Wetland Restoration and Sustainable Harvesting of Biomass from Reedbeds in Ukraine

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Fieldfare International

- A public, PBB company established in 1996; 32 shareholders including WWF and Doen Foundation
- Invests in small PBB enterprises in Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania
- Operates via a subsidiary in Odessa, JV in Bulgaria and partner in Romania
Polderisation in Ukraine

Water Engineering:
Danube – Sasyk Canal
Nutrient Enrichment in Ukraine

Rank, Homogenous Reedbeds
In early 2000s, climate change agenda began to gain traction, and the need for renewable energy to replace fossil fuels became a matter of policy. FIED perceived reed biomass as a potential 3-win, conservation, community and commercial opportunity. FIED undertook R&D and in April 2010 launched a “reed bond” to finance a pilot reed pelleting project.
By June 2010, FIED had raised ca. €260,000 to start the pilot project.

Joint venture was started with an existing reed harvesting company in Reni.

Equipment was procured and tested in UK, and then delivered to Ukraine in February 2011.
Wetland Management and Renewable Energy, Ukraine

- During 2011, equipment was assembled, powered up and tested; local staff recruited and trained.

- In January 2012, first trial harvest commenced using a Seiga-type cutter

- By December 2012, 70 tons of good quality pellets had been produced - and all of it sold locally
Wetland Management and Renewable Energy, Ukraine

- The pilot project was successfully implemented, and can be readily scaled up
- Local employment has increased by 8 people, and many purchase the pellets for their stoves
- The sale price achieved confirms the commercial viability of the project – now seeking €600,000 for expansion!

Reedbed Monitoring ~ Birds

The site supports some 35 species of wetland birds, and around 80 birds overall. These include globally threatened species like ferruginous duck and pygmy cormorant; heron colonies; and the largest population of moustached warblers in Ukraine.
Reedbed Monitoring ~ Vegetation

Many Thanks!