



Regional Project Document

United Nations Development Programme
Bratislava Regional Center, Europe & CIS

Tisza community-led demonstration regional project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management

Award ID: 00044329

Project ID: 00052079

The *Tisza community-led demonstration regional project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management* is an integral part of the GEF- Mid-Size Project “Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin”. This pilot and demonstration component will aim at developing, implementation and evaluation of a transboundary community-led project that promotes sustainable development through integrated land and water management practices at the community level.

The demonstration project’s objective is to yield valuable insights and lessons, which will serve to inform the TDA/SAP process of the umbrella GEF- project, as well as other transboundary integrated land and water management projects through out the region and globally. The focus of the project will be on community-driven governance interventions, encouraging community ownership of project activities and outcomes. The demonstration project’s approach is to identify and implement interventions that tackle socio-economic challenges and enhance opportunities for the local population (and vulnerable groups in particular), while at the same time resulting in improved environmental conditions. The lessons learnt and project implementation mechanisms tested will be incorporated into the SAP and NAPs, to be replicated in future local and community-level projects. This project also serves to inform the larger international waters project community, and it is hoped that it will be possible to replicate the successes of this project when and where possible through out the region, and abroad.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Bratislava Regional Center

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator (s):

Improved environmental governance pertaining to sustainable development through community driven integrated land and water management

Applicable MYFF Service Line: 3.2 Effective Water Governance

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s):

Trans-boundary community-led demonstration project that promotes sustainable development through integrated land and water management practices at the community level developed, implemented and evaluated.

Implementing partner:

(designated institution/Executing agency)

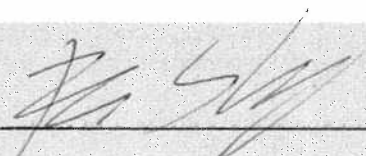
UNDP Bratislava Regional Center (DEX)

Programme Period: 2006-2010
Programme Component: Trans-boundary dialogue and processes to improve cooperation on regional and global water challenges in place
Project Title: **Tisza community-led demonstration regional project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management**

Project ID: 00052079
Project Duration: 2006 - 2008
Management Arrangement: DEX

Budget: 200.000 USD
General Management Support Fee: N/A
Total budget: 200.000 USD
Allocated resources:
• Government N/A
• Regional TRAC 200.000 USD
• Other (parallel)
 ○ GEF 140.000 USD

Agreed by:



/Mr. Ben Slay, Director, BRC/

Section I

Part I. Situation Analysis

The umbrella UNDP/GEF medium-sized (MSP) project *Establishing Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin* aims to establish cooperation mechanisms to improve the joint management of the shared water and land resources in the Tisza River Basin by its riparian countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine). The project seeks to address the water quantity and quality issues facing this region through collaborative efforts with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Tisza Water Forum, the interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (hosted by UNEP), and the EU. The MSP will prepare a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) as basis for the formulation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Programmes (NAPs). The project will link as to other projects and initiatives addressing resources management and development issues in the Tisza River Basin, including on-going national projects under UNDP's Carpathian Umbrella and external projects, while emphasizing country and municipal ownership of the process and the outcomes.

The Tisza is an internationally significant river system, which is seriously degraded and continues to be threatened. The river drains from the Carpathian Mountains into a 157,200 square kilometre flood plain which is home to some 14 million people. The Tisza headwaters begin in Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania, join in Hungary and then flow into Serbia and Montenegro where the river joins the Danube. The geography of the Tisza River basin (TRB) is significantly impacted by social, political and economic developments in the region. The TRB is intensively cultivated and human activities have impacted the natural flow of the river over the past 3 centuries. Human activities in the TRB continue to threaten the natural systems of the basin, impacting soil and water quality, biodiversity and human settlements. The legacy of communist regimes has left the countries environmental management institutions in a period of recovery. At the same time, economic and industrial activities in the River Basin are existing threats that are expected to gain increasingly negative impacts on the environmental conditions in the future if no action is taken.

The EU accession process has resulted in different rates of development in the TRB, with Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro striving to stay on par with their neighboring states. The accession of Slovakia and Hungary, and pending accession of Romania to the EU has spurred these governments towards adopting policies that emphasize sustainable development ideals. Although Serbia & Montenegro and Ukraine both express an interest in acceding to the EU, they are currently hampered by developmental challenges. The MSP aims to provide the necessary support to all countries in the TRB to develop and adoption integrated land and water resource management policies and through a pilot project to be designed and implemented by the UNDP Governance programme test community based solutions.

Reference is made to further background information and situation analysis in the UNDP/GEF-Project proposal *Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin*.

Part II. Strategy

The UNDP/GEF MSP will build on what has already been achieved through the EU accession process and the EU and GEF support of the ICPDR in the implementation of the Danube River Basin Convention (DRBC) and the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD). The project will also build upon and link with numerous existing UNDP sustainable development initiatives in the basin, and, as appropriate, other GEF-biodiversity and third party projects. The intention is to take the concept of River Basin

Management beyond the water sector and achieve coordination of the development, management and conservation of land and water resources within the River Basin, embedding conservation and environmental policy into the planning framework from the beginning, rather than being retrofitted at a later stage.

Despite apparent advantages of this kind of policy coordination, there is a lack of concrete examples of transboundary integrated land and water management strategies in the region. The UNDP Environmental Governance project will address this gap by implementation of a pilot initiative which will explore community-based management techniques which can be replicated throughout the region. The pilot project will support and test the communities' ability to develop and maintain local governance mechanisms based on self-defined priorities, while taking steps to mitigate environmental degradation of land and water resources. The community itself must recognize the effort in implementing the demonstration project as meeting a need, and ultimately must be self-sustaining without external support. The rationale for the project is to allow communities to be more actively and directly involved in water and land resource management based on the priorities they most strongly support. Although national and regional level priorities are articulated within projects, there is a need to test these priorities at the community level by those who will be most directly benefiting from them as well as those who will carry the responsibility for their success.

Link to national and regional priorities

The project addresses key issues identified by the UN Common Country Assessments (CCA) and related documents in all the Tisza basin countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Ukraine), in particular improving access to safe water resources for rural populations and the importance of improved natural resources management at the local level.

The project will link closely to the objectives and activities of the interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (with the interim secretariat currently hosted by UNEP through its Vienna UN International Centre office), which requires the signatory parties to promote river basin management, sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable tourism and apply spatial planning.

The project is designed as an integral part of the UNDP-GEF MSP and the results of the pilot will feed into the development of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the National Action Plans (NAPs). The lessons learnt from pilot project will be gathered from regular and close monitoring of implementation of the pilot, noting the key factors shaping the success and contributing to the challenges of implementation. It is hoped that the project will serve as a demonstration for other international waters projects eager to include stakeholder and increase environmental governance efforts at the local and public levels.

Project outcome, phases and intended activities

The outcome of the project will be enhanced knowledge of techniques and mechanisms for improved environmental self-governance at the local and community level that can be applied throughout the basin, providing both economic gains and environmental improvements through integrated water and land resource management.

The project will be implemented in three phases containing the following intended activities and outputs:

Phase I – Selection of transboundary project site and preparation of project activities:

1. Development of a set of criteria¹ for selection of a suitable transboundary project site in the Carpathian mountains, in cooperation with the interim secretariat of Carpathian Convention. The criteria will be based on adequate desk review and assessments (including review of similar past, ongoing and planned projects and their site and criteria, as well as a stakeholder analysis) and take into account geographic, socio-economic, and environmental indicators alike. It will emphasize the involvement of vulnerable groups and gender- and conflict-related issues². The success or otherwise of community governance projects implemented through other international donor agencies will be factored into the selection criteria. It will be important to set criteria that mirror those found throughout the Tisza basin region while at the same time, taking steps to support a wide array of suitable candidate communities. The selection criteria will be consulted with the public, and finalized during a workshop to which national and local stakeholders will be invited.
2. Selection of basic methodological approaches and establishing of concrete objectives, including mechanism for integrated land resource and water management at the local level. In a first step, this activity includes a number of consultations within the Carpathian Convention framework partners, as well as a participative process i.a. involving the Carpathian Eco-region Initiative (CERI) as the umbrella for local initiatives, and appropriate NGO's and research institutes of the region. Selected communities from potential project sites will be consulted in a second phase to determine potential priorities for small scale socio-economic interventions based on collective action management strategies and focusing on employment-generation or livelihood-improvement. This strategy of common property resource management includes defining: i) Geographical boundaries of which the participating groups are responsible; ii) Resources required to meet basic needs iii) Participation of all those impacted by the governance decisions iv) Rules to ensure a clear division of responsibility and benefits and transparency within the decision making process v) Rule enforcement including appropriate sanctions for those who act against the project interests vi) Conflict resolution mechanisms within the governance structure vii) Acceptance from local, district and national authorities of project design and objectives.
3. Development of a Project Learning Plan (incl. M&E mechanisms) in view of optimum learning and benefits for the umbrella UNDP/GEF project, and similar transboundary Land & Water initiatives, as appropriate. The main focus of the M&E framework will be on the effectiveness of the local governance mechanism, and secondly on its environmental implications and improvement of the ecological status of the targeted area. Capacity building for (EU) Resource mobilisation at community/local level will be explicit part of the Project Learning Plan and M&E framework. An adequate monitoring mechanisms and plan will

¹ These criteria will be discussed and further developed during a regional consultation meeting with the Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group of the umbrella UNDP/GEF project. Proposals for project sites will be solicited from NGOs and communities, and based on the established criteria, projects ranked by UNDP and representatives of the interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. A workshop will be organized to select the final site.

² Communities with disadvantaged populations, lower education levels, higher poverty rates or less access to social services are the most marginalized communities who often are more susceptible to environmental degradation and often place more immediate strains on their surrounding ecosystems. As a result communities with these conditions will be considered for selection above more affluent communities when all other conditions are equal.

have to be designed, which does will take a participatory approach and focus on codifying outputs that are unique to the societal make-up of the pilot community, yet have a potential for replication in other communities. Attention will also be given to the post-project sustainability of the efforts both in terms of governance and in terms of environmental benefits. For the monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation (activities/outputs), a detailed M&E Plan will be developed following UNDP's rules & regulations as an integrated component of this project Learning Plan.

Phase II – Implementation of community-level interventions

The work under this project phase is to be conducted by a local NGO with close ties or cooperation potential to/with the communities and local governments of the project site (selected under the prior project phase).

1. Establishment of a community council and local implementation mechanisms; The Community Council shall represent, and include representatives of, all members of the community, including women (at least 30% of the council members), minority (Roma) population (at least 20% of council), and youth³. This council may build on efforts established by earlier community development projects, though the make up of the council should conform to the criteria set by this proposal.
2. Identification of issues and aspects to be addressed, and selection of activities and the strategy to be adopted by the project. Emphasis will be on concrete activities and investments to improve land and water resource management.

Issues and aspects to be addressed by the pilot may include:

- a. Flood mitigation, through small scale wetland restoration, reforestation efforts, or other adequate measures;
- b. Pollution mitigation and restoration, through: sustainable agricultural practices, organic farming methods; split waste management and composting of organic waste; pollution hotspot alleviation through plantings of toxin absorbing flora, etc.
- c. Biodiversity preservation, through habitat restoration activities with clear economic benefits for local communities; re-introduction and promotion of indigenous species, etc.

The entire community must vote on the projects to be selected and be willing to support the chosen projects. For any infrastructure improvements, it is expected that the community will contribute at least 30% of the budgeted cost of the project, with all households making a contribution either in cash or in kind, with labour and resources.

3. Implementation of the defined set of community-based interventions, and monitoring of progress and lessons learnt throughout the project implementation.

³ To ensure effective and efficient project governance it will be important to clearly define the scope and rules for the council's operation, also defining who is to join in, and benefit from, the project. Further important aspects include the balance of environmental improvement objectives vis-à-vis the socio-economic community needs; the inclusion of all representatives in the decision making process; transparency in all decisions and processes; the adequate sanctioning of violations of agreed community rules and project implementation arrangements; adequate conflict resolution mechanisms within the community.

Phase III – Analysis of project achievements and transfer of lessons learned

1. Using the M&E framework and Lessons Plan appraisal and evaluation of the demonstration project and the various interventions, focusing on successes and challenges⁴, and formulating lessons learned and recommendation for replication and transfer of the experience; to the extent possible, the project's findings will be utilized to produce or inform a number of value-adding knowledge products, including Action Reflection Notes, How-To-Guides, or other forms of publications or on-line knowledge dissemination (e.g. through WaterWiki and other e-platforms). These products are to be targeted towards implementation of similar pilot projects as part of the Tisza River Basin SAP.
2. Final project report. A comprehensive report on implementation of the pilot project with emphasis on guidance for future replication and transfer of good practices and lessons learned. The report will also directly inform the SAP for design of subsequent demonstration projects throughout the region.
3. Disseminate lessons learnt and organize public information activities. The dissemination of knowledge and experience, lessons and (replication) recommendations will primarily be ensured be through on-line media and tools (e.g. WaterWiki) and printed publications, as adequate, as well as through events organized by or with regional and national NGOs, community based organizations and international organizations. Summary information should also be disseminated to the larger International Waters community, as appropriate and feasible.

Part III. Management Arrangements

This regional project will be implemented by the UNDP Regional Center in Bratislava (regional DEX) in line with the RBEC Regional 2006-10 Programme Document. The Country Support Team (CST) will be the designated unit in the Regional Centre in Bratislava responsible for day-to-day project implementation and monitoring of all project activities. UNDP will designate/contract the Project Manager. Project Manager will report to the Environment and Energy Practice of UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava (BRC-E/E Practice), who will serve as Project Assurance. Project manager and the CST will closely coordinate with the UNDP/GEF MSP Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)/Project Management Unit, the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and all relevant implementation partners/mechanisms of the umbrella project. The UNDP/GEF MSP Chief Technical Advisor will be the Executive. The Government representatives of five Tisza basin countries will be the Senior Beneficiaries of the project. The Project Steering Committee will be a joint one with the UNDP/GEF MSP project.

Consultants and service providers will be contracted by UNDP on competitive basis, as needed and per specific activities, based on the agreed TOR. For Phase 2 and 3 local NGO will be selected to provide technical assistance to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the demonstration project. This NGO should have a proven track record of working in the Carpathian Mountains and relevant field, or in similar sustainable development and community-based projects and initiatives.

⁴Of importance will be to develop an understanding about underlying causes of challenges to the formation of the Community Council and election of its members, including the integration of parts of the community; the selection of criteria or specific activities; the sharing of information and transparency of decision making; the wide transfer of knowledge-gains from trainings throughout the community; the constructive handling of dissent and conflict potentials within the community and particularly across geographic and ethnic borders; the equal distribution of costs and benefits; and other aspects of project acceptance and implementation, also on the municipal and regional government level.

Part IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Project Document, Annual Workplan (AWP) and any detailed workplans prepared by the Project Manager will provide a basis for progress assessment.

Quarterly monitoring progress reports will be submitted by the Project Manager to BRC-E/E Practice copied to the UNDP/GEF-MSP CTA/Project Management Unit and made available to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and corresponding project management entities, in accordance with the UNDP/GEF-MSP project implementation mechanisms and following UNDP rules and regulations.

An annual project review will be conducted during the fourth quarter of year as a basis for assessing the performance of each project. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review will involve all key project stakeholders and the Implementing Partner, and focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes. The review will be structured by a set of common standards, and will be subject to spot external quality assurance assessments. This review should update output targets and results achieved.

For the monitoring and evaluation of the outputs and the assessment of their contribution to the overall outcome, a comprehensive M&E framework will be established in phase I of the project (see above).

Part V. Legal Context

This regional project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Governments participating and the United Nations Development Programme.

PROJECT RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK*

Complete the table below for the outcome that the project is designed to address.

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Results Framework: Improved environmental governance pertaining to sustainable development through community driven integrated land and water management</p>
<p>Outcome indicator as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and target. Enhanced knowledge of techniques and mechanisms for improved environmental self-governance at the local and community level that can be applied throughout the basin, providing both economic gains and environmental improvements through integrated water and land resource management.</p>
<p>Applicable MYFF Service Line: 3.2 Effective Water Governance</p>
<p>Partnership Strategy: The project represents an integral component of the UNDP/GEF medium-sized (MSP) project <i>Establishing Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin</i>. The project will build on what has already been achieved through the EU accession process and in the implementation of the Danube River Basin Convention (DRBC) and the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD). The project will closely cooperate and coordinate the activities with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). The project will be implemented in close consultation with the interim secretariat of, and make use of existing participatory and consulting mechanisms under the Carpatian Convention.</p>
<p>Project title and ID: Tisza community-led demonstration project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management</p>

Intended Outputs	Output Targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs	TRAC budget	GEF parallel budget
Trans-boundary community-led demonstration project that promotes sustainable development through integrated land and water management practices at the community level developed, implemented and evaluated.	Q1 2007 - Review Document on the Initiative is the project area elaborated; - Set of criteria for project site selection developed; - Pilot site selected;	Hold workshop with SH Advisory Group to establish selection criteria for pilot project; Select project site & obtain project site approval from Carpathian interim Secretariat, local and national government and from CTA.	71200 Int. Consultant	27,000	
	Q2 2007 - Methodological approaches selected and concrete project objectives defined; - Mechanism for integrated land resource and water management at the local level developed; - Project Learning Plan developed; - M&E framework developed;	Hold consultations within the Carpathian Convention framework and with relevant organizations involved under the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI); Hold workshop with SH Advisory Group to establish integrated management mechanisms for pilot project; Develop clearly implement able and regular monitoring with criteria, standards and objectives specifically defined	71300 Project manager	6,000	
	Subtotal Phase 1: Selection of transboundary project site and preparation of project activities			46,000	0
	Q3 2007 - Community council and local	Select NGO to implement the technical assistance; Establish governance rules;	71200 Int. Consultant		20,000
	Q4 2007 - Issues to be addressed identified; - Concrete activities and implementation strategy defined;	Provide basic integrated land and water integration and ecosystem training to Community Council and other key community members; Hold issue identification workshop;	71300 Project manager	5,000	
	Q4 2008 Community-based interventions implemented	Provide technical assistance	72100 Service Contracts	110,000	100,000
	Subtotal Phase 2: Implementation of community-level interventions			115,000	120,000
	Q4 2008 Demonstration project appraised and interventions evaluated	Conduct workshop with Community Council to identify (causes of) successes and problems with implementation;	71200 Int. Consultant		20,000
	Q4 2008 Comprehensive project report	Synthesize results from workshops and monitoring and evaluations	71300 Project manager	5,000	
	Q4 2008		71600 Travel	4,000	
			72100 Service Contracts	18,000	
			74200 Printing Costs	12,000	
	Subtotal Phase 3: Analysis of project achievements and transfer of lessons learned			39,000	20,000
TOTAL			200,000	140,000	

Project Budget

Award ID:	00044329
Award Title:	
Project ID:	00052079
Project Title:	Tisza community-led demonstration project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management
Executing Agency:	UNDP

ATLAS Activity ID	Output / Atlas Activity	Responsible party	Source of funds	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ERP/ATLAS Budget Description/Input	Amount (USD) 2006	Amount (USD) 2007	Amount (USD) 2008	Total
1	Trans-boundary community-led demonstration project developed, implemented and evaluated.	UNDP	TRAC	71200	Int. Consultant	9,000	18,000		27,000
				71300	Local Consultant (PM)	2,000	6,000	8,000	16,000
				71600	Trvael	1,000	2,000	1,000	4,000
				72100	Service contracts	7,000	116,000	18,000	141,000
				74200	Printing Costs			12,000	12,000
TOTAL						19,000	142,000	39,000	200,000

Work Plan

Title of the project: Tisza community-led demonstration project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management

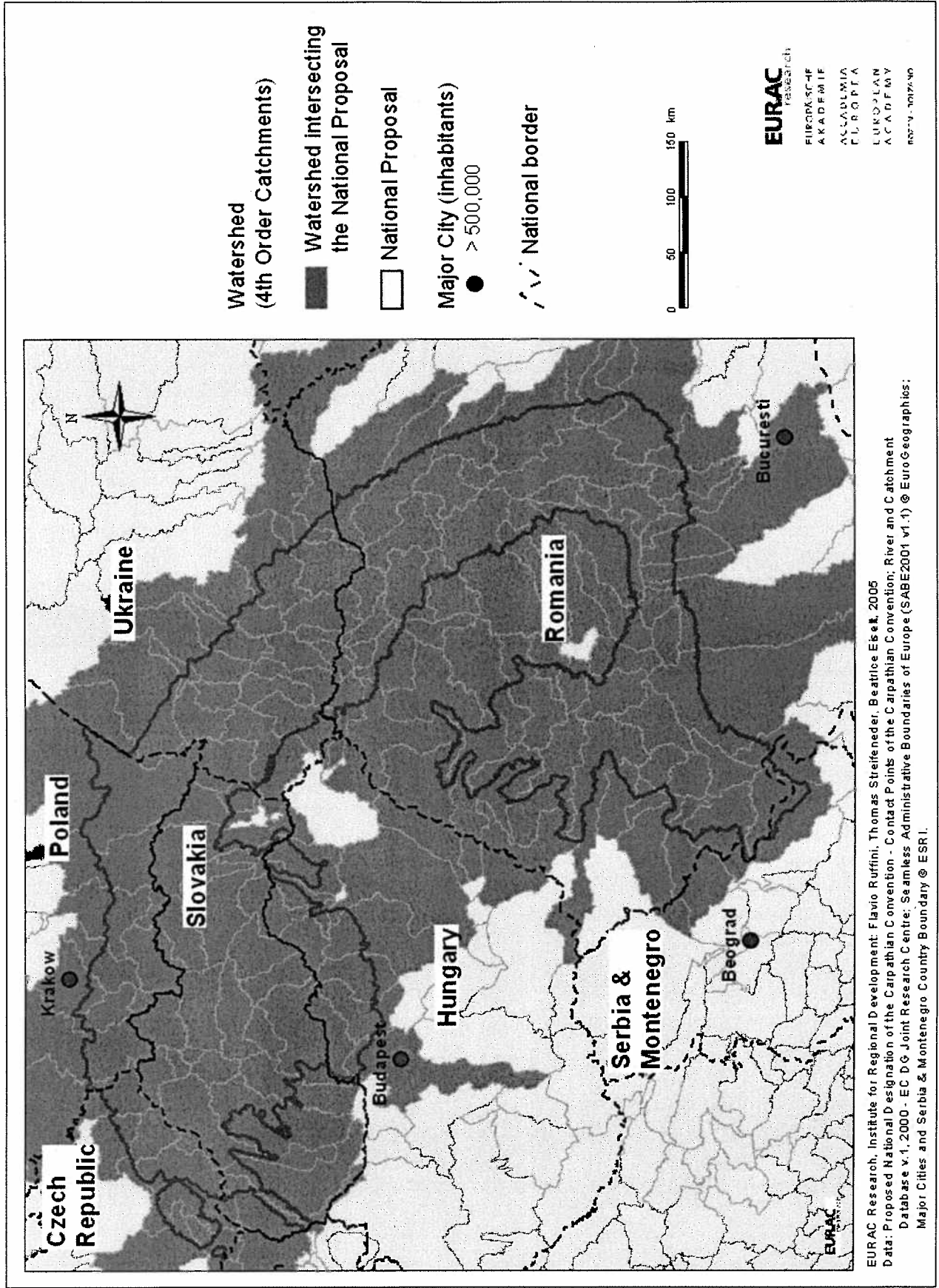
Project execution modality: DEX

Project duration: from June 2006 till December 2008

EXPECTED OUTPUTS[1] & MONITORING ACTIVITIES[2]	Key Activities/Annual Output targets <i>List all the activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated output</i>	TIMEFRAME												RESPONSIBLE PARTY		
		2006				2007				2008						
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		Q3	Q4
PHASE I																
Monitoring Activity 1: Set of criteria for project site selection developed and project site selected	Hold consultations and meeting with SH Advisory Group selection criteria for pilot project;	06	06												UNDP Bratislava, UNDP Consultant, UNEP (Carpathian Convention Secretariat)	
				07												
Monitoring Activity 2: Methodological approaches project objectives and mechanism for integrated land and water management defined	Hold consultations and meeting with SH Advisory Group to establish integrated management mechanisms for pilot project define scope and create work plan (timeline) obtain approval from Secretariat, local and national government and from CTA Select execution NGO in consultation with project partners			07											UNDP Bratislava, UNDP Consultant, UNEP (Carpathian Convention Secretariat)	
					07											
						07										
							07									
Monitoring Activity 3: M&E framework and Learning Plan defined	Develop clearly implement able and regular monitoring with criteria, standards and objectives specifically defined			07	07										UNDP Bratislava, UNDP Consultant, UNEP (Carpathian Convention Secretariat)	

EXPECTED OUTPUTS[1] & MONITORING ACTIVITIES[2]	Key Activities/Annual Output targets <i>List all the activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated output</i>	TIMEFRAME												RESPONSIBLE PARTY	
		2006				2007				2008					
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		Q3
PHASE 2															
Monitoring Activity 4: Community council and local implementation mechanisms established	Establish governance rules;					07									Selected NGO, UNDP Bratislava
Monitoring Activity 5: Establish governance rules;	Provide basic integrated land and water integration and ecosystem training to Community Council and other key community members; hold issue identification workshop;					07									Selected NGO, UNDP Bratislava
Monitoring Activity 6: Community-based interventions implemented	develop strategy to be adopted for implementation, including time and resources allocation;					07									Selected NGO, UNDP Bratislava
PHASE 3															
Monitoring Activity 7: Demonstration project appraised and interventions evaluated	Conduct workshop with Community Council to identify (causes of) successes and problems with implementation;										08	08	08	08	Selected NGO, UNDP Bratislava, UNDP SH/PI Expert
Monitoring Activity 8: Comprehensive project report	Synthesize results from workshops and monitoring and evaluations													08	Selected NGO, UNDP Bratislava, UNDP SH/PI Expert
Monitoring Activity 9: Project findings adequately disseminated	Translate findings and lessons into adequate and user- friendly form (language, graphically)													08	Selected NGO, UNDP SH/PI Expert UNDP Bratislava

ANNEX 1 – Map Carpathian Convention area



**Terms of Reference
for
Project manager⁵**

Project Title: Tisza Community-led Demonstration Project for Sustainable Development and Integrated Land and Water Management

Post Title: Project Manager

Duration: 1 year with an expectation of renewal up to 3 years

Background:

The project is an integral part of the GEF- Mid-Size Project “Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin”. This pilot and demonstration component will aim at developing, implementation and evaluation of a trans-boundary community-led project that promotes sustainable development through integrated land and water management (ILWM) practices at the community level in Tisza countries: Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The demonstration project’s objective is to yield valuable insights and lessons, which will serve to inform the umbrella GEF- project, as well as other trans-boundary integrated land and water management projects throughout the region and globally. The focus of the project will be on community-driven governance interventions, encouraging community ownership of project activities and outcomes. The demonstration project’s approach is to identify and implement interventions that tackle socio-economic challenges and enhance opportunities for the local population (and vulnerable groups in particular), while at the same time resulting in improved environmental conditions. The lessons learnt and project implementation mechanisms tested will be incorporated into the Strategic Action Plan and National Action Plans, to be replicated in future local and community-level projects. This project also serves to inform the larger international waters project community, and it is hoped that it will be possible to replicate the lessons learnt of this project when and where possible throughout the region, and abroad.

This project is being implemented in close co-operation with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and its Ad-hoc Tisza River Basin Expert Working Group (UNDP/GEF Danube Project), and Carpathian Convention Secretariat (UNEP, Vienna). ICPDR is responsible for the overall implementation of the GEF- Mid-Size Project.

Responsibilities:

⁵ Project Manager may be contracted on a part-time basis

Under overall supervision of the Country Support Team Leader, the Project Manager manages and leads the Project with an aim to achieve the outputs and objectives of the Project. In addition, the Project Manager is responsible for use of resources and delivery of results in accordance with the work plan. The Project Manager will:

1. set up and manage the Project structure, including staff recruited for the Project and organizations subcontracted to deliver services in accordance with the work plan;
2. prepare regular updates and ensure the implementation of a detailed work plan and budget consistent with the provisions of the Project document. This work plan should contain a time-phased listing of Project activities/tasks to be performed and the outputs that should result from any or a combination of these activities;
3. ensure implementation of the Project resources and results framework that is linked to the preparation of the detailed work plan; and implement participatory annual review of the results framework to ensure effective delivery of outputs and use of resources;
4. adopt a partnership and opportunity-driven approach to mobilisation of and utilisation of resources;
5. based on a consultative process, develop the methodological framework for the implementation of Project activities. This task will be done in accordance with the concepts agreed upon in the Project document and will relate to each and every major component of the Project;
6. ensure implementation of all activities and achievement of all outputs mentioned in the Project document. Specific attention will be given to:
 - Preparation of Review Document on the initiatives (past, on-going and planned) in the common Tisza and Carpathian Mountains Region on both the national and local level;
 - recruitment of possible subcontractors for delivery of services as specified in the project document in accordance with UNDP Procurement Guidelines;
 - selection of the pilot project site(s) in close consultation and upon recommendation of the GEF MSP Steering Committee;
 - development of partnership with relevant institutions and stakeholders for impact at all levels;
 - use results from the Project to communicate and spread lessons-learnt at regional level as well as national levels;
 - support macro level initiatives related to communication and information linkages, human resources development, network of partner institutions for replication and others;
7. be responsible for development of a monitoring and evaluation system. The Project Manager will also ensure that annual and independent reviews of Project performance is done and suggestions considered;
8. participate and contribute constructively in Steering Committee and regional level consultative meetings;
9. participate and represent UNDP in forums that may be organised by various agencies related to the Project;
10. ensure documentation of Project implementation processes and experiences. Information of Project experiences will be developed into communication materials and widely disseminated; replication of the Project know-how and lessons learnt will be given high priority

Requirements, Qualifications and Experience:

- Slovak professional with three to five years of experience in the field of environment and/or sustainable development, including experience in policy development and administration of development programmes/projects;
- Master's degree in Environmental Sciences or field related to the substantive area of work;
- Good knowledge of the relevant partners in this area and national/regional/international water governance structures;
- Intimate knowledge of the policies and procedures of the Global Environmental Facility;
- Proficiency knowledge of English and Slovak; knowledge of Hungarian or Russian is highly beneficial;
- Understanding of the organization's mission and objectives;
- Sound knowledge of project cycle management and of budgeting and financial management;
- Initiative, creativity and eagerness to explore and apply new and innovative strategies;
- Teamwork spirit and ability to inspire and motivate others to achieve established goals;
- Client-oriented readiness to provide support based on knowledge about the needs of counterparts;
- Computer proficiency

Finance arrangements:

The total allocation in the amount of USD 16 000 is made for the project manager position. In addition, the maximum amount of USD 4000 from the project budget will be made available to cover for travel and misc expenses related to Project Manager's monitoring missions, participation in the Steering Committee meetings and other forums/conferences at which he/she will disseminate information on the Project with an aim to obtain potential partners and/or funding.

**Terms of Reference
For Regional Consultant for Pilot Site Selection Criteria**

- Project Title:** Tisza community-led demonstration project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management
- Functional Title:** Regional Consultant
- Duration:** Estimated 30 days total working time over the period of:
June 2006 - October 2007
- Terms of Payment:** Lump sum payable upon delivery of outputs in 3 installments, as follows:
40% upon submission of the 1st draft of the set of criteria for the selection of a project site;
30% upon successful consultation and finalization of the selection criteria and submission of the finalized Review Document on potential pilot sites
30% upon satisfactory completion and approval by UNDP of all deliverables, including the final report
- Travel costs:** The costs of mission(s) of the consultant are to be included in the lump sum.

Background:

The project is an integral part of the GEF- Mid-Size Project “Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin”. This pilot and demonstration component will aim at developing, implementation and evaluation of a transboundary community-led project that promotes sustainable development through integrated land and water management (ILWM) practices at the community level in Tisza countries: Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The demonstration project’s objective is to yield valuable insights and lessons, which will serve to inform the umbrella GEF- project, as well as other transboundary integrated land and water management projects through out the region and globally. The focus of the project will be on community-driven governance interventions, encouraging community ownership of project activities and outcomes. The demonstration project’s approach is to identify and implement interventions that tackle socio-economic challenges and enhance opportunities for the local population (and vulnerable groups in particular), while at the same time resulting in improved environmental conditions. The lessons learnt and project implementation mechanisms tested will be incorporated into the Strategic Action Plan and National Action Plans, to be replicated in future local and community-level projects. This project also serves to inform the larger international waters project community, and it is hoped that it will be possible to replicate the successes of this project when and where possible through out the region, and abroad.

This project is being implemented in close co-operation with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and its Ad-hoc Tisza River Basin Expert Working Group (UNDP/GEF Danube Project), and Carpathian Convention Secretariat (UNEP, Vienna). ICPDR is responsible for the overall implementation of the GEF- Mid-Size Project.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities, and expected outcomes and deliverables:

Under the direct supervision of, and reporting to the project manager in UNDP, the regional consultant will be responsible for the successful achievement of the following outcomes and deliverables:

1. Preparation of Review Document on the initiatives (past, on-going and planned) in the common Tisza and Carpathian Mountains Region on both the national and local level, which will include amongst others:
 - Information on the achievements and results, as well failure of programmes and projects, taking into account geographic, socio-economic, and environmental indicators; review and assessment of factors leading to success or failure; analysis of national and local stakeholders.
 - Such review document should be based on project/programm reports, questionnaires and their compilation and other available documents and information.
2. Development of a set of criteria for selection of a suitable transboundary project site in the common Tisza and Carpathian Mountains Region.
 - The criteria will emphasize the involvement of vulnerable groups and gender- and conflict-related issues⁶. The success or otherwise of community governance projects implemented through other international donor agencies will be factored into the selection criteria. It will be important to set criteria that mirror those found throughout the Tisza basin region while at the same time, taking steps to support a wide array of suitable candidate communities. The selection criteria will be consulted with the public, and finalized during a workshop to which national and local stakeholders will be invited.
 - The consultant is expected to produce and deliver a comprehensive document that will be discussed and further developed during a regional consultation meeting with the Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group of the umbrella GEF- Mid-Size Project. The consultant is expected to provide support in preparation of the meeting and to participate in it.
 - The criteria will be finalized based on the conclusions and recommendations of the regional consultation meeting. The final version will include the list of potential sites fulfilling the accepted criteria.

⁶ Communities with disadvantaged populations, lower education levels, higher poverty rates or less access to social services are the most marginalized communities who often are more susceptible to environmental degradation and often place more immediate strains on their surrounding ecosystems. As a result communities with these conditions will be considered for selection above more affluent communities when all other conditions are equal.

3. Preparation of the Review Document on potential pilot sites selected based on the accepted selection criteria.
 - The review Document will include amongst others information on the existing institutional arrangements and local capacities; economic and administrative situation, available financial resources; identified gaps and needs; SWOT analysis; proposals for changes and recommendations
 - Proposals for project sites will be solicited from NGOs and communities, and based on the established criteria, projects ranked by UNDP and representatives of the interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.
 - The selection of the pilot site will be discussed and decided on the Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF- Mid-Size Project.
4. Close consultation and cooperation with project partners and appropriate national and local organizations, in order to solicit information, consult, and discuss the draft products 1, 2 and 3 above, as well as mission to participate in the regional meeting, and missions to Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine to visit the potential project sites.
5. Final comprehensive report about tasks and deliverables, including detailed financial breakdown, to be submitted for UNDP approval.

Time frame of activities for Regional Consultant:

	Activity	Time Frame
1.	Signing of Contract	30 June 2006
2.	Preparation of Review Document on the initiatives	15 August 2006
3.	Development of a set of criteria for selection of a project site – 1 st draft	30 September 2006
4.	Regional consultation meeting on selection criteria	October 2006
5.	Finalization of the selection criteria – Final draft for UNDP approval	15 November 2006
6.	Preparation of the Review Document on potential pilot sites – 1 st draft	15 January 2007
7.	Mission to potential pilot sites and consultation of the draft Review Document on potential pilot sites	January 2007
8.	Finalization of the Review Document on potential pilot sites – Final draft for UNDP approval	31 January 2007
9.	SC meeting and selection of the pilot site	February 2006
10.	Final Report and delivery of all final documents	28 February 2006

Qualifications

The consultant will:

- Be a recognized expert in the areas of trans-boundary river basin management and sustainable development;
- Have experience in working with community-based projects and initiatives;
- Possess an advanced university degree in the appropriate development field;
- Be familiar with development issues of the Tisza River Basin; and
- Possess good English speaking and writing skills.

**Terms of Reference
For Regional Consultant for Methodological Approach**

- Project Title:** Tisza community-led demonstration project for sustainable development and integrated land and water management
- Functional Title:** Regional Consultant
- Duration:** Estimated 20 days total working time over the period of :
October 2006 - February 2007.
- Terms of Payment:** Lump sum payable upon delivery of outputs in 3 installments, as follows:
40% upon submission of the first drafts of the Project Methodology and IWLM Mechanism, and the Project Learning Plan and M&E Framework of the two draft key Documents
30% upon successful consultations and finalization of the two main documents, and submission of the draft TOR for Local Technical Assistance
30% upon satisfactory completion and approval by UNDP of all deliverables, including the final report
- Travel Costs** The costs for missions of the consultant to participate in the regional stakeholder meeting are included in the lump sum.

Background:

The project is an integral part of the GEF- Mid-Size Project “Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin”. This pilot and demonstration component will aim at developing, implementation and evaluation of a transboundary community-led project that promotes sustainable development through integrated land and water management (ILWM) practices at the community level in Tisza countries: Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The demonstration project’s objective is to yield valuable insights and lessons, which will serve to inform the umbrella GEF- project, as well as other transboundary integrated land and water management projects through out the region and globally. The focus of the project will be on community-driven governance interventions, encouraging community ownership of project activities and outcomes. The demonstration project’s approach is to identify and implement interventions that tackle socio-economic challenges and enhance opportunities for the local population (and vulnerable groups in particular), while at the same time resulting in improved environmental conditions. The lessons learnt and project implementation mechanisms tested will be incorporated into the Strategic Action Plan and National Action Plans, to be replicated in future local and community-level projects. This project also serves to inform the larger international waters project community, and it is hoped that it will be possible to replicate the successes of this project when and where possible through out the region, and abroad.

This project is being implemented in close co-operation with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and its Ad-hoc Tisza River Basin Expert Working Group (UNDP/GEF Danube Project), and Carpathian Convention Secretariat (UNEP, Vienna). ICPDR is responsible for the overall implementation of the GEF- Mid-Size Project.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities, and expected outcomes and deliverables:

Under the direct supervision of, and reporting to the project manager in UNDP, the regional consultant will be responsible for the successful achievement of the following outcomes and deliverables:

1. Development of the Methodological Approach by reviewing and selecting Integrated Land and Water Mechanisms (ILWM) Mechanisms, which should determine potential priorities for small scale ILWM interventions, suggest the approach for providing support, potential regional and local partners, and review/recommended sources for co-funding.
 - The small scale socio-economic interventions shall be based on collective action management strategies and focusing on employment-generation or livelihood-improvement. This strategy of common property resource management includes defining: i) Geographical boundaries of which the participating groups are responsible; ii) Resources required to meet basic needs iii) Participation of all those impacted by the governance decisions iv) Rules to ensure a clear division of responsibility and benefits and transparency within the decision making process v) Rule enforcement including appropriate sanctions for those who act against the project interests vi) Conflict resolution mechanisms within the governance structure vii) Acceptance from local, district and national authorities of project design and objectives.
 - The methodological approach shall specify the level of decentralization and the type of local community (municipality/county/microregion.) on which the interventions will be implemented.
 - The selection of the methodological approach should be based on a number of consultations within the Carpathian Convention framework partners, as well as a participative process i.a. involving the Carpathian Eco-region Initiative (CERI) as the umbrella for local initiatives, and appropriate NGO's and research institutes of the region.
 - The consultant is expected to produce and deliver a comprehensive document that will be discussed and further developed during a regional consultation meeting with the Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group of the umbrella GEF- Mid-Size Project. The consultant is expected to provide support in preparation of the meeting and to participate in it.
 - The document will be finalized based on the conclusions and recommendations of the regional consultation meeting.

2. Development of a Project Learning Plan and M&E Framework for this demonstration component, to ensure optimum learning and benefits for the umbrella GEF- Mid-Size Project, and potentially for similar transboundary Land & Water initiatives, as appropriate.
 - From a thematic point of view, the main focus of the Project Learning Plan and M&E framework will be on the effectiveness of the local governance mechanism, and secondly on its environmental implications and improvement of the ecological status of the targeted area.
 - Capacity building for (EU) Resource mobilisation at community/local level will be explicit part of the Project Learning Plan and M&E framework
 - The consultant will design an adequate monitoring mechanisms and plan, which follows a participatory approach and focuses on codifying outputs that are unique to the societal make-up of the pilot community, yet have a potential for replication in other communities.
 - Attention will also be given to the post-project sustainability of the efforts both in terms of governance and in terms of environmental benefits.
 - The consultant is expected to produce and deliver a comprehensive document that will be discussed and further developed during a regional consultation meeting with the Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group of the umbrella GEF- Mid-Size Project. (The same meeting as for product 1.)
 - The Project Learning Plan and M&E Framework will be finalized based on the conclusions and recommendations of the regional consultation meeting.
3. Close consultation and cooperation with project partners and appropriate national and local organizations, in order to solicit information, consult, and discuss the draft products 1 and 2 above, as well as mission to participate in regional meeting.
4. Development of a TOR for local Technical Assistance for the implementation of the pilot project, based on the chosen Methodological Approach and in line with the Project Learning Plan and M&E Framework.
5. Final comprehensive report about tasks and deliverables, including detailed financial breakdown, to be submitted for UNDP approval.

Time frame of activities for Regional Consultant:

	Activity	Time Frame
11.	Signing of Contract	28 February 2007
12.	Development of Document on Methodological Approach and ILWM Mechanism – 1 st draft	30 April 2007
13.	Development of Project Learning Plan and M&E Framework –	30 April 2007

	Activity	Time Frame
	1 st draft	
14.	Regional consultation meeting on methodological approach and Project Learning Plan	May/June 2007
15.	Finalization of Document on Methodological Approach and ILWM Mechanism Project Learning Plan – Final draft for UNDP approval	15 June 2007
16.	TOR for local TA	15 June 2007
17.	Final Report and delivery of all final documents	30 June 2007

Qualifications

The consultant will:

- Be a recognized expert in the areas of trans-boundary river basin management and sustainable development;
- Have experience in working with community-based projects and initiatives;
- Possess an advanced university degree in the appropriate development field;
- Be familiar with development issues of the Tisza River Basin; and
- Possess good English speaking and writing skills.