about 80 km.

Site description

River Odra doesn’t have a typical spring, but is formed from four main sources, streams Kosnica, Ribnica, Želin and Siget which have underground sources. The Odra is connected to the River Sava by the Sava-Odra Relief Channel (built in 1965), which serves to deliver excessive water from the Sava to prevent it from flooding upstream urban areas (especially Zagreb) and it provides transportation of burdened waters from river Sava to retention area of the Odransko polje. Sava-Odra Relief canal artificially divided the Odra River in two parts; 6 km of strongly anthropogenically affected upper reach (river source area) and more preserved middle and lower reach (Figure 2).

Floodplain along the middle and lower reach of river Odra is dominated by lowland floodplain forests, especially along the right bank of the river. This lowland is rich with a network of different waterbodies (streams, lakes, oxbows, channels, rivers) which has resulted in a variety of different habitats and biodiversity hotspots. Today a significant part of the Odra floodplain is turned into an agricultural area, which means that the primary (forest) vegetation is largely suppressed. Along Odra river course there are in total 216 plant taxa, including many aquatic and helophytic species. An important part of the Odra floodplain is traditional cattle breeding on open pastures, which conserves the plant and animal diversity in the floodplain.

Biodiversity features

One of the most significant ecological areas alongside river Odra is a Natura 2000 site HR2000415 Odransko polje which is represented by grassland habitats, spacious pedunculate oak forests, alluvial forests, oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters and natural lakes. Some of the protected species that are found at this site are Fritillaria meleagris, many of the Orchid sp., Marsilea quadrifolia, a turtle Emys orbicularis, 4 amphibian species and 5 mammal species. After its reintroduction in Croatia in 1996 the beaver (Castor fiber) has been noticed in the Odra River. The beaver is a keystone species within wetland ecosystems since they create habitats for many rare species such as water voles, otters and water shrews. In a more recent study, the presence of both beaver and otter (Lutra lutra) was recorded in the upper and lower reach of the Odra River. Turopoljski lug is a part of the Natura 2000 site HR2000415 Odransko polje. It is consisted of lowland floodplain forests and it is a hotspot for amphibians (especially frogs Bombina bombina and B. variegata which have their hybridization zone here), birds and mammals. A small mammal Mycrotus quadripus multiplex is a glacial relict occurring in this and only one other spot in Croatia. On this spot there is also high floristic diversity with a number of endangered and protected taxa.

Natura 2000 site HR2001031 Odra kod Jagodna is an area of 5,25 ha, important for the conservation of floating vegetation of Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion alliances. Natura 2000 site HR1000003 Turopolje is a lowland area on the right bank of river Odra. Most vital parts of this area are large wet meadows, important for nesting of the corncrake (Crex crex). The pedunculate oak forests are developed on the north riverside of the river Odra, and they are important for reproduction of the white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla). The rest of the habitats are willow/poplar forest along the Sava River and mosaic landscapes that support breeding population of
the white stork (Cicconia ciconia). This is a very important area for many nesting and wintering species with a total of 17 significant species.

**Status**
Odransko polje and Odra kod Jagodna are Site of Community Importance (pSCI) (Figure 3) because it holds significant areas of habitats and populations of species listed in the Habitats Directive. Turopolje is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) (Figure 4) because it has an important role for resident or migratory birds listed in the Birds Directive. All significant species and habitats are included in Table 1.

On national level Odransko polje and Turopoljski lug are protected as significant landscapes.

**Problems / justification**
The main problem with the Odra river today comes from previous sewage discharge in stream Želin in the period from 1974 to 1998. Today most of the sewage water is discharged in the Sava river, but during high water there is still some discharge into the stream Želin. The flow of the stream has been reduced due to the high amount of sediment in the stream. Also a lot of pollutants are still left in the riverbed and are causing eutrophication. There have been considerable changes in aquatic communities along with development of anoxic conditions and anaerobic bacteria in the sludge. The sediment contains a high level of toxic elements due to previous use as sewage recipient, but to identify exact composition we need to carry out specific scientific research. As one of the main sources for Odra, Želin has big impact on water quality in the river (Figure 5 and Figure 6). Eutrophication has a largely negative influence on biodiversity and habitat conditions, so consequently the upper reach of river Odra has poor conditions for aquatic species.

**Ownership**
River Odra itself is 100% in State ownership but “Croatian Waters” have administration and management directory. Croatian Waters manage components of the flood control system, as well as conducting other activities within its scope of water management. Odra’s riparian zone is a combination of private and State ownership. Fields "Odransko polje" and "Turopoljski lug", include agricultural fields, wetlands, meadows, pastures, oak and hornbeam forests and are used as natural water storage reservoir and have an important role in flood protection. Hydro-morphological, habitat and physicochemical data collection and monitoring will be done with permits by "Croatian Waters". All actions planned within this proposal will be carried out at parts in the State property.

**The main goal**
The main goal of our project is revitalizing aquatic and alluvial habitats and increasing biodiversity on restored section with clearer water and healthier river surroundings. This will enable a safe habitat for threatened birds, other animal and plant species and different habitats, especially ones listed in Birds and Habitats Directive or the Red Book. The area directly affected by the project will be stream Želin and indirectly upper reach of river Odra. All of the positive changes will have an impact on middle and lower reach of river Odra.

**Objectives**
A long term plan is the improvement of biodiversity in the proximity of river Odra and better flood protection for the surrounding settlements. This will be achieved by reconnecting the upper and middle reach of the river, as well as removing the source of pollution and remaining toxic sludge. The town of Velika Gorica is planning to install a new water purifier by the end of 2018, as well as a completely new sewage system in the areas where there currently isn’t any. This will insure that there won’t be any new pollutants discharged in the stream Želin and river Odra. What we are proposing here is the first necessary step in the restoration of the entire river Odra and its surrounding area.
1. Assessment of the current conditions of the upper reach → field research and available literature
2. Assessment of the condition of the middle and lower reach of river Odra as a reference for the state before pollution and urbanization
3. Chemical analysis of the contaminated sediment of stream Želin
4. Geodetic survey of the profile of stream Želin and lake Čiće (which is almost connected to the stream) with technical solutions for the dredging
5. Dredging of the stream Želin and adequate disposal of the contaminated sediment
6. Continued monitoring of the area after the restoration and additional actions if necessary
7. Raising awareness of the value that natural habitats have and educating local community and authorities on best ways for maintaining

**Proposed results**
1. Improved physical and chemical characteristics of the water
2. Better habitat conditions for aquatic organisms
3. Greater similarity to the better preserved middle and lower reaches of the river Odra
4. Continuous care of the restored area by the local community

*all results are expected to be noticeable in both stream Želin and the upper reach of river Odra, as well as the middle and lower reach, but on a smaller scale.

**Target group and stakeholders**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
Town of Velika Gorica, Zagreb Municipality, Sisak-Moslavina County

**PUBLIC BODY FOR WATER MANAGEMENT**
"Croatian waters", Zagreb

**SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS**
University of Zagreb (Faculty of Civil Engineering & Faculty of Science – Department of Biology), Institute for research and development of sustainable ecosystems, Croatian veterinary institute

**NGO’s**
Croatian Institute for Biodiversity

**Investment**
Medium cost project with approximate budget of 100,000 EUR
Fieldwork and equipment 4,000 €
Sediment analysis 5,000 €
Sediment removal with necessary preparations 86,000 €
Monitoring 5,000 €

**Co-financing**
Institute for research and development of sustainable ecosystems “IRES” has already started the assessment of ichthiofauna and algae mostly on the upper reach of river Odra. Croatian waters will contribute with financing most of the actions regarding the sediment removal. Town of Velika Gorica, Zagreb Municipality and Sisak-Moslavina County are supporting us with the acquisition of the needed permits.

**Maps / Photos**
Photo documentation and maps are available as well as the table with pSCI – important areas for species and habitat types and SPA – important areas for birds.
3.1.4. **Restoration of the Dretulja river valley**

Croatia  
(Original submission number 10)

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**Location**  
The Dretulja river valley is situated in the South-West part of the County of Karlovac in the Central part of Croatia (Picture 1).

**Size**  
The unique grassland and wetland areas of the Dretulja river valley are shown in maps (Pictures 2: Geographic location of the Dretulja river valley on the map of the County of Karlovac; Picture 3: Geographic location and orientation coordinate points on the map of the Dretulja river valley; Picture 4: Orientation coordinates of the Dretulja river valley).

**Site description**  
There exist unique grassland and wetland areas which are highly important for biodiversity. The whole area of the Dretulja river valley is known after its basophilic bogs and is covered with a mosaic of different plant communities characteristic for wet habitats. Basophilic bogs are dominant in the first 1-1.5 km of the river valley. The area is covered with mosaic of bog and meadow plant communities with the whole range of endangered plant species. The edges of the bogs are overgrown with the wood species and reed. Basophilic bogs are also found on the slopes of the both sides of the river and are also overgrown with the wood species and reed, but the succession is less intensive. Short basophilic bogs in the Dretulja river valley are among the last bog areas in Croatia and represent ecologically very important habitats. Croatian Law on nature protection requires special protection measures in order to preserve such habitats in their natural condition.

Capacity of the Dretulja river source is about 1m³/s and the water analysis showed that the water of the Dretulja river is of the best quality at the national level and safe to drink so it is used for local water supply.

The area of the Dretulja river valley is divided into several hundred land particles, mostly owned by the private persons. In the past the most important land use forms were mowing and grazing, since the soil composition is not favourable for agriculture. Fishing has always been only recreational activity without significant economic importance.

**Biodiversity features**  
Research has shown that the Dretulja river valley is natural habitat for almost 200 plant species, among which 32 species are listed in the national Red book of the vascular flora, 1 species is endemic, 25 species are strictly protected and 32 species are protected by the national Law on nature protection (Picture 6: List and photos of valuable plant species of the Dretulja river valley).

Researchers have also shown that the Dretulja river valley is natural habitat for almost 20 butterfly species, among which some are listed in the national Red list of endangered plant and animal species.
of Croatia or protected by the national Law on nature protection (Picture 7: List and photos of several butterfly species of the Dretulja river valley). Many other animal species were also recorded in the field, such as amphibians, reptiles, mammals, etc.

**Status**

In 2005 State Institute for Nature Protection suggested to declare the Dretulja river valley protected in the category of Habitat Management Area. Unfortunately, proposed suggestion has never been accepted and the Dretulja river valley was not declared protected, but due to its huge biodiversity and habitat importance, it became part of the NATURA 2000 network in Croatia. In 2008, Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection developed the Management Plan for the Dretulja river valley, but since the area has never been declared protected, the Management plan never became valid.

**Problems / justification**

County of Karlovac suffered a great depopulation in the past 20 years, which affected certain areas more than others. Such trends were caused by many factors among which the most important were the Homeland war from 1991 till 1995, closure of industrial plants during 1990’s and abandonment of agricultural production due to increased import of cheap food products and later global economic crisis. Except depopulation processes, low gross domestic product in the County of Karlovac in general is also very important social factor influencing trends in nature protection in the region. As a consequence of the above named facts, County of Karlovac has vast areas of unused and degraded wetlands and grasslands that are of the great ecological and biodiversity importance and as such could be restored and used for nature-based economic activities in the future.

Due to the negative demographic and economic trends, the whole area is significantly degraded and previous land use forms were abandoned. There is certain increase in touristic sector, but it is very slow and inadequate in relation to possibilities that such a beautiful and preserved natural area could provide (Picture 5: Landscape of the Dretulja river valley).

**Ownership**

There are hundreds of land parcels, mostly privately owned. Since the management of the NATURA 2000 sites in Croatia is an obligation of the local Public institutions. NATURA VIVA was founded in 2004 and since then it implements, through it’s annual work programme, the whole range of different activities, aimed at maintenance, protection and promotion of natural resources in the region. NATURA VIVA has so far implemented many projects targeted at improving the status of protected areas and NATURA 2000 sites, their public promotion and education of the local population, students and visitors. Projects were co-funded by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, County of Karlovac, World Bank, UNESCO, Croatian Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency, Holcim, Croatian Forests, Ministry of Tourism and others. Project goals were often set not only to preserve and restore natural values and quality of the environment, but also to increase tourism potentials and capacities of the certain protected or NATURA 2000 areas in order to provide new job opportunities and higher income for local inhabitants.

**The main goal**

NATURA VIVA strives to establish a good model of management which will contribute not only to the restoration of the good habitat and species condition in the area, but also to the better economic and social contexts which are crucial in long term planning of the nature protection and sustainable development of the area.

**Objectives**

Proposed project activities must include not only habitat and species restoration, but also activities that engage local inhabitants, promote sustainable land use and economic developement of the
wider area. Development of the local organic and ecological farming and agriculture, defining and developing of a more diverse tourist offer of the wider area, education and motivation of the local inhabitants, especially younger ones, for developing cultural and similar infrastructure that will motivate younger inhabitants to stay in the area, and promotion of the area at the national level represents some of the possible strategies that will significantly influence future development of the wider area of the Dretulja river valley, which surely have the potential to become desirable destination not only for touristic visiting, but also for living, not only at the national, but also at the European level.

**Proposed results**
To be specified

**Target groups and stakeholders**
To be specified

**Investment**
We suppose that the project of restoration of the Dretulja river valley would require significant funding. Unfortunately, we are public, non-profit institution and as such cannot provide any funding on our own. But we are certainly willing to contribute to the project by providing human resources for expertise during preparation and assistance in project implementation. We have two well educated, English speaking persons in our nature protection team, so any type of cooperation during the project preparation and implementation would be a challenge and pleasure for us.

**3.2. PROJECTS IN THE AREA AROUND THE DANUBE DELTA, NORTH EASTERN BULGARIA AND SOUTHERN MOLDOVA**

**3.2.1. Ecological and Hydrotechnical restoration of Ramsar site lower prut lakes (Beleu)**

Republic of Moldova
(original submission number 23)

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**Location**
Beleu Lake represents one of the largest natural lakes in our country, which is located in the southwest part of the Republic of Moldova, in the lower course of the Prut River, between Slobozia Mare and Văleni villages from Cahul district, in the “Lower Prut” Reserve - a wetland of international importance. It occupies about two thirds of the territory of the reservation and floodable meadows and small forests surround it.

**Size**
The lake has a length of 5 km and a width of 2 km, average area of the lake is 6.26 km². Project implementation area is in Cahul district, Republic of Moldova - Ramsar site no. 1029 Lower Prut Lakes, with an area of 19,152 ha, coordinates - 45º42’N 028º11’E. The site comprises the River Prut and the largest natural lakes in Moldova, Beleu and Manta opposite to Natural Park of the Lower
Prut Flood Plain, Romania (more info: http://www.luncanprut.ro/eng/lunca_prut/lunca_prut.htm). Both areas are component parts of the network of natural protected areas along Danube DANUBEPARKS (more info: http://www.danubeparks.org/ and included in the Lower Danube Green Corridor).

This area will be included in future Biosphere Reserve of Lower Prut river region (Project – Consolidation of the nature protected areas network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature; Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova).

Site description
Natural lake Beleu is situated in the lower part of the Prut River floods plain and has an important national and international scientific, cultural and aesthetic value. It is habitat for many fish and birds species and serves as breeding ground many Danube bird populations (see Map no. 1).

Biodiversity features
These lakes are unique ecosystems, described as the last natural floodplains in the lower Danube region. The site supports the globally vulnerable and endangered fish species, birds and mammals, at least 39 mammal, 203 bird, 5 reptile, 9 amphibian and 41 fish species have been recorded in the site. The system is important for groundwater recharge, flood control, and sediment trapping, and it supports an imposing list of rare and threatened species of flora and fauna. As well the region is an important segment in bird migration flyways.

Status
Odransko polje and Odra kod Jagodna are Site of Community Importance (pSCI) (Figure 3) because it holds significant areas of habitats and populations of species listed in the Habitats Directive. Turopolje is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) (Figure 4) because it has an important role for resident or migratory birds listed in the Birds Directive. All significant species and habitats are included in Table 1.

On national level Odransko polje and Turopoljski lug are protected as significant landscapes.

Problems / justification
The problems faced by this region have their origin in the 1960s when started the use of aquatic resources for the development of agricultural household. The River Prut was regulated by Costesti – Stinca dam for generating electric power and flood control. At the same time, flood management system had a major influence on natural hydrological regime of the Prut River floodplain, which resulted to its hydrologic and ecological change. In addition, the construction of dams along the Prut River to protect the area from flooding led to subsequent modifications and to the drying of the wetlands. The flow of fresh water from the Prut River in Beleu and Manta Lake now is done through artificial channels and not through natural channels.

As a result of numerous anthropogenic effects, Manta and Beleu Lakes began to degrade gradually. The Lakes are confronting with intensive silting. Due to low water level in the summer months, the water heats up intensively, which leads to eutrophication of lakes, intense death of aquatic plants and fauna, as a result is reducing the habitat conditions of the migrating birds.

Ownership
The site is owned by the state.

The main goal
The main goal is to restore the ecological and hydrological balance of water bodies (Lakes, swamps, floodplain meadows) from the Ramsar site no.1029 Lower Prut Lakes R.Moldova and Natural Park of
the Lower Prut Flood Plain and to improve habitat conditions of migrating birds and aquatic fauna from the region.
The project goal is to restore the hydrological and ecological balance of water bodies from the Ramsar site no.1029 Lower Prut Lakes and improve the habitat conditions of migrating birds and aquatic fauna from the Ramsar site no.1029 Lower Prut Lakes. Moldova and Natural Park of the Lower Prut Flood Plain, Romania. The project goal was conceived on the basis of the environmental needs identified in the Ramsar site Lower Prut Lakes.

Objectives
Proposed project is going to achieve hydrological balance of the complex of Beleu Lakes, to increase water volume and freshwater area, in special in the spring and summer when bird are flying to the lakes,
To remove the aquatic vegetation and part of the tree reeds.
Also main outputs will be:
1. Creation a center of education, information and promotion of wetland (connected to the international network of wetlands).
2. Improvement of hydrological regime of Prut River;
3. Improved the conditions of the wildlife and natural habitats of migrating birds which have their lay-over in Ramsar Site 1029 R. Moldova and Natural Park of the Lower Prut Flood Plain, Romania;
4. Restored the optimal hydrological regime and improved hydrological conditions and the Beleu and Manta Lakes and of surrounding floodplains;
5. Revitalized the biological filters and restored the natural channels connecting Manta and Beleu Lakes with Prut River;
6. Improved aquatic fauna of Manta and Beleu Lakes;
7. Promoted wetland of international importance Ramsar site Lower Prut Lakes and Natural Park of the Lower Prut Flood Plain, Romania;
8. Improved the living standard of the population in the target region;
9. The population from the target region informed and educated on the importance of local natural resources;
10. Improved the ecological and economic situation of the Lower Prut region.

Proposed results
1. Feasibility Study regarding the ecological rehabilitation and hydro technical measures of complex of Beleu Lakes.
2. Restoration of the optimal hydrological regime and improve hydrological conditions of the water bodies from the area (Manta and Beleu Lakes, floodplain meadows) through the implementation of hydro technical measures;
3. Restore the natural channels of connection of the Manta and Beleu Lakes with the Prut River and the revitalization of biological filters in these channels;
4. Restoration of habitats of migratory birds;
5. Measures to restore aquatic fauna of Manta and Beleu Lakes;
6. Increased water volume of Beleu Lake by 35-40%.

Target group and stakeholders

MINISTRY: Ministry of Environment
LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Local Public Authority
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS: Scientific Reservation Lower Prut
OTHER STAKHOLDERS: NGOs and Ecological Agency Cahul

Investment
Developing Feasibility study with bill of quantities by designer with technical and ecological expertise 50 000 €
Hydro-technical restoration 200 000 €
Restoration of natural channels 100 000 €
Measures to restore aquatic fauna and remove part of reeds 50 000 €
Trips 15 000 €
Workshops 20 000 €
Not foreseen 15 000 €
TOTAL: 500 000 €

Co-financing
There are possibility for co-financing of hydro-technical works from National Ecological Fund (25-30%) and local NGOs, in-kind contribution of local public authority etc.

Maps / Photos
Maps, migration flyways and photos are available in a separate file.

3.2.2. Restoration of the freshwater marsh Azmaka in Atanasovsko lake

Bulgaria
(original submission number 19)

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Location
Azmaka marsh is located in Atanasovsko lake north of Burgas, Bulgaria, in direct proximity of the Black Sea.

Size
2 hectares of freshwater marsh.

Site description
The freshwater marsh Azmaka was one of the most important feeding and roosting sites for many bird species. Atanasovsko lake is located at the Via Pontica migration flyway and is typical bottleneck migration site for the migrating soaring birds from Northern, Eastern and Central Europe (up to 240,000 storks and up to 60,000 raptors). Around Atanasovsko Lake – a hyper-saline lake – more than 300 bird species of all 446 occurring in Bulgaria have been watched, many of them globally
threatened, listed in the Annex 1 of the European Birds Directive and in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria (84 species). It forms also a priority habitat according to the Habitats Directive, the coastal lagoon, which is extremely rare habitat in Bulgaria. The area is the largest salt production site (average 50.000 tons per year) in the country and the largest deposit of curative mud. Salt has been produced for more than 100 years. The dykes and barriers constructed for production create proper conditions for breeding of many species. Since the lake does not freeze in winter, it is a site with international importance for the concentrations of wintering waterfowl.

**Biodiversity features**

Of the birds occurring there, 127 species are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004), 19 of them being listed in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 28 in SPEC 2 and 80 in SPEC 3 as species threatened in Europe. The area provides suitable habitats for 105 species, included in Annex 2 of the Biodiversity Act, which need special conservation measures, of which 103 are listed also in Annex I of the Birds Directive. Examples of breeding birds: the Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, the Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* and the Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*; the biggest concentrations of migrating White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, the Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and the Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*; favourite night roosts for pelicans and storks; considerable numbers of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*; exceptionally rare and globally threatened Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*. Besides bird species and other species, Atanasovsko lake features a considerable diversity of habitats.

**Status**

Atanasovsko Lake was designated as Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar Convention in 1984 and its territory was enlarged in 2003. In 1989 the lake was designated as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. In 1998 the area it was appointed as CORINE Site because of its European value for rare and threatened bird species. Since Bulgaria joined the European Union, the site is designated as a NATURA 2000 site (BG0000270).

**Problems / justification**

Over the course of years the marsh has become overgrown with reeds and accumulated a substantial layer with silt and decaying organic matter. They worsened the physicochemical, hydro biological and environmental conditions of the swamp and have a significant negative effect on hydrobionts (water species) and related habitat and species. Its depth is very low and it doesn’t have any fish populations. Built in the past hydraulic structures – sluice and its components are physically old and do not perform its function. The marsh is also nutrient loaded from the adjacent lands and from the Azmak River that mouths to the marsh. Azmaka is not anymore a feeding place for several rare water birds.

**Ownership**

The site is state property and managed by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Burgas.

**The main goal**

The main goal of the project is to restore 2 ha freshwater marsh important for the conservation of important birds species that occur in the area of Atanasovsko Lake.

**Objectives**

The objectives are:

1. to increase water volume and freshwater area of Azmaka marsh
2. to create areas with free water surface
3. to remove the aquatic vegetation and part of the reeds

**Proposed results**

The proposed results are:

1. Increase of the water volume of Azmaka marsh by xx %
2. Free water areas – the surface increased by xx %
3. The increase of the territory covered by freshwater would increase extremely biodiversity there and especially the number of typical plankton species (need for a measurable indicator)
4. By removing the aquatic vegetation and part of the reeds, water basins will be re-occupied by fish, zooplankton and zoobenthos, which will have multiple benefits such as decreased eutrophication and improved water quality for the water biota (both parameter can be measured)
5. The restoration action will result in enhancing the favourable feeding and roosting habitat for Glossy Ibis, Collared pratincole, Ferruginous duck and other priority species (regular bird census)

**Target group and stakeholders**

– Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Burgas
– Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds
– Black Sea Salinas Ltd.
– Municipality
– Interested universities, scientific institutes
– NGOS

**Investment**

Low cost project with maximum budget 20.000 EUR.

**Co-financing**

**Maps / Photos**

Maps and photo are available in separate file.

3.3. PROJECTS CONCERNING OTHER TRIBUTARIES TO THE DANUBE IN THE BULGARICA, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND SERBIA

3.3.1. Restoration of the grassland and wetland area: Kladovo sand with Mala Vrbica

Serbia

(official submission number 11)

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Location
Kladovo Sands with Mala Vrbica is located in East Serbia, Municipality of Kladovo, town Kladovo, nearby National Park "Djerdap".

Size
1. Kladovo Sands – 30 hectares (4 separate sites)
2. Mala Vrbica – 1500 hectares

Site description
The areas of Kladovo Sands and Mala Vrbica are designated as ecologically important areas within the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia, and officially named as "Kladovo-Radujevac" and "Mala vrbica", according to the Regulation on the ecological network ( "Official Gazette of RS", no. 102/2010). The reasons for establishing these areas as elements of the ecological network are: the existence of internationally important habitats for birds (IBA - Important Bird Areas Mala Vrbica RS042IBA), internationally important habitats for plants (IPA - Important Plant Areas Kladovo-Radujevac), and the presence of representative habitats of sands type, which are of major priority for protection, along with their biodiversity (Kladovo sands).

Biodiversity features
1. Kladovo sands with the habitat of plant species Dianthus diuthinus (species from Annex II of the Habitat Directive) is the only remaining habitat of this species in Serbia. 63 plant species have been recorded here, among which 4 are stated as critically endangered (CR - Critically Endangered) in the Red Book of Flora of Serbia I. At the moment, it is under an extremely negative human impact.

2. Mala Vrbica is the remaining part of the former floodplain of the Danube (it stretches 9 km along the Danube). It is situated directly along the border with Romania and Turnu Severin. Part of the area has been converted into agricultural land, a part of it remained under water, and a quarter of it is the fish pond with carp (approximately 200 ha). This is an area important for nesting, migration and wintering of birds on the Danube. 120 species of birds have been recorded here. Threats are the harassment of birds, the disappearance of wetland habitats, water and land pollution, uncontrolled waste disposal and poaching.

Status
1. Kladovo sands is not protected under national law, however it has been recognized as a future protected habitat, and the valorization of this area is being conducted by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. Given that it is the only habitat of the plant species Dianthus diuthinus (species from Annex II of the Habitat Directive), it will be on the preliminary list of NATURA 2000 areas in Serbia.

2. The area of Mala Vrbica is a registered natural area, in the sense that the research has been completed, however due to unsettled property ownership issue the procedure to protect this area has not yet been commenced. This wetland habitat is now part of the ecological network of Serbia, and as an area of special importance regarding bird fauna, it has been nominated for enlisting on the Ramsar list (wetland of international importance for birds). It is also listed on the preliminary list of SPAs, according to the Habitats Directive. The Proposal for enlisting Mala Vrbica and Kladovo sands (as the wider area of Djerdap NP) on the Ramsar list was sent to the Ramsar Secretariat at the beginning of 2014, and the designation procedure is still ongoing.
Problems / justification

1. **Kladovo sands** - Problematic issues
   - The current populations of plant species *Dianthus diuthinus* are endangered due to habitat backfill, that is, the disposal of branches, construction debris and waste.
   - The natural habitat of the species has been on a much larger area than it is today (around it there is agricultural land, holiday cottages, orchards and gardens).
   - Ecological conditions of the habitat have been considerably altered.
   - There is the spreading of invasive species.
   - The sand is being taken away.

Possible solutions:
- Preventing further illegal waste dumping and the removal of current waste
- The removal of invasive species from the surrounding area
- Upon eliminating the endangering factors, it is necessary to work on the restoration of the natural habitat, that is, to bridge the barriers between the four separated populations in order to enable the spontaneous expansion of the species.
- The negotiations with owners of the surrounding land plots to submit their land to the state (the possibility of purchasing the land from them)
- The engagement of experienced experts (for example from Hungaria http://www.tartosszegfu.hu/) to work on the habitat restoration plans, along with the activities on raising public awareness about the importance of habitats (to include local people in the activity on waste removal)
- Marking the area, setting up information boards on species and prohibited waste disposal
- Consider finding a solution for the legal landfill of the village Kostol (in the lack of landfill, waste is disposed of in the environment)

2. **Mala Vrbica** - Problematic issues
   - Determined loss of sites that are adequate for bird nesting
   - The lack of, or low possibility of an adequate monitoring
   - By taking away the sand, the nesting sites of European Roller are being destroyed (the species from Birds Directive)
   - Hunting

Possible solutions:
- The formation of islands or floating platforms for nesting bird species of aquatic habitats (gulls, terns)
- Improvement of water regime and prevention of wet meadows overgrowing
- Setting up observation posts for birds on the sites that are adequate for the monitoring of the large concentrations of birds
- Maintenance of loess profiles suitable for birds nesting (cleaning and conservation)

Ownership
The site is state property managed by the Municipality, the village Kostol, Hydro power plant Djerdap I.

The main goal
The main goal of the project is the restoration of 30 ha of sand habitat important for the conservation of important plant species that occur in the area of Kladovo sands.

**Objectives**

- Preventing waste disposal at 4 illegal landfills
- The removal of current waste from 4 illegal landfills within the species habitat
- Restoration of damaged area in order to spread the population of plant species *Dianthus diuthinus*
- The negotiations with owners of the surrounding arable land plots to offer their land for sale
- Popularization of the conservation and protection of species and habitats

**Proposed results**

1. Setting up a board with warning on the strictly prohibited waste disposal (6 – on the sites and access roads)
2. Setting up information boards on the importance of habitats (6 - on the sites and access roads)
3. Removed waste from four landfills and an increase by almost 3% in the area for population spreading (the current area from which the sand is being taken away and where the landfills are is about 0, 8 ha)
4. Removed invasive species from the surrounding area
5. Commenced negotiations with owners of the surrounding arable land plots to offer their land for sale
6. Established contact with the team of experts that are experienced in planning the future habitat restoration

**Target group and stakeholders**

- Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
- Municipality
- Village Kostol
- Tourist Organisation of Kladovo
- interested universities and scientific institutes
- NP Djerdap
- NGOs
- owners of the surrounding land plots

**Investment**

Low-cost project with maximum budget of 10,000 EUR for

- Setting up information boards
- Involving local people
- Using trucks

**Co-financing**

Tourist organization of Kladovo will take over the organization of specific activities in the field, whereas INSC will provide professional support (for writing text on the information boards, educating local population, preparing the plans, etc.).

**Maps / Photos**

Maps and photos with descriptions are available.
3.3.2. Restoration of the wetland areas in the protected habitat “Treskovaca Pond”

Serbia
(original submission number 16)

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Location
Trskovaca Pond is located near village Platilevo, in the municipality of Ruma, Serbia, in direct proximity of Sava River.

Size
13 hectares that include wetland areas of Sectors 1 and 2 (explained in the google maps number 1 and 2).

Site description
Protected habitat “Trskovaca Pond” is 168.15 ha territory of previous swamp – pond ecosystem which was roughly changed by hydro melioration actions undertaken during 1970’s with a goal to transform that very valuable nature oasis into arable field.

Thirty years after those actions, local community initiated research and engaged experts in the field of nature protection to explore this area. After the research period and detection of solid population of rare autochthonous species of fishes, crucian carp (Carassius carassius) and tench (Tinca tinca), in 2011 the local government declared this area protected and named it the Protected Habitat “Trskovaca Pond”. Nowadays, it is a wetland complex (divided into the five sectors due to a better management) with increasing water surfaces and strong biodiversity growth.

Biodiversity features
Many rare and endangered species of birds nest in the area and in 2014, when exceptionally high floods increased the level of subterranean water at “Trskovaca Pond”, at two sites nest 80-90 pairs of whiskered tern (Chlidonias hybridus), 7-10 pairs of lapwing (Vanellus vanellus), 1-2 pairs of ferruginous duck (Aythya nyroca), 25-32 pairs of great reed warbler (Acrocephalus arundinaceus), while the total number of Eurasian bitter (Botaurus stellaris) increased to 4-5 and “Trskovaca Pond” become the only nesting area of this species in Srem. During migration, the number of common snipe (Gallinago gallinago) was approximately 85 individuals per day, the number of ducks of various species was 400 individuals and there were about 70 individuals of heron among five species that settle this habitat. Very important populations of tench and crucian carp present in this area, stronger populations of species in the family Cobitidae (Misgurnus fossilis and Cobitis elongatoide) and the family Cyprinidae, Rhodeus amarus, are species listed in Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (CETS No.: 104), Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Code on declaration and protection of strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi of the Republic of Serbia), and isolation of “Trskovaca Pond” are particularly important in the
preservation of ichthyofaunal wetland habitats in Vojvodina Province and Republic of Serbia. There are 9 species of the order Odonata with a rare *Ophiogomphus cecilia*.

**Status**

Trskovaca Pond is Protected Habitat declared by the Government of the Municipality of Ruma and it is under national protection of the Republic of Serbia.

**Problems / justification**

Protected habitat “Trskovaca Pond” territory of previous swamp – pond ecosystem which was roughly changed by hydro melioration actions undertaken during 1970’s of the XX century with a goal to transform that very valuable nature oasis into arable field. Nevertheless, a very low quality of soil and high subterranean water levels leaded those actions to the complete failure and that project was afterwards abandoned leaving the area intersected with drainage system of channels and drastically changed. Observing aspects wider than just nature, that change had negative consequences for agriculture and economy of the village “Trskovaca Pond” which is settled nearby. Platicevo village (Municipality of Ruma), with its population mostly engaged in agriculture, left without a dew that was spreading from the pond among arable areas in surround as the natural humidifier. That certainly had a negative impact on productiveness of dried fields. Other problem for the settlers of Platicevo was the lack of fish which withdrew to the channels, along with population and species decreasing. Nowadays, it is a wetland complex (divided into the five sectors due to a better management) with increasing water surfaces and strong biodiversity growth. In the last five years, the Tourist Organization has have many tasks, primarily the water regime has been restored as the result of joint efforts of the nature protection institutions on one side and public water management authority on the other side. The results are gathered in the document: “The Study of Water Regime Management in a function of Nature Protection and Flood Preventing in the area of the Protected Habitat “Trskovaca Pond”, which will serve as an expert basis for future habitat restoration and conservation measures. Along with water growth, biodiversity is increased, especially of ornithofauna.

**Ownership**

According to the structure of the ownership, 160.8 ha or 96% are national property, 5.6 ha or 3% is a public property and a private property is 1.6 ha or 1%.

**The main goal**

The main goal is to restore 13 ha of the protected territory in order to increase water level and biodiversity of rare species of birds and fishes and adapt visitor center for education and tourism development with inclusion of the local community.

**Objectives**

1. Restoration of the depression in Sector 1 will provide new area of free water surface, suitable, among all, for fish spawning, bird feeding and nesting. Our plan is to remove a layer of soil from one of three locations marked on the map (map number 1). Thickness of the layer to be dug: 2.5m; Slopes: 1: 1.15 m; Diameter: 50 m; The quantity of land to be removed: 3,216 m³;

2. The soil that will be removed from the Sector 1 is planned to be used to form the dam. Its main goal is to protect the landowners’ fields from flooding. Only 1.5 hectares of the protected area is in the private possession. This land is on the border of Sector 1 and it spreads all the way to the central channel which connects sectors 1 and 2. The soil dam would be situated alongside the border of private and public ground, all the way to the central channel. The path that follows the dam continues its way over the small wooden bridge in order to connect Sector 1 and 2. The dam, apart from protective role, would have
role of a path with educative fitting. The path will connect visitor center in Sector 1 with watching tower in Sector 2. By these means, the conditions for the improvement of the tourist offer of the Protected Habitat “Trskovaca Pond” would be gained, especially in the field of bird watching.

3. The mobile corral for cattle would provide us better control over grazing, and it would reduce the annual maintenance costs. About 100 hectares of the protected territory is mown per year. Our organization usually hires local people with experience for conducting these activities. At the same time as the establishment of protection and forming of grass surfaces there was raised an interest of the local peoples in grazing of the cattle at the territory of Protected habitat “Trskovaca pond”. Strategically set cattle pens, equipped with water troughs, besides the protection of the grazing animals, would enable the planned suppression of a part of vegetation. By these means the costs of mowing and removal of the vegetation from habitat would be lowered. Also, the development of traditional grazing manner would be encouraged.

4. Adaptation of visitor center means infrastructural works that would improve visitor center for educative activities and tourist visits, would provide the center with electricity (e.g. from solar panels), drinking water and sanitary items and also purchasing of the technical equipment (laptops, projector, binoculars, educational accessories, etc.)

5. Educational path would connect Sector 1 and 2, or visitor center and watching tower via bridge and would make a circle trail of the habitat

Proposed results

1. Increased water volume and water level of Trskovaca Pond on 10 ha of the territory
2. Free water areas of 50 m diameter would provide higher humidity useful for arable land nearby and also improve microclimate conditions in these sectors
3. Temporary flooded surfaces in the Sectors 1 and 2 would increase biodiversity of birds and fish
4. Cattle coral would provide economy savings for Tourist organization of the Municipality of Ruma for 30% of the year budget and would encourage local community to procure cattle and to enable economy growth of the community through agriculture and healthy food by 5%
5. Adaption of visitor center would enhance tourism possibilities and educative activities since Trskovaca Pond is very attractive for nature lovers, but also good example of human plays with nature and its consequences – 30% visit growth

Target group and stakeholders

MINISTRY: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
LOCAL GOVERNMENT: The Municipality of Ruma
PUBLIC BODIES: Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS: Faculty of Science, Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia and Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province
OTHER STAKHOLDERS: Users of the territory of The Protected Habitat “Trskovaca Pond” (Council of the Users) and local NGO “Syrnia”

Investment

Making of a depression in sector 1 and transferring a soil 18.000,00 EUR
Mobile cattle corral 10.000,00 EUR
Adaptation of the visitor center – solar panels, sanitary works, infrastructural works: 20.000,00 EUR
Equipment 5.000,00 EUR
Path between sector 1 and 2 (part of the circle trail) and bridge (350 m incl. wooden bridge) 15,000 EUR
TOTAL: 68,000 EUR

Co-financing: There is a possibility of funding from Local authority and Provincial Secretariat.

Maps / Photos
Photos and maps are available in separate file.

3.3.3. Removal of sludge from the lake Provala in Vajska

Serbia
(original submission number 27)

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Location
Municipality of Bač, in the settlement called Vajska. This is South Bačka District, Vojvodina province (northern Serbia).

Size
The area of the lake is 5,8 ha.

Site description
The lake Provala was created during the Danube flood in 1926, and is part of the hunting ground called "Bodanski rit". Jezero Provala is the deepest lake in Vojvodina province (northern Serbia). The lake is 5 to 19 m deep. This lake has the largest beach in the municipality of Bač with up to 3000 bathers in the summer time, and it is very popular among fisherman. The lake is extremely rich in fish and the area itself is a home for more than 40 species protected by national and international laws. Around the lake there is a camping area.

Biodiversity features
The area is home for more than 40 species protected by national and international laws. Examples are: common pochard (Aythya ferina L.), European turtle dove (Streptopelia turtur) and others. The only study about the biodiversity of the lake was done in 1996, by the Department for Biology of the Faculty of natural sciences, University of Novi Sad. During that time, it was detected around 18 species of vascular macrophytes, with dominant Myriophyllum spicatum, and 18 types of fishes with dominant family Cyprinidae (8 species). What the authors of this study found interesting was the population of Vejdovskyela comate and Vejdovskyela intermedia in the lake bed. These species were not listed in the catalog of Oligochaeta, so this discovery represented the first founding in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Status
The lake is in the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Bač, and is not protected by any provincial, state or international document.
Problems / justification
During the last 15 years, the vegetation around the lake has become overgrown with reeds and organic matter has accumulated in substantial level on the bottom of the lake. The lake doesn’t have tributaries, and is only connected to the Danube by underwater geyser. All this factors, together with the fact the lake was deserted, has led to lake being overgrown with vegetation and accumulated a substantial layer of organic matter. The municipality has invested in removal of the vegetation around the lake, and is willing to continue to do so, but considering the limited budget it is very hard to complete such a big investment.

Ownership
There are several owners, who own different cadastral parcels situated in the area of the Lake “Provala”:
1. Major land use forms are sport and recreation, including swimming and water sports, recreational fishing, outdoor recreation and tourism.
2. cadastral parcel 4649/2 – owned by public enterprise “Vojvodina šume”
3. cadastral parcels 4643 and 4649/1 – owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
4. cadastral parcel 4644 – owned by the municipality of Bač

The main goal
For the Lake “Provala” the main goals are biodiversity conservation, valorization in the area of tourism which is in line with the principles of sustainability and environmental protection.

Objectives
Possible activities include:
1. research and analysis of the current state of the lake (fish population, plant species, pollution...) that would serve as a baseline for further activities
2. removal of the excess sediment, including revitalization of the lake and development of the technical documentation for the removal of sediment. Part of the documentation is already developed
3. increasing the number of fish population, especially that of Carassius carassius which was abundant in the past and today is endangered and protected species
4. exploring ecotourism possibilities and developing new nature-based tourist offers
5. education of the fishing associations and other stakeholders aiming to raise awareness on environmental issues and need for protection

Proposed results
1. Increase of the water volume of Provala Lake by xx %
2. Increase the surface of Provala Lake by xx %
3. Chemical analysis of the lake shows better parameters in terms of better oxygen distribution and decrease in organic matter by xx %

Target group and stakeholders
MINISTRY: Ministry of agriculture and environmental protection
LOCAL GOVERNMENT: The municipality of Bač
PUBLIC BODIES: Tourist organization of the Municipality of Bač, public companies “Vodevojvodine” and “Vojvodina šume”
OTHER STAKHOLDERS: NGOs in field of environmental protection and rural development
Investment
Project can be low cost and more expensive depending on the objectives and the selected activities. This would depend on the type of joint regional project that is planned and available funds. All proposed sites are in need for support for both infrastructural works and activities devoted to public awareness raising, development of tourist offers, research and planning. Below are proposed costs for both types of activities (these are rough initial estimates).

Infrastructural works (removal of the excess sediment): 75 000 €
Activities related to research: 35 000 €
Activities related to biodiversity conservation: 25 000 €
Activities related to education and tourism development: 2 500 €
TOTAL: 137 500 €

Co-financing
ORCA would be able to contribute to the project by providing administrative and technical support in the field as assistance in implementation, as well as contacts on the ground. ORCA already has good communication and collaboration established on the ground with all land owners and/or managers – Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, public enterprise “Vojvodina šume”, Municipalities of Bač and Ruma and Tourist organisation of Ruma.

Maps / Photos
Photos and maps are available in separate file.

3.3.4. Restoration of Sejpy u Modlešovic – Former dry heathland pastures in the floodplain of river Otava

Czech Republic
(original submission number 31)

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Location
The site „Sejpy u Modlešovic“ is located in South Bohemia, 4,3 km east from the town of Strakonice at the edge of the floodplain of river Otava.

Size
The total area of the site is 12 hectares.

Site description
The locality encompasses a unique remnant of traditional dry heathland pastures on a medieval gold-panning site, where a typical structured terrain with gravel hillocks and wet depressions had developed. It’s a representative example of traditional semi-natural grassland habitats with high
biodiversity, which are continually disappearing from Czech landscape and are becoming seriously threatened.

The pasture has been abandoned for several decades and is therefore substantially degraded (overgrown by shrubs and tall grasses). Despite this, there are still significant parts which are well preserved and extremely valuable from the conservation point of view. It hosts several red-listed and protected plants and animals.

**Biodiversity features**
The site includes following key habitats:
- Dry heathlands (*Euphorbio-Callunion*) - VU* - 7 ha
- Intermittently wet grassland (*Molinion*) - VU* - 0,25 ha
- Fen vegetation with *Potentilla palustris* - VU* - 0,05 ha
- Aquatic vegetation with *Hottonia palustris* - EN* - approx. 150 m2

*) Conservation status according to the Red List of Habitats of The Czech Republic (Kučera et al. 2005)

Moreover, key species include: *Antennaria dioica* (EN**), *Salix rosmarinifolia* (VU**), *Hottonia palustris* (VU**), *Utricularia australis* (NT**), *Potentilla palustris* (NT**) and *Galium boreale* (NT**).

**) Conservation status according to the Red List of vascular plants of The Czech Republic: 3rd edition (Grulich et al. 2012)

Note: Complex zoological survey hasn’t been yet conducted. It is, however, very likely that a numerous group of rare and endangered species of vertebrates (e.g. insect, spiders) requiring well preserved dry, open grasslands will be found.

**Status**
The locality has no special status in terms of nature conservation. It has been, however, selected as one of the priority sites in South Bohemia according to habitat quality evaluation, where legal protection is highly appropriate.

**Problems / justification**
The pastures have been abandoned for several decades and significant parts are therefore substantially degraded.

The most serious threat connected with lack of management is the expansion of tall grass *Calamagrostis epigeios*, which is capable to gradually outcompete all other plants and form dense, uniform stands with very low biodiversity. Suppression of this species is usually very complicated and requires a combination of different measures. Expansion of other species like *Arrhenatherum elatius* and local dieback of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) can be also attributed to the absence of grazing or mowing.

Several parts of the site have been overgrown by trees and shrubs; however, expansion of woody species is only a minor threat to local biodiversity.

**Ownership**
The whole area is owned by the municipality of Strakonice.

**The main goal**
Our goal is to restore and maintain the whole site (12 ha) through a sustainable management based on traditional agricultural practice and the cooperation with local people (grazing, cutting the shrubs...
and trees for firewood). Utilizing the economical aspect of these measures reduces the dependence on external funding (which is however still necessary) and therefore makes the project more sustainable.

The site may become an interesting tourist spot since it is valuable from both historical (one of the best preserved medieval gold-panning sites along Otava river, traditional common pasture) and biological point of view. The accessibility for public is extremely easy since it is situated directly on one of the most frequented regional cycling routes.

**Objectives**
The particular objectives of the project are following:

1. Stop the degradation and improving the structure and species richness of the vegetation in the best preserved parts of heathland through grazing or mowing (approx. 7 ha)
2. Restore the most degraded parts of the site overgrown by shrubs and expansive grasses and herbs using appropriate restoration measures (intensive grazing and/or mowing, sod-cutting, cutting excessive shrubs and trees etc.) followed by standard sustainable management based on grazing or mowing (approx. 5 ha)
3. Conduct special small-scale measures (soil disturbances, removing of competing species) to strengthen the populations of the most endangered species *Antennaria dioica* (3 populations)

**Proposed results**

1. Improving the structure and species richness (e.g. starting the regeneration of heather, suppressing competitive grasses) of the vegetation in the best preserved parts of heathland (approx. 7 ha)
2. Suppressing the unwanted expansive herbs, shrubs and trees by 50 – 70% in more degraded parts of the site (approx. 5 ha)
3. Saving all three populations of *Antennaria dioica* in the site and increasing the area of its stands by 1/3

**Target group and stakeholders**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Municipality of Strakonice; Administration of Jihočeský kraj (South Bohemian Region)

**OTHER STAKHOLDERS:** Local people and other subjects dealing with nature conservation (NGOs, scientific institutions)

**Investment**
It is rather a „middle-cost“ project. There is some significant funding needed at the beginning of the restoration, where an initial management (e.g. manual mowing of the expansive grasses) and the establishing of the basic infrastructure (e.g. grazing fence) have to be done. The maintenance of the restored site will be possible without any substantial funding.

Overview of approximate budget for one year:

- Intensive mowing of degraded grassland using hand-operate tools (2 times per year) 14 800 EUR
- Grazing of sheep and/or horses 8 880 EUR
- Disturbing the soil and removing competing species in the stands of *Antennaria dioica* 30 EUR
- Coordination, monitoring 1 100 EUR

**TOTAL 24 810 EUR**

Note: In case of unavailability of grazing, relevant funding won’t be needed.
Co-financing
There are good opportunities for co-financing the project from the national resources.

Maps / Photos
Maps and photos with descriptions are available in separate file.

3.3.5. Restoration of grassland sites with unique biodiversity in the region Spiš

Slovakia
(original submission number 15)

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Location
The proposed three areas with unique biodiversity are located in the Spiš region in North-Eastern Slovakia.

Site description
The Spiš region is the pearl of Slovakia in terms of historical heritage (several UNESCO sites) as well as the biodiversity. Long-term continuous influence of man in the country conditioned the creation of unique, species-rich grassland habitats of various types. Diversity of grasslands and their extremely high species richness is the result of both natural conditions (suitable conditions on limestone and travertine) but mainly traditional, sensitive grassland management realised by local people in the past. Centuries of continuity was interrupted during the socialist period, where small private owners had to hand over their land in the hands of large agricultural cooperatives. The subsequent intensification of the country caused on the one hand large-scale plowing of grasslands, turn them into fields, drainage of peatlands, or on the other hand afforestation of less productive areas for the dry pastures. The situation has not changed even after the change of social relations at the end of the 20th century, but continues to this day. Grasslands important from the nature conservation are not so important for farmers from economical perspective. They are located on the steep rocky hillsides, high altitudes and hardly accessible mountain meadows, waterlogged soils and peatlands. Although these areas are now in protected areas of various categories, including the Natura 2000 sites, the majority of them fail to provide adequate management regime that preserves their unique biodiversity.

Problems / justification
Currently, the proposed areas are situated outside the LPIS (Land Parcel Information System) and farmers do not receive subsidies, because grasslands are abandoned and overgrowing by scrubs and trees. The protection and restoration of three unique sites with high diversity, representing limestone mountain meadows, dry grasslands and fens is the main goal of the project. Local farmers will be involved into restoration management introduced by the project and they will continue with regular management in accordance with conservation needs.
Project site – Kopanécké lúky Meadows
The complex of limestone mountain meadows with high biodiversity of higher plants, which is the leader in Europe, even attacking world records (Chytrý et al., 2015: The most species-rich plant communities of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (with new world records), Preslia 87, 217-278 pp.). The world record is especially high number of vascular plants in small areas. There is growing 51 species on area of 0.25 m² and 63 species on area of square meter. Important are populations of many endangered species of orchids, including the critically endangered species. The 120 ha of meadows complex is located in the Slovak Paradise National Park, at altitudes from 900 to 1190 height above sea level.

Till year 1970, grasslands were managed by the local farmers. After the establishment of cooperative farm, mowing was stopped and meadows were grazed by sheep. Grazing has been completed in the 80s and 20 ha of meadows were afforested. After 2000, Daphne and Administration of Slovak Paradise National Park managed to save the most valuable grasslands on area of 20 ha, which are mowed by local farmer and he is supported by subsidies. Daphne became owner of 8 ha of these valuable grasslands.

It is planned to restore 30 ha of former pastures, densely overgrown by trees and scrubs by cutting down the trees and following support of sheep grazing. After the end of project, management will be supported by the RDP subsidies.

Ownership
Ownership relations in the relevant areas are complicated; there are hundreds of small scale owners mostly from the village of. It is therefore essential to involve local people who provide subsequent management of the site through an agreement with specific landowners.

Proposed activities:
1. Cutting down the trees and their removal from the polygons;
2. Reinroduction of grazing - buying sheep for local farmers, including the necessary infrastructure (shelter for animals, electric fences used for targeted over-grazing, shepherd);
3. Mowing in selected polygons – mulching as restoration technique in the first year, than reintroduction of mowing;
4. Promotion of dairy products, setting up sheds for sale cheese;
5. Purchase of land for local farmers?

Project site – Belianske lúky Meadows
The calcareous spring fen Belianske lúky Meadows is the largest and best preserved spring-fed fen in Slovakia. The presence of many rare plant species and plant communities makes the area high in ecological value. The Belianske lúky Meadows have already been protected as a nature area since 1983. The reserve and some nearby fen remnants were also included in the Natura 2000 network, which places them among the sites of European importance. After it was extended, its total area reached 106 hectares.

According to those who remember, the meadows were cut late in summer, or even in autumn. Since the terrain was very wet, the hay was carried out by hand. The hay was used as bedding or fodder for horses. The entire area of the reserve used to be mown, with the exception of the north-eastern part which was too wet; in those days there was an abundance of small pools. By the 1970s, the interest in farming here had decreased, but most plots were still regularly mown, albeit not every year. This initiated a process of forest and reed encroachment. Paradoxically, the total abandonment of the meadows started after the territory was declared a nature reserve, most probably due to the
compensation received by the original owners, who were given new grasslands elsewhere. By 2005, more than half of the area had been invaded by shrubs and forest species. Between 2006 and 2009, all forest was removed from an area of 46 ha of fen meadows with following mulching of shrub encroachment. After that, the regular mowing regime was commenced in most of the restored area. Local farmer applied for agri-environmental subsidies and 50 ha of fen grasslands is regularly managed. It was done within UNDP/GEF project and realised by DAPHNE.

It is planned to restore 20 ha of fen grasslands heavily overgrown by trees. Restored areas will be further managed by local farmer.

Ownership
Most of the area is administered by the Slovak Land Fund, a smaller part belongs to the Evangelical Church. Local private farmer has entered with the two entities into long term lease agreements to rent the entire area.

Proposed activities:
1. Cutting down the trees and their removal from the polygons;
2. Mowing in selected polygons – mulching as restoration technique in the first year, than reintroduction of mowing;
3. Buying of machine with double tyres to decrease the pressure on the soil.

Project site – Sivá Brada and Spišskopodhradské stráne
Sivá Brada travertine is a lonely hill, where they are still active springs with high salt content, which determine the occurrence of unique halophytic vegetation in the Carpathians. At the "dead" travertine developed species-rich communities of xerothermic steppe character, with several endangered plant species. Similarly Spišskopodhradské stráne, made up of calcareous flysch represent significant refugia of thermophilic vegetation and fauna in the country.

Sivá Brada is very long unused, in the distant past it was grazed by sheep and young cattle. Due to extreme shallow soil it is not overgrowing by, but there is evident degradation and ruderalisation of habitats. Invasion of reed is in waterlogged parts and drier parts overgrow by Calamagrostis epigejos. On the site Spišskopodhradské stráne is also overgrowing by scrubs.

In the project it is planned to restore 35 ha of xerothermic and halophytic (and associated wetland) communities by introducing cutting the waterlogged parts of the wetland and introducing grazing on dry part. Mowing can be made by a small, light mechanization, and biomass has to be removed from the site. Grazing will be secured by mobile flock of sheep.

Ownership
Sivá Brada is largely owned by a private owner. A small part is owned by about 20 private owners. Landowners agree to restoration measures. Site Spišskopodhradské stráne is owned by about 100 people. Area is rented by local cooperative farm which agrees with the restoration. After implementation of restoration measures, they will use the area for grazing.

Proposed activities
1. Cutting down the trees and their removal from the polygons;
2. Mowing in selected polygons – mulching as restoration technique in the first year, than reintroduction of mowing;
3. Machine bought for Belianske lúky will be used on this site also;
4. Reintroduction of grazing – buying sheep for local farmers, including the necessary infrastructure (shelter for animals, electric fences used for targeted over-grazing, shepherd).
Preliminary budget
Cutting of trees – 700 €/ha. Total 60 ha – 42,000 €.
Mulching - 400 €/ha. Total 30 ha – 12,000 €.
Mowing – 700 €/ha. Total 30 ha – 21,000 €.
Light machinery – 30,000 €.
Grazing – 50 sheep for Kopanec, 50 sheep mobile herd. Total 2,000 €.
- 2x shelter for animals (Kopanec and Sivá Brada). Total 4,000 €.
- electric fences – 1,000 €.
- Car for transport of mobile herd – 10,000 €.
- Salary for shepherd (10 months x 2 (Kopanec and Sivá brada): Total 10,000 €.
Sheds for sale cheese (Kopanec ) – 5,000 €.

Total: 137,000 €

Co-financing
Co-financing by local farmers is possible.

Maps and photos
General photos and those indicating the proposed restoration parts are available in separate file.

3.3.6. Restoration of wetlands in the dragoman marsh karst complex ramsar site

Bulgaria
(Original submission number 33)

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Location
Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is located in the west Bulgaria, Sofia district, and in four municipalities: Dragoman, Godech, Slivnitsa and Kostinbrod. The site is situated about 30 km from the capital Sofia, about 1 km from the town of Dragoman and 2 km from the town of Slivnitsa. The site is in direct proximity to the Sofia – Belgrade international E80 motorway.

Size
The entire area includes 400 hectares of freshwater marsh and 20 hectares of fishponds.

Site description
The Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is the only one of its kind in Bulgaria and one of the few on the Balkan Peninsula. It includes limestone hills with depressions between them where wetlands are formed. The Ramsar site, declared in 2011, is characterized by very rich biodiversity. It includes nesting sites of rare and threatened birds and relict localities of marsh and bog plants. The wetlands include the large Dragoman and Aldomirovtsi marshes, wet meadows, some smaller wetlands and some human-made ones. Dragoman marsh is the biggest limestone marsh in Bulgaria - now its area covers about 400 ha.
Aldomirovtsi Marsh (120 ha) is linked to it through subterranean waters and was declared a protected area in 1989. Very specific is the region close to the village of Tsariklevtsi – a variety of different wet grasslands. Several karst springs close to Bezen village provide water to two artificial lakes and the Blato River. In the southeast part of the site next to the Blato River are located the Petarch Fishponds, which provide very good conditions during the bird migrations and have a great potential for wetland restoration.

The area around the wetlands is mainly agricultural land (arable land, meadows and pastures), part of which is temporarily flooded by the spring rains and melting snow. In the 1930-50s drainage channels and pump stations were built to drain part of the wetlands. The life in the Dragoman Marsh disappeared for decades. But in the 90s these facilities stopped working and the wetlands started quickly to restore.

**Biodiversity features**
In the whole proposed area 256 species of birds (61% of Bulgarian avifauna) are registered, 9 amphibians, 9 reptiles, 23 mammals and 180 vascular plants. The Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex contains the last conserved karst marshes in Bulgaria and one of the few on the Balkan Peninsula – Dragoman and Aldomirovtsi Marshes. The vast wet grasslands around the marshes and also in the eastern part of the complex are unique because of their natural flooding regime and their relict flora - one of the best examples in the Continental biogeographic region. The Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex plays an important role in the conservation of globally threatened species and ecological communities, which have very limited distribution and have been influenced by many negative human impacts. After the extensive drainage and ploughing activities throughout the country during the 20th century, very few natural wetlands remained, especially in inland Bulgaria away from the Danube and the Black Sea Coast. The total area of the wetlands in Bulgaria has decreased 20 times from the beginning of 20th century. The karst wetlands in Bulgaria were completely destroyed and the Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is the only one survived.

The following bird species from the IUCN Red List categories have been recorded in the site (17 species): *Pelecanus crispus* (VU); *Aythya nyroca* (NT); *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN); *Neophron percnopterus* (EN); *Circus macrourus* (NT); *Aquila heliaca* (VU); *Falco naumanni* (VU); *Falco vespertinus* (NT); *Falco cherrug* (EN); *Crex crex* (NT); *Otis tarda* (VU); *Limosa limosa* (NT); *Gallinago media* (NT); *Numenius arquata* (NT); *Coracias garrulus* (NT); *Acrocephalus paludicola* (VU); *Ficedula semitorquata* (NT). (NT – near threatened; VU – vulnerable; EN – endangered; according to IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.2. www.iucnredlist.org&}). 108 species of birds are included in the Bulgarian Red Data Book (new edition, in press). 75 species are included in the Annex I of the Birds Directive 79/409.

There are about 30 plant species, which are included in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria, Red Lists of the Bulgarian flora. 10 of them are endemics to Bulgaria or the Balkan Peninsula, like *Tulipa urumoffii* Hayek., *Erysimum comatum Panč.*, *Astragalus wilmotianus Stoj.*, *Edraianthus serbicus* (Kern.) Petr., *Jurinea tzar-ferdinandii Dav.*, etc. See also point 21. The *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* (re-introduced), *Himantoglossum caprinum* and *Caldesia paranssifolia* are included in the Annex II of the Directive 92/43 and in the Annex I of the Bern Convention.

There are 43 mammal species recorded up to now in the proposed area. 8 species are from the IUCN redlist (*Barbastella barbastellus*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *M. blythii*, *Rhinolophus mehelyi*, *R. Euryale*, *Nannospalax leucodon*, *Spermophilus citellus*, *Vormela peregusna*, *Lutra lutra*) and 17 from Annex 2 of the Habitat Directive 92/43.
Regarding the amphibians there are 9 species found and 2 of them are from Annex II from Directive 92/43 – *Triturus karelinii* and *Bombina variegata*. 11 species of reptiles are found in the area as 2 of them (*Emys orbicularis*, *Testudo hermanni*) are from Annex II from Directive 92/43 and IUCN Red List.

The area is an important Butterfly area and has many butterfly and dragonfly species of European and world importance. 3 of them are NATURA 2000 species from Directive 92/43 - *Lycaena dispar*, *Polyommatus eroides* and *Eriogaster catax*.

The complex is a “hotspot” of biological diversity and is evidently species-rich. The different types of wetlands and the surrounding barren rocky ridges sustain rich biological diversity, mainly in terms of various habitat types, plant and bird species. The whole area is on the way of the so called “Via Aristotelis” Migratory Pathway, which goes from the Aegean Sea (Eastern Mediterranean), via the western part of Bulgaria (Struma River Valley and Sofia basin) to the north. The wetlands in the area are an important stopover for a number of migrating water birds.

**Status**

The site is designated as Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar Convention in 2011. Aldomirovsko Marsh is a protected area since 1989. The area is included into the 2 NATURA 2000 sites (Dragoman according to the Habitats and Rayanovtsi according to the Birds Directives), Important Bird Area and CORINE Site.

**Problems / justification**

In 19th century the Dragoman Marsh was the biggest limestone marsh in Bulgaria. It was one of the most important places in Bulgaria for the Crane (*Grus grus*), both in terms of breeding and migration (old records for thousands migrating Cranes in Sofia district exist). Unfortunately during the 1930s the whole marsh was drained. Drainage channels and pump station were built and the whole area was changed into arable land. Subsequently a lot of rare species in the area got extinct. After the 1990s all types of drainage activities stopped and the Dragoman Marsh slowly started to recover and many rare and endemic species started recovered or increasing until 2010. Since then several drought years decreased the value of the marsh.

The Protected area Aldomirovtsi Marsh has the same history but it disappeared completely in the late 80s, in 2011 and 2012 because of a sinkhole opening. Currently, it is partially recovered and a lot of rare birds started nesting again.

The untreated wastewaters of Dragoman town are discharged into the Dragoman Marsh. This worsens the water quality and is a very serious threat to biodiversity, as can lead to eutrophication of the wetland. The Petarch Fishponds by 2016 are completely dry and no management of the water levels is done for years. All wetlands in the complex have problems with overgrowing with water vegetation (reed, bulrush, etc.)

**Ownership**

The complex of Dragoman Marsh Karst has a mixed property: state, municipal, private and NGO-owned land. Balkani Wildlife Society owns about 45 ha of the land. However, still no special management unit is assigned for the area.

**The main goal**

The main goal of the project is to restore the favorable conservation status of 400 ha of marshland and 20 ha of fishponds.
Objectives
A long term plan is to restore the favorable conservation status of 400 ha of marshland and 20 ha of fishponds. Project objectives are to:

1. to exchange knowledge about wetland restoration with other countries
2. to create a sustainable model for wetland management in the Ramsar site
3. to improve the water quality of the Dragoman Marsh
4. to create broader areas with the free water surface in the Ramsar site
5. to remove and utilize reed, bulrush and club-rush

Proposed results
1. wetland restoration guide in Bulgarian and English languages
2. wetland management model developed
3. increased rare bird and amphibian numbers in particular wetlands
4. increased water mirrors area in the Ramsar site by 10%
5. improved water quality

Target group and stakeholders
MINISTRY: Ministry of Environment and Waters, “National Nature Protection Service” Directorate
LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Municipalities of Dragoman, Slivnitsa and Kostinbrod.
PUBLIC BODY FOR WATER MANAGEMENT: Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Sofia
OTHER STAKHOLDERS: Interested universities, schools, scientific institutes, tourists and NGOs

Investment
to be defined

Co-financing
Balkani Wildlife Society and its partners are able to provide in-kind contribution. Additionally, there is a possibility of contributions from the companies from Sofia within their social responsibility budgets, companies developing business within the area (livestock breeding and reed utilization) and companies willing to pay for CO2 sequestration.

Maps / Photos
Photo are available in separate file.

3.4. PROJECTS NOT WITHIN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN (AS DEFINED BY THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF THE DTP)

There are some project proposals which are not within the Danube River Basin and therefore, not eligible under the Danube Transnational Programme, such as project proposals from Albania.

As regards Albania, there is also a proposal from ALBAFOREST related to the Lura National Park with a specific focus on forest restoration, which is not the topic of the TAF project – nevertheless the organization might be a new partner in CEEweb’s network, therefore, the proposal is included. Generally, for all Albanian project proposals the document ‘Overview of potential funding sources’ might help the proposers to search for other funding opportunities.

Another project proposal has to be checked concerning its eligibility under the Danube Transnational Programme, the Pantan lagoon on the Adriatic Sea coastline. Croatia as a country is eligible under the DTP, the question is, if coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean are included; if not, there are other options for funding, e.g. looking for partners in the Interreg Adriatic Ionian Cooperation
Programme – ADRION 2014 – 2020 under Priority Axis 2: Sustainable region, Specific Objective: 2.1. Promote the sustainable valorization and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the Adriatic Ionian area or 2.2 Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic Ionian area.

3.4.1. Restoration of Shkumbin river branches inside the Shebenik Jabllanica NP

Albania
(original submission number 04)

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Location
Shebenik – Jabllanice National Park (Albanian: Parku Kombëtar Shebenik-Jabllanicë) is a protected national park located in the eastern part of the Elbasan County in central Albania. The park covers an area of 33,927.7 hectares and shares a border with the Republic of Macedonia. Elevations in the park vary from 300 m to over 2,200 m at the peak of Shebenik mountain, which along with Jablanica give name to the park. The park is one of Albania’s newest, created in 2008. Within the park region dwell a number of different species that are fast becoming rare in Albania, including the brown bear, grey wolf and the endangered Balkan Lynx. Further, the park is home to a number of endemic and rare plants. The nearest towns to the park are Librazhd and Prrenjas. On 21 April 2011, the PPNEA (Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania) research team got the first photo of an alive Balkan lynx living within the boundaries of the national park.

Size
Both Shkumbin river branches which would need restoration are parts of Shebenic-Jabllanica National Park. Two rivers flow and multiple to smaller water sources flow through the park's area including the Qarrishte River and Bushtrice River, both of which are 22 km long.

Site description

Flora
The park contains beech, fir, pines, and oak species as well as species such as Purple Willow, Norway Maple, Silver birch, and European silver fir in the northern slopes of the Park area. There are a number of rare and endemic plant species such as Albanian rock rose (endemic species), greenwed (subendemic species), Albanian pansy (sub-endemic species), Dukagjini pansy (sub-endemic species) and Rock grevillea (sub-endemic species).

Fauna
The park area is thought to contain one of the primary remaining ranges of the Balkan Lynx subspecies of the Eurasian lynx. On 21 April 2011, the PPNEA (Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania) research team got the first photo of an alive Balkan lynx living within the boundaries of the national park. It is also a natural range for the brown bear, gray wolf, chamois, wild boar, European otter and brown trout.
**Status**
Shebenic-Jabllanica National Park is protected zone and it is administrated by the Regional Directorate of the National Protected Areas Agency.

**Problems / justification**

**Ownership**
The site is state property and managed by the Regional Directorate of the National Protected Areas Agency under the Ministry of Environment.

**The main goal**
The main goal of the project is to restore the both branches of river for the conservation of important species that occur in the area of rivers.

**Objectives**
1. To increase the water volume and fresh water of rivers
2. To create the solid area to protect the erosion
3. To increase the vegetation in both side of the river

**Proposed results**
1. Increase the water volume by 13%
2. To increase the protection area from erosion 0.5 ha
3. To increase the territory covered by fresh water and would increase the extremely the biodiversity
4. To increase the awareness of local population around the National Park as well as the managing body

**Target group and stakeholders**
Ministry of Environment
Regional Directorate of the National Protected Areas Agency
Municipality
Local NGOs
Schools

**Investment**
The project would need about 18.000, -- EUR.

**Co-financing**
Environmental Association “Lilium albanicum” would contribute in-kind 2.000, -- EUR.

**3.4.2. Improving the status of Limpo wetland as an important area for migratory birds**

Albania
(original submission number 05)

Organization: Social Education & Environment Protection (SEEP)
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Location
The small wetland of Limpo lies between the Adriatic Sea and Narta lagun', near the city of Vlora, South-West Albania.

Size
Limpo wetland is about 2km2 and is 20-30 m far from the sea and 20-30 m from Narta Wetland.

Site description
Limpo wetland is part of Vjose-Narta Landscape Protected Area. In the West it is bordered by the southern-most part of the Adriatic Sea where the Ionian Sea starts. In the North, lies the delta of River Vjose which is the only wild river in Europe where there are no dams built (yet). The river stems from the Pindos Mountains in Greece and flows into the Adriatic Sea. The area is in close and mutual connection with other protected areas such as: Sazan-Karaburun National Marine Park, Llogora National Park and Orikumi Lagoon. These make Vlora an area with special importance and very rich in natural and biological values that are sheltered within its territory. This is undoubtedly a good asset and opportunity for economic development, for natural, ecological tourism development, alongside massive summer tourism for the beach, historical and cultural tourism.

This protected area includes Narta Lagoon which covers 2900 ha. This lagoon communicates with the sea through two artificial canals that are deepened every year to enable the entrance of sea water into the lagoon to increase the variety and quantity of living things, especially of fish. In the south end of the lagoon there is an island in which there are located a monastery and a church of 13th century. The island is connected to the land with a wooden bridge and constitutes great cultural values, therefore it is a popular tourist attraction. A cobblestone alley lies at the bottom of the lagoon and is thought to be part of the ruins of the old town of Spinarica (12th century).

Biodiversity features
The biodiversity of the area is very rich. It is home to over 570 high plant species and 70 species of fungus; in water habitats have been found over 330 species of microscopic algae, of which 95 are types of plankton. Over 30 types of plants and 3 funguses are threatened according to IUCN criteria. About 15 species of plants are considered rare or relics, such as Salep including the Albanian salep (Orchis albanica), water lilies, four leaf water fern, narcissus poetic, marinas, etc. Many of the plants also are important for the protection of dunes, protection by sea erosion, but also maintaining its charm and recreational properties. It is worth mentioning the belt of Mediterranean pines, with sea pine, soft pine, mixed with Mediterranean shrub vegetation, vegetation of dunes, etc.

Regarding the fauna, it is represented by 198 threatened animal species, which is half of threatened animal species for the entire Albanian territory. Currently insects’ world is not quite known, but in different water habitats there have been found over 150 species of winged insects. In this area there are about 9 species of amphibians and 26 species of reptiles, most of them threatened and included in the Red List of Protected Fauna in Albania. Two species of amphibians, Rana balkanica and Rana lessonae for many years have also been of economic importance for the area, thousands tones of which are annually collected for market. The Delta of Vjosa River and Narta are known for the variety of fish and are very important for fisheries and aquaculture; for the area are mentioned 40 species of fish, where over 10 species are of economic importance for the fishing sector. Birds are represented...
by 80 species, where about 20,000 birds winter in the area such as, ducks, flamingos, seagulls, etc. It is said that during 1950-’70 the area was populated by over 100 couples of Pelicanus crispus, whereas today this bird is threatened. 90% of birds prefer to use the central part of the lagoon in which they are less threatened by illegal hunting, which is existent despite the Hunting Moratorium.

Status
Limpio wetland is part of Vjoše-Narta Landscape Protected Area (197 km², IUCN Category V) by government decision of 2004 and part of Important Bird Area (2013) in the city of Vlora. The protected area has a Management Plan elaborated by the project MedWetCoast 2004 by GEF / UNDP.

This lagoon is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Administration that gives it in use through a contract to the Organization of Fishermen of the area. The whole Protected Area is in legal protection of the Ministry of Environment through the National Agency of Protected Areas. As a matter of fact, it is not taken any care of, apart from the work of fishermen for their fishing interests, enabling periodic cleaning of the canal, nothing more.

Problems /justification
Limpio wetland is endangered because it is not supplied with water either from land nor from the sea. During the summer the water level lowers and a part of its surface dries out from the sides thereby reducing and damaging the habitat. Another problem that disconnection from the sea brings is rapid increasing of vegetation by the lack of salt water covering and reducing the wetland surface. Given that this wetland is surrounded by low territory, during the periods of rains is not supplied with fresh water what causes eutrophication. This means that the number of plants in water increases and they consume the greatest amount of oxygen which leads to deficient oxygen left for other living beings and therefore they are reduced. In order for this phenomenon to disappears, water in the lagoon needs to circulate continuously and the only solution is the connection with the sea. However, Limpio wetland was left out due to some problems in documentation and the canal got blocked. Lack of communication with the sea for a lagoon is a vital issue, it causes its gradual extinction and we want to save it. The studies that been conducted have emerged that life within the wetland is very poor due to the factors mentioned above.

The connection to the sea will make it richer and will raise the populations of fish and life in the lagoon, which will continue with a chain of other creatures that will frequent. Our idea is to build, near this lagoon, 15 km from the center of Vlora, a center for research, studies, monitoring, protection for the small lagoon and for the all the Protected Area by poachers of bird and fish. This center will serve as an eco-museum for the area as a center of education for all fishermen, residents of the area, scholars, tourists etc. and for recognition of the nature, history and biodiversity of the whole area. Also it will be put at service of studying, creation of better policies for fishing in the lagoon and nature and biodiversity conservation. But let's start from the rehabilitation of the Limpio wetland for its revitalization and to be used as a laboratory for studies and research, to be implemented even in the great lagoon. Currently, our organization is negotiating with the Ministry of Agriculture to get the wetland in use for research and fishing. According to the Management Plan is set to be its restoration. Limpio wetland is included in A2 areas which will be managed in accordance with the data table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Options</th>
<th>Extensive areas that are good representations of natural habitats, which will be maintained in their natural state. Formal recreation use and limited low recreational density activities designed with minimum impact on the natural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Permitted Activities

Access is organized and controlled by the Management Authority. Permitted activities include natural trails, flora and fauna watching and responsible fishing, scientific monitoring, essential management such as fire-fighting, removal of rubbish and maintenance of trails may be undertaken. Light tourism structures are also allowed. Limited and controlled public access for education and nature based activities.

### Incompatible Activities

Activities contrary to the purposes of the zone, including: hunting, destruction, or disturbance of indigenous fauna and flora, unauthorized habitat management, unauthorized access by any vehicle, storage, dumping or disposal of waste including untreated effluent; construction and operation of industrial facilities; construction of dwelling places; any use or application of chemicals (fertilizers, biocides, etc.) quarries, mining; removal of aggregates and introduction of non-native species.

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**Ownership**

Limpo wetland is owned by the municipality.

**The main goal**

The main goal is the establishment of a biological laboratory in nature for monitoring, studies, scientific research in the lagoon, whose results will be destined for the lagoon of Narta.

Specific objectives are:

- To monitor breeding waterfowl and migratory birds, in collaboration with organizations and research centers from Albania and other countries.
- To monitor the types of fish, their breeding season and their movement sea-lagoon and vice versa.
- To rehabilitate the lagoon through its connection to the sea with artificial canal.
- To increase visibility of the PA for its natural and rich biodiversity values for residents, users of the lagoon, scholars and tourists, through the eco museum.

Proposed activities and results:

1. Connection of the lagoon with the sea – revitalization of life in the lagoon with water creatures and birds
2. Construction and equipping of the eco-friendly wooden research center with solar energy near the lagoon to be used by universities and other centers for scientific studies
3. Monitoring activities and related reports and studies
4. Promotion of the eco-museum to schools and universities – information center for users, residents, schools, tourists.

Time frame: 2 years
**Investment**

- Activity 1. € 1,000
- Activity 2. € 80,000
- Activity 3. € 15,000
- Activity 4. € 5,000

Operational cost € 20,000
Management staff € 30,000

**Total:** € 151,000

**Maps / Photos**
Are available.

**3.4.3. Lura national park restoration for biodiversity conservation**

**Albania**  
*original submission number 28*

**Organization:** ALBAFOREST CENTRE  
“Ymer Kurti” Street, Qendra Tregtare “Olimpia”, P.O.Box. 1544, Tirana, Albania  
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**Contact:** Mehmet Metaj, Project Director  
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**Location**
Lura NP is located in northeastern Albania, established as national park (Cat. II of IUCN) in 1966.

**Size**
The Lura NP was initially 1,280 ha. The extended Lura NP covers an area of 1,320 ha including “Lura Crown and Zall-Gjoçaj-Kunorë-Valmorë”, composed of forests or scrublands, pastures, natural and semi natural meadows, aquatic areas (14 glacial lakes, with 30 ha aquatic surface situated on 1350-1720 m on the sea level), in addition protected mountainous landscape of and its picturesque landscapes. The strategy of biodiversity, recently designed and approved by Government in 2000, has proposed this extension and merging area of former Lura and Zall-Gjoçal NP’s, Lura NP was only 1280 ha and Zall-Gjoçaj NP – 140 ha. According to the Strategy of Biodiversity (200) it was proposed to extend the park into: 16.000 ha including “Kurora e Lurës-Zall Gjoçaj-Kunorë Valmorë”.

**Site description**
The extended National Parks covers three regions: Dibër-Mat-Mirditë, in North-eastern Albania. Lura mountain range stretching between the valley of the Black Drini, Mati and Zall Bulqizë Sërriqe. From the central massif, middle Path crossing Komi Pass, Murres, and field-Murres, Nokes-gorge and Uraka valley of Arren, are magnificent scenic views. The height of these mountains is over 2,000 meters and the heights are associated with decreased / steep cliff with tens of meters. The area has an interesting geomorphology. Lura mountain range is in the center of alignment and valleys bordered by Lura one hand and that of Zall-Melthi turn. During this series distinguishes a particular ridge structure formed by erosion which has the appearance of a giant arch, with glacial relief, named...
Nedzad Lura. Lura as NP is approved by the Council of Ministers Nr. 96, dated 21.11.1966, which is part of Cray Lura mountain areas, with 1.280 ha area, while "Forest of Allamani" is proposed by the Biodiversity Strategy in 2000 as strictly protected area. The national park "Lura" is situated on the border between the districts of Dibra, Mat and Mirdita. It lies on the eastern side of the mountain massif "Kurorë Lura", with a length of 9.6 km. The soils are brown forest and mountain meadow, rich in humus, piecemeal, over ultrabasic magmatic rocks. The number of residents in the community of Lura is about 5,000 inhabitants.

Lura Community will benefit from the improved environmental quality of Lura NP, and through a more sustainable use of surrounding forests and pastures and restoring or re-establishing potential touristic values and new income diversification opportunities and reverse the further natural resources deterioration.

The trade of medicinal is another opportunity of generating income for the community (for whole country the medicinal plants export value was about 13 million EURO in 1997). However, the deregulation of the former state controlled medicinal plant commerce in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries resulted in a decrease of cultivation and an increase of wild collection. This is often combined with overexploitation, destructive harvesting techniques and unmonitored trade. The study on possibilities of the use of medicinal plants for the Lura region therefore recommends the establishment of a consistent monitoring system and the introduction of a nature conservation oriented quality control. In this respect the project intends to provide the framework for the trade of medicinal plants with origin and label of the NP and thereby raising the susceptibility towards nature conservation needs.

**Biodiversity features**

The NP is part of the Mediterranean climate zone, where two areas of vegetation zones (beech and alpine) meet. There are associations with coniferous species and the forest clusters consists of two floors of trees. Besides beech and pine, spruce, silver pine, black pine and rare veil. Daphne shrubs and Xerxele blagayria are very rarely. The blueberry bush and grahata are everywhere. Boshtra is endemic in Albania and Serbia, and the plant Rudithi is sub-endemic. The Allamani's pine forest with about 1.000 hectares is proposed as Scientific Reserve, as it is the only area of virgin forest natural pine (Pinus peuce), a relict species that should be taken under strict protection.

The forest vegetation consists of beech (Fagus silvatica), black pine (Pinus nigra), white fir (Abies alba), Macedonian pine (Pinus peuche), Bosnian Pine (Pinus heldreichii), and the rare broadleaved species like: Quercus crenata or Q. pseudosuber, which are combined with alpine meadows.

There are several types of rare and threatened flowers, such as Campanula tymphaea, Gentiana lutea, Caltha palustris, Achillea fraasii, Arabis bryoides, Crepis baldaccii, Metampyrum heracleoticum, Narthecium scardicum, Paeonia mascula, etc.

Numerous glacial lakes are located in the eastern part of Nezhda of Lura, of which 8 are perennial, with aquatic vegetation (water lilies) and fauna characteristic quite special for our country. As regards the fauna, large mammals such as bear (Ursus arctos), wolf (Canis lupus), riqebulli (Felis lynx), chamois (Rupicapra rupicapra), and roe deer (Capreolus capreolus) are present; for the birds, wild turkey (Tetrao urogallus) and eagles (Aquila chrysaetos) should be mentioned; while in lakes fish species are trout (Salmo trutta fario, Triturus alpestris, etc.).

Besides cognitive values, science and economy of nature, the area has great aesthetic value, and the landscape is very attractive for domestic and foreign visitors. Natural resources and biological and landscape beauties bring enormous potential for tourism development.
Status
Lura is established as National Park (Cat. II of IUCN) in 1966.

Problems / justification
Although Albania’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) from 2000 aims at 1) the protection and improvement of biological and landscape diversity; 2) incorporation of the principles and policies required for sustainable biodiversity use and management; 3) promoting sustainable development for present and future generations and 4) promotion of law enforcement and restoration measures to redirect the negative trend of biodiversity and forest depletion, Lura NP is facing the following problems:

- Lack of scientific staff (biologists, entomologists, wild fauna specialists, etc.) and managerial staff (e.g. administrator, accountant, etc.);
- Lack of forest management tools: prevention of forest fires, supervision of invasive species, etc.
- Collection of protected species and illegal logging;
- Lack of supervision and monitoring structures at regional and central level;
- Lack of public or local cooperation in protecting the environment reliance on local state;
- Lack of infrastructures (lodge for rangers, scientists and students, visitor centres, etc.);
- Lack of basic equipment to perform the tasks (logistics, communication, visibility) and
- Lack of operation and management funds;
- Lack of funds to monitor and preserve rare species and habitats and records of their prices locations with accurate mapping;
- Lack of funds to monitor and preserve rare species and habitats and records of their prices locations with accurate mapping;
- and rural poverty with little alternative live hood possibilities, which leads to consistent over-exploitation of natural resource such as harvesting of natural medicinal plants from the forest, - overgrazing of forest and grasslands, hunting and trapping of fauna for food or to sell,
- felling of tree for personal fuel consumption or to sell for fuel in the cities, and
- harvesting of branches and leaves of tree for the animal fodder.

All these factors lead to major adverse impacts, like

- Drastic damage and devastation of most major forest species and nature vegetation;
- Damage and degradation of habitats and ecosystems;
- Habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Disturbance and maltreatment of wildlife;
- Loss of species or the threat of their extinction; and
- Damage and erosion of genetic resources.

The main goal
The project main goal is to rescue and restore the Lura NP and its buffer zone through restoring within its critically endangered endemic plants, Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuche*), Bosnian pine (*P. heldreichii*), P. Mughus-L, Pseudocork oak (*Quercus crenata* or *Q. pseudosuber*), Birch-tree (*Betula verrucosa/pendula*), *Taxus baccata*, etc., which are endemic and sub-endemic plants of the country especially for the Northern part of the country. For all above described species their restoration will be through two methods: conservation *in-situ in their respective natural environment and ex-situ, conservation* in Botanical garden, National Parks and Nature Sanctuaries.

Objectives
The project’s main objective will be: *Rescuing and Conserving Critically Endangered Forest Species and Plants of most valuable natural sites of Albania* by establishing a provenance-forest-nursery in the B.G. for the endangered forest species according to the Red-Book List and by field ecosystem and
habitat restoration and further promotion and development of Biological Research and Protection, being these associated with further creation of “the Nature Study Garden” through trainings and study tours to the Botanical Garden (PUT) and Forest Nursery Centre of FFS(AUT).

Labor will consist of activities of seed collection from mother plant in field, sowing seeds at nursery and caring seedlings to juvenile in parallel with investigation on pollination and seed production are performed.

A management concept for the Lura region has to include a basic analysis of vegetation, biotopes, flora and fauna and a management plan for each of distinguished zones, as are glacial lakes, meadows and mountainous landscape. The outstanding environment and nature of the region at near the borders of north-eastern Albania, and its significance for Europe’s biodiversity is known since long and has been pointed out in various recent publications. However detailed studies on the vegetation as basis for appropriate management plans have only been undertaken in the old NP area (1.280 ha), while information on the vegetation, flora and fauna for the entire extended area and buffer territory are scarce.

Proposed activities

1. Eco-geographic survey of park’s area and species status identification
   - Selection of most endangered forest species and habitats to be rescued and restored.
   - Collection and cultivation of the cultivars in the nursery establishing in the B.G.
   - Identification and inventory of populations-species sites/locations and their areas/habitats mapping;
   - Collection of seeds and cultivation in their existing natural provenances;
   - Establishment of prove-sampling areas of its existing natural habitats and inventory, observation of its populations of the selected/existing natural areas, Pukë-Kukës.

2. Build an “in-situ” nursery for their seedling cultivation (nearby Lura site...)
   - In-situ cultivation of selected threatened species within selected sites of critical ecosystems and habitats;
   - Cultivation and maintenance of the nursery and seed-bank established in the B.G. and Nursery of the FSF (AUT);

3. Field experimentations of the various management effects, and on its population demography and genetics
   - Develop research and record data of sample and provide services on the site and others.
   - Develop on-site seminars and workshops with forestry and biology students and teachers.
   - Completion of the Seed-Bank and missing spp ex-situ in the B.G. and Nursery of the FSF(AUT) for conservation in-situ sites and habitats in selected nature sites of the country.

4. Initiation of management programme, including genetic variability of the species for respective areas
   - Establishment of special population areas, for each selected district areas , including a larger area of most inhabiting populations;
   - Exposure of species towards the bigger number acc. to the various habitats;

5. Preparation of the programme, follow-up, translations, consultations etc;

Project indicators: Existing natural area/habitat of selected species in Northern Albania.

Proposed results
1. Restoration of damaged rare and endangered forest species in the Lura NP and buffer zone;

2. Assisting the elaboration of a forestry management plan for the Lura NP. A forest management plan (MP) is urgently needed for the NP. The elaboration of the MP will have to cover the elaboration of a precise biotope and vegetation map including the identification of habitats and sites of important plant and animal species. Necessary measurement for their conservation will be listed. Conflicts with land-users and sources of other pressures will be identified, described and mapped. A preliminary version of the development and MP for the region will be scientifically discussed. Finally, the MP is discussed with local administration, stakeholder and the public. The acceptance of nature conservation measures will thereby be promoted by the involvement of local people in the implementation of plans and measures.

3. The establishment of sustainable forestry system shall be encouraged and promoted within NP region. Recommendations for sustainable forestry system within the buffer zones of the NP will be elaborated, publicised, discussed with the local people, the NP administration and the forestry service and disseminated.

4. A reforestation installation programme will be elaborated and implemented for the deteriorated buffer and development zones of the NP. The heavily deteriorated areas within the NP will be reforested. A specific management for deteriorated areas will be applied in order to convert the degraded and shrubby forests into high stand more naturally forests. Different methods of reforestation will be tested and the most appropriate applied. Also the possibility of fuel wood plantations on restricted areas in the vicinity of the villages will be assessed and accordingly implemented.

5. Training will be provided for the managers of the communal forest areas on sustainable forest management. The community’s forest managers will be involved in the monitoring programme. They will have the full responsibility for the sustainable management of the identified areas. A need assessment will have to be done for each village/community within the boundaries of the NP. Based on this need assessment forested areas in the vicinity of the villages will be identified as the communal forest area. The necessary management of these particular areas will be included in the forestry MP.

6. The basis for a long-term monitoring system has to be elaborated. The monitoring system has to include the assessment of changes on permanent plots, changes within populations of plant and animal indicator species. Sites suitable for monitoring have to be chosen which cover core zone, erosion phenomenon, and possible effects of different land-use systems should be monitored. Some processes may be controlled by aerial or satellite images. The methods will be fixed and a system of suitable parameters and sites for the monitoring be provided.

7. The project should strengthen of the capacity of the NP administration. A functioning administration is needed for the control of undisturbed development in core zones and sustainable land-use systems in the buffer zones, the development and restoration zones and especially in the vicinity of the settlements. The co-operation of local people and NP administration should be encouraged by the project and provide mutual benefit. The authority of the NP administration should be strengthened and the acceptance of local people for necessary measurements for nature conservation improved.

8. Enhancement of the Control system of the area of the NP. A control post at the entrance of the NP has to be established to control the traffic passing through the NP and to stop the illegal
logging of timber by strict control of vehicles passing the control post. Additionally the control post has to stop the migration of sheep and goats herds from the neighbouring plain into the NP. For this reason the control post has preferably to be established at the main entrance NP’s entrance.

**Target group and stakeholders**
- Ministry of Environment, “National Agency for Protected Areas”
- Ministry of Environment, “National Agency for Environment, Forestry Research Department”
- Regional Agency for protected Areas
- Directorate of Forest Management (DFM)
- Dibra Municipality
- University of Nature Sciences of Tirana (Botanical Garden)
- Forestry Faculty of Tirana (AUT)
- NGOS

**Participating/collaborating organization(s)**
- National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA/MoE)
- Regional Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA/MoE)
- Regional Forest Directorate (RFD/Peshkopia/Dibra)
- Botanical Garden of Albania-Faculty of Nature Sciences (UT)
- National Forest Research Department (NEA/FRD)
- Faculty of Forest Sciences- Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)
- IUCN-SEE-South-Eastern Europe

**Investment (budget required)**

2. Budget for the nursery, “in-situ”cultivation for the proposed years (2016-2018). (Budget description by items and amount in €): 66,010
3. **Total Budget required is: 136,948 Eur**

**Co-financing**
There is a possibility for co-financing from GEF/SGP Tirana and also “in-kind” from Dibra Municipality, respectively Regional Agency for Protected Areas and Directorate of Forest Management and our organization, ALBAFOREST CENTRE.

**Maps / Photos**
are available.

**3.4.4. Restoration, preservation and valorisation of the special ornithological and ichthyological reserve pantan on the Adriatic sea coastline**

**Croatia**
(original submission number 01)

**Organization:** Institute of Marine Biology Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Šetalište I. Meštrovića 63, 21000 Split; Tel: +(385) (21) 408000
Location
Pantan lagoon is located 1 to 1.5 km away from the old UNESCO town of Trogir and 25 km away from the old UNESCO town of Split at the coastline of the middle Adriatic Sea.

Size
We want to restore 40.25 hectares of the brackish marsh ecosystem of the Special Ornithological and Ichthyologic Reserve Pantan that is also a Natura 2000 site (code HR3000430). Part of the activities will be carried out in the bordering area of Natura 2000 site Pantan-Divulje encompassing the marine area of 89.89 ha.

Site description
Seventy years ago on the narrow areas around the City of Split (i.e. second biggest city in Croatia) were wetlands, more or less halophyte habitats with a specific fauna. Today all of these areas are devastated or planned as an urban-industrial zone. In this way, the area of wetland Pantan, located in the central part of the Dalmatian coast, is now, in this part of the coast, the only area of brackish marsh habitats with specific elements of flora and fauna. Pantan is a typical Mediterranean coastal brackish marsh with specific biocenosis, and its main elements are rivers, the surrounding reed beds, lagoons and gravel banks. The area of the reserve is particularly important for migration of wetland bird species, and feeding of juvenile fish species, because the water is rich in organic matter. In the area of Pantan a total of 196 bird species has been recorded, out of which 45 nesting. According to international classification, 70 species are wetland species. Among the 43 species of fish there are no real freshwater fishes, but they are marine fish or those adapted to brackish habitats with large variations of salinity and temperature. Therefore, there live a few highly specialized and therefore extremely rare and endangered fish species. The reserve has developed the characteristic vegetation of wetland-halophytic habitats. Several plant communities are represented, which common feature is to include a small number of species. 269 different species have been recorded, including 7 endangered. Within the natural environment of brackish coastal swamps, harmoniously fit in old mills, valuable cultural heritage. They were first mentioned in the thirteenth century, and since then they have repeatedly changed owners and been the cause of disputes, including military conflicts. Significant is the economic role of the mills, because they were used for grinding grain from large part of coastal, inland and island areas. Recently mills have been restored in its original form. Within Pantan there is arable land (about 15%) mainly under plantations of fruits and vegetables.

Biodiversity features
From a total of 104 species related to wetland habitats defined by the Ramsar Convention, as far as observed so far in Croatia, 70 species have been recorder in Pantan. Among Pantan nesting birds related to wetlands it is worth mentioning Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis), Little Bittern (Ixobrychus minutus), Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus), Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus), Cetti’s Warbler (Cettia cetti), Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus scirpaceus) and Great Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus arundinaceus). At Pantan some very rare birds of Croatian ornithofauna can be seen such as Sandwich Tern (Thalasseus sandvicensis), Mediterranean Gull (Larus melanocephalus) and Knot (Calidris canutus).

Among the 43 species of fish there are no real freshwater fish, but they are marine fish or those adapted to brackish habitats with large variations of salinity and temperature. From highly specialized and therefore extremely rare and endangered fish species the most important is certainly Toothcarp (Aphanius fasciatus), specie listed in the European and Croatian Red Book, which is the main reason for designation of Pantan as special ornithological and ichthyological reserve. At Pantan are recorded other species of fish, Freshwater Blenny (Lipophrys fluviatilis), Eastern mosquitofish (Gambusia minutus) and therefore extremely rare and endangered fish species the most important is certainly Toothcarp (Aphanius fasciatus), specie listed in the European and Croatian Red Book, which is the main reason for designation of Pantan as special ornithological and ichthyological reserve. At Pantan are recorded other species of fish, Freshwater Blenny (Lipophrys fluviatilis), Eastern mosquitofish (Gambusia
affinis holdbrooki), Painzza's Goby (Knipowitschia panizzae) and Canestrini's Goby (Pomatoschistus canestrinii).

Among the vegetation of wetland-halophilic habitats, 7 species are endangered: Aeluropus littoralis is critically endangered, Long-bracted Sedge (Carex extensa) and Sea-Poppy (Glaucium flavum) endangered, while Darnel Poa (Desmazeria marina), Common Barbgrass (Hainardia cylindrica), Saltwort (Salsola soda) and Annual Seablite (Suaeda maritima) are vulnerable.

**Status**

According to Croatian Law on Nature Protection (O.J. 80/13) Pantan has been designated Special ornithological and ichthyological reserve in year 2000 for the purpose of preserving area uniqueness, rarity or representativeness, and because it has a special scientific importance. By adoption of Government Regulation on the National Ecological Network (O.J. 124/13), Pantan became Natura 2000 site under the code HR3000430 for the purpose of protecting following ANNEX I HABITAT TYPES: Coastal lagoons, Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) and Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) and species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC: Mediterranean Toothcarp (Aphanius fasciatus) and Painzza's Goby (Knipowitschia panizzae).

The bordering area of Pantan-Divulje is also Natura 2000 site under the code HR3000459 or the purpose of protecting following ANNEX I HABITAT TYPES: Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time and large shallow inlets and bays.

**Problems / justification**

Despite the evident natural and historic values of the area of Pantan, it became obvious example of the degradation of the natural environment mainly as a result of poor maintenance and inadequate former interventions, whether it is the question of drainage or planning of accommodation facilities which are contrary to its ecological value and function of habitat. Therefore many fish species recently disappeared from the area of Pantan (Nerophis ophidion, Nerophis maculatus, species of the gender Knipowitschia, Syngnathus abaster and other). Through systematic and gradual destruction of the last wetland habitats on the coast of Central Dalmatia number and frequency of certain bird species are in the last 50 years significantly reduced. From five-year observations conducted in the period from 1968 to 1972, in recent years have not been reported species like: Anser anser, Anser albifrons, Mergus albellus, the birds of the genus Circus, etc. Proclamation of Pantan area as Special ornithological and ichthyological reserve in year 2000 partly slowed down negative trends of biodiversity degradation. However in recent years, even decades, there is a trend of coastal erosion through reduction and disappearance of the banks, which is probably mainly caused by the disintegration of the stone structures that were built in the shallow waters probably for the purposes of access to mill with the ships. In this way, a salty water is intruding this coastal brackish marsh changing hydro-graphic parameters that are essential for survival of wetland-halophilic habitats and fish species adapted to brackish habitats.

**Ownership**

Maritime domain is property of the State of Croatia, agricultural land and mills are private properties. Reserve and bordering Natura 2000 site are managed by the Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas in the County of Split and Dalmatia “Sea and Karst” on the basis of the Nature Protection Act (O.J. 80/13) and other legal documents.

**The main goal**

The main goal of the project is to restore and valorise last Mediterranean coastal brackish marsh on the coast of Central Dalmatia - Special Ornithological and Ichthyological Reserve Pantan
Objectives

1. Restored 40.25 ha of brackish marsh ecosystem of the Special ornithological and ichthyological reserve Pantan.
2. Established Ornithological station Pantan.

Proposed results

1. Increase of the surface of sandbanks.
2. Increase of number and variety of brackish fish species.
3. Nesting of two to three species of birds on the sand banks, which today do not nest.
4. Two existing ruined buildings restored into Ornithological station Pantan and equipped.

Target group and stakeholders

─ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nature
─ Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature Protection
─ Split-Dalmatia County
─ City of Trogir
─ Ministry of Culture - Conservation department in Trogir
─ Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
─ Catering facility Mills
─ Small family farms
─ NGOs

Investment

Costs are only indicative. At the time of project application, we will request bidders to send preliminary offers.
- The study of movement of sandbanks in the Reserve Pantan 20.000 EUR
- Preliminary design for the restoration of sandbanks 20.000 EUR
- Preliminary design for restoration of 2 small ruined buildings 20.000 EUR
- Works for restoration of sandbanks 200.000 EUR
- Works for restoration of 2 small ruined buildings into Ornithological station Pantan 200.000 EUR
- Equipping of Ornithological station Pantan 10.000 EUR

Co-financing

PI Sea and Karst
Split-Dalmatia County
Town of Trogir

Maps / Photos

Web PI Sea and Karst: http://www.dalmatian-nature.hr/hr/podrucje-details/pantan
Catering facility Mills: http://pantan.net/index.asp?lan=EN
hydrophil GmbH
Schönbrunner Strasse 297, 1120 Vienna, Austria
T +43 1 521 69-450, F +43 1 521 69-180
info@hydrophil.at, www.hydrophil.at
FN 260405z

EN ISO 9001
Overview
of Potential Funding Sources
for Restoration Projects

Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region
Projects (TAF-DRP)

Document title
‘Mapping priority wetland sites for restoration’
(PrioREST)

Document date
05/2016
Editor:
Sissi Samec
CONTENT

1. Introduction ..................................................................................................................... 1
2. General context and methodology .................................................................................... 1
1. **INTRODUCTION**

For the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) programming period 2014 – 2020 and to support the preparation of projects with a clear EUSDR value, the European Commission has decided to establish a **Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP)**. The facility should support the beneficiary to bring a project idea to a further developed concept, easing the way to apply for funding from donors, either from public/private, and/or from EU programmes.

In this particular case, a major component within the TAF-DRP was dedicated to follow up the beneficiary’s work (CEEweb) as regards wetland restoration projects in Central and Eastern Europe. The goals of the organization are to up-scaling restoration activities towards a more strategic, transnational approach and to look for new partnerships for the restoration of priority wetland and grassland habitats, also by increasing the geographical scope to Southern European countries.

Adequate funding opportunities are considered crucial to the achievement of any restoration target. All project proposals received during the TAF project – initially, over 30 organizations expressed their interest – require funding for Green Infrastructure pilot projects, besides other support, such as capacity building, networking, sharing best practices, etc. Some of them might be included into a joint project proposal to be submitted under the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme during the second call in late 2016, others might not be eligible under this funding programme or have higher funding needs. Therefore, the TAF project included a web search to explore possible funding sources providing information to interested parties regarding accessing existing funding opportunities. Due to the limited time resources in the TAF project, this document makes no claim to be complete.

2. **GENERAL CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY**

Significant support is required when it comes to the restoration of degraded ecosystems, such as wetlands and grassland, which are prerequisites for a healthy environment. The document is structured into several sections:

- Programmes of the European Union
- United Nations funds
- Other funds and helpful links
- Selected national funds

Within these sections, the documents provides an overview of the respective funding programme, the description/comments, priorities, deadlines and amounts, if available, criteria for eligibility and a web link. Furthermore, it has to be mentioned that the document also includes funding opportunities not necessarily linked with ecosystem restoration work, but provides probably helpful information for some NGOs interested also in other issues, such as strengthening civil society, research, democracy, gender issues, etc.

Access to funding mechanisms is not always easy, specifically as regards projects submitted under EU programmes. The beneficiary of the TAF project will help in this endeavor, possibly in the development of a joint proposal to be submitted under the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme with a focus on the implementation of transnational issues, the development of strategies and transnational trainings and capacity building.
Generally, financial support mechanisms for ecosystem restoration will serve the needs of a number of beneficiaries. Besides the partners in the CEEweb network, these are public authorities at national, regional and local levels, site managing organizations and other land managers, consultancies, businesses, research institutions, and NGOs. It would therefore make sense to share the financial burden of any restoration intervention. Most of the donors require co-financing, which may have various forms, such as in-kind funding by offering accommodation and/or staff time (e.g. for contributing to information collection and attending meetings), seconding personnel to a possible support office, providing a one-off or annual financial contribution, or paying fees to get access to certain services.

In times of limited resources, specifically as regards the conservation of biodiversity and nature protection, there is the need for generating finance through other innovative approaches, e.g. sponsorships from possible commercial actors, for example, companies specialized in dredging or earthworks may be interested in offering sponsorship by way of advertising their services to potential clients or cooperation with banks. It is also worth to contact embassies in the countries to find out about possible funding sources. All interested parties are encouraged to keep their eyes open for innovative financial opportunities.
### 1. Programmes of the European Union

**INTERRREG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Descriptions and Comments</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
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<th>Further information</th>
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<td><strong>1. Danube Transnational Programme (DTP)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>2014 – 2020</strong></td>
<td>The DTP’s main aim is to affect policy making and implementation on transnational issues through the development of common orientations, frameworks and strategies, transnational tools and services, preparation of transnational investments, training and capacity building. The Programme funds practical restoration work, e.g. infrastructure work only to a limited extent (15-18% of the overall project budget) in the form of limited pilot.</td>
<td>Priority Axis 2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region; Specific Objectives:&lt;br&gt;– Strengthen transnational water management and flood risk prevention;&lt;br&gt;– Foster sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources;&lt;br&gt;– Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors;&lt;br&gt;– Improve preparedness for environmental risk management;</td>
<td>The next call is expected to be opened in Autumn 2016/Winter 2017, most probably as a one step call.</td>
<td>Not yet published.</td>
<td>9 EU countries (AT, BG, HR, CZ, DE Baden Württemberg and Bavaria, HU, RO, SK, SI) and 5 non-EU countries (BiH, MD, ME, RS, UA four provinces: Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankivska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast and Odessa Oblast).</td>
<td><a href="http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danubeprogramme/">http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danubeprogramme/</a></td>
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**2. Adriatic Ionian Cooperation Programme – ADRION<br>2014 - 2020**

The ADRION overall objective is to act as a policy driver and governance innovator fostering European integration among Partner States taking advantage from the rich natural, cultural and human resources surrounding the Adriatic and Ionian seas and enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Programme area. ADRION intends to contribute to “the harmonious development of the Union’s territory (...) and to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the

Priority Axis 2: Sustainable region Specific Objectives:<br>– 2.1. Promote the sustainable valorization and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the Adriatic Ionian area;<br>– 2.2. Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic Ionian area. | The first call ended on 25 March 2016; no information on the next call. | Not yet published. | Eligible for 4 EU Member States (HR, GR, IT and SI), 3 candidate countries (AL, ME, RS) and 1 potential candidate country (BiH). | [http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/index.php/first-call-for-project-proposals/](http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/index.php/first-call-for-project-proposals/) |
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<td>Union’s cohesion policy priorities” through the funding of project proposals aimed at positively contributing to the needs and challenges of the living conditions in the ADRION area (economic activities, quality of the environment, safety, etc.), rather than highlighting on the needs of a limited number of partners.</td>
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| **3. Balkan Mediterranean Programme** | The Programme is a structured tool to strengthen cooperation in the area, capitalizing on experiences and results achieved so far. It supports the know-how and experiences’ sharing, improvement of the public policies and networking, between national, regional and local authorities and other territorial actors of the whole Balkan-Mediterranean cooperation area. | The Programme accepts applications under both Priority Axes:  
– Priority Axis 1: Entrepreneurship and Innovation  
| **LIFE Programme 2014 – 2020** | LIFE is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU. There are 3 sub-programmes under the so-called “Traditional” projects:  
– LIFE Nature & Biodiversity  
– LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency  
– LIFE Environmental Governance & Information  
‘Traditional’ projects may be best-practice, demonstration, pilot or information, awareness and dissemination projects;  
LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity contributes to the implementation of the Birds- and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, and the development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network. | | | Co - financing rate is 60% (in some cases 75%, see guidance document: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/call/documents/2014_orientation_doc.pdf) | EU Member States; certain Non – EU countries may negotiate full participation, see guidance document; Proposals may be submitted by legal persons (entities) registered in the EU; three types of beneficiaries: (1) public bodies, | http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/ |
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<td>sub-programme for Environment are projects implementing on a large territorial scale (regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale) environmental plans or strategies required by specific Union environmental legislation, developed pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities, primarily in the areas of nature (including Natura 2000 network management), water, waste and air, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with and mobilization of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source.</td>
<td>Projects’, submission of project concept note on 26 September 2016 and for the full proposal 15 April 2017</td>
<td>(2) private commercial organizations and (3) private non-commercial organizations (including NGOs).</td>
<td><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/community_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/community_en.pdf</a></td>
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**Community Led Local Development (CLLD)**

The programme is a follow-up of LEADER

The main goals of CLLD:

- encourage local communities to develop integrated bottom-up approaches in circumstances where there is a need to respond to territorial and local challenges calling for structural change;

- build community capacity and stimulate innovation (including social innovation), entreprenurship and capacity for change by encouraging the development and discovery of untapped potential from within communities and territories;
Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)

A new financial instrument that will be created by blending EIB funding with EC financing funded by the LIFE budget. The NCFF will provide innovative financial solutions to support bankable projects, which are or have the potential to be revenue-generating or cost-saving, promoting the conservation, restoration, management and enhancement of natural capital for BES and climate adaptation benefits, including ecosystem-based solutions to challenges related to land, soil, forestry, agriculture, water and waste. It will be complemented by technical assistance to support project preparation, implementation and monitoring.

- Green Infrastructure (e.g. green roofs, green walls, ecosystem-based rainwater collection / water reuse systems, flood protection and erosion control);
- Payment for ecosystem services (e.g. programs to protect and enhance forestry, biodiversity, to reduce water or soil pollution);
- Biodiversity offsets / compensation beyond legal requirements (e.g. compensation pools for on-site and off-site compensation projects);
- Pro-biodiversity and adaptation businesses (e.g. sustainable forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, eco-tourism).

The 7th

The programme will be guiding

Three key objectives:
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<th>Descriptions and Comments</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
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<td><strong>Environment Action Programme (EAP)</strong></td>
<td>European environment policy until 2020.</td>
<td>– to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital; – to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; – to safeguard the Union’s citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Member States</td>
<td><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/index.htm">environment/action-programme/index.htm</a></td>
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<td><strong>HORIZON 2020</strong></td>
<td>Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.</td>
<td>The sector Environmental and Climate Action research is tackled by a series of actions and opportunities for collaboration in the Societal Challenge &quot;Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials&quot;. In this context, environmental research aims to achieve a resource, water efficient and climate change resilient economy and society.</td>
<td>The two year work programmes announce the specific areas that will be funded by Horizon 2020. Look out for them on the online Participant Portal as they can be used as a calendar for the calls for proposals (‘calls’), to be published during the year. The Participant Portal is your entry point for electronic administration of EU-funded research and innovation projects, and hosts the services for managing your proposals and projects throughout their lifecycle. Each call gives more precise information on the questions that the Commission would like you to address in your proposals. All calls can be found in the EU’s <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020">Official</a></td>
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<td><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020">https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020</a></td>
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### 2. United Nations funds

**United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

The objective of the Small Grants Program within TOPS is helping organizations design, test and share promising practices, tools, guidance and skills that can help others in the food security community to design and implement stronger programs. The small grant program consists of two sub programs; the program improvement awards and micro grants.

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<th>Deadlines</th>
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<td>Thematic priorities:</td>
<td>• Biodiversity</td>
<td>up to 50,000 USD</td>
<td>Civil society organizations, including NGOs and local community groups from around 125 countries are eligible to apply for the grants; in ‘our region’: Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania</td>
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<td>• Climate Change</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Capacity-building/CBW/Features/Pages/TOPS-Small-Grants-Program.aspx">http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Capacity-building/CBW/Features/Pages/TOPS-Small-Grants-Program.aspx</a></td>
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<td>• Food Security</td>
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<td>• Forest Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Water Scarcity and Drought</td>
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<td>The web site doesn’t clearly indicate, if the Small Grants Program still exist (the last deadline was January 2015).</td>
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**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP – Global Environmental Facility (GEF)’s Small Grant Programme**

GEF provides financial and technical support to projects improving agro-ecosystems and forest landscapes while enhancing people’s livelihoods.

The key strategic priorities in this focal area are:

- maintaining and improving services coming out of ecosystems that help in sustaining local communities livelihoods
- support in the reduction of pressures on natural resources that are contributed by natural or manmade actors in the areas where degradation impacts their daily needs.

Contact the National Coordinator of the Small Grant Programme and request project application guidelines and forms. At the first stage a brief concept paper is to be prepared and submitted to the National Coordinator. The coordinator assesses if the project meets eligibility criteria. In case of a positive respond the complete proposal is to be prepared and submitted to the National Steering Committee.
### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Funds are only used for UNEP projects/activities – but it is worth to check regularly the website, as they refer to several open international and national funding calls.

**Further information:**
http://www.unep.org/training/news_events/Grants.asp

### 3. Other funds and helpful links

#### EEA Grants and Norway grants
The EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. At least 30% of the funding is allocated to environmental protection, climate change measures and renewable energy. Funding backs projects to improve energy efficiency, develop energy efficiency initiatives for small businesses and increase renewable energy production. Curbing marine pollution, improving environmental monitoring and preserving biodiversity are also important priorities for the EEA Grants. NGO programmes are set up in all beneficiary countries of the EEA Grants. The funds are intended to promote a viable democratic system and respect for vulnerable groups, such as the Roma.

Among several programme areas (climate change, cultural heritage, human and social development, etc.) most relevant are:
- **Environmental protection and management:**
  - Integrated marine and inland water management
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control
  - Reduction of hazardous substances
  - Environmental and climate change-related research and technology

**Civil society**
- NGO programmes
  Funding priorities are specifically defined for each of the recipient countries, check under

The funding in the form of grants is normally allocated through the publication of **calls for proposals**. Project proposals must be submitted to the relevant programme operator by a certain deadline and comply with the clearly defined outcome of the call. It is not possible to apply to the EEA and Norway Grants programmes for assistance spontaneously. Check the website for open calls:
http://eeagrants.org/opencalls/search
currently e.g.: BG – Funds for NGOs

The EEA Grants are available to the 13 EU member countries that joined the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA) in 2004, 2007 and 2013 as well as Greece, Spain and Portugal.

For TAF project: BG, CZ, HR, HU, RO, SI, SK

Open for a wide range of institutions and organizations;

**Further information:**
http://eeagrants.org/
## Fund Descriptions and Comments

### European Nature Heritage Fund (EuroNatur) – FundsforNGOs

The EuroNatur is a charitable foundation (1987) concerned with the co-operation with existing conservation organizations that are well networked in their immediate environment and operate successfully. The major focus EUR nature is to conserve European natural heritage in all its diversity and to protect precious natural and ecologically valuable and traditionally cultivated landscapes in Europe. Areas of Interest:
- Environment
- Conservation
- Protection
- Animal & Wildlife

FundsforNGOs is a social enterprise and online initiative with the goal of increasing the sustainability of NGOs across the world. We accomplish this by providing online resources for NGOs to increase their awareness and access to donors, resources, and skills. We use technology to spread knowledge from our experienced fundraising experts to NGOs around the world and increase their capacity.

Criteria for funding are available on the web site.

### Michael Otto Foundation for Environmental Protection

The goal of the Foundation is to protect and conserve the vital natural resource of water. Today, the Foundation is strategically engaged in supporting future-orientated nature conservation and sustainable development.

The Foundation’s stated objective is to set a clear example and to motivate further exemplary initiatives, with the goal of preserving the environment for future generations.

The Foundation supports nature-conservation projects with a focus on water habitats; it is engaged in the education sector, and through holding a series of dialogues it helps develop strategic solutions for current environmental-policy issues.

The deadlines end annually on February 15th and on August 15th.

The project area must be located in Germany or Eastern Europe.

Criteria for funding are available on the web site.

### Save Our Species – an IUCN

Projects must focus on improving the status of IUCN threatened

Projects must implement concrete conservation activities in the field

1. Threatened Species Grants – calls with

Only for World Bank Client countries
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Descriptions and Comments</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
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<td>initiative</td>
<td>species, include those listed as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, see <a href="http://www.iucnredlist.org">www.iucnredlist.org</a></td>
<td>(no funds for research activities, research projects or conservation planning. Conservation activities eligible for funding under SOS are those listed in the Conservation Action Classification Scheme available on the SOS website at <a href="http://SOSSpecies.org/sos_projects/apply_for_a_grant/">http://SOSpecies.org/sos_projects/apply_for_a_grant/</a> (all listed projects on the web site are from other continents, but according to the guidelines several countries in ‘our’ region would be eligible).</td>
<td>specific Strategic Directions are issued on a regular basis.</td>
<td>(25,000 to 800,000 $US)</td>
<td>Not for Western European and European Union countries.</td>
<td><a href="http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/wb_client_countries.pdf">http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/wb_client_countries.pdf</a></td>
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<td>CZS CBOT Endangered Species Fund</td>
<td>The Species Fund will consider proposals for a specific threatened, vulnerable or endangered species or a specific habitat that is of high biological value or that is substantially threatened (IUCN Red List Status).</td>
<td>The interactive map doesn’t indicate any project in Europe; but according to the guidelines, SEE countries should be eligible.</td>
<td>Only online submission possible, see the guidelines <a href="https://www.czs.org/Chicago-Zoological-Society/Conservation-Leadership/Field-Work/CBOT-Endangered-Species-Fund/CBOT-Grant-Criteria.aspx">https://www.czs.org/Chicago-Zoological-Society/Conservation-Leadership/Field-Work/CBOT-Endangered-Species-Fund/CBOT-Grant-Criteria.aspx</a></td>
<td>Grants awarded are usually $5,000 U.S.</td>
<td>Not for Western European and European Union countries.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.czs.org/Chicago-Zoological-Society/Conservation-Leadership/Field-Work/CBOT-Endangered-Species-Fund/CBOT-Grant-Criteria.aspx">https://www.czs.org/Chicago-Zoological-Society/Conservation-Leadership/Field-Work/CBOT-Endangered-Species-Fund/CBOT-Grant-Criteria.aspx</a></td>
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<td>European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA)</td>
<td>EOCA is a group of businesses in the European outdoor industry who have come together to raise funds to put directly into conservation projects worldwide.</td>
<td>All projects MUST involve hands-on conservation work. The two main areas that must be addressed in your application are: 1. Protect, enhance or restore threatened key species, habitats or broader ecosystems in ‘wild’ areas 2. Consider the needs of the outdoor enthusiast</td>
<td>The application process for the next funding round (for funding in autumn 2016) will run from 1 – 31 July 2016. A bit complicated process: Nomination + public vote Members of the European Outdoor Conservation Association can nominate up to three projects (from different,</td>
<td>Grants of up to €30,000</td>
<td>NGOs can apply to the Association to implement a conservation project in any country around the world except North America.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-info.cfm?pageid=20">http://www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-info.cfm?pageid=20</a></td>
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<td>Fund</td>
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<td>GDF SUEZ Foundation</td>
<td>The central interests of the Foundation are social responsibility and the environment. Grant Programs for Agriculture, Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources.</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Cities – this program supports reforestation, conservation of fauna and flora (particularly in urban environments), and measures to combat the effects of climate change.</td>
<td>Deadlines or the same organizations) each year. If you, as a conservation organization, do not have any personal contacts to our members, please do not worry! If your project gets onto the shortlist, we will help you find a nominator!</td>
<td>Grant size is not specified. The Foundation will not fund more than 50% of total project costs.</td>
<td>Grants are to nonprofit organizations (e.g., associations, NGOs, and foundations) that are at least three years old for projects that will have genuine social and/or environmental impact.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.terravivagrants.org/Home/view-grant-maker/SDF-suez-corporate-foundation">http://www.terravivagrants.org/Home/view-grant-maker/SDF-suez-corporate-foundation</a> Not clear if the Foundation still exists, as the web site is not working.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund</td>
<td>The Fund was established to support species conservation work, and so if your project is not about an endangered species it is probably not worth your while submitting an application. The Fund is primarily interested in providing support to in situ conservation work in the field (such as survey work and data gathering, direct action, recovery management, training and the like), focusing on the species in</td>
<td>The Fund will use the IUCN Red List (<a href="http://www.iucnredlist.org">www.iucnredlist.org</a>) as the primary guide to the conservation status of a given species, although documented variations for sub-species, distinct populations and sub-populations will be taken into account. For those species not assessed through the IUCN Red List we welcome other methods of assessment and the submission of quantitative data to confirm a species status. Generally the Fund gives priority to those species</td>
<td>Deadlines for online applications: 30 June 2016 - 31 October 2016</td>
<td>Maximum grant size is $25,000.</td>
<td>Anyone directly involved in species conservation can apply to the Fund for a grant.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.speciesconservation.org/grants/criteria/">http://www.speciesconservation.org/grants/criteria/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund</td>
<td>Descriptions and Comments</td>
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<td>Deadlines</td>
<td>Amounts</td>
<td>Criteria for Eligibility</td>
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</table>
| **Mitsubishi Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA)** | The principal objectives of the Mitsubishi Fund for Europe and Africa are:  
- To conserve and protect, for the benefit of the public, the environment as a whole and its animal, forest and plant life in particular and to educate the public in natural history and ecology and the importance of conservation of the environment;  
- To advance the education of the public and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing:  
  - (a) to promote education and research in the field of ecology and conservation of natural resources and the environment anywhere in the world;  
  - (b) to promote the study and appreciation of flora and fauna anywhere in the world with particular emphasis on endangered species;  
  - (c) to promote the study and appreciation of agriculture, horticulture, silviculture and land and estate management;  
  - (d) to carry out research into the sustainable development of forest lands;  
- To relieve poverty in any part of the world. | Its natural habitat. facing a high threat of extinction (with an emphasis on Endangered and Critically Endangered species. | The last application period was closed by end of March 2016; no information yet about the next round. | Until otherwise agreed by Trustees, and depending on income and other contingencies, the MCFEA's target grant-making level shall be between £200,000 and £300,000 per annum (the Fund's total expenditure). | Europe and Africa; not for individuals. | http://www.mitsubishicorp.com/gb/en/csr/mcfea/appli.html |
| **TWAS Grants** | Grants specifically for Scientific | Eligible fields include agricultural, | 31 July 2016 for meetings | Amount: up to | Travel grants for | http://twas.org/opportunities |
Meetings held in Developing Countries; money for air travel tickets for speakers just in case you are organizing some international conference in developing country, this can be used to cover the travel costs of speakers.

### Priorities

- biological, geological, and other sciences.
- Support is normally in the form of travel grants for principal speakers from abroad and/or participants from developing countries other than the country where the meeting is held.

### Deadlines

to take place during January-December 2017.

### Amounts

5000 US$

### Criteria for Eligibility

- principal speakers from abroad and/or participants from developing countries other than the country where the meeting is held.

### Further information

[ity/twas-grants-scientific-meetings-held-developing-countries](#)
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<th>Fund</th>
<th>Descriptions and Comments</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
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<tr>
<td>(German Federal Environmental Foundation)</td>
<td>Grant funding is for environmental technology, environmental research and nature conservation, environmental communication, and the protection of cultural heritage. DBU has 13 funding topics, amongst those the following are relevant for the TAF project: 11. Integrated concepts and measures for the protection and management of groundwater and surface waters 12. Nature protection and sustainable use of nature in human-modified environments and protected areas</td>
<td>and quality- and quantity models from the operational- to the catchment area level; – development and testing of exemplary integrated solutional approaches and systems, and technical measures including further development of system technology designed for waste water treatment to improve water quality and secure ecosystem performance; – development and model implementation of water-improving, integrative, practically applicable concepts for the reuse of water with related energetic and material potential in settlement areas; – development and model implementation of measures and concepts for dynamic flood management and protection; – development and testing of model measures for the education and training, qualification, and participation of those in related roles and professions. Eligible for support under No. 12 are: – concepts and instruments for the packaging and prioritization of regional nature protection goals and their implementation at the landscape- and plant level, also in the context of sustainable regional development; – development and establishment</td>
<td></td>
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<td>private law. Most of DBU’s grants are for work in Germany, although the Foundation funds international projects.</td>
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of farming- and forestry-related biotope management measures, in particular for extensively used and/or semi-natural habitats and open landscapes;
- further development and implementation of innovative technologies for the optimization of farming- and forestry-related production processes, adequate for effective natural protection;
- new forms of informational dissemination and provision of expertise for land use groups, consultants and authorities with the participation of various civil actors;
- development and implementation of biotope network systems and structures and of measures for species- and biotope protection;
- concepts and instruments for wilderness development;
- innovative education and training concepts, advanced training- and advisement / consulting concepts, and innovative public information- and dissemination concepts, in particular for children and young people.

Beyond these areas there exists the “open topic” support. In this area, any projects with important environmentally-related impacts are supported which are consistent with the statutory goals of the DBU, amongst others, the
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<th>Priorities</th>
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</table>
| **International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety** | Support area IV: main priorities of the 2016 round of selection are:  
– Raising awareness of and sensitizing people to the importance of biological diversity and the services it provides (cf. Aichi Target 1);  
– Integrating biodiversity into sector policies and political planning processes (cf. Aichi Target 2), including projects aiming to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss;  
– Eliminating or reforming incentives that are harmful to biodiversity and creating positive economic incentives for the conservation of biodiversity (cf. Aichi Target 3);  
– Promoting biodiversity on agricultural land and the use of agricultural production methods that foster greater biodiversity (cf. Aichi Target 7);  
– Protected areas (terrestrial and marine): integral implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (cf. Aichi Target 11); here, particular attention is paid to protecting the interests of local and indigenous communities and supporting the process of identifying and maintaining Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), including the high seas; | The application deadline for 2017 projects will end already on 6 June 2016; next deadline not yet published.  
See general guidelines for applications on the web site. | | | IKI supports climate and biodiversity projects in developing countries, emerging economies and transition states (‘partner countries’) – according to the interactive map  
The governments of the partner countries must express an explicit interest in the project.  
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<tr>
<td>Fritz Thyssen Foundation</td>
<td>The Fritz Thyssen Foundation supports research in the fields of history, language and culture, state, economics, society and medicine, devoting special attention to support for junior researchers. The award of grants to doctoral graduates and the funding of staff positions in projects help lay the material foundations for scientific work.</td>
<td>– Promoting integrated approaches to the restoration, connection and safeguarding of ecosystems in the landscape (not only in protected areas), including in urban areas, where these ecosystems make a significant contribution to human health, livelihoods and wellbeing, and – Projects that support capacity building in the context of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).</td>
<td>Applications can be filed up until mid-February and until the end of September.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de/funding/types-of-support/support-of-projects/?L=1">http://www.fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de/funding/types-of-support/support-of-projects/?L=1</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Agency for Nature Conservation</td>
<td>Funding only for German project – not relevant for the TAF project</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.bfn.de/0203_grossprojekte+M520875_73ab0.html">http://www.bfn.de/0203_grossprojekte+M520875_73ab0.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heinrich Böll Stiftung – The Green Political Foundation</td>
<td>Promoting those studying and graduating who have a positive attitude towards the goals of the Green project, share the</td>
<td>The scholarship department of the Heinrich Böll Foundation grants scholarships to undergraduates, graduates, and doctoral students</td>
<td>Application process twice a year, with deadlines on 1 March and 1 September; only</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.boell.de/en/foundation/application">https://www.boell.de/en/foundation/application</a></td>
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<td>Only for scholarships</td>
<td>fundamental ideals of the Heinrich Böll Foundation – democracy, ecology, solidarity and non-violence – and who take an active socio-political role.</td>
<td>from inside and outside Germany.</td>
<td>accepting online applications; the application portal will be opened about 6 weeks before the application deadline.</td>
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<td>Alexander von Humboldt Foundation</td>
<td>The foundation provides grants only for research – they offer many programmes on their web site.</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Environmental conservation activities</td>
<td>Conservation activities that fall into following categories are eligible; – Nature protection, conservation and restoration – Forest conservation and tree/grass planting – Anti-desertification – Agriculture of environmental conservation type – Mitigation and adaptation to climate change – Building of a recycle-oriented society – Air, water and soil conservation – Comprehensive environmental education – Comprehensive environmental conservation activities – Other environmental conservation activities</td>
<td>Application period for FY2016 has been already closed. Please apply during the application period starting from December 2016.</td>
<td>Guidelines not yet published (as an orientation use the guidelines for 2016: <a href="http://www.erca.go.jp/jfge/english/pdf/2016_Guide_to_the_JFGE_Grant_Program_Request.pdf">http://www.erca.go.jp/jfge/english/pdf/2016_Guide_to_the_JFGE_Grant_Program_Request.pdf</a>)</td>
<td>NGOs implementing environmental conservation activities in developing countries*, which are listed as DAC ODA recipients; <a href="http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf">http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf</a> (AL, BIH, RKS, MD) You need an agent (organization or individual) that has a bank account in Japan and can communicate in Japanese with the donor!!!</td>
<td>[<a href="https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/progr">https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/progr</a> ammes.html](<a href="https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/progr">https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/progr</a> ammes.html)</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Norway grants – see under EEA grants above</td>
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<td><a href="http://eeagrants.org/Who-we-are/Norway-Grants">http://eeagrants.org/Who-we-are/Norway-Grants</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Spain’s Biodiversity Foundation funds conservation field projects, research, education and training.</td>
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<td>Grants are up to €60 thousand for one year.</td>
<td>Most grants are made in Spain. However, the Foundation is willing to</td>
<td><a href="http://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/convocatorias/convocatorias-de-">http://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/convocatorias/convocatorias-de-</a></td>
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*Note: The guidelines for 2016 are used as an orientation since the guidelines for 2017 are not yet published.*
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<th>Priorities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>and public awareness.</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 2016.</td>
<td></td>
<td>consider international projects proposed by Spanish nonprofit NGOs; by large international nonprofit NGOs; by nonprofit organizations in other EU member states; and projects co-funded by AECID (Spain’s agency for international development cooperation).</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/approaches-and-methods/">http://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/approaches-and-methods/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>SIDA – Swedish Development cooperation</td>
<td>Swedish development cooperation is part of a global cooperation in which Sweden is one of many participants. In order to carry out its work, Sida cooperates with Swedish government agencies, organizations and international bodies like the UN, the EU and the World Bank.</td>
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<td>Applying for funding only through an organization with framework agreement, such as the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation <a href="http://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/In-english/">http://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/In-english/</a> or WWF Sweden <a href="http://www.wwf.se/headar/english/1129071-about-wwf">http://www.wwf.se/headar/english/1129071-about-wwf</a></td>
<td>In Europe, in eastern and Southern European countries</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAVA Foundation</td>
<td>From fisheries in Galicia to flyways in the Balkans, our portfolio of Mediterranean projects encompasses a cross-section of the full diversity of this unique eco-region. The foundation’s strategy is currently being revised; details on MAVA’s new strategy and the different funding programmes will be posted this summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AL, BiH, HR, MK, ME and SI</td>
<td><a href="http://en.mava-foundation.org/">http://en.mava-foundation.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</td>
<td>SDC is Switzerland’s international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. SDC works in partnership with other Swiss federal entities for development coordination, Funding for projects and research in themes of agriculture and rural development, water management, and climate change and environment. Applications via a Swiss NGO or through the diplomatic missions in respective countries.</td>
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<td>In Eastern Europe and Russia: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine</td>
<td><a href="https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home.html">https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>cooperation with Eastern Europe, and humanitarian aid.</td>
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<td>IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands – Small Grants for the Purchase of Nature</td>
<td>The web site is currently under construction.</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.google.at/?gfe_rd=cr&amp;ei=jOLNVM6iMqb5iQantoHABw&amp;gws_rd=ssl#q=IUCN+National+Committee+of+The+Netherlands+%E2%80%93+Small+Grants+for+the+Purchase+of+Nature">https://www.google.at/?gfe_rd=cr&amp;ei=jOLNVM6iMqb5iQantoHABw&amp;gws_rd=ssl#q=IUCN+National+Committee+of+The+Netherlands+%E2%80%93+Small+Grants+for+the+Purchase+of+Nature</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince Bernhard Nature Fund</td>
<td>The Fund’s mission is to support small, preferably local initiatives towards the conservation and wise use of nature and our natural resource base. Effectively our Fund aims to help save critically endangered flora and fauna.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.pbnf.nl/">http://www.pbnf.nl/</a></td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>The Darwin Initiative is a UK government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. Projects typically try to address threats to biodiversity such as: over-exploitation, invasive species, habitat degradation and loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution.</td>
<td>The initiative funds projects that help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the following biodiversity conventions: – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); – the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES); – the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing; – the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</td>
<td>The launch of the next round is expected for summer 2016.</td>
<td></td>
<td>There is no specific minimum or maximum level for a main round project. On average, a typical Darwin main round project is around £250,000 - £300,000 and up to three years in length.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative</a></td>
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<td>Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Ecological Society</td>
<td>The Society provides grants to promote excellent ecological research, help fund training</td>
<td>─ building environmental knowledge</td>
<td>The current funding round has now closed. The next round will open in</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.britishecologicaleducationsociety.org/grants-awards/">http://www.britishecologicaleducationsociety.org/grants-awards/</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>and travel and to communicate the science of ecology as widely as possible.</td>
<td>─ capacity building</td>
<td>July 2016.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rufford Foundation</td>
<td>The Foundation is a UK registered charity which funds nature conservation projects across the developing world.</td>
<td>The Rufford Foundation provides funding for small nature / biodiversity conservation projects and pilot programmes in developing countries.</td>
<td>You will need to register on this site; guidelines are available. Application criteria:</td>
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<td><a href="https://apply.ruffordsmallgrants.org/">https://apply.ruffordsmallgrants.org/</a></td>
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<td>─ Projects should focus on nature conservation activities in developing countries.</td>
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<td>─ The grant requested must make up a significant part of the total budget.</td>
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<td>─ The project should normally be of 12 to 18 months duration although each application is assessed on its own merit and the project length can be flexible.</td>
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<td>─ Funds must be used predominantly for field-based activities.</td>
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<td>─ The impact of the project must be pragmatic, measurable</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>In SEE countries grants are only made for strengthening civil society.</td>
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<td>The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation</td>
<td>The fund gives priority consideration to holistic programs addressing a significant</td>
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<td>(private, grant-making foundation based in</td>
<td>conservation need (or projects that are part of a program) which reflect:</td>
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<td>Michigan.</td>
<td>– Education and community engagement, including measuring results</td>
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<td>– Sustainable development programs directly connected to protecting species and habitat</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Scientific field studies on species and habitats</td>
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<td>– Although the fund recognizes that basic science is a critical first step in conservation</td>
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<td>initiatives, preference is given to projects where there is a significant conservation</td>
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<td>action component</td>
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<td>Inquiries for the next granting cycle will be considered beginning in October 2016.</td>
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<td>Disney Conservation Fund</td>
<td>Small grants to projects that are led by women and that help empower women and girls, in</td>
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<td>Grants up to</td>
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<td>grassroots communities around the globe.</td>
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<td>Funds for projects addressing issues such as:</td>
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<td>– Educational seminars and workshops</td>
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<td>Letters of Intent to be submitted between 6 and 22 June 2016; approved ones are invited</td>
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<td>to submit full applications starting on 15 August 2016; check full process:</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.vgif.org/our-work/for-grantseekers/">http://www.vgif.org/our-work/for-grantseekers/</a></td>
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**Further information**

- [http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines](http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines)
- [https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/environment/#disney-conservation-fund](https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/environment/#disney-conservation-fund)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Descriptions and Comments</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
<th>Criteria for Eligibility</th>
<th>Further information</th>
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</table>
| Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund | The Foundation funds in four program areas (Civil Society, Education, Environment, Flint Area) but only Civil Society is eligible in ‘our’ region | – Promoting education in science, technology, engineering and math for girls  
– Women’s human rights | Letters of Inquiry are strongly preferred for unsolicited ideas or projects. Such letters should include a brief description of the project, the funding needed and the time period. - See more at: [http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines/forgrantseekers/grantseeker#sthash.F1nHU8O5.dpuf](http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines/forgrantseekers/grantseeker#sthash.F1nHU8O5.dpuf) | Grants between $15,000 and $250,000 annually. | Leadership must be women, including the role of the Project Director. | [http://www.mott.org/](http://www.mott.org/) |
| Balkan Trust Fund for Democracy | The Fund supports conservation programs that protect threatened wildlife and habitats worldwide. Field studies and other projects that demonstrate a multi-disciplinary approach to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and projects that involve in-country collaborators receive the highest funding priority. | CIVIL SOCIETY Mission: To strengthen philanthropy and the nonprofit sector as vital vehicles for increasing civic engagement and improving communities and societies. - See more at: [http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines/forgrantseekers/appprocesses#sthash.nHPf8K8w.dpuf](http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines/forgrantseekers/appprocesses#sthash.nHPf8K8w.dpuf) | Deadline for application is 1 June 2016; the applicant has to follow the guidelines outlined on the web site. | Maximum annual request is $1,000. | Applicants must be associated with an organization (e.g. NGO, university, etc.) through which s/he can receive funding. Funding checks are provided to organizations, not individuals. There are no eligibility restrictions on the nationality of the applicant. | [http://www.rwpzoo.org/142/sophie-danforth-conservation-biology-fund-grant-application-process](http://www.rwpzoo.org/142/sophie-danforth-conservation-biology-fund-grant-application-process) |
| Rockefeller Brothers Fund | The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan. Since 2013, BTD awards grants to supports projects addressing themes of democracy and good governance, policy dialogue | Supported projects typically achieve their goals through: public debate; leadership development; policy work; civic education; mechanisms; advocacy; monitoring; implementation and enforcement; shared objectives; best practices; networks; re-granting; reconciliation. | Since 2013, BTD no longer accepts unsolicited proposals. Interested organizations are welcome to send a brief email in English (no more than 3 paragraphs) outlining the project idea and approximate budget amount to | BTD’s grantmaking activities focus primarily on six countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. BTD also support relevant | |
| Brothers Fund | | | | | | [http://www.gmfus.org/civil-society/balkan-trust-democracy](http://www.gmfus.org/civil-society/balkan-trust-democracy) |
### Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP)

#### ‘Mapping priority wetland sites for restoration’ (PrioREST)

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<td>and networking and regional cooperation and European integration. Priority areas within these themes include:  – Civic Engagement  – Youth Leadership and Empowerment  – Government Accountability and Transparency  – Culture of Giving  – Euro-Atlantic Integration  – Dialogue and Reconciliation</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:balkantrust@gmfus.org">balkantrust@gmfus.org</a>, BTD does not recommend that organizations develop full project proposals unless invited to do so by BTD program staff.</td>
<td></td>
<td>regional initiatives that include civil society stakeholders from Western and Eastern Europe, and in particular those based in Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.</td>
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Through its grantmaking, the Fund supports efforts to expand knowledge, clarify values and critical choices, nurture creative expression, and shape public policy. The Fund’s programs are intended to develop leaders, strengthen institutions, engage citizens, build community, and foster partnerships that include government, business, and civil society. Respect for cultural diversity and ecological integrity pervades the Fund’s activities.

The Fund’s grantmaking is organized around three thematic programs:  – Democratic Practice, Peace building, and  – Sustainable Development

No deadlines mentioned; guidelines to facilitate the applications for non-us-organizations: [http://www.rbf.org/grantmaking/non-us-organizations](http://www.rbf.org/grantmaking/non-us-organizations)

Besides Southern China, focus on Western Balkans, especially in Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo, giving special attention to democratic practice and sustainable development requirements.

[http://www.rbf.org/grantmaking](http://www.rbf.org/grantmaking)
Background Summary

to be used as a basis to elaborate a joint project proposal to be submitted under the Danube Transnational Programme

WORKING TITLE (proposal to CEEweb)

Document title

‘Restoration and Management of Priority Wetland and Grassland Sites Contributing to Wildlife Corridors in the Danube River Basin’

Document date

05/2016

Editor:

Sissi Samec

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EN ISO 9001
CONTENT

1. Background ........................................................................................................................................... 1
2. Project Context ......................................................................................................................................... 1
3. Geographical scope ................................................................................................................................... 2
4. Problems to be addressed ..................................................................................................................... 2
5. Objectives of the project ......................................................................................................................... 3
  5.1. Overall project objective .................................................................................................................. 3
  5.2. Projects purpose ............................................................................................................................... 3
  5.3. Specific project objectives ................................................................................................................. 3
  5.4. Intervention logic .............................................................................................................................. 6
  5.5. Involvement of partners and stakeholders ....................................................................................... 6
  5.6. The governance structure ............................................................................................................... 6
  5.7. Project communication .................................................................................................................... 7
  5.8. Transnational approach ................................................................................................................... 7
  5.9. Possible constraints ........................................................................................................................ 8
  5.10. Contributions to the global and Europe policy framework ............................................................. 8
  5.11. Contribution to the specific objective of the programme ............................................................... 9
  5.12. Innovative character ...................................................................................................................... 9
  5.13. Environmental sustainability ...................................................................................................... 9
  5.14. Equal opportunities ...................................................................................................................... 9
6. Project budget ........................................................................................................................................ 9
7. Project time frame .................................................................................................................................. 9
8. Project indicators ................................................................................................................................... 9
1. BACKGROUND

Although densely populated, Europe holds a rich biodiversity. Specifically wetland and grassland ecosystems – often forgotten compared to other ecosystems – offer ideal conditions for a vast diversity of habitats and species, and are especially important for birds, including endangered species.

Wetland ecosystem services are unacknowledged and undervalued; environmental benefits deriving from wetlands are water purification, flood protection, groundwater recharge, stream flow maintenance, to name a few. In addition, wetlands provide food, medicinal plants, peat for fuel and gardens, grasses and reeds for making mats and baskets and thatching houses, filter water and offer a unique habitat for many different species. The annual economic value of the remaining Danube River floodplains, including their flood mitigation function, was assessed in 1995 at EUR 650 million.

With respect to grasslands, they are also the source of a wide range of public goods and services, ranging from meat and dairy products to recreational and tourism opportunities. In addition, they act as carbon ‘sinks’ and are therefore a vital asset in the effort to reduce levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Natural and semi-natural grasslands are among the most species-rich ecosystems in Europe.

Wetlands, including mires, bogs and fens, are among the most threatened ecosystems in Europe, having been subject to major losses in recent decades and are therefore in an unfavorable status – according to the Report ‘State of Nature in the EU’ published by the European Environmental Agency in 2015, they are the worst off among all habitats. While they only comprise about 2 % of the EU’s territory, and 4.3 % of the NATURA 2000 area, they are highly important for a wide variety of species. The same is valid also for wetland areas in non-EU countries.

Regarding grasslands, formerly characterized by extensive management systems, they have undergone a major decline in area in recent decades. About 49 % of EU assessments for the 45 grassland habitat types of Community interest are unfavorable-bad. Moreover, almost 50 % of grassland-related birds are declining and the conservation status of other species is mostly unfavorable. Although no recent data exist, the same trends are observed in non-EU countries in the Danube Basin.

Wetlands and grasslands have a large potential to improve species’ conservation status – e.g. birds, as they hold within them a large percentage of all biodiversity, both terrestrial and freshwater. Without determined action, the DRB region will miss the Strategic Goals and the Aichi Targets outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as the 2020 Targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, respectively to restore 15% of degraded ecosystems, as drained and converted to other land uses many wetlands and grasslands are effectively degraded ecosystems.

2. PROJECT CONTEXT

Flood frequency increases together with extreme weather events linked to Climate Change – thus resilience and flood protection mechanisms are important and the Danube Basin urgently needs such measures ensuring floodplains instead of grey solutions. The current pressures on grasslands include intensification of use, unsympathetic cultivation practices, and conversion to other land-use and abandonment has to be reverted. Large scale Green Infrastructure\(^1\) (GI) projects should be rolled out

\(^1\) Green Infrastructure can be broadly defined as a strategically planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range
to create green jobs and income and maintain ecosystem services, also in poorer European countries.

Many restoration projects have already been or are implemented in the Danube Region by various organizations. Unfortunately, until now this is not done in a strategically planned way using the synergies of major key players. There is the clear need for concerted action to roll out restoration projects in Eastern and Southern European countries taking into account global and European and sub-regional policy instruments. Otherwise – only adding some few more restoration projects in an uncoordinated manner – contributions to biodiversity and human well being cannot be ensured.

Against the background that most wetland and grassland habitats in the Danube Region are in an unfavorable status, and except for very limited areas, both are disappearing at an alarming rate and are nowadays among Europe’s most threatened ecosystems. There is a common agreement that there is the need for integrated approaches to tackle the threats. Transnational action programmes – in line with the EU Strategy for Green Infrastructures – can contribute to improve the management and interlinking of natural habitats which are of utmost importance for ecologically functioning networks, may it be NATURA 2000, Emerald sites, Ramsar sites, or any other designated protected areas. Interlinking of natural habitats by reducing barriers, improving land and water management, building capacity for effective nature protection taking existing policy frameworks into account and involving key stakeholders is the way forward.

The Interreg Danube Transnational Programmes provides a good frame for such kind of activities and its Strategic Objective 2.3 ‘Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors – strengthen effective approaches to preservation, restoring and management of biocorridors and wetlands of transnational relevance to contribute to the better conservation status of ecosystems of European relevance’. There is a clear link to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, specifically to the targets of Priority Area 6 ‘To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils’.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Geographically, the DTP area overlaps with the territory addressed by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), comprising also the Danube river basin. It is the most international river basin in the world. The programme area covers nine Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany – Baden-Württemberg and Bayern, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and five non-EU Member States (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and four provinces of Ukraine), being composed of 69 NUTS-2 regions. Pilot projects for implementation are foreseen in XXX countries taking into account relevant transnational bio-corridors and targeted at protected areas and their relevant adjacent areas in the whole Danube Basin.

4. PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

The loss of natural capital in both, wetland and grassland habitats, is a major concern. Project partners, associated strategic partners as well as relevant stakeholders have clearly expressed their interest in a joint project. Besides funding for GI pilot projects, their needs can be summarized as follows:

- Information exchange (e.g. technical aspects with respect to restoration activities, awareness raising activities, best practice examples of sustainable management practices, tourism aspects in connection with restoration projects, etc.)

of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings. More specifically GI, being a spatial structure providing benefits from nature to people, aims to enhance nature’s ability to deliver multiple valuable ecosystem goods and services, such as clean air or water.
5. **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

5.1. **OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

(should provide the overall context for what the project is trying to achieve, and aligns to programme priority main outputs; it relates to the strategic aspects of the project)

.... has to be developed during further project development phase involving all partners

5.2. **PROJECTS PURPOSE**

(the project purpose is describing the situation, which should be achieved after the project end)

(proposal to CEEweb):

The purpose of the project is *‘Improved strategic frameworks in Danube Basin countries through capacity building, networking and the successful implementation of pilot restoration projects increasing the favourable conservation status of priority wetland and grassland habitats’.*

5.3. **SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

(according to guidance documents, there should not be more than 3 specific objectives); need to show a direct contribution to project overall objective and objectives should have measurable project outputs)

(proposals to CEEweb):

**SO 1** To establish the baseline by conducting participatory assessments and collection of data for improving the knowledge base and monitoring issues

Possible actions:

- Detailed assessment and analysis of the legal and institutional frameworks related to wetland and grassland restoration;
- Gap analysis of protected areas with respect to the relevant ecosystems, wetlands and grasslands;
- Assessment of the conservation status of priority habitats and species in non-EU countries – development of methodologies for joint research and improving the mapping of wetland and grassland ecosystems;
- Socio-economic studies on the land use changes, basic drivers and impacts on biodiversity;
- Best practise guidelines for restoration projects to ensure coherent, transnational approaches; case studies – lessons learned;
- ....

**SO 2** To set up a restoration expert network for the Danube Basin countries supporting dialogue and implementing capacity building measures
CEEweb is a regional conservation NGO network in the CEE region established in 1994 involving 61 member organizations from 20 countries. Since 2011, CEEweb has been increasingly concentrating on Target 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (mapping and assessing ecosystem services, Green Infrastructure, restoration) shaping EU policies, raising awareness and driving implementation. Together with the members, CEEweb is implementing large scale habitat restoration projects across the CEE region and has therefore a vast experience.

This network needs to be increased by involving new members from Central and Eastern European countries and most importantly, also from Southern European countries and by applying coordinated, strategically planned, transnational approaches.

**Possible actions:**

- Identify members of the network and relevant key players;
- Search for modern technologies in networking with many stakeholders (to reduce personal meetings and saving costs);
- Carry out a needs assessment of relevant stakeholders;
- Develop a capacity building programme;
- Implement tailored capacity building modules;
- Specific training courses on selected topics (e.g. proposal writing for partner organizations, participatory planning approaches, best practise examples, examples of innovative funding possibilities, etc.);
- Joint study tours;
- .......

**SO 3**  
To implement selected measures / interventions in pilot restoration projects to improve the conservation and support the integrated management of habitats focusing on relevant transnational bio-corridors

Through the TAF – DRP potential partners for a future transnational restoration initiative have been identified. Initially, 31 interested parties from 13 European countries submitted project proposals (amongst them also proposals from Albania, which is not eligible under the DTP). 20 proposals are related to wetlands and 9 to grasslands.

Going through a selection process and taking the most promising restoration proposals with respect to the given parameters of the DTP, 16 pilot implementation projects with small-scale to medium investments have been chosen focusing on integrated planning approaches and the potential for replication (a project portfolio covering all received proposals is available).

Preliminary list of pilot restoration projects *(an agreement on the final selection of pilot sites will be taken during the further project development and is depending on the final goal and specific objectives of the joint project)*:
Potential pilot projects

Projects in the area of Northern Croatia, Northern BiH and Slovenia (Sava tributaries??)
- SAVE AND PRESERVE THE DIVERSITY OF THE WETLAND MOSOROVAC
- RESTORATION OF THE BARDACA WETLAND
- RESTORATION OF THE STREAM ŽELIN AND UPPER REACH OF RIVER ODRA
- RESTORATION OF THE DRETULJA RIVER VALLEY

Projects in the area around the Danube Delta, North-Eastern Bulgaria and Southern Moldova
- ECOLOGICAL AND HYDROTECHNICAL RESTORATION OF RAMSAR SITE LOWER PRUT LAKES
- RESTORATION OF THE FRESHWATER MARSH AZMAKA IN ATANASOVSKO LAKE

Projects concerning other tributaries to the Danube in the Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Serbia and Slovakia
- RESTORATION OF THE GRASSLAND AND WETLAND AREA: KLADOVO SANDS WITH MALA VRBICA
- RESTORATION OF THE WETLAND AREAS IN THE PROTECTED HABITAT “TRESKOVACA POND”
- REMOVAL OF SLUDGE FROM THE LAKE PROVALA IN VAJSKA
- RESTORATION OF SEJPY U MODLEŠOVIC - FORMER DRY HEATHLAND PASTURES IN THE FLOODPLAIN OF RIVER OTAVA
- RESTORATION OF GRASSLAND SITES WITH UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY IN THE REGION SPIŠ
- RESTORATION OF WETLANDS IN THE DRAGOMAN MARSH KARST COMPLEX RAMSAR SITE
- To be checked, if eligible: RESTORATION, PRESERVATION AND VALORISATION OF THE SPECIAL ORNITHOLOGICAL AND ICHTHYOLOGICAL RESERVE PANTAN ON THE ADRIATIC SEA COASTLINE
5.4. INTERVENTION LOGIC

It is of utmost importance that the project is contributing to the selected funding programme and the link between the project and the programme level has to be clearly shown. The project intervention logic has to be coherent and has to mirror the intervention logic of the programme. The logical framework provides the necessary information to assess the contributions to the programme, which have to be measurable and clearly demonstrated – it should be possible to assess to what extent the project contributes towards achieving the intended impact of the programme.

Starting from the current situation and the identified needs, the project overall objective and results have to be linked to the programme intervention logic and the project specific objectives need to show on one hand direct contribution to the overall project objective and on the other hand, it should be possible – at least to some extent – to measure achievement of project specific objectives with project main outputs defined in the work plan. These main outputs have to be linked with the programme output indicators.

Project objectives (ideally not more than three), results and outputs have to be logically linked to the project work plan – defining work packages (limited to five to stay focused) broken down into activities and time plan.

*Include a graph in the full proposal*

5.5. INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The effective involvement of partners and relevant stakeholders is the core of any successful project and is an inevitable requirement of all donor organizations. All activities will include participatory elements, ranging from international meetings down to the local level. This is specifically valid for the implementation of the pilot projects, where participatory planning processes have to be designed and implemented. Therefore, competent and committed partners are playing key roles in the delivery of results.

The project content is extremely complicated as it has to manage complex multi-stakeholder situations. Stakeholder identification – persons, groups, organizations, ..... that have certain responsibilities as regards the project content or those who can be affected by the project – and their involvement is a basic principle for implementation. There is the need for a balanced representation, international – national – regional – local institutions/public authorities, relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, scientific organizations and universities, tourism operators and other business partners, etc. According to the guidelines of the DTP, there are project partners and associated strategic partners.

As the project will apply integrated approaches, the target groups should cover representatives from different sectors and should ensure multi-level governance. Therefore, main target groups will include policy and decision-makers in Ministries of Environment and relevant line ministries, such as regional development, forestry and agriculture, regional authorities responsible for spatial planning and for the environment, protected areas managers, local communities, universities and scientific institutions, civil society organizations, business companies, such as tourism agencies, etc.

5.6. THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

It is always hard to establish an effective governance structure in such a highly complex field. Nevertheless, the intention is to have a lean organizational structure, comprising the project
management team, a steering group, work package/component leaders; project partners/associated strategic partners and consultants.

*Basic proposal for discussion – review and update the graph in the final proposal*

During further project development, discussions about optimal governance structure needs to be held, involving all partners. Roles and responsibilities of each position have to be decided and partnership agreements have to be signed.

### 5.7. PROJECT COMMUNICATION

The communication is the heart of any project and a key for success. Generally, there are clear guidelines on European level and the DTP’s application manual provides all necessary information as regards communication issues.

### 5.8. TRANSNATIONAL APPROACH

The transnational approach is given by the nature of the project. To effectively combat underlying causes of habitat fragmentation and destruction, changes in land use and unsustainable management practices in the Danube Region, the project has to go beyond national territories by using well-coordinated, transboundary, sub-regional and coherent approaches. Available information indicates that there is insufficient transnational cooperation and coordination on many different levels, which need to be improved. The fact that that the lead partner with its aligned national partners is used to work on the international level, demonstrates that the consortium is capable to
work with such transnational approaches (it would be good to have an internationally registered organization as a project partner, e.g. Birdlife, WWF, IUCN, etc.).

5.9. POSSIBLE CONSTRAINTS

- The issue of co-financing (the overview of potential funding sources – as an output of the TAF project – can help for searching additional funds, and the subject was already discussed with potential partners in early project preparation phase);
- Low capacity and weak experience of project partners (the risk can be minimized by actively involving them from the very beginning and establish personal links already in the project development phase; furthermore, the planned capacity building programmes will contribute to improve the situation);
- Stakeholder participation is not seen as an important instrument and therefore rejected;
- Low political willingness (also related to limited human resources and low capacity of public authorities);
- Local authorities are not open for innovative, transnational approaches;

During further project development all possible risks need to be discussed (risk assessment) and well founded mitigation measures will be proposed.

5.10. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL AND EUROPE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Proposed project interventions can clearly demonstrate the relevance with respect to several policy instruments on global and European level:

- on global level, the project is linked to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the project will contribute to achieving several Strategic Goals of the Global Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2020 and specifically to the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Target 15: ‘Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced’, with additional positive contributions to other sectors, such as sustainable management, awareness raising, to name only few;

- furthermore, the project is in line with and will make valuable contributions to the Ramsar Convention and Bonn Convention;

- on European, the project contributes to the Bern Convention and to sub-regional instruments, such as the Carpathian Convention and the Danube River Protection Convention;

- the project is also highly relevant with respect to European Union policy instruments and legislations; it will contribute to achieving targets under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (Target 1: ‘to protect species and habitats’ and Target 2: ‘to maintain and restore ecosystems’), and major contributions can be expected to the implementation of the two nature Directives, the Habitats and the Birds Directives as well as to the Water Framework Directive;

- not to forget, the project has a clear link to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region; this project addresses the EUSDR Action Targets A03 – To protect and restore most valuable ecosystems and endangered animal species, corresponding also to several Aichi Targets. The project may increase sensitization and raise awareness of the targets of the Danube Region Strategy in general.
5.11. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

Depending under which programme the project will be submitted .......

5.12. INNOVATIVE CHARACTER

The concepts of bio-corridors and ecological connectivity are still poorly understood, specifically in sectors such as water and agriculture. This is the first time that a network related to wetland and grassland restoration in Eastern and Southern European countries will be established dedicated to networking and capacity building by learning and demonstrating what integrated approaches to land management and the linkages between nature and other relevant sectors means, both in policy and in practice, and how to overcome certain weaknesses in the current institutional and legal framework. Due to the involvement of stakeholders from different sectors, there is the high possibility for new, innovative partnerships and joint partnership approaches.

5.13. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project is addressing problems related to the environment, such as degraded wetlands and grasslands and the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services with unpredictable impacts on human well being. Project interventions, specifically measures in the pilot projects, will contribute to improve the situation and therefore, having a positive impact on the environment and people.

During project implementation, several environmental-friendly approaches will be used, amongst others, agreeing on modern technologies in networking with many stakeholders (e.g. web conferences, skype discussions, etc.) to reduce travel costs (impact on carbon footprint) and whenever possible, to reduce the printing of documents, e.g. by using google drives with access rights for partners;

5.14. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The project doesn’t directly address the integration equal opportunities between women and men and non-discrimination, but will consider gender issues and non-discrimination to the extent relevant during project implementation, e.g. putting attention to equal opportunities in the governance structure of the project, or emphasizing gender issues in local planning and implementation processes.

6. PROJECT BUDGET

Project for the joint proposal was not yet discussed; there are only budget estimates for pilot projects available.

7. PROJECT TIME FRAME

The anticipated project duration is two and a half years.

8. PROJECT INDICATORS

Project indicators have to be developed for the final proposal