



WWF

FACTSHEET

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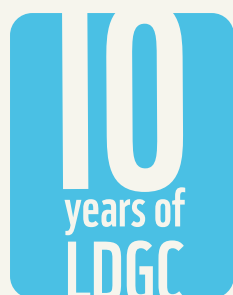
Nature Restoration

Green Borders

Cross-border conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites along the Danube River.



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1,4 million

THE LDGC TARGET
FOR PROTECTION
HAS BEEN
EXCEEDED, 1,4
MILION HECTARES
BEING DESIGNATED
AS PROTECTED
AREAS

Contribution to the LDGC

January 2009, WWF started implementing the LIFE Nature project „Cross-border conservation of *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* and *Aythya nyroca* in key sites in Romania and Bulgaria,,

The Green Borders project creates the framework for cross-border conservation for 11 Natura 2000 sites along the Lower Danube in Romania and Bulgaria, ensuring the coherence of the LDGC by maintaining high biodiversity in the area while providing valuable ecosystem services to the local communities.

A large scale conservation project

Only about 18.000 pairs of ferruginous duck and about 39.000 pairs of pygmy cormorant are still nesting nowadays in Europe.

Both species are priority for conservation under the LIFE financing programme, requiring, according to the Bird's Directive, special conservation measures of their habitats as important areas for breeding in Europe.

The lower Danube hosts an important number of these two species: 7% of the ferruginous duck population and 17% of the pygmy cormorant living in this area (Birdlife International 2004).

Joint efforts of the two countries will result in improved breeding and feeding sites for the two bird species but overall, to improved ecological status of the Danube floodplain in these key areas.

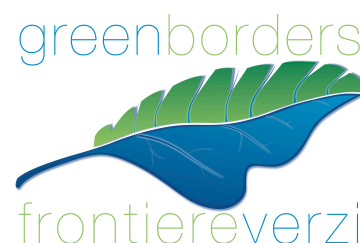
Building on stakeholders engagement

In close collaboration with Local Environmental Agencies, Bird Life and Natura 2000 sites administrators we engage with major fish farms along the Danube to promote a change in the way fisheries are managed to ensure living condition for the two priority birds.

By showing that fisheries extensive management can be done more responsibly at little or no extra costs and by wetland restoration along the Danube river, large scale reductions of the feeding and nesting habitats can be obtained.

To achieve this living conditions for the two species, the projects:

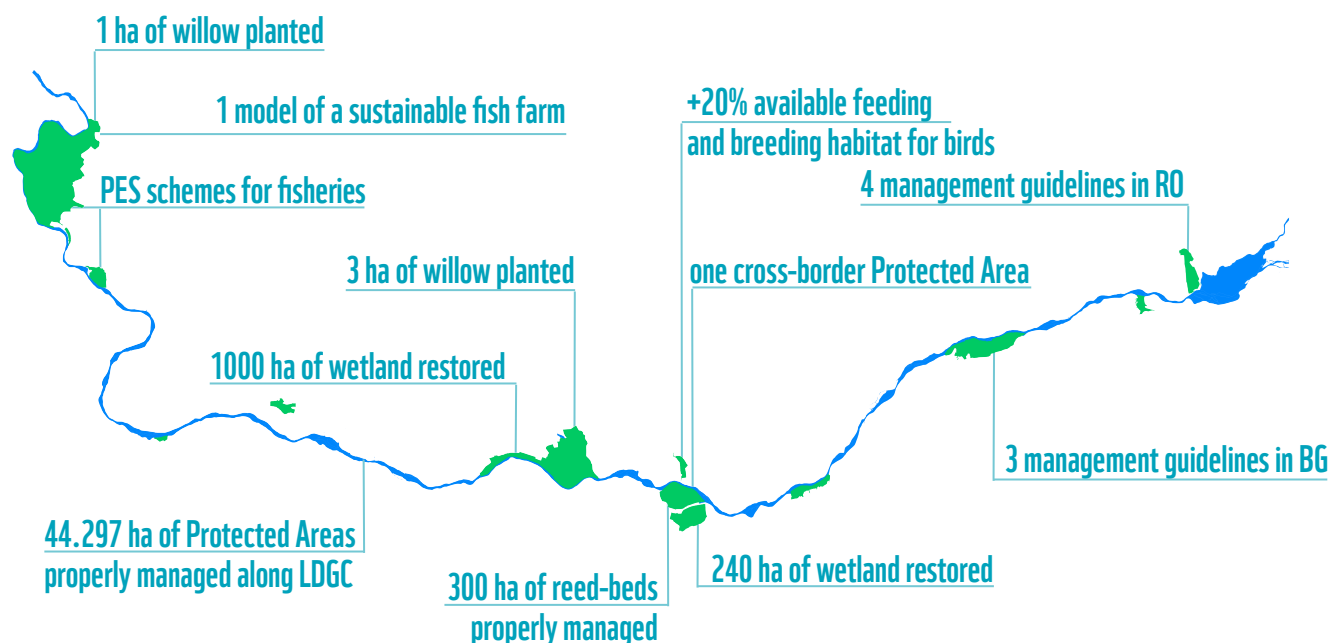
- Engages multiple stakeholders in roundtables and dialogues to develop sustainable ecological reconstruction of the nesting and feeding areas, including fisheries;
- Proactively seeks one-to-one engagements with fish farms, administrators and land owners to apply best management practices for wetlands, reed and floodplain forest in Natura 2000 sites;
- Promotes cross-border cooperation for the protection and management of the habitats important for the two species. implementing the best practices for fisheries management;
- Creates an online cross-border decision tool to support conservation actions and wetland monitoring along the Lower Danube.



Vision

Adequate cross-border conservation actions are in line with species ecological needs reflecting the long-term self-sustainability of their populations and wetland habitats along the Lower Danube Green Corridor.

2012 goal



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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