The Foki Side Arm Restoration

Year of issue

2026

Summary

The Foki side arm is a historic Danube branch in the Inland Delta about 40 km from Bratislava. Sediment accumulation reduced water flow and disconnected it from the river. The pilot restored 350 m of the branch by removing sediments to improve water circulation and support floodplain ecosystem stability.

Photo Gallery





Project

NWRM

Sector

Hydromorphology

Installation Date

January 2026

Implementation status

Completed

Overview

Location of the project

Gabčíkovo, Slovak-Hungarian Border

Country

Slovakia

NUTS2 Code

Západné Slovensko

Sponge measures implemented in the case study

Floodplain restoration and management

Restoration of natural infiltration to groundwater

Involved partners

Authority type	Authority name	Authority role	Comments	Authority responsibility
NGO	WWF Slovakia	Implementation	WWF Slovakia was in charge of the implementation.	Responsible
National water authority	Water Reserach Institute	Determination of design details of the measure	Water Reserach Institute (Výskumný ústav vodného hospodárstva) was a project partner; they did the modelling and provided technical documentation for the field work.	Supporting

Site Information

Climate Zone

Warm temperate dry

Precipitation

500.00 mm

Temperature (°C)

10.80 °C

Design and Implementation

Project scale

Micro

Project scale specifications

While the Small Foki itself in about 350 m long, it is a part of a larger system - the Foki side arm of about 2km lenght.

Project area

0.9 ha

Project area specifications

The Foki side arm is a historic Danube branch in the Inland Delta about 40 km from Bratislava.

The area was negatively affected by the hydrological alteration caused by the construction and operation of the Gabčíkovo Waterworks.
Sediment accumulation reduced water flow and disconnected it from the river. The pilot restored 350 m of the branch by removing sediments to improve water circulation and support floodplain ecosystem stability.

- the side-arm disconnected from the Danube, led to changes in water regime,
- the ecological stability declined,
- the water retention capacity decreased.

The surrounding area’s ability to cope with floods and droughts also weakened.

The Foki side arm, incl. Small Foki is not directly connected to the Danube Inland delta; therefore, they cannot benefit from simulated floods through the Dobrohost inlet. The Danube is the only source of water for the Foki side arm, and its connection to the Danube is crucial to the improvement of the water regime in the side arm.

Size

350.00

Size unit

m

Basis of design

The intervention was designed as maintenance-free - the river processes will modify the area naturaly.

Design capacity

8790 m³ at peak water levels in the Danube

Principles

The main principle is to support natural processes in the area.

Financing

Total cost

70612.66 €

Total cost information

Interreg Danube Region Programme - RESTORIVER = 49484.01 EUR infrastructure costs

Interreg Danube Region Programme - RESTORIVER = 738 EUR construction supervisor

Private donor = 19898.65 EUR infrastructure costs

Private donor = 492 EUR construction supervisor

Costs land acquisition

0.00

Costs land acquisition unit

€ (total value)

Costs land acquisition information

The landowner agreed to allow the intervention to be done on the lots without any acquisition/lease costs.

Costs operation maintenance

0.00 €

Costs operation maintenance information

designed as maintenance-free

Costs maintenance

0.00 €

Costs maintenance information

designed as maintenance-free

Financing authorities

Authority name	Type of funding	Comments	Financing share
Interreg Danube Region Programme	EU-funds: Cohesion and regional development funds	RESTORIVER DRP0200419	71%
Private donor	Private funds	—	29%

Policy and Governance

Land ownership

The land is owned by a nature conservancy NGO.

Part of a wider plan

Yes

Public consultation

No

Has contractual arrangements

No

Lessons Learned

Key lessons

The crucial factor of success was coordination and smooth cooperation between the Water Reseach Institute, BROZ - the landowner, and WWF Slovakia.

Success factors

Success factor type	Success factor role
Successful coordination between authorities	Main factor
Attitude of relevant stakeholders	Main factor