

WWF approach for integrated river and floodplain restoration Danube basin, CEE

Laurice Ereifej, WWF DCP Head of FW Programme

ERRC 2014, Vienna 27-30. October 2014.



Existing materials:

national RBMPs + DRBMP
Other plans (e.g. Master Plans with polders, flood reservoirs)
Experiences of previous projects

Existing approach:

•Long "wish lists" > how to start?

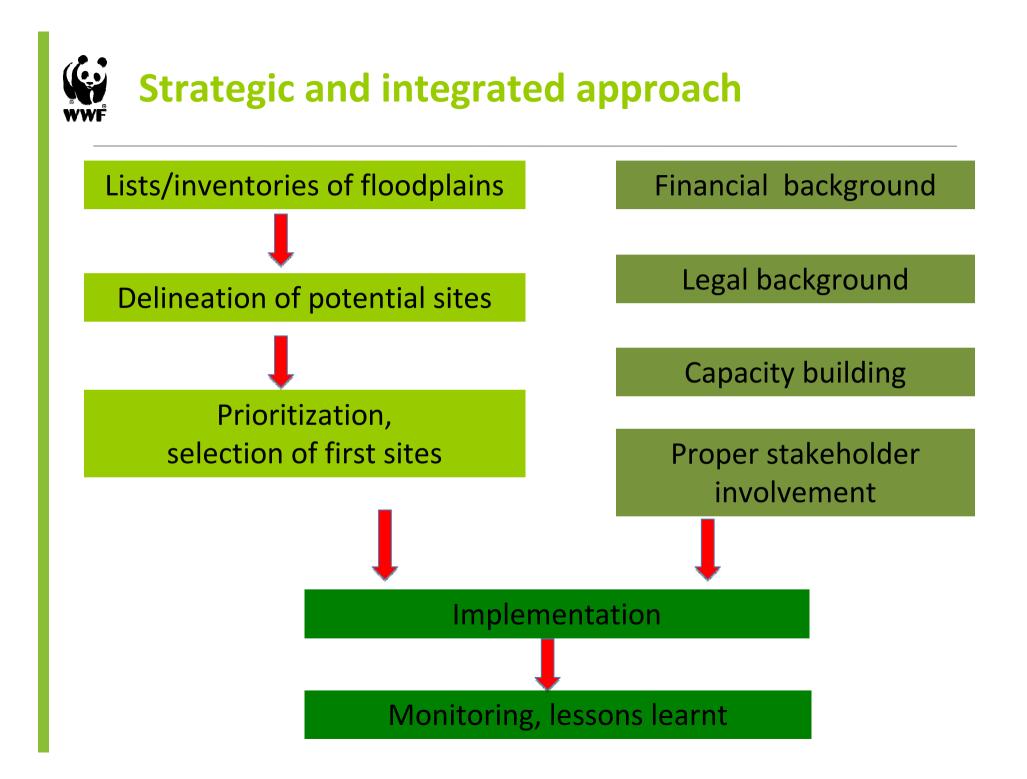
•Technical aspects mainly, lack of stakeholder participation

- "Only" small scale restorations
- •Often focusing on active floodplains



- Large scale restorations, multiplication of projects
- Strategic and integrated approach
- Consider former floodplains as well







Prioritization, selection of first sites

Technical criteria e.g. :

•Hydromorphological conditions

Protection status

•Land use coverage

•Size of area

Achieving conservation goals / improved biodiversity

Socio-economic criteria e.g.:

•Landownership, landowners'/users' interest

•Socio-economic benefits e.g.:

Flood and drought mitigation Nutrient retention and self purification Natural resources for local communities (like reed) Recreation



Exist:

•Various financial opportunities for restoration

•Splitted up financial sources

•Sometimes strict stipulations, requirements for applicants







Financial background

Various financial opportunities exist for restoration

Studies: pre-feasibility, feasibility, socio-economic analyses: applied research	 CBC; Danube Transnational Programme; European Structural and Investment Funds: Technical Assistance EEA Horizon 2020
Compensation/ land purchase	 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (CAP – Pillar II) - Rural Development Programmes, LIFE
Training for farmers and other managers	 Rural Development Programmes, European Social Fund - OP Human Capital
Incentive for farming, land-use change (LEADER type)	- Rural Development Programmes
Field work	 European Structural and Investment Funds – ESIF: Cohesion Fund and Regional Development Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (CAP – Pillar II), European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF); LIFE EEA
Maintenance cost/ sluices	- national budget (initially covered by investment)
Monitoring	 European Structural and Investment Funds: Technical Assistance if considered as research – Horizon 2020
Communication + education	 part of each project LIFE Communication European Social Fund
Experience exchange for authorities, lawyers, engineers, researchers	 INTERREG EUROPE Danube Transnational Programme Horizon 2020



Highlights of needs: National level:

- Coordinated distribution of financial sources
- •Tackle integrated projects as 1 financial package (e.g. nature conservation, rural development, water management elements should be financed within 1 project)
- •Local interests are considered in decision making
- •Ensured confinance
- •Proper incentives for land use change



Highlights of needs:

Local level:

- Payment for Ecosystem Services:
 - E.g. rice farm owner profiting from water provision after restoration > thus ready to contribute to restoration/maintenance costs
 - e.g. reed biomass > used for energy production > financing reed management measures after restoration





Proper stakeholder involvement

- Stakeholder involvement in time
- Stakeholder involvement on the necessary level: Information, consultation, and/or active involvement
- Help to prioritize potential sites for restoration
- Save money and capacity by avoiding useless measures
- Adjust actions, measures to reality
- Ensure viability of restoration, keeping the results for long term
- Find win-win situations from ecological, social and economic point of view



WWF's main activities on wetland restoration





WWF's main activities on wetland restoration



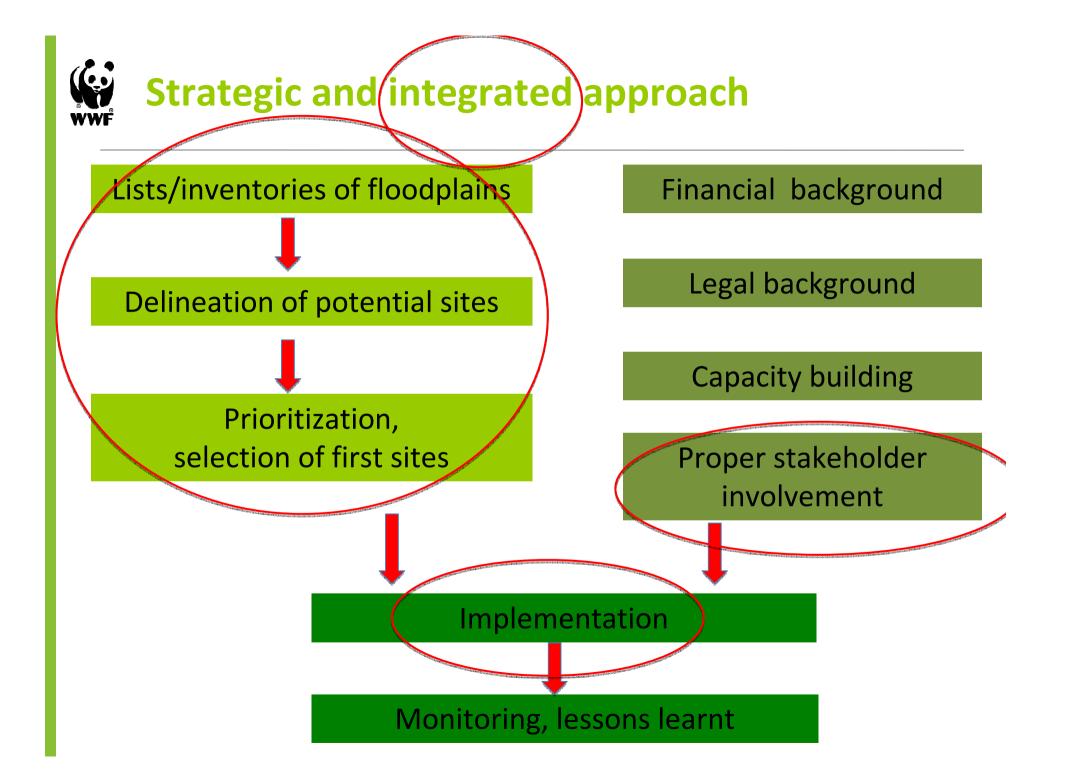
Policy, Lobby, Advocacy

Communication



WWF's main activities on wetland restoration

- Restoration projects in the CEE region
- TCCC-WWF partnership: 9 projects in 6 countries
- Definition of main obstacles (legal, financial) of large scale restorations in Ro
- Contribute to transboundary initiatives
- Influencing RBMPs, national concepts, other plans
- Observer in ICPDR working groups
- Shaping EU funds, find support for large scale restoration
- Communication: media work, campaigns, events
- Avoid or at least mitigate future deterioration



Thank you!

laurice.ereifej@wwf.hu