

# Project Progress Report

## UNDP/GEF Tisza Medium Sized Project:

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

27<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Progress update (November 2008) and work plan 2009**

<b>Outcome 1:</b> Adoption of policies and legislation that promote optimal use of wetlands / floodplains for nutrient retention, flood mitigation, biodiversity enhancement, etc. consistent with the EU WFD and IWRM	
<b>Component 1:</b> Integration of water quality, water quantity, land use, and biodiversity objectives within integrated water resources/river basin management under the legal umbrella of the EU and ICPDR	
<b>Activity 1(i)</b>	<b>Development of a strategy for nutrient pollution reduction</b>
Progress	<p>In 2008 Analysis of the Tisza River Basin was finalised and endorsed by the ICPDR Tisza Group supported by the TISAR-2007 EU Grant. In the frame of the analysis report of the Tisza River Basin – 2007 status of the Tisza River Basin related to nutrient pollution was analysed.</p> <p>In 23-24 September 2008 in the frame of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tisza Group meeting Tisza Countries experts and observers agreed on the main outline of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (ITRBM Plan), which will be the final output of Component 1 of the UNDP/ GEF Tisza MSP project.</p> <p>Based on the analysis document and taking into account the outline of the planned Integrated Tisza River Basin management plan table of content of the strategy is drafted and uploaded to the website: <a href="http://www.icpdr.org">www.icpdr.org</a></p>
Outputs 2008	Outline (ToC) of the strategy introduced - will be final agreed by 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2009
Work planned for 2009	In 2009 draft (as well as agreement on the final draft) of the overall sub basin wide strategy is planned to be produced.
Risks	Failure to develop national strategies for nutrient pollution reduction
<b>Activity 1(ii)</b>	<b>Development of a flood and drought mitigation strategy</b>
Progress	<p>In 2008 Analysis of the Tisza River Basin was finalised and endorsed by the ICPDR Tisza Group supported by the TISAR-2007 EU Grant. In the frame of the analysis report of the Tisza River Basin – 2007 status of the Tisza River Basin related to flood and drought issues were analysed. In 23-24 September 2008 in the frame of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tisza Group meeting Tisza Countries experts and observers agreed on the main outline of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (ITRBM Plan), which will be the final output of Component 1 of the UNDP/ GEF Tisza MSP project.</p> <p>Based on this analysis document and taking into account the outline of the planned Integrated Tisza River Basin management plan table of content of the strategy is drafted and uploaded to the website: <a href="http://www.icpdr.org">www.icpdr.org</a></p>
Outputs 2008	Outline (ToC) of the strategy - will be final agreed by 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2009
Work planned for 2009	In 2009 draft (as well as agreement on the final draft) of the overall sub basin wide strategy is planned to be produced.
Risks	Failure to develop national strategies for flood/drought mitigation strategies
<b>Activity 1(iii)</b>	<b>Combination of Tisza River Basin Strategies into a Integrated River Basin Management Plan</b>
Progress	<p>In the frame of the analysis report of the Tisza River Basin – 2007 (final endorsed in 2008) importance of the integration of water quality and water quantity issues in the Tisza River Basin was highlighted. As a main conclusion it was stressed that <i>'Integration of water quality and quantity in land and water planning will be essential. To achieve this success in the Tisza River Basin, countries must work together and with all other partners'</i>. In the frame of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tisza Group meeting it was agreed that discussion document will be</p>

	developed on integration issues including a table of content for further development of the subject on national level and for further inclusion in the final ITRBM Plan.
Outputs 2008	Discussion document on integration of water quality and water quantity issues relevant for the Tisza River Basin was developed including a proposed table of content on integration issues for further inclusion in the ITRBM Plan. Discussion document is uploaded to the website ( <a href="http://www.icpdr.org">www.icpdr.org</a> ) and creates the basis for further process related to this subject.
Work planned for 2009	Based on the proposed ToC on integration (included in the discussion document) national strategies (documents) will be developed and presented in the frame of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> workshop of the UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP in 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2009.
Risks	Failure to agree IWRM plan by all five countries
<b>Activity 1(iv)</b>	<b>Dissemination and Replication</b>
Progress	A project web site has been constructed ( <a href="http://www.icpdr.org/undp-gef-tisza">http://www.icpdr.org/undp-gef-tisza</a> ) including key project documents.
Outputs 2008	Web site
Work planned for 2009	Continuous update of the website according to the ongoing process. Dissemination of the final results will begin in 2010
Risks	No significant risks identified at this stage.

**Outcome 2:** Demonstrating effective wetland and floodplain management with multiple environmental benefits, leading to stress reduction (e.g. nutrient reduction, flood mitigation, biodiversity enhancements, etc.) resulting in the motivation of local communities and other stakeholders to continue the implementation of the successful conclusions of the demonstration projects

**Component 2:** Implementation of IWRM principles through the testing of new approaches on wetland and floodplain management through community-based demonstration

<b>Activity 2(i)</b>	<b>Identification of potential demonstration projects</b>
Progress	A call for proposals was issued for local organisations to submit outline activities for projects aimed at wetland restoration and / or enhanced protection of wetlands and floodplains. The 'call' presented the overall context of the MSP and encouraged collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organisations, ideally involving more than one Tisza River Basin countries. 16 proposals were submitted. A review of the submitted proposals by the International Partners of this MSP (UNDP, UNEP, EC and the ICPDR) was undertaken that resulted in an initial prioritisation of the projects against the selection criteria and the needs of the Tisza Group. A workshop was organised (linked to an ICPDR Tisza Group Meeting) in Kosice (24 <sup>th</sup> September 2008) to review the submitted outline proposals resulting in a short-list of three projects to be further developed (with UNDP co-funding support) into detailed proposals. The final project proposals will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee for approval leading to implementation of the demonstration projects.
Outputs 2008	Short-list of demonstration projects for approval by PSC. Reports from local stakeholders' workshops (UNDP contribution)
Work planned for 2009	This activity is completed
Risks	None.

<b>Activity 2(ii)</b>	<b>Agreement on priority projects to be implemented</b>
Progress	Three proposals for demonstration have been submitted to the PSC for approval.
Outputs 2008	Approval of 3 projects is anticipated.
Work planned for 2009	None – approved projects will be implemented
Risks	The PSC fails to approve the three demonstration projects
<b>Activity 2(iii)</b>	<b>Implementation of demonstration projects</b>
Progress	This activity is expected to begin in January 2009
Outputs 2008	N/A
Work planned for 2009	The three demonstration projects will develop inception reports (with UNDP support) and present these to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tisza MSP workshop (April 2009). The demonstration project implementation will be reported on a periodic basis to the Project Management Team. A regional stakeholder workshop will be organised (by UNDP) in October 2009 to present and discuss the initial stages of the projects with a wider stakeholder group.
Risks	Failure to gain local support for demonstration project implementation Unexpected problems with local administration approval for any restoration
<b>Activity 2(iv)</b>	<b>Feedback and presentation of results – final stakeholder workshop</b>
Progress	This activity will take place in 2010
Outputs 2008	N/A
Work planned for 2009	None
Risks	Demonstration projects are not completed Lack of interest in demonstration projects
<b>Activity 2(v)</b>	<b>Development of a replication strategy for demonstration projects</b>
Progress	A project web site has been created. This was used to publicise the call for proposals (demonstration projects) and to present the results of the 1 <sup>st</sup> workshop that agreed the short-list of projects to be further developed. The Tisza MSP call for proposals resulted in 16 project ideas being submitted. Whilst the MSP only has sufficient budget to support three project ideas all of the projects submitted were aimed at improving the environment and public awareness in the basin. The 1 <sup>st</sup> workshop encouraged the Project Management Team to identify additional sources of funding to enable additional projects to be supported. The Project Management Team has held discussions with other potential organisations and will continue this activity with the aim of funding more demonstration projects in the region.
Outputs 2008	Web site
Work planned for 2009	The lessons learnt will be assessed and presented at a stakeholder workshop scheduled for October 2009 with regards to identifying and initiating the demonstration projects. Work will continue to seek additional funds for more projects to be supported both within the Tisza River Basin and more widely.
Risks	Lack of interest to use the lessons learnt Failure to attract additional financial resources limits replication elsewhere in the Tisza River Basin or wider.