



WWF

FACTSHEET

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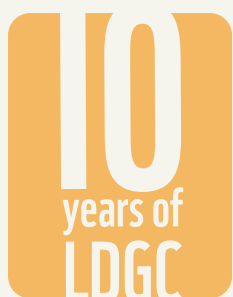
Nature Restoration

Ermakov and Tataru islands

New life for the Danube Delta islands in Ukraine.



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Contribution to the LDGC

In 2002, a Vision for Ukrainian Danube Delta was published by WWF and was followed next year by the launch on Tataru island of the first model floodplain restoration project to sustain the Lower Danube Green Corridor initiative.

The project led in 2004 to formulation of an additional model site at Katlabuh lake, one of the largest limans in Ukrainian Danube Delta, and in 2009 to the reconnection to the natural dynamic of the river of the Ermakov island.

224,000 ha

A NETWORK OF
FUNCTIONAL
WETLANDS,
RECONNECTED TO
THE NATURAL
DYNAMICS OF THE
DANUBE RIVER

Partnership and commitment

For almost a decade WWF developed a strategic partnership with Odessa Water Management Board and Task Force, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, Izmail State Forestry to promote and support the floodplain restoration in Ukraine.

The partnership commitment is to better understand the delta and its people and to develop a shared vision for the Danube Delta, establish model sites to demonstrate the vision.

Development of the partnership with WMB raised more than 50% of the funds in Ukraine for the implementation of the Katlabuh project. Efforts are underway to remove a dike and reconnect Lake Katlabuh with the Danube river system.

Cooperation with local tour operator on Tataru and Ermakov island made possible the development of new ecotourism activities in the delta.

Step by step to floodplain restoration

In October 2003, WWF, together with the local forestry authorities who manage the island, removed 6 km dikes built around Tataru Island. This allowed the re-establishment of natural flooding conditions, creating rich feeding, breeding and spawning grounds for fish, flora and fauna.

Today amazing rare birds, such as white-tailed eagles, pygmy cormorants and ferruginous ducks, thrive on Tataru Island, while inner lakes serve as spawning places for young fish from the Danube.

In 2005, a herd of grey cattle was released to roam wild on Tataru Island. Grazing animals, like grey cattle, used to live on the island, but were hunted. Without them the floodplain forest ran wild due to lack of grazing. Four years on, the herd has multiplied and soon it may provide the local community with organic meat.

In August 2009, a bulldozer and shovel loader went to work removing a section of dike on Ermakov Island. Breaching 300 m of dikes that surround the island will reconnect the island's barren interior to the life force of the Danube's seasonal flooding.

Ermakov, the 3,500 ha island, which was once home to Cossack warriors, is one of the larger islands in the Ukrainian Danube Delta.

Removal of the dike will make way for annual spring flooding, which will return water and life to the island's interior. The barren fields that now mark much of the island will become flooded, creating lakes that will provide rich feeding, breeding and spawning areas for fish, flora and fauna.

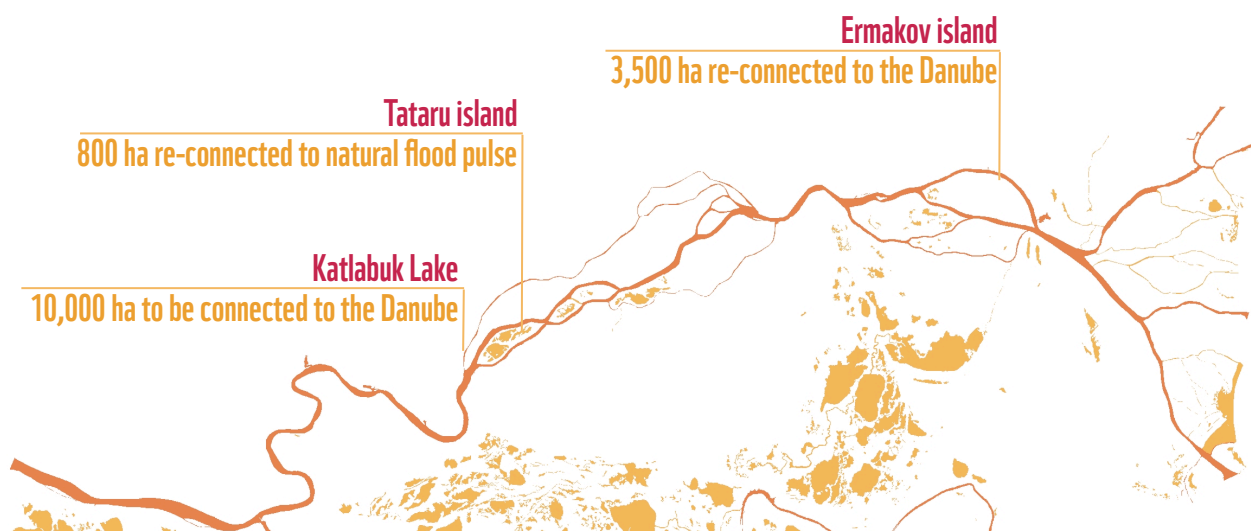


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Vision

Resilience of the natural processes of the delta system can provide new opportunities for socio-economic development, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

What we achieved



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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