

Donor country European Union			
Project/programme title Sustainable Integrated Land Use of the Eurasian Steppes			
Purpose The project is designed to provide viable responses to the current pressures on steppe ecosystems and their biodiversity by addressing the key threats and negative trends hampering the sustainable development in the steppe zone of Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.			
Recipient country Moldova, Russia, Ukraine	Sector Forestry, biodiversity	Total funding €2.5 million	Years in operation 30 months (2007-2009)
Description <p>The project will develop and test a regional approach at trans-boundary level to both protect existing steppe areas and restore steppes for fauna and flora conservation as well as to provide more sustainable livelihood. Since the project cannot solve all problems, TACIS inputs are meant to provide “seed-money” with which good initiatives can be funded and best international practices demonstrated, in pilot manner, in trans-boundary pilot demonstration areas. Replications of successful examples will be invited as a follow-up by new and additional funding.</p> <p>The specific objectives of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to increase sustainable land use in wetland, steppe and forest steppe ecosystems; ▪ to restore and use abandoned land, and improve management of privatised areas; ▪ to mobilize financial resources through, e.g., carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction through the provision of alternative energy; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to mainstream biodiversity concerns into rural land use policy and practice at the regional, national and local levels; and ▪ to encourage cross border cooperation between states. 			
Indicate factors that led to project's success <p>The overall results of the project are two fold:</p> <p>1. The sustainable use of biodiversity assets that contribute to rural poverty reduction and increase economic growth is in place. This result will have the following outcomes: i) holistically managed steppe landscape; ii) local economic benefits, linked to sustainable steppe use and rural poor livelihood generation; iii) appropriate alternative agricultural practices, based on increased land productivity; iv) viable rural populations; v) sustainable, ecologically friendly community business activities; vi) harmonised policy development; vii) increased uptake of opportunities at government level; viii) a shift towards commercial pro-biodiversity business taking out loans.</p> <p>2. The conservation and restoration of a globally significant ecosystem at a regional level is taken up. This result will have the following outcomes: i) restored and managed natural wetland, steppe and forest-steppe complexes; ii) maintenance of key species; iii) increased biodiversity and reconnected migratory species routes; iv) a regional ecological network at strategic level; v) reduced threat of desertification; vi) less biodiversity-destructive practices; vii) harmonised policy development; and viii) increased financial incentives for steppe maintenance and restoration.</p>			
Technology transferred Renewable energy technologies			
Impact on greenhouse gas emissions/sinks A positive impact has been made through this project but it is currently not measurable			