



## **The preparations and preconditions of the restoration of the Danube floodplains in the Danube-Drava National Park, Hungary**

E.A. Tamás (1), Gy. Buzetzky (1), G. Eichhardt (1), B. Kalocsa (2), L. Szlávik (1), J. Sziebert (1), A. Varga (1), and L. Zellei (1)

(1) Eötvös József College TEF, Institute of Hydraulic engineering and Water management, Baja, Hungary, (2) Lower Danube-valley Environmental and Water management Authority, Baja, Hungary

The largest floodplain area of the Central Danube between flow km 1503 and 1433 in Hungary is a nature protection area since 1977. It comprises almost 300 sq km of alluvial forests, dead riverbranches, meadows, reedbeds and agricultural areas. Experts working in the area first realised a consequent drying of the area in 1989, which later was proven to happen due to the riverbed deepening of the Danube, and the prominent sediment aggradation in the floodplain.

The first initiative which targeted a possible wetland reconstruction in the area was started in 1992 in frame of the Dutch-Hungarian Co-operation on Water management: „Floodplain Rehabilitation Gemenc” – „The Stork Plan”. It was immediately followed by the Vén-Duna – Nyéki holt-Duna wetland reconstruction feasibility study, which focussed on the central and very characteristic part of the study area. Based on this, the implementation of the Vén-Duna – Cserta - Nyéki wetland reconstruction started in 1998 and was followed by a few years of monitoring. In 2001, a GEF World Bank project was submitted in order to decrease the nutrient load of the Danube river through the improvement of inundation frequency and durability of the floodplains in our study area. After the approval of the project, a new feasibility study was elaborated – now comprising the whole area – and the technical planning of the reconstruction works is currently underway.

In our presentation we would like to introduce the lessons we learned during the past two decades in relation to floodplain hydrology, ecology, hydro-ecology, hydraulics, monitoring and other aspects of floodplain management.