

Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe



Project Budget:
€2.5 million

Duration:
June 2007 – December 2009

Funded by:
European Union

Countries of Implementation:
Ukraine, Moldova, Russia

Project is implemented by:
Consortium led by Mott MacDonald (UK)

Key Project Partner and Beneficiary:
Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine

Project’s Objectives and Tasks:

Overall objective:
To contribute to the steppe conservation and steppe ecosystems restoration and their sustainable management as part of living land tenure system of the region.

- Specific objectives:**
- Coordination of the efforts of international and regional experts in the fields of environment-friendly rural economy, biodiversity preservation, and ecological tourism development;
 - Development of principles and mechanisms of sustainable steppe resource management for their implementation and testing in certain areas;
 - Promotion of economically effective and spare for biodiversity methods of the steppe resource management;
 - Activities which aim to raise awareness of involved partners and experts regarding changes in legislation and international experience exchange.

The Project is implemented in the territories of steppe ecosystems of the three countries: Ukraine (Lugansk and Odessa oblasts), Russian Federation (Manych valley), and Moldova (west bank of Dniester river).

- Expected results:**
- Pilot farms are established to show that environmental protection and ecologically sustainable agriculture can also be profitable;
 - Degraded lands for sustainable steppe development are identified;
 - 1 million hectares of land are developed as a steppe conservation area;
 - Eco/rural tourism plans are developed and support is being given to local entrepreneurs;
 - Extensive beef production in combination with restoration of degraded land is being promoted. This is supported with carbon funding (Kyoto protocol) by carbon sequestration in the soil.

- Project’s Achievements to date:**
- A comparative network of demonstration projects on steppe pasture management has been set up in each of the pilot regions. In Ukraine, a demonstration project is being implemented in Tarutino steppe (Odessa region) on Regional Landscape Park “Tiligulskiy” (RLP “Tiligulskiy”) aiming at:
 - increasing steppe pasture productivity;
 - sustainable agriculture development with consideration of steppe biodiversity conservation concerns;
 - protected area management with account of rural development objectives.
 - 27 workshops, stakeholder meetings and excursions with over 900 participants attending;
 - Three press tours organized for mass media;
 - More than 120 press and internet publications produced, including over 60 radio and TV presentations;
 - The Project won the British Experience International Award and was nominated for the EU Communication Award – EuropeAid Project of excellence of the Year.

More information about the Project: <http://www.steppe.org.ua>

Note: The steppe is a rare ecosystem; one of the rarest in Europe. It is sustained by insects, large animals, fire and the local climate. The last century saw the reduction of large animals and fire. Now the steppe needs to be stabilised through a combination of agricultural management and nature conservation. An area of steppe zone in Ukraine is about 0,3 million square km. This makes about 4% of the total area of steppe ecosystems. As a result of last 80 – 100 years steppes have strongly suffered from an inefficient plowing up and pasture of live-stock. Today in Ukraine, over 5 million hectares degraded lands can be restored. It is estimated that land use change of 1 million ha of steppe can reduce overall GHG by 220 Mt of carbon dioxide over a 30 years period (valued at over 2 billion EUR - in 2009 EU Emissions Trading Scheme prices).

Project’s Objectives and Tasks:

Overall objective:
To build capacities for introducing an integrated approach to the management of water resources through improvement of cooperation, collaboration, coordination and communication between stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and better quality of life in border areas of Ukraine and Romania focusing on the Lower Danube EuroRegion.

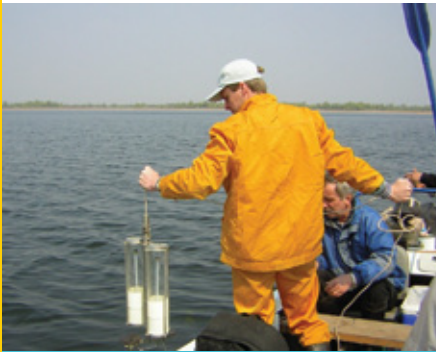
- Specific objectives:**
- To strengthen the institutional infrastructure;
 - To improve technical capacities;
 - To draft a tool kit for public authorities’ management of water resources in the Lower Danube EuroRegion;
 - To facilitate networking between regional water management departments in the border regions of Ukraine and Romania.

- Project’s Activities:**
- Complex assessment of state and quality of water resources and the analysis of modern state and methods of management in water sector in border regions of Ukraine and Romania;
 - Development of GIS for the integrated management of water resources in the Ukrainian part of the Lower Danube EuroRegion;
 - Creation of opportunities for the development of Ukrainian-Romanian integrated system of hydrometeorological monitoring of Danube;
 - Development of an integrated water management plan for the Ukrainian part of the Danubian Region;
 - Assistance to the creation and functioning of the Danubian basin management of water resources;
 - Increasing awareness of population; publications, conferences and seminars.

- Project’s Achievements to date:**
- Fully operational equipped mobile hydrological laboratory is purchased;
 - Network of automatic hydrological stations is installed;
 - Server with a joint Romanian-Ukrainian hydrological and hydrochemical data-base is created;
 - Joint Romanian-Ukrainian vessel expedition is held;
 - During the project implementation Danube River Basin Management Department has been legally created and its activities are supported by the project;
 - Draft Integrated Water Management Plan for the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region is produced;
 - Draft Plan for Emergency Prevention and Awareness in the Lower Danube Basin is produced and agreed with the Romanian water and emergency managers;
 - GIS for integrated management of water resources in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region is created and filled with the data get within the studies as well as with the data from the processed satellite images purchased within the project;
 - A number of thematic maps on water management are produced and disseminated;
 - A number of workshops, trainings, conferences and study tours are carried out;
 - 3 series of the short films are produced and shown at local TV;
 - Web-page of the project is created;
 - A number of studies conducted on:
 - Complex assessment of the state and quality of water resources and analysis of the current state and methods of water management;
 - Inventory of wetlands and potentially dangerous objects in the Ukrainian part of the Danube region;
 - Complex hydrological study and risk assessment of silting and extinction of the Kisilitsky branch of the Danube;
 - Identification of the main sources of nutrient pollution of the Danube Lakes and elaboration of suggestions on the creation of constructed wetlands.

More information about the Project: <http://crs.org.ua/en/projects/current/49.html>

Improving Cross-Border Cooperation in Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Lower Danube Euroregion



Project Budget:
€538,955

Duration:
July 2007 – July 2009

Funded by:
European Union

Countries of Implementation:
Ukraine, Romania

Project is implemented by:
Odessa Regional Water Management Department (ORWMD)

Key Project Partners and Beneficiaries:

- Dniester – Prut Water Resources Basin Management
- Danube Hydrometeorological Observatory
- Centre for Regional Studies