

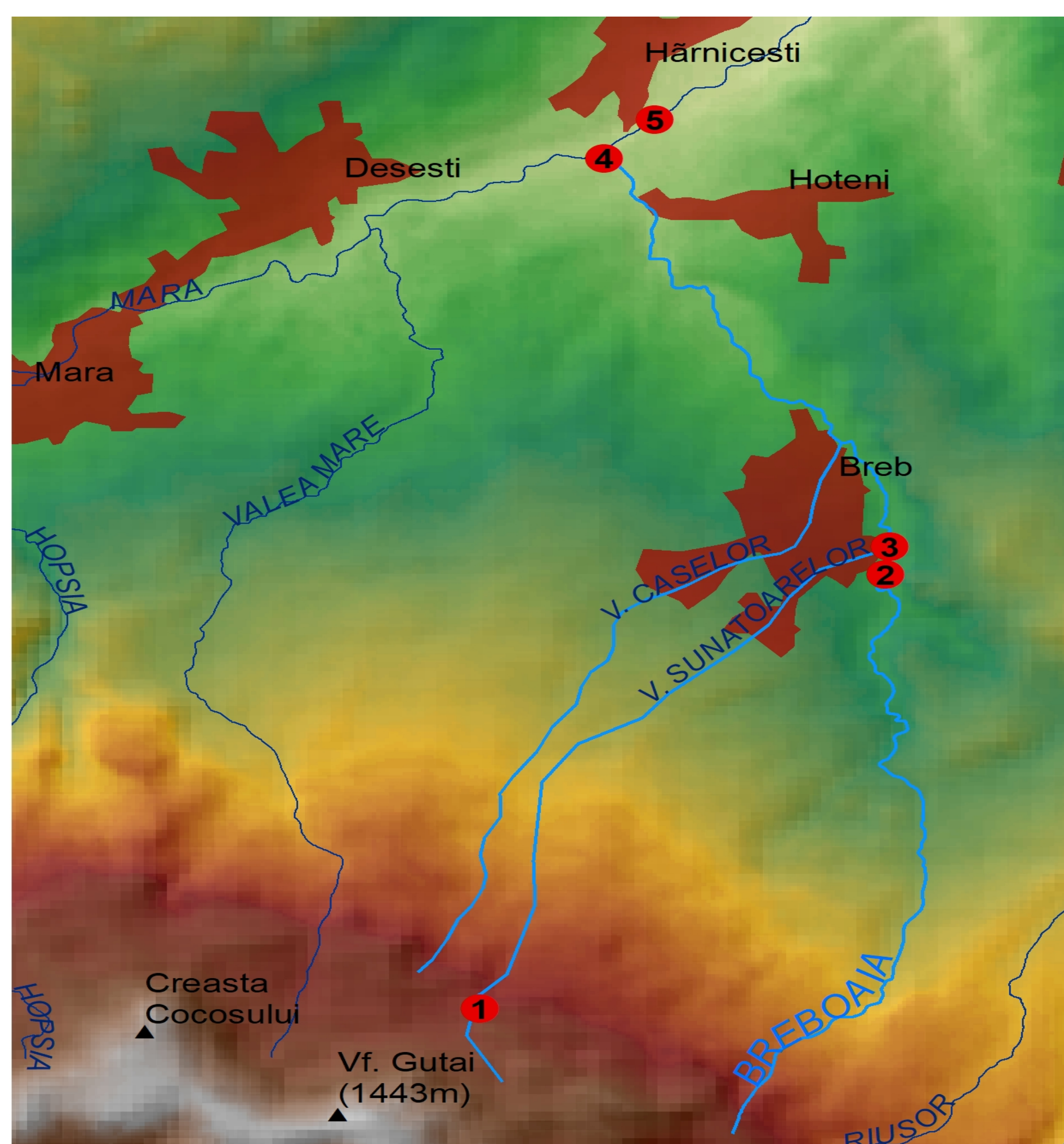


WATERPROTECT

Action Lab Mara River

THE CATCHMENT

- NW part of RO – Mara catchment (20 km²) is representative for the rural region, typical cultural landscape shaped by traditional practices, small scale/ subsistence farming systems in the Carpathian Mountains – cattle and sheep breeding
- Breb village – 140 agricultural exploitations



AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- A mix of pastures, arable land, orchards;
- Animal husbandry (cows, pigs, sheep, horses, poultry, rabbits), fodder production, potatoes and household gardening;
- A high division of land properties;
- Minimal input of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;
- Low human intervention;
- Long history of traditional agricultural use (sheep, cattle breeding, etc).
- Rural communities with strong roots in traditional wooden civilization - wooden architecture, customs, traditional costumes;

LOCAL CHALLENGES

- Nitrate pollution is relevant for the area due to manure leakages from small scale farms and lack of a centralized sewage system;
- Risk of contamination with nitrates of surface waters (low impact);
- Springs and surface waters of Mara catchment are captured for drinking water supplied to Breb, Hoteni and Ocna Șugatag villages;
- Reduce nitrate pollution of rivers via construction of manure storages;
- Enabling conditions for functionality of Breb village sewage system;
- Improve participation of farmers to decision making.

MITIGATION MEASURES & BMP's

- BMPs focus on reduction of nitrates in surface waters;
- Some BMPs that are mandatory are already in practice (eg depositing manure on the field with taking into consideration certain distances from water courses for preventing pollution of water; Incorporate organic manures immediately after application on cultivated land);
- Possible solution at farm level: encouraging the construction of simple, impermeable facilities for storing animal manure.

PROJECT IMPACT



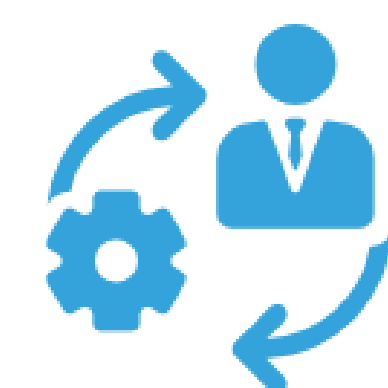
Trend towards better water quality: which parameters are priority? *nitrates and nitrites*



Number/Kind of Training Events: *7 local/county level meetings*



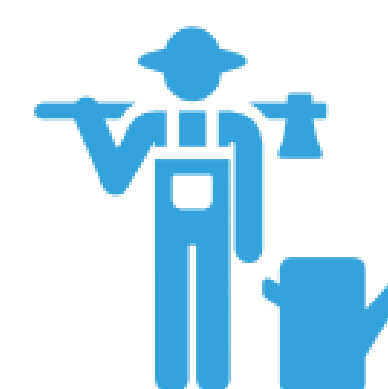
Info about collaborative Webtool / App: *water quality status of the catchment; create transparency on the link between farming systems and water quality at one side and at the other side the link between the application of manure (nitrates) and their occurrence in drinking water intake*



Target /number of mitigation measures: 4



Approach & goals for the harmonised datasets: parameters from nitrogen group (nitrates and nitrites), 5 monitoring sections, using following indicators groups: Ph, O2, CBO2, N-NO2, N-NO3



Number of actors engaged in governance process: 12

GOVERNANCE

Current situation and its limitations?

- Some Tisza Basin Management Plan 2016-2022 – strategic document for water management;
- Lack of constant sharing of information related to water quality among actors at local level (especially farmers);
- Lack of official monitoring data at action lab level;
- There is nobody truly coordinating the process of integration different data, nor ensuring that there are no overlaps.

Policy recommendations?

- Better coordination of rural development programmes and actions related to protection of water resources;
- Better integration of various policy aspects (forests, waters, agriculture)



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