

INTRODUCTION

Preserving nature is one of the toughest challenges of our century. Today it is not only the civil environmentalists but also responsible governments, international scientific boards and the leaders of responsible large companies who say that the world must choose a path of sustainable development. Global climate change, the destruction of the ozone layer, the pollution of our waters, the loss of biological diversity and the escalating competition for energy resources of the economy and our everyday existence – all these point to the fact that environmental protection is not any more a ‘sectoral’ problem but the common affair of all of us. The price of the loss of natural resources is rapidly increasing but the risks of more and more extreme weather are also appearing in economic calculations.

A new approach is spreading which considers environmental care. We must understand that it is not possible to protect our natural environment in reserves, separated from humans by ‘barbed wire’. If we do not recognise that humanity is a part of nature, we do not establish forms of socio-economic operation which allow for a harmonic coexistence with our environment, then nature as an ‘object’ will not be preservable. **Active environmental care promotes the forms of farming that cooperate with nature and which not only preserve our essential resources but also enrichen them.** Our economic activities must be transformed into forms which make wise use of natural resources instead of exhausting them, and which prevent the production of unprocessable pollution. Historical examples and modern and innovative companies and communities give proof of the fact that it is not necessary to destroy our environment in order to assure our welfare.

Our booklet presents an initiative which works out of this philosophy, and initiated a unique opportunity in Hungary. Along the rivers of the Carpathian Basin – including the river Tisza – *flood plain landscape management* had been general until river regulation works began 150 years ago. This form of land use **provided a living** for the people of these areas, while it **also established and preserved settlements uniquely diverse in Europe.**

We have good reasons to learn from our ancestors and we have a good basis to be an example to Europe. We are able to (re-)establish a farming system enriching our wonderful natural values and improve the livelihoods of the people of the Tisza Valley. **The Tisza Biodiversity**



Project, and within this the Biodiversity Micro Grant Fund, wish to promote the introduction of flood plain landscape management along the river Tisza. These initiatives create opportunities supporting this process of development. Our results achieved so far provide assurance: we are working in a good direction.

Our initiative intends to implement farming methods which cooperate with nature in the Hungary of the 21st century, and is itself forward-looking, not retrospective. We wish to provide an example to people living in similar areas. We also **actively seek cooperation with responsibly thinking social and economic partners in order to continue our work**, and to introduce the model of sustainable development to more and more places.

We recommend our booklet for farmers, municipalities, environmentalists, scientists seeking new possibilities and for companies and institutions willing to participate in a pioneer initiative, and ready to give financial support to our work.



FARMING ALONG THE TISZA

The river Tisza is a jewel and an under-utilized resource of Hungary. In the spring, the time of floods, we desperately strive to keep the water between the dams, away from our lands. The water which is so fatally missing for the people, animals and plants in the summer, the time of drought. If predictions are right, the next decades will bring more and more extreme weather conditions: deluge-like rains or long droughts. **It is a crucial issue to prepare to face the expectable challenges, and to manage our waters,** including the water of the Tisza, wisely.

In ancient times people, where they could, settled by rivers because they knew that water meant life. They used the river which fed humans, animals and plants. This is how the river Tisza was settled, also. However, with the river regulations and the draining of the wetlands and morassy areas begun in the 19th century, basically new processes started.

The Tisza became an enemy, having being a friend: each year the fight between the river and the people living along it revived and intensified: the floods became more and more devastating, and the dams higher and higher. Human strived to build stricter and stricter borders between the water arriving with the floods and the lands, forests and meadows along the water. He also established arable land areas which were endangered by inland waters in the spring and by drought in the summer. We spend enormous amounts of money on building dams, inland water drainages, reservoirs and irrigation systems. Meanwhile, plenty of wetland habitats have disappeared.

Owing to the change of geographical, hydrographical and climate conditions and to inappropriate land use **the arable areas and the natural places of living are becoming drier and drier. With the dams growing higher and higher the power of devastation of the channelled water is increasing.** When there is a drought, the average yield and the quality of the crop will fall. In the case of a flood, whole villages may be inundated. Today we can see that this form of farming brings a good living to only a few people along the river, while many of them move from the rural areas because of the lack of livelihood possibilities. This puts a burden not only on those forced to emigrate but on the cities, as well. It would be of common interest to provide a living in the place they were born for everyone. Villages and cities share a common fate. Patience and the population in the Tisza Valley is diminishing. The fight going on between humans and the river is senseless and seems endless.



WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

We must understand that the people living along the Tisza cannot practice farming in opposition with the river.

Over the previous decades several research projects and civil initiatives have been started to reveal the problems of the Tisza Valley and Eastern Hungary, and to find solutions. Most of these studies have come to the conclusion that **the people of this region could find practical solutions by changing land use**. We must establish a new agricultural practice and a local processing industry built on methods which adapt to the given ecological conditions. In the river valleys the most suitable method is **flood plain landscape management**.

A fundamental change of approaches is necessary: decision makers, the farmers and the concerned population must consider the river and the areas along the river as a whole unit. We must understand that we cannot keep on forcing nature, we cannot separate places of settlement being in organic relations just to suit our pleasure. We cannot keep on forming these areas to our ideas for ever, neglecting the laws of nature. We must understand that **the river is not our enemy**: where we recognise this and manage it in accordance with its natural peculiarities, it will serve us.

The families and the farmers living along the Tisza must learn to use the river and nature whilst also protecting it. They must realize which branch of flood plain management can be profitable and allowed by the hydrographical and geographical peculiarities of their lands and the likely climate changes. And the decision makers must recognize that enlivening the Tisza Valley, protecting the flora and the fauna of this area and raising the quality of life of the local people is of national interest. It is of common interest that the people living in the Tisza Valley get the necessary professional, financial and moral support.



FLOOD PLAIN LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The 'natural' systems – places of habitation and food systems – have evolved and been maintained with human participation. Protecting areas against human intervention can be as unreasonable or even fatal as exposing them to the consequences of farming estranged from nature.

Landscape management differs from conventional forms of farming: it assures the subsistence of human livelihood on the land while it preserves the land and sustains its natural habitats. Thus farming is **built on the protection and the sustenance of natural habitats.**

Flood plain landscape management is based on the controlled emission and recedence of floods to and from the flood plain. This process keeps possibly extreme changes in water level within manageable limits, and also supplements the water deficit in drier areas and during droughty periods. The benefits of flood plain landscape management must be adapted to the sustenance of the certain places of living.

With this form of landscape management the water excess arriving with the flood is utilized and preserved for drier periods. The farmers maintain less arable land than they do today, and farming is adapted to the water cover. Farmers create more mosaic-like land areas with more wetlands, reeds, meadows, pasture lands, orchards and forests. Farming and animal husbandry is adopted to the periodical water cover, and so a richer and more diverse fauna evolves on the flood plain. All this allows the farmers to reap several types of benefit which may bring them higher incomes than they have today.

In flood plain landscape management **the characteristics and the operational peculiarities of the given habitats providing the benefits – and so the types of the profits – are determined by the relation they have with the water.**

Owing to this we can speak of three types of flood plain (deep flood plain, low flood plain and high flood plain). Each particular flood plain levels offers partly differing types of profit possibilities.

The processing of the raw materials gained from farm-

Deep flood plains are areas situated deeply, around the minimum water level of the rivers that are under water or possible to be flooded all year round. In these areas profits can be gained e.g. from fishery, angling, hunting, the use of reed, bulrush and the litter gained from hay-making for open-air animal keeping.



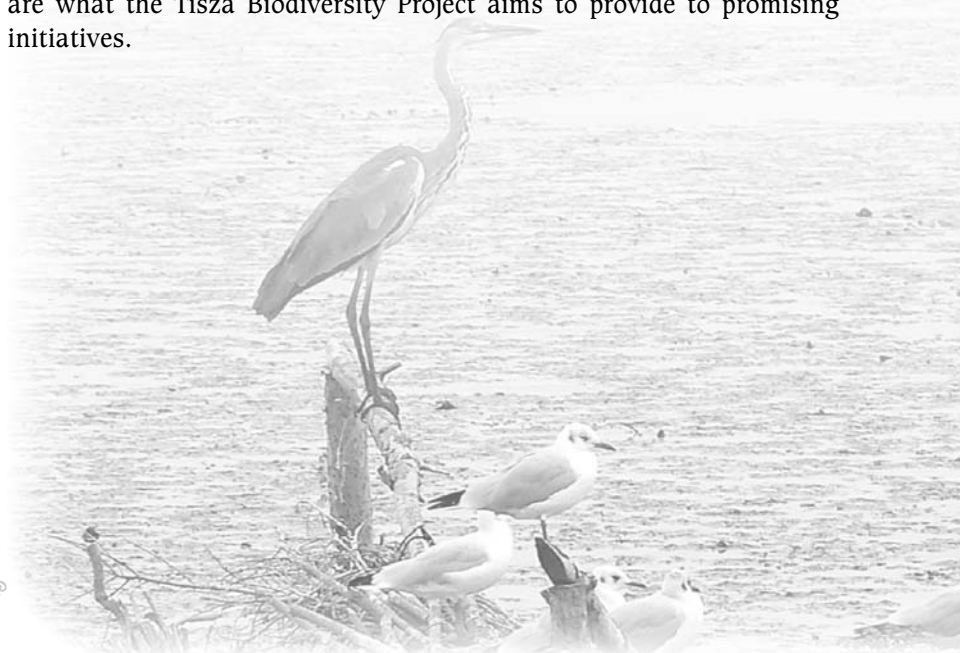
ing can lead to a diverse local processing industry from cheese making through distillation of palinka (brandy) to producing products of natural raw materials (e.g. leather products or pottery). The regions can also solve their energy supply by using the bio-mass produced on the flood plain, and they can be self-supporting with respect to basic products. The rapidly growing market for quality products with no chemical additives best proves that it is worth starting such developments. Enrichening habitats and villages which preserve their traditions attract visitors, and so rural tourism can also provide complementary incomes.

The key to land use change and the development of the local economy is adequate organization and some start-up capital. These are what the Tisza Biodiversity Project aims to provide to promising initiatives.

Low flood plains are the areas flooded by the river or possible to be flooded in most of the years, where the actual or possible height of water cover exceeds one metre. Profits can be gained here from hay-making, temporary grazing and flood plain forest management.

High flood plains are the areas flooded or possible to be flooded in more than half of the years (at least 5-6 out of 10), where the actual or possible height of water cover remains under 0.7 metres in the ideal case. At this level profits can be gained from forest management and orchardry.

On the **floddless areas** surrounding the flood plain levels open-air animal keeping, arable landscape management and horticulture can be conducted.



THE TISZA BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

The *Tisza Biodiversity Project* wishes to promote the introduction of flood plain landscape management on the Hungarian watershed of the river Tisza. The Project is financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water Affairs (MEWA) as implemented between 2005 and 2008.

In seven pilot areas of Hungary – **Bereg, Bodrogköz, Kesznyéten Landscape Protection Area, Borsodi Mezőség, Nagykörű, Nagy-Sárrét and Kis-Sárrét** – *Tisza Biodiversity Project Action Groups* have been established which aim at introducing this environmentally friendly form of farming.

The Project supported the establishment of the *Alliance for the Living Tisza (ALT)*, which is set to improve the living opportunities and the flood and environmental safety of the people living on the watershed of the Tisza, and in particular the above-mentioned pilot areas. It aims to preserve and enrich the ecological values of the Tisza so that the people of this region can live good quality and safe lives. The organization invites municipalities, farmers, NGOs and researchers working for the biodiversity of the Tisza to cooperate. With the participation of noted experts of this field the guidelines on flood-plain farming will be elaborated, which will present the theoretical basis and suggestions for practical implementation of this type of landscape management. In addition, they provide a representation of interests so that governmental work can provide adequate attention and resources to flood plain landscape management.



THE BIODIVERSITY MICRO GRANT FUND

The target of the Micro Grant Fund

In order to achieve the aims, a *Biodiversity Micro Grant Fund* has been initiated within the Tisza Biodiversity Project. The Fund is financed and controlled by the UNDP, the GEF and the MEWA, and is managed by the Partnership Foundation (Okotárs Alapítvány) which has broad-based experiences in the field of civil sector funding programmes. The management of the Fund is carried out by the Tisza Biodiversity Project and the Alliance for the Living Tisza (ALT). The operational system of the Fund is also built on the idea of micro credit, which was acknowledged with a Nobel prize in economics in 2006. In the current environment of Hungarian and the EU supports instruments no such small scale supports are available. So the initiation of a Micro Grant fund would offer potential for considerable innovation. It supports those small scale but effective enterprises which cannot, or can only with great difficulties, gain support, while they may exert important regional development influences. Micro Grant initiatives can act as catalyzers, establish work places by initiating local economic development whilst promoting the preservation and enrichment of natural values.

The Micro Grant Fund wishes to enliven and introduce forms of farming which implement the sustainable co-existence of people and the river: recognise the peculiarities of the land, increase biological diversity and improve the living of the people of this land. It supports local small scale projects as a direct or indirect result of which the land use of the supported areas will meet the principles of flood plain management and the ALT.

Activities to be supported

The first call of the Micro Grant Fund was open between 20th December 2006 and 31st January 2007 in the six pilot areas of the Tisza Biodiversity Project (Bereg, Bodrogköz, Kesznyéten Landscape Protection Area, Borsodi Mezőség, Nagykörű and its environs and Kis-Sárrét).

It was possible to apply for support for activities and investments promoting the preservation of the habitats and/or enriching their biological diversity; establishing new habitats, or creating connections



between the existing mosaic habitats (Type I). Support was only possible allotted to management and development solutions where the preservation or enrichment of biological diversity was part of the agricultural activity. No support was given to 'solely' environmental or 'solely' agricultural activities. The Fund was also open for projects which included the processing and marketing of local products (Type II) and for planning activities help-

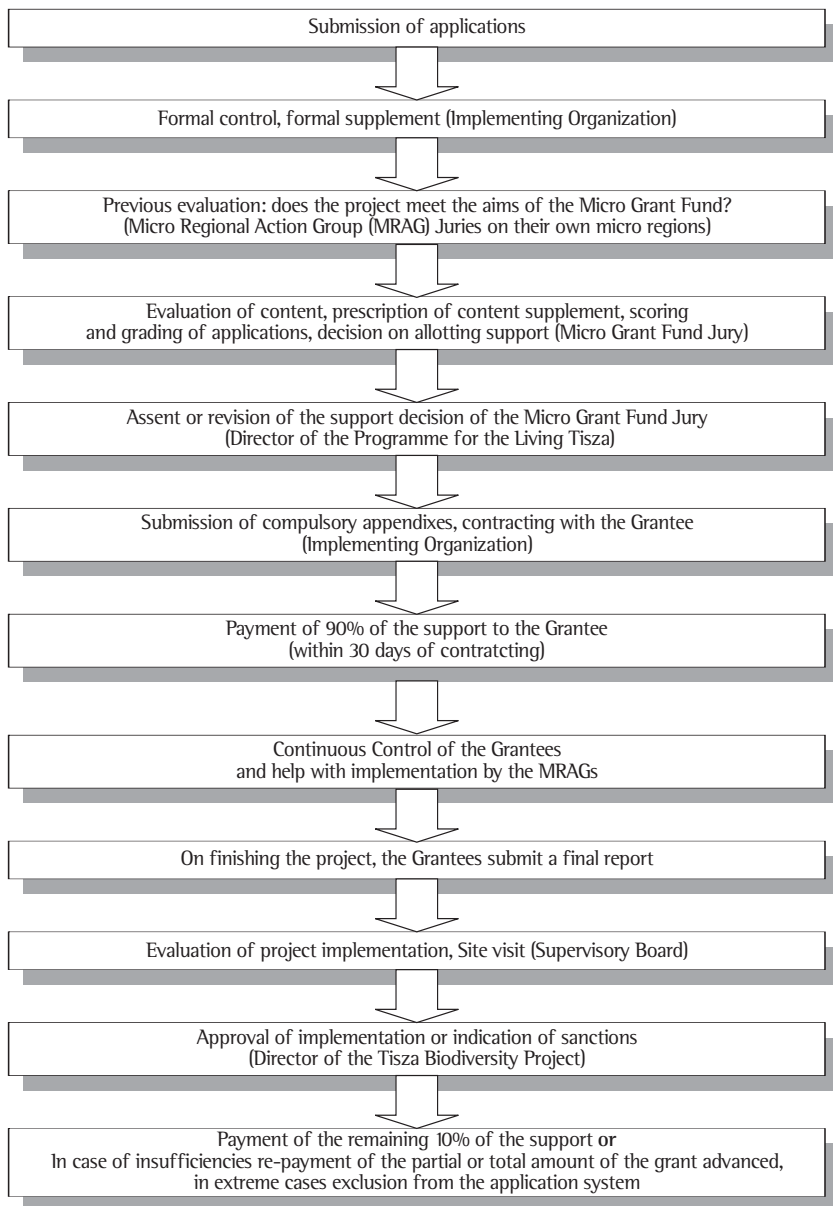
ing the above mentioned types of activities (Type III). The total budget of the Micro Grant Fund was HUF 40 million, with any single applicant a maximum grant of HUF 950 thousand.

This system of application was based on the principle of being as simple as possible to apply for but controllable and transparent, and also effective in serving the targets set. The order of selection of the submitted applications and the control of project implementation is summarized in the diagram below.

The call of the Micro Grant Fund was open to **local farmers, social organizations, personal ventures, small enterprises and natural persons** operating in the concerned micro-regions. The inclusion of partners was favoured in the judgement. In the case of the applications of Type I it was also an advantage if the owners or users of the lands neighbouring the area involved in the application also submitted applications for landscape management small projects, and the applicants planned to cooperate in the implementation. This is how the Micro Fund tried to promote farmers' cooperation.



Order of application selection procedure and project implementation control



Results

Altogether 75 applications were submitted from the six pilot areas which represented a demand for support in excess of HUF 67 million. The list of the Grantees of five of the six small regions were decided on in the first round. In relation to the Kesznyéten Land Protection Area no decisions were made in the first round, and a second call for applications was announced for this micro region with the same conditions as those of the first.

The call brought results in each of the six small regions. Almost the total available budget of the Micro Grant Fund was allocated in the two application rounds. 50 applicants were given HUF 39.3 million in total. The applicants not supported from the Micro Grant Fund were consulted by the micro regional action groups in order to help them implement their ideas.

The Biodiversity Micro Grant Fund proved to be the most successful sub-project of the Tisza Biodiversity Project. In spite of the relatively low maximum amount of grant, the fund raised great interest amongst the farmers. It was possible to implement long-planned developments or absolutely new and innovative ideas could be born. The application system was designed to be simple so that local people could win support in the simplest possible way, nonetheless we still ensured that the money be allotted appropriately. The development grants were awarded to people living in difficult situations but willing to help themselves (and to an extent others, too). Real bottom-up initiations could start with the support of the Micro Grant Fund.

The catalysing effect of the call for applications was obvious. Although it was not obligatory to present own contribution when submitting the proposals, the HUF 39 340 000 support was supplemented by HUF 18 851 000 financial commitment by the farmers, so the total sum of the developments implemented along the Tisza was HUF 58 191 000.

It was stipulated in the contracts that the Grantees place the logos of the supporter organizations on the implemented developments. So they propagate a good reputation for the Micro Grant Fund and the Tisza Biodiversity Project in their settlements. The results of the call for applications were reported on in the review of the Alliance for the Living Tisza titled *Tiszavölgy (Tisza Valley)*, which is published in 3000 copies each quarter. The review primarily targets those interested in landscape

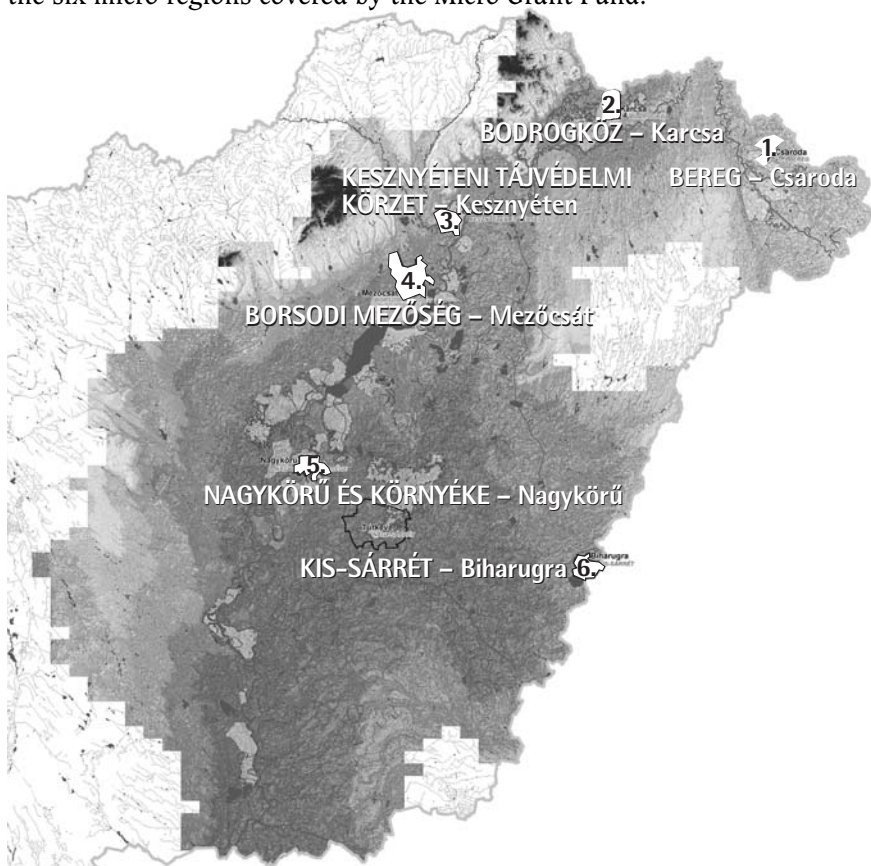


management along the river Tisza but is also available to the environmentally committed people and decision makers. The Micro Grant Fund is a suitable tool to raise strong domestic and international media interest, so it is a good opportunity for the supporting organizations and companies to emphasise the environmental and social responsibility they take.

The most important results of the Micro Grant Fund are summarized in the tables and figures of the Annex.

EXAMPLES OF THE SUPPORTED PROJECTS

In this chapter we present three of the best project plans from each of the six micro regions covered by the Micro Grant Fund.



1. BEREK

The Bereg Plain is located in the Upper-Tisza region, between the river and the Ukrainian border. This part of the Hungarian Great Plains is rich in waterways and wetlands: several smaller or larger flows pass over or meet each other in this area, and smaller ponds, morasses and even moorlands of considerable environmental value and sanctuary ox-bows can be found here.

In the 17th and 18th centuries this part of the country was almost fully covered by forests, forestless areas could only be found close to the villages. The oak forests provided the materials for house buildings and pig-breeding. The orchards and the hayfields were managed on the so-called '*szeg*'-s, the elevated peninsulas created by the river bends. Owing to the regular annual floods the people of this land were well supplied with fish, game, hay and fruit.

The massive river regulation and embankment works exerted significant effects in this part of the Great Plains, as well. Without the arrival of the floods, the Bereg Plain became drier, and the area of the water-related habitats was reduced. The cutting of the unbroken forests, and the draining of parts of the morassy-marshy areas established the conditions which allowed for extensive animal keeping, farming, meadow and hayfield management.

However, the consequences of the water deficit have become increasingly apparent over the past few decades. The inland water channels drain off the falling precipitation even in the periods when water retainment would be crucial. Increasing the water supply of the area by retaining the waters which are received here and by the regulated drainage of the water arriving with floods is a basic condition for continuing traditional farming in the Bereg Plain. The primary problem here is not the lack of water but the unfavourable distribution of the available amount of water. The soil of the Bereg Plain is flood-plain soil which needs regular water additions or ideally water coverage. An appropriate change of land use would not only lessen the deficits of farming but would also promote the preservation of the natural values and the characteristic Bereg landscape.

The local partner of the Tisza Biodiversity Project is the **Bereg Group of the E-misszió Association.**



1.1 PRODUCTS FROM THE BANKS OF THE TISZA

The Grantee

The Grantee is a venture producing and marketing dried fruit and jams made from the fruits grown along the Tisza. It maintains its own shops in Tarpa and Budapest.

Project targets

Development of existing products, development of unique products, development of packaging. Improvement of the reputation of Tarpa and the environs, promotion of natural food.

Planned activities

Development of a new product (plum with walnut) and its packaging, preparation of its market launch. Development of the packaging of other products with an expert's help. Preparation of an introductory brochure for the company.

Expected results

Business profit assuring the sustainability of the project.

Support received

HUF 950 000

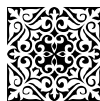
Own resources

HUF 140 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 090 000





1.2 RESTORATION OF PASTURE LAND

The Grantee

Family entrepreneur (a veterinary production engineer) maintaining a 50 head stock of cattle.

Project targets

Restoration of weedy pasture land, the upkeep of its water draining channels, renovation and rebuilding of two sweep-pole wells and reconstruction of the lanes of the area. Redressing the balance of the number of animal stock and the stock breeding capacity of the area with grazing farming, reintroduction of indigenous breeds, replacement of the Holstein-Fries cow stock with the Hungarian Speckled (*'magyartarka'*) species.

Planned activities

Eradication of scrub and bush, clearance mowing, reconstruction of tracks and sweep-pole wells, cleaning the water draining ditches, purchasing the sperm of *magyartarka* cattle.

Expected results

100 ha of restored grazing land (rented by 6 farmers), 2 reconstructed sweep-pole wells, reconstructed tracks and partially renewed animal stock.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 1 610 000

Total project budget

HUF 2 560 000





1.3 CREATION OF A ROOM FOR MAKING PLUM JAM AT DANÓ'S HOUSE

The Grantee

Private entrepreneur who is active in rural hosting, tourism; produces plum and makes plum jam.

Project targets

Implementation of a project suited to the priority project covering several small regions and titled 'Penyige plum as a starting point and livelihood opportunity in the Szatmar-Bereg region' of the Bio-Szil Public Non-Profit Co., creation of a processing space for cooking jams, production of a land specific product (plum jam) and the development of a marketing strategy.

Planned activities

Tool purchase, building of a processing space for cooking plum jam ('mixing room'), building an adobe stove and preparation of an information booklet.

Expected results

A plum cooking processing facility which is an organic part of the host house, an increased amount of marketed plum jam (primarily for the tourists), improvement of the notoriety of the village and the strengthening of local rural tourism.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

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Total project budget

HUF 950 000



2. BODROGKÖZ

The Bodrogköz is situated in the North Eastern part of Hungary. It covers 945 km². The small, plain-like land lying between the rivers Bodrog and Tisza is bordered by the river Latorca in the North. Only its southern part lies within the borders of Hungary, the Upper Bodrogköz has been a part of Slovakia since 1920. In former times the people of this region **lived from the possibilities offered by the river, from fishing, rushwork pleating and reed processing**. The agricultural (and as a part of this the horticultural and orchard) culture of this region evolved after the river regulation and embankment works.

The spread of industrialised agriculture subsequent to the river regulation and then its retreat caused serious upheavals in the relationships of people and the land. Recognizing this, new priorities were set in the establishment of the system of environmental care and the flood prevention measures of the Tisza and the Bodrog, however, these served rather regional than local interests.

A landscape rehabilitation programme was initiated in 2001 by the BOKARTISZ Public Non-Profit Co. which consists of 11 municipalities and 3 NGOs. The programme is aimed at establishing a landscape management system built on the regional peculiarities. The key elements of the plans are the rehabilitation of the former water system, the restoration and maintenance of the healthy, mosaic-like land structure, and the planning and creation of the opportunities for profit generation built on these key elements, as well as the processing and marketing of products.

According to the plans, the Cigand water reservoir, which is being built within the framework of the Further Development of the Vasarhelyi Plan, is designated as the pilot area of landscape management. Unfortunately, the practical implementation of this scheme is raising serious misgivings amongst the farmers of the region.

The local partner of the Tisza Biodiversity Project is the **BOKARTISZ Public Non-Profit Co.**



2.1. CREATION OF A WETLAND HABITAT AND FISH POND IN THE ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK FROM THE ÁRPÁD-ERA

The Grantee

The foundation established and is operating the Archeological Park from the Arpad era (*Berzseny* village) with the professional support of the Hungarian National Museum. The park presents the ancient Hungarian types of houses, tools, domestic animals and trades.

Project targets

Deepening the former pond bed of the park, establishing a wetland habitat and a permanent water surface, which will increase the local biodiversity and will stabilize the local amphibious and bird fauna, and establish a watering place.

Planned activities

Pond deepening, area restoration, introduction of fish (Hungarian carp), dredging and reconstructing the sweep-pole well.

Expected results

A restored pond of 1 ha surface, a new habitat mosaic which fits into the landscape, increased bird stock and a place of rest for migration periods.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 250 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 200 000





2.2 CONVERTING A GARDEN INTO A GRAZING FIELD, THE RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF A FLOOD PLAIN MEADOW

The Grantee

A rural development expert keeping animals (racka sheep and pigs) and working in the development of environmental education.

Project targets

Establishment of an ecological, self-subsistent farm, implementation of the reconstruction works and purchases necessary for animal keeping (horse and *mangalica* pig). Creation of a grazing field, restoration of a meadow and its management as a demonstration site (undertaken by community work).

Planned activities

Scrub clearance of the meadow, cleaning the well, building a stockyard for *mangalica* pigs, reconstruction of the stable. Reconstruction of a field shelter, building a coach-house for storing hay, buying *mangalica* pigs, horses and horse tools.

Expected results

The development of a demonstration small-holding partially providing the livelihood for a family which includes not only traditional production but elements of product processing, conservation and as well as consumption. Restored hayfield, 3 reconstructed or new farm buildings, a tool park suitable for ecological farming, 3 occasions of community work.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 1 000 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 950 000





2.3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A HABITAT AND PROMOTION OF THE EXTENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF HAYFIELDS

The Grantee

A farmer managing 200 ha of land (30 ha of grazing) as a member of the family farm also keeping cattle.

Project targets

Creation of a meadow protecting forest belt along an area currently used as an intensive hayfield. Conversion to extensive management (grazing) and the purchase of 4 Hereford cattles suitable for outdoor grazing. Building of a stock-yard, a watering place and the establishment of the electrical fence system necessary for sectional grazing.

Planned activities

Purchasing and planting seedlings, sowing the seeds, purchasing the materials necessary for the stock-yard and the watering place, and the building of these. Purchase and erection of the electrical fence, purchase of the livestock.

Expected results

A grassland of 10 ha enclosed with electrical fence, sectionally grazed and bordered by a meadow protecting forest belt. Increased cattle stock, providing ground of further developments and a stock-yard of 6×8 m with adjacent watering place.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 266 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 216 000



3. KESZNYÉTEN LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

The Kesznyéten Landscape Protection Area (KLPA) is situated in a basin bordered by the rivers Tisza, Takta, Sajó and the Oxbow of Tisza at Tiszalúc. In the water registry this area is known as the Lower-Taktaköz or Inérhát inland water system and is registered as covering 4280 ha. Approximately 2000 ha of marshland of the KLPA evolved from former river beds. These morasses received regular water supplement during the floodings of the Tisza, the Sajó and the Takta until the new Tisza bed, the so-called ‘Tiszadob digging’ of 8 kms in length and the ‘Széchenyi dike’ were built between 1846 and 1867. When the works were completed, the old and the new Tisza dams met, and the protection object called the ‘Circle dike’ resulted in the total separation of the area from the water supplement arriving from the rivers. To drain the inland waters, the Inérhát main canal – the spine canal draining the area – and the connecting lateral channels were built partially following the line of an ancient bed (probably the ancient Takta bed).

The flora of the KLPA has evolved as a result of the rivers meandering in the area for thousands of years. It was influenced by deforestation, grazing, hay-making and animal husbandry activities from the Middle Ages, as well as the embankment works in the 19th century and the inner water draining systems built in the 20th century. The most typical habitats are the reed-grass associations covering the waters of the morasses having evolved in the old river bed, the surrounding reeds and the willow moorlands lying a bit further beyond. These days, unfortunately, along the marshlands willow bush is general (which has mainly developed from genista willow). It has spread since hand-scything was terminated in the moorland and marshland meadows, and it is not possible to schythe the area by machine. The marshland and scything meadows still managed are situated on higher ground where the land dries more quickly and where tractor cultivation is possible. The formerly typical hard wood groves have been replaced by arable fields and tree plantations of foreign species.

The local partner of the Tisza Biodiversity Project is **Tiszatáj Public Foundation.**



3.1 REVITALIZATION AND UTILIZATION OF THE OXBOWS AND WETLANDS ABOVE THE TISZA LAKE

The Grantee

The Regional Development Association of the Settlements along the Tisza in Hajdú-Bihar County (*'Tiszamente'*) was founded in 1992 and includes 8 settlements. It organizes, coordinates and manages the development efforts of the settlements along the Tisza.

Project targets

There are 9 oxbows, several mort lakes, plains, marshlands and systems of brooks along the former flood plain of the Tisza, close to the dike between Tiszacsege and Egyek. The project wishes to elaborate in cooperation with other organizations and associations (e.g. the Association of the Nature Conservationists of Tiszadob) a wetland habitat restoration programme. That would unite the wetland habitats situated on the protected side and the ancient flood plain into a cohesive system.

Planned activities

Mapping and presenting the situation and possibilities of the oxbows and wetlands situated in the area, elaborating a common eco-tourism programme of the region and elaborating the system of the wetland habitats. Seeking out the farmers and entrepreneurs of the region who wished to participate in flood plain farming (production, eco-tourism, etc.).

Expected results

A study to present an overview on the participants and the results and an information sheet presenting the possibilities and interests of the region and also serving to promote the entrepreneurs of the area. The enrichment of the water system and the ecological systems may bring about a growth in the number of visitors to the guest house and increase the membership of the fishing association.

Support received

HUF 850 000

Own resources

HUF 650 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 500 000





3.2. DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING OF FLOOD PLAIN FISH SPAWNING-GROUND

The Grantee

The Association of the Nature Conservationists of Tiszadob was established in 1991, and is primarily aimed at mapping, introducing and preserving the natural values of the Tisza and the Tisza Valley.

Project targets

After the flood in 2000 the dike at Tiszadob was rebuilt. The earth needed for the construction of the dikes was excavated from pits, called '*kubikgödör*' (clay-pits). The Association connected these clay-pits with wetland habitats situated in the flood plain and formed a water system of 5 ha in area and 2 kms in length. It was connected to the living Tisza through two special channels (*'fok'*-s). In this project they aimed to make it possible for these *'fok'*-s to be regulated, and to monitor them in order to examine the effect of the transformed system and the composition and mass of fish brood.

Planned activities

As a starting point they made a survey on the state of the fish stock and the water system (fishery stock survey). When flood waters have passed, they will let the fish brood pass into the Tisza with the help of a grated lock. In addition, they will undertake a selective netting to make sure that not too many aggressively spreading foreign species enter into the Tisza.

Expected results

As a result of the monitoring and the cooperation with fishermen a first version of a useful handbook will be compiled on wetland habitat management.

Support received

HUF 750 000

Own resources

—

Total project budget

HUF 750 000





3.3 INTRODUCTION OF EXTENSIVE GRAZING ON FLOOD PLAIN AREAS OF MARGINAL LANDS

The Grantee

A young farmer who has been a full-time family farmer since 2002 and is keeping a sheep stock of about 500 head, and is managing an area of 150 ha. He has been an active member of the Agri-environmental Programme since 2003.

Project targets

The primary target of the programme is grazing in the indicated areas and the harvesting of soft stalk bio-mass twice a year. Through the timed clear cutting of the flood plain areas they aim to knock back invasive species (ambrosia, acacia). A secondary aim is to initiate a change of land use in the surrounding areas: from the intensive arable lands they wish to make enclosed grass and grazing lands.

Planned activities

Twice a year the areas are covered with water for extended periods of time. Over the rest of the year sheep are grazed on the land. The bio-mass gained from hay-making and bailing will be used as winter feed for the sheep. After cutting the area pasture grazing will be continued. Several invasive species (e.g. acacia) have appeared in the area, so they plan hay-making twice a year until these species are repressed back.

Expected results

Currently, two thirds of the grasslands in the region lay unutilized, and most of these areas remain untended. The utilization of sheep raising supports the population retaining role of this land, and can even create new jobs in the future in the processing industry based on animal husbandry. Grazing and hay-making promote an increase in bio-diversity.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 176 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 126 000



4. BORSODI MEZŐSÉG

The Borsodi Mezőség lies on the right bank of the Tisza in the Southern part of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. **Prior to the regulation of the Tisza this area was relatively rich, it had an independent and self-sufficient economy, and also produced for the market.** However, the regulations sealed the fate of the region. When the permanently pumped belt channels drained the area, most of the ancient grasslands were ploughed and began to be used for large scale arable production. The past decades have demonstrated that this was a serious mistake: owing to the lack of profitability the cultivation of the arable lands in the region has dwindled. By the early 1990s the micro region lost the greatest share of its former market as well as almost all of its economic capital and more than half of its human resources. It became a marginal area within the county and within the country.

Thanks to its unique natural endowments, committed experts and the local people, however, the opportunity of the development of the micro region has appeared again. The Borsodi Mezőség is a pilot area in several domestic and European Union agri-environmental and flood prevention programmes, and thus it was possible to initiate the **Agricultural Structure Transformation and Rural Development Programme of the Borsodi Mezőség.** The main elements of this are: land restoration, transformation of the agricultural production infrastructure, establishment of a land ownership and entrepreneur structure built on local ownership and the development of other economic activities adapted to the endowments of the landscape. A large number of the local farmers are involved in the Agri-environmental Programme.

The engine for this programme is the local partner of the Tisza Biodiversity Project, the **Borsodi Mezőség Farmers' Circle Association.**



4.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ON-FARM MULTI-PURPOSE OIL PLANT

The Grantee

A young family farmer managing a land of 200 ha, 40 ha of which is arable land and the rest is grassland. He deals with meat production and grassland-based cattle grazing and grows fodder-crops. All of his farm has been involved from the beginning in the zonal programme of the Agri-environmental Programme, the Environmentally Sensitive Areas programme.

Project targets

The project is aimed at establishing a standard mini oil plant which is, in addition to making cooking-oil, able to produce oil to cover the fuel demand of the machines of the farm from the plants grown on-farm (rape, sunflower, etc.).

Planned activities

Architectural, technological and mechanical planning and implementation of the plant. Preparing the legal conditions required to obtain permission to operate and transferring experiences to the micro regional development organizations.

Expected results

The greatest possible independence from non-renewable energy is the most important element of sustainability, and this is what this project implements. The crops grown on the farm are primarily used to feed the farm's animals. However, in order to maintain a healthy crop rotation he also produces crops not used as feed (rape or sunflower). Processing these plants he can obtain valuable plant oil which can be sold as cooking-oil or used by his own machines as fuel. The by-products of this plant oil production also provide very good fodder supplements.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 550 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 500 000



4.2 RE-ACTIVATION OF A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE – PLANNING

The Grantee

The grantee manages a 250 ha area, 200 ha of which is arable land and 50 ha is grassland. 160 ha of his land is farmed under the Agri-environmental Programme. He has been keeping dairy cows since 1998, at present he has 120 cows and 80 calves. His parents also work on the farm, and he employs 8 people.

Project targets

The farmers participating in the zonal programme of the Agri-environmental Programme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas programme are continuously increasing the number of their grazing animal stock. To supply the local market of the small region a temporary slaughter-house meeting the EU requirements is necessary.

Planned activities

The project elaborates the implementation study plan of re-activating one of the former slaughter-houses of the region.

Expected results

The direct result of the project is a plan document. However, the main target is not the preparation of this document but the possible quickest establishment of the slaughter-house to serve land-use change. Another target is strengthening of a management practice promoting and sustaining the implementation of land restoration principles. The sustainable supply of the demands of the domestic or local market is also an important consideration.

Support received

HUF 450 000

Own resources

–

Total project budget

HUF 450 000





4.3 PLANNING LOCALLY MANAGED WATER ASSOCIATION(S)

The Grantee

A family farmer managing a farm of 238 ha, 170 of which is grassland and the rest is arable land. 68 ha of his land is farmed under the Agri-environmental Programme. He has no grazing animals but plans to buy a stock of cattle within two years to utilize the grassland. The family farm employs his wife and son, no other persons are employed.

Project targets

The regulations of the EU's Water Framework Directive can be most effectively implemented along the principles of subsidiarity. It is a basic interest of the local farmers to solve the challenges of surface water governance by their own competence. This project is aimed at planning the water association(s) providing the basis by which self-directed water governance can be established, and which is controlled by local interests.

Planned activities

An expert is to be selected together with the local partners and the *Bükk* and the *Hortobágy* National Park Directorates. The expert will prepare the document having actualized the precedents and in accordance with the expectations of the prospects of the micro region. The resulting document will be offered to the local regional development organizations with the aim of implementation.

Expected results

The primary result of the project is the above-mentioned document which will describe the water management possibilities of all of the regional stakeholders. The main aim is the practical implementation of the described water management and water retention principles. Sustainability will not only be a dominant element of the project but the whole natural area of the micro region.

Support received: HUF 400 000

Own resources: –

Total project budget: HUF 400 000



5. NAGYKÖRŰ AND ITS ENVIRONS

Nagykörű lies along the middle reaches of the Tisza, about 30 kms from Szolnok. **Because of its huge flood plain orchards giving excellent fruits, the village is also called the Cherry Orchard of Hungary.**

Similarly to other regions of the Great Plains, **subsequent to the drainage a forced production of wheat and maize was initiated, which, because of the bad quality of the soil, provided very low profits.** Within the frameworks of the pilot programmes started in previous years (also with the help of WWF Hungary) the farmers of the region have been trying to transform their intensive agricultural activities into extensive farming. They have tentatively started grey cattle and mangalica pig breeding or organic farming.

The Clay-Pit ('Kubik') Programme of Nagykörű is a unique project along the Tisza. The clay-pits were dug when the dike was built. They become filled with water in spring, but because they have no outlet when the holes dry out, the remaining fish broods perish. Within the frameworks of the programme the holes were connected with channels, so the fish brood could swim back to the Tisza.

'Fok' farming has long traditions in the region too. The 'fok'-s are water courses created in order to make economic use of the flood plain and channelling the water in two directions: towards the deep areas of the flood plain in floods and towards the river bed in recession periods. The most important characteristic of the water system created this way is that it connects all of the still and running waters of the flood plain into one united system, and so allows the economic utilization of the flood plain. In Nagykörű and its region fok-farming can be revitalized at a considerable (several thousands ha) scale in case the water reservoir described in the Further development of *Vásárhelyi's* Plan and the connecting dike lock will in reality be built.

The local partner of the Tisza Biodiversity Project is the **Foundation for Nagykörű.**



5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLOOD PLAIN TREE NURSERY IN NAGYKÖRŰ

The Grantee

The Cooperative has established and is maintaining an integrated production and marketing system together with farmers active in cherry production, and pays special attention to tree nursery propagation utilising native species.

Project targets

Establishment of a special tree nursery and gene centre based on the gene resource of the largest Tisza Valley flood plain orchard and continuously developed through specimen collections gatherings from other locations.

Planned activities

Gathering of propagation material, grafting and inoculation, raising 3000 wild pear trees and wild apple trees, undertaking species registration at the Central Agricultural Office. Making a catalogue of species-use information for farmers, compiling a species registry of the tree nursery and starting up marketing activities.

Expected results

The establishment of a stable gene centre nursing an increasing number of fruit species and young trees which have high genetic value and potential to be marketed all over the country. Profitable and self-subsistent operation, 1 part-time job (2 full-time jobs in the long run).

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 500 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 450 000





5.2 RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE *ANYITA* POND AND LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION

The Grantee

The primary activities of the Cooperative founded in 2001 are grazing grey cattle and restoring the *Anyita* pond and '*fók*' within the framework of the Flood Plain Landscape Management Programme which is part of the Nagykörű Landscape Management Programme. The Cooperative rents the land necessary for its farming, and it has 12 members.

Project aims

Repairing and strengthening the summer dam of the Anyita pond continuously destroyed by the rising and receding water course. Dredging and deepening the fish bed in the sections important for fishery (in order to lessen mortality during netting). Building a small island in the pond from the soil exploited from the river, which will serve as an observation point for bird-watching and will increase the diversity of the habitat (and also serve environmental education and eco-tourism purposes).

Planned activities

Preparation of the 'bursting' dam and the summer dike for the works, increasing the height of the 'bursting' dam, compacting it, unfolding and fixing terfil and reno mattresses. Transporting rocks to the site, spreading the rocks, dredging and deepening the fish bed. Building the bird observation island – compaction, ditching and planting reed and willow on the island.

Expected results

Repaired 'bursting' dam which provides a long-term solution to the problem of erosion, dredged fish bed (which will need re-dredging every 2 or 3 years), a bird observation island serving environmental education and eco-tourism purposes.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources: –

Total project budget: HUF 950 000





5.3 SHOP OF LOCAL PRODUCTS FROM THE TISZA VALLEY

The Grantee

An agricultural venture primarily dealing with goat and sheep milk processing. Other activities include: tourism, making and marketing pottery.

Project targets

Promotion of the local marketing of the products produced in flood plain farming; establishment of a new marketing process and network. Drawing the attention to the products gained from flood plain landscape management (marketing). Establishing a quality shop, a home page and promoting tourism.

Planned activities

Implementation of the administrative tasks, interior and exterior architectural and organizational works connected with the opening of the shop, establishing a marketing network, initiating the introduction of a trade-mark.

Expected results

A self-subsistent shop open 5 hours a day (flexible) and selling products derived from the flood plain landscape management of the Tisza Valley. To gain a higher reputation for the products derived from the flood plain management of the Tisza Valley and a marketing chain connecting the landscape farmers of this region.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 1 160 000

Total project budget

HUF 2 110 000



6. KIS-SÁRRÉT

The natural endowments and values of the Kis-Sárrét, a part of the Great Plains, have been formed naturally by the water processes. The continuous depression of the area indicated the route for the Körös rivers arriving from the Bihari Mountains, and these kept filling the flood plain with their alluvium. In this basically flat and basin-like area the earlier population lived from the opportunities offered by the morassy world. The river regulations brought fundamental changes to the utilization of the land. From this period the incoming water was drained from the area, only leaving fish ponds, marsh spots and smaller inner water areas as remnants of the former water world. In order to increase arable land cultivation, even the better quality grasslands were ploughed up.

The intensity of the agricultural activities in the Kis-Sárrét are not ideally adapted to the land endowments. Prairie-like intensive cultivation of the soils of disadvantageous water outlet areas have not resulted in the high productivity hoped for, but rather can cause irreversible damage to our environment. **Thus it is appropriate to establish an extensive landscape management adapted to the local endowments as quickly as possible.**

The local partners of the Tisza Biodiversity Project are the 'Kis-Sárrét is Our Home' Work Group of the Nimfea Environmental and Nature Protection Association and the Körös-Maros National Park.



6.1 GRAZING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Tha Grantee

A family farmer keeping cattle, pigs and sheep but his most important activity is sheep rearing. He keeps a stock of 82 sheep, rents grazing land from the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate and is participating in the Agri-Environmental Programme. His wife, son and parents also take part in operating the farm.

Project targets

Halting the decline of the animal stock in the settlement, preserving and using the natural values in an appropriate way. He wishes to buy animals and manage the natural areas by grazing.

Planned activities

Grazing the animals on the rented grassland from early spring until the first frosts, and then keeping the stock in the winter fold. Buying 38-40 sheep with the support of the project.

Expected results

With grazing animals the condition of the grassland habitat can be preserved. The permanent trampling and grazing of the animals can improve the ecological condition of these areas. The profits gained from the fattening stock can assure the long-term sustainability of the farm.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 128 000

Total project budget

HUF 1 078 000





6.2 IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY PROMOTING HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT RESTORATION

The Grantee

Family farmer, hobby shepherd.

Project targets

Repairing the thatched roof of the sheep-fold to provide suitable lodging for the sheep. Improvement of the sheep stock in accordance with the relevant regulations – purchasing a registered ram and registered ewes; development of the ancient Hungarian domestic animal stock. Development and introduction of grazing animal husbandry; incorporation of grazing lands into cultivation, and habitat restoration. Establishment of a location suitable for eco-tourism, and providing livelihood possibilities for the participants of the activity.

Planned activities

Reconstruction of sheep-fold, grazing and keeping 150 sheep and lambs. Purchasing 1 registered ram and 3 registered ewes, scything the areas not grazed, renting a grass land from own resources, utilization of organic manure.

Expected results

A traditional sheep-fold suitable for keeping sheep, a larger stock of sheep and of higher quality. The forcing back of weeds and acacia. A greater amount of game appearing in the area, a considerable decrease in environmental burden (discontinuation of the use of fertilizers and mechanical management) and the establishment of local eco-tourism.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

–

Total project budget

HUF 950 000





6.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORGANIC APICULTURAL SITE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE NATIONAL PARK

The Grantee

A farmer operating in forest management, fruit production and organic apiculture.

Project aims

Transformation of an area currently under (unsuitable) arable production into an apicultural site with the planting of indigenous plants. Establishment of a family apiary with the aim of creating jobs. Production of food to supplement the diets of the local people and healing the damage caused by medicines and other chemicals with the help of the products produced in the apiary. Creation of a touristic resource through the introduction of ancient apiary and fruit producing activities.

Planned activities

Thinning the invasive tree species, planting and raising indigenous soft stalk plants, fruit trees and forest tree species. Purchasing, delivering and introducing bee families. Preparing wind-breaks and hives, fencing the area and digging a well.

Expected results

A self-supporting apiary farm resulting from the marketing of the produced honey and apiarian products, whilst organically suited to the ecological conditions of its environs. A measurable increase of yield in the related orchard. An increase in the number of employees and economic partners.

Support received

HUF 950 000

Own resources

HUF 1 564 000

Total project budget

HUF 2 514 000



WE SEEK PARTNERS TO CONTINUE A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT!

Continuation of the support programme

The operation of the **Micro Grant Fund** brought unexpected results, it became **the most important sub-project of the Tisza Biodiversity Project**. It excited great interest amongst the stakeholders. It is an effective method of promoting and implementing the message represented by the Project, so we wish to assure the continued operation of the Micro Grant Fund for the future.

The resources of the Fund need to be regularly replenished, which we aim to provide through the support of 3 or 4 large companies. The granted support would be available for investments and initiatives along the Tisza as supports in the first period, then, according to our plans, as micro credits or interest subsidy and securities.

What type of cooperation is envisaged with sponsors?

The Micro Grant Fund can be especially suitable for sponsors wishing to communicate their environmental and social responsibility towards a sensitive target public. A very good tool for this will be the quarterly review entitled *Tisza Valley (Tiszavölgy)* published to provide 3000 copies and our presence in the Hungarian and the international media. Thus in return for the support offered by the main sponsors the positive environmental and social influences represented by the Alliance for the Living Tisza can be built in the company's public relations messages.

The first two application rounds will be finally closed in June 2008, the grantees submit their reports on the implementation of their projects. This will be a good opportunity to announce and publish broadly (media campaign in the local, regional, national and international media) the joining of new supporters.

The specific criteria for resource distribution, the description of supplementary targets and the method of adjusting these to own-support targets and the target groups of the companies **will be discussed in the course of negotiations with the sponsors.**



Why is it worth cooperating with the programme?

- Our pilot areas cover about 1600 sq kms of the Tisza flood plain but our activity may have a positive influence on the management of the 9400 sq kms making up almost 20 percent of the Great Plains and also on preserving biodiversity and the quality and quantity of the water reserves in this region.
- In the long run land use change may provide answers to managing the extreme water management conditions (summer drying up of water reserves, flooding exceeding the regular flood level by 1 metre, etc.) which are arising as a result of climate change.
- As a result of the programme the revitalization of the flood plains can be an important pillar in the complex flood prevention programme of the Tisza Valley reducing in this way the regional flood risk and the costs of protecting the resources of outstanding economic value (industrial areas, cities, etc.).
- The programme wishes to achieve a considerable improvement in the quality of life for the local population which provides social capital and who will acknowledge the involvement of the sponsoring companies.
- Through the Action Groups we seek daily contacts with the people of the pilot areas, primarily with the farmers, small entrepreneurs and municipalities. We strengthen the sustainable farming by the local people through farming consultations, fund raising and professional support which improves resource management but also decreases the vulnerability of the region and increases its capability to withstand stresses.
- In order to increase awareness in the importance of flood plain landscape management, we appear regularly and very actively in the media. Outcomes of this were e.g. the very positive media reaction of our conference held in Tokaj in January 2006, and the media campaign connected to the Tisza Memorandum in March and April 2006. In 2007 the media published our statements on the New Hungary Rural Development Plan and the Further Development of the Vásárhelyi Plan several times.
- In December 2007 we organized the 4th Tradition and Nature Conference in cooperation with the House of Traditions, the State Secretariat for Nature and Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Environment and Water Affairs and the Alliance for the Living



Tisza. The conference was co-financed by the UNDP-GEF Tisza Biodiversity Project. 300 people attended the event which addressed the Hungarian public interested in sustainability. The conference also attracted great media interest.

- The successes of the Micro Grant Fund are continuously published in our newsletter entitled the Tisza Valley (Tiszavölgy), on our homepage (www.elotisza.hu) and in the regional and national media.
- We plan to publish international press material and scientific papers at each milestone (reports published so far include: 2007, Amsterdam: Earth System Governanace (www.2007amsterdamconference.org); Pisa: Transitions in Water Management, European Consortium for Political Research; Basel: 1st International Conference on Adaptive & Integrated Water Management: Coping with complexity and uncertainty (CAIWA 2007).
- Our programme carries and promotes the message of long-term sustainability, connecting to the EU's sustainability campaign and the targets of several international agreements and European Directives (Kyoto-protocol, Biodiversity Agreement, etc.), and so strengthens the sustainability programmes of the sponsor companies.



ANNEX

THE MOST IMPORTANT DATA OF THE SUPPORTED PROJECTS

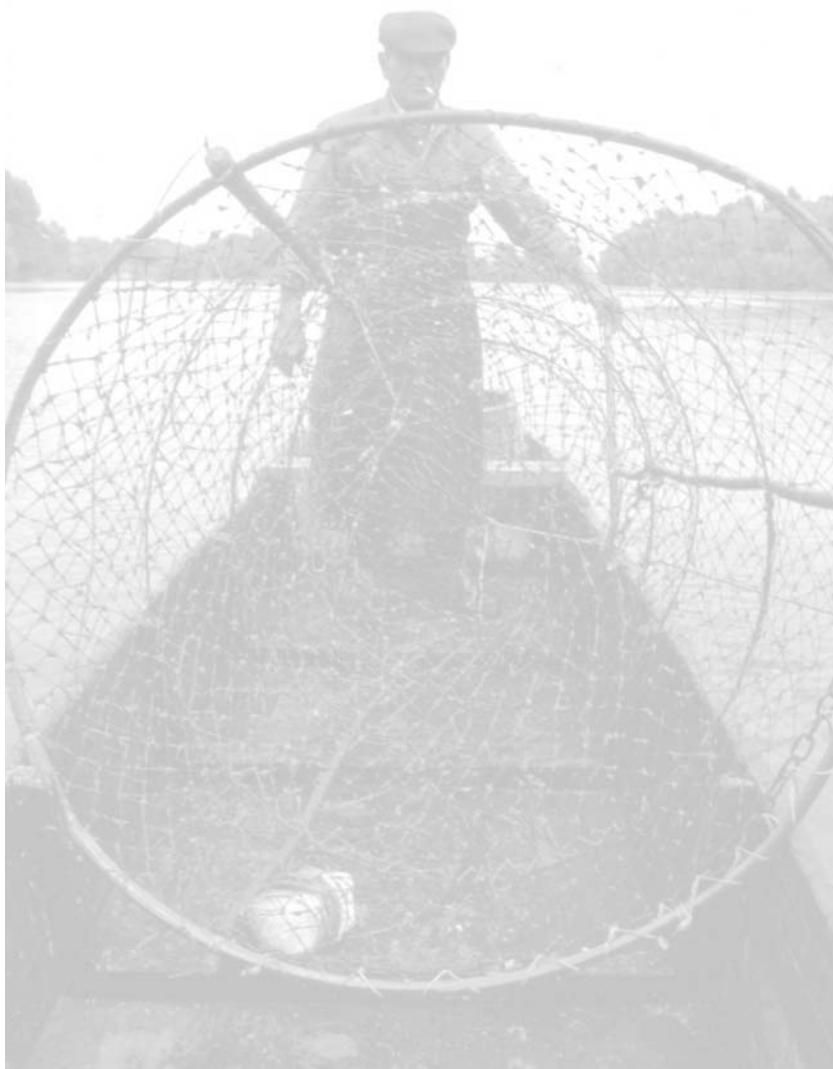


Table 1.
Summary of the most important data of supported projects

Micro region	pcs	Project financing by small regions				Supported project types in the micro region (pcs)*
		Support amount	Total own resources	Total project budget	Average percentage of support	
Bereg	8	6 650 000	4 327 000	10 977 000	61%	I. a. animal husbandry, cattle (5) I. a. apiary (1) II. a. (1) III. c. (1)
Bodrogköz	7	6 650 000	2 916 000	9 566 000	70%	I. a. animal husbandry, cattle (2) I. a. animal husbandry, sheep (2) I. a. animal husbandry, mangalica pig, goat, horse (1) I. a. animal husbandry, horse (1) I. b. (1)
Kesznyéten	7	6 050 000	2 936 000	8 986 000	67%	I. a. animal husbandry, sheep (2) I. b. (2) I. a. grazing restoration (1) II. b. (1) III. a. (1)
Borsodi Mezőség	11	6 700 000	550 000	7 250 000	92%	III. a. (7) II. a. (3) II. b. (1)
Nagykovács	9	6 650 000	6 220 000	12 870 000	52%	II. b. (3) I. a. animal husbandry, sheep (1) I. a. animal husbandry, goat (1) I. a. animal husbandry, mangalica pig (1) I. a. tree nursery of native species (1) I. b. (1) III. c. (1)
Kis-Sárrét	8	6 640 000	1 902 000	8 542 000	78%	I. a. animal husbandry, sheep (7) I. a. apiary (1)
TOTAL	50	39 340 000	18 851 000	58 191 000	68%	I. a. (27) I. b. (4) II. a. (4) II. b. (5) III. a. (8) III. c. (2)

In bold: the project types most popular in the specific region.



* Supported project types:

I. Landscape management small projects

- I. a. Habitat management and development;
- I. b. Activities and investments establishing and improving the possibilities of water supplement (wetland habitat development).

II. Development of processing and marketing

- II. a. Processing of local products;
- II. b. Development of the marketing of local products.

III. Planning activity promoting the efficiency of farming

- III. a. Preparing and having made plans necessary for farming development;
- III. b. Product development;
- III. c. Preparing and having made plans improving product marketing.



Table 2.

Amount of the allocated support within the
I. a. Habitat management and development project type

I. a. type – breakdown	HUF	pcs
I. a. animal husbandry, sheep	10 120 000	12
I. a. husbandry, cattle	6 650 000	7
I. a. apiary	1 820 000	2
I. a. animal husbandry, horse	950 000	1
I. a. animal husbandry, <i>mangalica</i> , goat, horse	950 000	1
I. a. tree nursery of native species	950 000	1
I. a. grass land restoration	900 000	1
I. a. animal husbandry, <i>mangalica</i> pig	850 000	1
I. a. animal husbandry, goat	500 000	1
Total	23 690 000	27

Table 3.

Amount of allotted support by project types

Type	HUF	pcs
I. a. Habitat management and development	23 690 000	27
I. b. Activities and investments establishing and improving the possibilities of water supplement (wetland habitat development)	3 550 000	4
II. a. Processing of local products	2 505 000	4
II. b. Development of the marketing of local products	3 650 000	5
III. a. Preparing and having made plans necessary for farming development	4 670 000	8
III. c. Preparing and having made plans improving product marketing	1 275 000	2
Total	39 340 000	50



Figure 1.

Average percentage of support of all project costs by micro regions

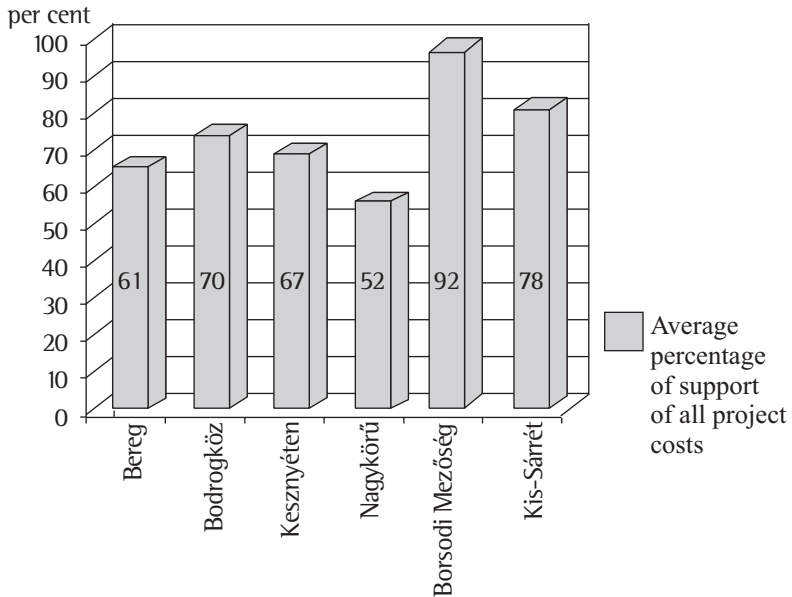


Figure 2.

Average percentage of support of all project costs by project types

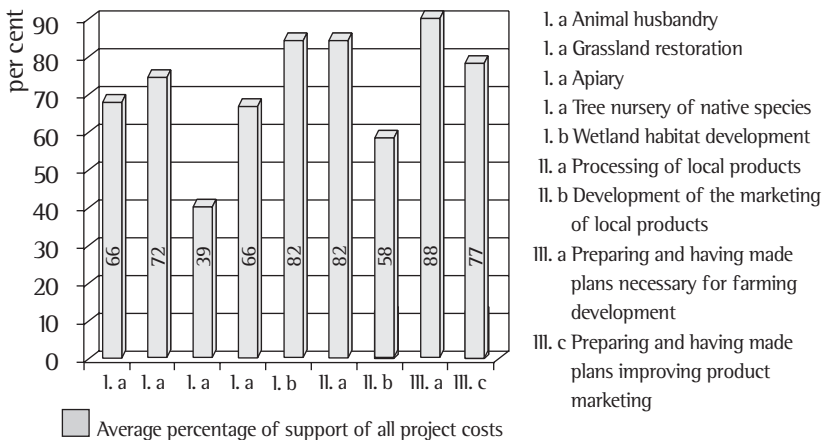


Table 4.
Allotted support by project types and small regions

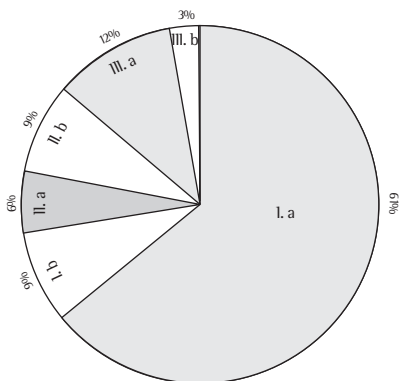
	I. a.	I. a.	I. a.	I. a.	I. b.	II. a.	II. b.	III. a.	III. c.	TOTAL
	Animal husbandry	Grassland restoration	Apiary	Tree nursery of native species	Activities and investments establishing and improving the possibilities of water supplement	Processing of local products	Development of marketing for local products	Preparation and having made plans necessary for farming development	Preparation and having made plans improving product marketing	
Bereg	4 750 000	-	950 000	-	-	475 000	-	-	475 000	6 650 000
Bodrogköz	5 700 000	-	-	-	950 000	-	-	-	-	6 650 000
Kesznyéten	1 900 000	900 000	-	-	1 650 000	-	750 000	850 000	-	6 050 000
Borsodi Mezőség	-	-	-	-	-	2 030 000	850 000	3 820 000	-	6 700 000
Nagykőrű	1 900 000	-	-	950 000	950 000	-	2 050 000	-	800 000	6 650 000
Kis-Sárrét	5 770 000	-	870 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 640 000
TOTAL	20 020 000	900 000	1 820 000	950 000	3 550 000	2 505 000	3 650 000	4 670 000	1 275 000	39 340 000

Table 5.
Distribution of project type financing

	I. a.	Animal husbandry	I. a.	Grassland restoration	I. a.	Aplary	I. a.	Tree nursery of native species	I. b.	Wetland habitat development	II. a.	Processing of local products	II. b.	Development of the marketing of local products	III. a.	Preparing and having made plans necessary for farming development	III. c.	Preparing and having made plans improving product marketing	TOTAL
Support		20 020 000		900 000		1 820 000		950 000	3 550 000		2 505 000		3 650 000		4 670 000		1 275 000		39 340 000
Own resource		10 115 000		350 000		2 846 700		500 000	760 000		550 000		2 690 000		650 000		390 000		18 951 700
Total project budget		30 135 000		1 250 000		4 666 700		1 450 001	4 310 000		3 055 000		6 340 000		5 320 000		1 665 000		58 191 701
Average support percentage		66%		72%		39%		66%	82%		82%		58%		88%		77%		68%



Figure 3.
Distribution of all Micro Grant Fund support by project types



I. a – Habitat management and development

(animal husbandry without apiary: 51% of the total budget)

I. b – Activities and investments establishing and improving the possibilities
of water supplement (wetland habitat development)

II. a – Processing of local products

II. b – Development of the marketing of local products

III. a – Preparing and having made plans necessary for farming development

III. c – Preparing and having made plans improving product marketing



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Partners' home pages

E-misszió Association

www.e-misszio.hu

BOKARTISZ Public Non-Profit Co.

www.bokartisz.hu

Borsodi Mezőség Farmers' Circle Association

www.cotkeny.hu

Tiszatáj Public Foundation

tiszataj.extra.hu

Foundation for Nagykörű

www.nagykoru.hu

Nimfea Environmental and Nature Protection Association

www.nimfea.hu

'Kis-Sárrét is Our Home' Work Group

www.kissarret.zug.hu

Körös-Maros National Park

www.kmnp.hu

kmnp.nemzetipark.gov.hu

