



# INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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UNDP/GEF Tisza Project

## Development and Endorsement of an International River Basin Management Plan

GEF/UNDP Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplain into improved  
transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin

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### Main Results:

1. Development of an Integrated River Basin Management Plan (a SAP) and approval / endorsement at a Ministerial Meeting of all five Tisza countries.
2. Reduction of solid waste (including recycling of plastic bottles) on the Upper Tisza floodplains through community led clean-up programs (6 tons of plastic waste removed), locally funded solid waste collection and procurement of approximately 400 containers.
3. Improvements to wetland management through implementing concept of 'making space for rivers' endorsed by Slovak Ministry and nationally further supported.

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UNDP/GEF Tisza Project website: [http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/tisza\\_undp\\_gef.html](http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/tisza_undp_gef.html)

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

1. To integrate water quality, water quantity, land use, and biodiversity objectives within integrated water resources/river basin management (IWRM/IRBM) under the legal umbrella of the EU and ICPDR and;
2. To begin implementation of IWRM principles through the testing of new approaches on wetland and floodplain management through community-based demonstration. The integration of water quality and quantity management is considered to be a significantly innovative approach in the basin and the results of this will be utilised elsewhere in the Danube River Basin through catalytic policies and actions of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The UNDP/GEF Tisza Project (has worked closely with the Tisza countries and the ICPDR to develop an Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (ITRBMP). This Plan is equivalent to a GEF Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The Project had a focus land/water management aimed at improving the use and protection of wetlands and floodplains to encourage further restorations of these important river basin features that have been lost due to intensive farming and flood protection and undertook three pilot projects addressing land and water management in addition to the co-ordination of the ITRBM support.

## RESULTS: PROCESS

**INDICATOR #1:** Regional and national integrated management plans endorsed by all countries by 2011. National budgets allocated to implement plans by 2011. Management reports to ICPDR and Tisza Group each year. [**Target:** Integrated (quality and quantity, water and land) management]

On 11 April 2011, in Uzhgorod, Ukraine the Tisza Ministers and High Representatives of the countries adopted the ITRBM Plan and updated a Memorandum of Understanding to express their commitment to the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan and pledge to continue the efforts needed to achieve its goals.

**INDICATOR#2:** Adoption of revised policies for land-water management by 2011. [**Target:** All countries involved in demo projects]

The revised policies on land-water management were included in the ITRBMP. The results and lessons learned from three pilot demonstration projects guided the development of the ITRBMP and were included in the Plan as positive examples to stimulate replication.

## RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

**INDICATOR#1** Ha of wetlands planned for reconnection/restoration [**Target** (as identified by the agreed ITRBMP): 17,306 ha were identified with potential for reconnection. 2,651 ha are expected to be reconnected by 2015 and 12,993 ha (Ukraine) are planned for reconnection by 2021.

Two of the demonstration projects investigated the challenges of floodplains and wetlands resulting in 6 km of restored riverbank and a restored mountain stream in Ukraine. In Slovakia the concept of 'making space for rivers' has gained acceptance by the national Ministry of Environment following limited restoration of floodplains and wetlands in the Bodrog basin. Through the development of a manual on Integrated Land Development further stress reduction through improved management is expected.

## RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

The project did not address water resources or environmental status indicators other than ensuring that both water quantity and quality are routinely monitored.