



## Fax Transmission

To: **Ben Slay, Director**

From: **István Tőkés, Liaison Officer**

Subject: **Tisza River biodiversity (GEF) project**

Number of pages (including this one): **2**

FAX number:

**004212-59337-450**

Message number:

Priority:

Date: **April 28, 2004**

### Message:

Dear Ben,

The attached Endorsement letter of the project proposal titled "Conservation of the Globally Significant Biodiversity of the Tisza River Floodplain" will be part of the project document to be submitted soon for UNDP-GEF approval.

With the ongoing design and initiation of construction activities of the first flood catchment reservoir in the Upper Tisza region, our project is badly needed to assist local initiatives, (mainly from the part of municipalities concerned), in their efforts to influence the design/construction process to respect sustainability principles in a coordinated and conceptual way.

As recommended by the National Project Director of the related PDF A preparatory project and the whole project team, let me forward it for your information and perusal.

C/c **Jana Simonova**  
**Nick Remle**

Best regards

István

Ben Slay  
GEF Regional Coordinator  
UNDP-RBEC  
New York  
Fax: 212-906-6595

Dear Mr. Slay!

**Re: UNDP/GEF MSP project proposal: Conservation and Restoration of  
the Biodiversity in the Tisza River Upper Floodplain  
through Integrated, Holistic and Locally Driven  
Floodplain Management.**

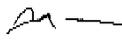
The First Country Cooperation Framework for Hungary adopted by the Government of Hungary and the United Nations Development Programme highlighted the environment as a priority area. Accordingly, after a number of years of national preparatory efforts the cooperation has started through a PDF A assistance project titled: "Conservation of the Globally Significant Biodiversity of the Tisza River Floodplain" (HUN/03/G41/A/1G/99). As its major output, this preparatory project produced the document with the subject title aiming for Global Environment Facility financing in the category of medium size projects (MSP).

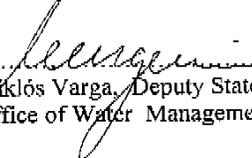
For our satisfaction, in its preparation and drafting the wide participation of all the stakeholders was assured by organizing a number of workshops and consultations at the Tisza region. Beside the national stakeholders (i.e. local authorities, water and nature conservation institutes, local civil organizations, academic and other experts) international organizations such as FAO and WWF active in Hungary were also consulted. The project preparation did closely followed and considered present and future policy, programme and financial requirements and possibilities arising from the future accession of Hungary into the European Union.

Through the project, biodiversity will be fully mainstreamed into the flood control, rural development and agricultural sectors by interfacing with major national programmes started having important focus in the region, namely with the Improved Tisza River Flood Control Plan (VVT) and with the Agro-Environmental Programme of Hungary. With significant co-financing coming from these programmes the project will support the development, dissemination and operationalisation of an integrated, pro-biodiversity approach to floodplain landscape management. It will also empower the local communities to drive their development projects in a sustainable framework.

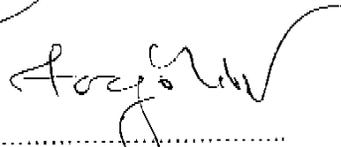
As the GEF Focal Point of Hungary, and considering the endorsements issued by high Government officials responsible with the programmes in the region, it is my pleasure to forward to you our full endorsement for the project asking for its full GEF financing.

Budapest, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004

  
.....  
László Haraszthy, Deputy State Secretary  
Office of Nature Conservation

  
.....  
Miklós Varga, Deputy State Secretary  
Office of Water Management



  
.....  
Tibor Faragó, Director General  
Ministry of Environment and Water  
GEF Focal Point for Hungary