



1. Project Data:		Date Posted : 08/09/2001									
PROJ ID: P008689		Appraisal	Actual								
Project Name : Romania Gef Danube Delta Biodiversity Project	Project Costs (US\$M)	4.80	4.50								
Country: Romania	Loan/Credit (US\$M)										
Sector(s): Board: ENV - Central government administration (55%), General agriculture fishing and forestry sector (42%), Other social services (3%)	Cofinancing (US\$M)	4.50	4.30								
L/C Number:											
	Board Approval (FY)		95								
Partners involved : GEF	Closing Date	06/30/2000	06/30/2000								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prepared by :</td> <td>Reviewed by :</td> <td>Group Manager :</td> <td>Group:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John C. English</td> <td>Patrick G. Grasso</td> <td>Alain A. Barbu</td> <td>OEDST</td> </tr> </table>				Prepared by :	Reviewed by :	Group Manager :	Group:	John C. English	Patrick G. Grasso	Alain A. Barbu	OEDST
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John C. English	Patrick G. Grasso	Alain A. Barbu	OEDST								
2. Project Objectives and Components a. Objectives To protect Romanian delta ecosystems, through contributing to the conservation of biodiversity within the Delta and strengthening the capacity of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA) and of the Danube Delta National Institute (DDNI). b. Components 1. Institutional strengthening of the Ecological Wardens Department of DDBRA, to support nature protection, surveys, public awareness and nature interpretation in the Delta . (Original cost estimate, \$1.5 million, final cost, \$1.8 million) 2. Monitoring, through improved population and species inventories, resource surveys, and development of an integrated database using GIS technology, to provide the basis for the development of resource management plans . This work was primarily carried out by DDNI. (\$0.64 million : \$1.14 million) 3. Pilot polder restoration to natural conditions, and reed restoration research . (\$0.575 million : \$0.27 million) 4. Ecosystems restoration. (\$1.18 million : \$0.81 million) 5. Public awareness and community involvement, including support to the DDBRA wardens department to work with schools and local communities and to produce materials, and support to local NGOs to enable them to expand their awareness activities. (\$0.155 million : \$0.24 million) 6. Regional initiatives, coordination and management assistance . (\$0.19 million : \$0.24 million) c. Comments on Project Cost, Financing and Dates Project expenditures were reasonably close to appraisal estimates . The principal changes were a decrease in expenditure on polder and ecosystems restoration when initial efforts at reed restoration were highly successful and further investigation was scaled back, and it was decided that proposed fish protection would not yield sufficient results from a short term effort to justify it. Expenditure on the monitoring component in support of DDNI was increased to finance additional equipment and support an increase program of international collaboration and training.											
3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives: The overall objective of the project was achieved in a satisfactory manner .											

4. Significant Outcomes/Impacts:

The capacities of both DDBRA and DDNI to carry out their mandates was strengthened and the project assisted them to work together to identify development priorities for the Danube Delta based on economic and environmental sustainability, to develop strategic and operational approaches to biodiversity monitoring, wetland restoration and building public support and awareness of the needs and opportunities for conservation of the delta ecosystems, and to work with local communities and foster international cooperation in support of conservation objectives..

5. Significant Shortcomings (including non-compliance with safeguard policies):

There were no significant shortcomings.

6. Ratings:	ICR	OED Review	Reason for Disagreement /Comments
Outcome :	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Institutional Dev .:	High	Substantial	A 'high' rating in the OED review requires that the "project as a whole made a <i>critical</i> contribution to the country's /region's ability to use human, financial, and natural resources" OED rates this as 'substantial' on the grounds that the contribution of the project has been <i>significant</i> rather than <i>critical</i> in this regard.
Sustainability :	Likely	Likely	
Bank Performance :	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Borrower Perf .:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Quality of ICR :		Satisfactory	

NOTE: ICR rating values flagged with '*' don't comply with OP/BP 13.55, but are listed for completeness.

7. Lessons of Broad Applicability:

Collaboration for conservation and environmental management across international boundaries can be effectively fostered by parallel but independent projects.

8. Assessment Recommended? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Why? To investigate cross border aspects of management and conservation of cross border deltas and focus on interactions between this project and the Ukraine Danube Delta project.

9. Comments on Quality of ICR:

The ICR provides a satisfactory review of project performance, but does have some significant shortcomings.

- Supporting data in the annexes is limited and, in particular, the data presented in Annex 4 on Bank inputs is confusing and does not indicate the number, staffing and timing of missions undertaken. The performance indicators are meaningless as presented.
- The aide-memoire from the completion mission is also not included.