



#NaturaEAcasa

WWF-România

Fondul Mondial pentru Natură



**ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF LANDS
BELONGING TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN OF
MAHMUDIA LOCAL COUNCIL, WITHIN THE
CARASUHAT ENCLOSURE IN THE DANUBE
DELTA
- 2012 / 2016 -**



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The inhabitants of Mahmudia, with the support of WWF-Romania and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, initiated and implemented a project to restore the aquatic ecosystems in the Carasuhat agricultural area.

Ecological restoration in Mahmudia

The preparation period of the reconstruction project lasted until 2012 and between 2012 and 2016 the project "Ecological reconstruction of lands belonging to the public domain of Mahmudia Local Council, within the Carasuhat enclosure in the Danube Delta" was implemented, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the framework of the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013, under the funding contract no. 128266/01.03.2012. The project was worth about 4 million EURO and was signed between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change as Managing Authority of POS Environment and the Local Council of Mahmudia Municipality as beneficiary.



The project has reconnected 924 ha of agricultural land to the natural circuit by restoring the hydrological system, creating conditions for the development of 18 natural habitats protected at European level through the Natura 2000 network and at the same time reducing by 2.3% the agricultural area of the Danube Delta.

Video of the ecological restoration in Mahmudia





MAIN WORKS

The main works carried out concern ecological reconstruction works (reprofiling, desiltation of marshlands, canals, etc.) and hydrotechnical works for the protection of assets, especially agricultural land in the vicinity (construction of a protective dyke, raising the dyke, etc.).

Just 2 months after the end of the project, the area which a few years ago was agricultural land began to be visited by many water birds, including pelicans which come here to feed.

PROJECT RESULTS

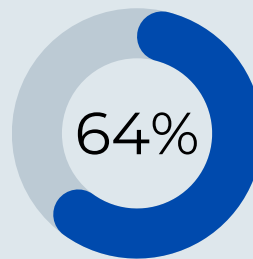
The monitoring campaigns show the success of the reconstruction work: 77 bird species were identified in the 2022 monitoring campaign with over 7000 individuals estimated on the 924ha area. More than 10 other physical and chemical parameters (nutrients, turbidity, flow, etc.) have been monitored through various research projects involving research institutes in Romania and other European countries.



Benefits for the local community

Even though the objectives of the project were initially directly related to protected species and habitats, the inhabitants of Mahmudia commune have directly benefited from the restoration of the delta. The availability of European funds for tourism development and the presence of the reconstructed area were seen as opportunities for investment in tourism, so after 2016 the number of accommodations doubled.

GROWING TOURISM



Members of the local community think that the accelerated tourism is due to the ecological reconstruction project.

According to a socio-economic survey conducted in 2021, 64% of Mahmudia residents believe that the development of tourism is largely and very largely due to the ecological reconstruction project.

