

## Danubeparks Newsletter 01.09.2010

### Latest Developments

#### Pilot Restoration Activities in Duna-Dráva National Park



In spring 2010, the [Duna-Dráva National Park](#) has implemented two restoration projects: A canal, connecting the Földvari Lake with the Danube, has been dredged so water flows again. Also, several groynes have been partially opened close to the river shore. This will help to protect the islands connected to the groynes which contain valuable and highly diverse habitats.

#### Competition and Exhibition "A Chance for the Blue Danube"



On June 5th (Environment Day) the [Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve](#) opened the poster exhibition "[A Chance for the Blue Danube](#)". On June 29th, the winners were announced - the decision was taken in a mixture between Jury votings, Protected Area votings, and public online voting.

Take a look at the winners [here!](#)

The exhibition has afterwards been shown in Bulgaria during July, can currently be seen in [Duna-Dráva](#) and [Duna-Ipoly](#) National Parks in Hungary during August and September, and will travel on to Bratislava ([BROZ](#)) in October.

#### White-tailed Eagle Monitoring in spring 2010



[Duna-Dráva National Park](#), as well as [Kopacki-Rit Nature Park](#) and [Gornje Podunavlje Special Reserve](#), host high numbers of White-tailed Eagle breeding pairs and are therefore very experienced in monitoring activities. All other areas along the Danube are less populated by this bird of prey. One goal of DANUBE PARKS is to develop the whole Danube as a backbone of White-tailed Eagle population in Central Europe.

Several partners have now started and / or extended their monitoring activities, also due to the experience exchange within the DANUBE PARKS project.

Some results of this years monitoring activities include:

[Persina Nature Park](#) has started their internationally coordinated [ringing programme](#), and ringed three young eagles in two different nests - the first White-tailed Eagles ever ringed in

Bulgaria. The [Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve](#) also ringed four young eagles. Additionally, they installed feeders and observation huts, for facilitating monitoring activities in the future.

### Monitoring of Indicator Species



Little-ringed Plover and Sandmartin are important indicator species of dynamic river habitats, as they need exactly the gravel banks and steep river slopes that can only develop in natural rivers. DANUBEPARKS will monitor these birds all along the Danube river in 2011, in order to gain additional insight in habitat quality and problematic areas.

On June 2nd-4th, the monitoring experts of all Protected Areas met for a workshop, to coordinate the monitoring method and distribute the river stretches to be monitored to the various partners.

In summer 2011, we will present to you here the results of this international monitoring effort!

### Upcoming events

**September 5th:** [Slovakian Danube Festival](#) in Donau-Auen National Park

**August / September:** Exhibition "A Chance for the Blue Danube" in Duna-Ipoly National Park (Nagyvillám Tower, Visegrád) and Duna-Dráva National Park (White Stork Museum, Kölked)

**October:** Exhibition "A Chance for the Blue Danube" in Bratislava (BROZ)

### Living Network DANUBEPARKS



DANUBEPARKS is a Network of Protected Areas - a Network that should live, grow and develop over time and together with all the partners that form the network. The most important decision-making body is the Steering Committee, consisting of the Directors of the Protected Areas. Their annual meeting was held in Mohács, at the occasion of the [Danube Festival](#) organized by the Duna-Dráva National Park.

Until now, DANUBEPARKS consisted of 12 Protected Areas. Now, the Network is growing: After two new observer partners ([MA49 - Forestry Service of the City of Vienna](#), [Vojvodinasume - Forestry Service of the region of Vojvodina](#)) that joined in spring this year, representing important stakeholders of Protected Areas that are members already, now a new Nature Park became a partner: [Lonjsko Polje Nature Park](#) in Croatia has been officially welcomed into the Network by the Steering Committee, after a study visit of Carl Manzano

(Spokesman of DANUBEPARKS) to the Nature Park in June 2010 and a presentation of the Protected Area at the Steering Committee.



Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, situated at the Sava River, one of the most important tributaries of the Danube, is one of the first steps to extend the Network also to the bigger tributaries - where nature protection is important if the Danube River should stay natural and dynamic or be revitalized.

One of the less visible goals of DANUBEPARKS is to become a strong voice for nature protection on international and political levels. Although the immediate effects of these efforts can not be measured, it is an important part of our work, as the political framework and legal regulations heavily influence on nature protection implementing activities.

The Danube Strategy has been identified as one of the most important initiatives at the moment, therefore, as a first important step, at the occasion of the Steering Committee Meeting, DANUBEPARKS decided to apply for Observer Partnership at the [ICPDR](#). The ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River) is an international body governed by the Ministries of Environment of the member states. Membership will help to anchor the voice of Protected Areas even stronger in future plans for the river.

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