



COUNTRY PROGRAMME LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR THE SATOYAMA INITIATIVE (COMDEKS)

SLOVAK REPUBLIC



October 2012

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SUMMARY

The “Community Development and Knowledge Management for the *Satoyama* Initiative” (COMDEKS) priority area in Slovakia is located in the north-eastern part of the Východoslovenská nížina Lowland (Eastern Slovakia Lowland), in the Latorica river basin. The territory is defined by the river Laborec in the west, by the river Uh in the south, by the Veľké Revištia – Bežovce canal in the east and by the southern dam of Zemplínska Šírava lake in the north. The area is 40,242.14 ha large and includes 35 municipalities with 22,742 inhabitants in total (as of 31 December 2010). The region is of rural character and has a relatively low population density.

The area was selected as a COMDEKS pilot landscape mainly due to its biodiversity and hydrological values, as well as due to the fact that the priority area ranks among the most underdeveloped Slovak regions in terms of its social, economic, agricultural, and ecological aspects. For these reasons, UNDP has provided long-term engagement and systematic support to this territory in previous years. The COMDEKS activities in Slovakia are expected to build on the lessons learned, the networks of partners and stakeholders and the strengthened institutions resulting from these previous efforts.

In the long-term, the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy for Slovakia aims to increase resilience of natural ecosystems and human production systems through partnership-based community activities which promote eco-system functions and increase landscape diversity. In the priority area – the Laborec and Uh basin area – the aim is mainly to improve the water quality and hydrologic regime in order to retain water in the landscape, to revitalize and manage (semi-)natural eco-systems, as well as to promote production of traditional products and services in harmony with local resources and conditions.

Four Outcomes have been defined for the area:

- Outcome 1: Enhanced livelihoods through the development of small-scale production activities and businesses using local resources
- Outcome 2: Improved ecosystem services through integrated water management and landscape regeneration
- Outcome 3: Strengthened agricultural production that promotes agrobiodiversity and landscape resilience through sustainable practices and systems
- Outcome 4: Strengthened multistakeholder participatory decisionmaking at the landscape level for greater resilience

Outcomes, defined herein, will be fulfilled by individual projects, which have to be:

- Intersectoral – their environmental, social, and economic benefits have to be clearly defined;
- Innovative – new and innovative models / traditional methods revival will be assessed;
- Sustainable – ownership, potential policy influence, institutional strengthening, capacity building, cost-effectiveness need to be demonstrated;
- Replicable – project activities must be replicable in similar conditions.



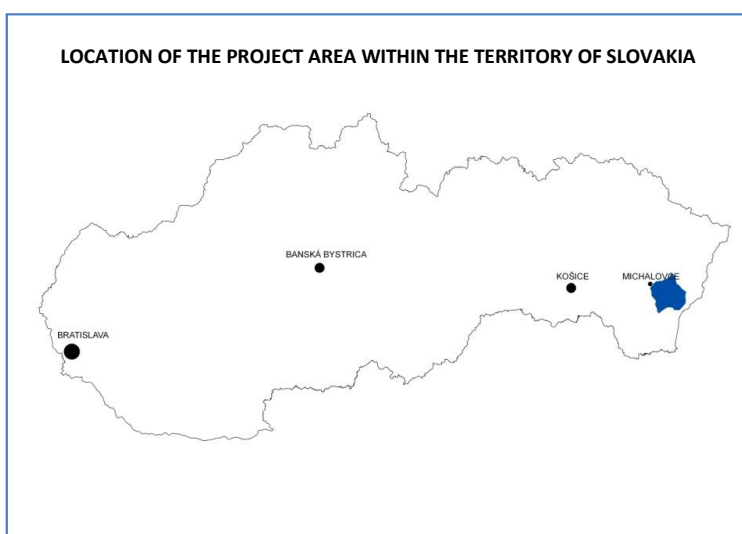
Knowledge management, exchange of gained experience – both successful and unsuccessful examples, as well as replication of technical and managerial approaches and stressing of cultural, behavioural, and motivational reasons/aspects of interest groups all represent important aspects of COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy. Implementers of each supported project are expected to contribute to the generation and documentation of best practices and experience gained. A replication workshop will form a mandatory activity of each project.

1. TARGET AREA

In Slovakia, the “Community Development and Knowledge Management for the *Satoyama* Initiative” (COMDEKS) priority area is located in the north-eastern part of the Východoslovenská nížina Lowland (Eastern Slovakia Lowland), in the Latorica river basin. The territory is defined by the river Laborec in the west, by the river Uh in the south, by the Veľké Revištia – Bežovce canal in the east and by the southern dam of Zemplínska Šírava lake in the north.

The area ([Annex 1](#), [Map 1](#)) is 40,242.14 ha large and includes 35 municipalities with 22,742 inhabitants in total (as of 31 December 2010). It is located in Košice Self-governing Region and belongs to two districts – Michalovce and Sobrance districts.

The region is of rural character and has a relatively low population density. The target area is dominated by smaller municipalities; there are no large towns or cities. The largest municipality in the area is Pavlovce nad Uhom, which has 4,532 citizens. The town of Michalovce, with 39,322 inhabitants (as of 31 December 2010) is located in an immediate vicinity of the priority area, close to its north-western border.



There is almost no industry in the target area and the territory is used mainly for agricultural activities. Dominating types of land-use are arable land, meadows, grasslands and fishponds. Close vicinity of the town of Michalovce gives local citizens a chance to find jobs in industry or services. However, high unemployment rates are typical for both districts, in which the priority area is located – in Sobrance district the unemployment rate is 22.33% and in Michalovce district it is 19.40% (data for 2011, the national average is 13.16%). Close vicinity of 3 state borders – Ukrainian, Hungarian and Polish – is a regional advantage. It is especially the closeness of Ukraine that can potentially play an important role in the area development in near future. In the future, the geopolitical location of the region could result in this most underdeveloped region becoming a focus of business investment. It is most important that this region is well-prepared for this possibility and avoids possible negative impacts. Fishponds form a small yet economically very important part of the land resources. A strong fish farming tradition and favourable conditions for spreading of fish farming, pisciculture, sport fishing, and related activities (bird watching, water sports, etc.) all represent comparative advantages of this region.

The area forms a part of the Východoslovenská nížina Lowland (Eastern Slovakia Lowland) and is located in its north-eastern part. The priority area is a depression, where internal excess water from the basin area must be drained by a dense network of drainage ditches and melioration canals and must be pumped out to watercourses to leave the area. In the past, before the melioration activities were carried out and the said watercourses were regulated, various types of forests covered the priority area – softwood alluvial forests with high groundwater levels or with water bursting onto the surface (alders, willows, poplar trees, etc.) and hardwood bottomland forests on elevated places with dominating common oak presence. Today, remnant forest can only be found in the south-eastern part of the priority area – around the Stretávka, Tašula and Krista locations. Water and wetland ecosystems were important as well as the places which were not flooded or the usage of which was possible even with periodically occurring floods were used for agricultural activities. Currently, the area is being used for agricultural production. Natural ecosystems were almost completely eliminated due to radical changes in land-use in the past and only fractional remains of the original biotopes have been preserved.

The target area is located at the edge of a territory severely polluted from former production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in the town of Strážske (located 17 km away). PCB production has already been phased out, yet the negative impact persists due to long-term contamination. As a result of deforestation, intense melioration measures, and large scale agriculture, as well as due to the small number of bio corridors and bio centres, the landscape of the target area has a low level of ecological stability. Thus, all these areas are “vulnerable”.

The territory is of major ecological importance: within the meaning of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention), Senné fishponds were listed as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar site Senné – rybníky). This Ramsar site is located in the Senné depression, which used to be an extensively flooded wetland of the Východoslovenská nížina Lowlands (Eastern Slovakia Lowlands). Moreover, the site is also located on a major waterfowl migration route. The Ramsar site includes the National Nature Reserve (213.31 ha), which was declared in 1974, and its protection zone (211.28 ha). In the area, 145 bird species have been documented, of which 5 species are globally endangered and 53 species are endangered in Europe.

The area was selected as a COMDEKS pilot landscape mainly due to its biodiversity and hydrological values, as well as its ranking as one of the most underdeveloped Slovak regions in terms of its social, economic, agricultural, and ecological aspects. As such, UNDP has provided significant support in previous years through a UNDP-GEF project “Integration of Principles and Practices of Ecological Management into the Land and Water Management in Východoslovenská nížina Lowland” which has introduced integrated ecosystem management principles and methods. The COMDEKS activities in Slovakia are expected to build on the lessons learned, the networks of partners and stakeholders, and the strengthened institutions resulting from the project.

A number of results important for the area were achieved through the UNDP-GEF project:

- A territorial public-private partnership was formalised in the form of the establishment of the civic association “Medzi riekami”, which, apart from its other activities, has successfully

implemented a number of rounds of the Microgrant Program* called “Partnership Support in our Region”, the aim of which was to support activities organized by the inhabitants of the project priority area (Laborec – Uh) contributing to the development of this territory;

- Plans of Economic and Social Development (PESD) of municipalities and micro-regions were prepared or revised, as well as other landscape planning documents;
- An Integrated Local Development Strategy - which provides valuable baseline for this landscape strategy - has been prepared in cooperation with local stakeholders and in accordance with the principles of the EU LEADER program.

With the involvement of experts, the following documents of relevance for the target area were prepared:

- Integrated River Sub-Basin Management Plan for Čierna voda, including measures for the improvement of water quality and quantity;
- Protected Bird Area Senné rybníky Management Plan;
- Methodology for Revitalisation of Natural Floodplain Habitats with the proposed land-use change for low-quality agricultural land;
- Feasibility Study on the Alternative Waste-Water Treatment in Čierna Voda Basin Area;
- Business plans for environmentally friendly economic activities.

Of the proposed measures, the following were implemented: Žiarovický canal gate reconstruction - securing water supply for Senné Fishponds protected area, renewal of hydrologic regime on 1,330 ha – low-cost measures implemented for drainage ditches, revitalisation of floodplain meadows on 34 ha, reforestation of 8ha under implementation.

In terms of philosophy and priorities, the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the *Satoyama* Initiative (COMDEKS) and the SGP Country Programme Strategy for the Slovak Republic for the 5th Operational Phase are aligned.

The SGP OP 5 main objectives are:

- Objective 1: Promote improved activities for the conservation of landscapes and mainstream biodiversity conservation
- Objective 2: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low-GHG technologies at the community level
- Objective 3: Promote energy efficient, low-GHG transport at the community level
- Objective 4: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry

* The microgrant scheme has been established under the UNDP/GEF Laborec-Uh project. The civic association Medzi riekami is the administrator of the scheme. Key local stakeholders and technical experts of the partners of UNDP/GEF Laborec-Uh project are the members of the selection committee. They were nominated by the supervisory body of the UNDP/GEF Laborec-Uh project. During a first call of proposals, microgrants were financed from the UNDP/GEF Laborec-Uh project budget, in the later calls co-financing from local stakeholders was mobilized. The last call in 2011 was fully financed from locally mobilized resources (mostly contribution of municipalities). With the project phasing out the management of the scheme is fully taken over by the civic association Medzi riekami. In total, 17 microprojects in 3 calls were disbursed, amounting in total 13.540 EUR. Out of that, 10% was the contribution of local resources. In 2012 there was no call open due to lack of funds, however the mobilization continues and the civic association Medzi riekami plans to continue the operation of the microgrant scheme. The scheme significantly contributed to the mobilization of different groups of stakeholders and resulted in the creation of local partnerships and networks that plan and implement joint small-scale local actions.

Objective 5: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities

Objective 6: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses in the wider landscape

Objective 7: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives

In Slovakia, SGP in its 5th Operation Phase supports projects which promote an integrated approach to problem solving while at the same time focusing on improvement of rural communities' life conditions.

The main objective of COMDEKS is to promote and support community initiatives in selected landscapes (production landscapes) to maintain and revitalize landscapes in accordance with the following perspectives:

- Resource use within the carrying capacity and resilience of the environment
- Cyclic use of natural resources
- Recognition of the value and importance of local traditions and cultures
- Natural resource management by various participating and cooperating entities
- Contributions to local socio-economies

Additionally, analysis of project outcomes, disseminated of knowledge, replication of best practices, and inclusion of relevant findings in national strategies form an important aspect of the COMDEKS programme.

Both COMDEKS and SGP in Slovakia focus on:

- Integrated and systematic approach. This means that priority is given to projects which focus on more than one area to be improved (COMDEKS outcomes and SGP objectives);
- Supported projects focus on marginalized groups and promote their active involvement in the field of sustainable development.
- Linking biodiversity conservation, land degradation and reduction in vulnerability of forest and non-forest lands caused by climate change to generate multiple benefits for environment as well as for socio-economic development.
- Both programmes also include analysis and codification of the project and programme results to be used as a basis for replication in other parts of the world.

2. SITUATION ANALYSIS (THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES)

The programme will be implemented in one of the poorest Slovak regions, which ranks among the least developed regions in terms of:

1. Social aspect (high unemployment rate combined with poverty, problematic social and technical infrastructure, loss of traditional landscape elements);
2. Economic aspect (low GDP per capita, focus on agriculture due to the absence of industry);
3. Agricultural aspect (agricultural biodiversity under threat, insufficient diversity of agricultural activities, high level of dependence on natural resources and external inputs);
4. Ecological aspect (landscape eco-systems are threatened as a result of drainage and transformation of natural eco-systems into extensively used agricultural land).

The target area ranks among the regions with the highest unemployment rates in Slovakia. Its peripheral position, deterioration of agriculture, demography, lack of investments and, above all, lack of capable local entrepreneurs (small and medium enterprises in particular) coupled with other socio-economic factors has a very negative impact on the economic situation in this target region. In the majority of municipalities there has been a significant drop in the number of inhabitants over the last 15 years. Growth in the number of inhabitants can almost exclusively be seen in municipalities with large Roma communities. Negative changes are mainly caused by the lack of jobs in the region, low wages, low education level, and segregation of Roma communities which historically rank among the socially excluded groups of the Slovak population. At present, occupational profile of the population does not reflect the developmental needs of the region and the change in regional conditions. There is a lack of educational and training programmes for adults (life-long learning, etc.) in the region aimed at improving labour market or business opportunities. Similar to other disadvantaged regions, departure of educated and skilled youth from the region is a major and persisting problem.

The region is traditionally agricultural and pastoral. Even today, the most important economic activity is agriculture. Low-fertility soils with high groundwater levels prevail in the region, which has a major impact on the productivity of agriculture – in the target area, agricultural productivity is lower than the national average.

However, in the past few years arable land has been mostly used for growing crops subsidized by the main EU agrarian support schemes (wheat, barley, corn, sunflower, soya), including canola for bio-fuels production, which represents a widespread trend with negative environmental results as canola requires extensive care and agrochemicals.

Growers of alternative and less typical crops suitable for lower-quality land are missing in the region. Cattle raising and beef cattle in particular, has been declining, even though the region has more favourable conditions for this type of activity. Cattle raising has traditionally been typical for the territory, co-forming the landscape and playing an important role in its maintenance. Additionally, food processing is weak, so agricultural products are sold outside the region without generating added value within the target area.

In terms of structure, large agricultural cooperatives dominate the economy in the target area. As a result of seizure of individuals' farming land and the establishment of collective farms (collectivisation of agriculture) in the 1950s and of the not-so-clear returning of the land to the original owners in the 1990s, the link between land ownership and farming itself has been lost. Extreme fragmentation of plots, i.e. ownership of small plots of land (usually only few hectares in size), which are often divided even further into a number of even smaller lots and frequently located far from each other, constitutes another problem. Joint ownership is a typical feature – several people may own land without specifying who owns which part of it. The process of land consolidation, supported by the national government as well as by the EU, which should solve the extreme fragmentation issue, has not been completed in any of the municipalities. As a result, the majority of small land owners have begun to rent their land to large companies rather than performing agricultural activities on their own. Agricultural cooperatives operate on the land rented from the owners who often do not even live in the local municipalities, or they rent it from the Slovak Land Fund, i.e. the owners who are not really connected or interested in local development. Thus, income from farming activities remains the objective when deciding on the type of land use. Extreme fragmentation of land and, consequently, the need for agreement of a number of owners, forms another obstacle to decision-making process affecting change proposed to land use.

Extreme fragmentation of land as well as the unfinished process of land consolidation represents a long-term obstacle in the implementation of positive changes in the area. Therefore, it is necessary to find compact plots of land, sufficiently large and with clear titles as well as conscious owners, to achieve changes in the land use of the neglected parts of the relevant area.

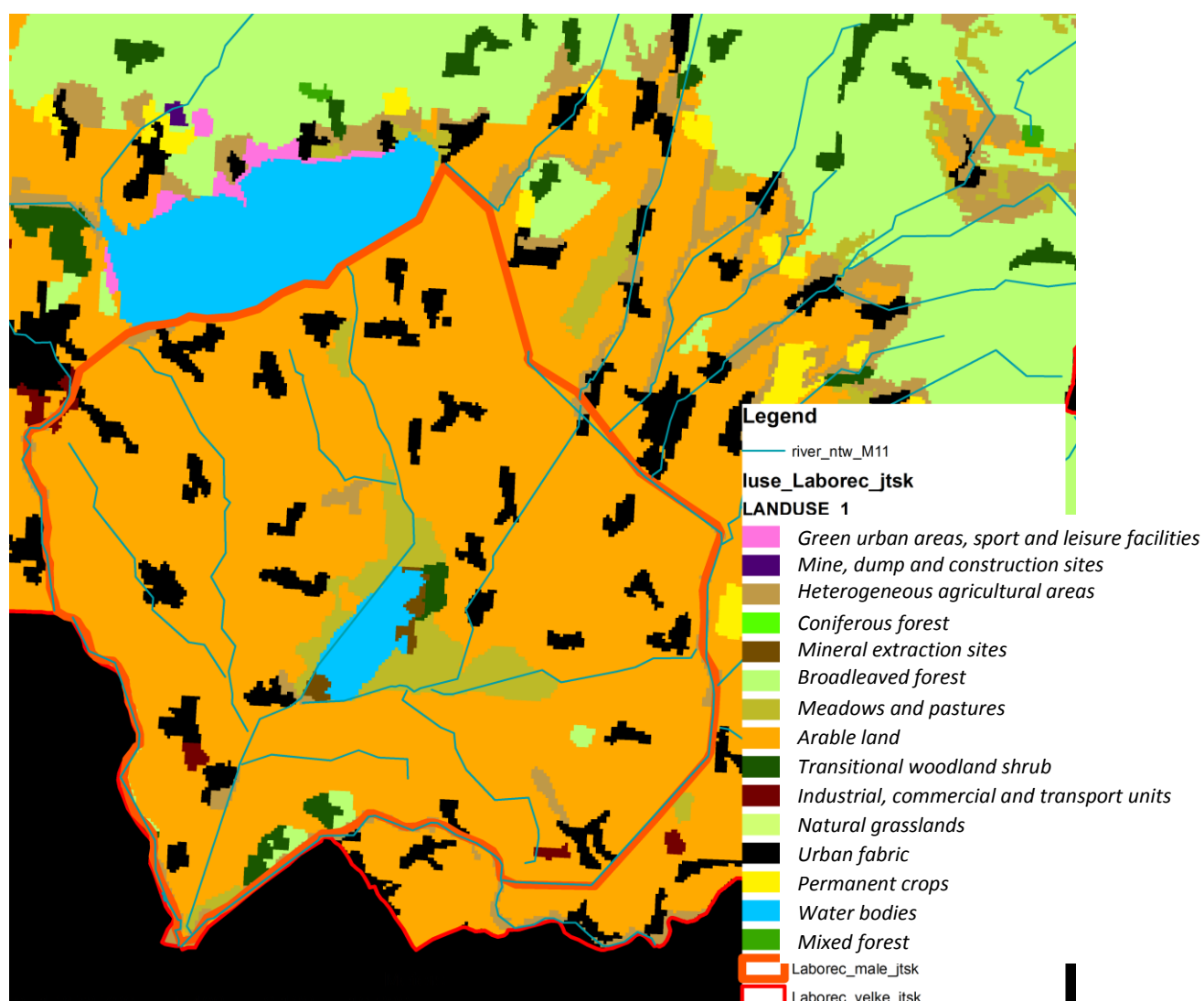
There are more than 40 mid-size or large agricultural cooperatives active in the priority area. Mid-size or large agricultural cooperatives are in most of the cases based on previous cooperatives founded during the socialistic period and they manage large areas in the scale of hundreds of hectares. On the other hand, there are relatively small scale individual family farms, managing usually less than 100 hectares.

In the region where the target area is located, an extensive network of underground canals was built in the 1950s to drain water from the area, serve as a flood protection mechanism, and to enable intensive agricultural usage. By the end of 1990, 85% of the target territory had been drained. However, since the water level of the river Uh is higher than the level of land in the project territory, water management experts have to permanently pump water from the area into the river at high cost to national budgets in order to prevent partial flooding of the agricultural land in the target area. This problem is escalating due to an aging and increasingly inefficient drainage network.

Another environmental challenge confronting the priority area is represented by the degradation of basic ecosystem resilience elements (in terms of landscape composition and ecological stabilisation functions). In the past, there was an abundance of forests and water that could support local citizens, at least by today's standards. However, these have virtually vanished; ecosystem functions have deteriorated and landscape resilience is threatened, the landscape is ecologically unstable.

Prior to the introduction of intensive agriculture and melioration, the landscape was covered by various types of forests. As a result of large-scale drainage and deforestation of the area aimed at creating favourable conditions for intensive agricultural activities in the territory, the ecological characteristics of the area have changed completely and only few natural biotopes have survived in the priority area. According to the EU CORINE Landcover 2000 survey (Map 2), almost 84% of the target area is defined as arable land, even though some 20% of this land is currently abandoned. Meadows cover 15.9%, settlements represent 4%, wetlands and water surfaces form only 2% and forests form merely 1% of the target area. The target area shows a low level of ecological stability, the network of bio centres connected by bio corridors is missing.

Map 2: Landuse according to the EU CORINE Landcover 2000 survey



However, there are still some locations within the priority area which have potential for the renewal of biodiversity and an increase of ecological stability. These are, for example, depressions, where drainage of surface water is difficult even after the conventional drainage measures have been implemented; and fragments of natural eco-systems – water bodies, marshes, underflooded meadows or forests. By extending these areas and linking them by terrestrial or water bio corridors,

ecological stability of the area will grow, also improving the stability of production eco-systems. Moreover, environmental quality will improve for local inhabitants, and the area's attractiveness for visitors will increase, as well.

Local agriculture is declining due to lower soil fertility and challenging soil cultivation conditions, deterioration of the food-processing industry in the region and unclear land ownership, as well as from emigration of qualified workers, and, last but not least, from the distorting influence of the EU subsidy policy. This has resulted in abandonment of cultivation (mowing, grazing, etc.), which leads, inter alia, to the colonisation of agricultural land by invasive weed species with low levels of biodiversity.

COMDEKS activities will create an opportunity in this area to change land-use type and gradually restore natural eco-systems (water bodies, marshes, forests, grasslands) as well as to introduce more sustainable agricultural practices. Natural depressions can be used for wetlands establishment, arable land can be revitalised as floodplain meadows where suitable and these areas can be used for extensive cattle farming or can be reforested.

The strategy for the target area is to increase ecological stability of the area by supporting the creation of suitable eco-stabilization landscape elements, especially water bodies, wetlands, forests, and other shrub and bush vegetation formations. The introduction of these eco-stabilization elements, that basically represent fragments of natural ecosystems, will contribute to the revitalisation of the area, as water will return to the landscape and, to a certain extent, as will original fauna and flora, increasing the uniqueness of the area from the point of view of avifauna.

In terms of surface water, high levels of PCBs constitute the most pressing problem. At the same time, it is also a historic problem in the region. Even though the production of PCBs in Chemko Strážske ended more than 20 years ago, consequences of long-term contamination are still present in sediments. Intensive agriculture and animal breeding represent another water pollution source. The results are alarming due to the fact that, in many cases, indicators are showing deterioration. Therefore, it will be important to develop plans, especially those for agriculture, livestock farming, and services, with respect to water quality in specific parts of the region.

Surface and ground waters in the wider target area have been, historically, negatively impacted by intensive agriculture, resulting in high nitrate concentrations in wells, as well as by high concentrations of artificial fertiliser residues and agro-chemicals. Lower water quality is also caused by industrial pollution, long-distance traffic corridors – especially those in Laborec and Ondava rivers, with the risk of organic material contamination from factories in Strážske (PCBs), Humenné, Vranov nad Topľou and Pozdišovce. Water sources on the banks of the Uh river in the municipality of Lekárovce are also threatened by pollution from Ukraine (oil spillages, etc.).

Municipal waste (sewage) waters also represent an important area of concern. Currently, only 11% of inhabitants of the priority area are connected to the public sewage system; an additional 10% can potentially be connected in the coming years within the scope of current sewage treatment projects planned for the region. Thus, for the majority of municipalities within the target area it is not possible to connect to the large-capacity sewage treatment plants (STP) due to the low number

of inhabitants, distance from the plants and the high costs of sewage system construction aggravated by natural conditions (e.g. slope of sewage water drainage canals). Employment of alternative technologies, e.g. building of root STP, can be a solution.

Local civic associations are important for the development of the region itself as well as for the development of civil society. There are few operating and truly active civic associations working in the target region. Several organisations operate only formally and are hardly working or not working at all. Within the framework of the UNDP/GEF project implementation in this region, a public-private partnership was formalised in the target area resulting in the establishment of a civic association called “OZ Medzi riekami” (*Between Rivers*). OZ Medzi riekami forms a core of the action group, which implements the Integrated Strategy of the Area Development. In the OZ Medzi riekami PPP, the following are involved:

- local self-governments;
- big agricultural co-operatives as main businesses in the area (each managing over 100 ha);
- small family farms (farming on less than 100 ha);
- local NGOs;
- business entities;
- Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik (*Slovak Water Management Company*), local branch;
- Štátna ochrana prírody (*State Nature Conservancy*).

A key element of the COMDEKS strategy is to strengthen the Senné Fishponds protected area (Ramsar site, National Nature Reserve) and revitalize the ecosystem of the entire target area. The area will become more amenable to local citizens, more attractive to visitors, and more stable and resilient to climate change. The activities to be supported by the COMDEKS strategy are fully aligned with the Integrated Local Development Strategy of Laborec / Uh Area ([Annex 2](#)).

The SWOT analysis suggested the following for the area:

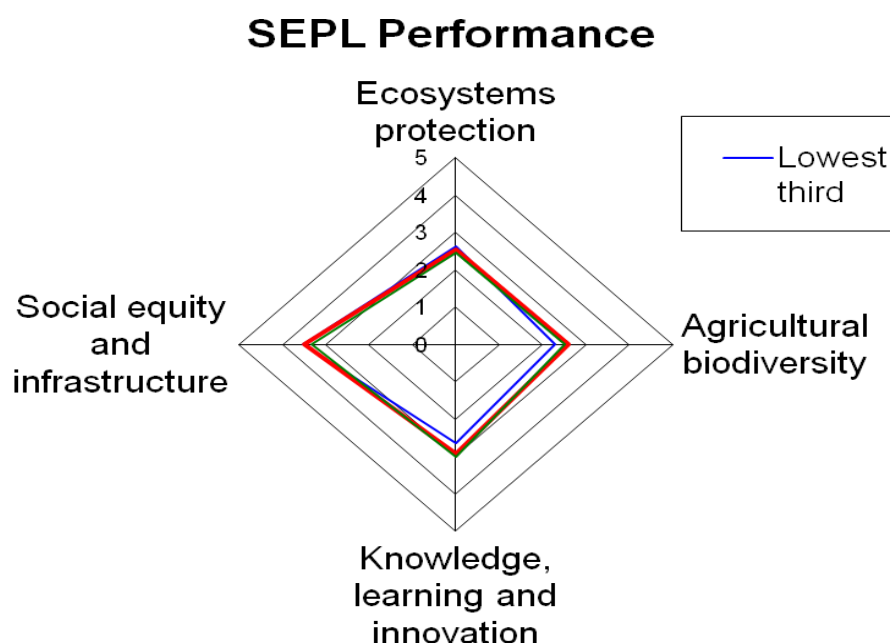
- *Increase ecological stability by creating new water bodies and wetlands*
- *Increase ecological stability by reforestation and regeneration of degraded forests*
- *Fulfilment of EU6 obligation of the Slovak Republic to equip all settlements of more than 2,000 inhabitants with environmental infrastructure by 2015*

3. BASELINE ASSESSMENT

During assessment of the baseline, and piloting SEPL indicators, participants evaluated the theme of social equity and infrastructure as the most advanced – it was the only area in which participants indicated that progress was made from ‘stagnation’ to ‘moderate increase’ over recent years. The theme with the lowest score was that of ecosystem protection and biodiversity conservation. In the field of agricultural biodiversity there was a large range of opinions, perhaps due to the participation of a wide array of stakeholders with varied professions and backgrounds. One group of stakeholders represented individual agricultural concerns, i.e. production for domestic consumption, where a certain level of biodiversity and knowledge of traditional crops remains (especially as concerns fruits, vegetables and herbs); a second group represented mainly agricultural cooperatives whose activities dominate in the region, typically comprising large-scale monocultures and a limited number of specifically cultivated crops.

Overall, participants confirmed that SEPL indicators helped them to better grasp and understand the need to link social and ecological aspects within the landscape in order to improve its resilience as well as the quality of life in the area. Stakeholders also pointed out that local tradition is dying out. On the one hand, there was a significant lack of willingness to revert to a perceived “traditional” way of living, on the other there was discussion on the importance to live in harmony with nature. Attitudes and opinions varied depending on the inclination of individual participants as well as professional or social status, for example, mayors, conservationists, or businessmen.

Graphic projection of baseline assessment according to SEPL indicators



4. LANDSCAPE STRATEGY – OUTCOMES AND IMPACT INDICATORS

In the long-term, COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy for Slovakia aims to increase the resilience of target natural ecosystems and human production systems through partnership-based community activities which promote eco-system functions and increase landscape diversity. In the target area – Laborec and Uh basin area – the long-term objective is to improve the water quality and hydrologic regime of the target landscape in order to retain water in the landscape, to revitalize and manage (semi-) natural eco-systems, as well as to promote production of traditional products and services in harmony with local resources and conditions.

Pursuant to the abovementioned long-term objective, and on the basis of the existing Integrated Local Development Strategy for Laborec / Uh Area and the baseline assessment carried out in the target area with the involvement of key local stakeholders in August 2012, the following **outcomes and indicators of their fulfilment** have been defined:

Outcome 1: Enhanced livelihoods through the development of small-scale production activities and businesses using local resources

Small enterprises should be based on sustainable utilisation of renewable local resources and adding value to promote alternative livelihoods and increase overall income. Such enterprises should support landscape, skills, and resource diversity. Such forms of entrepreneurship should support enterprises arising from specific local conditions, potential, and needs and which can react flexibly to changes in the wider environment. European rural experience shows “being different” is immensely important. It might be difficult to compete with common everyday products, yet many good examples exist of positive development through products traditional to a region or which are little known and have the potential for added value.

Indicators:

- Number of small ecological/traditional enterprises created or strengthened that provide alternative livelihoods to local inhabitants
- Number / percentage of priority area inhabitants involved in clusters / partnerships supporting the production and sales of ecological / traditional local products and services
- Monetary value of ecological / traditional products and services created with the support of the programme

Outcome 2: Improved ecosystem services through integrated water management and landscape regeneration

Integrated management means the entire section of the basin area with all its elements (forests, bank vegetation, wetlands, agricultural soil, pastures, built-in areas, water surfaces, and water courses) is managed and protected as a whole. At present, it is often the case that these elements are cared for by a number of different entities, which results in a lack of synergy across the landscape. Drainage of the land and deforestation of the area have led to the degradation of the landscape, with disappearance of natural water courses and water bodies as well as the original vegetation. EU Water Framework Directive asks for the achievement of the so-called good ecological status on selected parts of water courses, revitalisation of water courses and for the

protection and regeneration of wetlands and bank vegetation. In order to revitalize the landscape, it is key to bring water and forests back to the selected landscape.

Indicators:

- Area (in hectares) of natural eco-systems, including water bodies, with revitalized or improved quality of eco-system services
- Volumes of CO₂ (in tons) retained thanks to the improved state of eco-systems
- Increased water retention potential (in m³) of the landscape thanks to the improved state of eco-systems
- Volume (in m³) of treated municipal waste (sewage) waters

Outcome 3: Strengthened agricultural production that promotes agrobiodiversity and landscape resilience through sustainable practices and systems

Promoting traditional agriculture can provide a foundation for improved food production and a stronger local economy, as well as landscape integrity.

Indicators:

- Area (in hectares) of production areas where sustainable management practices are applied
- Number and type of traditional varieties (cultivated plants) and breeds (livestock) grown and raised

Outcome 4: Strengthened multistakeholder participatory decisionmaking at the landscape level for greater resilience

Continued mobilization and engagement of local stakeholders to form partnerships and cooperation networks is needed in order to improve their involvement in the decision making processes affecting the target landscape. Improving the awareness and capacities of local communities and civil society can provide a foundation for better planning and implementation of initiatives addressing local problems and needs, at the same time also contributing to national level objectives. The existing territorial public-private partnership with strengthened capacity and codified local level experience and results can increase its potential for policy influence and be involved in decision-making affecting the target landscape on national level. The community can get actively involved in the decision making processes through engagement in project activities – as team members and project partners, being involved in processes initiated by the project (public discussion, opinion poll, petitions, training) or by participation in systems established by the project (like a regional tradition mark or quality mark, exchange of knowledge, and experience within networks).

Indicators:

- Number and type of networks / support mechanisms created
- Number of community members (gender disaggregated) participating in decision making processes

Priorities and impact indicators are presented in the Programme logical matrix ([Annex 3](#)).

5. TYPOLOGY OF POTENTIAL COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS AND CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION

Criteria for the selection of suitable community-based projects within the COMDEKS programme must take into consideration the following:

- Contribution of the proposed project to Satoyama Initiative vision fulfilment – improvement of local communities' livelihoods while promoting biodiversity and landscape resilience.
- Benefits brought by the proposed project to other regions and communities – the projects should be replicable in similar natural, economic, and social conditions.
- Contribution of the proposed project to increased participation by local stakeholders in public affairs administration and management of the target area through activities which will contribute to job creation and and more sustainable utilisation of renewable local resources.
- Expected implementation period of the selected projects is 14 months. All projects must be finished by 30 April 2014 at the latest and accounted for no later than by 30 June 2014.

Submitted projects must address more than one landscape outcome. As such they should be:

- Intersectoral - their environmental, social, and economic benefits have to be clearly defined;
- innovative – new and innovative models / traditional methods revival will be assessed;
- sustainable – ownership, potential policy influence, institutional strengthening, capacity building, and cost-effectiveness need to be demonstrated;
- replicable – project activities must be replicable in similar conditions.

Environmental benefits

- Practical active environmental protection expressed as a measurable impact / indicator / on the quality of the environment
 - Lowering of impacts and adaptation to the climate change impacts;
 - Conservation of biodiversity;
 - Protection of international waters;
 - Decreasing of persistent organic substances influences; and
 - Prevention of soil degradations.

Social benefits

- Utilisation of local resources – human resources
 - Involvement of community – awareness, ownership, participation in particular activities, benefits / motivation;
 - Capacity building - education (practical), information level;
 - Expert materials, legal and economic advisory services;
- Gender equality and inclusion of disadvantaged groups into the project implementation
 - empowerment / improvement of living conditions of women, poor people and other disadvantaged groups
- Poverty reduction and/or employment support

Economic benefits

- Utilisation of local resources – natural / production landscape – agricultural production
- Creation of “environmentally-friendly” services and products at the local level and/or generating of financial savings
- Development and sustainability of applicant’s organisation

Typology of community based projects to be supported by COMDEKS:

Projects in the target area should be aimed at the revitalisation of mosaic landscapes, which would be ecologically stable and economically beneficial. The following section suggests the possible eligible projects that will be supported by COMDEKS Slovakia:

Outcome 1: Enhanced livelihoods through the development of small-scale production activities and businesses using local resources

The most valuable natural territory in the project area is the Protected Bird Area surrounding the Senné Fishponds Nature Reserve. This important ornithological location, together with other unique spots in the surrounding areas (for example, a Manor House in Senné currently under reconstruction) is currently the most visited spot of the entire area. Thus, projects implemented in this location should be aimed at the promotion of environmentally-friendly and landscape-sensitive regional tourism and services.

Model farms producing traditional food products (honey, dried fruits, wine, fish, home-made food, herbs, etc.) and providing hand crafted products and services represent a time-tested method of rural tourism promotion that lures visitors to come to rural areas. Cycling routes, nature trails, observation towers, and other objects could attract and keep tourists in the region.

Examples of suitable activities would include:

- Support in building the infrastructure and related services for cycling, bird watching, and hippotourism (horse riding) combined with accommodation services and other services provided in the local manor house or in privately owned houses;
- Establishment of local market places with sale of local products;
- Support to traditional production of jams, squashes, and fruit preserves, covering the whole production – processing – distribution chain;
- Construction of solar fruit, vegetable, or other product (mushrooms, herbs) dryers as a good demonstration of local food processing. These simple instruments do not need any additional energy and do not produce pollutants. Moreover, they are easy to build;
- Construction of a small distillery producing high-quality distillates from locally grown fruits as an example of a value-adding traditional local activity;
- Beekeeping and the subsequent selling of honey and other honey products.

Outcome 2: Improved ecosystem services through integrated water management and landscape regeneration

Small surface water bodies and wetlands could be re-established in depressions and will serve for flood prevention and water retention facilities at times of melting of snow and heavy rainfalls. They have also an economic role (e.g. as fishponds combined with geese and duck farming and tourist spots), as well as ecological role (dwelling place for birds and other animals), and will also have an aesthetic value. Moreover, wetlands provide other significant ecosystem services due to their role as stores or 'sinks' of carbon. Activities aimed at improving ecosystem services of surface water bodies and wetlands are also aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive requirement to achieve good ecological status on water courses (for example, through clean-up of dead-branches, revitalisation of bank vegetation, etc.).

By the revitalisation of forests with original composition of species new important eco-systems can be created; forests managed in a sustainable way will bring permanent economic benefit; biodiversity and landscape diversity will be increased; CO₂ absorption in eco-systems will be increased; degraded soil and abandoned land will be revitalised and water retention capacity as well as climate conditions in the area will be improved. In addition, forest and line vegetation revitalisation is also the most effective way to stop soil erosion.

Examples of suitable activities would include:

- Revitalisation of forests as a main landscape eco-stabilisation element, mainly revitalisation of alluvial and bottomland forests with the original species composition, also creation of pasture oak stands for extensive pig farming;
- Protection and revitalisation of river bank vegetation (in many cases, bank vegetation has been clear-felled, which violates the EU Water Framework Directive);
- Revitalization or creation of production fishponds and water surfaces, may be combined with economic activities – fishing, duck and geese farming, and recreation facilities. Oxbows and water course revitalisation efforts fall into this category, as well;
- Construction of polders for preventing floods, to retain flood water allowing it to soak into the earth or evaporate, combined with planting of tree-belts decreasing the water erosion;
- Creation of root waste water treatment plants for individuals or entire municipalities is a suitable potential project. These systems have a major ecological role – man-made wetlands are the dwelling place for animals and plants and, at the same time, a highly efficient way of carbon sequestration. (Municipalities within the area are outside of the reach of planned STP and, with growing tourism, increased volumes of municipal waste water, and increased water pollution will pose a challenge.)

Outcome 3: Strengthened agricultural production that promotes agrodiversity and landscape resilience through sustainable practices and systems

The traditional rural landscape in the target area is formed by a balanced mosaic of elements which stabilise the landscape and which, at the same time, provide long-term benefits. Such landscape consists of natural forests, pastures, meadows, small arable plots of land and orchards; traditional

breeds of animals are represented in this mosaic, too, and all this provides sustainable means of subsistence for the local community.

Employment of sustainable agricultural practices is of key importance, as they contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and lower environmental pollution. As for the production of crops, suitable eligible projects include eco-farming activities aimed at the elimination of agro-chemicals and artificial fertilizers. Moreover, ploughing of organic material in the soil would also be very beneficial, since it would improve the quality of land, water retention capacity, and carbon sequestration.

When considering production methods, it would be important to prefer well-tested and eco-friendly activities: alternation of crops, green and organic fertilizer, utilisation of allopathic (traditional) plants, growing of perennial plants (land use change, converting arable soil into grasslands), as well as year-round free range farm animals (resilient breeds) farming. Combination of fish farming and free range ducks and geese (or even water buffaloes) farming, which used to be raised here in the past, is also good for fishponds creation.

Examples of suitable activities would include:

- In terms of cattle farming, farming of low-maintenance breeds with emphasis on species and animals traditionally maintained in the region (i.e. mangalica pigs and water buffaloes). Similar principles apply in the case of poultry (ducks, geese) farming, which can be combined with fish farming;
- Growing of bio-fruits, bio-vegetables, and other crops (incl. herbs) without the use of chemicals and processing of locally-grown products;
- Reintroduction of traditional low-maintenance but high yielding species with the possibility of generating high value added in their processing (hemp, linseed), or other alternative and low labor crops (e.g. growing of lavender, salvia, or bee balm and other curative perennials);
- Revitalisation of old orchards;
- Land use change - revitalisation of floodplain meadows on arable land in regularly flooded areas, with local seeds from source meadows;
- Support to demonstration eco-farms which include pastures with original grass species and traditional breeds of animals, fishponds (small water bodies) with wetlands, orchards with old resilient species, groups of trees, and arable land for ecologically-friendly cultivation (e.g. conservation agriculture);
- Land management practices focusing on water and arable land protection and quality improvement through eco-agriculture methods: soil mulching with straw, ploughing of straw in soil, manuring and composting, alternation of crops and utilisation of allopathic plants;
- Processing agricultural waste (e.g. straw, hemp flax, etc.) as business activity in the construction industry (pressed straw-clay blocks, straw, or hempen insulation for buildings, etc.). These highly efficient and healthy insulation materials could help to lower energy consumption and, consequently, also greenhouse gas emissions, in a sustainable way.

Outcome 4: Strengthened multistakeholder participatory decisionmaking for greater landscape resilience

Cooperation between different sectors and stakeholders at the local level in the target landscape, e.g. local authorities, non-profit organizations, state administrations and private sector individuals, creates good opportunity for better understanding of the roles and needs of each player in local development. Creation of cooperation networks and support schemes leads to improved access and use of information and knowledge, raises awareness effectively, increases engagement of people in public affairs and land use planning. Creating partnerships and supporting participatory processes shall be an overarching aspect of all supported projects.

Examples of suitable activities would include:

- Involving marginalized and vulnerable groups into the project preparation, implementation, and monitoring, thus creating enabling environment for their social inclusion at the local level, mobilizing and engaging different groups of local stakeholders to become agent for change for sustainable development;
- Creating equal opportunities for both genders to participate in the process of project preparation, implementation, and monitoring;
- Creating networks to share knowledge and lessons learned from project implementation, improve the consultative processes and support participatory processes in policy and legislation development both at the local and national levels;
- Development of regional or quality marks as a support scheme for local producers and service providers;
- Improving knowledge and building capacities through awareness raising, training, and workshops.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The monitoring and evaluation system in this COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy complements the GEF SGP General Terms and Conditions, especially in relation to participative methods which allow for the capacity building and understanding of local interest groups; and to the application of gained knowledge in the implementation of other projects and of the programme itself.

Monitoring will involve the collection and analysis of data related to the projects supported within the framework of COMDEKS CPLS implementation using the **individual project indicators** which are in accordance with the system of indicators defined in the GEF SGP 5th OP. A national coordinator will aggregate these data and monitor fulfilment of SGP and COMDEKS programmes priorities in **annual programme reports**. Gaining of knowledge and its utilisation for the potential correction of projects or for their adaptive management will be the central focus of monitoring, in order to achieve fulfilment of the project objectives and for the project qualitative indicators to be corrected/adjusted if necessary to improve project performance.

Key priority area stakeholders will assess **SEPL indicators** once a year and the final assessment will serve as a COMDEKS CPLS implementation evaluation.

At the project level, a GEF SGP national coordinator, who is also in charge of the COMDEKS CPLS implementation supervision, will oversee the implementation of individual projects realised within the framework of COMDEKS CPLS and monitor it through **semi-annual interim reports**. The national coordinator will go through each interim report to see whether the progress of the project follows the set work plan and whether the project meets the set indicators. Attention will be paid to the knowledge gained, too. Moreover, the reports will serve as a basis for the programme reports preparation done by the national coordinator.

Project Level Indicators: Each project will identify the specific landscape strategy outcome to which it is contributing and will monitor the corresponding indicators. Progress towards the outcome will be updated using the grantees' progress reports. Additionally, the individual project will have an indicator system aligned with GEF SGP's OP5 system of indicators.

There will also be **site visits**, at least once in the course of the particular project implementation period. NSC members with relevant expertise in project-related technical areas may join the NC during these visits as appropriate.

The national coordinator will check every **final report** and will prepare a **comprehensive evaluation report**, which will include his/her findings and summarise all results achieved. Moreover, the report will also assess the indicators and interpret them. This report will form a part of the **Final COMDEKS CPLS Implementation Report**.

7. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Knowledge management, exchange of gained experience – both successful and unsuccessful examples, as well as replication of technical and managerial approaches and stressing of cultural, behavioural, and motivational reasons/aspects of interest groups all represent important aspects of COMDEKS CPLS. Implementers of each supported project are expected to contribute to the generation and documentation of best practices and experience gained. A replication workshop will form a mandatory activity of each project. As such, each community project is required to allocate a portion of its budget to knowledge management, and the production of knowledge management products (i.e. videos, publications etc.).

The knowledge management plan involves generation of experience through interim reports, during site visits, and in the course of informal discussions with applicants, civic organisations, government representatives, and other important stakeholders; followed by their continuous sharing with other programme beneficiaries in order for the application and utilisation of these to be secured. Also, if necessary, such experience and knowledge can be improved further to serve similar or other purposes.

Intended knowledge management beneficiaries include: grantees, project teams, programme partners, government, donors, research and educational institutions, NGOs, CBOs, experts, and interested members of public.

The methods addressing knowledge management and transfer of knowledge and experience within the COMDEKS CPLS framework, similar to those defined for GEF SGP Slovakia, will be:

- Steering Committee meetings
- GEF SGP Slovak Republic Website with links to individual applicants
- Information transfer through existing networks and portals – environmental NGOs, Ministry of Environment SR Enviroportal, or other public and private websites
- Regular GEF SGP database updating
- Blogs
- Exchanges among and visiting of individual projects of similar issue solving aimed at experience exchange and to increase the motivation to make important decisions and apply experience gained in the course of other initiatives implementation
- Compiling of database of experts and suppliers among GEF SGP programme implementers, which can be used if needed
- Organisation of Info-days aimed at the replication or extending of initiatives
- Annual info meetings or joint project visits for donors, state administration, association of municipalities, NGOs associations, academia, private sector representatives, media, etc.

Types of knowledge products which will be prepared either by the project implementers or by the SGP National Coordinator:

- reports
- handbooks

- how-to booklets
- case studies
- films and videos

Information dissemination will take place through various workshops, individual meetings with government representatives or with other potential donors, contacts with academia, study stays and internships, and/or media campaigns.

Informing and policy affecting (lobbying) is a long-term process which can take place directly within the scope of individual projects or through coordination meetings (Info-days) with project implementers, where lobbying potential would be discussed. It could also be done via involvement in various advisory bodies of national or regional institutions.

Outcomes replication will take place via webpages and media campaigns which will provide information for all interested individuals that can later be reproduced. Initiatives could be extended, if successful, with the help of EU funding, especially in terms of cross-border cooperation.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF MUNICIPALITIES IN COMDEKS PRIORITY AREA

Name of Municipality:	Cadastral Number:
1. Bajany	---
2. Bežovce	802867
3. Blatná Polianka	803057
4. Blatné Remety	803073
5. Blatné Revištia	803090
6. Bunkovce	807443
7. Čečehov	808997
8. Fekišovce	814211
9. Hažín	815977
10. Hnojné	816507
11. Iňačovce	821276
12. Jastrabie pri Michalovciach	822507
13. Jenkovce	822744
14. Jovsa	822850
15. Kristy	829030
16. Lastomír	830666
17. Lekárovce	831247
18. Lúčky pri Zemplínskej Šírave	834041
19. Nižná Rybnica	840891
20. Ostrov pri Sobranciach	844586
21. Palín	845230
22. Pavlovce nad Uhom	845787
23. Porostov	848620
24. Senné pri Stretave	855171
25. Sretavka	859079
26. Stretava	859061
27. Svätuš	859648
28. Tašúľa	862525
29. Úbrež	866245
30. Veľké Revištia	868272
31. Vysoká nad Uhom	871117
32. Záhor	871745
33. Zalužice	868779
34. Závadka	---
35. Zemplínska Široká	873209

ANNEX 2: INTEGRATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR LABOREC / UH AREA: VISION, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Strategic Aim / Vision

Support the development of local economy through the support of local resource-based economic activities and by increasing of attractiveness of the area through the revitalisation of rural culture and traditions and through the creation of conditions suitable for rural tourism development.

Strategic Priority 1: Capacity building via local resources acquisition

Specific Objective 1: Increase community involvement in the area development

Priority 1.1: Development of human potential and establishment of partnerships

Measure 1.1.1: Cooperation in local and cross-border partnerships establishment

Measure 1.1.2: Education of various target groups

Measure 1.1.3: Engagement of citizens in public affairs /lobbying, strengthening of civic and legal awareness

Priority 1.2: Environmental literacy and awareness raising

Measure 1.2.1: Education of various target groups with a special focus on environmental topics

Strategic Priority 2: Utilisation of local resources

Specific Objective 2: Development of local resources-based small enterprises

Priority 2.1: Production and marketing of regional products

Measure 2.1.1: Promotion of joint services for entrepreneurs

Measure 2.1.2: Creation of good business environment

Priority 2.2: Production of traditional and alternative agricultural products

Measure 2.2.1: Value adding to agricultural products

Measure 2.2.2: Education and skills renewal

Specific Objective 3: Development of tourism with the support and utilisation of local potential /traditions, culture, nature

Priority 3.1: Tourism infrastructure

Measure 3.1.1: Diversification of tourism towards non-agricultural activities

Measure 3.1.2: Promotion of business activities in the field of tourism

Priority 3.2: Promotion of non-infrastructure types of rural tourism

Measure 3.2.1: Utilisation of local potential for the building of local attractions networks

Measure 3.2.2: Joint promotion of the area and common communication and information system

Strategic Priority 3: Area identity building and increasing of its attractiveness

Specific Objective 4: Improvement of the area uniqueness promotion

Priority 4.1: Facilities infrastructure for the promotion of culture, traditions and landscape

Measure 4.1.1: Promotion of cultural, historical, and natural heritage-presenting facilities building /folk museums, etc.

Priority 4.2: Area identity revitalisation

Measure 4.2.1: Conservation and revitalisation of traditional architecture

Measure 4.2.2: Revitalisation of public spaces in municipalities

Measure 4.2.3: Promotion of traditional municipal and micro-regional festivals and events

Specific Objective 5: Increasing of the area attractiveness through diversity

Priority 5.1: Experience-based activities

Measure 5.1.1: Completion of the system of sport and resting venues and their protection

Measure 5.1.2: Completion of the network of other experience-based places

Strategic Priority 4: Protection and creation of the environment

Specific Objective 6: Increasing of the quality of surface and groundwaters

Priority 6.1: Integrated water management

Measure 6.1.1: Water pipelines and sewage systems

Priority 6.2: Waste management

Measure 6.2.1: Dissemination of information, awareness raising, and prevention of illegal dumps emergence

Measure 6.2.2: Activities related to the minimising of waste, recycling, and separating of waste

Priority 6.3: Old environmental burdens

Measure 6.3.1: Civic activities related to environmental issues/PCB, illegal dumps and other types of environmental burden

Specific Objective 7: Improvement / Provision of flood protection measures

Priority 7.1: Landscape regeneration

Measure 7.1.1: Vegetation and water in the landscape

Measure 7.1.2: Conservation of landscape characteristics

ANNEX 3: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF COMDEKS COUNTRY PROGRAMME LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Overall Objective: In the long-term, COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy aims to increase resilience of natural ecosystems and human production systems through partnership-based community activities which promote eco-system functions and increase landscape diversity. In the priority area – in Laborec and Uh basin area – the aim is mainly to improve the water quality and hydrologic regime in order to retain water in the landscape, to revitalize and manage (semi-) natural eco-systems, as well as to promote production of traditional products and services in harmony with local resources and conditions.			
Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Source of Data	Assumptions / Risks
Outcome 1: Enhanced livelihoods through the development of small-scale production activities and businesses using local resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of small ecological/traditional enterprises created or strengthened that provide alternative livelihoods to local inhabitants - Number / percentage of priority area inhabitants involved in clusters / partnerships supporting the production and sales of ecological / traditional local products and services - Monetary value of ecological / traditional products and services created with the support of the programme 	Project Progress Reports, Project Outcomes Project promotional materials, media coverage Monitoring visits reports Fotodocumentation	Lack of interest of local farmers in this form of farming Lack of free plots of land Lack of skills needed for such type of business activities There are no conditions created for this (attractive programmes are missing, as well as stylish accommodation facilities, etc.)
Outcome 2: Improved ecosystem services through integrated water management and landscape regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area (in hectares) of natural eco-systems, including water bodies, with revitalized or improved quality of eco-system services - Volumes of CO₂ (in tons) retained 	Project Progress Reports Monitoring visits reports Fotodocumentation	Unresolved titles to land (ownership) Absence of the Basin Area Administration Authority Access Sufficiently large plots with resolved

	<p>thanks to the improved state of eco-systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased water retention potential (in m³) of the landscape thanks to the improved state of eco-systems - Volume (in m³) of treated municipal waste (sewage) waters 		<p>ownership relations are not available</p> <p>Lack of trust in these alternatives from the side of mayors</p> <p>Sufficiently large plots with resolved ownership relations are not available</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Strengthened agricultural production that promotes agrobiodiversity and landscape resilience through sustainable practices and systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area (in hectares) of production areas where sustainable management practices are applied - Number and type of traditional varieties (cultivated plants) and breeds (livestock) grown and raised 	<p>Project Progress Reports</p> <p>Monitoring visits reports</p> <p>Fotodocumentation</p>	<p>Unresolved titles to land (ownership)</p> <p>Land owners are not interested in the landscape revitalisation</p> <p>Lack of skills needed for such type of business activities and lack of interest</p> <p>Lack of uncontaminated plots of land</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Strengthened multistakeholder participatory decisionmaking at the landscape level for greater resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and type of networks / support mechanisms created - Number of community members (gender disaggregated) actively participating in decision making processes within supported projects 	<p>Project Progress Reports</p> <p>Monitoring visits reports</p>	<p>Lack community members interested in participating in decision making processes</p>