

WORKING TOGETHER TO  
INSPIRE SUSTAINABLE  
SOLUTIONS



This project promotes and supports land managers who help us sustain the benefits that we all get from nature

# Payments for Ecosystem Services in the Lower Danube

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26-28 May, 2014

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Vilm, Germany



## The Danube PES project, area map

Timeframe:  
Jan 10 – Dec14

Scope: Bulgaria,  
Romania, Serbia  
and Ukraine



## The objectives

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- To demonstrate and promote PES and other sustainable financing schemes in the Lower Danube river basin.
  - To derive lessons of relevance for the Danube basin at large and for other international watersheds
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Policy papers, lobby,  
MAES WG

The Danube PES project  
Our approach

Influence focus on  
Danube Strategy  
Action Plan;  
advocate for  
integration of  
biodiversity  
objectives

European level:  
through the  
European Habitats  
Forum and WWF  
work working on  
policy  
budget

Critical review of policies and  
funding, development of  
position papers and policy  
recommendations, lobby;  
support the development of  
public payments for common  
goods – developed  
methodology and calculations

Regional level:  
active observer to  
EU Strategy for D  
as well as introduction of  
standards; physical  
restoration projects,  
(incl. CBA)

National level: ministries  
well as associations  
working groups at ministerial  
level, development of position papers (policy  
recommendations and lobby

Pilot projects and local level actions – interactions with land users and  
local management authorities for improved land management and  
protection of the biodiversity; development of pilot solutions with public/  
private support

Communication and awareness raising

Assessing and

# Pilot PES schemes

since 2010 we have been working on:

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- a national public scheme for fisheries and aquaculture in Bulgaria
  - 2 schemes supporting protection and biodiversity and cultural values of protected areas in Bulgaria and Romania
  - 1 scheme for sustainable fishpond management in Romania
  - 1 scheme for wetland management by harvesting biomass
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Market payments for wetland  
restoration and management –  
Persina pilot, Bulgaria

*Picture: Arial photo of Persina  
Nature Park, © Alexander Ivanov*

## Persina Pilot

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- **Location:** north of Bulgaria, 77 000 ha (150 ha pilot)
  - **Status:** Protected area of inland marshes and flooded forests, including 24 islands, 3 reserves, 2 natural landmarks, 1 protected area
  - **Socio-econ:** Rural area including 3 municipalities within approximately **27 000** residents
  - **Problem:** deteriorated hydrological and carbon cycles
  - **Solution:** improve the water regime of the wetland through reed harvesting – contributing to local economies and reduction of GHGs
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## Annual volume of biomass from the Persina pilot

Type of culture	Sown area ha	Average yield per ha - ton	Overall biomass production - tons	Biomass average yield in sustainable nature way
<b>Wheat and barley</b>	1400	4	5600	1867 t
<b>Corn</b>	2650	7	18550	12057 t
<b>Sunflower</b>	1027	2,5	2567	2053 t
<b>Reed</b>	2000	2,9	5800	1160 t
<b>Total of area and product.</b>	<b>7077</b>		<b>32 517</b>	<b>17137 t</b>
<b>Annual market price of pallets 185 Euro/t</b>				<b>~ 3 120 000 Euro</b>



## Effectiveness of the investment

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The analysis of the effectiveness of the investment shows that:

- the net present value of such a project is positive;
  - the internal rate of return is nearly 68%
  - the pay-back period of such an investment is 2 years
  - the Profitability index above 1 (PI = 6,23)
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Payments for sustainable  
fishpond management –  
Ciocanesti pilot, Romania

*Picture: © WWF*

## The Ciocanesti fishpond

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**Location:** Ciocanesti fishpond, Lower Danube, Romania; 255 ha

**Problem:** Fish-eating birds of high conservation value feed on this private market-oriented fishpond. The fishpond owners suffer loss of yield to up to 70%. More than 20,000 bird individuals visiting the place

**Solution:** Introduce payments awarding the managers of the fishponds for their efforts to protect the birds and maintain water quality

**Cost:** A package of 5 measures was developed with different values for each measure: 70 - 6,000 Euro/ha/ year

**Benefit:** Protection of the 31 protected bird species, improved water quality, reduction of GHGs

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## Measures

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### **Biodiversity protection**

Measure 3: Maintaining (cutting) the reed after birds breeding season (manual or with aquatic mowing machine) - non fragmented area and/ or waterholes in reed

Level of compensation:

- 189 €/ha of cut reed (manual) or
- 60 €/ha of cut reed (renting mowing machine)

Results: improved environment for birds nesting; reduction of GHG emissions

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Measure 2, 3, 4

Foto: <http://dli.ro/pasarea-starcul-mic-ixobrychus-minutus.html>





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Payments for cultural  
ecosystem services -  
Rusenski Lom pilot,  
Bulgaria

*Picture: © WWF*



## Rusenski Lom pilot

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**Location:** Northeast of Bulgaria, 3408 ha

**Status:** Protected area – nature park, IBA, Natura 2000 site

**Problem:** unregulated tourism impacting negatively BD and Ecosystems

**Solution:** Private deal between the tourism entrepreneurs, from one side and the Directorate of Rusenski Lom Nature Park, from another

**For:** visitors control and conservation activities of emblematic species: feeding of Egyptian vulture, creation of artificial water bodies, restoration of existing fishponds and fish-stocking for the Black stork, restoration of the ground souslik and *Crex crex* habitats

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Conservation and Sustainable  
Development Fund for  
Ecosystem services –  
Maramures pilot, Romania

*Picture: © WWF*



## Maramures pilot

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**Location:** Oas-Gutai Platou, Carpathian mountain, 47000 ha

**Status:** 2 Natura 2000 sites, 7 small PAs

**Problem:** unregulated tourism and lack of funding for PAs management,

**Solution: Conservation and Sustainable Development Fund (CSDF)** allocating financial resources in equal proportion to nature conservation and to development needs associated with ecotourism.

**To** restore the integrity of landscapes in pilot areas within the selected protected areas with the purpose to deliver the benefit represented by landscape beauty, a key ES for individuals (tourists), businesses (local guesthouses and tour-operators), and local communities.





# Thank you!

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**[www.panda.org/dcpo](http://www.panda.org/dcpo)**

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**+100**

WWF is in over  
100 countries, on  
5 continents

**1961**

WWF was founded  
In 1961

**+5000**

WWF is in over  
100 countries, on  
5 continents

**+5M**

WWF has over  
5 million supporters

