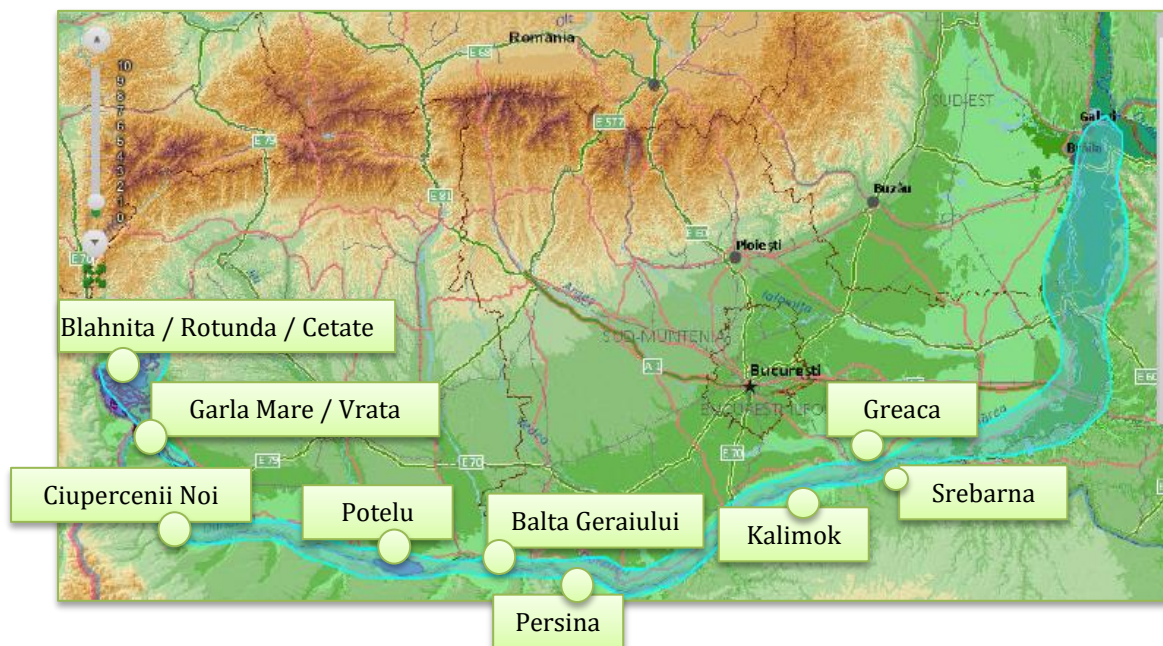




Areas with high restoration potential on lower Danube floodplain in Romania and Bulgaria

On the Danube Floodplain WWF works to achieve sustainability and protect water balance. This is done mainly by restoring vital freshwater wetlands and floodplains, partnering with local communities, key authorities and companies. Some 6,600 hectares of wetlands have already been restored or are currently being restored in Romania, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia.

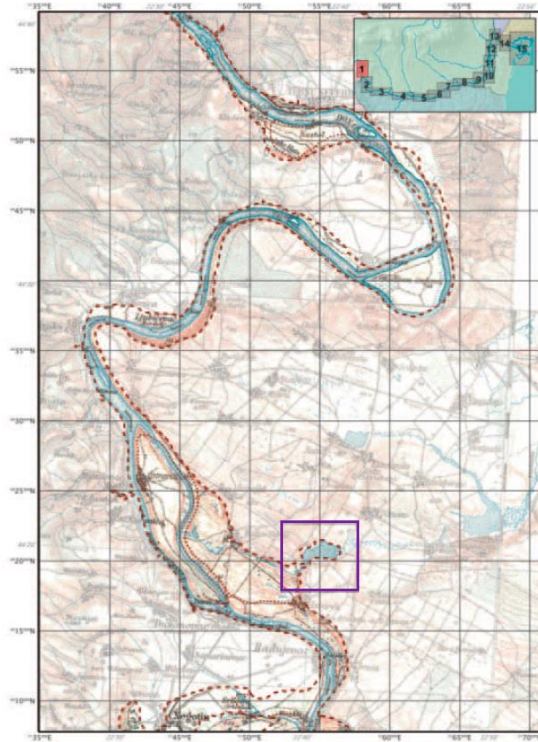
WWF will also continue to promote and implement floodplain restoration projects along the Danube based on the study providing the high potential for restoration considering the ecological, social and economic aspects. The identified areas for restoration have potential to increase freshwater quantity and quality, mitigate climate impact and improve flood protection. All the potential sites are briefly presented below.



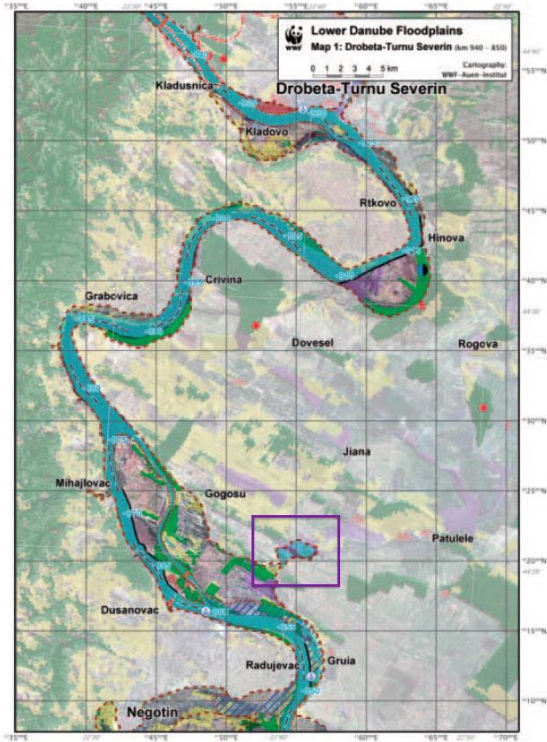
Areas with high potential for restoration identified on the Lower Danube Floodplain

Blahnita/Rotunda fishfarm (Romania)

1889-1915



1999-2001



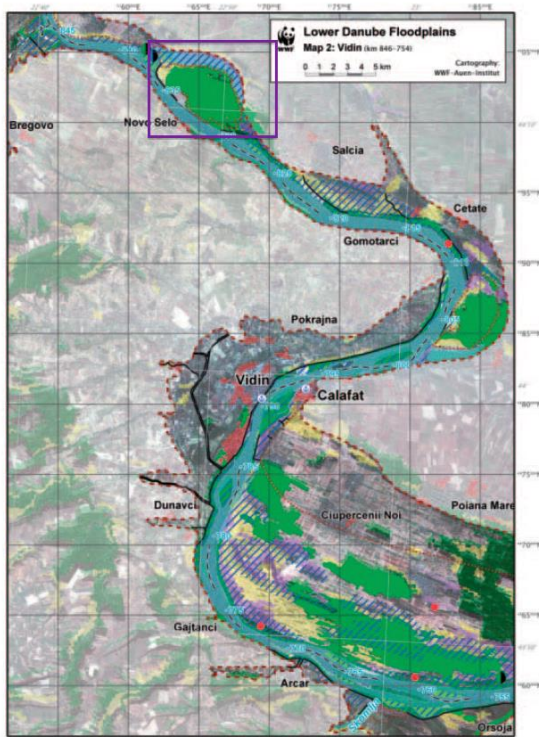
Type of land use	Fishfarm
Ownership	Private company
Surface	300 ha
Project targeted surface	50 ha
Brief description	Situated in the ROSPA0011 Blahnita Natura 2000 site
Link with other projects	Between 2009-2013 there was implemented the GREEN BORDERS project (LIFE Nature) with concrete conservation actions for <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and <i>Phalacrocorax pigmeus</i>
Proposed conservation actions	50 ha of abandoned fishfarm polder restored in order to obtain good ecological conditions for birds' species
Owner's position towards restoration	Very supportive

Garla Mare – Vrata (Romania)

1889-1915



1999-2001



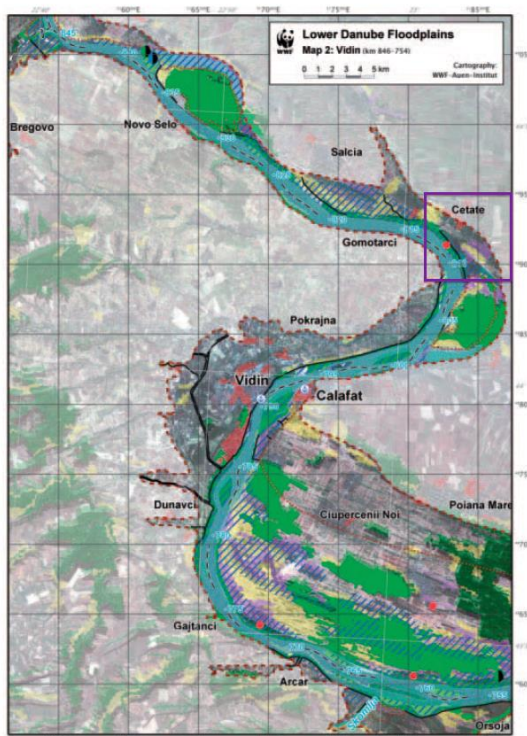
Type of land use	Abandoned fish farm
Ownership	Private
Surface	240 ha
Project targeted surface	240 ha
Brief description	Situated in the ROSPA0049 Gruia-Garla Mare
Link with other projects	The proposed area is situated near the floodplain project under implementation under the WWF-Coca Cola programme
Proposed conservation actions	240 ha with a mix of open waters and reed bed to offer adequate condition for aquatic species and access to the natural resources for the local community
Owner position	Supportive

Cetate fishfarm (Romania)

1889-1915



1999-2001



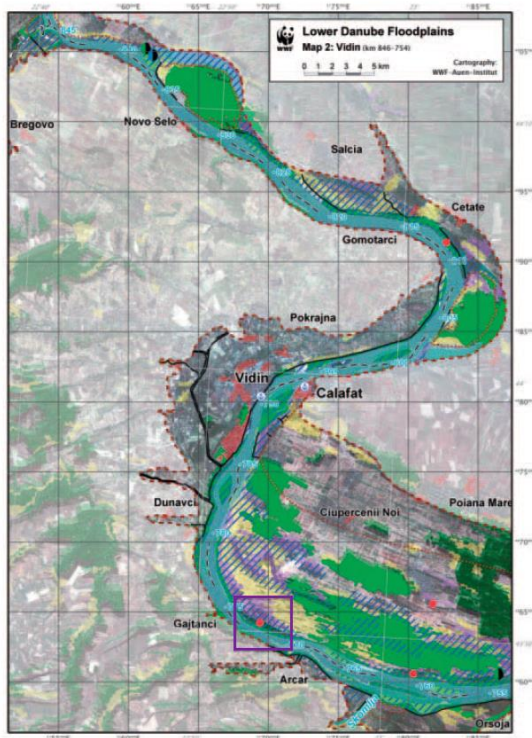
Type of land use	Abandoned fish farm
Ownership	State (concession of a private company)
Surface	390 ha
Project targeted surface	390 ha
Brief description	Situated in the ROSCI0299 Dunarea la Garla Mare - Maglavit
Link with other projects	-
Proposed conservation actions	390 ha with a mix of open waters and reed bed to offer adequate condition for aquatic species and access to the natural resources for the local community
Owner position	Very supportive

Ciupercenii Noi fishfarm (Romania)

1889-1915



1999-2001

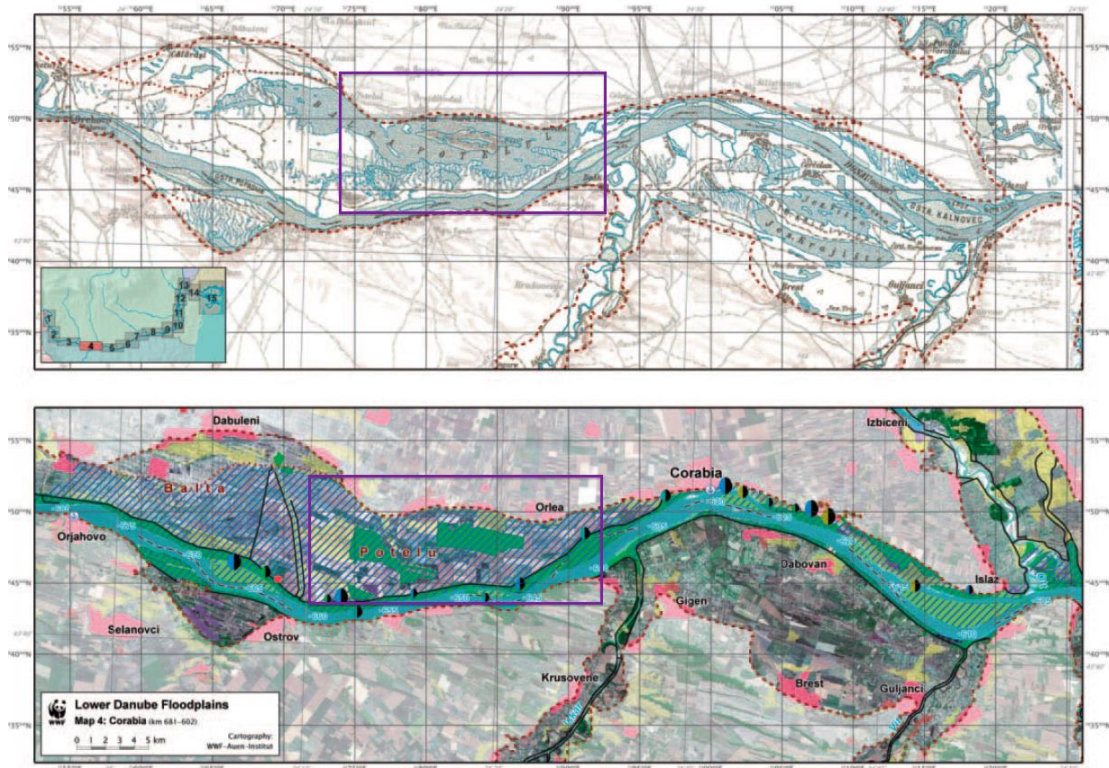


Type of land use	Abandoned fish farm
Ownership	State - National Agency for Fishing and Aquaculture
Surface	500 ha
Project targeted surface	180 ha
Brief description	Situated in the ROSCI0039 Ciuperceni-Desa
Link with other projects	-
Proposed conservation actions	To improve the water access into the farm and to keep water inside during birds' breeding period. The result of the restoration will be a mix of open waters and reed bed that offer adequate condition for aquatic species and access to the natural resources for the local community
Owner position	Supportive

Potelu (Romania)

1889-1915

1999-2001

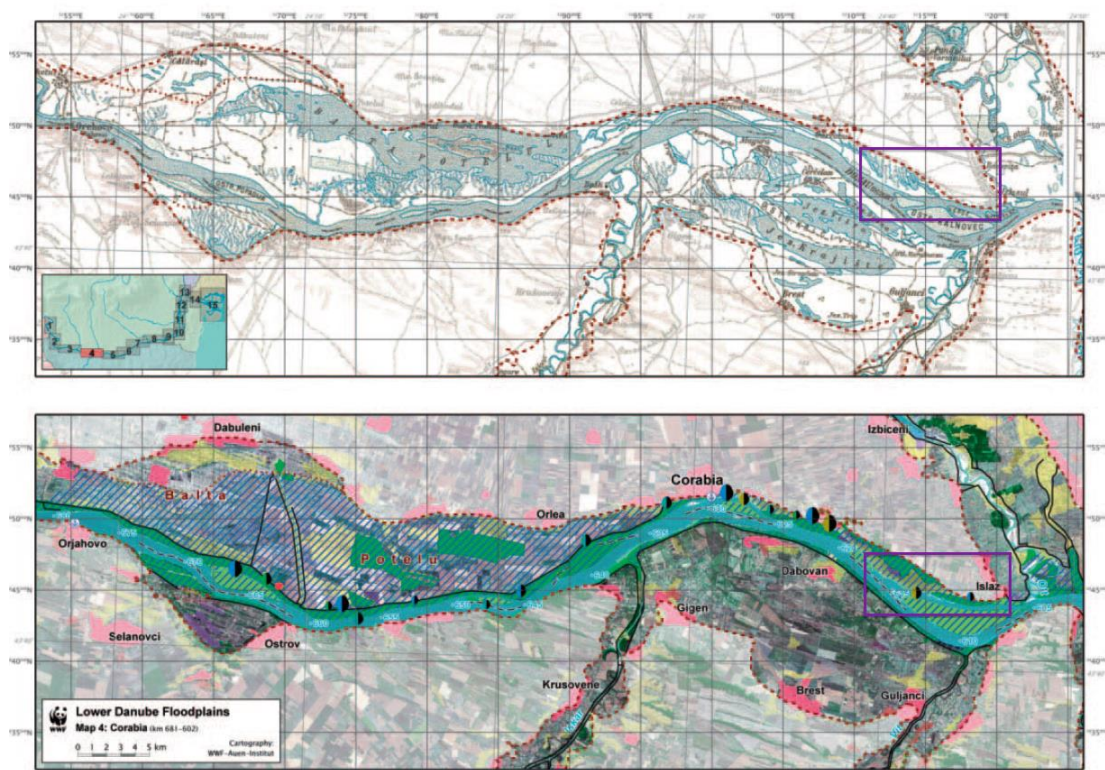


Type of land use	Agriculture land
Ownership	Mixture: National Agency for Fishery and Aquaculture, local authorities, private
Surface	16000 ha
Project targeted surface	5000 ha
Brief description	Part situated in the ROSPA0135 Nisipurile de la Dăbuleni
Link with other projects	-
Proposed conservation actions	To create a mosaic of habitats: clear water pools, reed bed and pastures The result of the floodplain restoration will be a mixture of open water pools and reed bed that offer good condition for species and access to the new resources for the local community
Owner position	Local authorities and private are very supportive

Balta Geraiului (Romania)

1889-1915

1999-2001

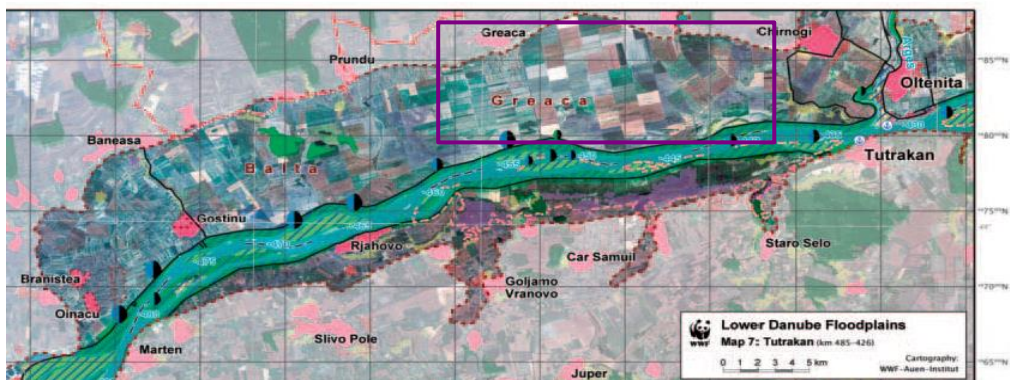
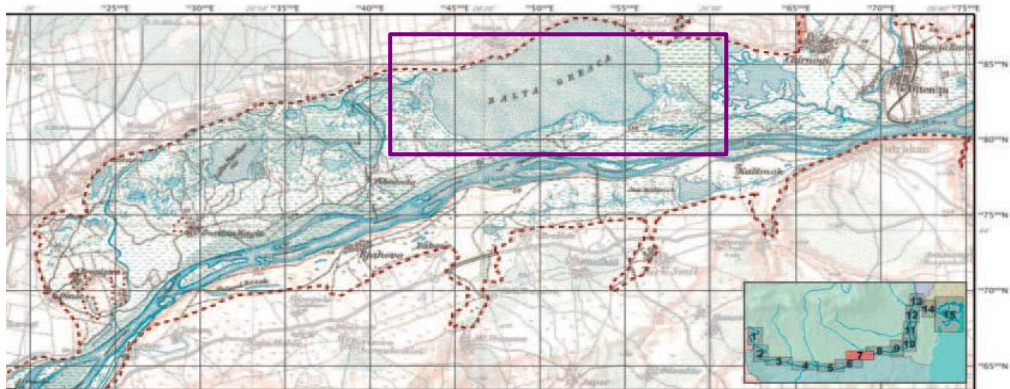


Type of land use	Wetland
Ownership	Mixture: Local Authorities and private persons
Surface	600 ha
Project targeted surface	600 ha
Brief description	ROSPA0024 Confluenta Olt-Dunare Natura 2000 site
Link with other projects	Between 2009-2013 there was implemented the GREEN BORDERS project (LIFE Nature) with concrete conservation actions for <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and <i>Phalacrocorax pigmeus</i>
Proposed conservation actions	600 ha with a mixture of clear water pools, reed bed and pastures that will offer good condition for species and access to the new resources for the local community
Owner position	Very supportive

Greaca (Romania)

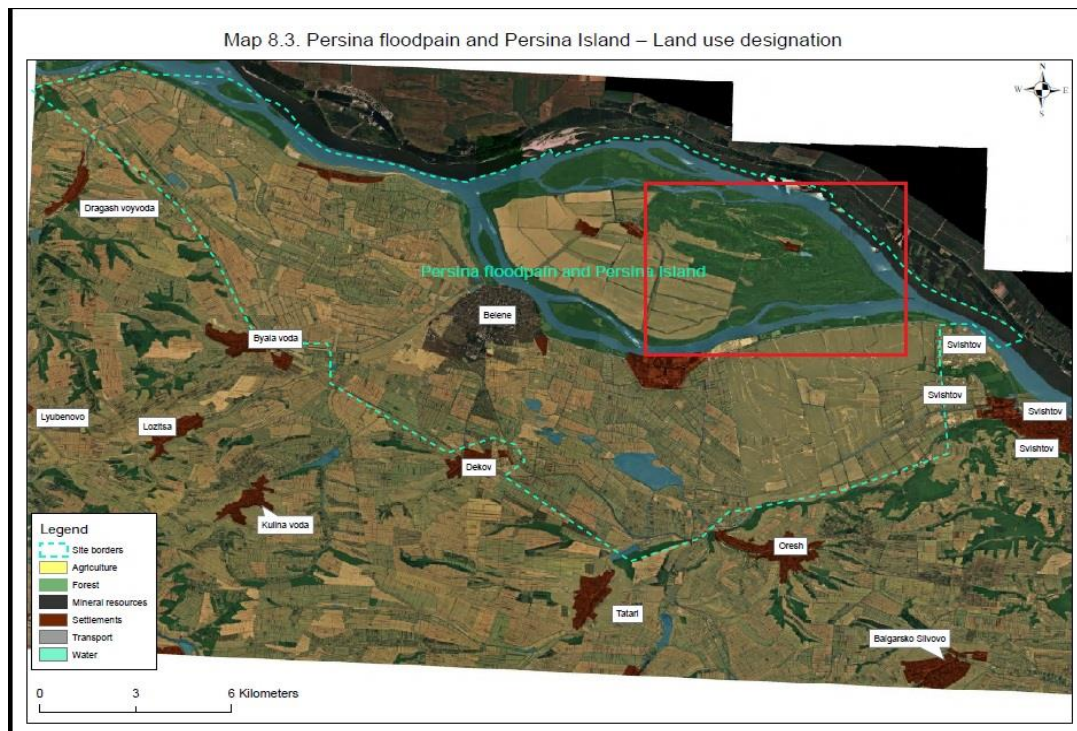
1889-1915

1999-2001



Type of land use	Agriculture
Ownership	Mixture: Local Authorities and private companies
Surface	20000 ha
Project targeted surface	5000 ha
Brief description	Intensive agriculture is practicing on this territory, being dominated by one company.
Link with other projects	The WWF team has implemented a project aiming to engage the local communities into the land use planning.
Proposed conservation actions	5000 ha with a mixture of lake, reed bed and pastures that will offer good condition for species and access to the new resources for the local community
Owner position	Some local communities are supportive

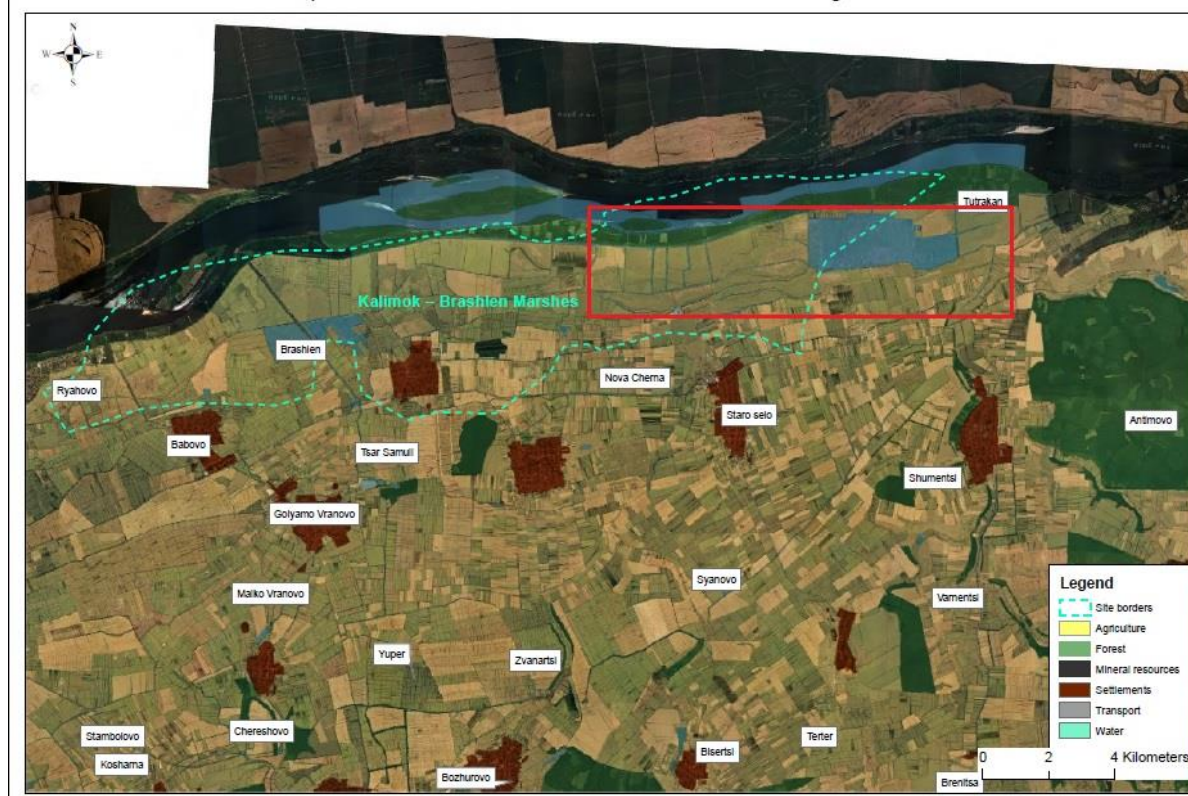
Persina (Belene) Island Wetlands (Bulgaria)



Type of land use	Wetland - maintained reserve, protected area, Nature Park
Ownership	State
Surface	2200 ha
Project targeted surface	2200 ha
Brief description	
Link with other projects	Restored as wetland in April 2008 as part of GEF/ World Bank Wetland Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project implemented by Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters. There is ongoing Project funded by Coca Cola Foundation for improvement of the hydrological management of the wetlands.
Proposed conservation actions	Almost 10 years after restoration there is a need for evaluation of the ecological status and success, possibly there will be need for improvement of hydrological regime as from preliminary results there are “dead zones” should be addressed and problems solved with new design and/or structures. The Coca Cola Project will try to solve some of the problems using “soft” measures - improving management and operations, but may be they will be not sufficient to solve major problems in some remote parts of the wetland
Owner position	Supportive

Kalimok Marsh (Bulgaria)

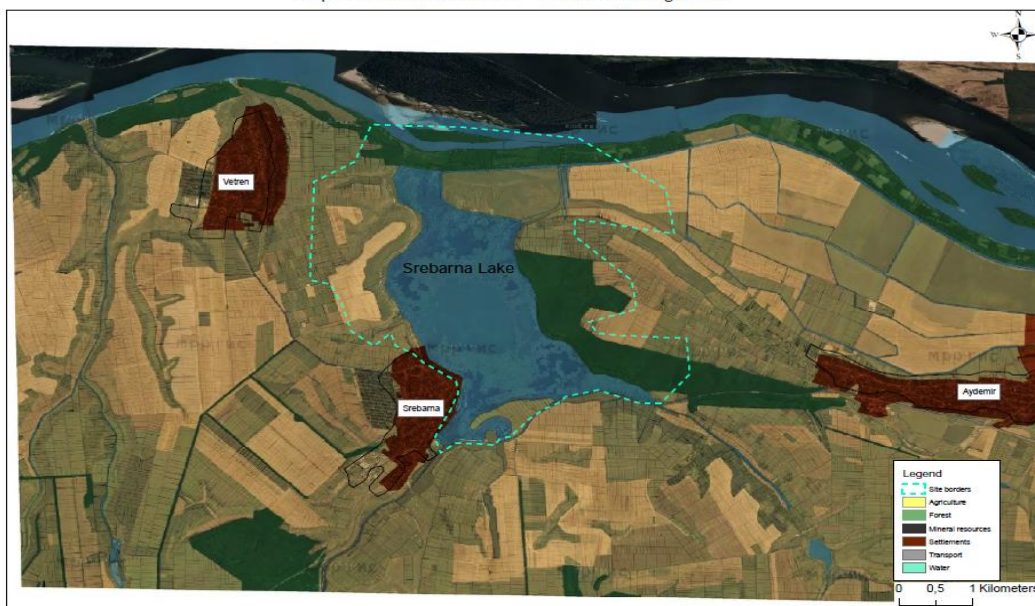
Map 11.3. Kalimok – Brashlen Marshes – Land use designation



Type of land use	Former fishponds, now Protected area
Ownership	State
Surface	2000 ha
Project targeted surface	2000 ha
Brief description	Kalimok Marsh is part of Lower Danube Green Corridor and Natura 2000 site Together with Persin Island they were the first large wetlands restored in Bulgaria.
Link with other projects	Restored as wetland in April 2008 as part of GEF/ World Bank Wetland Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project implemented by Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters. There is ongoing Project funded by Coca Cola Foundation for improvement of the hydrological management of the wetlands.
Proposed conservation actions	Almost 10 years after restoration there is a need for evaluation of the ecological status and success, possibly there will be need for improvement of hydrological regime as from preliminary results there are “dead zones” should be addressed and problems solved with new design and/or structures. The Coca Cola Project will try to solve some of the problems using “soft” measures - improving management and operations, but may be they will be not sufficient to solve major problems in some remote parts of the wetland
Owner position	Supportive

Srebarna Lake (Bulgaria)

Map 15.3. Srebarna Lake – Land use designation



Type of land use	Wetland - Maintained reserve, Protected area
Ownership	State
Surface	1500 ha
Project targeted surface	900 ha
Brief description	Srebarna Lake is one of the most important wetlands along the Bulgarian stretch of the Danube for the preservation of freshwater flora and vegetation. It is the largest surviving marsh along the Danube in Bulgaria and has a large diversity of habitat and vegetation types, plant and animal species.
Link with other projects	Since 1978 there were several projects implemented for improvement of hydrological regime with variable results.
Proposed conservation actions	The main goal is the improvement of the water regime of Lake Srebarna and improvement of the hydraulic connection between the river and the lake. In 1993, the Ramsar Bureau included Srebarna in the Montreux List as a wetland area with deteriorated ecological conditions. In year 1993 by initiative of the Ramsar Bureau and the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water was prepared a project for the construction of two connecting canals in order to provide water exchange between the lake and the river – an eastern and a western canal. Due to the insufficient budget the project was implemented in part and only the eastern canal was built. Until the updating of the Management Plan of the reserve in 2014, no other important activities were undertaken for the improvement of the water regime.
Owner position	Supportive