



Supported by the European Union LIFE Nature Programme

Tisza project, Hungary

“Produce biodiversity!”

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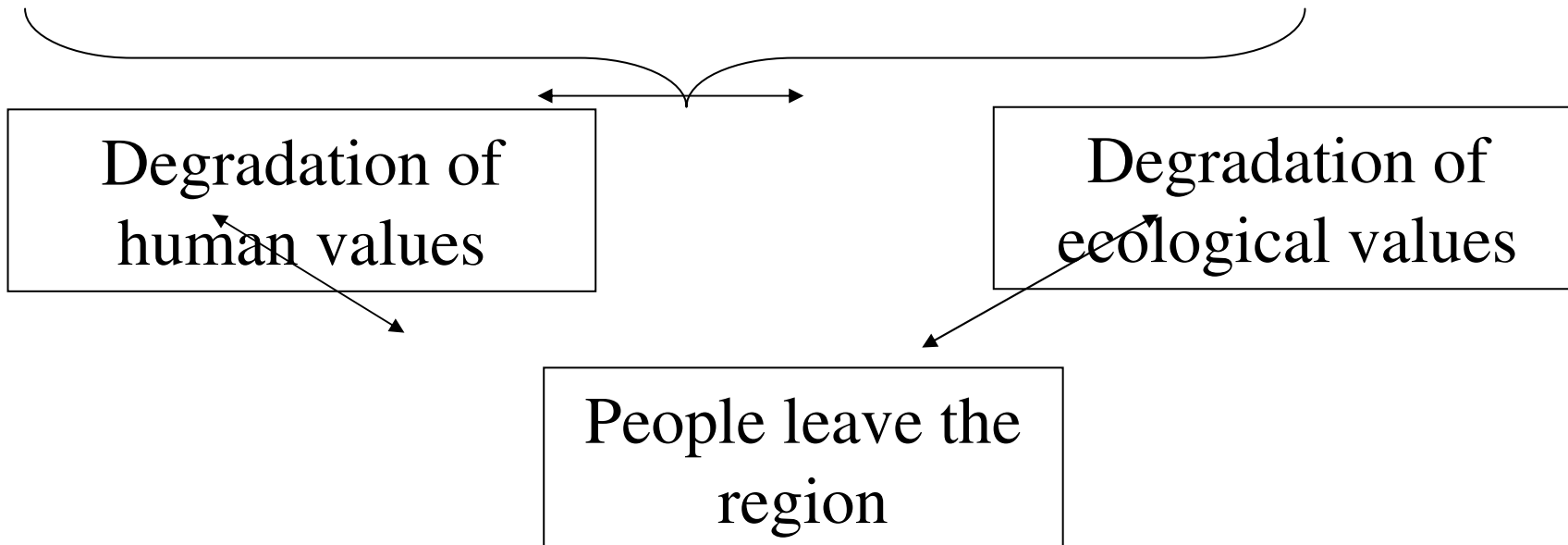
Project region: Tisza river

main characteristics

- huge catchment area
- from the mountains to the plain (meanders, huge floodplain with shallow water)
- small soil particles (clay, loess)
- elevations (max. 12 m variance)
- flood pattern
- habitats
- 95% from abroad \Rightarrow quantity, quality

Flood – blessing or evil?

- flood – water on surface – draught
- agri-economic situation
- socio-economic factor



River regulation works

- to gain agricultural fields and for flood safety
- for fastest water downtaking
- since 1846
- shortcut of river bends (900 km to 600 km)
- embankment

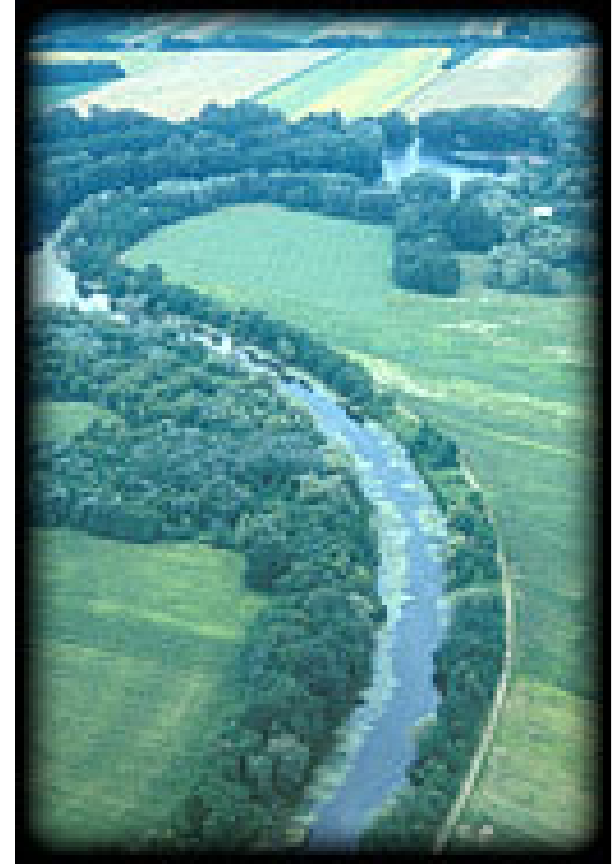


Impacts of river regulation works

- deepening riverbed (higher slope)
- high water level fluctuation (12 m)
- loss of floodplain habitats (40% to 2%)
- nutrients cannot be deposited
- bad land use: space loss due to arables and tree plantations, more chemicals, deforestation, spills

Other coinciding factors:

- weather extremes
- higher roughness in the active floodplain



Aim of the Tisza project

Integrated programme targeting flood,
agriculture and people
(hydrology, land use and management)



nature conservation

“Make other people do nature conservation for
us!”

Possible solution:

Taking nature as a base

- more space for the river
- saving water from spring to summer
- land conversion from arable to extensive
- more diversity of land use forms
- taking back old varieties and technologies and adapt to today's needs
- people are needed to take care of the landscape and habitats

Something promising:

National governmental programme for flood prevention
and rural development

Activities

POLICY AND FIELD ACTIVITY

- habitat restoration on model sites
- lobby for Agri-env. P., CAP, WFD, N2K
- forums and trainings for local stakeholders
- creating suitable market environment and demand for products

Partners

- authorities (national park directorates, local water management authorities and environmental inspectorates)
- municipalities
- farmer('s unions)
- business sector (processing, commercials)
- scientific sector
- media

Results

- habitats restored and used as demo
- magnification and multiplication
- safe background (supportive EU and national policies)
- operating local networks and interactions with higher levels



