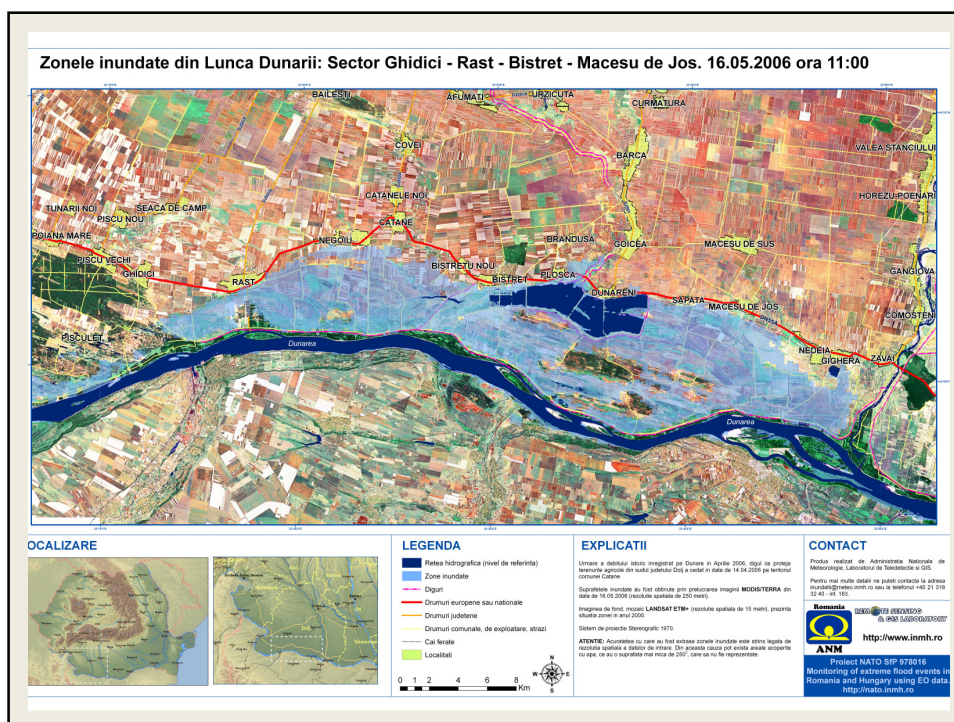
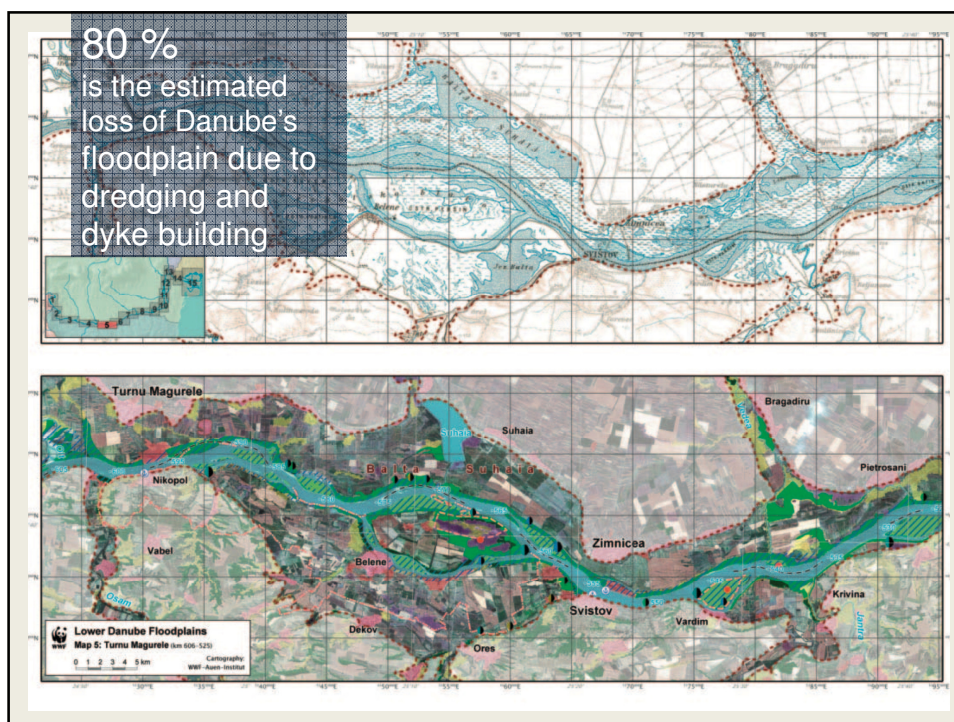




WWF

- 1. WWF's experiences in wetland restoration in Romania**
- 2. Challenges and recommendations**
- 3. Conclusions**



Geraiului marsh

Restoration of 1000 ha of marsh in the Danube's active floodplain.



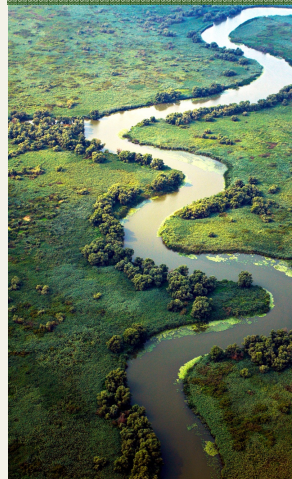
Garla Mare

630 ha of marsh to be reconnected to the Danube flood pulse.



Mahmudia

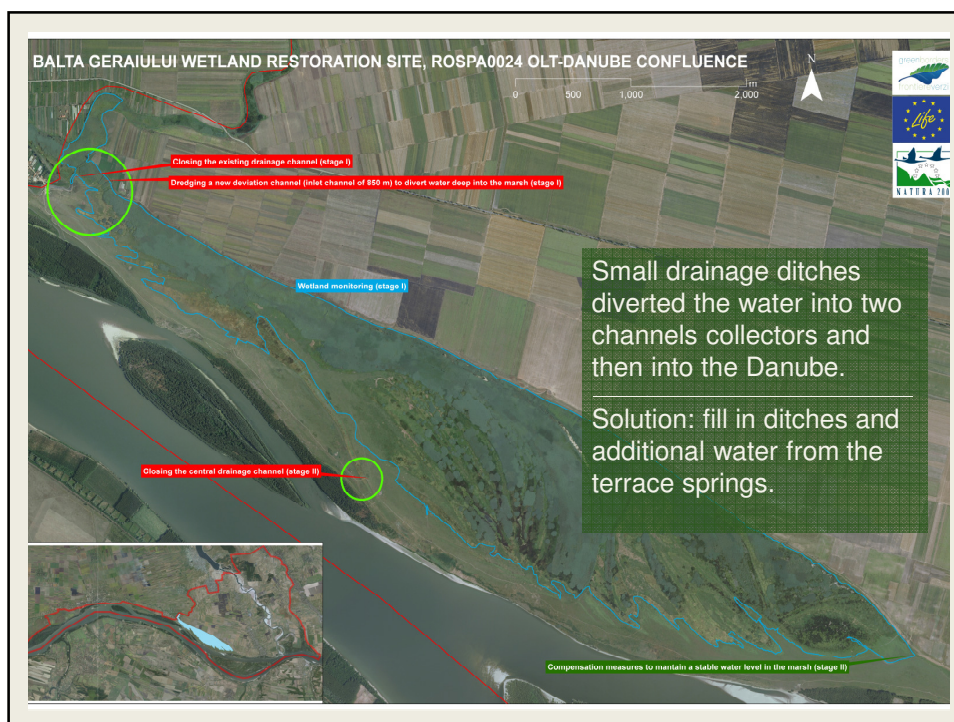
935 ha of arable polder to be given back to the Danube Delta.



Balta Geraiului

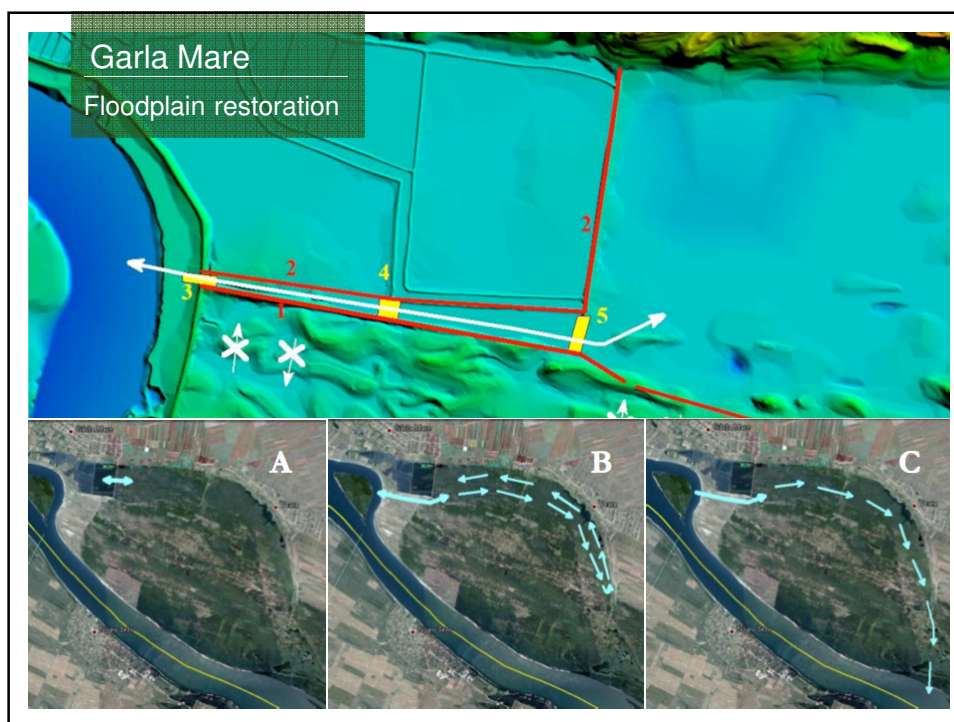
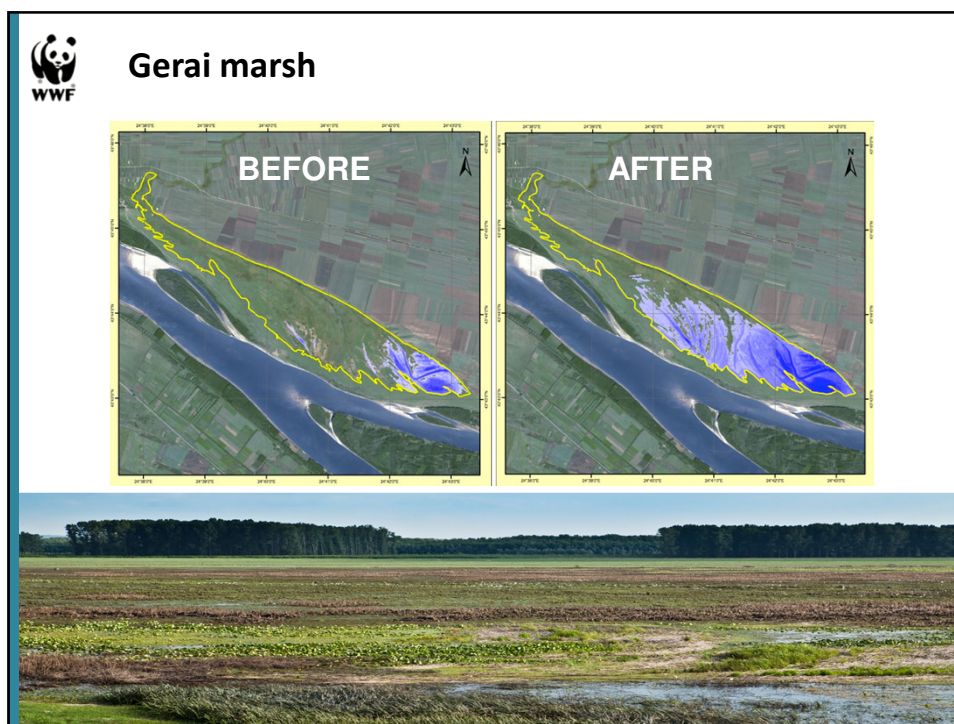
Flooding of the area

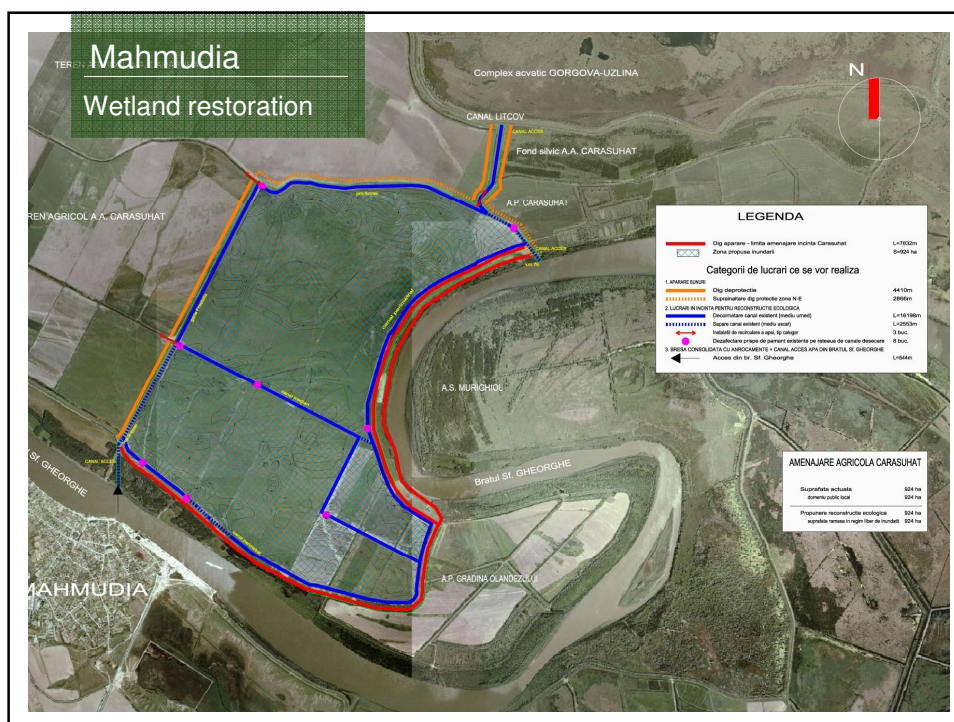














2. Main challenges and recommendations

1. General:

- **Floodplains = water + biodiversity + people = multiple benefits + divided responsibilities** (administration and financing) **⇒ establish a national strategic approach to manage the wetlands (law)**
- **Reconstruction = process of changes** (ecosystems, land use, possible owners) = **time + money + expertise** **⇒ develop a national programme / action plan for wetland reconstruction; financial mechanisms and incentives for landowners; prioritization approach.**
- **Action = wiliness + knowledge** **⇒ best practices / guidelines + political support for wetland reconstruction; analyse knowledge gaps**



2. Main challenges and recommendations

2. Site specific

- Specific solutions for each site, adapted to local socio-economic context and different interest **⇒ detailed studies on socio-economic context for each project area, site specific solutions considering local/regional/national socio-economic context; promote integrated solutions including local interests.**
- Benefits of ecosystems restoration should be included in the costs – benefits analysis **⇒ studies regarding ecosystem services on project area; monitoring of the sites;**



Main conclusions

Restoration is a complex process that requires approval and cooperation of land owners, compensation mechanisms and strong spatial planning instruments.

The majority of floodplain restoration projects implemented so far have, in most of the cases, involved non-complex land ownership aspects and were limited to single sites.

Recent policy shifts require a larger-scale and integrated approach to restoration, which increases the number of stakeholders and, at the same time, increases the complexity of the schemes.



Main conclusions

Floodplain restoration is also dependent on the success in changing the traditional attitudes regarding flood defense practice, which are still very persistent and encouraged through funding.

Institutions have to manage all the stakeholders and interests, putting in place the right regulations, laws, planning instruments and funding mechanisms that could assure the equity and legitimacy of the environmental decisions related to floodplain restoration.

The institutions that have permitted in the past the use of floodplains for settlements, flood defense infrastructure or agriculture, are now asked to restore them, which calls for complex institutional reforms, but also for a mind shift and a totally new approach on flood and river management.



Thank you

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+100

WWF is in over
100 countries, on
5 continents

1961

WWF was founded
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+5000

WWF has over
5,000 staff
worldwide

+5M

WWF has over
5 million supporters

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