

Rufford Small Grant (for Nature Conservation) Final Report

1. Title of Application and name of Country for proposed grant

“Living Water II” - Continuation of the “Living Waters” project restoring the flooding regime for the Teiva-Visina oxbow.

ROMANIA

2. Name of Applicant

FIRST name: Grigore

LAST name: Davideanu

Organisation (if applicable): **Ecological Society AquaTerra, Romania**

3. Contact Details

Address: bd. Independentei. no.16, Iasi, code 700100, ROMANIA

Tel: 040 741462378

Email: grigore@uaic.ro

4. Your Work’s Objectives (from the application form)

Part 2 - Please explain how this will make a substantial and long lasting contribution to nature conservation in no more than 200 words.

The previous activities allow us to identify the specific needs of the area:

- **The first objective** is to restore the flood regime of the Teiva-Visina oxbow.
- **The second objective** is filling the proposal forms for these areas according to the criteria of *Nature 2000* European Network.
- **The third objective** project will continue also to involve the local communities into the educational work.

Part 3 – Please list the major activities planned within your project, along with an approximate timescale for these activities. Explain exactly what you plan to do any why it is needed in no more than 200 words.

Objectives	Activities	Time-frame
Restore the flood regime of the Teiva oxbow	Obtaining all the necessary authorisations and the project accepted by the National Water Authority and landowners in the area.	February-March
	Digging the separation dykes of the drainage channel in order to allow the water to flow in at high levels.*	April-May
	Continue the ecological monitoring in the protected areas in order to identify the changes produced by temporary floods. We also monitor the results of the repopulating with <i>Umbra krameri</i> .	Continuous
Natura 2000	Identification of the criteria species and habitats	March-

European Network	and fill the proposal forms for new Nature 2000 sites. Presenting the proposals to the authorities and advocate for them.	October
	Assessment of the pike population in Bolatau lake and, if necessary (fish eating species), take appropriate management measures.	August-October
Educational Work	Organising the school contest: "Be a Wetland Artist" in local schools. Teachers and kids will be invited to organise an expedition in the protected area and create an artistic object inspired by aquatic ecosystem and <u>made only from natural elements and parts.</u>	March-June

PUTTING IN PRACTICE THE WORK PLAN

Objective 1 - RESTORE THE FLOOD REGIME OF THE TEIVA OXBOW

Results:

We started the project with a round table for discussing the technical aspects of our plan. They were invited representatives from the Environmental Agency, from the Water Management Authority, from the Local Councils of the villages, from the Mitigation Management Authority. **See Annex 1 - Photos 1, 2.**

Starting from those debates we find that the solution we proposed in the beginning was not feasible. The representatives of the Water Authority convinced us to search for another technical solution. We were not allowed to modify the hydro technical works, especially the so called "National dykes" (that protect the villages in the area from floods on Prut River). The river is a border in between Romania and Republic of Moldova.

Unfortunately because of the extremely dry summer we have this year (the driest in the last 50 years), in connection with the highest temperature ever recorded in our country (42 C°) the technical solution we proposed initially did not work. This was a major set back of our plans.

Secondly we find an alternative solution: to use the pumps from a Fishery Farm Tiganasi (that is in the vicinity of the protected area) in order to pump the water in the wetland (old river arm) that tend to dry because of the hydrological alteration induced by the dykes and drainage works. **See Annex 2 -Photo 3, 4 -drawing of technical solution.**

We applied and obtained a Water Management Authorization that allows us to inundate the area, using water from the Prut River and the pumping station of the fishery farm.

In order to put in practice this second plan **we need to find supplementary financial resource for the pumping costs.** We were able to obtain (thorough a projects competition) a grant from the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe. We use those money mainly in order to cover the costs of the pumping operation that were around 2 000 Euros. For this money we pumped 100 000 m³ of water into the wetland protected area.

Nowadays we consider that was a very good solution for our problem and a major breakthrough of the project.

With the help of the volunteers from local schools and Local Council we modified the pumping installation. We cut the main (800 mm wide) pipe and installed a (400 mm wide) lateral connection in order to allow the water to enter on a drainage channel and reach the wetland area. We got also the sponsorship "in nature" of the Thermoelectric Power Plant of the Iasi city, that give us the pipe and flange and do a part of welding job, for free. The channel was cleaned and deepened using human labour provided by volunteers from the local school and a mechanical shovel provided by the local council of Victoria village. **See Annex 3, Photos 5-14 - volunteers working.**

Because of the conditions of severe draught we have this year; many animals use the area as a feeding ground, especially wetland birds. The area become an oasis of fresh water and vegetation because all the pastures nearby becomes completely dry. Nowadays they are more than 40 bird species present in the area. A lot of small mammals, frogs and lizards use the area as feeding ground. Some of them very rare as Black Stork, Cormorant, Night stork, etc **See Annex 5 List of birds identified in the area and Annex 6 Photo 21 – 24 – bird watching.** .

Our volunteers are present in the area every week in order to record and register the effect of the flooding. **See Annex 4- -Photos of the inundated area 15-20.**

Objective 2 NATURA 2000 EUROPEAN NETWORK

Results:

As a result of the biodiversity monitoring during last two years we were able to fill the official proposal form in order for this area to become a part of the Nature 2000 network of protected areas. We sent the proposal to the Environment Protection Agency and now it is part of the official list that the Govern of Romania proposed to the Bio geographic seminars in Paris.

Objective 3. EDUCATIONAL WORK

Results:

They were organised environment protection events concerning the Teiva Visina Protected area. **See Annex 7- Photo 25-33 – educational activities.**

1. Itinerary exhibition concerning the wetlands conservation along the Prut river (the major river in our area, 700 km long, (the Teiva protected area is in the Prut river valley) The exhibition, with the title "**Prut, a river for our children**", was shown at the local school in Popricani village (that harbour the protected area), at the Natural History Museum in Iasi, the major city in the area (15 Km to the protected area) and at the Biology Department of the Iasi University.

2. Conferences focused on the Teiva Visina protected area, presenting the values protected there and the menaces. The conferences were presented at the Intercounty educational Symposium (with the title "**Together for a healthy nature**") organised by the Popricani local school with the participation of teams from more

than 30 schools from different counties and for the event organised at the end of the Contest of Environmental Projects of Schools, on the 5th of June "The Environment Day".

3. The Environmental Art Contest "Be a Water Artist" which asked kids in three schools (nearby the protected area) to make a short trip in nature on the wetland shore, create an art object from natural materials (pebbles, fruits, shells, bark, leaves) and send us a photo of the object. For this art contest more than 200 kids participate, they sent over 100 photos. We organised an exhibition with the most artistic and original photos and a festivity to prize the winner from each school. **See Annex 8, Photo 34-37 the winning art objects for the art contest**

For this project there was involved a team of 12 new volunteers from the Victoria School. A number of 5 teachers volunteered also for the art contest and a number of 6 students in biology department were involved as volunteers for the monitoring of the biodiversity, especially birds and bats.

CONCLUSIONS

Objective 1. Direct conservation measures

We find a technical solution feasible in order to restore the hydrological regime of the protected wetland that tend to dry because of the hydro technical works.

We put in practice the solution and obtained financial resources to cover the costs for pumping. We consider very important that all these were done in collaboration and with direct support of local community.

Objective 2. Natura 2000 European Network

During the project the team members accumulated scientific data that were used in order to prepare the proposal form (in order for the area to become part of the Nature 2000 network). The proposal form was sent to National data base of the Environment Ministry. Lately we find that the data were used in order to include the Teiva Visina old oxbow as part of the "Saline lands of the downstream Jjijia and Prut river" that is a Nature 2000 protected area, position RO222 in the Order of the Environment Ministry no. 776/2007, National List of proposed Sites of Community Importance.

Objective 3. Continuation of the educational programs within schools-information centres

Collaborating with the local schools we organised 3 major events dedicated to environment protection in the area. For these events were involved both: local administration, local schools, (teachers and pupils), students in the biology department of the University.

FUTURE INTENTIONS: we plan to continue the project, pumping water in the protected area every summer, start a planting campaign (with willow and other plants that normally populate the area) in order to renaturate the banks of the wetland
The educational campaign will continue also with annual art contest and celebration of Wetlands, Environment and Water days.

Including the ownership and proud of the community onto the local natural values is the best way to ensure the long term success of any conservation project.

Annex I



Photo 1: Presenting the project to the experts



Photo 2: Discussing on to the map

Annex II

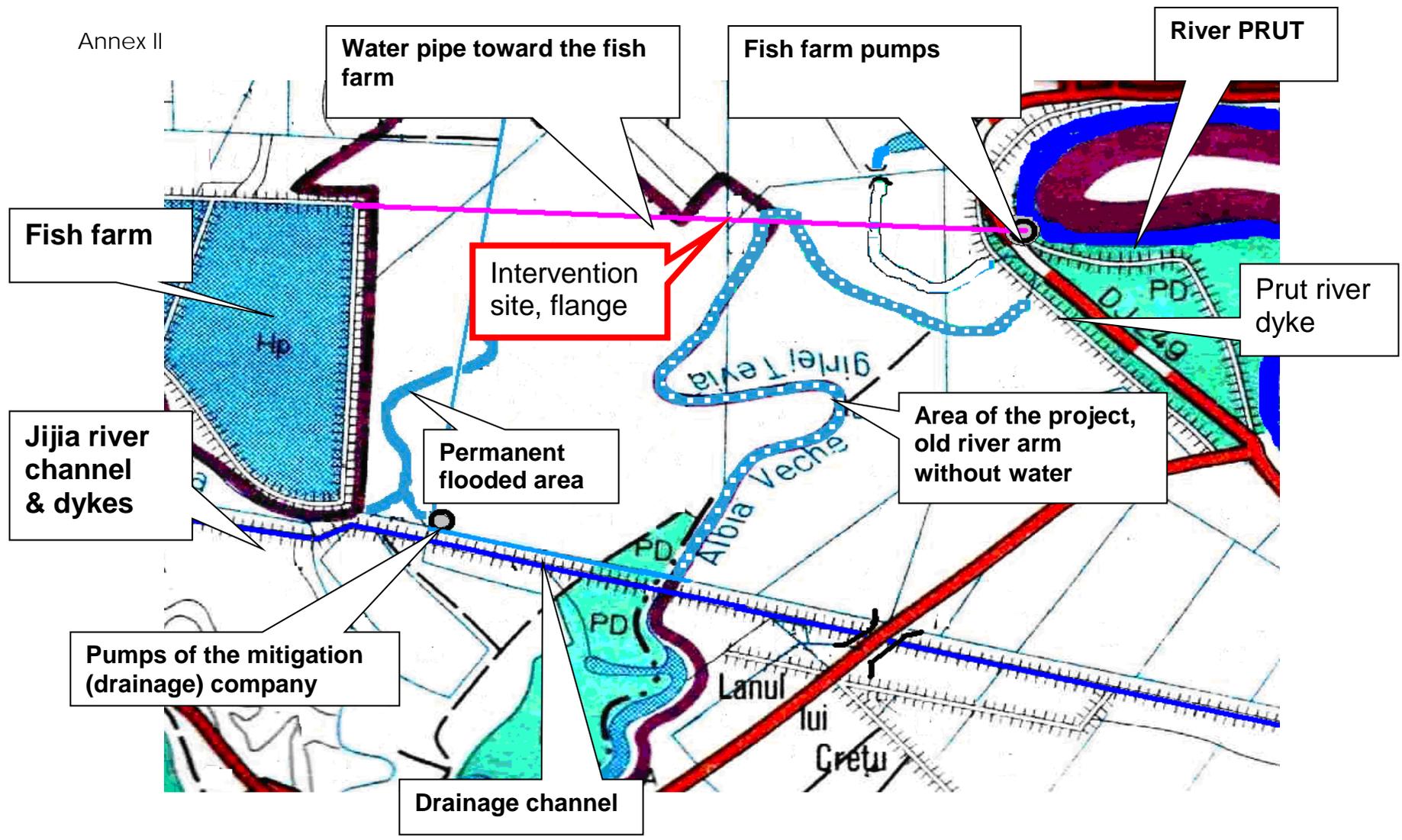


Photo 3: Map of the project area



Photo 4: Satellite image of the project area

Annex III

List of bird species identified at Teiva on July 17 2007 (one week after the area was flooded)

No.ord	Scientific name	Vernacular name	No. individuals
1	Vanellus	nagâț	319
2	Lanius collurio	Sfrâncioc roșiatic	29
3	Anthus campestris	Ciocărlia de câmp	11
4	Hirundo rustica	rândunică	34
5	Sturnus vulgaris	graur	26
6	Oenanthe	Pietrar sur	2
7	Lullula arborea	Ciocărlie de pădure	19
8	Lanius minor	Sfrâncioc mic	4
9	Phalacrocorax carbo	Cormoran mare	146
10	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Lăcar mare	9
11	Passer domesticus	Vrabie de casă	24
12	Tringa ochropus	Fluierar de mal	49
13	Gallinula chloropus	Găinușă de apă	4
14	Merops apiaster	albinărel	9
15	Galerida cristata	ciocârlan	4
16	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Lăcar de stuf	5
17	Botaurus stellaris	Buhai de baltă	1
18	Galinago		5
19	Anas querguedula	Rață cârâitoare	17
20	Remis pendulinus		3
21	Ixobrychus minutus	Stârc pitic	2
22	Anas platyrhynchos	Rață mare	14
23	Delichon urbica	Lăstun de casă	17
24	Ciconia alba	Barza albă	1
25	Upupa epops	pupăză	4
26	Sterna hirundo	Chiră de baltă	5
27	Motacilla flava	Codabatură galbenă	7
28	Aythya niroca	Rață roșie	23
29	Calandrella brachydactyla		2
30	Phylomachus pugnax	bătăuș	5
31	Actitis hypoleuca	Fluierar de munte	2
32	Streptopelia turtur	turturică	2
33	Cuculus canorus	cuc	1
34	Ardea cinerea	Stârc cenușiu	1
35	Pica	coțofană	3
36	Falco subbuteo	Șoimul rândunelelor	1
37	Alcedo atthis	Pescărel albastru	
38	Corvus corax	Corb	
39	Phasianus colchicus	Fazan	

FINANCIAL REPORT

Title of the Project: LIVING WATERS II

Beneficiary of the funding: Societatea Ecologica Aquaterra, Iasi, România

Contribution approved: 4 925 GBP (£)

The amount we spent:

APPROVED BUDGET

	CATEGORIES	£ (GBP)	RON
1	Travel expenses	400	2044,08
3	Allowances	975	4982,44
4	Materials	2650	13542,05
5	Consumables	400	2044,08
6	Accommodation	100	511,02
7	Communications	150	766,53
8	Services	250	1277,55
	TOTAL	4 925 £	25 167,75 RON

1 £ = 5, 1102 RON

4 925 £ = 25167, 73 RON

Amount available: 4 925, 00 £

Transaction Reference Number 2006030700156374 from 07.03.06

TOTAL EXPENSES

	BUDGET CATEGORY	Approved budget £ (GBP)	Approved budget RON	Expenses RON
1	Travel expenses	400	2044,08	2142,81
3	Allowances	975	4982,44	5093,42
4	Materials	2650	13542,05	13560,00
5	Consumables	400	2044,08	1982,25
6	Accommodation	100	511,02	322,75
7	Communications	150	766,53	681,78
8	Services	250	1277,55	1433,31
	TOTAL	4 925 £	25 167,75 RON	25 216, 32 RON