

## IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

### Basic Information

Title of case study		COMDEKS Project: Laborec-Uh region	
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Other contributing organization(s)		Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU	
Author(s) and affiliation(s)		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords		Forestry, Water, Agriculture, Alternate livelihoods	
Date of submission		6 March 2017	
Web link	<a href="http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=126">http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=126</a>		

### Geographical Information

Country		Slovakia		Location(s)		Bodrog River basin, Eastern Slovakia Lowland			
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link				<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@48.5834576,21.9151102,11z">https://www.google.com/maps/@48.5834576,21.9151102,11z</a>					
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>The target area is part of a low-lying depression that was once characterized by extensive wetlands and alluvial forests. Over the years, water from the basin has been drained through a network of drainage ditches, melioration canals and pumps. It has a rural character and a relatively low population density. Today, only forest remnants remain, and dominant land types today are arable land, meadows, grasslands and fishponds.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>The region is traditionally agricultural and pastoral. Even today, the most important economic activity is agriculture. However, low-fertility soils with high groundwater are an impediment, and agricultural productivity in the target landscape is lower than the national average. In the past few years arable land has been mostly used for growing crops subsidized by the main European Union agrarian support schemes, bringing the need for increased use of agrochemicals. Cattle raising has traditionally been an important part of local agriculture, co-forming the landscape and playing an important role in its maintenance, but is now declining.</p>									

### Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
<p>The area was selected 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. There has been a significant drop in the number of inhabitants over the last 15 years, mainly caused by the lack of jobs in the region, low wages, low education level, and segregation of Roma communities.</p>			
Objectives			
<p>Improved ecosystem services through integrated water management and landscape regeneration; Strengthened agricultural production that promotes agro-diversity and landscape resilience through sustainable practices and systems; Enhanced livelihoods through the development of small-scale production activities and businesses using local resources; Strengthened multi-stakeholder participatory decision making at the landscape level for greater resilience.</p>			
Activities and/or practices employed			
<p>Revival of small-scale and sustainable farming; Improving wetlands management and renewing forest ecosystems; Establishing and promoting a local farmers market; Coordinating at a landscape and regional level; Advocating for local concerns in regional development.</p>			
Results			

A number of traditional agricultural practices were revived at small farms in the area; Project activities brought integrated water management to a number of parcels and helped restore the natural water regime; 15 ha of wetlands hosting thousands of water birds have been protected; A farmers market is now operating, serving 20 local producers; Several joint meetings have occurred to develop a system of supporting local production and the marketing of regional products.	
Lessons learned	
Long-term support to local groups has resulted in a broad partnership with empowered local actors; The provision of adequate facilitation, consultation, and technical support is important at every stage of planning and implementation; A compressed timeframe of the planning and implementation cycle presented a challenge that was mitigated to some degree by more intense support during preparation and implementation.	
Key messages	
COMDEKS projects have taken the initial steps in creating a landscape identity among the region’s communities that revitalizes traditional agricultural activities and land uses, and makes them part of a modern, participatory local development process. Regional authorities have welcomed COMDEKS as a model combining a bottom-up and top-down development approach.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 279,998.44 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Nepal.

## Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

### CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	■		●	●		●	●		
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D		Strategic Goal E				
●	●	■	●	■			●	●	

### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

●				■	●		●	■
●		●			●			