

Master Plan - support for sustainable development in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve / Tulcea county (Romania) Logical Framework Analyse (LFA)

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Introduction

The development process of regions, as in the Danube Delta Region, is characterized by continual change, driven by a variety of forces – delta resources over exploitation, government policies, actions of private companies, infrastructure standards, safety of a place to work, and many more. When the change leads to unsatisfactory conditions for the people of the region, the need arises for carefully planned interventions to produce the desired results. A key to successful regional and local planning is to understand why current unedifying conditions are the way they are, what factors affect them, and what interventions could positively influence these factors. Traditionally, “master planning” at regional and local levels has addressed the land-use or physical aspects of development; for example, the scale, nature and location of housing and main community facilities, or the zoning of recreation areas. The Danube Delta Regional Development Master Plan adheres to the principles of sustainable development, within the definition championed by the United Nations and subscribed to worldwide by most national governments. Expressed in its most basic form, this is support for: "...development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". A principal tenet of the concept of sustainable development is ‘intergenerational equity’, meaning that the degree of access to the resources which the planet can provide should be no less in the future than it is for the present population.

Methods

General view over the development objectives

Biodiversity conservation

General objective: the extending of water habitats for fish and birds species through the wetlands restoration.

Strategic plan for ecological rehabilitation in Danube Delta for the next ten years follows as main objectives:

- The reintegration of some economical agricultural areas and fishponds in the natural hydrologic cycle
- -The restoration of the wetland specific functions
- -Reestablishment of the ecological and hydrological balance
- -The achievement of new habitats for fish and bird species
- -Renewing the traditional activities - fishing, reed harvesting, animal breeding and ecotourism

Strategic plan for ecological rehabilitation in Danube Delta for next ten years are:

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- Restoration of wetlands as support of biodiversity
- To create new habitats for the species populations which are in decline or endangered
- Renewing the delta's specific traditional activities - fishing, reed harvesting and ecotourism
- To extend the natural habitats
- To extend natural reproduction, feeding and resting areas for fish and water bird species

Results and discuss

Master Plan- purposes and intervention areas “Each generation has to fulfil the tasks and to use the natural resources such as to assure this right to the next generations, too- this is the main idea of the sustainable development. And this thing intentionally includes the global perspective, too.”

The elaboration process of the Master Plan, is theoretical speaking, a succession of evaluation operations and elaboration of predictive development models. First of all, it is necessary to evaluate the system's state with environment's health indicators and to identify the problems, and then to decide which problems have to take into consideration for the action plan. In the second place, it is necessary to establish which measures are feasible, from technical point of view for solving these problems.

It will be establish a priority order based on a rational package of criteria. Then are estimated the costs of the necessary measures' implementation for solving each priority problem. Afterwards, based on these costs it can be established which of the identified priorities the available financial resources can cover.

In this way it will be obtained a list of feasible measures that can be implemented in the limit of the available financial resources. The established measures will be structured in a work program, which is then applied and after that, it will be evaluated the implementation manner of the initial plan, after this it will be revised periodically depending on the system evolution.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The DDBR' challenges are different and complex. In this way there were identified three new subjects that could be grouped the most important challenges. These subjects are not independent because each one is connected with other one.

Institutional structure: In the time of consulting stakeholders, many challenges which DDBR confront are a direct result or are generated by the lack of cooperation and coordination among different institution and the important “actors”, including the development of a clear responsibilities' frame of everyone and also the coordination's capacity among interested governmental authorities.

This subject regarding challenges also includes the improving of “channels” through local peoples could sustain their point of view regarding the administration management in this region.

Some examples of necessary challenges include:

The lack of a strategy in DDBR in connection with the land utility and its specific changes:

Changing land use: Traditional access to natural resources is blocked due to land use change or change in ownership

Conflicts of interests between:

- Hunting and sport fishing associations and Fishing companies/ecologists
- Local people and concessionaires
- Fishermen and birds that eat fish
- Biodiversity Conservation and economic development camps including here: the right to exploit the different land use categories, the right to exploit the natural delta resources, the access to different location in the region, the duties and the responsibilities of different institutions, including the right of control on applying the present legislation, the purpose of taxes from exploitation of natural resources of the delta.

Because of stakeholders variety and different economical interests in the region, could be distinguish potential conflicts between different categories of stakeholders relying on:

- defending dykes against floodings, routes modernisation, rehabilitation, modernisation / building of drinking water supply /sewerage water system, building transfer ramps/platforms for house waste, and one water treatment station;
- ecotourism development;
- traditional handicrafts development;
- shops for fish commercialisation;
- isolation reducing through terrestrial transport developing,
- rehabilitation of Pardina's polder , using studies which could distinguished the modalities to realize this rehabilitation;
- shelters for old peoples and in this way to create jobs;
- the changing of juridical status of the lands which could increasing the local peoples access (Maliuc village);
- workings to realize water links between village and wetlands for ecotourism development;
- realisation of a centralised system to collect the waste;
- rehabilitation of abandoned fish ponds;
- extension of power supply;
- improving the routes inside or outside villages;
- ecological rehabilitation of Ciuperca Lake;
- rehabilitation of Zaghen Lake;
- land use/biodiversity preservation (e.g. Sulina beach);
- infrastructure investments/ biodiversity preservation (e.g. Tulcea – Sulina route)

Poverty and equity:

In Danube Delta are present many aspects of poverty, including:

- Low level of health and low life
- Low level of incomes,
- Low access to education. .
- Lack of a professional representative..
- Lack of mobility and transport infrastructure
- Lack of important elements of infrastructure as the access to water supply, health services, management of waste products management ;

Unsustainable development and increasing pressure on the environment:

- Increasing of living standards of the local peoples in DDBR is in equilibrium with nature's preservation efforts. Many economical activities which promise financial benefits on long or short term are threading DDBR's existence. Some specific threats are: overfishing, intensive agriculture and aquaculture, pollution of water resources with heavy metals (Cd), increasing rate of economic development (e.g. tourism, handicrafts)

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