



**Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes**

**SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF ECOSYSTEMS
AS WATER SUPPLIERS
(Geneva, 13-14 December 2004)**

SLOVAKIA NATIONAL REPORT

National report to the Seminar on the role of ecosystems as water suppliers

(enclosure to the letter – ref.: 622/2004-5.)

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A. Protection and restoration of water related ecosystems

• **protection measures**

The Slovak Republic (further as ‘SR’) has transposed and implements measures, which are set up in the water protection and nature protection legislation of the European Union.

SR is party of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is active in its implementation.

Moreover, SR is party of the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube, in which protection of water related ecosystems plays an important role. Special Expert Group „Ecology“ under umbrella of this Convention has been established (web site: www.icpdr.org). Its working programme is focused on management of wetlands and floodplains, their restoration, inventory of the protected areas (water related), etc. Slovak representative Ms. Klindová is a chairperson of this expert group.

There are 12 Ramsar Sites (plus 1 will be designate on December 4, 2004) in SR. Their roles are not only protection of biodiversity, but also other functions and values important for the water management, such as flood control, water purification (reduction of pollution), etc. There is proposed management plans in Ramsar Sites (still not yet approved). But there were implemented some measures – like moving, restoration of water regime, removal of barriers.

There is an *Action plan for conservation, restoration and wise-use of wetlands in Slovakia* approved by Slovak government, total estimate of costs for implementation of Slovak National Wetland Policy is: cca 245,637,000 Sk = 7,434,983.95 USD. Objectives of the programme are following: 1. Stop increasing destroying and degradation of wetlands and their biodiversity, 2. Create sufficient databases about Slovak wetlands and their up-grading, 3. Ensure restoration of riverine, marsh and lake systems, 4. Develop analyses of economical instruments (sources) and prepare financial proposal of each measures of action plan, 5. Capacity building of institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise-use, 6. Develop trans-boundary and internationally co-operation for wetland conservation and restoration, 7. Education and public awareness activities.

• **restoration measures**

One of the strategic objective of the Action plan for conservation, restoration and wise-use of wetlands in Slovakia (see above) is to ensure restoration of riverine, marsh and lake systems. There are some actions together with estimation 136,770,000 Sk: restoration of some representative and unique peatlands, elaboration of project documentation to the study *Optimalisation of the water regime of Danube River oxbow system* (between villages Dobrohošť – Sap), realization of technical projects for *Optimalisation of the water regime of Danube River oxbow system* (between villages Dobrohošť – Sap), elaboration of the study about optimalisation of the water regime of Latorica River oxbow system and technical projects, to upgrade survey of evaluation of chosen water streams of Slovakia and database of migration barriers.

There are some examples of projects for restoration of wetlands to support the increase and enhancement of biodiversity: The rivers of the Revúca district (the Murán and Turiec river with tributaries) represent well-preserved sub-mountainous streams, as a major subject to conservation is the proposed overall objective of the project: Reconstruction of biodiversity and improval of continuity of streams. There are also some finished projects of establishment meanders of Morava River, there were not successfully implemented, but there are new

discussions. Some documentation was prepared also for establishment of fish-bypass for fish migration in Rudava River on the western part of Slovakia. There are also some restoration measures (or specific management) proposed in each Ramsar Site (“RS”), for example: Turiec wetlands – to increase biodiversity of wet meadows, Senné-fishponds – to ensure water regime for waterfowls, in the largest alder-swamp forest of the Central Europe (National natural reserve Šúr is ongoing project by EU financing via Life-Nature Programme).

Following list summarizes all wetland restoration/rehabilitation projects that were nominated for Implementation of the ICPDR Joint Action Programme 2001 – 2005 (Action 3.3. Wetland and Floodplain Restoration) on a volunteer base by Ministry of Environment of the Slovak republic. This lists includes projects that are both planned and under execution in Slovakia. Slovak National Report on the Status of Joint Action Programme 2001 – 2005 (it was prepared in May 2004 by Ms. Klindova):

<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>Implementation Status*</i>	<i>Area size [ha]</i>	<i>Start of project [mo/yr]</i>	<i>End of project [mo/yr]</i>	<i>Estimated costs [Mio. EUR]</i>	<i>Source of financing</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Central European Grasslands – Conservation and Sustainable Use – pilot area Morava River Floodplain	cca 80% implemented	500	6/00	6/05	0.1	GEF/ World Bank	1. Project is focusing on management and restoration of floodplain meadows
		500	9/03	9/08	0.8	Sapard	
Central European Grasslands – Conservation and Sustainable Use – pilot area Olsavica valley	planned	400	6/00	6/05	0.15	GEF/ World Bank	3. Project goal is preparation of restoration plan and start of implementation These 2 localities (1., 3.) are within 1 project.
Establishment of Natura 2000 Network in the Slovak Republic – pilot area Morava River Floodplain	completed	4,100	01/01	12/02	0.02	Dutch MATRA Pre-accession Program	Project oriented to preparation of management plan of Ramsar site. Project finished. Result for locality: proposed management plan measures.
Wetland Restoration in Laborec-Uh Rivers Floodplains	planned	500 – 1,500			1.1	GEF/ UNDP + Sapard	Project is in preparatory phase – starting PDF
Restoration of Peatlands in Zahorie Lowland (Western Slovakia)	completed	300	11/01	11/02	0.006	Dutch MATRA Pre-Accession Program	Project is focusing on restoration of 7 chosen peatlands in Morava River Basin
Preparation of Management Plan for the Slovak side of the Morava Floodplain as a part of Trilateral Ramsar site with realisation of necessary measures for preservation of	cca 80% implemented	50	5/02	6/03	0.02	Slovak – Swiss Revolving Fund	Project goal is preparation of management plan and realisation of urgent restoration measures Project will finish in due months.

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abandoned meadows							
Olsavica – DRP pilot area output 1.4	25%	500	04/03	12/06	0.05	UNDP/GEF	Project goal is restoration of wetlands in mountain rural area. According to a restoration plan farmers will implement the proposed measures.
Conservation and management of Danube floodplain forests	cca 10% implemented		09/03	10/07	0.3705	LIFE – Nature	Goals of the project are conservation, management a sustainable sound forest management.

The Slovak Republic has ratified Protocol on Water and Health, that means has to ensure access to drinking water for all inhabitants. Solution, in the frame of integrated systems of water management, will be focused on sustainable use of water sources, quality surface water and groundwater, protection of water ecosystems. Plan of Public Drinking Water Supply in the Slovak Republic is being finalized and is elaborated in harmony with strategic documents as follows, which fully respect protection and restoration of water systems:

- Conception of water management policy of the Slovak Republic until year 2005,
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development,
- National Environmental Action Programme III,
- Action Programme for Environment and Health of Inhabitants of the Slovak Republic,
- National Plan for Development of the Slovak Republic.

B. The integrated approach as a development opportunity

• **Integrated Water Management Plans**

Integrated Water Management Plans are intended to contain protection of water ecosystems and ecosystems depended on water (based on Water Law No. 364/2004 Coll.).

• **Information dissemination and public participation**

This activity is planned and performed as follows:

- under the umbrella of the Protocol on Water and Health (responsible the Ministry of Health),
- in the frame of the implementation process of the Water Framework Directive (responsible the Ministry of Environment)
- in the frame of the Water Framework Directive implementation process in the Danube River basin (the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube),

There is planned to establish local stakeholders committees for each Ramsar Site from representatives of stakeholders subjects (and also local governments, municipalities), organise various professional and amateur trainings for employees responsible for wetland conservation, management, restoration and wise-use, also how involve stakeholders, and how to communicate with them.

• **Research and capacity building**

Until now Water Division does not perform specific research programmes, but cooperates where needed.

- **Private sector**
In the Slovak Republic some private companies are active in area of water ecosystem protection and restoration.
- **Social and economic aspects**
Economic assessment of the value of water related ecosystems in relation to water management and water supply is not yet done.

C. Legal and administrative dimension

- **Legal measures**
Legislation concerning management of forests belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic.
The Slovak Republic is party of the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube, which deals with wetlands. Activities on web site: www.icpdr.org
- **Inter-sectors coordination**
Depends on task, programme, objective etc. relevant sectors agree cooperation and coordination of tasks. One of them is usually responsible for whole task and coordinates activity. In case of the ministries, tasks are approved by the Slovak Government.
- **Budget allocation**
At the Water Division are not allocated extra sums for wetlands and forests management. Budget is allocated to special tasks, programmes related to water protection and development, sustainable use, implementation of the Water Framework Directive etc. Protection of water ecosystems is incorporated in all key documents of the Ministry of Environment (please, see point A. Protection and restoration of water related ecosystems).
There is some financial support for subjects which would like to make restoration (but there was not direct objective for water supply) from budget of Ministry of Environment (grants for several subjects by Environmental Projects Realization Division, small grant scheme “Green Projects” for NGOs) and also from some foreign donors (Dutch Government, Danish co-operation, Wetlands International, etc.).