



WWF

FACTSHEET

SEPTEMBER

2010

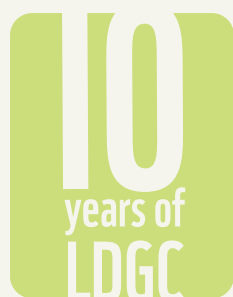
Nature Restoration

Green Islands

Floodplain forest restoration and management along the Danube islands in Romania.



© CRISTINA MUNTEANU / WWF DCP RO



1,4 million

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

Contribution to the LDGC

In the period September 2006 - August 2010, WWF implemented the LIFE Nature project „Conservation and integrated management of Danube islands Romania,,

The Green Islands project contributed the protection of 1,000 hectares of the last natural or semi-natural floodplain forests along the Lower Danube in Romania. By reforesting 24 hectares with native plant species like *Populus alba* and *Salix alba* the breeding and feeding areas for many priority species is improved.

A rich floodplain ecosystem

51% of the total area of the Danube islands is hosting rich natural floodplain ecosystems including forests, sand banks, marshes and natural river channels.

The islands are essential for the distribution of many plant and animal species and stands as part of the Danube migration corridor.

The remnants of the natural floodplain forest were protected and conditions for natural regeneration were created on eight key islands.

Conversion to poplar plantations of the remaining natural floodplain forest was prevented by changing the forestry plans towards conservation of species and their habitats.

Partnership engagement

The key for successful implementation of the Green Island project was its strategic partnership comprising of non-governmental organizations (WWF, Danube Carpathian Programme and Romanian Ornithological Society) and governmental institutions (Environmental Protection Agency Calarasi, National Forestry Research Institute and Calarasi Forest Directorate).

To secure the long-term sustainable management of the island's specie and habitats we:

- Provided with good forestry practices through reforestation of pilot sites and forest certification;
- Engaged key stakeholders in dialogues and seminars for the development of sustainable conservation management of floodplain habitats;
- Developed strategies for eco-tourism activities that support natural forests development and species conservation;
- Restoring natural vegetation by removing invasive species;
- Securing nesting sites for two important bird species, white-tailed eagle and saker falcon;
- Actively communicated the outstanding natural values of the islands to get support of the local actors.

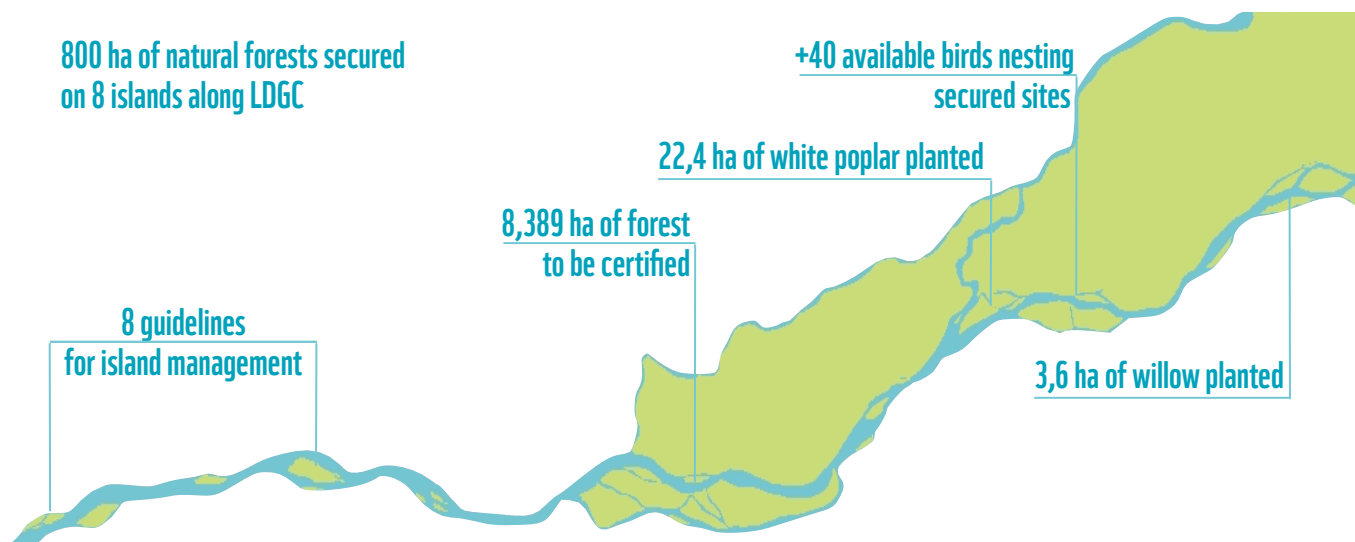


© CRISTINA MUNTANU / WWF DCP RO

Vision

The habitats and species on the Danube islands are protected and natural/semi-natural floodplain forests are sustainably managed.

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.

www.wwf.ro