

Workshop

Sustainable Development in Lake Areas: Empowering Local Initiatives and Civil Society



22 - 26 September 2010

Keramoti, Nestos Delta

Greece

Supported by



Welcome!

Forum Synergies and Global Nature Fund cordially invite you to a series of five workshops on participatory implementation strategies of environmental policies in lake areas, taking place in Estonia, Poland, Slovenia, Greece and France.

The workshops are meant to empower civil society actors to contribute to participatory sustainable development, and shall yield recommendations to local and EU governments about more participatory ways to implement environmental policies.

Goals and Objectives

The workshops are organised in the framework of the project “Sustainable Development in Lake Areas”, which is supported by Fondation de France.

The general objective of the project is to support initiatives in sustainable development by exchange on good practice of participatory implementation and local sustainable development. The exchange shall lead to capacity building of private actors, NGOs and local governments in environmentally sensitive areas.

The thematic workshops will contribute to the development of local democracy and to a more participative management of environmental resources, in order to fill the gap between European citizens and their institutions, and also via feed-back to decision makers to contribute to environmental and rural policies that better meet peoples’ need for participation.

The project’s objectives are

- ☞ to exchange experiences about different participatory implementation strategies of Nature 2000 and Water Framework Directive (WFD) in concerned rural areas
- ☞ to give local actors and authorities better access to practical knowledge about sustainable Nature 2000 and WFD implementation strategies via exchange with successful projects
- ☞ to develop political proposals to regional, state and EU governments to use the existing participatory options that are provided from EU-side in order to support sustainable development in rural areas.

The scientific partnership with University of Marburg / Germany assures that the project integrates political knowledge of integrated water body management.

The specific objectives of the Workshop in Nestos Delta are:

- To further exchange experiences about different participatory implementation strategies by the participating partners
- To strengthen the relations between the organisations and partners of the first 3 workshops, leading to common projects on conservation and sustainable development
- To boost the sustainable development process in the Nestos National Park through publicizing the procedures and results of this workshop.

Background

Empowerment of Local Actors

Sustainable development depends on actors – actors that are willing to persistently strive for sustainable ways of life in their daily behaviour and take initiative to generate renewable energy, consume locally grown & organic food, use tourism services that save energy and look for ways of a sustainable life style. Since economic regional development is one crucial pillar of sustainability, governments depend on local initiatives of people and civil society organizations to turn the chances of regulative frameworks and accompanying funding policies into practical action. Therefore an exchange about best practice in motivation and integration of local actors is an important contribution to sustainable rural development and the empowerment of civil society. An exchange between old and new EU member state participants seems particularly useful in this respect since it combines long-term knowledge about EU regulation practices with newly emerging civil society movements.

Participatory Processes

The Aarhus convention, signed in 1998 by most European countries, invites authorities to enhance the public participation in decision-making related with environmental issues. The Natura 2000 network (based on the 'Habitat' and the 'Birds' directives) is requesting from national governments to protect species and habitats of common interest by preserving their current existence. It does not specify by which measures and thereby leaves room for participatory implementation. The European Water Framework Directive is requesting from national states to achieve a "good ecological state" for all surface water bodies until 2015. It expects explicitly the implementation of an active public participation. The three directives – and especially the Habitat Directive – are in many cases seen as very critical by farming organisations and local governments who fear economical constraints. On the other hand, at the local level the participatory implementation options frequently are unknown to the relevant actors because of lack of good examples.

Lake Areas

Lakes, river basins and coastal areas are good topics for exchange workshops about participatory implementation strategies because they fall usually under both Natura 2000 and water framework regulation, they give a common thematic focus, are of high public relevance and give room for integrated development approaches. Furthermore there tend to be serious conflicts of interest between different stakeholders, giving need for mediation and participatory conflict solution. More specifically, a common problem of European lakes is eutrophication from agricultural sources. EU regulation (Nitrogen directive) requests farmers since 2000 to restrict fertilization in order to prevent nutrient runoff to ground and surface waters. But there are implementation deficits, and big leftovers from former times pose a question of acceptable cleanup strategies. All this gives reason to look for more participatory implementation.

The Workshop Sites

The project's five partner sites, of which Lake Võrtsjärv, Milicz ponds and Nestos Delta are members of Global Nature Fund's Living Lakes network, show the context of the project in different ways.

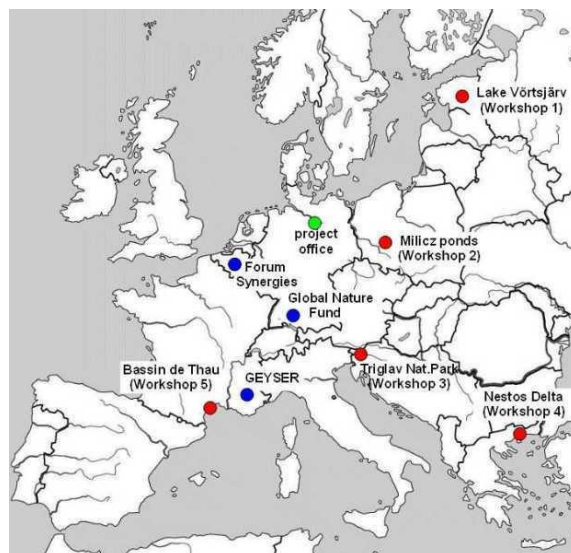
Lake Võrtsjärv near Tartu in Estonia, the biggest inner-Estonian lake, is mainly used by fishermen from the five surrounding villages with some recently evolving soft tourism and recreational activities. Nutrient intakes from the last decades caused heavy mud deposits in the shallow lake, deteriorating the water quality especially in summers with a thread of oxygen crises, and causing a reed belt of more than 100 meters to grow on its shore, preventing inhabitants to access the lake as they used to. There is need for an ecologically adapted solution under participation of the different interest groups.

The Milicz ponds near Wrocław in Poland are a great lake area that has been created by medieval monks for aquaculture. Nowadays they create an almost natural environment with very large numbers of birds and also plant species on the surrounding wetlands. Several ecological NGOs are active in the area and they initiated the LEADER+ process. Involvement of many partners range from environmental farming, fisheries and tourism to habitat improvements and conservation plans.

Lakes Bled and Bohinj are glacial lakes in the Julian Alps in northwestern Slovenia. Lake Bled is a very popular tourist destination. Lake Bohinj (Bohinjsko jezero), the largest permanent lake in Slovenia situated 25 km west of lake Bled in the borders of Triglav National Park, is still quite natural but suffers of increasing pressure from urbanism and tourism. The National Park Administration's has a lot of experiences in sustainable lake management and Alpine land use.

Nestos Delta consists of 18 small lakes and 8 brackish lagoons and is located in North-eastern Greece, about 200 km to the east of Thessaloniki. Intensive agriculture is one of the greatest threats to these precious wetlands. Due to agricultural EU-subsidies more land is cultivated. The excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides in the delta region is causing big problems, and the water quality of the lagoons and lakes deteriorates constantly. EPO – the Society for Protection of Nature and Ecodevelopment is working since 22 years for the protection, management and sustainable development, collaborating with state services, authorities and other stakeholders.

Thau basin (Bassin de Thau) is the largest lagoon on the Mediterranean coast of France. The shallow lagoon experiences a high pressure of uses from fishery, mussel cultivation, agricultural land use and nutrient intakes from its catchment area, but also recreational use from its densely populated surroundings. There are conflicts of interest but also significant possible coalitions of interest e.g. between environmentalists and fish and mussel farmers.



Structure of the Workshops

After arrival of the participants in the afternoon of the first day and a welcoming evening, the workshops proceed in three steps.

On the first day the host organisation presents their situation and the foreign guests pose questions to better understand the situation and relate it to their own experiences. The participants are taken to a first field trip to get a more practical feeling about the local situation.

The second day allows the international guests to contribute their views, ideas and experiences with respect to the local situation. Another field trip brings the participants to local initiatives and civil society groups to talk with them about their vision, their practical options and the specific local obstacles to their engagement.

The third morning session is dedicated to politics: How can national and EU policies support local actors to take up the challenge of sustainable development? Towards the end of the session the moderators try to crystallise conclusions in order to formulate a valuable feedback to EU decision makers.

In order to enable the local public to participate in the meeting there is a political evening with a public presentation of the foreign guests and with latest information about EU political tendencies. Local politicians, national and EU governmental officials are invited to explain their view on possible support for sustainable development initiatives. A cultural event with presentation of local culture and room for talk and drinking gives participants a direct contact to the people.

Workshop Dates

Lake Võrtsjärv, Estonia	15-18 June 2009
Milicz Ponds, Poland	21-24 October 2009
Triglav National Park, Slovenia	21-25 April 2010
Nestos Delta, Greece	22-26 September 2010
Thau Basin, France	April 2011 (date to be confirmed)

Conference Venue Keramoti (Nestos Delta)

Keramoti is a small coastal fishermen's village that has developed very fast in the last 2 decades because of the ferry boat connection to the island of Thassos and its nice beaches. The Workshop will take place in the **info centre of the Nestos-Vistonida-Ismarida National Park Authority** in Keramoti.

Accommodation will be provided in small local hotels in Keramoti. Field trips to Nestos Delta will be organised by busses. It is possible to arrive in Keramoti by plane from Athens (to airport of Kavala) or by bus/train from Thessaloniki / Kavala / Keramoti.

Participation Fee

Due to the support by the Fondation de France, no conference fee for participation will arise, and invited participants may be granted a 50% reimbursement on their travel costs. Since the number of possible participants is limited to about 40, please consider your early registration at lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu.

Hosting Organisations, Supporters and Partners

Forum Synergies

Forum Synergies is a European network of practical pioneers in many aspects of sustainable rural development that has gathered rich and varied practical experiences since 1994. Forum Synergies holds contacts to different rural organisations as well as to policy makers on EU level, turning practical experiences into an input for the evolution of EU sustainability policies.

Global Nature Fund (GNF) and Living Lakes Network

GNF was founded in 1998 with the objective to foster the protection of nature and environment as well as animals. GNF's work consists mainly of initiating and implementing nature and environment protection projects to preserve the animal world, the protection of migrating species, their habitat and their migratory routes. In 1998 the Living Lakes network was launched with now 45 partner lakes represented by more than 55 member organisations.

EPO: Society for Protection of Nature and Ecodevelopment

EPO - Society for Protection of Nature and Ecodevelopment works since 22 years for nature protection and sustainable development, collaborating with state services, authorities and other stakeholders. EPO participated in EU supported Life projects for the management of the Nestos wetlands, creating buffer zones, vegetated filter strips, re-connection of old river branches, re-forestation of riparian forest, construction of breeding islets for terns, as well as setting up a feeding scheme for vultures. EPO works on alternative development, especially ecotourism planning nature trails, observation platforms and publishing information materials. EPO represents the environmental NGOs in the board of the Nestos-Vistonis-Ismarida National Park.

ΦΔ – Management Body of Nestos – Vistonis – Ismarida National Park

The Management Body of Nestos - Vistonis – Ismarida National Park is a private-public body for the protection and management of the National Park, founded in 2003 by the Greek Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change with a board of 11 members and a scientific committee. It is running 2 information centres in Keramoti and Porto Lagos. The National Park is the largest Greek protected site including 3 Ramsar- and 3 Natura 2000 Sites with a coast line of 100 km with 22 Lagoons, several smaller and larger freshwater lakes and river deltas – it is one of the largest wetland complexes in the whole Mediterranean. The board and the staff of the National Park will host the meetings of the workshop in the information centre of Keramoti.

Fondation de France

Fondation de France was established in 1969 to encourage the growth of private philanthropy as an intermediary partner. The foundation sets up action programs in many fields: solidarity, the elderly or disabled, and for the benefit of children. Fondation de France also promotes professionalism in the management of the voluntary sector in France and Europe.

GEYSER

French is a non-profit association founded in 1983, strengthening innovative social practices in rural areas.

Programme

Wednesday, 22 September 2010

Welcome

18:00	Arrival of participants
19:00	Check-in and dinner in Keramoti
20:00	Open evening

Thursday, 23 September 2010

Workshop Day I:

Overall situation & Stakeholder participation in Greece

8:00	Breakfast
9:00	<p>Welcome from the hosts - Introduction of programme</p> <p>Dr. Manos Koutrakis, President of Management Agency Nestos – Vistonis - Ismarida National Park – Host Organization</p> <p>Grigoris Triandafillidis, Mayor of Keramoti</p> <p>Savvas Michaelidis, Mayor of Hrysoupolis, Board Member of National Park</p> <p>Georgos Kardaras, President of Fishermens Cooperative</p> <p>Lasaros Kirkasiadis, President of EPO</p> <p>Dr. Tillmann Stottele, Global Nature Fund</p> <p>Dr. Titus Bahner, Forum Synergies</p> <p>Other Representatives</p> <p>☞ Dr. Manos Koutrakis, President of Management Agency Nestos-Vistonis-Ismarida National Park:</p> <p>Management of the Nestos-Vistonis-Ismarida National Park</p>
10:00	Coffee Break
10:30 (Session 1)	<p>Restoration of wetlands & lakes involving local stakeholders (presentations by local representatives)</p> <p>☞ Dr. Argiris Kallianiotis, Director, Fisheries Research Institute:</p> <p>Fisheries in Mediterranean Lagoons</p> <p>☞ Prof. Dr. Vassilis Tsichrintsis, Democritus University of Thrace:</p> <p>Technical Wetlands: Towards solving water quality problems</p> <p>☞ Ass. Prof. Dr. Gorgos Sylaios, Democritus University of Thrace:</p> <p>How to restore lagoons</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Moderation: Hans Jerrentrup (EPO)</p>

11:30 (Session 2)	<p>Self-presentation of participants: projects and topics</p> <p>Examples of agri-environmental measures, extensification of land use and restoration of habitats presented by workshop participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ivaylov Zafirov, Astrale, monitor LIFE projects: Restoration of wetlands in Bulgaria within EU Life+ projects ☞ Roman Guziak, Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne Etna: Lake restoration experiences from Poland ☞ Dr. Thomais Vlachogiannis, MIO-CSDE : Conservation of Mediterranean coastal-marine areas ☞ Dr. Karen Ross, Wilderness Foundation: Stakeholder involvement in lake preservation in Botswana <p>Discussion Moderation: Titus Bahner (FS)</p>
13:00	<p>Field Lunch near the Lakes of Hrysoupolis</p>
14:00	<p>Field trip</p> <p>The freshwater lakes near Hrysoupolis and the results of EPO's Life Actions guided by Hans Jerrentrup, EPO</p>
17:15	<p>Visit to EPO-Centre for environmental education in Avramilia and slides presentation: "Nature of the Nestos Region"</p> <p>Hans Jerrentrup (EPO)</p>
20:00	<p>Podium Discussion and Dinner together with Rotary Club of Kavala</p> <p>Representatives from authorities, science, fisheries and environment will discuss about the opportunities of sustainable development of lake regions; the local media will be invited.</p> <p>Dinner in Kavala with the Rotary Club of Kavala,.</p>
<p>Friday, 24 September 2010</p> <p>Workshop Day II:</p> <p>Participatory Development Options - European Experiences</p>	
8:00	<p>Breakfast</p>
9:00 (Session 3)	<p>Involving local stakeholders into management of lakes and wetlands</p> <p><i>Presentations of Examples from the participating countries and discussion</i></p> <p>How to implement the international and European legal framework for conservation and sustainable development. What are the weaknesses and what the strengths of the presented examples.</p> <p>Short presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ NN. Development Company of the Region of Kavala:

	<p>Agriculture-extensivisation - a chance for nature conservation</p> <p>☞ Ventzislav Vassile, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation: Stakeholder Involvement into Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Bulgaria</p> <p>☞ Ilias Michaelidis, Riverland: Sustainable tourism in protected areas.</p> <p>Discussion: Moderation: Tillmann Stottele (GNF) - Hans Jerrentrup (EPO)</p>
11:00	Coffee Break
11:30 (Session 4)	<p>NGOs and Stakeholder Participation in Other Lake Regions</p> <p>Presentations (10') and discussion under the context of what did we learn from other regions and what are the driving forces for success</p> <p>☞ Nenad Nikolic, Council of the local community Tomaševac (Serbia) Local authority and stakeholder involvement</p> <p>☞ Margit Saere, Lake Peipsi Foundation Stakeholder involvement on lake preservation in Estonia</p> <p>☞ Gwilym Wren, Milverton Parish Council / Natural England: Protected site management involving NGOs</p> <p>Moderation: Manos Koutrakis (NP-Authority) - Titus Bahner (FS)</p>
13:00	<p>Rustic lunch with the local fishermen from Keramoti</p> <p>Visit of the fishing installations and cooperative in Keramoti - open lunch with fish from the region. Local representatives and media will be invited.</p>
15:30 (Session 5)	<p>Capacity Building and Participatory Development in Lake Areas</p> <p>Group work</p> <p>Continuation of the project proposals of the 3rd. workshop in Slovenia: How can the project ideas become "functional projects"? Who will do what? How can we set up reasonable financing of the projects?</p> <p>Moderation: Tillmann Stottele (GNF) & Titus Bahner (FS)</p>
17:00	Coffee Break
17:30 (Session 6)	<p>Presentation of Group Results and Plenary Discussion</p> <p>on the European Context</p> <p>Moderation: Tillmann Stottele (GNF) & Titus Bahner (FS)</p>
20:00	Dinner in Keramoti
21:00	Open evening
<p>Saturday, 25 September 2010</p> <p>Workshop Day III: The Case for European Cooperation</p>	

8:00	Breakfast
9:00 (Session 7)	ARC - a message from civil society towards CAP reform 2013 <i>20' presentation and discussion</i> <p>Forum Synergies co-organizes the “Agricultural and Rural Convention” (www.arc2020.eu) to formulate a coherent message from civil society towards the ongoing reform of the EU common agricultural policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ update on policy context and the “state of the ARC” ☞ summarizing policy conclusions from our previous workshops ☞ what could be our message(s) to decision makers? <p><i>Titus Bahner (FS)</i></p>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Approaches to a better cooperation of lake-related NGOs in Europe <i>Discussion</i> <p>What is the future of our group? Should we set up a closer collaboration network? First thoughts about the final workshop in spring 2011.</p> <p><i>Moderation: Tillmann Stottele (GNF) & Titus Bahner (FS)</i></p>
12:00	Workshop Evaluation and Next Steps <p>Consolidation of workshop results and outlook to next workshop in France</p> <p><i>Moderation: Tillmann Stottele (GNF) & Titus Bahner (FS)</i></p>
13:00	Field Trip and Lunch <p>Nestos riparian forest area and sunset at the lagoons of Nestos Delta <i>guided by Hans Jerrentrup, EPO</i></p>
19:30	Dinner in Keramoti
21:00	Open evening
Sunday, 26 September 2010 Departure	
8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Departures

General Information

Time Zone	Central European Time = Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus 1 hour
Weather	The weather in the region in September is usually still very warm and sunny, giving the opportunity to do many things outdoor.
Workshop Language	The workshop language will be English.
Currency	Euro
Communication	The international code for Greece is +30. Mobile phone networks cover most areas.
Electricity	Voltage is 220 V, Plugs C & F. Information on adapters and plugs is available under http://kropla.com/electric2.htm

Address of Conference Venue

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