The Danube Regional Project

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) was launched in 2001 in cooperation with 13 national signatories of the Danube River Protection Convention, Danube NGOs, the European Union (EU) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). The DRP’s main goal is to help the ICPDR and Danube countries to cooperate in fulfilling their commitments to implement the river convention and EU environmental legislation, especially the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The DRP's main aim is to help the ICPDR and Danube countries to cooperate in fulfilling their commitments to implement the river convention and EU environmental legislation, especially the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The organisation took part in the Danube Pollution Reduction Programme (1999-2001) by enabling NGOs to contribute to the Danube’s rehabilitation. Additionally, the REC participated in the EDDP-EXPERT group, which developed the Danube River Basin Strategy for Public Participation in River Management Planning (2006-2009). This document was adopted by the ICPDR in June, 2003.

Grants for the river

The grants programme is part of the Danube Regional Project. It is designed to enable environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the Danube River countries to contribute to the reduction of nutrient and toxic pollution of transboundary rivers. The programme has two main components: national grants focusing on issues of national priority and regional grants promoting cooperation in trans-boundary projects.

In the second round of DRP grants, NGOs were awarded a combined total of USD 636,000, which were divided as follows:

- USD 177,170 to fund five regional projects, each involving NGOs from multiple countries.
- USD 458,834 for 57 national NGO initiatives which took a multi-stakeholder approach to address different issues related to Danube pollution.

In total, 62 projects were coordinated and monitored by the REC through its country office network. In total, 62 projects were coordinated and monitored by the REC through its country office network.

Regional grants improve water quality

The regional grants programme promotes regional cooperation in environmental projects managed by NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe. It offers a four-year work programme that addresses nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube River. Five regional projects were funded under the programme, and grants in total ranged from USD 28,000 to USD 50,000.

Five multi-country projects combined the efforts of 14 NGOs from the Danube Basin. In their approaches, NGOs built on their expertise in lobbying, campaigning and working with the public and local and central authorities. The projects focused on facilitating the reduction of nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube River through education and promotional efforts focused on different audiences. They also worked on developing best agricultural practices and approaches to change in attitudes and behaviour among key players in the river basin.

Regional grants promote cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making.

The DRP has been involved in Danube environmental-related projects since its inception and has taken an active role in cooperating with NGOs to play a more prominent role in international organisations such as the EU or the ICPDR. The DRP closely cooperates with relevant stakeholders such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Danube Environment Conference (DEC). The DRP is managed by NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe, with a focus on work that addresses nutrient and toxic pollution of transboundary rivers.
Reducing nutrient and toxic pollution at the regional level

Green Action’s Green Actions

A project led by the Croatian group Green Action sought to boost NGO and public participation in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Sava River Basin. The project didn’t stop at mere enforcement of NGO relationships to the public, though. Other goals included establishing cooperation between the NGO community and the International Sava River Basin Commission, arranging a workshop regarding implementation processes as well as sharing cutting-edge knowledge and experiences on cross-sectoral tools and methodologies.

By actively engaging with the commission and other stakeholders, Green Action achieved a great deal in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Sava River Basin. The project was successful in reaching its goals and improving cooperation among stakeholders.

For Earth and Baby

It’s an ecological problem to which nearly every household in modern Europe has contributed and will continue to. Nutrients are environmental impact due to disposable diaper and sanitary pad disposal that is both harmful to the environment as well as for babies. The project sought to reduce the use of disposable diapers, a consumer product representing 14 percent of non-degradable waste in Europe.

Roda, a Dutch NGO, set out with Croatian authorities of the Ministry of Health to boost participation in reusable diapers. Roda set out on its own in promoting the use of ecologically safer cloth diapers through media campaigns, public activities, and an Earth Day observation. Roda was ultimately able to convince various stakeholders of the benefits of reusable diapers.

Twenty families received EUR 62.50 each. In Ljubljana, Slovenia, professionals, the project helped introduce a new school of thought in child-rearing. In the project, a leading model for various stakeholders was established that contributed to environmental awareness among many caregivers.

A working model from Bulgaria demonstrated good parenting practices was designed to serve as an example for others as well. Roda successfully communicated with authorities and local media to promote their activities.

CONTRIBUTORS: Haniska, Laszlo Stoll Holocen Nature Conservation Organisation  Tel: (36-46) 508-944 E-mail: stoll@holocen.hu

Additionally, the work undertaken by the project’s NGOs and stakeholders is certain to serve as a training tool and to foster information dissemination activities. It has already been released into water from agricultural activities. The project, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms, set out to organise stakeholder involvement towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin surface and ground water.

The Lower Danube is not exempted from a problem common throughout Europe, nitrates released into water from agricultural activities. The project, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms, set out to organise stakeholder involvement towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin surface and ground water.

The Lower Danube is not exempted from a problem common throughout Europe, nitrates released into water from agricultural activities. The project, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms, set out to organise stakeholder involvement towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin surface and ground water.

The Lower Danube is not exempted from a problem common throughout Europe, nitrates released into water from agricultural activities. The project, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms, set out to organise stakeholder involvement towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin surface and ground water.

The Lower Danube is not exempted from a problem common throughout Europe, nitrates released into water from agricultural activities. The project, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms, set out to organise stakeholder involvement towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin surface and ground water.

The Lower Danube is not exempted from a problem common throughout Europe, nitrates released into water from agricultural activities. The project, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms, set out to organise stakeholder involvement towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin surface and ground water.
Grants for the river

The grant component of the Danube Regional Project was designed to enable environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the Danube River countries to contribute to the sustainability of nutrient and toxic pollution of transboundary streams. This project has two main components, national grants focusing on issues of national priority and regional grants promoting cooperation in transboundary projects.

In the first round of DRP grants, NGOs were awarded a combined total of USD 28,000–50,000, which were divided as follows:

- USD 458,834 for 57 national NGO initiatives which took a multi-stakeholder approach to address different issues related to Danube pollution.
- USD 177,170 to fund five regional projects, each involving NGOs from multiple countries.

In total, 62 projects were coordinated and monitored by the REC through its country office network. This includes 11 countries in the Danube basin.

Regional grants improve water quality

The regional grants programme promotes regional cooperation in environmental projects managed by NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe. With a focus on work that addresses nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube River, five regional projects were funded under the programme, and grant awards ranged from USD 28,000 to USD 50,000.

Five multi-country projects combined the efforts of 13 NGOs from the Danube basin. In their approaches, NGOs built on their expertise in lobbying, campaigning and working with the public and local and central authorities. The projects focused on developing best practices and pilot projects that demonstrated solutions to production and consumption patterns in the region. Increased awareness was dedicated to building the media.

Regional grants awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>USD AWARDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management</td>
<td>25,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the NGO Taskforce in EU WFD Implementation</td>
<td>49,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling the Ecological Water Quality Management of Lower Danube Farms</td>
<td>28,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserving the Water by Promoting Diapers Friendly to Earth and Baby</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges for Communities, Sectors and Information</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Agricultural Practice on My Farm</td>
<td>34,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening NGO Participation in EU WFD Implementation</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional grants promote regional cooperation in environmental projects managed by NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe.</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a focus on work that addresses nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube River.</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five regional projects were funded under the programme, and grant awards ranged from USD 28,000 to USD 50,000.</td>
<td>177,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five multi-country projects combined the efforts of 13 NGOs from the Danube basin.</td>
<td>458,834</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bringing NGOs into the flow

Second round of regional grants for the Danube Regional Project