

Eco-Tiras

Eco-Tiras unites 38 Moldova and Ukraine environmental Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) members in the Dniester River Basin. They help and advise authorities on how to manage the river in a sustainable way, using an integrated river basin management approach. This approach utilizes water as the basis for social and economic growth.

The Dniester River is the primary fresh water source for the region; therefore, it's important for present and future generations to preserve and maintain this resource. The river basin is shared by several states so political leadership and commitment are crucial for sustainable river management. Communicating to watershed residents their role in the management of the river is an important goal.

dry Dniester River Basin Management and the EU Water Framework Directive Conference in October 2008. It was held in Chisinau, Moldova. Their presentation, *The Role of Non-profit Organizations in River and Resources Management: Red River of the North* discussed an American perspective. The conference was the fourth conference dedicated to water management issues in the Dniester basin. The conference brought together over 200 professionals from several countries. With political issues often making it difficult to conduct integrated river management, Eco-Tiras has taken a leadership role, using conferences and other techniques, to bring together numerous individuals and governments, all concerned with the future of the Dniester. It's an important role that can often be best conducted by a non-profit organization. After this conference the staff of Eco-Tiras, River Keepers and the International Water Institute continued discussions and determined that we should continue our relationship as there was much to learn from each other.



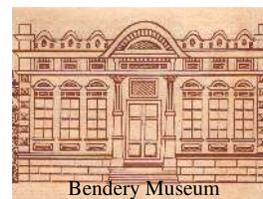
Bob Backman, River Keepers, and Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute, present at the October 2008 Dniester River Conference.

Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute and Bob Backman, River Keepers, both U.S.A Red River Valley non-profit organizations were invited to make a presentation at the *Transbound-*



Summer school students singing a song they wrote about the Dniester River at the River Festival.

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Bendery Museum

Eco-TIRAS and its member NGOs also organize a Summer School program which includes workshops about sustainable development, conflict resolution, NGO establishment and management, biomonitoring of waters, botanic and entomologic excursions, ecology, tourism, organic farming, canoeing, and developing strategies for the rural communities of Moldova. Summer School ends with a Dniester River Festival in the Village of Cioburciu, Slobozia region. Numerous students between the ages of 16 and 22 compete to be one of the 80 participants in this premier nature program. The students come from various villages and cities in Moldova and Transnistria, a breakaway province. Even though their home governments may have political differences, the students recognize that together they share the waters of the Dniester River.

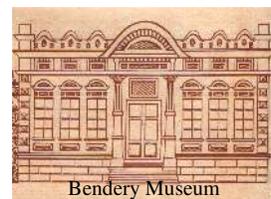


Summer School students overlooking the Dniester River.

For more information:

Eco-TIRAS <http://tiras.vox.md/>

February 2010



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