

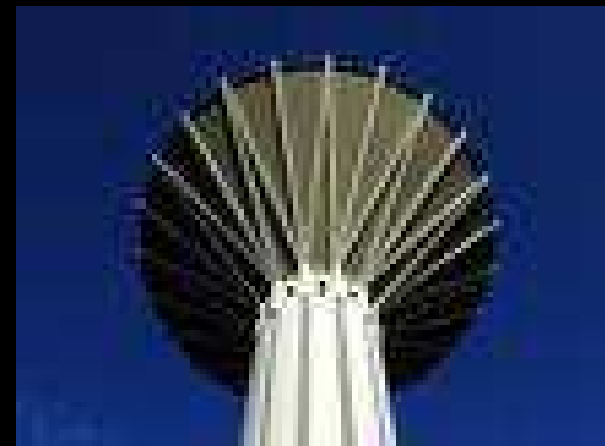
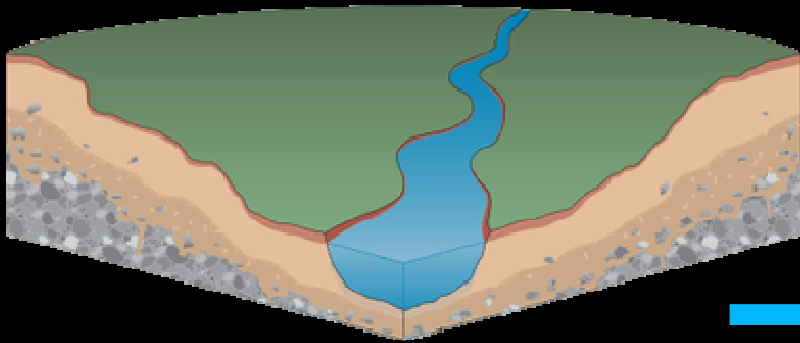


The Liberty Island Project

**WORKSHOP ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 8-10 FEBRUARY 2011**



From the river to the tap



So the healthier the river the
cheaper to make the water
drinkable.



A healthy river has...

- main branch
- side arms
- wide floodplain
- meanders
- natural ecosystem in the river and in the floodplain



Natural factors

- natural processes keep balance
- diversity keeps balance

They have economic use:

- natural filtering layers (gravel, sand) clean water
- natural production always give certain output – we shall learn again how much we can take without causing harm



Side-arms...

- are vital for spawning for fish
- have a diverse ecosystem differing from the main branch
- new ones are hardly formed in the Hungarian section of the Danube, due to various, mostly transboundary reasons
- threatened by silting up due to deepened main branch
- threatened by invasive species



Liberty Island



Liberty Island



- Closed side-arm by a rockfill dam
- ↓
- Silted riverbed
- ↓
- Degraded ecosystem, expensive drinking water

Why?

- degraded ecosystem is not able to renew
- colmated sediment closed the way of groundwater flow, no filtration through gravel layer → lower quality water which is more difficult to access
- more expensive water cleaning with more stress on the environment
- other adverse effects on nature:
 - fish spawning sites disappear
 - invasive species spread
 - improper forest mgmt



The solution

- re-vitalising the side-arm
- removing colmated sediment to allow natural filtration to work again
- providing more active groundwater flow towards the wells by re-vitalising water flow in the side-arm

How to achieve this?

- WWF gathered with partners: local municipality, state (NP, water directorate) and corporate partners (water supply company, others)
- successfully submitted a proposal to the European Commission's LIFE+ fund
- with the unique alliance the revitalisation was able to start in 2009



Purchase of the land



Removing the sediment



Opening the rockfill-dam



Forest management





Thank you for your attention!

<http://libertyisland.hu/>

