



Romania Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project (P093775)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Romania | Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy Global Practice | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2008 | Seq No: 26 | ARCHIVED on 19-Jan-2022 | ISR49830 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Finance, Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project Management Unit

Key Dates**Key Project Dates**

Bank Approval Date: 30-Oct-2007

Effectiveness Date: 08-Dec-2008

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 29-Mar-2011

Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 31-Mar-2011

Original Closing Date: 31-Dec-2013

Revised Closing Date: 30-Jun-2023

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To support the Government of Romania to meet the EU Nitrates Directive requirements by (a) reducing nutrient discharges to water bodies, (b) promoting behavioral change at the commune level, and (c) strengthening institutional and regulatory capacity.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

Yes

Board Approved Revised Project Development Objective (If project is formally restructured)

The development objective of the project is to support the Government of Romania towards meeting EU Nitrate Directive requirements at a national scale.

Components Table

Name

Investments in Local Communities for Reducing Nutrient Pollution:(Cost \$93.90 M)

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building:(Cost \$14.00 M)

Public Awareness and Information Support:(Cost \$7.52 M)

Project management:(Cost \$10.57 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The virtual implementation support mission carried out during November 17-26, 2021, concluded that the project objective is still highly relevant for Romania and generates strong results, with nitrate in groundwaters decreasing in trend in the project area. INPCP-AF remains



the most important support for the Government of Romania to meet the EU Nitrates Directive requirements and indirectly the conditions for the farmers as required by the Common Agriculture Policy and is also a model of good practices in this sector at regional and global levels. With 138 platforms already built, more than 30,000 farmers have directly benefited from the project. Behaviors are changing with more than 27,000 ha of land area where sustainable land management practices were adopted as result of project. To date, 86 sub-projects (including manure platforms and 3 composting stations) have been approved by MEWF's Technical-Economic Committee (at Feasibility Studies stage) and are in different stages of implementation. 80 contracts for works (communal manure storage and management platforms) were already signed, out of which: 44 construction works have been completed and accepted (with 15 of them having the defect liability period expired and final acceptance); 10 investments have been completed and are to be accepted; the rest of 26 are under construction (with work construction progress currently between 0 to 40%) and completion dates expected until November 2022; 6 investments are under bidding process. The revised Code for Good Agricultural Practices for water protection against pollution with nitrates from agricultural sources has been officially approved.

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Macroeconomic	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial
Sector Strategies and Policies	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Fiduciary	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Environment and Social	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Stakeholders	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Other	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Overall	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

The development objective of the project is to support the Government of Romania towards meeting EU				
▶ Downward trend of nitrates concentration in waters: at least 70% of targeted project areas show 10% reduction in nitrates discharge to water bodies (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	63.6%	63.6%	70%
Date	16-Feb-2007	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	Since 2019, ANAR has extended the monitoring network for groundwater, in the project area, from 124 to 175 monitoring wells. The monitoring data provided by ANAR reveals that, in the INPC-Original Project area, 63.6% of the monitored wells show nitrates (NO ₃) concentrations with at least 10% lower as compared with the baseline values measured in 2009. As regards the additional monitoring points, 48.1% show nitrates (NO ₃) concentrations with at least 10% lower, as compared with the baseline values			



	measured in 2019. The monitoring data for the year 2020 was provided by ANAR in May 2021. The next set of data is foreseen to be provided by ANAR by May 2022.			
	► Percentage of population in the project area adopting preventative and remedial measures to reduce nutrient discharges (index measures various rural waste management and good agricultural practices) (Text, Custom)			
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	3%	69%	69%	75%
Date	26-Feb-2009	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	This indicator was estimated by the Baseline Survey carried out in the period May – July 2018 as an index measuring various waste management and good agricultural practices. This survey was conducted on about 3750 households across 100 communes in the project area. This indicator was updated, using the same methodology, through the Mid-Term Survey, performed in the second semester, 2020. It showed that 69% (a slight increase as compared with the 2018 value of 68.3%) of the population in the project area, apply at least one of the practices recommended by the Code of Good Agricultural Practice, as preventive and remedial measures to reduce nutrient discharges.			
	► Improved inter-governmental coordination and capacity to assess, monitor and report on progress with implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive (Text, Custom)			
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	TBD from gap analysis report	Improvements acknowledged - Good capacity of the governmental institutions in the assessment, monitoring and reporting regarding the implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive	Improvements acknowledged - Good capacity of the governmental institutions in the assessment, monitoring and reporting regarding the implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive	Improvements acknowledged
Date	01-Feb-2008	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	The Commission (The Inter-Ministerial Committee) for the implementation of the Action Plan for the protection of waters against nitrate pollution from agricultural sources was established by GD 964/2000. This consists of specialists from the Ministry of Water, Forest and Environmental Protection, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Health. Besides the commission there is a Support Group composed of representatives of the National Company “Romanian Waters” – S.A., of the basin committees and specialised institutes and units under the authority and coordination of the Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environment Protection, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and of the Ministry of Health. The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IC) for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources is fully functional. The last meeting of the technical Supporting Group was held on September 9th, 2021.			
	► Favorable EU assessment of Romania's progress towards meeting EU Nitrates Directive (Text, Custom)			
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	n.a.	Progress acknowledged	Progress acknowledged	Progress acknowledged through EU comments on reports.
Date	01-Feb-2008	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	The report for the period 2012-2015 was submitted to the European Commission on July 8, 2016. In 2017, some notifications coming from EC generally targeted the electronic reporting (excel, xml) for water-related issues, concerning certain mismatches of monitoring section codes and inconsistent geographical coordinates between the sheets, which were not detected by the validation tool. Normally, the Commission should have developed a reporting tool to pinpoint these issues and not allow the closure of			



the reporting file until one addressed the mismatches. The Commission's Report to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources based on Member State reports was disclosed in June 2018. Except the 8-day submission delay, the Report does not mention problems for Romania - no infringement case, nor EU Pilot investigation were opened for Romania. The last Romania's report regarding the implementation of the EU Directive 91/676/EEC (Nitrate Directive) for the period 2016-2019 was submitted to the European Commission, in time, on June, 2020. It is worth to be mentioned that in the chapter 7 of this report, an entire section is dedicated to the achievements of the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Project, both the Original INPC (2008-2017) and the AF-INPC (2017-2022), as a major investment project targeting the reduction of water pollution with nutrients, not only through important investments but also throughout the information, awareness, education, training and support provided to farmers and to all interested in waters protection against pollution with nitrates originating from agriculture. No negative comments were received.

► Nutrient load reduction (Nitrogen(N)) achieved under the project (Tones/year, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	455.91	455.91	600.00
Date	01-Feb-2008	30-Apr-2021	15-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2023

Comments: Yearly reports are provided by the communes regarding the use of the manure collective platforms and sewage systems. The nitrogen reduction as result of the collected manure and water treatment due to the Project built sewage systems is 455.91 tons. The ex – post monitoring system implemented has a strong component on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the investments, positive results being expected by putting in place actions-plans for those communes not meeting the performance indicators. Thus, the ex-post monitoring system is regulated through an internal procedure, considering all types of investments (manure platforms, sewage systems and equipment for the National Water Agency). A monitoring sample is extracted (both on risk and random factors) for the purpose of on-the-spot visits. Following the visits, a verification report is prepared and, depending on the findings compared with the performance indicators, an action plan may be elaborated. The action plan has a strong guidance feature, aiming at improving the beneficiaries' activity (e.g., increasing the quantities of collected manure, use of contracts and registers etc.). Presently, the monitoring data are collected through the Database software application for online communication with the local authorities. To date, only 80 communes have uploaded data in the application. The PMU will continue to provide training to the communes' officials on reporting using this application. The next update, for the year 2021, will be made in January 2022.

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Investments in Local Communities for Reducing Nutrient Pollution

► Percentage of cropped area in the project communes under relevant nutrient reduction measures. (Text, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	9% (updated from baseline survey)	71.9%	71.9%	60%
Date	26-Feb-2009	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023

Comments: The Mid Term Survey completed in December 2020, showed that the percentage of cropped area in the project communes under relevant nutrient reduction measures is 71,9%.

► Number of communal platforms completed (cumulative) (Text, Custom)



	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	118.00	138.00	150.00
Date	26-Feb-2009	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	There are 86 platforms for animal waste management and storage already completed in 81 communes under the original loan. New investments in platforms and composting stations for animal waste management are under contracting or construction. Out of these, 52 are completed, 28 are under construction and 6 in bidding.			
► Percentage of households with access and connection to sewage system (in targeted villages receiving sewage investments) (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	69.07%	69.07%	60%
Date	16-Feb-2007	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	Estimated as the average of the connection percentages for each of the completed sewage systems, as reported by beneficiaries. Availability of the sewerage network in front of the properties allows for more and more households to opt for building toilets and bathrooms, and thus there is an upward trend as regards the number of connections. The next update will be made in January 2022.			

Project management				
► Number of surveys conducted that collect feedback and report back the results to the communities (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2.00	2.00	3.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	<p>The first out of three surveys planned during the Project life (Baseline Survey) was conducted between April-July 2018, to collect the initial data on Project area. According to the approved methodology, a number of 3753 households have to be interviewed in total, as follows: (i) 3002 households in 100 communes – main sample (30 households interviewed in each) selected out of the total number of communes that submitted Concept Notes under the First Call for proposals and taking into account that the overall sample be representative for the national rural area, within a maximum margin error of +/- 2% at a 95% level of confidence and simultaneously have a representativeness of +/- 3.5% for a confidence level of 95% at the region level sub-samples (three major regions considered, Moldova, Muntenia and Transilvania) should be met, and (ii) 751 households in 30 communes – control sample (25 households interviewed in each) selected as control group based on the criteria such as the distance from the communes included in the main sample, the size of the communes in terms of inhabitants and the geographic particularities with the ultimate goal of obtaining similarity with the communes targeted by the Project.</p> <p>The first out of three surveys planned during the Project life (Baseline Survey) was conducted between April-July 2018, to collect the initial data on Project area. The Mid Term Survey was completed in December 2020, using the same methodology.</p>			

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building				
► Working groups at Water Basin and County levels functioning effectively and all staff working on the Nitrates Directive fully operational. (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target



Value	Ad-hoc implementation of working groups	WGs are functioning effectively.	WGs are functioning effectively.	WGs effective to support EU reporting and to coordinate actions of other agencies
Date	16-Feb-2007	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
► Increased number of groundwater quality monitoring sites and sample analysis for the Nitrate Directive (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	This indicator is expressed as the number of monitoring sites per 1000 Km2 of monitored area. In December 2019 a drilling installation BERETTA GT90 was provided to ANAR. To date, 6 new piezometers were constructed and 46 were rehabilitated. For 2021 and 2022 ANAR scheduled to build 33 new piezometers and rehabilitate other 56 piezometers. These will increase the number of monitoring wells for groundwater quality used by ANAR in regard with the Nitrate Directive. The indicator will be updated as soon as these piezometers will be included in the monitored network used for Nitrate Directive reporting.			
► Number of technical staff (ANAR, EPA, Health Directorates) trained (cumulative) (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	689.00	689.00	700.00
Date	26-Feb-2009	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	The last training session was done in Q1, 2019 when 30 ANAR technical staff were trained on pesticides analysis using Gas-Chromatographs.			
► Number of farmers trained by knowledge and training providers on Code of Good Agricultural Practices (male/female disaggregated) (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	6,057.00	6,664.00	6,000.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	6,664 participants received the 1st day of the training; while 5,278 participants received the second day of training and 2,430 participants received the third day of training (the aim is to train almost 7000 participants in 3 days). 330 discussions groups were set-up around, supported by around 220 champion farmers and 60 communal platforms hosting demonstrations for manure management good practices.			
□ Number of female farmers trained by knowledge and training providers on Code of Good Agricultural Practices (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1,622.00	3,612.00	2,400.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
► Reduction in number of farmers penalized by APIA for non-compliance with Nitrate Directive (Percentage, Custom)				



	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	50.00	12.50	12.50	25.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	<p>This is a new indicator. The baseline was established as the percentage of farmers penalized for noncompliance with Nitrate Directive – Norms SMR4. However, starting with 2015, the Nitrate Directive is regulated by the Norms SMR1. The evolution of the percentage of farmers penalized for noncompliance with Nitrate Directive, Norms SMR1, out of the total number of farmers checked, was 11.61% for 2015, 9.69% for 2016, 3.25% for 2017, 14.7% for 2018 and an estimated 15% for 2019. In 2020 there were submitted about 835 thousand payment requests out of which only 1% are subject of control. As result of the control, 1.044 persons were penalized. Therefore, the percentage of farmers penalized for non-compliance with Nitrate Directive is 12.50%. The next update will be made in January 2022.</p>			
► Land users adopting sustainable land mgt. practices as a result of the project (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	27,900.00	30,900.00	30,000.00
Date	01-Feb-2008	30-Apr-2021	30-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	<p>Actual values represent the estimation based on the completed and functioning investments. To date a number of 52 new platforms have been completed. Out of these, only 19 platforms are operational. For the other, the issuing of the operating permits are ongoing (the issuing of operating permits by the water and environmental authority lasts 3-6 months). Including the 86 platforms from the Original Project a number of 105 platforms are operational by mid-November 2021.</p>			
► Number of project communes implementing at least one of the following nutrient reduction measures: communal platforms, pasture rehabilitation, tree planting (cumulative) (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	124.00	134.00	200.00
Date	26-Feb-2009	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	<p>Presently there are 134 communes implementing the different practices and measures for nutrients reduction. a) 69 communes (50 communes + 19 communes from INPCP-AF) implementing only manure management practices b) 12 communes implementing manure management, pastures rehabilitation and tree planting c) 19 communes implementing manure management and tree planting d) 34 communes implementing tree planting.</p>			
► Land area where sustainable land mgt. practices were adopted as a result of proj (Hectare(Ha), Corporate)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	24,436.00	27,036.00	38,000.00
Date	01-Feb-2008	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Public Awareness and Information Support				
► Number of meetings/public consultations/workshops organized towards meeting project objectives (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target



Value	0.00	218.00	229.00	200.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	<p>The meetings that were planned for 2020 and early 2021 were postponed, due to the restrictions generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be rescheduled for the time when the restrictions for public meetings will be over.</p> <p>New public consultations for approved ESMPs have been conducted online, on the project's website and on the websites of the respective city halls.</p>			
<p>► Percentage of questions, comments or complaints relevant to the project that are received and addressed within indicated 30 days (Percentage, Custom)</p>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Date	04-Nov-2015	30-Apr-2021	15-Nov-2021	30-Jun-2023
Comments:	<p>During year 2019, a complaint was received from one person involved in the construction works regarding the quality of construction works for the sewerage investment Targsoru Vechi, Prahova county. The PMU checked the reality of the issues raised and a response with the check findings was given to the complainant within the indicated period of 30 days. In 2020 and in 2021, until November 15th, no complaints were received.</p>			

Performance-Based Conditions

Data on Financial Performance

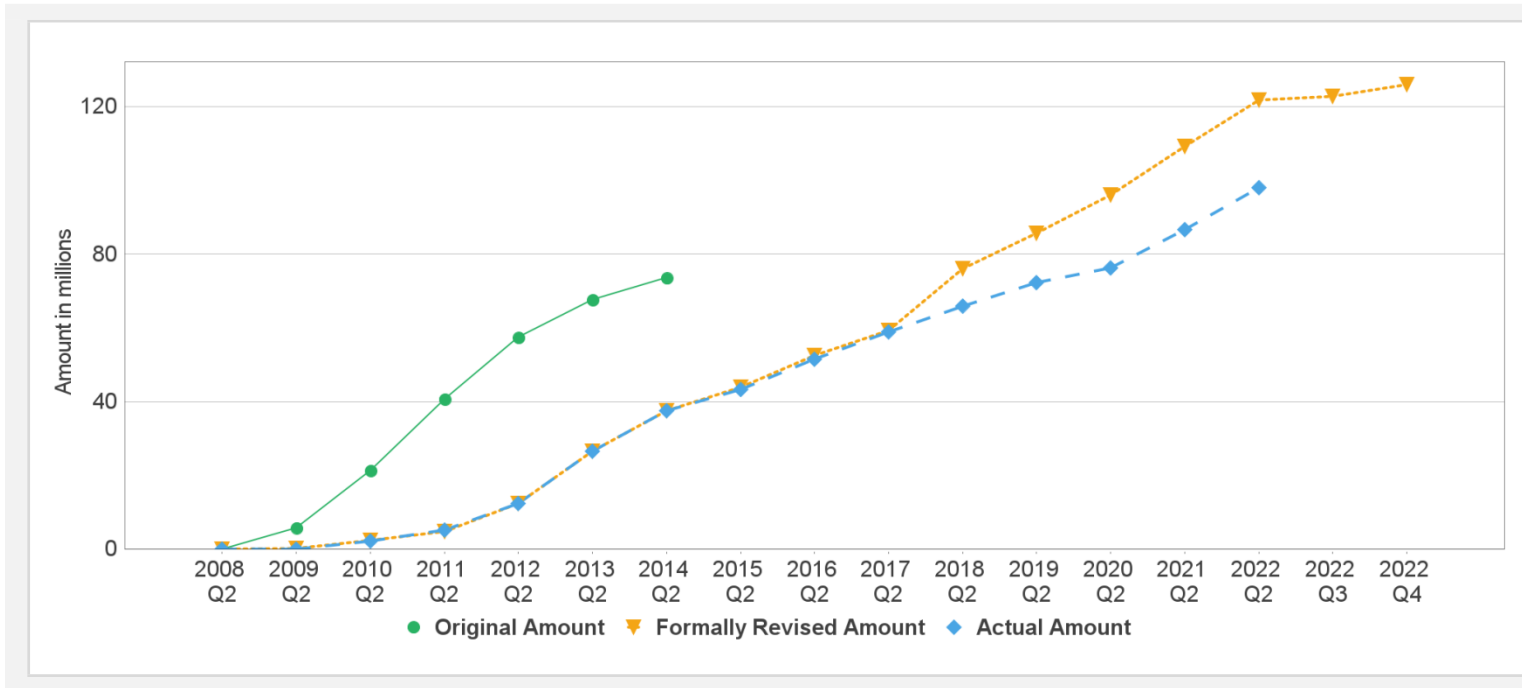
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P093775	IBRD-48730	Closed	USD	68.10	65.84	2.26	60.30	0.00	100%
P093775	IBRD-85970	Effective	USD	52.39	52.39	0.00	32.26	22.03	59%
P099528	TF-58040	Closed	USD	5.50	5.47	0.03	5.47	0.00	100%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P093775	IBRD-48730	Closed	30-Oct-2007	28-Dec-2007	08-Dec-2008	31-Dec-2013	31-May-2017
P093775	IBRD-85970	Effective	28-Mar-2016	14-Apr-2016	13-Apr-2017	31-Mar-2022	30-Jun-2023
P099528	TF-58040	Closed	28-Dec-2007	28-Dec-2007	08-Dec-2008	31-Dec-2013	31-May-2017

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

Level 1 Approved on 13-Jul-2012 ,Level 2 Approved on 05-Aug-2013 ,Level 2 Approved on 08-Sep-2015 ,Level 2 Approved on 03-Nov-2016 ,Level 2 Approved on 15-Oct-2019 ,Level 2 Approved on 22-Oct-2021

Related Project(s)

P099528-GEF Romania Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project ,P155594-Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project - Additional Financing