



#NaturaEAcasa

WWF-România

Fondul Mondial pentru Natură

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY IN MAHMUDIA

- 2023 -



ABOUT THE STUDY

Residents of the Mahmudia commune enthusiastically support the nature restoration projects of the former wetlands, as indicated by the results of a sociological study.

In August 2023, WWF-Romania, in collaboration with a team of researchers, conducted a comprehensive quantitative sociological study in the Mahmudia commune. The purpose of this study was to assess the level of awareness, attitudes, behaviors, and needs of the residents regarding ecological reconstruction actions for the former ponds. Additionally, the study aimed to provide a better understanding of how the locals perceive socio-ecological transformations preceding the reconstruction processes and the capacity of the community to actively benefit from these changes. The study's results are highly encouraging, offering a vibrant perspective on the community's support for these crucial projects.



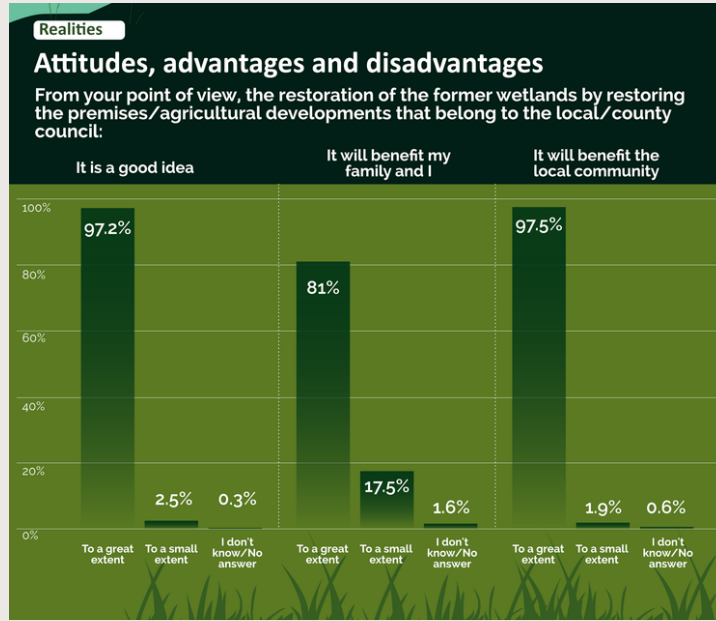
Methodology

A probabilistic sample was used, and face-to-face questionnaires were administered to 322 respondents from the adult population of the Mahmudia commune. The margin of error was 5%, with a confidence level of 95%.

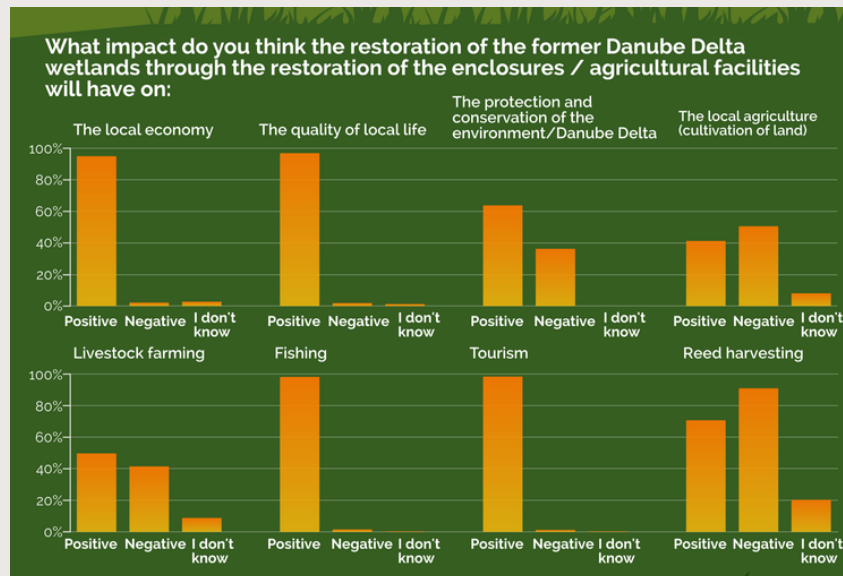


KEY FINDINGS

- In the Mahmudia commune, the majority of residents are aware of proposals for the renaturation of agricultural areas, and over 97% of Mahmudia residents support the restoration of wetland areas. Furthermore, 4 out of 5 locals anticipate direct benefits for themselves and their families, while an overwhelming majority anticipates benefits for the entire community.

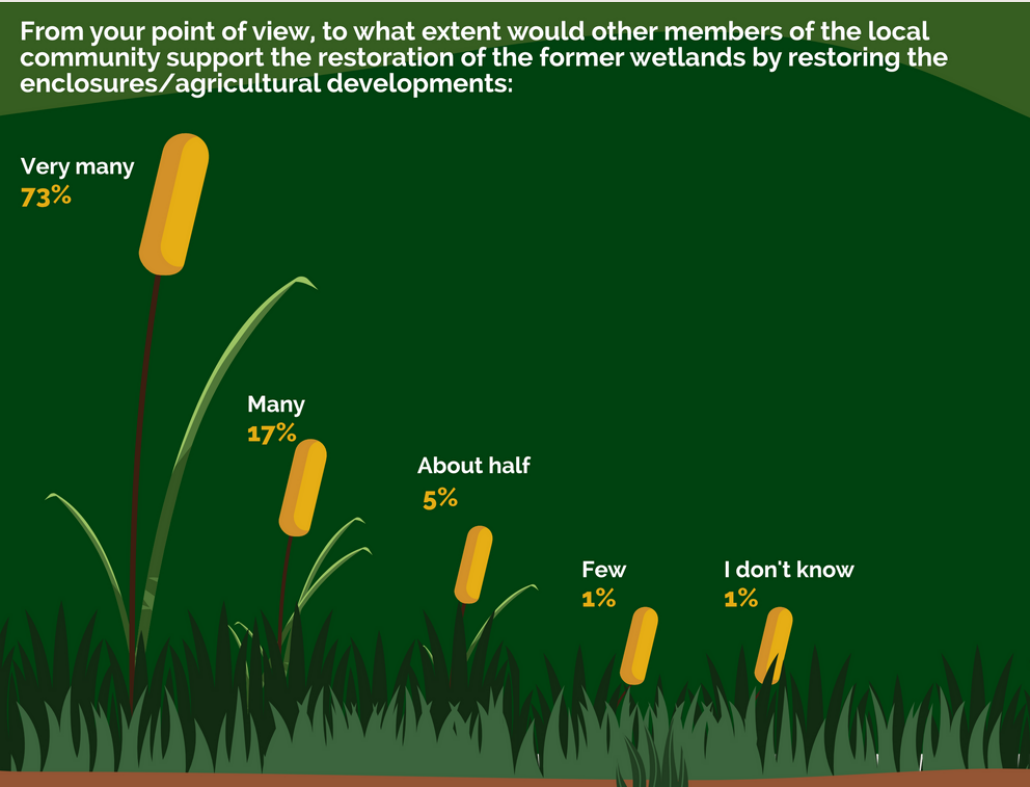
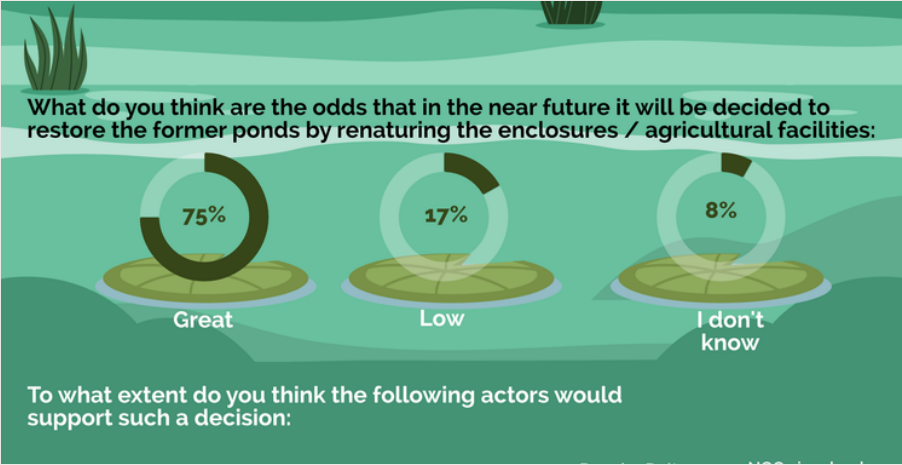


- Residents appreciate a significantly positive impact on tourism development, fishing, quality of life, and the local economy. There is also significant interest in reed exploitation and environmental protection.



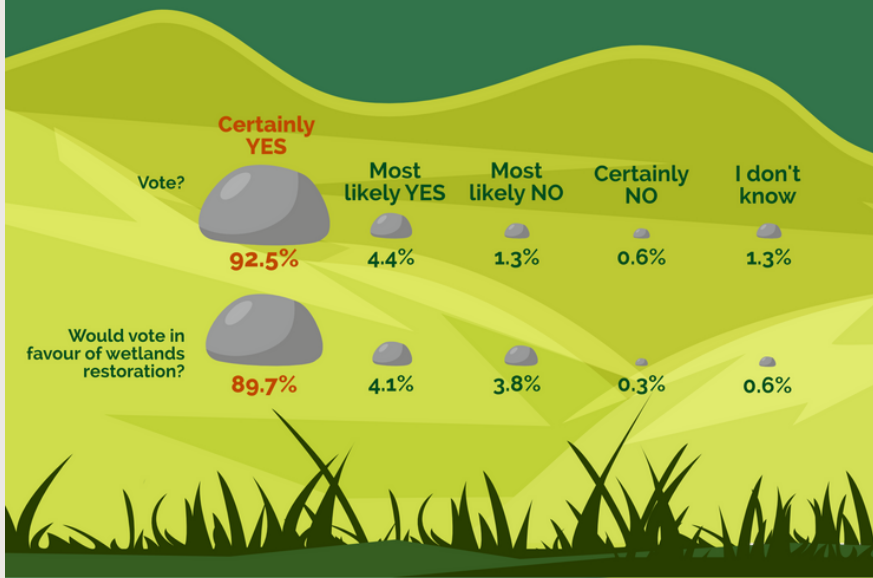


- Over 90% of respondents believe that the majority of the community would support a renaturation project, and three-quarters of locals are optimistic about its realization in the near future.



- A remarkable number of respondents, over 92%, declared their willingness to participate in a local referendum, with almost 90% voting "YES" in favor of restoring the ponds.

If a referendum were held next week on whether to restore the old wetlands in the CARASUHAT agricultural enclosure, you would:



- Mahmudia residents have faith in the support of the Municipality, Local Council, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, fishermen's associations, tourism operators, and environmental NGOs.



The study results reflect an extraordinary level of local community support for renaturation projects near Mahmudia, both in discourse and in terms of potential active involvement in the process. Residents of Mahmudia are not only informed and engaged but also passionate about environmental protection and biodiversity conservation in the Danube Delta. They strongly believe that restoring the former ponds is the path to the future, and this belief is evident not only in words but also in their desire to actively participate. This passion and commitment provide a real source of optimism and a solid foundation for future ecological reconstruction actions.

We invite you to share these results and get involved in supporting nature restoration projects. The Mahmudia community demonstrates that together, we can build a thriving future for both people and nature.