

**Astana Water Action (AWA)  
Actions by HUNGARY**

**Country: Hungary**

***Title of the action:***

**National Remediation Program of Contaminated Sites**

*(AWA Paragraphs 13 f, g, 15c,d,g)*

The Hungarian National Remediation Program as a part of the National Environmental Program aims to survey and inventorise the historically contaminated sites caused by past environmental damages, and also collects and publicises all of the related information for decision makers, authorities, stakeholders and public. The Program co-ordinates all of the projects aiming to eliminate or reduce the harmful effects of the identified contaminated sites falling under the liability of state. Remediation tasks (site investigation, technical intervention, monitoring) are implemented in the framework of 15 subprograms.

***Expected outcome:*** Inventory of pollutions sites, remediation technologies for special pollution cases, cleaner environment. Reduction of impacts of pollution sources endangering groundwater (e.g. abandoned, uncontrolled wells, industrial, agricultural, service activities resulting in the discharge of dangerous substances, nutrient load of agricultural origin).

***Partners:*** ministries, environmental authorities, water directorates, VITUKI Plc., etc., environmental services

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***Title of the action:***

**National Program for the Protection of Drinking Water Sources**

*(AWA Paragraphs 15 i, 16 c)*

The aim of the national drinking water source protection program in Hungary is the protection of vulnerable drinking water sources from contamination originated from human activities, preservation of natural (good) quality of waters in wells of water works and the sources which will be used for drinking water supply in the future (prospective drinking water source), introduce and enforce the delimitations of water protection zones around water abstraction facilities and implementation (completion) of the monitoring system. The program started in 1997 and involves more than 600 drinking water sources. So far around 90% of the total capacity of the vulnerable sources has already been secured by delineation of protection zones. According to the WFD the protecting zones and vulnerable aquifers will have to be the subject of special attention in the River Basin Management Plans. The drinking water source protection programme and implementation of the necessary measures which serve the protection of water quality is continuing in the frame of the Environment and Energy Operational Programme (EEOP) and from the other EU funds.

***Expected outcome:*** prevention of potential pollution and better and cleaner environment in the delimited protection zones, higher protection level of aquifers used for drinking water supply, cost effective drinking water supply and higher protection level of the supplied drinking water

***Partners:*** ministries, environmental authorities, environmental and water directorates, Central Directorate for Water and Environment, water associations, local governments and water supply services

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***Title of the action:***

**Introducing non-structural and more sustainable measures in the Hungarian flood risk management**

*(AWA Paragraphs 17 c, d,e)*

In line with the EU Floods directive and with the aim of decreasing flood risk Hungary will elaborate new building and technical regulations for the flood plains. The aim of the new regulations is to increase flood safety and decrease number of inundations through laying down stricter rules for placing building and structures in river beds and flood plains and also will set stricter rules regarding crossing bridges and public utilities and for land use and forestry. A new approach will be used in case of structural measures, too. Instead of increasing the level of dikes we will prefer decreasing flood levels by more sustainable flood reservoirs.

***Expected outcome:*** Decreasing flood risk, clearer and more transparent scope of the competent authorities.

***Partners:*** Central Environmental and Water Directorate, regional environmental and water directorates, municipalities, regional development councils, national parks

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***Title of the action***

**Management and utilisation plan supporting ecological baseline studies along the River Danube in the Gemenc and Béda-Karapancsa Region (2006-2011) (AWA Paragraphs 11b, 13a, j, k, l and 14b).**

***Description of the action and if possible target date:***

Water quality parameters were studied in the function of spatial and temporal changes together with their effect on the community structure and diversity of the zooplankton. Water quality changes during floods were studied with the “flood-pulse” concept approach. Ichthyological surveys revealed characteristic habitat dependent structure of fish communities. Repeated, detailed analysis of macrophyton stands in two oxbow lakes of different character were also made together with the evaluation of limnological situations.

***Expected outcome:***

Strategic planning of rehabilitation activities for Danubian river-floodplain ecosystems and mitigation measures with regard to negative impacts of traditional river engineering.

***Partners:***

Danube Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Karlsruhe

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***Title of the action:***

**Upgrading bilateral transboundary water agreements**

*(AWA Paragraphs 21d, 21 e, 21a)*

The aim is to continue upgrading of the long time existing bilateral transboundary water agreements with our neighbour countries (e.g. with Slovakia, Serbia). Bilateral legal basis of transboundary water cooperation is in place in Hungary with our all 7 neighbours but most of the agreements are in need of upgrading taking into account the provisions of the international water and environmental law developments (e.g. UN ECE Water Convention, Danube Protection Convention, EU WFD, etc.) and other related requirements. Just to mention as an example the geographical scope which should be based on river basin approach. The field of activity of the transboundary water commissions should also be adjusted accordingly.

***Expected outcome:*** proper and up to date legal and organizational framework for bilateral transboundary river basin management

***Partners:*** ministries in charge of water issues of Hungary and of the neighboring countries

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***Title of the action:***

**Monitoring of wetland habitats and their communities**

*(AWA Paragraphs 13d, e, l, m; 14b)*

***Description of the action and if possible target date:***

Monitoring activities operating in the frame of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System (HBMS). The mission of the HBMS is the long-term surveillance of status and trends of biological diversity in Hungary. This project is the second one within the eleven projects. Within each project, appropriate components (such as habitats, communities, populations of species) have been carefully selected to achieve the objectives set out. A detailed guidance (standard protocols) has been prepared to each component. The actually used sampling methods for fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates have been developed using practical experiences of several years of research and in line with the requirements of the European Union.

***Expected outcome:*** The character of the wetlands has been significantly modified by river regulations and other human activities, but they still hold important natural assets. The main goal of the project is to observe changes and trends in the populations of selected species and in their communities in order to assess the status of habitats.

***Partners:*** *research institutes (in the field of hydrology, ecology, forestry), museums (natural history departments), universities (faculty of nature sciences), experts*

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