



Hungary, Slovenia: MSP - Building Environmental Citizenship to Support Transboundary Pollution Reduction in the Danube: a Pilot Project in Hungary and Slovenia (UNDP)

Operational Program: 8 (International Waters)

GEF Secretariat Review:

Financing (millions): \$0.75

Total (millions): \$1.58

1144

Summary

This project would develop effective and replicable mechanisms for institutionalizing and operationalizing environmental public participation in two leading countries of Central Europe that are part of the Danube restoration process. By assisting Hungary and Slovenia in the development of practical and appropriate mechanisms to provide meaningful public access to environmental information and increase public involvement in decisionmaking relating to transboundary pollution reduction in the Danube, the project will increase the overall effectiveness of and public support for programs to reduce toxics and nutrients discharged to the Danube. The project will demonstrate the positive interaction between increased public involvement and transboundary pollution reduction goals and lead the way for creating similar enabling institutional mechanisms to promote sustainable development in the other countries in transition that are engaged in the Danube process.

Expected Project Outputs: (i) Report on Needs Assessment and Case Study; (ii) three capacity-building workshops completed for key officials of pilot countries; (iii) laws/regulations/policies drafted during the technical assistance phase to facilitate public involvement in Danube efforts; (iv) study tour completed by key officials and NGO representatives of pilot countries; report on Study Tour; (v) final report completed/disseminated on lessons learned and recommendations for replication in other Danube CEE countries.

Project Duration (months): 18

Basic Project Data

Project GEF ID:

Staff

Program Manager	Merla
Implementing Agency	UNDP
Regional Coordinator	
Executing Agency	International NGO

Processing Status

Date

Processing Stage	
Concept Pipeline Discussion	
PDF A - Agency Approval	
PDF B - CEO Approval	
Bilateral Project Review Meeting	10/18/99
Work Program Submission and Approval	
CEO Endorsement	
Agency Approval	
Project Completion	

Cost Summary

Cost Item	Years	Amount (USD'000)
<u>Preparation</u>		
- PDF A		
- PDF B		
- PDF C		
<u>Project Allocation</u>		
- Executing Agency Fees and Costs		\$0.00
- Project Management Costs		\$0.00
- Other Incremental Costs		\$0.00

Completeness of Documentation

Focal Point.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Budget.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical Framework.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STAP Review.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increment Cost.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Length.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure of Administration Cost.....	<input type="checkbox"/>			Complete Cover Sheet....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Country Ownership

Country Eligibility

Under para. 9(b) of GEF instrument.

Evidence of Country Ownership/Country-Drivenness

Countries have endorsed the project, and will provide substantial in kind contributions.

2. Program and Policy Conformity

Portfolio Balance

This MSP would contribute to the overall GEF nutrient reduction program in the Black Sea Basin.

Program Conformity

The project conforms with OP8 guidelines and objectives, being part of the larger Black Sea/Danube remediation effort.

Replicability

Replicability is key to this initiative, aimed at showing new ways to enhance public environmental awareness on transboundary water pollution.

Potential Global Environmental Benefits of Project

The project would contribute to the remediation of the transboundary pollution affecting the Black Sea Basin.

Sustainability

The project will be designed and implemented in close partnership with key government officials and ministries in Hungary and Slovenia, and leading environmental NGOs. A project planning task force has already been formed; it includes key government officials and NGOs from Hungary and Slovenia, who have already made commitments toward the success of the project. Inclusive efforts will be complemented by substantial outreach toward other NGOs and other stakeholders. REC's strong working relationships and collaborative programs with environmental officials throughout the CEE region, and its region-wide local offices and contacts with NGOs, will also help to ensure that the progress achieved through the pilot project is sustained over the long-term.

Baseline Course of Action

Existing arrangements for public access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decisionmaking, are inadequate and are insufficiently linked to reducing transboundary nutrient and toxics pollution of the Danube.

Alternative Action Supported by project

By raising public awareness and disseminating information on nutrient/toxics reduction practices, the project would contribute to the restoration of the Danube's transboundary waters.

Conformity with GEF Public Involvement Policy

Two local environmental NGOs, EMLA in Hungary and Labeco in Slovenia, are actively involved in planning and will be contracted to do some project activities (although the description is not provided in the proposal; see p. 10). This follows from the formation of regional networks, including the Danube Environment Forum (see p. 4) and the various networks that monitor implementation of the Aarhus Convention (p. 10). While several key players from government and regional NGOs are identified, the delineation of tasks among them may be

clarified, including possible inclusion of private sector participants. It may also be clarified how the project budget will be shared among the co-executing agencies. The largest amount of funding of almost \$0.24 million will go to in-region training. Some areas for consideration include: (i) number of anticipated participants, including key institutions and the private sector; (ii) content of these training programs, specifically measures for ensuring public involvement at the coastal, marine site levels; and (iii) various roles of the co-executing agencies in developing and carrying out these training programs.

Private Sector Involvement

See above.

3. Appropriateness of GEF Financing

Incremental Cost

The total cost of the alternative is lower than the total cost of the project (\$1.37M vs \$1.58M). What else is being financed through the project?

Appropriateness of Financial Modality Proposed

Financial Sustainability of the GEF-Funded Activity

Absorptive Capability

Cost Effectiveness

4. Coordination with Other Institutions

Collaboration

Complementarity with Ongoing Activities

5. Responsiveness to Comments and Evaluations

Core Commitments

Linkages

The project supports the UNDP-GEF Danube Pollution Reduction Program, the anticipated GEF Regional Danube project, and the GEF Black Sea Basin programmatic approach to reduction of transboundary pollution in the Black Sea basin. Extensive consultations on project design were held with the UNDP-GEF Danube project and the ICPDR Secretariat.

Consultation and Coordination

Consistency w/previous upstream consultations, project preparation work, and processing conditions

Monitoring & evaluation: Minimum GEF Standards, ME plan, proposed indicators, lessons from PIRs and Project Lessons Study

Indicators

Implementing Agencies' Comments

STAP Review

Council members' Comments

Technical Assurances

Convention Secretariat

Other Technical Comments

Further Processing

The program manager would recommend the proposal for CEO approval, subject to satisfactory revision of the Incremental Cost assessment and clarifications on points raised in this review (public involvement section).