

PROJECT IDEA APPLICATION FORMAT

in the frame of the UNDP/GEF project

Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved trans-boundary management for the Tisza River Basin

I General information

Project title	Making space for water in the Bodrog River Basin (SK-UA-HU)
Project summary	The main project objective is to mitigate consequences of floods through achieving consistent and holistic management of flood risk in Bodrog river basin countries (SK-HU-UA) by creating partnerships between national and local levels through the development of corporate “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries” and implementation of practical and sustainable solutions for flood prevention. Project activities should consider where possible the maintenance and/or restoration of floodplains by creating “rooms” for water during flood events, as well as measures to prevent and reduce damage to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The involvement of municipalities, river basin organizations, NGOs, farmers, and urban planning authorities is crucial. Therefore project activities will focus on establishment of the close cooperation with these subjects.
Project area	Bodrog River Basin (SK-UA-HU)
Requested grant	165 000 USD
Available co-financing Source: Amount:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GWP – 3 000 USD (in kind) • UNDP/GEF Project “Laborec Uh” – 27 000 USD (cash) • Life Project “Senne” – 10 000 USD (cash) • SHMU – 25 000 USD (in kind) • Municipalities – 5 000 USD (in kind) • Total cofinancing: 70 000 USD
Project duration	18 months
Relevance with other application in the transboundary region	NO

II Applicant information

Name of applicant	Global Water Partnership Slovensko - GWP Slovensko
Type of organization	NGO
Brief description of organization mission	(max. 3 sentences) Main mission of Global Water Partnership Slovakia - GWP Slovakia - (as part of the worldwide network GWP) is to create a platform in

	<p>solving the problems of sustainable use of water resources and to mediate a dialogue between main interest groups in Slovakia. GWP has a branch organisation in each country of CEE region, including Hungary and Ukraine. GWP in Slovakia had established a partnership with Union of Municipalities in Slovakia (ZMOS) which evolved into organisation of joint activities and events.</p>
<p>Recent activities relevant to the project</p>	<p><i>(most important in last 3 years)</i></p> <p>Project „National dialogue to implement IWRM – EU WFD in Slovakia“. Project was implemented in 2007 in Slovakia on the national level with the aim of to prepare and organise national dialogue on implementation of integrated approach in management of water resources in Slovakia and thus to support implementation and reaching objectives of EU WFD in Slovakia.</p> <p>Project „Establishment of partnership with Union of Municipalities to implement integrated water management” – The main aim of the project was involvement of Union of Municipalities in Slovakia (ZMOS) to the process of integrated management of water resources. As a result, a document “Principles of integrated management of water resources on the level of municipalities” was developed.</p> <p>Project „Associated programme of Floods Management” – It was a pilot project implemented for Vrbovce municipality and neighbouring municipalities in Western Slovakia in 2005 – 2007 as part of worldwide project to search for pilot solution in area of flood management financed by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The main aim of the project was to increase capacities of local administrations and habitants in flood protection, especially local and flash floods and to improve use of state information systems in municipal flood protection.</p>
<p>Contact person</p>	<p>Name: Boris Minárik Address: Jeseniova 17, 833 15 Bratislava, Slovakia Phone: +421 2 5941 5224 Fax: +421 2 5941 5273 e-mail: Boris.minarik@shmu.sk, gwpsr@shmu.sk web-site: http://www.gwpforum.org/</p>
<p><u>Project partners in Slovakia</u></p> <p>Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:</p> <p>Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:</p>	<p><u>Slovakia</u></p> <p>The Slovak Water Management Enterprise (SWMA) State enterprise SWMA is responsible by law for river basin management, and flood protection, including development of water management plans. Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities</p> <p>Hydromelioration state enterprise State enterprise Management of the main melioration facilities, including important irrigation systems, distribution and drainage channels and pumping stations. Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities</p>

Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute State budgetary organisation Monitoring of water quality and quantity, weather forecast including hydrological situation forecast during floods events and involvement in Water Framework Directive implementation Provision of data for drafting the Strategy and monitoring of restoration activities
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Municipalities in the Bodrog River Basin Local self-administration Elaboration of local Flood protection management plans, mainly in case of flood events Beneficiaries of the project activities and participants/active involvement when the strategy will be prepared
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Daphne Non-governmental organisation Implementing projects focused on the conservation of grassland and wetland ecosystems. Basic findings of scientific research determine optimal restoration and management plans, which are implemented with the close co-operation of local people. Monitoring of habitats, proposals for measures of integrated landscape management
<u>Project partners in Ukraine</u>	<u>Ukraine</u>
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Transcarpathian Administration of Melioration and Water Management (Vodhoz) State administration organization Water management including flood protection Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Hydrometeorological Centre State administration organization Water management including monitoring of data related to hydrology, flood events risk management Provision of data for drafting the Strategy and monitoring of restoration activities
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	EcoCentre “Tisa” NGO Public participation and involvement Activities related to public involvement and dissemination of information
<u>Project partners in Hungary</u>	<u>Hungary</u>

Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	North-Hungarian Environmental and Water Directorate (EKOVIK) State organisation River basin management, water supply and flood protection, including development of water management plans. Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Directorate of Environment Protection and Water Management for upperparts of the Tisza River State organization Water management organizations, maintenance of water courses - including flood protection Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities
Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	Environmental Protection and Water Management Research Institute (VITUKI) State budgetary organization Research in water management issues, including elaboration of flood maps and flood risk maps for flood areas identified by the flood risk assessment Provision of data for drafting the Strategy and monitoring of restoration activities

III Project information

(max. 3 pages)

- a) Describe the problem(s) this project intends to address. What would happen without UNDP/GEF support?

The Bodrog River Sub Basin, which creates part of Tisza catchment area, is frequently affected in past decade by major flood events in all countries, which are sharing this territory (Hungary, Slovakia, and Ukraine). The negative impacts and damages were recorded within the territory of each country within the Transcarpathian region - Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary. Floods can have considerable environmental and health consequences, in particular given the very specific vulnerability of potable water supplies and the physical infrastructure necessary for sanitation and contaminated sites in flood-prone areas. Lessons learnt from the series of extraordinary floods from 1998 to 2001 revealed that the former approach to prevent floods by heightening and strengthening dikes should be reconsidered.

Therefore each country (SK-HU-UA) within the Tisza catchment has developed its own mitigation strategy and plan focused on flood management and flood prevention. In Hungary, it is „Update of the Vasarhelyi plan“, aiming at implementation of the “Programme of landscape management and flood protection”. In Ukraine it is the “Scheme on Complex Flood Protection in the Tisza River Basin in Zakarpattia” with corresponding “Programme for integrated flood protection in the Tisza River Basin in Zakarpattia oblast on 2002-2006 and forecast until 2015” to realise flood protection measures provided by the Scheme. In Slovakia it is the “Program of Flood Protection Measures of the Slovak Republic until 2010” which is not fully focused on alternative solutions. In addition, the

countries plan to update its national plans according to the EU Directive on the assessment and management of flood risks. This will include development of partial plans for particular national catchment areas.

However, there is missing harmonization of national strategies within Bodrog River Basin and common understanding of proposed measures and activities on the cross-border scale. The transboundary cooperation is established based on the bilateral agreements - “Committees for border waters”, acting also in case of flood events, however, with limited involvement of municipalities. This can bring ineffective and unsustainable floods management and management of the water resources. Therefore it is very important to ensure proper common approaches aiming on sustainable flood control by implementing environmental acceptable measures to improve biodiversity and nature protection. In order to reduce the number of flood events, it is important to start the cooperation in the planning stage. As for the local level, the municipalities are not playing an active role in flood management and flood protection. Their involvement is focused on rescue work and measures only.

The Bodrog catchment area is located mainly on the lowlands, which create special habitats with rich wetland flora and fauna (mainly bird) species. Those offer to human settlements conditions for wide range of economic activities such as agricultural use, including pasture, forestry, fishing and tourism activities. However, due to past intensive agricultural practices, the users of the land (farmers, municipalities) are not satisfied with the new trend of meandering rivers and functioning floodplains which can hold water on the land, keeping it out of homes in times of flood. This brings to them problems of usage and misunderstanding of the ecosystem function, despite such landscapes can increase in wildlife quality. Therefore the innovative processes are required to deliver sustainable solutions by making space for water during flood events, whilst retaining the normal use of the land, or even enhancing and diversifying its use and quality.

Without the UNDP/GEF support, the coordination among the Bodrog River Basin countries and the national plans and their implementation on the local level would be very limited and thus the idea of flood prevention through the integrated land and water management would not be implemented. This project can start up the coordination processes in the Bodrog catchment countries, including preparation for funding schemes to deliver the best outputs.

b) Outline the project objective, activities and outputs.

The main project objective is to mitigate consequences of floods through achieving consistent and holistic management of flood risk in Bodrog river catchment countries (SK-HU-UA) by creating partnerships between national and local levels through the development of corporate “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries” and implementation of practical and sustainable solutions for flood prevention.

Project activities should consider where possible the maintenance and/or restoration of floodplains by creating “rooms” for water during flood events, as well as measures to prevent and reduce damage to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

The main project activities and outputs are:

1. Formulation of the “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries”, based on integrated land and water management principles, with focus on improving the cross-border cooperation in flood prevention, protection and preparedness and with a view

to giving rivers more space. Since the project has transboundary dimension the solidarity principle is very important therefore an encouragement to seek a fair sharing of responsibilities among involved neighbouring countries is crucial. To prevent duplication of work, the project will use existing preliminary flood risk assessments, flood hazard and risk maps and flood risk management plans. Comparison of national approaches in restoring natural habitats as flood prevention and exchange of information in implementation of national flood prevention programmes will be part of the formulation process.

Outputs:

- “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries” included into the national flood protection systems
 - Measures elaborated to increase conditions for control flooding formulated, proposing areas in particular countries to restore flood plains (simple technical interventions) and to create new temporary “rooms” for water during flood events (using natural depressions for dry polders)
 - Measures elaborated to reduce possible adverse effects of floods on physical infrastructure necessary for sanitation and to contaminated sites located in flood-prone areas, especially in case of contamination by hazardous substances.
 - Proposals oriented on the public information - consultation measures elaborated
2. Restoration of the original floodplains affected by urbanization of territory and flood protection dykes. In each country, the project will finance restoration activities of already prepared technical proposals for restoration (simple technical interventions improving natural wetland habitats by bringing more water during flood events) within ongoing initiatives. This will serve as pilot demonstration for the implementation of the “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries”.

Outputs:

- 1 pilot demonstration site restored in each country (Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary)
 - Habitats conditions improved (related to water regime and water quality, and agricultural use, including pasture, forestry, fishing, etc.)
3. Creation of local partnerships:- Involvement of municipalities, river basin organizations, NGOs, farmers, and urban planning authorities is crucial. Therefore project activities will focus on establishment of the close cooperation with these subjects. The public will be better informed about flood risks, resulting in increased public awareness. There should be monetary benefits from the raised awareness since when people are aware of the risk they are likely to be more receptive to flood warnings and be “more inclined to protect themselves and their property“. The project will focus on strengthening the abilities of municipalities in field of flood prevention and ensuring that flood-related measures will contribute to the good ecological status of water bodies as well as to improving of natural conditions of ecosystems.

Output: Active participation of municipalities and local stakeholders in flood protection.

4. Dissemination of project results to achieve replication on the national levels.

Output: Agreement on restoration of at least 2 other sites agreed on the national levels.

5. Monitoring the impacts of investments

Output: Monitoring criteria elaborated.

c) Describe how the sustainability of project results will be ensured.

By development of the “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries”, a framework for effective creation of new temporary “rooms” for water during flood events will be set up for each country. In addition, the “Committees for border waters” will be the main force to arrange the flood prevention in Bodrog River Basin. Enhancement of their proper functioning on

the national level (by creating partnership with municipalities and local stakeholders) will ensure the implementation of the flood prevention measures, including creation of new temporary “rooms” for water during flood events. Pilot demonstration activities will serve as examples for the implementation of the national plans.

d) Describe the potential for replication elsewhere.

By adoption of the “Strategy for mitigation of floods for Bodrog River Basin countries”, countries will be obliged to implement the measures defined. Global Water Partnership will use its own network to disseminate experiences from this project within the CEE region and its cooperation with Union of Municipalities in Slovakia (ZMOS) to replicate the principles of integrated water management into the normal Union of Municipalities in Slovakia (ZMOS) practice. Moreover, development of cross-border coordinated plans for Bodrog river basins based on integrated ecosystem principles can be good basis to develop the national plans for other catchment areas. Cross-border EU programmes can be used for funding of remaining restoration activities.

e) Summarize activities, programs and projects being undertaken by other organizations that could influence your project, and how your project could collaborate with them.

Following activities are relevant to the proposed project:

- Project “MOSES – Improvement of flood management system in Slovakia and Ukraine” focused on contribution to the development, implementation and management of a unified computer-based flood information system in the entire region. The proposed project builds on the existing experiences and networks developed within already implemented initiative.
- Project UNDP/GEF “Integration of Ecosystem Management Principles and Practices into Land and Water Management of Laborec-Uh region (Eastern Slovakian Lowlands)” (PIMS 2261). Among other activities, project selects and develops technical solutions for at least five pilot floodplain habitat restoration sites. The financing of restoration activities will be covered by this proposal.
- Project LIFE “Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia”. Overall objective of the project is to restore favourable conservation status of breeding and migrating birds from Annex I of Birds Directive and regularly migrating bird species in Senné and Medzibodrozie SPAs through securing appropriate habitats in key locations. Project prepares technical projects for water regime restoration (building 6 water gates and 6 sluices, reparation of dyke, water outlet and inlet in Senne NNR, restoring of meadows). The financing of restoration activities will be covered by this proposal.

f) List the project partners that have been already approached and agreed on the cooperation. Describe their role in the project.

The project will collaborate at the top level with the relevant ministries and at the executing level with the river basin authorities and other institutions, representatives of municipalities, NGOs, and others stakeholders.

Project partners in Slovakia:

The Slovak Water Management Enterprise (SWMA) - Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities

Hydromelioration state enterprise - Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities

Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute - Provision of data for drafting the Strategy and monitoring of restoration activities

Municipalities in the Bodrog River Basin - Beneficiaries of the project activities and participants/active involvement when the strategy will be prepared

Daphne - Monitoring of habitats, proposals for measures of integrated landscape management.

Project partners in Ukraine:

Transcarpathian Administration of Melioration and Water Management (Vodhoz) - Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities

Hydrometeorological Centre - Provision of data for drafting the Strategy and monitoring of restoration activities

EcoCentre "Tisa" - Activities related to public involvement and dissemination of information.

Project partners in Hungary:

North-Hungarian Environmental and Water Directorate (EKOVIKIZIG) - Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities

Directorate of Environment Protection and Water Management for upperpart of the Tisza River - Involvement in the preparation of the strategy, cooperation in implementation of restoration activities.

Environmental Protection and Water Management Research Institute (VITUKI) - Provision of data for drafting the Strategy and monitoring of restoration activities.

g) List potential donors and in-kind contributors to project activities.

Global Water Partnership Slovakia (GWP) – information dissemination – 3 000 USD (In-kind)

Slovak Hydrometeorological institute (SHMU) – provision of data and monitoring of measures implemented. Elaboration of information materials distributed among key stakeholders to promote idea of effective flood management – 25 000 (In-kind)

Municipalities – elaboration of flood protection plans – 5 000 USD (In-kind)

UNDP/GEF project Laborec-Uh – technical solutions for restoration activities – 27 000 USD (Cash)

Life project "Senne" - technical solutions for restoration activities, monitoring of bird populations – 10 000 USD (Cash)

h) Estimate timeline and budget summary.

Development of the strategy will require low costs with main focus on practical solutions – restorations.

	Length in months	1 st six months	2 nd six months	3 rd six months	Slovakia	Ukraine	Hungary	Totals
Preparation of the strategy	7 months	x			10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
Restoration of the original floodplains	12 months	x	x		25 000	25 000	25 000	75 000
Creation of local partnerships	12 months	x	x	x	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000
Dissemination of project results	7 months			x	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000
Monitoring	4 months			x	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
				Totals	55 000	55 000	55 000	165 000

