

CALL FOR PROJECT IDEAS IN HUNGARY, ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA AND UKRAINE

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

The purpose of the Call is to identify several project ideas, which could be further developed into full project proposals, with the support of the UNDP/GEF project, and submitted for UNDP/GEF funding.

Background

The Tisza River is the largest tributary of the Danube River Basin and includes part of the territory of Ukraine, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Romania and Republic of Serbia. Over the last 150 years the basin has been subject to significant anthropogenic impacts that have resulted in a significantly degraded system, particularly in terms of pollution and the loss of floodplains and wetlands. In addition, predictions indicate that future growth of agriculture, coupled with climatic changes that already produce record flooding, will increase pressures on the available water resources. These problems require a concerted action by all the Tisza River Basin countries to develop and implement a more ecosystem-based approach to integrated river basin management and to address, as a priority, wetlands and floodplain restoration and management.

The UNDP/GEF project will provide support in developing an integrated strategy for water quality and water quantity that is incremental to the current work. The UNDP/GEF project will also implement demonstration projects that test the multiple environmental benefits of wetlands to mitigate impacts of floods and droughts and help to reduce nutrient pollution. Implementation of demonstration projects will showcase concrete advantages of an integrated land and water resource management at the community-level that will also lead to improved livelihoods of local communities. The results will also be an important step in delivering changes to current policies on wetlands and floodplains in the Tisza River Basin. The practical work will be undertaken through local organizations.

The project will be organized under the umbrella of the ICPDR as this organization is responsible for the management of the whole Danube River Basin and has established the 'Tisza Group' to manage the Tisza River Basin. In addition to the ICPDR, GEF and UNDP, the main project partners are the national governments of the Tisza River Basin, the United Nation Environmental Program (UNEP) and the European Commission.

The Carpathian Convention addresses the need for coordinated sustainable development throughout the Carpathian region, which includes significant portions of the Tisza Basin.

Integrated land and water management

The integrated ecosystem management considers linkages and interactions among natural systems and people, including economic and social factors. It integrates economic and social factors into ecosystem management goals. It includes land use harmonized with existing natural conditions,

which beside maintenance of the landscape and natural habitats, ensures livelihood of the local community. Integrated ecosystem management includes sustainable land use activities, which respect the diversity of habitats, while oriented to economic profitability, as in case of any other land use activities.

The integrated land and water management harmonizes the land use with natural water level fluctuation. It integrates the water quality, water quantity, land use and biodiversity objectives to ensure sustainability.

Additionally the Carpathian Convention's objectives are closely linked to aims of the UNDP/GEF Tisza project, and Article 6 of the Convention specifically contains provisions for "Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management".

Eligibility criteria

1. Relevance to priority concerns in the Tisza river basin
 - a. water quality and quantity
 - b. nutrient & hazardous substance pollution,
 - c. flood protection,
 - d. loss of floodplains
2. Trans-boundary involvement and benefits;
3. Local community involvement and interest (from a wide range of stakeholders);
4. Support of local / national administrations;
5. Local benefits of implementing projects (e.g. tourism, minimizing damage from floods, etc.);
6. High benefits for biodiversity – species or habitats
7. Existing project underway or in advanced stage of planning which could be supplemented by UNDP/GEF project;
8. Lack of planning approval problems;
9. Availability of national or international resources (cash or in-kind) to co-finance UNDP/GEF budget;
10. Maximum project duration 18 months
11. Sustainability post-project;
12. Approach can be replicated elsewhere in Tisza/Danube river basins – and wider;

Projects ideas will be ranked for each criterion as follows:

- for criteria 1-6 ranked from 1 to 5 (1- weak; 5 strong);
- For criteria 7-12 ranked from 1-3 (1- weak; 3 strong).

Eligible activities

Examples of eligible activities include management activities and small-scale investments in the following areas:

- Management and restoration of habitats (related to water regime and water quality, and agricultural use, including pasture, forestry, fishing, etc.)
- Processing and marketing of traditional local products, which have been produced using sustainable land management practices

Elaboration of plans might be also considered, if followed by implementation of concrete activities.

Complementary or mirror projects representing a harmonized initiative in the trans-boundary region involving 2-3 participating countries are eligible. Initiatives might include individual projects or

micro-grant schemes for a specific micro-region. Initiatives might submit one joint application, or apply separately, indicating the complementary or mirror project(s) in the other country(ies).

Grant available

The total grant available is 350.000 USD. Number of supported project will depend on the ideas presented. It is expected that 2-4 trans-boundary initiatives will be funded, each representing a different trans-boundary region.

Application procedure

The project idea can be submitted (format attached in Annex 1) by local and/or regional governmental, non-governmental or private organization, in partnership with wide range of local stakeholders. Partnership with a local civil society organization and local government will be considered as an asset. Local stakeholders should be represented, among others, by local entrepreneurs, other civil society organizations, state and public organizations.

A long-list of projects with highest ranking, maximum 2 for each bilateral or tri-lateral cross-border region, will be submitted for approval to the Tisza Group.

The Tisza Group will select the short-list of project ideas to be developed further into project proposals. Technical assistance will be provided from the UNDP project (in particular, but also from other project partners) to support the elaboration of project proposals. Priority will be given to projects representing different trans-boundary areas.

Representatives of 5 participating countries – National Governments -, GEF, UNDP, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), UNEP and UNOPS will evaluate the project proposals and approve the award of grant for the implementation of selected demonstration projects.

Dissemination of `Call for project ideas` (present proposal) – uploaded to the http://www.icpdr.org/undp-gef-tisza website as well as will be sent directly to interested organizations	14 July 2008
Deadline for submission of project ideas	12 September 2008
Selection of project ideas - agree on a shortlist of projects based on the selection criteria (ICPDR Tisza Group together with the UNDP/GEF Tisza project in the frame of the project workshop held back to back with the ICPDR Tisza Group meeting in September)	23-24 September 2008 (Kosice, SK)
Assisting selected projects to develop project proposal including detailed workplan, budget and indicators (in particular UNDP will assist the short-listed projects further develop their ideas in to more detailed proposals.)	September – November 2008
The detailed proposals will be presented at a stakeholder workshop to seek feedback and comment, and enable refinement of the concepts.	November (date to be agreed)
Formal approval on grant award (the 'final' proposals will be presented to the UNDP/GEF Tisza Project Steering Committee in December)	December 2008
Start of demonstration projects implementation	1 st quarter 2009
Completion of demonstration projects implementation	Autumn 2010

Applicants are requested to please send in **hard copy or electronic versions** of project **ideas in English in the attached format** to:

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as well as to

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Annex 1

PROJECT IDEA APPLICATION FORMAT

in the frame of the UNDP/GEF project

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I General information

Project title	
Project summary	<i>(max. 5 sentences)</i>
Project area	<i>(municipality, county/region, any other relevant area description)</i>
Requested grant	USD
Available co-financing Source: Amount:	USD
Project duration	<i>(max 18 months)</i>
Relevance with other application in the transboundary region Project title: Name of applicant:	YES / NO

II Applicant information

Name of applicant	
Type of organization	
Brief description of organization mission	<i>(max. 3 sentences)</i>
Recent activities relevant to the project	<i>(most important in last 3 years)</i>
Contact person Name: Address: Phone: Fax: e-mail: web-site:	
Project partners Name: Type of organization: Brief description of activities: Role in the project:	<i>(add new line for each partner)</i>

III Project information

(max. 3 pages)

- a) Describe the problem(s) this project intends to address. What would happen without UNDP/GEF support?
- b) Outline the project objective, activities and outputs.
- c) Describe how the sustainability of project results will be ensured.
- d) Describe the potential for replication elsewhere.
- e) Summarize activities, programs and projects being undertaken by other organizations that could influence your project, and how your project could collaborate with them.
- f) List the project partners that have been already approached and agreed on the cooperation. Describe their role in the project.
- g) List potential donors and in-kind contributors to project activities.
- h) Estimate timeline and budget summary.