

INTERIM REPORT

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

UNDP/GEF Tisza Medium Sized Project:

**For the period
July – September 2008**

GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Summary - outstanding and arising issues.

The MSP has successfully completed the planned initial activities according to the Project Document. The MSP is building on the co-funding provided by the European Commission and is actively collaborating with UNDP in development of the demonstration projects. Five national experts have been selected and contracts are under preparation. Three demonstration projects have been short-listed and are being further refined into detailed technical proposals.

There are no issues that are adversely affecting the implementation of the MSP.

2. Main outputs and achievements

Project Management Activities:

- Inception meeting held successfully in Belgrade, organised back to back with the ICPDR STWG Meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Serbia (June 11th).
- Tisza MSP web site launched (hosted within ICPDR site)
- Contract agreed between ICPDR and UNOPS for the UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP (17 July 2008)
- Inception report drafted on MSP
- ToRs prepared for National Experts to support work of both MSP Components.
- 1st Tisza MSP workshop held 24th September (following ICPDR Tisza Group meeting in Kosice). Objectives of this workshop were (i) to discuss work programme for National Experts with regards to their immediate priority of preparing national strategies on pollution reduction and flood/drought issues, (ii) review the demonstration project proposals submitted against the selection criteria presented in the 'call', (iii) to present and explain the UNDP support of proposal preparation for the short-listed projects and, (iv) to present and discuss outline for the UNDP supported Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for November 2008.

Objective 1: To integrate water quality, water quantity, land use, and biodiversity objectives into an integrated water resources/river basin management plan under the legal umbrella of the EU and ICPDR, that will improve the Tisza River Basin environment including the reduction of pollution and mitigation of floods and droughts.

- Outline of pollution and flood/drought strategies prepared for discussion at Tisza Group/MSP workshop in September (Kosice)
- Outline strategies were developed for pollution reduction and flood/drought mitigation.

Objective 2: To begin implementation of IWRM principles through the testing of new approaches on wetland and floodplain management through community-based demonstration projects

- Call for proposals for potential demonstration projects distributed (July 15th) with a deadline of 12 September for submission.
- 16 project ideas were submitted. Three demonstration projects were identified to be further developed through UNDP co-funded support to full proposals.

3. Plan of activities for next Quarter - Against project Objectives/activities

Project Management Activities:

- The first Project Steering Committee is planned in December to be held back-to-back with the ICPDR's Ordinary Meeting. The proposed agenda will include:
 - Update on Project progress
 - Future activities
 - Budget summary
 - Project M&E indicators

Objective 1: To integrate water quality, water quantity, land use, and biodiversity objectives into an integrated water resources/river basin management plan under the legal umbrella of the EU and ICPDR, that will improve the Tisza River Basin environment including the reduction of pollution and mitigation of floods and droughts.

- Preparation of an water quality – water quantity management integration' discussion document.
- Second workshop back to back with the 12th Tisza group meeting – Spring 2009 – will focus on water quantity and quality integration.
- National Experts with the documenting of national strategies on pollution and flood/drought

Objective 2: To begin implementation of IWRM principles through the testing of new approaches on wetland and floodplain management through community-based demonstration projects.

- Development of detailed proposals and assistance with demonstration project inception period (with UNDP support);

- Submission of demonstration projects for formal endorsement by the Project Steering Committee (linked to the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting);
- Start of the 18 month demonstration projects;

ADMIN and FINANCE

Attached is the Financial Statement covering the period of 17 July – 30 September 2008.

Meetings

1. Inception meeting with appointment of the Project Steering Committee (11 June 2008, Belgrade) organised back to back with the 6th ICPDR Standing Working Group Meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Serbia
2. First project workshop, held back-to-back with ICPDR's Tisza Group meeting (24 September 2008, Kosice)
3. Hazard Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Project – Task Force meeting (15-18 September 2008, Baia Mare)

Reports/ Publications

1. Inception meeting report
2. Project Inception Report
3. Workshop 1 minutes / report
4. Draft outline strategies for pollution and floods/drought.