



## **Promoting Payments for Ecosystem Services and Related Sustainable Financing Schemes in the Danube Basin**

*This project is implemented by WWF DCPO with the financial support of the UNEP GEF and the European Commission*

### **Invitation to the workshop**

### **PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING IN THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASINS**

**in Bulgaria and Romania, on 2-5 April 2012**

The Workshop will gather a group of 30 experts working on or operating in the Yangtze, the Mekong, the Amazon/Orinoco, the Congo basins and the Danube basin to present their experience and look for answers to the following questions:

- *What environmental benefits are international river basins providing and what are the major threats?*
- *How can payments for ecosystem services and innovative financing schemes contribute to mitigating these threats?*
- *Can PES experience from small watersheds be upscaled to the larger river basin?*
- *Can one PES or sustainable financing approach fit all?*

### **Background**

WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme is implementing a project on Promoting Payments for Ecosystem Services and other Relevant Sustainable Financing Schemes in the Danube River Basin. The project is funded by UNEP GEF.

Under the Danube PES project, WWF DCPO experts have to test on the ground and promote the concept of PES in the Danube River Basin, as well as to share the experience gained with other international river basins around the world.

We expect that our project has relevance for areas beyond the Danube river basin. Many of the models and lessons that are coming out of the Danube PES project are methods and approaches relevant to a wide variety of countries and local situations – e.g., regarding opportunities to scale up PES, mainstreaming PES into river basin planning, and combining public and private driven PES schemes. Our team has identified four major river basins for outreach and experience exchange: the Yangtze, the Mekong, the Amazon/Orinoco and the Congo. Each of these river basins is the focus of major ecoregion conservation programs of WWF, and the first three basins include middle-income countries similar in many respects to Eastern Europe countries. Despite the different political and cultural contexts in these regions, **the main question is not so much where the money for these payments can come from, but rather how to ensure that they deliver significant environmental as well as social benefits.**



## **AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **Day 1: 2 Apr, Monday**

Arrival of participants in Nissovo, Rusenski Lom. Accommodation

19:00 Welcome dinner

20.30 slide show from the Yangtze basin

### **Day 2: 3 Apr, Tuesday**

9:00 Introduction of participants. Expectations of the event.

9.30 Introduction to the Danube PES project, Q&A

10:15 Break

10.45 Presentation of PES work in Congo, Yangtze, Amazon basins; 3 x 45 min, each max 25 min presentation plus min. 20 min Q&A/discussion

13.00 Lunch

14:00 Visiting Danube PES pilot sites in Rusenski Lom

17:30 Back to the meeting room. Two visiting colleagues share their impressions and lessons learnt, discussion

19.00 Dinner

20.30 Slide show from Amazon

### **Day 3: 4 Apr, Wednesday**

9:00 Departure to Persina pilot site

10:30 Persina Nature Park Directorate: presentation of the site and PES needs identified

11:00 Departure to reed harvesting site Kaikusha; visit Persina island;

13:00 packed lunch in the field

14.00 visit to Karaboaz site

17:00 Departure to Nissovo; in the bus: two visiting colleagues share their impressions of the day; lessons learnt; discussion

19.00 Dinner

20.30 slide show of the Congo

### **Day 4: 5 Apr, Thursday**

9:00 Departure to Ciocanesti pilot site

10:30 Meeting managers, presentation of the scheme

12:00 Lunch in Ciocanesti

13:00 Departure to Iezer

13:30 Presentation of Iezer site and PES activities in Iezer meeting room



14:00 Two visiting colleagues share their impressions of the day and lessons learnt; discussion

14.45 Moderated discussion: how much can we learn from each other? How can we cooperate in the future<sup>1</sup>? Planning of future cooperation

20:00 farewell dinner

**Options for last evening:**

1. Back to Bucharest: based on travel plans overnight there or go directly to the airport
2. Overnight in Calarasi, have dinner and next morning start to Bucharest, visit the office and follow travel plans of participants

**Read more about:**

[The project](#)

[The Danube River Basin](#)

[The pilot schemes](#)

[Logistics](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Suggestion: work together on a paper/ publications on problems of international river basins including socio-economic analysis, ecosystems and their value for communities, market/ economic mechanisms for ES in international river basins; can approach fit all?



## The project

**This project is implemented by WWF DCPO with the financial support of the UNEP GEF and the European Commission**

### What will this project do?

- Promote the concept of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the Danube basin
- Encourage related Sustainable Financing schemes (SF)
- Demonstrate how national and local-level PES/SF schemes work
- Contribute to rural development and conservation in the Lower Danube basin in

Romania and Bulgaria

- Promote the integration of PES/SF schemes into the River Basin Management Plans for the Danube, its sub-basins and other major river basins

- Develop and share experience and learning with other countries in the Danube River basin, especially Serbia and Ukraine, with other major river basins and the international community.

### What are the overall goals of this project?

- Make Payments for Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Financing mainstream in the Danube basin
- Show that PES and SF schemes work in large-scale international watersheds
- Secure global environmental benefits

### What is the project duration?

48 months (January 2010 – December 2013)

### What are the project components and expected results?

*Design, development and promotion of PES and other Sustainable Financing schemes in Bulgaria and Romania*

- National PES schemes in Romania and Bulgaria effectively reward provision of Danube-related ecosystem services and are integrated into the Danube River basin and sub-basin management plans
- Capacity building and training in PES and Sustainable Financing schemes for key stakeholders in Romania and Bulgaria
- Demonstration of local-level implementation of public payments for Danube-related ecosystem services
- Demonstration of private sector involvement and support for PES schemes

*Capacity building for river basin managers and other key stakeholders in the wider Danube River basin and major river basins in the world*

- Information and experience exchange for key stakeholders in the Danube and its sub-river basins (focusing on Serbia and Ukraine)
- Exchange of information and experience with stakeholders in selected major river basins (in Asia, Africa and Latin America)

Document, distribute and discuss best practices and lessons learned with the conservation and international community



## The Danube River Basin

The Danube-Carpathian region stretches from Germany in the west to Romania and Ukraine in the East, from Poland in the north to Bulgaria in the south. The twin regions are recognised by WWF as Global 200 Ecoregions, representing two of the world's most outstanding natural

areas - the Danube River basin and the Carpathian mountains

The **Danube River** basin is the most international river basin in the world, draining 18 countries on its 2800 km journey from the Black Forest in Germany to the Black Sea. From the largely untamed middle and lower stretches of the river to the spectacular Danube Delta at its mouth, the Danube is home to some of the richest wetland areas in



Europe and the world.

Compared with Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe has maintained a high level of biological diversity thanks to the maintenance of large areas of habitats, diversified landscapes and less intensive management practices and in 21st century when the economy rules the world one interesting and successful approach to protect the nature is the payment for ecosystem services (PES).

## The pilot schemes

**Name:** Rusenski Lom pilot

**Location:** North-East Bulgaria

**Size:** 3,408 ha

**Main ecosystem types:** forests (68%), grasslands (16%)

**Biodiversity:** 902 plant spec (23% of BG flora), 70 mammal spec (76% of BG spec), 6 protected insect spec, 22 fish spec, 5 protected amphibians

**Main economic activities:** agriculture, tourism, fisheries

**Main trades:** uncontrolled tourism disturbing the wildlife and creating pressure on grassland ecosystems; intensive agriculture in buffer areas

**Our solution:** Private payment from the tourism branch to the administration of the nature park directorate to support the maintenance, protection and restoration of the cultural and regulating services in Rusenski Lom pilot site







**Name:** Maramures pilot

**Location:** North Romania

**Size:** 47,000 ha

**Main ecosystem types:** meadows (49,29%) and forests (48,68 %)

**Biodiversity:** 7 Protected areas established to protect variety of habitats and plant and animal species; place of large carnivores and glacial relict plant species

**Main economic activities:** tourism, agriculture and forestry

**Main threats:** uncontrolled tourism, illegal logging

**Our solution:** a win-win situation where the tourist business invest in nature conservation activities and at the same time increase the interest and the awareness of the people for the area.



**Name:** Persina-Karaboaz pilot

**Location:** North Bulgaria

**Size:** Persina Nature park of 21,762 ha & protected area Karaboaz of 13 659,86 ha

**Main ecosystem types:** wetlands and farmlands

**Biodiversity:** 475 higher plants species, over 200 spec of birds, 1100 animal spec, 3 endemic spec for Danube region; 770 spec invertebrates, 35 spec snails, 16 spec mussels

**Main economic activities:** agriculture (wheat, barley, maize, sunflower, rapeseed) and fisheries

**Main threats:** burning of stubble, extinction of vulnerable species, strengthening the construction business - building wind farms, intensive agriculture, the water regime of the wetlands



**Our solution:** Private payments for sustainable use of biomass in the pilot area – harvesting the wetland biomass and use the agricultural residues on farmlands after collecting the crops to produce bio pellets and briquettes.

**Name:** Ciocanesti pilot

**Location:** South of Romania

**Size:** 255 ha

**Main ecosystem types:** fishpond/ wetlands (90%) and farmlands

**Biodiversity:** Important place for migration of 20 000 birds; potential Ramsar site, important feeding place for *Pygmy Cormorant* (endangered), breeding place for *Ferruginous Duck* (40 – 50 pairs)

**Main economic activities:** fisheries, agriculture

**Main threats:** nutrients pollution, protection of birds. 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%.

**Our solution:** Public-private payments covering the loss of yield and for protecting water quality and birds.





## Logistics

Dates of the event: 2-5 April 2012

Place: mainly in North Bulgaria but field trips are provisioned also to South Romania.

Local time zone: UTC/GMT +2 hours

Weather: April is the beginning of spring in Bulgaria and Romania. Average temperatures are around 15 degrees Celsius.

Travel of participants: The places of stay and visit during this workshop are close to Bucharest, Romania. We advise you to travel by plane to Bucharest and we shall pick you up by car. Please note that there are two airports in Bucharest – Otopeni and Baneasa – and inform us where exactly you arrive and depart.

Accommodation: accommodation will be in single rooms. Most of the time the group will be in the Black Stork Hotel, Nisovo village, Rusenski Lom Nature Park, Bulgaria.

There is free Wi-Fi in the hotel. For more information, please visit the internet site of the hotel: <http://www.black-stork.com/>

Workshop place: the sessions of the workshop will be mostly in the Black Stork Hotel

Expenses: WWF DCPO will cover all costs of participants relating to:

- Food
- Accommodation
- Transport from and to the airport in Bucharest
- Internal transport in Bulgaria and Romania
- Consumables

***NB: Participants should cover only expenses of a round trip from countries to Bucharest.***

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