

FINAL REPORT ON PIN-MATRA PROJECT 99-B-2.25

February 2004

Project name:	Small rivers of Ukraine: public participation in their conservation and sustainable use
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1. Introduction

Fresh water is expected to be one of the most valuable natural resources in the 21st century. One billion people will have no fresh water at all, and 1.7 billion people will have only polluted water available for their personal use. If the world's population continues to increase at its current rate, by 2025 more than one third of the population will suffer from a lack of fresh water.

Unfortunately, the problem of insufficient or polluted water is also a real and urgent problem in Ukraine. Ukraine is - in general - a country with an arid climate and therefore freshwater resources are relatively scarce and limited. A wide range of data have been collected on the subject of the usage and conservation of fresh drinking water, and these support the view that the condition of water resources in Ukraine is poor: only a quarter of the country's population is supplied with clean, fresh water.

The principal solution to the problem of freshwater resources in Ukraine is the protection and wise use of the existing freshwater resources, which is closely connected with the conservation and sustainable development of the catchment areas of (small) rivers and streams.

In Ukraine, there are 63,000 rivers and streams; most of these are less than 10-km long, although approximately 4,000 are longer. Sixty percent of the country's water resources are formed in the basins of small rivers. The water quality in large rivers depends on the water quality the small rivers that feed them. This water is used for many purposes, including human consumption, industry, agriculture, energy and fishing. However, as the quality of water deteriorates, the quantity of water in the rivers is also decreasing, and many small rivers are disappearing altogether.

In Ukraine there is a large discrepancy between theoretical ecological knowledge and the use of this knowledge in practice. One example of this discrepancy is the 'basin approach' to the conservation, sustainable use and management of rivers. On the one hand, much scientific knowledge exists but, on the other hand, only a small part of this knowledge is put into practice in sectors such as agriculture or drinking water supply. It is typical for Ukraine that land is ploughed right up to the banks of small rivers, resulting in erosion problems, and where rivers have no buffer zone there is an enormous decrease in biodiversity values.

To put the river-basin approach into practice through the collaboration of local communities and governmental organisations, Wetlands International submitted the proposal 'Small rivers of Ukraine: public participation in their conservation and sustainable use' to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, which was supported by this Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA) within the framework of the Netherlands' Programme for International Nature Management (PIN). The project forms a part of the Memorandum of Understanding between

Ukraine and the Netherlands in the field of Nature Management. For this project a total of Euro 125,824.18 was available for the years 2000-2004.

This final report shows that the project was implemented successfully: it helped to address the above-mentioned problems and has been very effective.

2. History of the Project

In the light of the freshwater problem described above, the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine (NECU), one of the leading national environmental Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Ukraine, conducted a national campaign, 'Living Water', in 1996. The campaign was supported by the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine (MEPNSU) and sponsored by the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), from the USA.

The campaign was conducted in September 1996 in 23 regions (oblasts) of Ukraine with 8,000 participants. In 1998, as many as 17,000 people participated in the 'Living Water' campaign, which was then supported by TACIS. A variety of activities were carried out during the campaign. First, the problem of fresh water was explained and, as a result of this, the mass media drew attention to the issue in newspapers and broadcasts on TV and radio. Lectures, seminars and exhibitions were organised in schools, colleges and institutes. Several public expeditions were undertaken to small rivers to assess their physical and ecological condition. When illegal activities were found, local authorities were informed. One of the activities that attracted major public involvement was the cleaning of river and stream banks.

When reviewing the results of the 1996 and 1998 campaigns, it became clear that it was not enough just to have strong support for the conservation and sustainable use of small rivers and streams from local populations and local NGOs working on the conservation of small rivers (NGOs/SRs).

Therefore, the PIN-MATRA project was conceived: it was directed at supporting local NGOs through facilitating them to establish contacts, network, exchange information, involve national and international expertise, attend special training courses, etc.

Wetlands International acted as the administrator to the sponsor and, via its Black Sea Programme, helped the local and national agencies to implement the project.

3. Outcomes in Relation to Objectives

The long-term goal of the project was to: 'conserve and sustainably develop small rivers and streams throughout Ukraine, to secure the future well being of Ukraine's most important source of drinking water' through three objectives:

- A. Strengthen the basis for the participation of local communities and (local) NGOs/SRs in the conservation and sustainable use of small rivers and streams.
- B. Increase the knowledge of key representatives of local and national NGOs/SRs.
- C. Support local (and national) governmental organisations, local communities and NGOs/SRs by enhancing their capacity and facilitating their activities to promote the conservation and sustainable development of small rivers and streams.

For all three objectives the proposed activities are described below, as are the actual outcomes of the project.

Objective A **Strengthen the basis for the participation of local communities and (local) NGOs/SRs in the conservation and sustainable use of small rivers and streams.**

Activity A1 A CD-ROM on the status and trends of small rivers and streams, NGOs/SRs and legal issues was produced and disseminated.

The CD *Small Rivers of Ukraine: Public Participation in their Conservation and Sustainable Use* was produced (in Ukrainian). It included:

- 1) general information about the Ukrainian Rivers Network (URN): mission, objectives, structure, history of establishment, main documents (Declaration of URN Establishment, URN Regulations, Strategic Action Plan of the Ukrainian NGO Network on River Conservation and Restoration, etc.);
- 2) information about 93 NGOs working on river conservation and rehabilitation, including contact information, experience in river conservation (activities, programmes, campaigns, etc.);
- 3) materials from the All-Ukrainian seminar (conducted in 2000) and three annual URN Workshops, including publications, conclusions, annual URN Work Plans, reports on activities, appeals to different state bodies on actual river protection and conservation issues, photos;
- 4) information on partner organisations;
- 5) information on a training course, 'Public Participation in the Conservation of Small Rivers';
- 6) publications, including information on international experience in the conservation of small rivers and the activities of international NGOs;
- 7) recommendations for NGOs, communities and local groups on methods to evaluate the ecological state of small rivers, establish protected areas in river valleys, etc.;
- 8) a review of Ukraine's small rivers, including the characteristics of the basins of large rivers, zonal characteristics of small rivers, variables in the formation of hydrological and hydrochemical conditions, flora and fauna, economic usage, principles of small river protection, etc., including a table with basic information about 563 of Ukraine's small rivers: name, location, length, area of river basin, characteristics of river valley, usage;
- 9) Ukrainian environmental legislation and regulations, rules of non-governmental organisations, international conventions and some legal aspects of EC water legislation;
- 10) information on potential national and international sponsors;
- 11) useful links; and
- 12) gallery: photos of plants and animals, Ukrainian small rivers; children's drawings.



Fig. 1. CD

Five hundred copies of the disk were produced and disseminated among national seminar participants, URN members, governmental organisations and local authorities.

Activity A2 National seminar held and proceedings disseminated.

In spring 2000, an information sheet about the 'National Seminar on Small Rivers' was published and disseminated widely among governmental and non-governmental organisations and local authorities. It included a questionnaire for NGOs in which they were asked for information about their organisation, their experience in the conservation and sustainable development of small rivers, and their proposals for: seminars, a small-river network, NGO Strategic Action Plan on the conservation of small rivers, training course on small rivers, web-site content, and activities required to conserve small rivers. The information received was used to establish the URN, prepare a Strategic Action Plan, develop a web-site, conduct a training course etc.

To increase public participation in the conservation and sustainable development of small rivers and streams, the All-Ukrainian Seminar 'Public Participation in the Conservation of Small Rivers in Ukraine', organised by the Black Sea Programme of Wetlands International and the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, was held in Kyiv on 17 and 19 November 2000. Seventy-four representatives of environmental NGOs, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the State Committee of Ukraine on the Water Industry, the State Environmental Inspection of Ukraine and Ukrainian research institutions participated in the seminar.

The participants discussed such issues as:

- the current state of small rivers in Ukraine and the main factors causing degradation;
- national and international environmental legislation on the conservation of small rivers;
- scientific support for public initiatives on the conservation of small rivers;
- experience of Ukrainian and international public organisations in the conservation of small rivers;
- prospects for improving the clearing-house mechanism on issues related to the conservation of small rivers and expanding co-operation with the mass media;
- principles for creating a national network of environmental NGOs dealing with the conservation of small rivers;
- participants' proposals for the Draft NGO 'Position Paper on River Conservation and Restoration' to be presented at the 5th Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' in Kyiv, 2003; and
- NGO co-operation with state, central and local authorities on issues relating to small rivers as well as the strengthening of public influence on environmental policy.



Fig. 2. Mr. Mykola Babych, Head of the Water Resources Department, State Committee of Water Industry, speaks at the conference

The participants discussed and approved the following documents:

- the Declaration on the Establishment of the Ukrainian Rivers Network;
- Regulations for the Ukrainian Rivers Network; and
- the Ukrainian NGOs' 'Strategic Environmental Action Plan' on the issue of conservation and improvement of the state of rivers.

Furthermore, the 'Draft NGO Position Paper on River Conservation and Restoration' for the 5th Ministerial Conference, 'Environment for Europe' (Kyiv 2003) was discussed.



Fig. 3. Conference participants

The participants of the seminar prepared their proposals for informational activities, fundraising, the organisation of general meetings of the Network, the development of project proposals and holding a training course on river conservation.

The participants decided to hold the first meeting of the URN in summer, 2001. The 'Planet' School Geographical Society (from the village of Golovyne, Chernyakhiv Rayon, Zhytomyr Oblast) was nominated to be the organiser of the meeting.

Five hundred copies of the proceedings of the All-Ukrainian Seminar 'Public Participation in the Conservation of Small Rivers in Ukraine' and the 'First Workshop of the Ukrainian Rivers Network' were published in 2003 and disseminated among seminar participants, URN members and governmental environmental organisations.

Activity A3 Long-term Strategic Action Plan disseminated.

The Strategic Environmental Action Plan of the Ukrainian NGO Network on the Conservation and Restoration of Rivers in Ukraine was discussed and agreed at the All-Ukrainian Seminar 'Public Participation in Conservation of Small Rivers in Ukraine' (see Annex 1).

The results of the first (3-year) phase of the Strategic Action Plan were discussed at the Third Workshop of the Ukrainian Rivers Network (26-29 June 2003); they were evaluated by participants as positive. It was decided to modify and update the Strategic Action Plan.

Activity A4 National Association of NGOs/SRs established.

A national association (the Ukrainian Rivers Network - URN) was established during the All-Ukrainian Seminar 'Public Participation in Conservation of Small Rivers in Ukraine' in November 2000. A voluntary association of NGOs, citizens and local communities, it is now the largest NGO network in Ukraine. The URN is popular in Ukraine and each year some 10-20 NGOs become new members. In 2001, the first URN bulletin was released and disseminated among NGOs/SRs.

URN mission: to promote the improvement of the ecological state of rivers and positive changes in the environmental policy of Ukraine in the field of river conservation.

Objectives:

- to unite the efforts of NGOs around the problem of the conservation of small rivers;
- to learn to live in harmony with nature;
- to promote information exchange among NGOs;
- to promote public participation in the development and implementation of environmental policy in Ukraine;
- to lead broad environmental education activities;
- to promote activities and campaigns concerning the improvement of the ecological state of rivers;
- to support the development of international co-operation in the field of nature conservation.

Structure

The URN membership comprised 93 NGOs and four individuals; the network's governing body is a General Assembly, held annually. The General Assembly approves all decisions by consensus. In the periods between General Assemblies, the activities of the Network are co-ordinated by the Information Exchange Group, Organisational Group, Environmental Policy Group, Environmental Education Group and Fundraising Group.

Workshops

In 2001-2003, URN workshops were conducted in three different regions of Ukraine. They were organised by local NGOs - members of URN. The URN Action Plan was approved annually.

The **First Working Meeting** of the URN took place on 27-30 June 2001. It was organised by 'The Planet' School Geographical Society (Golovyne Village, Zhytomyr Oblast), Wetlands International's Black Sea Programme and the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine with the financial support of Wetlands International and the environmental non-profit organisation, ISAR-Kyiv. The meeting was held under field



Fig. 4. 1st URN Workshop: plenary session



Fig. 5. Participants of the First URN Workshop



Fig. 6. Performance of local folklore group



Fig. 7. Appreciative audience

conditions on the picturesque bank of the small river, Bystryivka (a third-order tributary of the Dnipro River), not far from the village of Kamyany Brid in Zhytomyr Oblast.

Forty-five representatives of environmental NGOs from 14 oblasts of Ukraine, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Kyiv and Sevastopol cities took part in the meeting. Participants exchanged opinions on the following items:

- the improvement of NGO activities on river conservation.
- co-operation between environmental NGOs and local authorities as well as between NGOs and the mass media; and
- environmental education.

The activities of the URN working groups and members and the prospects for integrating the URN (comprising 53 NGOs and 2 individual members) into Pan-European processes, including preparations for the 5th Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' (Kyiv 2003), were discussed. Participants took the decision to establish a further two URN working groups: on Environmental Education and Environmental Policy. The URN therefore now has five working groups, including the previously established Organisation, Fundraising and Information Exchange Groups.

The main output of the meeting was the approval of the URN Work Plan 2001-2002, with objectives for every member and every working group. The participants made the decision to list threatened rivers and develop an appropriate methodology for preparing the list. They discussed URN proposals to the Draft Governmental Programme for the Support of Environmental NGOs. Special attention was paid to pollution of the Rivers Ingulets and Siversky Donets. Participants decided to initiate an integrated research project to address the

problems of these rivers. A letter to the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine and Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to protest about the completion of the Tashlyk Hydro Accumulating Power Station and filling of the Olexandrivske Water Reservoir on the Pivdenny Bug River was approved.

The Second Working Meeting of the Ukrainian Rivers Network took place on 27-30 June 2002. It was organised by the 'Krai' Environmental Club (Berezhany, Ternopil Oblast) with financial aid from the Regional Environmental Centre, Kyiv (REC-Kyiv) and organisational support from the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine and All-Ukrainian Environmental League. The meeting was held in the town of Berezhany and the Spiritual Centre in Zhukiv village, Ternopil Oblast.

Fifty representatives of environmental NGOs from 11 oblasts of Ukraine, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Kyiv and Sevastopol cities took part in the meeting. The participants exchanged opinions on the following items:

- co-operation between environmental NGOs, local authorities and the mass media;
- environmental education; and
- improvement of NGO activities on river conservation.

The activities of the URN working groups and URN members, prospects for the integration of the URN (the URN now comprised 56 NGOs and three individual members) into Pan-European processes, including preparation for the 5th Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' (Kyiv 2003) were discussed. Participants made the decision to continue active participation in the work of the Organising Committee of Ukrainian Environmental NGOs in preparing a paper for the 5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe and to charge representatives of the URN with specific tasks.

Within the framework of the meeting, a photographic contest, River of my Childhood, was held with the support of Minolta Ukraine. An exhibition of photographs called Outstanding Trees of Ukraine was held in the Local Folklore Museum in the town of Berezhany two months later.

The main outputs of the meeting were:

- approval of the Report on Activities of the URN in 2001-2002,
- proposals for the URN Work Plan 2002-2003, with objectives for every member and the URN in general, and
- draft position paper 'Public Evaluation of State Policy on the Use and Conservation of Water Resources in Ukraine'.

The resolutions of the National Dnipro Forum of Environmental NGOs (Kyiv, 10-11 June 2002) were approved. The participants were very interested in environmental education on river conservation, raising the environmental awareness of Ukrainian youth, and information and experience exchange among members of the URN.



Fig. 8. Ceremonial welcome in Zhukiv village.



Fig. 9. Participants of the 2nd URN Workshop. Inscription on transparency: "People of Berezhany Town welcome participants of the All-Ukrainian Environmental Seminar".



Fig. 10. 2nd URN Workshop: plenary session.



Fig.11. On the field trip.

The participants discussed and approved a number of letters to the Parliament of Ukraine, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine regarding the consequences of mass felling of forests in river basins in the Carpathian mountains, protesting against the completion of the Tashlyk Hydro Accumulating Power Station on the Pivdenny (Southern) Bug River, and improvement in co-operation between environmental NGOs and local authorities. Special attention was paid to the problems of the Carpathian rivers and rivers of the Dnipro basin.

The participants of the meeting agreed to continue activities on the development of the State programme of support to Ukrainian environmental NGOs and to take part in the development of the position paper, 'Public Evaluation of State Policy on the Use and Conservation of Water Resources in Ukraine'.



Fig. 12. Mr. Ivan Klym, Head of the State Administration of Irshava Rayon, speaks at the plenary session



Fig. 13. Mr. Yuriy Gavrykov, Head of the Division of Water Resources of Vinnytsya Oblast Water Industry, shares his experiences on conservation of the rivers.

The Third Workshop of the URN took place on 26-29 June 2003. It was organised by the 'Ruthenia' Carpathian Ecological Club (Uzhgorod, Zakarpattya Oblast) with the financial support of the Wetlands International Black Sea Programme and organisational support of the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine. The meeting was held in the village of Osiy, Irshava Rayon, Zakarpattya Oblast.

Fifty-one participants, including 44 representatives of 38 environmental NGOs from all regions of Ukraine and seven representatives of local authorities, business and academia, took part in the meeting.

The participants discussed their experience of public participation in solving the problems of conserving small rivers. The activities of the URN working groups and members and prospects for URN development were discussed (the URN now comprised 72 NGOs and six individual members). The implementation of the main URN programme document, 'Strategic Environmental Action Plan of the Ukrainian NGO Network on River Conservation and Restoration', was evaluated as being on the whole positive.

The main decisions of the meeting were:

- to approve the Report on URN Activities in 2002-2003;
- to approve proposals to the Working Plan for URN Activities in 2003-2004;
- to prepare recommendations for local communities on methods for undertaking river conservation activities utilising the experience of URN members;
- to prepare recommendations for local teachers on implementing environmental education utilising experience the of URN members;
- to prepare a report 'Public Evaluation of Policy on the Protection and Usage of Water Resources in Ukraine';
- to approve the activities of URN members in the UNDP-GEF Programme on Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnipro Basin and extend this experience to the basins of Ukraine's other rivers;

- to strengthen public participation in the solution of environmental problems in the basins of the Rivers Dnipro and Dniester through the establishment of basin-wide working groups;
- to establish a working group on legal issues and investigate the possibilities of bringing actions against people or bodies on river-conservation issues; and
- to organise a photographic competition on the theme of public participation in river conservation.

Special attention was paid to promoting the development of a 'basin approach' and defining the most crucial areas of conflict between state bodies and the general public on implementing projects in river basins that have a negative impact on the environment.

The participants discussed and approved a number of letters to the Parliament of Ukraine, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine regarding the realisation of a navigation-waterway project through the Bystre channel in the Danube Delta, and the development and adoption of the Dniester Convention.

The participants also noted a low level of co-operation with local NGOs by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Zakarpattya Oblast and decided to prepare a letter on this issue to the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

The Fourth URN Workshop will be held in summer 2004 in Sevastopol (organisation responsible - the 'Dobry Svit' (Good World) NGO).

The proceedings of the 3rd Workshop of the URN were published by the 'Ruthenia' Carpathian Ecological Club (Uzhgorod, Zakarpattya Oblast), with the financial support of Wetlands International Black Sea Programme.

Objective B Increase the knowledge of key representatives of local and national NGOs/SRs.

Activity B1 Practical training course developed

The structure of the training course was developed by local experts in hydrobiology and the conservation of small rivers and staff of Wetlands International's Black Sea Programme. A working group consisting of NGO/SR representatives, scientists and lawyers was organised; it developed a 7-day training course 'Public Participation in the Conservation of Small Rivers' to increase the knowledge of key representatives of local and national NGOs/SRs about the problems facing the conservation and sustainable use of small rivers and streams. The course included lectures, round tables, environmental games, discussions and field trips.



Fig. 14. Dr. Andriy Kovalchuk, Professor of Hydrobiology of the Uzhgorod State University, one of the organisers of the 3rd URN Workshop.



Fig. 15. Participants of the Third URN Workshop.

The working group determined the main topics of the training course:

1. World water resources and the problems of their conservation.
2. A basic understanding of how rivers function.
3. The use of small rivers.
4. Regional differences in the economic use of small rivers.
5. An update on the ecological state of small rivers in Ukraine; ecological aspects of the conservation and restoration of small rivers.
6. Integrated management - river-basin approach.
7. Nature photography techniques.
8. Protected water zones and protected riversides.
9. Activities focused on the conservation and enhancement of rivers; restoration of natural river valley complexes.
10. Public monitoring of the state of rivers and river valleys.
11. Organisation of field studies, methods and report writing.
12. Public assessment of the state of small rivers.
13. The management of the water industry in Ukraine; legal aspects of conservation and restoration of small rivers; legal aspects of public participation in environmental decision-making.
14. Legal aspects of public participation in environmental impact assessment (ecological expertise).
15. Methods for the public to influence environmental decision-making; experience of Ukrainian and international NGOs; international initiatives.
16. Development and implementation of local environmental action plans (LEAPs).
17. Co-operation of NGOs with local authorities: planning of joint activities.
18. Collaboration with the mass media.
19. Project development and implementation; preparation and submission of materials to official governmental bodies.
20. Financial maintenance of NGO nature conservation activities.
21. Environmental ethics and environmental movement; ethical aspects of the conservation of small rivers.
22. Establishment of protected areas and assessment of the state of established protected areas.
23. Environmental education; establishment of environmental trails.
24. Environmental (green, rural) tourism.
25. Organising environmental educational expeditions.

Activity B2 At least 25 key representatives of NGOs/SRs completed the small-river training course.



Fig 16. Participants of the training course at a lecture

The training course 'Public Participation in the Conservation of Small Rivers' took place on 14-21 July 2003. It was organised for NGO activists by the Institute of Ecology (INECO) of the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine and the Wetlands International Black Sea Programme. The training course was carried out in a resort area on the Dnipro River in Kyiv.

This was the first time that a training course had been held in Ukraine on such a theme. It was developed from the methods and experience of the Ukrainian organisers and was adapted carefully to the needs of environmental NGOs interested in the conservation and rehabilitation of small rivers.



Fig. 17. Lecture by Mrs Alina Tomiltseva on the establishment of protected water zones in a river valley



Fig. 18. Lecture by Mr Oleg Derkach on green tourism

Twenty-five activists from 25 environmental NGOs (members of URN) from all regions of Ukraine and 14 lecturers from different NGOs took part in the training course.

Five days were devoted to lectures, seminars, discussions, presentations, etc. Two days were devoted to field studies and excursions, 'Typical Landscapes of River Valleys' and 'Landscapes of River Valleys Changed by Human Activity', as well as environmental games. The field practice sessions were conducted in the basins of small rivers of Kyiv Oblast such as the Irpin, Stugna, Unava, Syvka and Vita.



Fig. 19. Enviromental game "Bird migration to wetlands"

The training course was evaluated by both participants and trainers; questionnaires completed by the participants were analysed and summarised. A meeting of the trainers was held and the results of the participants' evaluation were discussed. The trainers and organisers also evaluated themselves and discussed lessons learnt. Proposals to improve the training course were gathered and included in the plans for the next training course (summer 2004) within the framework of the project, 'River Networks of Ukraine'.



Fig. 20. Handouts: bag, file with lectures, certificate and illustrative materials



Fig. 21. Hydrological sampling of plankton on the small River Syvka in Kyiv Oblast



Fig. 22. Participants with certificates

In the opinion of the participants, the training course was extremely well organised. It had been very intensive, informative and useful. For example, Lyudmyla Uspenska from the 'Skyfia' Environmental Club (Sevastopol City) shared her impressions: "The highest professional and cultural level of lecturers!!! Friendly atmosphere!! I am happy!"

Objective C **Support local (and national) governmental organisations, local communities and NGOs/SRs through enhancing their capacity and facilitating their activities for the conservation and sustainable development of small rivers and streams.**

Activity C1 Information on the knowledge and experience of international NGOs and institutions working on conservation of small rivers and streams was gathered and published.

Five hundred copies of a Russian-language report, 'International Experience in River Conservation: Public Participation', were published and disseminated among URN members and other stakeholders. The publication contains facts and figures about water problems; descriptions of milestones in international water policy, highlighting the EU Water Framework Directive; the principles of public participation in Integrated River Basin Management; information about the activities of international and national rivers networks and partnerships; examples of initiatives and campaigns directed at river protection, conservation and restoration; case studies on the conservation of large and small rivers; information about environmental and educational projects and networks; ethical principles of water resources conservation; and lessons learnt in river conservation and river basin management.

Activity C2 To follow up the project, information on potential national and international sponsors was disseminated.

The CD (see Activity A1) was oriented mainly at environmental NGOs, which are financed mostly by grants. It is very important, therefore, for them to have a clear, short guide to national and international organisations that sponsor environmental activities. In total, 56 national and international sponsors were presented with the CD. They were grouped by country and by the presence of an office in Ukraine (this is very important for NGOs, because international organisations with an office in Ukraine are much more accessible).

The information on each sponsor was structured in the following manner:

- what kind of activities it supports;
- what kind of activities it does not support;
- the amount it gives in grants;
- details of grants (grants procedure, if available); and
- contact address with internet link (where to find additional information).

Activity C3 E-mail and internet equipment purchased.

To support NGOs/SRs with email and internet equipment, a request form was sent to all URN members (90 NGOs) to complete. Thirty-seven completed forms were received and considered. Twenty-eight applications were supported and the remainder were rejected (because they requested too much money or did not have a bank account). NGOs from many different regions of Ukraine (Kyivska, Odeska, Luganska, Chernigivska, Cherkaska, Dnipropetrovska, Sumska, Zaporizhska, Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska, Kirovogradska, Mykolaivska and Donetsk oblasts) were supported. i.e. almost all the regions of Ukraine were included. All the NGOs that received the amount of money requested used it and gave financial and narrative reports on their activities.

Activity C4 Operational web-site.

The website of the Ukrainian Rivers Network (www.uarivers.net) was launched officially on World Wetlands Day (2 February 2004). The site consists of over 330 web pages with:

- a home page with news and information about the sponsors of the web site; news, including information on the most recent events concerning river conservation in Ukraine, such as the public campaign against the construction of a navigable waterway through the Danube Biosphere Reserve, the public campaign against the construction of the Tashlyk Hydro Accumulating Power Station on the Southern Bug River, announcements about joint activities, celebration of World Wetlands Day, etc.;
- general information about the Ukrainian Rivers Network: mission, objectives, structure, history of establishment, main documents (Declaration of Establishment of the Ukrainian Rivers Network, Regulations of the Ukrainian Rivers Network, Strategic Action Plan of the Ukrainian NGO Network on the Conservation and Restoration of Rivers);
- information about URN members including contact information, mission, objectives, activities, experience in river conservation (activities, programmes, campaigns, etc.), publications;
- materials of the All-Ukrainian seminar (conducted in 2000) and three annual URN Workshops including publications, conclusions, annual URN Work Plans, reports on activities, appeals to different state bodies on actual issues of river protection and conservation, photos;
- information on the training course, 'Public Participation in the Conservation of Small Rivers', including the schedule of the 2003 training course, list of participants, summarised results of the survey of participants;
- information on the 'Save Your River' Small Grants Programme implemented within the framework of the follow-up project, 'Support for the River Network in Ukraine', including information on 26 projects undertaken by local NGOs and supported by Wetlands International's Black Sea Programme (project name, name of organisation, project leader contact information, project goal, objectives and location. Information on project results will be added after project completion);
- a review of Ukraine's small rivers, including the characteristics of the basins of large rivers, zonal characteristics of small rivers, variables in the formation of hydrological and hydrochemical conditions, flora and fauna, economic usage, principles of small river protection, etc., including a table with basic information about 563 of Ukraine's small rivers: name, location, length, area of river basin, characteristics of river valley, usage;
- publications including information on international experience in the conservation of small rivers and the activities of international NGOs, proceedings of the All-Ukrainian seminar and First URN Working Meeting; proceedings of the Third URN Working Meeting, etc.;
- recommendations for NGOs, communities and local groups on methods to evaluate the ecological state of small rivers, establish protected areas in river valleys; recommendations for photographer-naturalists, etc.;
- information on partner organisations: Wetlands International, Terre De Rivieres (France), European Rivers Network, Freshwater Action Network and Russian Rivers Network;
- useful links including links to sites of Ukrainian state institutions, international programmes on the conservation of Ukrainian rivers, URN members, international organisations working on river conservation;
- news archive;



Fig. 23. The website of the Ukrainian Rivers Network (www.uarivers.net)

- search facility;
- site map;
- contact information.

At project completion, the site was available in Ukrainian only; an English version will be made available within the next few months.

A mailing list was established to provide the latest news and information exchange on river conservation issues. It is moderated by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, which is responsible for information exchange within the URN. To subscribe to the URN mailing list, the e-mail address UA_RiverNet-owner@yahoogroups.com should be used. Many URN members are now using the mailing list to exchange information, which means that it is functioning like a discussion group.

Activity C5 Executive summary published on the outcomes of the project.

One hundred copies of an English-language version of the executive summary of the outcomes of the project were published and disseminated.

To conclude, all the activities planned in the project proposal were implemented successfully. The work that has already been undertaken gave useful results for river conservation in Ukraine: increased information exchange, more practical activities promoting river conservation, the establishment and functioning within an institutional setting of the URN, many activities undertaken within the framework of the project.

It was important that the project was followed up by the PIN-MATRA project, 'Support for the River Network in Ukraine'.

Strategic Environmental Action Plan of the Ukrainian NGO Network on the Conservation and Restoration of Rivers

*Prepared by:
National Ecological Centre of Ukraine (NECU),
Institute of Ecology NECU (INECO)*

*Approved by the Public Council under the Ministry for
Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety in Ukraine
(MEPNSU), September, 22, 1999*

*Approved at the All-Ukrainian Seminar 'Public
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1. Introduction

Human development should move forward by integrating economic growth with the conservation and restoration of the quality of the environment. Understanding this, the world community is today taking its first steps in this direction, but efforts to solve the main environmental problems have only just begun. Among these problems is that of clean water, which is often considered to be the main problem of the 21st century.

Sustainable development should integrate economic development with the resolution of social and environmental problems. In Ukraine, an essential part of the process should be the raising of public awareness. In this respect, the activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) often lead to the greatest results.

There is a certain level of co-operation between state agencies and NGOs, directed especially at the enhancement of the environment and revival of the environmental component of public consciousness, that will greatly determine the prospects for sustainable development in Ukraine. Today, dozens of environmental NGOs work in Ukraine in the field of river conservation, enhancement and rehabilitation. Some NGOs already have great experience, but to raise the efficiency and purposefulness of their activities and to involve the general public and new organisations, it is essential that Ukrainian NGOs co-operate and co-ordinate their efforts.

2. The State of Ukrainian Rivers and Opportunities for the Public Environmental Movement to Promote their Wise Use

Ukraine is covered by a network of river valleys, gullies, ravines and numerous watercourses - from small brooks to large rivers. There are more than 63,000 small rivers and streams in Ukraine, including some 60,000 very small streams whose length does not exceed 10 km. About 28,000 ponds and small reservoirs with a total area of 500,000 ha have been built on these rivers.

As a result of industrial and household contamination, ploughing and hydrotechnical land reclamation of watersheds and floodplains, deforestation in river valleys, etc., a great number of watercourses are degraded, to varying degrees. Water quality in the streams deteriorates year after year; many rivers are threatened with complete disappearance. At the same time, river valleys play a major role in the conservation of biological and landscape diversity, hence rivers are very important for the creation of Ukrainian and Pan-European ecological networks.

Longstanding world experience on river conservation and restoration has proved that to improve the state of rivers and conserve biodiversity it is necessary to introduce sustainable management in the river basins. For this reason, the improvement of the ecological condition of rivers is tightly bound up with economic activities, at both national and local levels. The promotion of environmentally sound technologies, compensatory actions and strict compliance with environmental norms and standards will not only guarantee the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and improvement in water quality but will also support human health and improve human life, both socially and economically.

Changes in economic activity at both local and state levels are impossible without a clear understanding of environmental problems, their causes and ways to solve them. Environmental NGOs can take the lead in this. They can and should work hard and effectively in close co-operation with state agencies, local authorities, businesses, scientific and educational institutions, religious bodies, local communities and the public. Environmental NGOs can work fruitfully in a variety of fields connected with river conservation and restoration, such as the establishment of protected areas, contribution of environmental expertise and development of scientific and governmental programmes, undertaking of practical activities on conservation, enhancement and restoration of water bodies, and promotion of environmental awareness among the public.

Environmental NGOs are characterised by having flexible organisational structures and working methods, rapid orientation towards new approaches for solving environmental problems, well-developed international contacts, independence and an active public position. United, NGOs have the potential to have a great impact if their activities are supported by state agencies, particularly by those that are responsible for nature conservation and the use of natural resources.

3. Mission and Objectives of the Environmental NGO Network

Mission: to promote improvement in the ecological state of small rivers and a positive change in the environmental policy of Ukraine on the protection and conservation of rivers.

Objectives:

- to promote the improvement of the ecological state of Ukraine's rivers by implementing an integrated approach to solving river-related problems, namely the conservation and restoration of the ecological functions of rivers, stability of water catchment basins and sustainable use of natural resources;
- to promote changes in the attitude of Ukrainian citizens toward rivers by developing activities to revive the environmental component of public awareness, raising the public's environmental and legal awareness of river conservation, and engaging the public in specific actions;
- to involve the general public and local authorities in the conservation, enhancement and restoration of rivers in Ukraine with the aim of creating a practical mechanism and organisational structure for this;
- to promote the realisation of the provisions of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and implementation of international obligations as defined under the Aarhus, Ramsar and Bern Conventions dealing with environmental protection and the development of civil society; and
- to develop co-operation between environmental NGOs and state agencies, local authorities, business enterprises, scientific and educational institutions, religious bodies, local communities and citizens.

4. Priorities for Action

The following priorities for the work of the NGOs are aimed at solving environmental problems relating to rivers:

- 1) raising public awareness on environmental issues and environmental education;

- 2) conducting activities and campaigns on river conservation and rehabilitation; and
- 3) developing NGOs institutionally, expanding and strengthening the environmental NGO network.

A. Raising Public Awareness on Environmental Issues and Environmental Education

Raising public environmental awareness is key to solving environmental problems.

The main objectives of this work are:

- to create an integrated system for the dissemination of information on river-related problems; co-operate with the mass media to initiate the appearance of regular environmental columns in newspapers, promote broadcasts on TV and radio and take an active part in their preparation;
- to conduct educational activities for the public:
 - collecting and disseminating among the public, heads of enterprises and representatives of local, regional and central authorities a variety of information (through books, brochures, posters, leaflets, etc.) about rivers in Ukraine, possible ways to rehabilitate them, especially public action plans for river conservation and restoration, and information on the current state of specific rivers;
 - holding scientific and practical conferences, contests, exhibitions and other activities, e.g. 'The Best Action Plan to Save Rivers', 'The Best River', etc.;
 - organising and raising financial support for environmental and ethnographical tourist routes in river valleys, holiday resorts, environmental educational trails, etc.;
- to co-operate with state educational institutions; and
- to study public opinion.

B. Conducting Activities and Campaigns on River Conservation and Rehabilitation

Practical activities to bring about river conservation and restoration should be directed towards reaching actual outcomes, having long-term effects, putting the sustainable use of water bodies into practice, and involving the greatest possible number of people in practical activities. In all activities, the river basin should be considered to be the core unit (river-basin approach).

The main objectives of this work are:

- to bring about public monitoring of the state of rivers and their valleys;
 - collecting information on the current state of some rivers and developing action plans to rehabilitate them;
 - public control of the implementation of environmental legislation on river conservation by citizens, local authorities, enterprises and other establishments, as well as control of water discharges into rivers;
 - providing environmental expertise on the exploitation or creation of ponds and water reservoirs on small and medium-sized rivers, drainage and irrigation improvement systems, etc.;
- conducting a range of activities, with wide public participation, to rehabilitate specific rivers:
 - cleaning small streams and restoring sources;
 - putting into good order and looking after (cleaning, grassing, tree planting) protected river sides;
 - conducting activities to conserve natural landscapes in protected zones along rivers;
 - creating and supporting protected areas near river sources, on land important for the hydrological and hydrobiological condition of the river and for biodiversity conservation, in river deltas, etc.;
 - promoting the implementation of principles for the sustainable use of the water resources of specific rivers, namely limiting sand and gravel extraction from river beds, improving water flow, etc; and
 - promoting the use of modern technologies in the coal and ore-mining industries and in other industries that discharge water.

C. Institutional Development of NGOs, Expanding and Strengthening the Environmental NGO Network

The institutional development of NGOs working on river conservation and restoration - expanding and strengthening the environmental NGO network - should be aimed at increasing both the number of organisations and the efficiency of their work, making a significant improvement in inter-NGO co-operation as well as co-operation among NGOs, state bodies and businesses.

The main objectives of this work are:

- providing support to groups of activists, and establishing NGOs and public associations to save rivers;
- bringing NGOs into the URN, developing the URN Action Plan, creating an agreed way to undertake activities, in particular, developing public action plans;
- promoting the activities of Public Councils under the state nature conservation institutions and local authorities;
- conducting training courses for NGO activists, and publishing literature on the organisational, legal and methodological aspects of NGO work; and
- holding workshops to exchange practical work experiences.

5. Resources to Implement the Strategic Action Plan

The strategy will be implemented by developing an 'Action Plan for NGOs Working on River Conservation' provided that there is close co-operation between NGOs and governmental organisations, and support from state and international organisations in the areas of information, organisation and finance.

The main resources for implementing the Action Plan are:

- the physical and intellectual efforts of citizens and NGOs working for the restoration of rivers in Ukraine;
- active and close co-operation (partnership) among citizens, NGOs and local and regional authorities, state scientific institutions, national nature conservation organisations - Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Ministry of Agriculture and Industrial Policy of Ukraine, the government, the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) and the President of Ukraine;
- financial support provided by regional, oblast and general state budgets; and
- grants from international charitable funds and environmental programmes.

6. Stages in Implementing the Strategic Action Plan

The first stage (2001-2003):

- establishment of work co-ordination and information exchange via the URN (publishing bulletins, creating a web-site, developing the association's emblem, etc.);
- expansion of the network of NGOs working on rivers;
- development of a basic programme and promotion of educational activities for the general public;
- development and use of a unified, methodical basis for NGO activities, exchanging experiences, conducting training courses and publishing methodical and relevant legal literature;
- establishment of co-operation with local authorities and launch of joint action plans; and
- development and initial implementation of local action plans for the rehabilitation and restoration of model rivers.

The second stage (2004-2007):

- further development of the network of NGOs working on river conservation and rehabilitation, increase in the professional skills of NGO representatives;
- development of a system for disseminating information on river-related problems;
- sharing experience of preparing and implementing Action Plans for specific rivers;
- establishment and development of a system of public monitoring of the state of rivers;
- public involvement in activities on river restoration, establishment of new protected areas, promotion of environmental and tourism activities, as well as education on cultural, national and local issues; and
- the development of a strategy for the future of the NGO network.

List of Members of the Ukrainian Rivers Network

Cherkaska Oblast

1. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Cherkasy Oblast Organisation, Cherkasy City
Chernihivska Oblast
2. 'Ecolog' (Environmentalist) Environmental and Tourist Student Club, Chernihiv City

Chernivetska Oblast

3. 'Lada' Public Organisation, Banyliv-Pidgirny Village, Storozhynetsky Rayon
4. NGO 'Grono' (Cluster), Banyliv-Pidgirny Village, Storozhynetsky Rayon
5. 'Vodogray' (Fountain) Bukovynsky Environmental and Spiritual Centre,
Banyliv-Pidgirny Village, Storozhynetsky Rayon

Crimean Autonomous Republic, Sevastopol City

6. Biological Section of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
7. 'Dobry Svit' (Kind World) Environmental Nature-Conserving Organisation
8. 'Skyphya' Environmental Regional Club

Dnipropetrovska Oblast

9. Ecocentre-K, Kryvy Rig Local Branch of the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine,
Kryvy Rig City
10. Nikopol Local Branch of International Dnipro Fund, Nikopol City
11. Nikopol Local Organisation of the All-Ukrainian Union of Local Lore, Nikopol City
12. 'Orlan' (White-Tailed Eagle) Environmental Tourist Association, Dniprodzerzhynsk City
13. 'Svit Vody' (World of Water) Inter-regional Public Environmental Organisation, Dnipropetrovsk
City
14. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Kryvorizka Local Organisation, Kryvy Rig City

Donetska Oblast

15. 'Bdzhilka' (Bee) Children's Environmental Centre of the 'Green Land'
Children's Environmental Association, Gorlivka City
16. 'Corvus' Youth Environmental Group, Donetsk City
17. Kramatorsk Affiliation of the 'Ecologichna Varta' (Environmental Guard)
All-Ukrainian Children Union, Kramatorsk City
18. Kramatorsk Branch of the Ukrainian Association for the Conservation of Birds,
Kramatorsk City

Ivano-Frankivska Oblast

19. 'Eco-Gal-Ostwind' Youth Environmental Public Organisation, Ivano-Frankivsk City
20. 'Edelweiss' Public Environmental Organisation, Kosiv Town
21. 'Nash Kray' (Our Land) Regional Environmental Organisation
22. 'Spadschyna Gutsulshchyny' (Heritage of Gutsulshchyna) Regional Public Organisation
23. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Kolomyiska Local Organisation, Kolomyia Town

Kharkivska Oblast

24. 'Ecocentre' Environmental Public Organisation of Pupils and Students, Kharkiv City
25. 'Zeleny Vsesvit' (Green Universe) Public Environmental Association, Kharkiv City

Khersonska Oblast

26. Group of Naturalists of Kherson Oblast Centre of Young Environmentalists and Naturalists,
Kherson City
27. 'Lastivka' (Swallow) Kherson Local Children Environmental Association, Kherson City
28. 'Lytsarsky Club' (Knight Club) Public Organisation, Kherson City
29. 'Zeleny Gomin' (Green Hubbub) Environmental Children Association, Gola Prystan Town

Kirovogradska Oblast

30. 'Flora' Children's Environmental Public Organisation, Kirovograd City
31. Kirovograd Oblast Centre of Young Environmentalists and Naturalists, Kirovograd City
32. 'Nature' Club of Natural History, Trepivka Town, Znamyansky Rayon

Kyiv City

33. All-Ukrainian Committee on UNEP Activity Support (UkrUNEPCom)
34. Civil Committee for Conservation of Wild Nature of Bereznyaky
35. 'Eco-Soil' Environmental Club
36. 'Ecosvit Team for Environmental Protection' Student Environmental Organisation
37. Environmental Commission of the Ukrainian Federation of Diving Activity
38. Golosiyevo Branch of the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine
39. Institute of Ecology (INECO)
40. Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Centre
41. League of Protected Area Activists of Ukraine
42. National Ecological Centre of Ukraine (NECU)
43. 'Shulyavka' Public Organisation
44. Ukrainian Association for Conservation of Birds
45. Ukrainian Botanical Association
46. Wetlands International Black Sea Programme
47. 'Yaryna' Public Organisation
48. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Ukrainian Environmental Association

Kyivska Oblast

49. 'Rastavytsya' Public Children Environmental Organisation, Matyushi Village, Bilotserkivsky Rayon
50. 'Yunisphera' Public Children Association, Boyrka Town
51. 'Zelene Maybutnye' (Green Future) Students Ecological Association of the National University, named by Taras Shevchenko, Vasylkiv Town

Luhanska Oblast

52. 'Kudesnik' (Magician) Club of Young Environmentalists, Severodonetsk City
53. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Luhanska Oblast Environmental Organisation, Luhansk City

Lvivska Oblast

54. 'Eco-Dovkillya' (Environment) Public Environmental Organisation, Zhydachiv Town
55. 'Eco-myloserdya' (Eco-Mercy) Charity Fund, Sosnivka Town
56. 'Eco-Vit' Public Environmental Organisation, Dashava Town, Stryisky Rayon
57. 'Pryroda Roztochya' (Nature of Roztochya) Public Environmental Association
58. Ukrainian Ornithological Association, Lviv City
59. Western Public Centre of Biodiversity Conservation under the 'Zelene Oko' (Green Eye) Charity Fund of Ukrainian Nature, Lviv City
60. Western Ukrainian Charity Fund of Environmental and Tourist Educational Information WETI, Lviv City
61. 'Zhydachivske Molodizhne Agentstvo' (Zhydachiv Youth Agency) Public Organisation, Zhydachiv Town

Mykolaivska Oblast

62. 'Mykolaivska Spilka Skautiv' (Mykolaiv Scout Union) Mukolaivska Oblast Children's Public Organisation, Mykolaiv City
63. 'Gard' Pervomaiska Branch of the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, Pervomaisk Town
64. Southern Branch of the Institute of Ecology, Mykolaiv City
65. Regional Black Sea Network of Public Organisations, Mykolaiv City

Odeska Oblast

66. 'Institute of Noosphere' Charity Foundation, Odessa City
67. 'Fortuna' (Fortune) Regional Public Organisation, Karolino-Bugaz Town, Ovidiopol Rayon

Rivnenska Oblast

68. 'Lemniscate' Youth Club, Volodymyrets Town

Sumska Oblast

69. 'Centre of Environmental Researches' Sumy Local Public Union, Sumy City
70. 'Sumshchina' Youth Environmental Centre, Sumy City

Ternopil'ska Oblast

71. Berezhany Regional Branch of the All-Ukrainian Environmental League, Berezhany Town

72. Gussyatyn Regional Organisation of the All-Ukrainian Environmental League, Gussyatyn Town
73. 'Khodak' (Pedestrian) Environmental and Tourist Club, Berezhany Town
74. 'Kray' (Land) Environmental Club, Berezhany Town
75. Ternopil'ske Bureau of Hydrology, Privately-owned Enterprise, Ternopil City
76. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Environmental and Humanitarian Association, Chortkiv Town
77. 'Zhukiv' Tourist Club, Zhukiv Village, Berezhany Rayon

Vynnytska Oblast

78. 'Club of Healthy Lifestyle - Svitozir' Public Organisation, Vynnytsya City
79. 'Let's Conserve the Rivers of Vynnytsyna' Public Organisation, Vynnytsya City
80. 'Malva' (Mallow) Children's Non-Profit Environmental Public Organisation, Sosonka Village
81. School Association of Natural Sciences, Yampil Town

Volynska Oblast

82. 'Svit Navkolo Nas' (World Around Us) Public Environmental Organisation,

Zakarpatska Oblast

83. 'Edelweis' Transcarpathian Ecological Club, Uzhgorod City
84. 'Ruthenia' Carpathian Ecological Club, Uzhgorod City
85. 'Eco-Sphere' Regional Youth Environmental Association, Uzhgorod City

Zaporizka Oblast

86. 'Tavriiska Aid for Protected Areas' Public Organisation, Melitopol City
87. 'Spilka Druziv Pryrody' (Association of Friends of Nature) Tokmatska Regional Children Environmental Organisation, Tokmak Town
88. 'Zeleny Svit' (Green World) Khortytsya Regional Branch, Zaporizhya City

Zhytomyrska Oblast

89. Polisky National Nature Reserve, Selezivka Village, Ovrutsky Rayon
90. 'Planet' School Geographical Society, Golovyne Village, Chernyakhivsky Rayon



Wetlands International Black Sea Programme

History of establishment

Wetlands International has played an active role in wetland and waterbird conservation in Ukraine for several years, especially through the International Waterbird Census. One of the first activities of IWRB, Wetlands International's predecessor, was the organisation of an international workshop on Black Sea wetlands in Odessa, Ukraine in 1993. This resulted in the publication of Conservation of Black Sea Wetlands: a Review and Preliminary Action Plan.

In the mid 1990s, Wetlands International has assisted in the establishment of the Darwin Wetland Training Centre in Kiev, in close co-ordination with the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety. This centre has conducted training activities, published and distributed newsletters on wetlands and waterbird conservation issues, carried out two workshops on Black Sea wetlands inventory, on management of reedbeds in Danube delta and on policy-making and legislation. The logical and timely follow-up to the development and support provided by the Darwin project was the establishment of a Wetlands International Programme Office in Kiev in the autumn of 1997.

Main projects:

Finalized:

Support for the conservation of wetlands and wetland species in the Azov-Black Sea region of Ukraine

The importance of Black Sea coastal wetlands in particular for migratory waterbirds

Initiative Evian Group Danone & FFEM on implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention by realisation of the technical exchange among technical staff working in closed deltas wetlands of international importance in the frame of Eurosite-MedWet

Central European Peatland Project (participation)

Small rivers of Ukraine: public participation in conservation and sustainable use

Ongoing:

Public participation in conservation and sustainable use of small rivers in Ukraine; Support for the River Network in Ukraine

Support the establishment of the Integrated Management Approach for the Sivash, Ukraine

Development of a National Wetland Strategy and Action Plan for Ukraine

Staff: 5 persons

Location: Kiev, Ukraine