



Common borders. Common solutions.



Public Involvement in Water Management Best Practices Database

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Introduction

Best Practices Database

This database of best practices in public involvement in decision making on water management issues has been prepared by the Black Sea NGO Network of Varna, Bulgaria together with partners from four other Black Sea countries. They implement the project “Clean Rivers – Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area”. The project is aimed at developing the capacity of the NGO community in the sphere of international water management and pollution reduction of the Black Sea. The joint action is funded by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007–2013”.

Participants in the project are six non-governmental organizations from countries in the Black Sea basin. Beneficiary is the Eco Counseling Centre of Galati, Romania, working in partnership with the Ecological Counseling Center – Cahul, Moldova, the Black Sea NGO Network – Varna, Bulgaria, the Regional Environmental Centre – Moldova, Chisinau, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus – Tbilisi, Georgia and the Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation –Samsun, Turkey. The Specialized Administration of the province of Rize, Turkey is associate partner.

This publication is dedicated to Best Practices in water management in the Black Sea region identified and arranged in a database by the project partners.

The expression Best Practices in the environmental sphere is associated with the most suitable combination between control measures and strategies for protection of the environment. When the choice of a practice is associated with a specific example, the measures below have to be considered:

- informing and educating the public and the users of the natural resource about the consequences for the environment from their activities and their choice of certain products, their use and disposal
- development an application of well known and accepted rules of good practices regarding the environment covering all aspects of the use and disposal of a given product
- labeling and indication of risks
- economy of resources and energy
- avoiding the use of substances associated with risks to the environment
- processing, reuse and restoration
- application of market instruments related to products and groups of products along with licensing and limitations or bans if necessary.

The database is open to all partners for inclusion of best practices from their own experience or other characteristic examples from the region.

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 1 Best Agricultural Practice
Project title	Best Agricultural Practice in My Farm
Project acronym	BAP-MYFARM
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	Danube Regional Project GEF/UNDP
Begin date	1/1/2006
End date	12/31/2006
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Danube basin, wider Black Sea basin
Area Type	Coastal, vulnerable zones
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p>The main problem common for the target rural areas in the three Lower Danube countries is the overenrichment of surface and ground waters with basic nutrients from agriculture, which leads to eutrophication and the related negative environmental impacts. Another general problem is low awareness among farmers, experts, NGOs and media of the problem's transboundary nature, poor cooperation on all levels and insufficient application of the ecosystem approach. More specifically, stakeholders, including local media, do not understand sufficiently the Best Agricultural Practice concept and the requirements of GAP, do not apply and promote GAP and are poorly motivated to apply ecosystem approach and develop organic farming, as well as multi-stakeholder and transboundary cooperation and exchange.</p> <p><i>Goal(s)</i> • 150 - 200 farmers /stakeholders from the 6 vulnerable regions from Bg, Ro, Md effectively contribute to the reduction of the negative environmental impact from agriculture (nutrient & toxic pollution) in the Danube Basin surface and ground waters</p> <p>•Local NGOs from selected regions in Bg, Ro, Md contribute to reinforce local, national and trans boundary cooperation and the ecosystem approach for Danube protection</p> <p><i>Objectives: Participants will</i> •Understand the concept and requirements of the adopted/to be adopted GAP in Bg, Ro, Md at local level; •Promote and apply GAP in their current agricultural practice in the very near future and mobilise and motivate 150 - 200 local stakeholders to bring about a change in the region</p> <p>•Make local media interested in DRP, GAP, ecosystem approach/organic production and transboundary cooperation in target countries; •Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and promote exchange and networking locally, nationally and regionally</p> <p>The partners employed the following approaches within the DRP program strategy: encouragement of stakeholder involvement - 265 Bg farmers, 35 Ro farmers and 57 Md farmers applying GAP; BAP applied on 70 000 ha of land in Bg, 1100 ha in Ro and 98 livestock in Bg and 150 in Ro; promotion of change in consumer behavior - conversion to organic production on 94 ha in Bg (3 crops), 1000 (tentative) ha in Ro (vineyards); improved chemicals use reporting - 120 farmers in Bg, 10 in Md; support to policy work on national</p>

level - 6 trainings on GAP and the EU Nitrates Directive in the 3 countries; exchange of information between government experts and NGOs in the countries; involvement of media in regular coverage of agro-environmental issues - 1 competition, 5 - 6 regular features on agro-environmental and water issues; application of regional approach and transboundary perspective - 15 Romanian and Moldovan farmers and experts visit 4 Bulgarian model farms; 24 Bulgarian and 3 Moldovan farmers and experts visit 1 demonstration manure storage site and 3 farms in Romania. The project employed tools such as: awareness raising, information dissemination and media involvement preparation for the implementation of the WFD, training, networking and partnerships.

Thus the project has contributed basically to the indirect reduction of the loads of nutrients from agriculture by stimulating farmers to change some of their farming practices in the direction of GAP by observing the regulation and by adopting voluntarily the Code of BAP and good environmentally friendly practices, some of them saving money and resources. The project has also encouraged the exchange on ecosystem approach and organic production on national and regional level thus contributing to changes in the existing practices and pattern of production toward environmentally friendly solutions reducing the loads of nutrients and toxics.

Achievements • Farmers/stakeholders better informed, motivated and mobilized to apply GAPR - 3 info summaries, 3 summaries for media and experts, 221 farmers trained, 1500 brochures disseminated to about 6000 reading public.

• Local stakeholders and wider public involved in learning about/applying alternative methods of production and the ecosystem approach - 7 public outreach events with a set of information materials identifying visually the project (banners, posters, diplomas, T-shirts, notebooks, leaflets etc.), 2 cross border visits (45 visitors, 15 local experts involved, 7 farms and 1 manure storage facility visited), 3 media competitions with 20 journalists nominated, 3 networks created, 300 direct and about 6000 indirect beneficiaries

Products/Outputs 3 info expert summaries, 1 fact sheet on the Codes of GAP, 3 summaries for media (on GAP, BAP, DRP etc.); 6 sets of materials for trainings on GAP; 3 brochures on GAP (1500 c.); 3 posters - 1500 c., 3 banners, 100 T-shirts, 100 personalized diaries, 500 leaflets, 500 leaflets with Charter.

Follow up • Networking and extending the network of farmers applying BAP in Bg, Ro and Md.

• Dissemination of results on national level among NGOs and experts
• Involvement with ongoing projects and preparation of further project proposals

Keywords	Best Agricultural Practice, Pollution, Nitrates, Agriculture
Data theme	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/WATER QUALITY/POLLUTION
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Regional Office, Varna, Bulgaria
Role of research centre	Lead Partner
Other partners and countries	Earth Friends, Galati - Romania Eco Counselling Center, Cahul - Moldova
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ADMINISTRATION

Completed by	Emma Gileva
Collating-centre	Black Sea NGO Network
Latest-update	02/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 2 - Public Involvement in the implementation of the MSFD
Project title	Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area
Project acronym	237 CRCS
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
Beginning date	1/2/2013
End date	31/5/2015
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Black Sea basin
Area Type	Rivers and coastal waters
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Turkey
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>BSNN, Bulgaria together with partners from four other Black Sea countries implements the project "Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area". The project is aimed at developing the capacity of the NGO community in the sphere of international water management and pollution reduction of the Black Sea. One of the specific objectives of the project is to strengthen public participation in water management by conducting information and education campaign to raise public awareness of the problems of water protection and the Black Sea. In this regard the Black Sea NGO Network informed the public about the preparation of the "Initial assessment of the state of the marine environment", a national obligation under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC.</p> <p>At the end of April 2013 the Initial Assessment was published, nearly a year late. This assessment is part of the process of the preparation of the Marine Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria, an obligation of the country as an EU member. The Initial Assessment and the preparation of the Strategy are outlined in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC and the related Ordinance for the protection of the marine environment.</p> <p>The project team monitored the process and published its findings and comments related to it. Leaving aside the big delay and the fact that the full text of the assessment was published even later, after the middle of May 2013, any ordinary citizen would be overburdened by the big volume of the document, almost 500 pages. There was practically no time for objections and comments. Probably there have been legitimate motives for the delay in the preparation and publication. It was not only the volume but the abundance of strictly scientific terms as well that would prevent the stakeholders from effective involvement in the consultation process. The document needed badly a popular version or at least a public presentation to a group of stakeholders by the team that prepared it. A recurrent comment along with the complex terminology is the lack of sufficient and reliable data for reliable conclusions and generalizations.</p> <p>The project team reviewed the timeline of the MSFD and outlined the two nearest dates related to the process. The Programme of Measures to achieve Good Environmental Status has to be ready by 1 January 2015 after</p>

	<p>the development and implementation of a Monitoring Programme of the current state of the marine environment with deadline 15 July 2014. The project team addressed the need to provide information about the process of MSFD implementation. It focused on the process of implementation on national, regional and EU level and informed the public about it. The team identified the need to find and disseminate information about EU projects providing information about the Black Sea marine environment and the monitoring of its condition - MISIS, MISIS+, EMODNET. The team focused on the problem of the deficiency of information about the marine litter descriptor and prepared a project proposal for providing NGO support to the national legislation process regarding the issue and to the collection of information about marine litter through public involvement and civil science. The project Marine Litter Watch 2004 - 2016 is funded by the NGO Programme for Bulgaria of the FM of EEA</p> <p>with ongoing projects and preparation of further project proposals</p>
Keywords	Publi Involvement, Marie Environment, Pollution, Good Environmental Status
Data theme	WATER QUALITY/GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS/MARINE ENVIRONMENT/POLLUTION
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Role of research centre	Partner
Other partners and countries	Eco Counselling Center, Galati - Romania - lead partner Eco Counselling Center, Cahul - Moldova Regional Environmental Centre - Moldova, Chisinau Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus - Tbilisi, Georgia Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation - Samsun, Turkey
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ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	BSNN
Collating-centre	Black Sea NGO Network
Latest-update	02/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 3 - Best Practices in Agriculture Related to Quality of Waters and Nitrates Directive Implementation
Project title	Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area
Project acronym	237 CRCS
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
Beginning date	1/2/2013
End date	31/5/2015
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Black Sea basin
Area Type	Rivers and coastal waters
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Turkey
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>BSNN, Bulgaria together with partners from four other Black Sea countries implements the project "Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area". The project is aimed at developing the capacity of the NGO community in the sphere of international water management and pollution reduction of the Black Sea. In view of the experience of BSN in describing and promoting best practices of public participation in water management, it made a review of the best practices in agriculture in the project region. The team collected information about the experience of partners and stakeholders in the Dorudzha area, North Eastern Bulgaria NUTS II, a major agricultural and stockbreeding region. Over the recent ten years the BSNN implemented several awareness and best practices projects with the farmers and agricultural producers in the area with support from the Agricultural Advisory Services. The team reviewed the results of the national reporting for the implementation of the Nitrates Directive, which is part of the programme of measures for the achievement of Good Environmental Status of waters under the EU WFD. The results of both NE and SE NUTS II were very good and well within the limits. The team also made a review of the best agricultural practices with assistance from the Agricultural Advisory Service - Dobrich. What started as introduction of best practices a decade ago has evolved into a routine. The farmers and agricultural producers keep their diaries of chemical treatment regularly; the nitrates content in waters, soil and produce is monitored on regular basis by a laboratory; the construction of manure storage facilities is also done regularly. Best practices are part of the work of farmers in the area. The number of registered biological farms is growing although there is room for improvement in that sphere.</p>
Keywords	Best Agricultural Practice, Water quality, Nitrates, Nitrates Directive
Data theme	WATER QUALITY/POLLUTION
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria

Role of research centre	Partner
Other partners and countries	Eco Counselling Center, Galati - Romania - lead partner Eco Counselling Center, Cahul - Moldova Regional Environmental Centre - Moldova, Chisinau Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus - Tbilisi, Georgia Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation - Samsun, Turkey
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ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	BSNN
Collating-centre	Black Sea NGO Network
Latest-update	02/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 4 - Best Practices in Public Support to the Establishment of Natura 2000 Sites
Project title	Public Support for the Sustainable Management of the Natura 2000 Sites along the Black Sea Coast
Project acronym	n/a
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	NGO Support Programme 2007 - 2009 - FM of EEA
Beginning date	1/5/2009
End date	31/8/2010
Ongoing	no
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Bulgarian Black Sea coast
Area Type	coastal area
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p><i>The case:</i> After careful analysis of the situation in the country the experts of the organization identified a significant general issue to be addressed by the project, namely the insufficient public support for the protection of biological diversity and the introduction of the Natura 2000 sites along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast in combination with inadequate capacity of civil society to influence the public sector toward proper use of the principles of sustainable development in the process of biodiversity protection. Those problems were particularly obvious against the background of a mighty lobbyist campaign against Natura 2000, which shaped negative attitudes towards it in the whole society. Even the environmental NGO community and concerned representatives of the media and the authorities were not sufficiently acquainted with the network concept, its aims and the strategy of its enforcement; the availability of reference materials was limited and there was almost no significant hands-on expertise in intersectoral exchange and dialogue on issues of the environment and Natura 2000 in particular.</p> <p>The perceived problems and needs helped to identify the project target group including representatives of NGOs, media, independent experts, as well as civil servants from local authorities and government agencies with functions related to Natura 2000, such as environment tourism, energy production, agriculture, forestry etc., as well as representatives of the local communities and businesses.</p> <p><i>The change process.</i> The project goal was to provide public support to the protection of biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast through strengthening the capacity of civil society to influence the work of the public sector to implement sustainable solutions for environmental management, partly using the experience of a Norwegian participant. The specific objectives of the were: to improve the knowledge about biodiversity and the access to reference materials about Natura 2000 and the process of its enforcement; to develop the skills and practical experience of civil society organizations and media to influence society and the public sector in connection with the introduction of Natura 2000 legislation; and to improve the efficiency of cooperation and help establish</p>

effective partnerships and dialogue on sustainable solutions about Natura 2000 places between regional actors from the civil society sector and the authorities and businesses with involvement of a Norwegian expert.

The project has achieved its objectives by implementing informational, educational, campaigning and planning activities, associated with protection of biodiversity and the enforcement of Natura 2000 along the Black Sea coast. The activities comprised: the holding of two educational seminars for representatives of NGOs, media, local experts and businesses; the development and publication of a set of thematic materials by Bulgarian authors and the Norwegian expert at the dedicated information and reference website located at natura.bsnn.org; the holding of a campaign against fragmentation of the coastal Natura 2000 sites; the preparation of concerned stakeholders in the region of the Bosnia SCI for planning the site management and the production of a draft management plan; the holding of a round table for exchange of expertise between NGOs, media and the authorities and the setting up of an informal network for continuation of project activities on national level and with trans-border aspects

The outcome: The activities implemented under the project contributed to a considerable degree to the attainment of the project goal. In general the gradual process of recognition of the significance of nature protection, conservation and biodiversity protection is taking firm root in the public attitudes. Parallel to it is going the process of strengthening of civil society and consolidation of its influence on the public sector, especially on decisions related to the environment. The public attitude and media pressure in particular exercised a positive influence on the work of administrations. In this context the public support for Natura 2000 along the coast is growing.

Lessons and emerging best practices: The project activities achieved their envisaged results. Therefore we can claim that the NGOs, media and civil servants representing the administrations have improved their knowledge of the biodiversity protection and the enforcement of Natura 2000; a good number of experts from the target group and the wider public have improved their knowledge, access to information and reference materials about Natura 2000 along the coast; the organized public has improved its practical knowledge and skills to exercise influence on the public sector and started to participate in effective intersectoral partnerships

Keywords	Natura 2000, Black Sea coast, Public involvement
Data theme	SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT/NATURA 2000
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Role of research centre	Leader
Other partners and countries	Bourgas Association of Ecological and Rural Tourism (BAEST)
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ADMINISTRATION**Completed by** BSNN**Collating-centre** [Black Sea NGO Network](#)**Latest-update** 27/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	ECCG 5 - Best Practices in Cross Border Cooperation in River Basin Management
Project title	“CLEAN WATERS- HEALTHY PEOPLE”
Project acronym	‘CW-HP’
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Associated programme	Neighborhood Programme Romania-Moldova 2004-2006, Phare CBC 2006 Co-funding: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg
Begin date	28.11.2008
End date	28.11.2009, extended 2010
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Romania: Galati County, Moldova: Cahul, Chisinau Counties
Area Type	Rural mainly
Sea-area	N/A
River Zone	Prut River Basin District
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>It is historical common knowledge already that Romania and the Rep. Moldova have been separated by former tsarist Russia regime, later to become Soviet Union, for decades and decades. It was the Prut River that bordered them historically, culturally and ecologically; on one hand, the border river ecosystem was secured protection but, on the other, cooperation had been severely terminated; it was launched again in the 1990-ies, after the Rep Moldova became independent and Romania began its democratic process.</p> <p>The ECCG has been involved in the re-launching of the cross-border cooperation process starting 1998 that meant connection to the NGO movement (Ecological Movement of Moldova-EMM), and also with the governmental representatives to the ICPDR Working groups within the DEF network (<i>DEF stands for Danube Environmental Forum network, Observer to the ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River).ECCG was mandated to act as the Focal Point within DEF for the Lower Danube Region).</i></p> <p>The project ‘CW-HP’ goal was to assist the sustainable and cohesive socio-economic development within the cross-border area by improving the cross- border cooperation highlighting the innovative approach regarding wastes and waste water reduction impact.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the local capacity, along the Prut River banks in both countries, to cooperate, design and implement partnership projects aiming at reducing the soil and water pollution, and integrate the environment-related infrastructure in order to improve quality of life of the designated area inhabitants • Increasing the awareness level regarding the innovative solutions by facilitation the access to specific information regarding the waste management and wastewater treatment, adequate and available technologies to the frontier communities. <p>The main results achieved were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 30.000 people received information related to waste and water issues out which about 20.000 had access to brochures (4.500) and leaflets

	<p>(8.000);1.500 guidelines prepared and distributed to Local Administrations in the area, the info-panels regarding composting process, while 16.923 visited the project web-site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •227 people attended the project conferences, the round table and the study tour organized all of which facilitated better knowledge of the situation, of the different solutions available; they also enhanced the establishment of closer connections among the participants from Moldova Republic and Romania. • of practical importance proved to be evaluation of the water quality from a number of 31 water wells; the result was less than satisfactory as 80% of those had higher level of nutrients than legally accepted •the project promoted innovative, extensive methods to treat the wastewater <p>-by preparing a presentation brochure and a practical guideline and by inviting international experts to the conference and the round-table, to present their hands-on experience in building and maintaining such facilities.</p> <p>- 2 Working Groups (WG-wastes and wastewater) were established, of 10-12 members each (university students, representatives of local authorities, experts) in order to develop joint project proposals.</p> <p>- 2 pre-feasibility studies have been prepared in order to assist rural communities to advance in their efforts to reduce the pollution generated by wastes and waste waters.</p> <p>- Pilot composting facilities were built in 20 schools from Galati villages and city, allowing them to transfer the theory into practice.</p> <p>- the beneficiary and the partner organizations were better equipped thanks to their complementary knowledge and the experience achieved through the project to continue their joint efforts.</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ‘Composting’ component was later on implemented in 8 schools within the Galati Municipality due to another ECCG-led project. • Another larger cross-border cooperative project was later on elaborated and is being implemented at present: “Clean Rivers-Clean Sea”
Keywords	Cooperation continuity, Public involvement, Water Framework Directive requirements (River Basin Management Plan)
Data theme	Socio-economic development, Cross-border Area, Soil and Water Pollution, Solution- targeted approach
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Role of research centre	To secure transfer of knowledge and information about the requirements of the WFD regarding the integrated water resource management through the achievement of the River Basin Management Plan (1 st edition); to enable the transfer of concrete practical knowledge about innovative solutions to waste water treatment by creating reed-bed filtering units for smaller communities and villages with less than 2.000 p.e.; to elaborate informative and educational materials together with the partners.
Other partners and countries	Ecological Movement of Moldova-EMM, Rep. Moldova, Eco Counselling Luxembourg Die Umweltberatung Austria
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ADMINISTRATION**Completed by** Petruta Moisi**Collating-centre** Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania**Latest-update** 15/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	ECCG-6: Information Campaign and Public Debates
Project title	Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area
Project acronym	237 CRCS
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Associated programme	Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
Begin date	1/2/2013
End date	31/5/2015
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Black Sea Basin
Area Type	Rivers and coastal waters
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Turkey
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>Eco Counselling Centre Galati (ECCG), Romania, has been jointly developing the project "Clean Rivers - Clean Sea, (CR-CS)together with partners from four other Black Sea countries: Bulgaria, Georgia,Turkey and Moldova, aiming at enhancing the NGO Community capacity in the field of international water management and pollution reduction of the Black Sea.Out of the specific objectives of the project of great importance is strengthening public participation in water management process; thus, an information and education campaignis being developed in order to raise public awareness of the main watersignificant issues.</p> <p>To achieve the objective, the Eco Counselling Centre Galatifirstly informed the public about a national obligation under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC. The project team addressed the need to provide information about the process of MSFD implementation, focused mainly on the process of implementation on national, regional and EU level and informed the public about it. The project team reviewed the timeline of the MSFD and outlined the two nearest dates related to the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a Monitoring Programme of the current state of the marine environment with deadline 15 July 2014 (its development and implementation), and</i> • <i>The Programme of Measures to achieve Good Environmental Status expected to be ready by 1 January 2015.</i> <p>The latest document made publicly available on March 4th, 2015 by the EEA under the title SOER 2015,Romania "Marine and Coastal Environment - Black Sea reveals the following data as of 2012:</p> <p><i>"The Romanian 244 km-longcoastal area along the Black Sea, representing 7.65% of the national border, has been impacted by the main anthropogenic pressures identified ; these came fromtourism and recreation; construction of holiday homes in tourist areas;expansion and modernisation of existing tourist ports;harbours and navigation;fisheries;agriculture and the petrochemical industry.As effects of these pressures, Romania's coast now faces significant problems including habitat destruction, coastal erosion, water pollution, depletion</i></p>

of natural resources and large-scale exploitation of natural resources”
(SOER 2015, EEA)

The ICPDR document presented at the OM 17 in December 2014 show clearly that:

“The Total Nitrogen and Phosphorous levels measured in the three arms of the Danube Delta (...) showed that the contribution of the Danube Delta in nutrients retention is negligible, because most of the Danube water passes directly to the Black Sea, almost not reaching the Delta itself.”(www.icpdr.org)

One of the challenges that the ECCG has been confronted with refers to the seemingly lack of connection between the Prut River and the Black Sea considering the distance that separates them, of about 90 km. The Prut River indirectly affects the marine waters ecosystem as its waters reach the Danube River waters firstly, then it flows into the Black Sea.

Thus, ECCG has contributed to the dissemination of the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) referring to:

- the Prut River starting with 2014 sharing the information produced by the ABA Water Authorities to the stakeholders in the region, and with the public at large. Also,
- SWMI within the Danube River Basin produced by the ICPDR

As of January 2015, ECCG has informed the public about the availability online of both

- the Prut-Barlad River Basin Management Plan draft available at www.apeprut.ro, and the
- Danube River Basin Management Plan open for public debate until mid-July 2015 on the ICPDR’s webpage: www.icpdr.org, and on the ‘Romanian Waters National Administration webpage at www.anar.ro; www.rowater.ro

Also, ECCG has accessed and shared the information with the partners and the public of the documents produced by the European Commission, for example:

*Report on the implementation of Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources based on Member State reports for the period 2008-2011

*Studiul privind managementul apei in Romania si in Sud-Estul Romaniei”, www.rowater.ro (ANAR),

*Milieu LTd Consortium, “Article 12 Technical Assessment of the MSFD 2012 Obligations Romania,7 February 2014 Final version” elaborat de un Consortium sum Milieu Ltd Consortium (www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ (trad.CCEG)

Keywords

Public involvement, MSFD, Good Environmental Status, Prut River Basin

Data theme

WATER QUALITY/GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS/POLLUTION ?

CENTRE-INFORMATION

Project centre

Eco Counselling Center, Galati - Romania - lead partner

Role of research centre

Partner

Other partners and countries

Eco Counselling Center, Cahul - Moldova
Regional Environmental Centre - Moldova, Chisinau
Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus - Tbilisi, Georgia
Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation - Samsun, Turkey
BlackSeaNGONetwork, Bulgaria

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ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	MoisiPetruta
Collating-centre	ECCG
Latest-update	15 March 2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	ECCG 7 - Best Practices in Cross Border Youth Involvement
Project title	“Danube Art Master” International School Competition& Danube Day-related Programme
Project acronym	DAM&DD
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Associated programme	The “Danube International Day-June 29” 2004-2014; ECCG’s Environmental Education , Information and Awareness Programme
Beginning date	Each year starting with 2004 - 2014 included
End date	n/a
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	national
Area Type	Danube River Basin of Romania
Sea-area	n/a
Coastal zone	n/a
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>In Romania, whose territory lies up to 94% within the Danube River Basin, GOs, schools and NGOs have constantly brought attention upon the vital significance of the need to get to know and to protect the Danube ecosystems ever since the first Danube Day edition back in 2004, year after year. By securing the protection for the Danube ecosystems, the Black Sea ecosystems started to recover within the past decade or so almost reaching the planned 1990 level of pollution. The efforts all the DRB countries as early as 1991, whether EU Member States or Non-EU MS, have started to pay off even if the results were slowly visible; cleaner water, thriving flora and fauna, better informed population and many activities all of them focused on learning how to secure better protection to the aquatic environment.</p> <p>In 2004*, the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR) initiated and launched the basin-wide programme addressed to the younger generation (mainly aged 8th to 16th, but sometimes even younger), specifically to be organized by national Focal Points of the 13-country network Danube Environmental Forum (DEF). In 2004 countries celebrated ten years since the Danube Convention was signed; it entered into force in 1998). Complementary to countless conferences, workshops, forums mainly targeted at the decision makers’ Community (GOs, business sector), the ‘DANUBE ART MASTER’ (DAM) International SCHOOL COMPETITION has largely contributed to secure an increased awareness among the younger ones , creating and preserving an artistic touch. The programme was thought over as an artistic contest following an information class presentation and a field trip to a nearby water body, an approach that the organizers insisted upon. Each and every one of the DAM editions generated more and more creativity among children and teenagers and even larger participation was secured by the years.</p> <p>The Eco Counselling Centre Galati (ECCG), Global Water Partnership for Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE), DEF member organizations, associations, nautical clubs, governmental bodies and cultural centres, all have promoted the Danube Day and DAM .</p> <p>All the DAM organizers’ efforts were guided, provided funds, registered</p>

and promoted by the ICPDR and GWP CEE on the Danube basin level each year. Once the 13 national winners were identified, they were invited to either Vienna or Budapest for the DAM International Winner' Award usually in September, all costs covered by ICPDR, GWP CEE and donors. International publicity was always provided to the winners, by the countries' Delegations to ICPDR, NGOs, schools, teachers and students, not to mention their artistic artwork usually displayed at Vienna International Centre, e.g. Awards were offered both nationally and internationally in a wide range of items: books, notebooks, camera, schoolbags, cloth bags, calendars, etc. etc.

The ECCG have organized successful DAM-related events within the last eleven (11) years, and, thanks to an extended partnership and association with many entities, GOs and NGOs, the school competition became larger and larger making it difficult to secure the needed funding. Each year there was something different in the approach matrix:

- Power point presentations/ Lectures (Danube Survey II in 2007, Prut River Basin Plan, NATURA 2000 sites in Romania and in Galati County, Danube Delta, Sturgeons' issue, etc.
- street events with leaflets and posters' distribution to the public,
- interactive games for the younger participants (6-12 yrs old),
- DVDsfilm watching about the Earth Assets, Deltas & Lakes, The Danube River,
- artistic performances, drawing competitions,
- jigsaw puzzles (such as 'I love Danube', 'Compost', 'Water is Life'),
- games such as the 'Thread of LIFE', cartoons, all greatly enjoyed by everybody as the thousands of DAM picture collections and proof for.

ECCG has always expressed its gratitude for cooperation with the regular partners and media: GWP CEE, GWP Romania, Water Authorities such as ABA Prut River Iasi, Museum Complex of Natural Sciences Galati, Romania, the Education Inspectorates all over the country, Free Journalists' Association in Galati, VOX TV Station, RTV Station, and the Galati Radio station, and many others. An overall statistics prove that thousands of participants and artworks pile up thanks to the ICPDR's initiative in 2004 and NGO's enrollment.

One condition is always needed to secure continuity of the past eleven years dedicated to the Danube Day and DAM: LOVE, CARE and RESPONSIBILITY of Us ALL: the Mighty Danube River, tributaries, lakes, ponds, and wetlands so generously provide for services, food and entertainment to many of the more than 80 million people who inhabit the DRB District. More information at: www.icpdr.org , www.gwpcee.org , www.cceg.ro

Keywords	Danube River Basin, Black Sea Basin, Danube Day-June 29th , DAM competition, yo8unger generation
Data theme	Water-related issues: conservation, protection; nature-related issues: biodiversity, scarcity

CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, as Romania's Focal Point within the DEF network
Role of research centre	Lead NGO
Other partners and countries	<p>Global Water Partnership, Romania (GWP Ro)/Water Authorities: ABA Prut, Iasi Romania, Regional Water Operators/Museum Complex of Natural Sciences, Galati, Romania/DEF member organizations in Romania and other NGOs as well.</p> <p>Multimedia: Galati TV stations, freelancer journalists, the Independent Journalists' Association in Galati, Radio Romania International.</p> <p>Funding: The International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR)/Global Water Partnership for Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE)/Donors, mainly in the form of items: school stuff, water measuring devices, T-shirts, caps, badges, linen bags.</p>
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ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	ECCG
Collating-centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Latest-update	15/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	ECCG 8 - Best Practices in Identification and Monitoring of Land Based Sources of Pollution
Project title	“Inventory, Assessment and Remediation of Anthropogenic Sources of Pollution in the Lower Danube Region of Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova”
Project acronym	995-LSP
Project centre	Odessa State Department for Environmental Protection (DENRORSA), Ukraine
Associated programme	Joint Operational RO-UK-MD PROGRAMME 2007-2013
Begin date	18/4/2013
End date	n/a
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Lower Danube Region of •Ukraine (Odessa Oblast), •Romania (Tulcea and Galati Counties) and •Rep. of Moldova (Cahul and Cantemir Districts
Area Type	Terrestrial and riverine
Sea-area	n/a
Coastal zone	included
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>The project lays the basis for cross-border cooperation in the mentioned area for the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of land-based pollution sources • achieving monitoring improvement of identifies sources • better information sharing about such sources, and lastly • strategy development to get the pollution sources reduced or phase hopefully. <p><i>The overall objective</i> of the project is to reduce the environmental impact of chemical dumps and wastewater discharges in the Lower Danube region, as well as enhance environmental monitoring of soil and water pollution and make the information publicly available.</p> <p><u>The specific aims of the project are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ To improve knowledge of the current state of chemical dumps and water discharges in the Lower Danube region and establish priorities or to reduce or eliminate them; ✦ To reduce pollution of the Danube from wastewater discharges; and ✦ To increase public awareness about sources of soil and water pollution <p><u>The main activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Inventory and assessment of sources of pollution affecting land and waters; ✦ Construction and renovation of wastewater treatment infrastructure Vylcove town, Ukraine (concrete outcome); ✦ Public Information Service on Pollution Sources; ✦ Renewal of equipment; sampling and laboratory analyses for identification of actual sources of soil and water pollution; ✦ Capacity and awareness building programme;

	<p>✦ Long term monitoring and risk assessment of pollution sources affect soil and waters.</p>
Keywords	Lower Danube Region, WFD & REACH Directives, GO-NGO Cooperation
Data theme	Ecological footprints, chemical pollution, wastewater treatment , public info service
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Odessa State Department for Environmental Protection (DENRORSA), Ukraine
Role of research centre	To secure the project implementation, communication & cooperation among partners, respect deadlines, performance monitoring, visibility, etc.
Other partners and countries	<p><u>Ukraine</u> Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ukraine Institute of Market Problems and Economic and Ecological Research, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine</p> <p><u>Republic of Moldova</u> Environmental Pollution Prevention Office of the Ministry of Environment of Moldova</p> <p><u>Romania</u> Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, Romania Association for Cross-border Cooperation “Lower Danube Euroregion”, Galati Eco Counseling Centre, Galati</p>
Contact(s)	<p>Mirela Leonte Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania Basarbiei no. 2, Galati, code 800201, Romania T. + 40236499957 F. +40372877585 www.cceg.ro</p>
ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	Petruta Moisi
Collating-centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Latest-update	18/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	ECCG 9 - Best Practices in Environmental Education
Project title	The Green Schools' Map in Romania, with HENKEL Company Romania
Project acronym	GSM RO
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Associated programme	ECCG's 'Environmental Education Information & Public Awareness' Campaign HENKEL's Green Award Programme: 'Henkel in Schools', 'Together for a Clean Delta', etc.. United Nation's "Education for Sustainable Development Programme", 2005-2014
Begin date	July 2009
End date	March 2010
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Romania
Area Type	Country Territory
Sea-area	n/a
Coastal zone	included
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>Eco Counselling Centre Galati has constantly developed an Environmental Education, Information and Public Awareness (EE I& PA) programme since the very beginning as early as 1997 up to the present on both a national and local level and often assisted by foreign partners mainly from Austria, Luxembourg and Belgium</p> <p>More than 12 environmental educational (EE, I & PA) -related projects whether manuals' production, wastes-, air-, and field trip issues. The Green Schools' Map of Romania (GSM RO) was initiated by HENKEL Company with the ECCG as the lead NGO.</p> <p>The project's goal was to contribute to the strengthening of the cooperation among NGOs, schools and private business entities in a joint effort to raise awareness on the need to change life style into a more sustainable one and promote better care for the environment altogether. The main objective was to help EE-related activities get visibility on a larger scale and counteract the general perception that nothing or very little was being done to raise awareness on the environmental issues. In Romania there have always been developed educational activities by teachers but on a more individual and fragmentary basis. No access to data and information about such initiatives were possible, no media coverage on a larger scale, if any at all. Starting with the year 2000, an Eco -School Programme was initiated by the Ministry of Education but small funded was provided, schools being advised to find other funding sources. In most cases, it was the school entity that provided the needed finances, with parents' contribution sometimes. Once enlisted in such a programme, the respective schools were awarded a flag.</p> <p>By developing the GSM RO project, ECCG aimed at the achievement of a nation-wide statistics of the programmes and projects implemented by schools within a period of 3 years, 2006-2009, finalized with a map, a national award event, and nation-wide publicity.</p> <p>The project was concretely developed entirely online within a three month-span of time (September , four (4) criteria were made publicly available for evaluation and these were:</p>

- Contribution to the awareness about environmental issues
- Solutions identified and applied
- Involvement into the community
- Final results and outputs

Project's statistics, outcomes and results:

-272 schools were enlisted of which: 99 schools from the urban centres, and 73 from the rural areas; out of the total 153 were primary and secondary schools, 54 were industrial schools, 4 vocational schools, 3 students' Clubs and groups, 1 school of special needs (disabled students), and 1 complementary educational unit-the Children's Palace from Galati town.

-286 projects developed within the mentioned period of time, the main themes being: biodiversity, sustainable development, water resource-protection, recycling, and wastes' separate collection at source. More than 50% of the projects were financially sustained by schools own efforts, donors and local funding.

Evaluation was developed entirely in an unorthodox approach: once the ECCG finished evaluation all the 286 projects, ten (10) schools scored high and these ones were paid a visit of the ECCG team no matter the location as all the counties were represented in the contest. After the field evaluation, and the list reorganized in line with the field results, the identity of these 10 winners were made publicly known together with their respective projects for the larger public to assess the performance within a certain timeframe; once voting over, five (5) best winners were invited to the national award ceremony organized by ECCG in Bucharest in December 2009 with all costs covered. ECCG made it all known, from the very beginning that the First Winner would be jointly decided by the ECCG and Henkel Company.

A map of all the counties involved in the project, with 5 counties more visible, those displaying a higher environmental awareness and involvement was produced and distributed to the media.

The SIBIU County was considered the highest from this perspective having 24 schools involved in the contest. (Note: SIBIU was the European Cultural City in 2007).

During the festivity, the First Winner was announced: The "Stefan Banulescu" Technical College from Calarasi town, located on the left bank of the Danube River, just across the Silistra town of Bulgaria. The award constituted in a trip to Eco Schools in Austria, Vienna and neighborhood. The other four winners were from Miercurea-Ciuc (Harghita), Resita (Arad), Bucharest, and Slobozia-Conachi, (Galati). They all received awards distributed by HENKEL Company, and National Geographic Magazine, Romania.

The Award Festivity was assisted by two representatives from Umweltberatung Lower Austria and Haus fur Natur, Luxemburg who also held presentations in the plenary; they participated to the event within an exchange of experience programme between ECCG and Eco Counselling Europe network focused on EE programmes to protect and prevent deterioration of the environment (20 countries are members). They covered their own transport costs.

The trip to Austria was organized in March 2010, and a group of 10 people, teachers and students from the winning school, assisted by two ECCG representatives.

Note: HENKEL Company International, HQ's in Vienna, within the Social Corporate Responsibility, produces ecological detergents for domestic and foreign use; the country branches follow the policy, and this was the reason that ECCG agreed to jointly working together for a good cause.

	<p>Starting with 2018, the fosfate-containing detergents will be banned within the Danube River Basin as stated by the ICPDR.</p> <p>Conclusion: EE programmes(projects, activities, events) must be an ongoing joint effort, properly funded, monitored and transparent.</p> <p>NGOs in Romania have successfully developed many such projects, most of these poorly funded and publicly made known</p>
Keywords	Environmental education programme, sustainable development concept, nature protection, awards
Data theme	Environmental Public Awareness, Best Practical Examples
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati
Role of research centre	Lead NGO
Other partners and countries	Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, Romania, The National Geographic Magazine, Romania, die Umweltberatung Austria, House of Natur, Luxembourg.
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ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	ECCG
Collating-centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Latest-update	15/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	ECCG 10 - Best Practices in Solid Waste Reduction
Project title	Less Waste in the North West - Raising Public Awareness on Solid Municipal Waste Management in the North -West of the Black Sea Region
Project acronym	Less Waste in the N-W BS Region
Project centre	Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova)
Associated programme	Joint Operational Programme(JOP),„Black Sea 2007-2013”
Begin date	03.02.2012
End date	02.11.2013
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Republic of Moldova, Galati County-Romania, Burgas District -Bulgaria, Odessa Region - Ukraine
Area Type	Land area
Sea-area	n/a
Coastal zone	Mainly in project zones of Bulgaria and Ukraine
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>Poor waste management in the Black Sea Region continues to be a problem in spite of the many programmes and projects developed in the past years by many actors, GOs and NGOs, schools, etc. The Black Sea waters continue to collect all kind of waste items, visible and less visible: litter, chemicals, oil products, plastic, etc.</p> <p>Romania and Bulgaria, as EU Member States, have achieved some results in harmonizing the legislation and involving the actors in the process of solving it thanks to, mainly, the programmes launched by the EC as early as 1992; among these, the Danube Pollution Reduction Programme, Danube Regional Project, and many others under the guidance of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River(ICPDR), WWF, GWP, NGOs, funded by UNEP, GEF, World Bank, etc.</p> <p>The joint ‘Less Waste...’ project’s goal was to achieve stronger regional partnership and cooperation, and, thus, contribute to its key wider JOP objective: “a stronger and more sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin”. The project target region is inhabited by approx. 4 million people.</p> <p>The project coordinators have addressed the key issues through the promotion of and sharing the information about the solid waste management practices according to the EU Directives and the Methodological Guide for the elaboration of Waste Management Plans developed by the European Commission, to which the national legislations, strategies and action plans added up, as well. During the implementation phases, specific project objectives were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for reduction of the volume of solid waste deposited in landfills (23 landfills were targeted in project regions) and improvement of the state of environment by promoting and providing counselling for both the separate collection of the solid municipal wastes and the educational activities. <p>All the activities were targeted at local public administration and public entities (LPA); educational institutions (universities and schools), specialized entities responsible for waste management, farmers, and lastly, the public at large.</p> <p>The main project outputs planned to be obtained were: strengthened capacities of the LPAs about the implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) practices; better informed public about such practices; a SMW Experts’ Network established within the North-West of the</p>

	<p>BSregion. The projects results were:</p> <p>A Guide book on best practices in SMW management in 3 languages: 2.000 copies in Romanian, 1.000 copies in Bulgarian, and 1.000 copies in Russian. Brochures on separate collection about SMW and organic waste composting. Posters on SMW management. Maps online were created displaying the illegal waste dumps in Moldova (Prut river valley), Galati County of Romania (Prut and Chineja river valleys), Burgas- Bulgaria. 3 Training sessions for LPA on SMW management in Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine with training kits provided to 85 participants; 14 environmental educational seminars on SWM issues with hundreds of school children (483) and tens of teachers; 7 Info days were organized in Galati County attended by 930 students and Burgas district. Meetings with local population on best practices in SMW management. 8 composting platforms were built in schools from Galati County; two conferences in Galati, Romania and Chisinau, Rep. Moldova; the one organized by ECCG and followed by a study tour to waste processing facilities was attended by 81 participants from all 4 countries. Approx. 1.000 CDs were distributed. 800 questionnaires were distributed, leaflets, T-shirts, TV - and radio broadcasts have promoted the idea that wastes, of all kind not only solid ones, need to be addressed properly and seen as an income-generating issue instead by recycling, reusing.</p> <p>The project impact was audited as a successful one: increased rate of the separate collection of the municipal solid waste, and cleaner environment in the target regions; better equipped local administrations to handle the problem; an increased environmental awareness among population in the process of learning; the waste issue became very visible for decision-makers and larger public. Visibility of the action has been secured by involving multi-media, edited materials, meetings, field trips, web pages, exchange of information events.</p> <p>In conclusion, thanks to the good cooperation among partners and the efficient management of the Lead NGO, all the difficulties encountered, whether bureaucratic, financial flow, translation, editing, etc. could be overcome. Personal contacts with the Local administration helped a lot whenever necessary to boost cooperation. Everybody seemed to be concerned about the wastes issue but involvement was sometimes difficult to achieve. Legislation cannot be blamed any longer but it's the practice that challenges each and every one of us as it's based on a mentality change process and ongoing learning process.</p>
Keywords	Waste- and Water Framework Directives, GSM, Informative materials, promotion
Data theme	Solid Waste Management (SWM), cooperation, information exchange, landfills
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova)
Role of research centre	Lead NGO
Other partners and countries	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania; "Europe and We" Association, Bulgaria; Ecological Counseling Center Cahul, Republic of Moldova; Public Association "Cutezatorul", Republic of Moldova; Associate partner: Centre for Regional Studies, Ukraine.
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ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	ECCG, Petruta Moisi

Collating-centre	Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania
Latest-update	15/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 11 - NGO Involvement in Policy Making and Citizen Science
Project title	Reduction of Litter in the Marine and Coastal Environment and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
Project acronym	Marine Litter Watch
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	NGO Programme in Bulgaria under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area www.ngogrants.bg
Begin date	30/10/2014
End date	30/04/2016
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Bulgarian Black Sea coast and territorial waters
Area Type	Coastal, marine
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p><i>The case.</i> The accumulation of litter in the marine environment and on the coast adversely affects the ecological health of the sea and the shore. Litter, a product of unsustainable practices and consumer behavior creates great risks for society and its way of life. The risks are associated with the degradation of the marine and coastal environment resulting from over-exploitation of their resources and the accumulation of waste. It is harmful to human health and marine biodiversity, and has negative impact on the recreational and economic potential of the coastal resources. The most harmful marine litter to all forms of life is plastics which also form the largest percentage in the overall amounts. The problem has been recognized globally in the Declaration \$163 Rio + 20 and two EU directives - the Waste Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy (MSFD). Marine litter however is not incorporated in national legislation and waste management programme. The sources and distribution of marine litter are not sufficiently clarified, very little reliable data is available, and no monitoring is conducted to identify and formulate appropriate measures. This is one of the obligations under the MSFD both on national and regional level. Therefore NGOs need to engage decision makers on expert level and involve other stakeholders like environmental and marine agencies, businesses, municipalities and coastal communities to have marine litter included in the legislative framework and especially the Marine Strategy. The substantial problem of insufficient data needs also to be addressed.</p> <p><i>The change process.</i> The project includes three groups of activities associated with engaging decision makers, coastal stakeholders, youth and the wider coastal communities. The problem of marine litter has been formulated on expert level by NGO experts and has been presented to decision makers at the ministry of environment, the National Assembly, the Black Sea Basin Directorate, the regional environmental inspectorates in Varna and Bourgas. Round tables with local stakeholders have also formulated some problems and suggestions in the line of future measures to reduce marine litter. Another important group of activities envisages the involvement of youth in Citizen Science, training them to use the mobile application Marie LitterWatch of the EEA to collect data about beach litter. The involvement of youth is supported by various artistic and visibility activities. The third group of activities targeting the coastal</p>

	<p>population have general awareness and publicity effect and they target the coastal communities and concerned citizens in the whole country who visit the coast and love the sea.</p> <p><i>The outcome.</i> The project is still in progress though the major decision makers on the marine litter issue have been addressed and the coastal stakeholders have been involved in assessing the issue and providing suggestion on the possible solutions. The desired outcome is the inclusion of marine litter in the national regulatory framework and the design of good programme of measures for its reduction. Youth and concerned citizens are to be involved in Citizen Science network and awareness and information activities on the need to reduce litter in the sea and on the coast.</p> <p><i>Emerging best practices.</i> The involvement of NGOs and their experts who address national decision makers from the environment ministry, other ministries and the National Assembly with concrete proposals for improvement in policy issues can be described as best practice. BSNN has prepared and submitted a policy paper with suggestions for definition for marine litter and other ideas for specific amendments and the inclusion of the topic in the national legal framework. The project team maintains communication with ten institutions and agencies involved in the political process.</p> <p>The project team has started the Citizen Science network for collection of data on marine litter on the Bulgarian coast. The start was a campaign with training on the use of Marine LitterWatch for environmental NGOs and stakeholders. The network can be extended on the coast of some littoral Black Sea countries.</p>
Keywords	Marine Litter, Citizen Science, marine environment, Pollution, Nitrates, Agriculture
Data theme	MARINE LITTER/CITIZEN SCIENCE/ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Regional Office, Varna, Bulgaria
Role of research centre	Lead Partner
Other partners and countries	Bourgas Association of Ecological and Rural Tourism (BAEST)
Contact(s)	<p>Emma Gileva Black Sea NGO Network, 2 Dr. L. Zamenhof Str., fl.2, 9000 Varna PO BOX 91 Bulgaria T. ++ 359 52 615856 F. ++ 359 52 602047 bsnn@bsnn.org, www.bsnn.org</p>
ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	Black Sea NGO Network Emma Gileva
Collating-centre	
Latest-update	02/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 12 - NGO Representation at the Black Sea Basin Council
Project title	Water Management as Shared Responsibility and follow up activities
Project acronym	n/a
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	Phare Programme
Begin date	01/09/2001
End date	30/04/2002
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Bulgarian Black Sea coast and territorial waters
Area Type	Coastal, marine
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p><i>The case.</i> The introduction of the EC Water Framework Directive 2000/60, which came into force on 22 December 2000 (WFD) in Bulgaria and the transposition of its principles in the Bulgarian Water Act, was a challenge in terms of capacity building to a good number of environmental NGOs. At the core of the Directive is an integrated approach for sustainable water management in river basin districts. The overall objective is to reach good water status for all waters by the year 2015. The challenges for countries implementing the Directive are substantial not least for the River Basin Management Authorities that are the implementing unit at the regional level. The Black Sea River Basin Directorate in Varna is one of four Directorates established in Bulgaria in 2002 in accordance with the Bulgarian Water Act and is the regional operational unit under the Ministry of Environment and Water for the Black Sea Basin catchment area. The catchment area covers 14.70% of Bulgarian territory and 100% of the Bulgarian Black Sea territorial waters. This is approximately 16,568 km² land area and 6358 km² sea area. The 12 nautical mile zone of the Bulgarian Black Sea waters is 27 000 km². It is situated opposite the coast from Cape Sivriburun on the north to the mouth of the Rezovska River to the south with a total length of 378 km of the coastline.</p> <p><i>The change process.</i> The Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) studied the basic principles and implementation procedure of the WFD in Bulgaria. The BSNN involved in the process of capacity building experts, environmental NGOs and representatives of administrations from the coast. The organization also monitored the procedure for the establishment of the Basin Council, the consultative body at the directorate. The Basin Council is a consultative committee supporting the activities of the Director of the Basin Directorate. The Basin Council includes representatives of government institutions, municipalities, water users, and environmental non-government organizations from the respective basin region, as well as representatives of scientific institutes.</p> <p><i>The outcome.</i> The BSNN monitored the council formation and applied for representation at the council in accordance with the legal procedure. It was admitted to it and became member for the maximum two four year terms. The sessions of the council are public and the BSNN is invited to attend. The records and presentations delivered at the council are made</p>

public at the website of the directorate.

Follow up and best practices. The involvement of NGOs and their experts in the process of drafting and approval of the water management plans and their revision has been very positive in terms of their own capacity building. The Black Sea Basin Directorate as an institution has become more transparent in its planning and everyday routine activities.

Accesses to information activities provide a good example of tradition in the Black Sea Basin Directorate in Varna. It has published on its web site the internal rules of the institution, model application form, the Law for Access to Public Information and Register of all applications. The Register provides a high-quality basis to refer to already provided information by the Directorate, creating thus a clear picture of the type of data available from the institution. The Register spans over a good number of years.

The Register of the issued licenses from the Black Sea Basin Directorate under the Water Act is also available on the website. The information is provided in accordance with the Law on Access to Public Information. An official request must be made to the Director of the BSBD, specifying the required information and the need for this information. The register is linked to the EEA database.

Filing any kind of letter or request with the BSBD has improved very much over the years. Letters and requests can be filed over the internet and they receive ingoing numbers and are processed in a regular manner.

The BSBD is conducting a good number of public awareness activities and youth education activities in partnership with schools, public institutions and NGOs.

Keywords	Black Sea, Basin Directorate, Basin Council
Data theme	BEST PRACTICES/PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/COUNCIL
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Regional Office, Varna, Bulgaria
Role of research centre	Lead Partner
Other partners and countries	Bourgas Association of Ecological and Rural Tourism (BAEST)
Contact(s)	Emma Gileva Black Sea NGO Network, 2 Dr. L. Zamenhof Str., fl.2, 9000 Varna PO BOX 91 Bulgaria T. ++ 359 52 615856 F. ++ 359 52 602047 bsnn@bsnn.org , www.bsnn.org
ADMINISTRATION	
Completed by	Black Sea NGO Network Emma Gileva
Collating-centre	
Latest-update	02/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Case study 13 DYKD - Best Agricultural Practice
Project title	Wise Use of Water Resources and Adaptation to Climate Change in Konya Closed Basin
Project acronym	
Project centre	WWF-Turkey, İstanbul, Turkey
Associated programme	Eti- Burçak (Biscuit brand operating at national level)
Begin date	1/8/2008
End date	
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Konya Closed Basin, Central Anatolia, Turkey
Area Type	Steppes, agricultural fields
Sea-area	
Coastal zone	
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p>The Problem/Opportunity: Konya Closed Basin is of outstanding importance to nature conservation in Turkey and globally, particularly for its wetlands, the extensive areas of steppe habitat and for rich biodiversity. Basin is one of the “Global 200” eco-regions identified by WWF International. 15 important bird areas, 6 important plant areas and 2 Ramsar Sites are located within the basin.</p> <p>However, the basin is under the threat of excess use of water resources mainly in agriculture and is one of the most vulnerable places in terms of climate change. 88% of water resources are used in agriculture, 61% of which is derived from ground water. Besides, 64,000 of 97,000 boreholes are illegally drilled.</p> <p>Objectives: WWF-Turkey and Eti Burçak cooperation aims at protecting water resources in the basin and sustaining wise use of water resources in agriculture. The best practice targets extending the use of modern irrigation systems, while putting forward the impacts of climate change in the basin and defining specific steps to reduce these impacts.</p> <p>The best practice has a crucial role in reversing the impacts of unsustainable water policies and practices as well as taking the local community a step forward in adapting to climate change. It is also important to state that the project contributed to Millennium Development Goals through ensuring environmental sustainability and alleviating poverty by increasing welfare of farmers.</p> <p>Results/Outcomes: The best practice raised the basin community’s awareness on the limited water resources, misuse of water in agriculture and threats for the future. The committed work of WWF-Turkey has helped to transform the region in terms of how ‘water’ is perceived, used and managed and there have been observable changes in the activities of public institutions in water and agriculture sector.</p> <p>It is demonstrated that farmers can increase the productivity by 28% through</p>

drip irrigation as well as reducing their costs on energy and fertilizer use.

Ziraat Bank granted a loan of 185 million TL for modern irrigation techniques from 2007 to 2011. In 2007, the loans accounted 21 million TL, whereas it reached 50 million TL on the following years. This total would cover 40,000 hectares of land.

According to the TURKSTAT data, the number of drip irrigation systems increased from 416 in 2006 to 8,212 in 2010.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock took water resources, climate change, precipitation rates and climate change into account while planning incentives for the Basin.

3,500 farmers participated to the trainings on wise use of water resources and adaptation to climate change from 2008 to 2011.

It is demonstrated that 47% water and 58% energy were saved through pilot projects.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock prioritized Basin within their Protecting Agricultural Land for Environmental Purposes Program and provided supplementary subsidies to farmers to protect natural resources.

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs prepared the Action Plan for the Protection of Konya Closed Basin and defined the steps to be realized to use natural resources and reduce pollution.

Future Plans:

By collaborating with local stakeholders, WWF-Turkey continues examining the main challenges in the region as well as developing new projects to create proper solutions to the problems. The upcoming activities of the project in 2012 are designed in line with the need of capacity building on the advantages of modern irrigation systems, financial tools to cover the costs, technical details on how to use these techniques for different types of crops.

Besides, these activities are supported by policy making and lobbying activities. With regard to this perspective, WWF-Turkey looks forward to concentrate in market transformation to integrate water footprint concept in policy-making processes.

Lessons learned:

The experience in the Konya Closed Basin showed that projects targeting agriculture need time to make a change. Farmers are the final decision makers on the technology and production patterns they implement and they usually learn by experiencing the innovation on the field. Therefore, pilot projects are the most efficient tools to create a change among farmers.

Yet another important lesson learnt from this practice is the need to collaborate with local stakeholders and guarantee participation. Being in contact with interest groups, defining their needs and problems, developing solutions specific to local needs and creating the platforms to replicate these practices are the crucial success factors.

Additionally, it is necessary to be able to communicate with local and national policy and decision makers and act as a bridge between local and national stakeholders.

Keywords	Best Agricultural Practice, Agriculture, Climate Change
Data theme	
Centre-Information	
Project centre	WWF-Turkey
Role of research centre	Lead Organisation
Other partners and countries	Eti-Burçak
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Latest-update	03/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Case study 14 DYKD - Best Environmental Education Practice
Project title	Black Sea Box
Project acronym	
Project centre	Every Drop Matters, İstanbul, Turkey
Associated programme	
Begin date	2007
End date	2010
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Black Sea
Area Type	Coastal zone,
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p>The Problem/Opportunity: Almost one third of the land area of continental Europe drains into the Black Sea. The region includes the major ports of seventeen countries, thirteen capital cities and some 160 million persons. Yet its only connection to the world's oceans and seas is through the Bosphorus Straits. The decomposition of phosphorus and nitrogen from the river basins that discharge into the Black Sea has created the largest anoxic basin in the world. Numerous sources of pollution, such as untreated urban water discharge and coastal development have dramatically affected this environment in the last few decades. supports the recovery of the Black Sea by promoting the sustainable use of natural resources through an educational and capacity building programme in the Black Sea countries.</p> <p>The Black Sea Commission, jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, the Coca-Cola Company and Every Drop Matters, supported the creation of an education kit called "Black Sea Box" targeting the children of 9-12 years of age living around the Black Sea.</p> <p>Objectives: The project is intended to increase the environmental awareness of school children about the Black Sea ecosystem. It aims to reach two million school children aged between nine and 12 in the six Black Sea countries and to increase the capacity of their teachers through a Teacher's Guide. EDM is working with Ministries of Education in all six countries to ensure the sustainability of the project as an educational tool.</p> <p>Results/Outcomes: A master Black Sea Box was created in English and Turkish. The Black Sea Box was introduced through working with the Turkish Ministry of Education and a draft was provided to the General Director of Primary Education. In March 2012, a protocol was signed between Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF-Turkey) and the General Directorate of Primary Education (19 March 2010) for joint promotion of the Black Sea Box. Black Sea Box instructor training sessions were held in Rize and Trabzon in Turkey, training more than 200 instructors. The workshops focused on why the Black Sea is important and covered the content of the Black Sea Box</p>

(the aim of the project, the target group, the CD, game cards, posters, the format of the Teachers' Handbook and the methods and techniques presented in the handbook).

Distribution of the Black Sea Box Kit to districts of Istanbul on the Black Sea coast happened in collaboration with the Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry during their Environment Education Project teacher training sessions.

During the Teachers Academy Foundation's (TAF) Leader Teacher Training sessions, the Black Sea Box was distributed to teachers from Black Sea cities (in Artvin on 27 - 29 May, and in Ordu, Giresun, Samsun, Sinop, and Rize).

A total of 800 teachers received Black Sea Box kits as part of TAF Leader Teacher Training.

The Black Sea Education Set has been developed with a view to providing guidance to educators in the six countries on the Black Sea littoral attributing importance to the Black Sea and wishing to work for its protection. The main aim of the set is to raise awareness among children and those around them about the Black Sea, where they live and of which they are a part, rather than merely imparting information about the Black Sea.

The following are the materials included in the Black Sea Education Set:

- Black Sea Education Set Teacher's Guide
- Life in the Black Sea Cards
- Life in the Black Sea Poster
- Black Sea Map

Black Sea Education Set Teacher's Guide: The Teacher's Guide has a total of 5 Parts:

- Part 1: General Information About the Black Sea
- Part 2: Marine Life in the Black Sea
- Part 3: How do we benefit from the Black Sea and Why should we protect it?
- Part 4: Challenges Facing the Black Sea
- Part 5: Let's protect the Black Sea

Each part has informative texts and activities directed at 9-12 year old children. Before undertaking the activities, we suggest that you read the informative texts prepared for you in the sections where the activities are included.

The activities have been designed in a manner where the pupils will be interacting with the space they are in, with you and with their friends. During the process, it should be instilled in the pupils that there is no single right approach and as in the case of many issues, there could be different viewpoints and interpretations about the environment, as well.

Keywords	Education kit, Black Sea Box, school children environmental awareness
Data theme	
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Every Drop Matters
Role of research centre	Lead Organization
Other partners and countries	The Black Sea Commission The United Nations Development Programme

	The Coca-Cola Company WWF Turkey, İstanbul, Turkey
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ADMINISTRATION	
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Collating-centre	DYKD
Latest-update	03/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Case study 15 DYKD Improvement of the ICZM
Project title	Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region,
Project acronym	ICZM
Project centre	The National Administration "Apele Romane", Dobrogea - Litoral Water Basin Administration, Romania (ABADL)
Associated programme	Joint Operational Programme "BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013"
Begin date	01.01.2013
End date	31.12.2014
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Black Sea
Area Type	Coastal zone
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p>The project will support the improvement and development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management addressing to the area at the interface between land and sea while the Maritime Spatial Planning will focus on the activities developed on sea. Both of them will focus on water environment quality. Taking into account that: - the action to which the above mentioned project is belonging, is meant to make connection between the Danube River and the Black Sea, - the Danube River is the most important tributary for the Black Sea, any actions taken within the Danube River Basin will influence the Black Sea marine environment</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall: To improve quality of maritime environment using common innovative methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans within the Black Sea region to assure the economical use of resources <p>Specific: - develop common and coherent ICZM approach within the regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide integrated support for the stakeholders - increase the level of public participation in the decision-making process <p>General aims of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Turkey are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop an integrated policy and decision making process covering all relevant sectors to encourage a coherent and balanced use of the coastal areas, - To determine the available uses of the coastal areas and their effects on the environment - To adopt preventive and protective approaches including the systematic observation and evaluation of the effects of important projects. - To encourage the development and implementation of management models regarding the national resources and environment; reflecting changes such as pollution, sea erosion, loss of resources, and destruction of habitats due to the use of coastal and marine areas, - To ensure the access of individuals, groups and organisations to information; to involve them in the planning and decision making process and to enable them to give their opinions at appropriate levels.

	<p>Target group(s)are: selected members of the working groups: 16 persons (3 from national public authority, 4 from regional authorities/government, 7 from NGOs and 2 from research/educational institutions); Participants in training and study visit on ICZM: 24 persons, 2 from each partner/ associates. These members of the target group will be public workers as well representatives of the private sector, including NGOs; Participants to the 5 Regional Workshop on ICZM Partnership: 250 persons; Experts within local/regional public institutions, research/educational institutes and NGOs working on ICZM related matters within Project Regions; 500 citizens participating in the public debates regarding participatory process to ICZM approach</p> <p>Results/Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased administrative capacity to work on ICZM; - Common approach on ICZM in project regions; - Creating an interregional expertise on ICZM; - Increased capacity building for the stakeholders; - Regional public awareness on ICZM process objectives and methodologies; - Integration of public will and knowledge into planning process; - Adjusting the ICZM approach to public perception;
Keywords	Black Sea, ICZM, coast management
Data theme	
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	ABADL
Role of research centre	Lead Partner
Other partners and countries	Sinop Provincial Special Administration, Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities Bulgaria (UBBSLA) Center for Regional Studies (CRS) Ecological Counseling Center Cahul (CCE) Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) Foundation for the Protection of Natural Life Turkey (DAYKO)
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Collating-centre	DYKD
Latest-update	03/03/2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Best Practice16 REC Caucasus - Participatory Water Resource Management
Project title	“Participatory Water Resource Management”
Project acronym	‘PWRM
Project centre	Black Sea Eco Academy
Associated programme	European Union through Oxfam Co-funding: Keda Municipality, Georgia
Begin date	01.07.2010
End date	01.03.2011
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Georgia, Adjara, Keda Municipality
Area Type	Rural
Sea-area	Black Sea
River Zone	Chorokhi-Adjaristskali
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>High-mountainous Adjara is constantly affected by natural recourses flooding, land-slide, avalanches, damaging buildings and making lands unusable for living and agricultural use. Also the village suffer from periodic drought and flash-fires in the summer months. In the dry season, crops often suffer from lack of water, damaging livelihoods and impacting upon nutrition. There is also a lack of readily accessible drinking water due to some village’s remoteness and poor level of infrastructure.</p> <p>Yet the local budget does not provide for preventive measures of natural disasters and is only aimed at liquidation of the damaged property. Population has no affective, established tools to influence local government in terms of natural disasters. Case study focuses on small scale project prepared and implemented in one of the high-mountainous villages of Adjara - Kvashta.</p> <p>Following a community-led needs assessment and the participatory development of mitigation strategies, the villagers put forward plans for the rehabilitation of an existing reservoir, and the establishment of two new ones.</p> <p>Kvashta lobbyist, newly elected in the framework of the Black Sea Eco Academy (Georgian partner NGO) and OXFAM GB implemented project actively advocated the project budget with the local government securing co-financing. The negotiations were successful and the municipality agreed to fund and maintain the reservoirs.</p> <p>The village of Kvachta is located in Keda municipality, in the mountains of Georgia’s Autonomous Republic of Adjara, on the Black Sea Coast. Despite recent development of tourist infrastructure in the region’s capital Batumi, the population remain almost entirely dependent on livestock and the cultivation of a small number of crops: Maize, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumber and beans.</p> <p>Facilitated by the Black Sea Academy, the community formed a Village Emergency Group, led by Vardo Beridze which performed a participatory needs assessment to identify the key risk factors in the village. Following</p>

the assessment, they drew up plans for a series of reservoirs across the large, but sparsely-populated village.

The resources available in the village and through Oxfam were sufficient to provide only one reservoir, so the lobbyist Irakli Jakeli registered as a lobbyist for Kvashta Village, negotiated co-financing for the efficient implementation of the project with the local Government.

The Keda Gamgebeli, Irakli Baramidze and Chairman of Sakrebulo, Badri Diasamidze, passionate advocates for disaster risk reduction in the region, visited the site and consulting with the villagers, happily agreed to allocate municipality funds to the project.

The Local Government understanding of the importance of risk reduction, and it's participation in wider disaster-related activities were certainly an important factor in this case. It is also possible that for the Gamgebeli being new in his post, the project was a good opportunity to prove his commitment to his constituents.

The activities were resulted in:

- The reservoirs have been completed, giving the village access to water for irrigation and fire-fighting in the dry season. The reservoirs were constructed by expert contractors, using funds from the municipality and Oxfam, and in kind support from the village. The reservoirs are now operational and provide water to land across the locality. Irrigation will boost production of the village's staple crops, even during drought, securing and strengthening the livelihoods of the local population.

- Improved access to water has brought improved health and hygiene to the village, with readily available water for washing and cleaning. It has also met a critical need for drinking water for animals in the dry season.

- Having water readily accessible also reduces the risk of fires. One reservoir was constructed in the vicinity of a new, wooden school to protect the building and the pupils and teachers inside.

A sustainability plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of the community and local government with regard to maintenance has been drawn up, formally transferring ownership of the project to the village.

The community will monitor the reservoirs to ensure their proper use. Maintenance of the reservoirs will be carried out by the local municipality to ensure the sustainability of the infrastructure.

Keywords	Water resource management, community involvement, agricultural development, reservoir, nature protection.
Data theme	Water related issues: management, conservation and protection; Nature-related issues: disaster risk reduction;
CENTRE-INFORMATION	
Project centre	Black Sea Eco Academy
Role of research centre	Ensure successful implementation of the project
Other partners and countries	Oxfam GB
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Latest-update 4.04.2015

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Best Practice -17 - REC Caucasus - Environmental Protection of International River Basins
Project title	“Environmental Protection of International River Basins”
Project acronym	“EPIRB”
Project centre	REC Caucasus
Associated programme	In cooperation with GREENTECS, lead implementer Hulla&Co Human Dynamics KG Funding: EU
Begin date	05.02.2014
End date	N/A
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Adjara, Georgia
Area Type	Rural mainly
Sea-area	Yes
River Zone	Chorokhi-Adjaristskali River Basin District
DESCRIPTIONS	
<i>Best Practice Summary</i>	<p>The overall goal of the project is “to improve water quality in the trans-boundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus.” This long-term goal will be achieved by attaining two specific objectives: i) to improve availability and quality of data on the ecological, chemical, and hydro-morphological status of trans-boundary river basins including groundwater and; ii) to develop River Basin Management Plans for selected river basins/sub-river basins according to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p> <p>Expected results of the EPIRBP are: 1. Increased capacities of the respective national authorities for hydro-biological, chemical and hydro-morphological monitoring of water quality including groundwater; quality assurance procedures in laboratories in place and; 2 Increased technical capacities by means of development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans for selected rivers.</p> <p>Chorokhi-Adjaristskali River Basin Management Plan was developed by REC Caucasus based on participatory approach according to WFD requirements, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary water status classification of water bodies based on available biological and chemical data; • Identification of pressures and impacts and water bodies at risk. Aligned to the EC IMPRESS WFD guidance document, risk criteria will be established for to identify the significance of pressures and the related possible risks of each water body to fail the WFD environmental objectives. (Article 5, Annex II); • Achievement of environmental objectives (WFD Article 4); • Design of surveillance and operational monitoring programme and network (work to be undertaken by EPIRB team) (Article 8, Annex V) to be included as an Annex to the RBMP; • Identification of gaps in data availability and design of investigative monitoring programmes and network (to be undertaken by EPIRB specialist team assisted by contractor);

- Assessment of water status (surface water and groundwater) using available biological, chemical and quantitative data;
- Revision of water body status based on outcomes of investigatory monitoring (JFS);
- Initial economic analysis consistent with WFD guidelines (WFD Article 5, Annex III);
- Development of national and basin-wide confined Programmes of Measures (WFD Article 11, Annex VI); and
- Preparation of a River Basin Management Plan in accordance with WFD and national requirements (WFD Article 13, Annex VII).

This is the first case in Georgia, when River Basin Management Plan was elaborated according to WFD. Moreover, draft version of Chorokhi-Adjaristskali River Basin Management Plan was presented to main stakeholders for their comments and proposals. The draft RBMP was discussed in details and a few very important issues were stressed.

During the discussion of *prioritization of measures* workgroup suggested several changes in the priority list: 1) review of permitting conditions - from medium to high; 2) introduction of the new methodology for environmental flow calculation- from medium to high; 3) reduction of water loss in Batumi water supply system - from low to medium.

Fourth issue discussed by the working group was *possibility of involvement* of different organizations in the process of implementation of identified measures. Workgroup has recommended creating an initiative group by the government of Georgia where CSO's will participate and contribute to the process of planning and implementation of RBMP activities.

Fifth topic discussed by the group was *financial sources* to fund RBMP activities and measures. Working group members mostly consisted by NGOs, have suggested their possible contribution to the process with initiation and implementation of water saving programs, advocating and lobbying of RBMP activities in local and central budget planning.

Keywords	<i>Water Framework Directive requirements, River Basin Management Plan, water quality, trans-boundary, data.</i>
Data theme	<i>Improvement of quality, Cross-border Area, Soil and Water Pollution.</i>
CENTRE- INFORMATION	
Project centre	<i>REC Caucasus</i>
Role of research centre	<i>To ensure transfer of knowledge and information about the requirements of the WFD regarding the integrated water resource management through elaboration of the River Basin Management Plan;</i>
Other partners and countries	<i>GREENTECS</i>
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ADMINISTRATION	
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<i>Collating-centre</i>	<i>REC Caucasus</i>
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<i>Latest-update</i>	<i>04.04.2015</i>
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GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Best Practice 18 - REC Caucasus - Sustainable Land Management
Project title	Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region
Project acronym	N/A
Project centre	REC Caucasus
Associated programme	Environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy
Beginning date	06.01.2008
End date	31/01/2012
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Area Type	River waters
Sea-area	N/A
Coastal zone	N/A
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>Since 2007, REC Caucasus has started to implement the project “Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region” in the three South Caucasus countries. The overall objective of the proposed Project is to ensure continued ecosystem functions and integrity, reduce poverty, enhance food and water security and income for rural farmers in the South Caucasus countries by combating desertification, strengthening the natural resource base and revitalize the agricultural sector, and increase awareness about best practices for disaster management decision-making and to building local government capacity in development of environmental democracy and public participation.</p> <p>Main objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening policy, planning and regulatory environments for promotion of sustainable land management (SLM) in transboundary watersheds of the South Caucasus region 2. Demonstrating benefits of watershed based sustainable land management and alternative livelihood for rural people while protecting fragile ecosystems, including water security issues and disseminating lessons learned and best practices through developing a replication strategy. <p>The project has been implementing in the following watersheds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khrami-Debeda river watersheds (Toumanyanyan, Alaverdi, Akhtala (Armenia); Bolnisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi (Georgia)) • Alazani-Iori river watersheds (Lagodekhi, Dedoplistskaro, Sagarejo, Sighaghi (Georgia) Belaken, Zagatala, Sheki, Gakh, Oguz, Mingachavir, Samukh (Azerbaijan)) <p>A number of activities were carried out to fulfill the objectives of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral watershed Action Plans (complying with EU guidelines and

recommendations) for improved land planning, management and monitoring in trans-boundary river basins of the South Caucasus region are elaborated, agreed among stakeholders and effectively used by 16 municipalities of Toumanyar, Alaverdi, Akhtala, Belaken, Zagatala, Sheki, Gakh, Oguz, Mingachavir, Bolnisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Telavi, Lagodekhi, Dedoplistskaro, Sagarejo in decision-making;

- 12 pilot projects are successfully implemented and local government and community groups in 12 vilagies of the Khrami-Debeda and Alazani-lori transboundary river basins have awareness, practical knowledge and capacity to plan and manage lands, forests, pastures and arable areas in a sustainable way to protect fragile ecosystems and enhance food security and income;
- 3 National assessment reports on land management related national legislations and institutional set-up in South Caucasus countries with comparative analysis with EU guidelines and recommendations for legal and institutional improvements for SLM are available and used by the relevant ministries in all three South Caucasus Countries in the process of EU approximation;
- based on results and main findings of the project in Azerbaijan and Georgia the Alignment of National Action Programme and Reporting Process under UNCCD process have been initiated by RECC and capacity strengthening activities of decision makers successfully commenced in both countries.

Keywords	Local Action Plan, Public Involvement Assessment Reports. EU guidelines.
Data theme	Watersheds, Sustainable Land Management,
CENTRE- INFORMATION	
Project centre	REC Caucasus
Role of research centre	Leading and implementing organization
Other partners and countries	CENN
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ADMINISTRATION	
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Latest-update	05.04.2015



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Project “Clean Rivers – Clean Sea! NGO actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area”

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