

# Ciobarciu Wetland Project

Issues such as the loss of wetlands essential for bird and plants and the loss of floodplain resulting from agricultural and irrigation practices were addressed by removing embankments and restoring flow to an old river course. The project has had numerous social benefits as well as improving the ecology of the area.

## Project summary

**Location:** Near the village of Costuleni, Iasi. Prut Barlad River Basin, Romania

**Length:** 5,500m

**Area:** 250ha

**Cost:** €388,000

**Dates:** 2003 - 2006

## Delivery

**Delivered through:** Dutch governmental fund to protect and rehabilitate areas for nature in Eastern European countries.

**Partners:** Prut–Barlad River Basin Authority, RIZA, Hunze & Aa's and Het Drentsche Landschap (NGO).



## Background and issues

- Historic diversion of Jijia river dramatically changed the area.
- Loss of floodplains.
- Most of area is grassland with limited ecological value.
- Poor quality of the soil.
- Lack of habitat and suitable breeding areas for birds.



Channels created through embankments and some embankments removed entirely.

Flow restored to Old Jijia River.

Wetland areas creating good habitat and breeding areas for birds on the migration route to the Danube delta.

## Step-by-step

- October 2003 - Land evaluation.
- 2005-2006 - Land purchase of 224ha grassland from approximately 400 landowners.
- Community participated in scheme design.
- Channels created between embankments to improve connectivity, inner embankments removed completely.
- Restoration of old meanders.
- Restored flow on the Old Jijia River.

## Benefits

- Local people consulted and involved in decision making - led to support for changes
- Increased public access.
- Improved recreational opportunities.
- Educational and scientific opportunities.
- Water available for livestock and irrigation.
- Reeds for traditional manufacturing.
- Reconnected the floodplain.
- Improved the overall look of the area.
- Improved water quality.
- Re-created important habitats.



Creating habitat



Monitoring and research



Floodplain reconnection



Restoring flow on the Old Jijia river (from left; before, during and after work)  
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## Lessons Learnt

- Good example of project developed by involving the local community.
- Good example of land purchase for ecological restoration.

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