

**Inception Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
**UNDP/GEF Tisza Medium Sized Project:**

**Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin**

9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Vienna

**Minutes from UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP Project Steering Committee Meeting**

**Participants:** Annex 1

**Agenda:** Annex 2

**Presentations:** <http://www.icpdr.org/undp-gef-tisza>

**The purpose of the meeting** was to provide a briefing to senior representatives of the beneficiary countries and to receive formal high-level endorsement for the work planned under the project. This second Project Steering Committee meeting covers the period June – December 2008. In particular approval was sought from the Project Steering Committee for:

- Inception Report
- Work plan
- Budget
- Demonstration projects (see later).

**Background Documents:**

Prior to the meeting the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) uploaded the following documents to the project web site to ensure an efficient and effective meeting.

- Inception Report;
- Workshop 1 (Kosice, September 2008) Report;
- Progress Report;
- Summaries of three short-listed demonstration projects;
- Project Budget;
- Project Work Plan;
- Project Timetable with links to the ICPDR Tisza Group;
- Information on proposed indicators to be used for reporting to UNDP/GEF.

**Summary or Progress:**

The project progress report provides detailed information on all the project activities and was uploaded to the web site before the meeting to provide background information to the Project Steering Committee. The project manager (Peter Whalley) gave a presentation on the MSP. The main activities undertaken in the first six months of this MSP are:

### **Component 1: Integrated River Basin Management**

- Flood Strategy – Table of Content drafted – work under development
- Pollution Strategy – Table of Content drafted – drafting of strategy from 2009
- Integration discussion document – drafted available for further discussion/national reports by 2009
- Five National Experts – contracted
- Agreed outline of the ITRBM Plan in the frame of the Tisza Group
- Drafting of the chapters are under development

### **Component 2 – Demonstration Projects**

- Issue of ‘call for proposals’;
- Assessment criteria for project selection developed and issued
- Evaluation of 16 proposals
- Total proposals grant requested by 16 projects 1,477,000 \$ with a total co-funding 2,594,000 \$
- UNDP co-funded activities in support of the demonstration projects
- Summaries of three proposed short-listed demonstration projects were distributed on the web.

### **Co-funded activities**

#### **UNDP**

Ms Klara Tothova presented a summary of the work undertaken by UNDP in support of the demonstration project proposal development.

UNDP supported an international consultant (Mr Georg Rast) to assist all three project teams in developing a detailed proposal. In addition UNDP provided resources to enable the three project teams to each organise two local stakeholder meetings to further develop the proposals and to widen the understanding of the proposed activities by the local communities.

UNDP will continue to support the demonstration projects during the Inception Phases and providing external evaluation at the mid and final point of the projects. In 2009 and 2010 UNDP will organise wider (regional) stakeholder meetings to present the progress and results of the demonstration projects.

#### **UNEP**

The planned links between the UNEP work (Carpathian Convention Secretariat) and the UNDP/GEF MSP was summarised by Andreea Bucur.

#### **European Commission**

The previous and on-going work linked to the MSP supported by the European Commission is presented in the Progress Report and was summarised by the project manager. Mr Helmut Bloch (European Commission) stressed the importance of this project as a demonstration of integration of water quality and water quantity in Europe.

## **Discussion**

### **Component 1: Integrated River Basin Management**

The activities under this component were acknowledged as being important to the current activities of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the work plan presented, showing close integration with the Tisza

Group, was recognised. The activities presented by the MSP PIU were accepted and the proposed work plan for 2009 was endorsed.

### **Component 2 – Demonstration Projects**

The interest in the demonstration project call was appreciated, as was the desire by the Tisza MSP to seek additional funds for future support of further projects.

Three short-listed demonstration projects were presented:

- Making space for water in the Bodrog river basin (SK, HU, UA);
- Selected measures towards integrated land and water management in upper Tisza (UA, RO);
- Integrated land development (ILD) programme to improve land use and water management efficiency (HU, RS, RO).

Whilst it was recognised that considerable work had been done by the project teams (greatly supported by the co-funded work by UNDP and their consultant) further refinement and adherence to the overall budget (maximum 350,000 USD) was needed.

The Project Steering Committee endorsed the three project ideas subject to revision of the budgets and the addressing of some weakness in the proposals. Revised proposals would be distributed by the end of January 2009 (by email) and formal approval provided by the Project Steering Committee in writing.

### **Project Management**

The project inception report, progress report, work plan, budget and timetable were accepted by the Project Steering Committee.

The outline of the indicators that are planned for future reporting on Monitoring & Evaluation activities to UNDP and GEF were presented and feedback on these was requested by the project manager.

## **Conclusion**

The Project Steering Committee for the UNDP/GEF Tisza project **approved**:

- The project Inception Report;
- The project Progress Report;
- The proposed work plan and budget for 2009;

The Project Steering Committee **requested additional revisions** to the three demonstration project proposals (including ensuring the budget was within the maximum allowed) and these are to be circulated by email for approval by the end of January 2009.

The Project Steering Committee **acknowledged** the indicators for reporting to UNDP and GEF and will provide comments where necessary.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Vienna

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## Annex 2 - Agenda

### Project Steering Committee Meeting UNDP/GEF Tisza Medium Sized Project:

*Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin*

**9th December 2008, Vienna**

17:30-18:30

**Place:** Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Marxergasse 2, A-1030 Vienna, Room: 126

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, 17:30-18:30

**Chair:** Mr Philip Weller

#### Agenda Items:

1. Update on Project progress
  - a. Component 1
  - b. Component 2
  - c. Consultants / contracts
  - d. Reports
  - e. Co-funded activities – summary
  - f. Project management
2. Co-funding organisation presentations (EC, UNDP, UNEP)
3. Future activities
4. Budget summary
5. Approval from the PSC is sought for:
  - a. Inception Report
  - b. Demonstration project implementation
  - c. Use of indicators for reporting to UNDP/GEF (June 2009)
  - d. Future activities

#### RECEPTION