



WWF

NEWSLETTER

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WORKING TOGETHER
TO INSPIRE SUSTAINABLE
SOLUTIONS



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Payments for Ecosystem Services

THE DANUBE PES PROJECT:

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

Dear reader,

I am pleased to introduce to you the second newsletter of the Danube Payments for ecosystem services project. After the first bulletin we prepared and sent you at the end of 2010, we have had a rather intense time defining, developing and adapting payments for ecosystem services and sustainable financing schemes in Bulgaria and Romania.

This has already paid off in the form of real, tangible results. In each country we managed to develop two PES schemes contributing to the improvement of water quality and protection of biodiversity as well as two sustainable financing schemes contributing to the management of protected areas. Both public and private funding mechanisms were explored to support the schemes. We are now beginning implementation and, if necessary, the adaptation of the schemes. For more information on this, see the Policy Work section below.

Before I leave you to browse the stories about our work, I would like to use this opportunity to thank two institutions – Bulgaria's Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquacultures, part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and Romania's Management Authority of the Fisheries Operational Programme. Their kind support and involvement in the development of our PES schemes has been much appreciated.

Maya Todorova, Coordinator of the Danube PES project



Potential model site in Romania for the Danube PES project

PROMOTING PES IN THE DANUBE BASIN AND BEYOND

DANUBE PES PROJECT IS THE ONLY EUROPEAN PROJECT DEBATED AT MEETING OF ECONOMICS EXPERTS

The Danube PES project was presented to experts in the economic assessment of ecosystem services at the international PES workshop "Towards an Implementation Strategy" held in Germany.

EU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER HAHN BRIEFED ABOUT PES PROJECT

At a meeting in Vienna, the Danube PES project team advocated the allocation of future Cohesion Policy funds to measures promoting ecosystem services such as wetland restoration in the Danube basin.



EU CLIMATE COMMISSIONER HEDEGAARD INTRODUCED TO PES PROJECT

The Danube PES project was introduced to EU Climate Commissioner in the light of climate regulation and carbon sequestration targets. It was demonstrated how PES schemes can be implemented in the Danube River Basin, contributing to reducing green house gas emissions.

“BUSINESS AND CLIMATE” WORKSHOP

PES schemes were presented to the Bulgarian business as an opportunity to solve environmental problems at local level, ensuring additional financing and added value for humans and the environment alike.

RIVER BASIN MANAGERS TRAINING ON PES

Managers from river basins in Romania met to discuss PES schemes and their introduction as a financing mechanism.

WORKSHOP „GOOD PRACTICES IN FISH FARMS”

Fishpond managers, biodiversity experts and representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency and of the Management Authority of the Fisheries Operational Programme discussed biodiversity and water

related aquaculture practices leading to sustainable fish farm management.

PES AND EU CAP REFORM

Ecosystem services and related sustainable financing mechanisms under the EU Common Agricultural Policy were a big part of the debate on the EU CAP reform organized by WWF in Spain.

SUPPORT FOR PAYMENTS FOR NATURA 2000 SITES

The Danube PES project team actively supported the campaign of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture to promote new payments for managers of farmlands within Natura 2000 sites under the EU’s Birds Directive.

THE DANUBE PES PROJECT FURTHER PROMOTED IN SERBIA

Serbia coordinator presented the concept and the project in eight Serbian cities during a series of consultation meetings on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Danube River Basin Management Plan for Serbia.

Read more: www.panda.org/dcpo

LOCAL SITE WORK

MODEL SITE WORK ADVANCES

The Danube PES project team worked actively on developing and adapting PES as well as sustainable financing schemes in both Bulgaria and Romania.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR NATURA 2000 PAYMENTS

Two workshops were held in Rusenski Lom and Persina Nature Parks in Bulgaria with a focus on payments for farmlands

within Natura 2000 sites under the EU’s Birds Directive.

PES JOURNALISTIC TRIP

15 journalists from leading Bulgarian media were introduced to the proposed PES schemes for tourism and fisheries developed under the PES project.

Read more: www.panda.org/dcpo

POLICY WORK

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN BULGARIA

Active cooperation with the Bulgarian Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquacultures has been a major development under the Danube PES project in Bulgaria.

BULGARIA CAN LEAPFROG EU COUNTRIES IN INNOVATIVE FISHERIES PAYMENTS

Bulgaria is planning to implement innovative policies for the fisheries and aquaculture sector which promote ecosystem services and not just production.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN ROMANIA


PES related needs for the Fisheries Operational Programme are identified, opening discussions for further development and implementation of public support measures.

Read more: www.panda.org/dcpo

OTHER

SECOND STEERING GROUP MEETING TO BE HELD IN BUCHAREST

The purpose of this year’s Danube PES project Steering Group meeting is to review interim project outputs and provide recommendations on further project development to the implementing organizations and partners.

	<p>Why we are here</p> <p>To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p>
	<p>www.panda.org/dcpo</p>

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