



WWF

FACTSHEET

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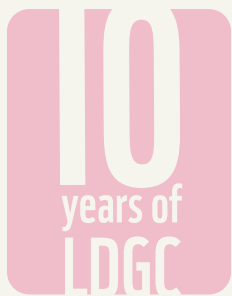
Nature Restoration

Babina and Cernovca islands

From abandoned polders and fish farms to rich wetlands in Romanian Danube Delta



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Contribution to the LDGC

3,600 ha of abandoned land (former wetlands) reconnected to the natural flooding regime

70 million m³ could be stored during floods

140,000 USD generated for local communities through ecosystem services (fish, reed, nutrient retention, cultural values, etc)

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 Danube Delta National Institute and Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration to promote and support the floodplain restoration in Romania.

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 made possible the implementation of the Babina and Cernovca arable polder restoration projects.

The community of Mahmudia village does not have direct access to the Danube Delta due to conversion of wetlands into agricultural polders. The community is very supportive to the restoration of Carasuhat polder, giving up their land to be flooded again as part of a WWF project.

Step by step to floodplain restoration

In 1993, the Danube Delta National Institute, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration and WWF initiated a pilot project focusing on the rehabilitation of the agricultural polders Babina (2200 ha) and Cernovca (1580 ha), as part of the WWF International “Green Danube” Programme.

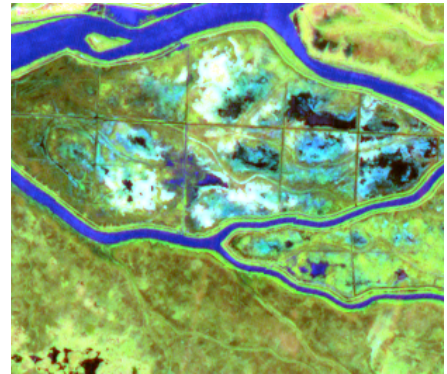
The dykes and channels built on the islands to dry out the areas for agriculture were opened and re-connected to the Danube.

With the reestablishment of the flood regime, the area has been regained as a habitat and reproduction ground for fish and as breeding, resting and feeding place for water birds (cormorants, ducks, herons, egrets, spoonbills, gees and other species).

The rehabilitation of the natural resources also brought many benefits to the local population.



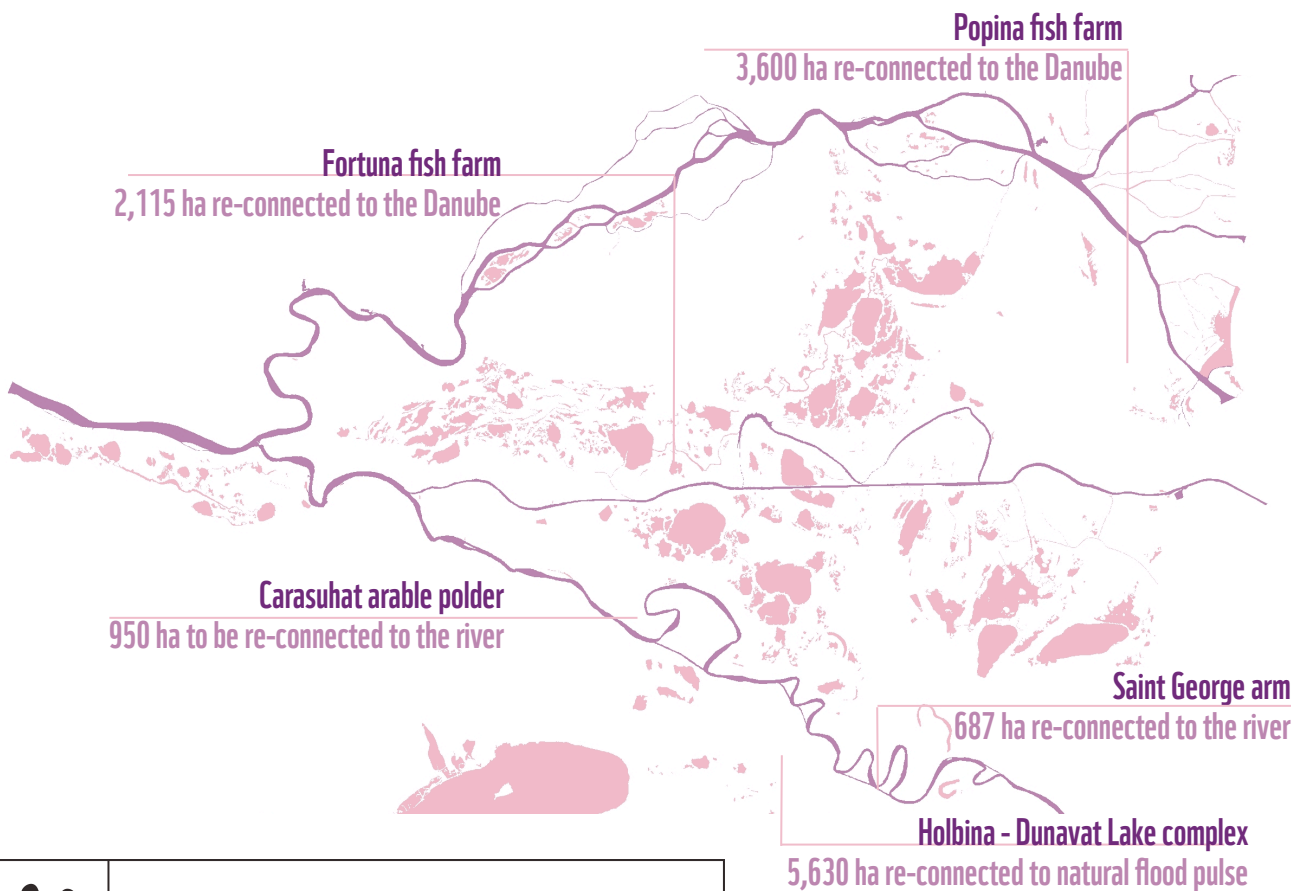
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Vision

Regain key natural processes, enhance habitats quality to sustain rich biodiversity and generate natural resources for the local communities

What was 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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