



Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova
CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

Consolidation of the nature protected areas' network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature - code MIS-ETC 1716

LOCAL LAUNCHING MEETING

Vilkovo

22 April 2014

Minutes

0. Meeting opening

Alexander Voloshkevich, Director of the Danube Biosphere Reserve of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (DBR) and **Igor Studennikov**, executive director of the NGO «Centre for Regional Studies» opened the Launching Meeting and greeted all participants.

Igor Studennikov introduced partners and associate partners for the project.

Session 1. Project presentation

1.1 Project presentation «Consolidation of the nature protected areas' network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature»

Leonid Plotnytsky, expert at the NGO «Centre for Regional Studies», UA expert team leader, presented the project outline, including its aims and objectives, main activities, and expected results.

Session 2. Key project objectives and expected results

2.1 Development of cross-border cooperation and communication between nature protected areas in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region, modernization of the biological monitoring systems.

Alexander Voloshkevich informed the participants about the current state of transboundary collaboration between nature protected areas in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region, modernization of the biological monitoring systems and communication. Mr. Voloshkevich expressed his expectations for expert work within the project, paying special attention to such topics as bioindication, invasive species, database of bird species and vegetation map. He also expressed his high expectations to the purchase of field monitoring equipment and its impact on the DBR's capacities to carry out operational analysis.

2.1.1 Discussion

Nickolay Dziadzin, mayor of the Vilkovo town, proposed to use the project's capacities to promote the idea of creation of the museum of nature of the Danube Delta in Vilkovo. He added that this idea is of high importance now as there is a suitable building available to the city council.



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Mikhail Zhmud, Executive director of the NGO «Institute of ecology and development of the Danube Delta» and the deputy of the Vilково city council, informed the participants that there is a concept of such museum developed by the specialised institutions.

2.2 Pilot project for revitalisation of the Danube Lakes – Ramsar site «Kartal Lake».

Ivan Cheroi, Head of the Danube Basin River Management Department, informed the participants about the current ecological status of the system of the Western group of the Danube Lakes (Kagul, Kartal and Kugurlui-lalpug lakes), their water regime and approach to its management. He explained in general which activities are planned within the project to approximate water regime of the Kartal Lake to its natural conditions, which will allow revitalisation of its ecosystem and bring more opportunities for local communities to use the lake's natural resources and ecosystem services. Mr. Cheroi underlined that the planned works are mostly aimed at proper maintenance of existing hydrotechnical infrastructure, and do not need construction of new facilities.

2.3 Inventory of valuable natural areas in the Ukrainian Danube Region and perspectives for extension of protected areas

Liubov Harina, Head of the Protected Areas section of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Odessa Regional State Administration, made a brief report on the state of lands of the Ukrainian Danube Delta Region, reserved for protection. She also informed about the activities planned within the project aimed at detailed examination of valuable natural areas and elaboration of scientific background to establishment of new or extension of existing protected areas.

2.4 Elaboration of a management plan for the regional landscape park «Izmail islands» and creation of wildfire prevention system in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta

Oleg Skaraev, director of the Izmail Forestry, reported about the current state of management of the regional landscape park «Izmail islands» and stated that the existing management plan, which was developed in 1990's is obsolete and new approaches to the management of natural resources and human activities within this protected area are necessary. He expressed his hope that the management plan developed by the project team will take into consideration modern conditions and requirements for management of the protected area.

The second topic covered by Mr. Skaraev was the system for prevention of spreading of wildfires in the Danube Delta. He explained in detail which technical solutions are planned to be applied at watchtowers and also informed about the plan to create an isolating trench on the border between reed-beds and forest vegetation.

2.4.1 Discussion

Mikhail Zhmud underlined the importance of ensuring that the isolating trench can be crossed by animals. For this purpose he proposed to make passages across it every 300-400 meters.

2.5 Wetland restoration and sustainable management of the Danube Delta ecosystem

Mikhail Nesterenko, regional project coordinator of the Danube-Carpathian Programme of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF DCP), briefly presented the status of the Ukrainian Danube Delta wetlands and problems, related with their artificial water regime. He expressed his view to necessity and importance of wetland restoration projects in the region, as well as his hope that restoration of the Kartal Lake ecosystem will be one of the most tangible and visible project results.



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