

Rezervația  
Biosferei  
Delta Dunării

Природен  
резерват  
Сребърна

Сдружение  
"Защитена местност  
"Калимок-Бръшлен"

Природен  
парк Персина

# DANUBE PARKS

network of protected areas

Specijalni rezervat  
prirode Gornje  
Podunavlje

Park prirode  
Kopački rit

## DANUBE RIVER NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS COOPERATION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

[WWW.DANUBEPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.DANUBEPARKS.ORG)

Duna-Dráva  
Nemzeti Park  
Igazgatóság

Duna-Ipoly  
Nemzeti Park  
Igazgatóság



Chránená  
krajinná oblasť  
Dunajské luhy

Chránená  
krajinná oblasť  
Záhorie

Nationalpark  
Donau-Auen

Donauauwald  
zwischen Neuburg  
und Ingolstadt

National Parks and Protected Areas play a vital role in the conservation of biodiversity along the Danube.

#### Imprint

**DANUBEPARKS**  
network of protected areas

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### The Danube is an international river,

no other river passes through more nations and states. In spite of severe human intervention, the Danube still conserves a high diversity of animal and plant species. The nearly extinct European pond turtle lives here, White-tailed Eagle circle majestically above the floodplains, Egrets and Little-ringed Plover can be seen along the banks of the river, and Beaver find undisturbed biotopes. River and floodplains build one large interrelated ecosystem. The Danube is part of our joint European natural heritage.

The growing together of European regions and the dynamic economic development in South-East Europe have put growing pressure on the natural treasures of the Danube. Spreading cities, infrastructure investments and new navigation projects on the Danube endanger the last existing habitats. At the same time, most Danubian countries have the same European nature protection directives (Birds Directive, Fauna-Flora Habitat Directive, Water Framework Directive); their implementation, however, is still only at the beginning.

### Cooperation - the order of the day

During the last two decades, several new Protected Areas have been created along the Danube. National Parks and large Protected Areas are key players in the long-term conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development of the Danube Region. Protected Areas administrators work on site; they are the experts for the actual requirements and problems of their areas, as well as the needs of local population and visitors.

The Protected Areas of the Danube face the same tasks and challenges. Animals and plants do not recognise state borders. The success of one single Protected Area depends heavily on the successful activities of all other Danube Protected Areas.

### The DANUBEPARKS Network

The nature and wildlife of the Danube today needs a joint voice in Europe. The Network of Protected Areas wants to be this voice. It builds on existing cooperation and creates new framework conditions for continuous and intense collaboration among the Protected Areas of the Danube and its most important tributaries. This Danube-wide cooperation strengthens each Protected Area in the fulfilment of its own tasks.

### DANUBEPARKS is a continuous platform

- for know-how-transfer and exchange of experience among the Danube Protected Areas
- for the elaboration of joint transnational strategies and concepts, and
- for the implementation of cross-border and transnational revitalization and conservation projects.

The establishment of the Network and the implementation of a pilot scheme are currently co-financed by the EU Programme for European Territorial Cooperation in South-East Europe (ETC-SEE). The total budget for DANUBEPARKS activities until February 2012 is € 2.7m.

The ETC **South-East-Europe Programme 2007-2013** aims to develop transnational partnerships which foster the territorial, economic and social cohesion process by their strategic activities. In this way, the stability and competitiveness of the region can be strengthened.



Danube -  
Habitat for a rich and diverse fauna and flora



June 2009: The Danube River Network of Protected Areas was created by the signing of the "Declaration of Vienna".



Species protection is the central focus of transnational strategies.

White-tailed Eagle – Flagship species for unbounded nature protection. The Danube is the backbone of the White-tailed Eagle population in Central Europe. Around one hundred pairs (a quarter of South-East-Europe’s breeding population) nest in Protected Areas.



### From species protection to nature tourism

The establishment of habitat networks, development of transnational strategies for river revitalisation and implementation of international species protection projects are the main focus of DANUBEPARKS activities.

### Danube Sturgeon and White-tailed Eagle are flagship species

for transnational nature protection in the Danube region. Migrating Sturgeon species need an uninterrupted river for their spawning migration, which leads them upstream from the Black Sea. In the past they even reached the Upper Danube, but nowadays hydro-electric power stations make this migration impossible. The majestic White-tailed Eagle (the biggest bird of prey in the Danube area) is an indicator of connected and diverse river habitats because of its extensive home range. In order to re-establish the Danube as a habitat axis for the White-tailed Eagle in South-East and Central Europe, the implementation of a transnational conservation strategy is of utmost importance.

### Area of conflict: River revitalization and navigation

Along the whole stretch of the river, from the upper Danube to the Delta, projects for river branch connectivity and re-naturalisation of river banks are being planned and implemented. Flood protection is being improved by the expansion of floodplain areas. A Danube-wide experience exchange about successes, chances and limits of such measures is on the agenda. Engineering projects to enhance the Danube navigation route threaten the still dynamic river sections; this calls for intense dialogue between river engineers and Protected Areas.

### Habitat Management and Habitat Networks

Habitat management for the water bodies, forests, meadows and wetlands is a core task for all Danube Protected Areas. The exchange of experience, the development of transnational strategies and the implementation of strategic pilot projects are goals of DANUBEPARKS. The implementation of measures in NATURA 2000-areas also requires the need for close coordination, strengthening the various habitats. NATURA 2000 is a European Network of protected habitats; each project partner represents such a site.

### Nature Tourism

This is a focus in all partner Protected Areas. With the help of tailored programmes, intense and personal experiences in nature can be offered to visitors. DANUBEPARKS has a goal of developing joint nature tourism activities along the Danube; the aim is to familiarize visitors with the beauty and value of nature, as well as culture and traditions of the Danube regions.

### DANUBEPARKS is taking action in the following areas

- Floodplain Management and Habitat Network
- River Revitalisation and Morphology
- Conservation of Danube Flagship Species
- Monitoring and Natura 2000
- Danube Nature Tourism

The development of ecologically sound boat tourism is one of the goals of the Network.



Joint strategies will be developed within the conflicting area of nature protection and navigation.



Danube Sturgeons are flagship species for transnational protection of species.



## DANUBEPARKS Partners

With the Lead Partnership of the Donau-Auen National Park, a total of twelve Protected Areas and National Parks are participating as project partners in the implementation of DANUBEPARKS. Numerous institutions support the idea of a Danube Network of Protected Areas through their Observer Partnership.

### Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)

After more than 2,800 kilometres, the Danube River reaches the Black Sea. The Delta is Europe's largest wetland. Together with the Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve Authority, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (Romania) protects one of the most outstanding areas along the Danube and a hotspot of biodiversity.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, [www.ddbra.ro](http://www.ddbra.ro)

### Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

This Nature Reserve is situated around Lake Srebarna, which is connected to and fed by the Danube. The area is particularly famous for its extremely rich bird fauna. The only Bulgarian Pelican breeding colony is found here.

Regional Institute for Environment and Water, [www.riosv.ruse.bg](http://www.riosv.ruse.bg)

### Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site (Bulgaria)

This site protects important areas along the Danube and the surrounding floodplain forests, as well as wetlands that have developed from the former Kalimok and Brushlen marshes. It is of high importance as a spawning area for numerous endangered fish species. Many different habitats



Gornje Podunavlje Nature Reserve



Kopački rit Nature Park



Duna-Dráva National Park

are the reason for its high biodiversity, for example slightly saline riverine pastures.

Protected Area Administration Kalimok-Brushlen (NGO), [www.kalimok.eu](http://www.kalimok.eu)

### Persina Nature Park (Bulgaria)

Persina is the biggest Ramsar Protected Site in Bulgaria. It consists mainly of a multitude of islands in the Danube. Many endangered bird species find one of their last refuges here, such as Cormorant and Spoonbill. The White-tailed Eagle also breeds in the area.

Nature Park Administration Persina, [www.persina.bg](http://www.persina.bg)

### Gornje Podunavlje Nature Reserve (Serbia)

Gornje Podunavlje is situated in the border triangle of Hungary, Croatia and Serbia – it is a natural model region for transnational cooperation in nature protection. Together with the neighbouring Protected Areas of Duna-Drava National Park and Kopački-Rit Nature Park, this reserve protects an outstanding number of nesting pairs of White-tailed Eagle and Black Stork.

Institute for Nature Conservation, Vojvodina, [zzps.rs](http://zzps.rs)  
Voivodinasume, State Forestry Administration, [www.vojvodinasume.co.rs](http://www.vojvodinasume.co.rs)

### Kopački rit Nature Park (Croatia)

Kopački Rit is situated at the confluence of the Drava and Danube rivers. Due to its particular bio-geographic situation, a very specialized fauna and flora can be found here. Many threatened animal species live here. The Nature Park also offers a broad visitor programme, so people are able to experience the natural heritage by boat, on foot or by bike.

Nature Park Administration Kopački rit, [www.kopacki-rit.hr](http://www.kopacki-rit.hr)

### Duna-Dráva National Park (Hungary)

This National Park is in the central section of the Danube, on the Croatian and Serbian borders. It offers a high diversity of habitats. Protected plants like German Tamarisk and important animal species such as White-tailed Eagle and Black Stork live here. The National Park has an extensive programme for visitors, as well as several interesting visitor centres and study trails.

Duna-Dráva National Park, [ddnp.nemzetiparks.gov.hu](http://ddnp.nemzetiparks.gov.hu)

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve



Srebarna Nature Reserve



Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site



Persina Nature Park





**Duna-Ipoly National Park**



**Dunajské luhy Landscape Protected Area**



**Záhorie Landscape Protected Area**

### Duna-Ipoly National Park (Hungary)

This National Park, situated on the 'Danube knee' in Hungary, covers large forests and river landscapes along the Danube and the Ipeľ. It is famous for its numerous caves, which can also be visited. Several valuable endangered plant species can be found. Visitor centres, exhibitions and study trails give interested visitors the chance to learn more about the natural heritage of the area.

**National Park Duna-Ipoly, [www.dinpi.hu](http://www.dinpi.hu)**

### Dunajské luhy Landscape Protected Area (Slovakia)

The whole area covers the Slovak-Hungarian border zone of the river Danube, including the river-branch system between Dobrohošť and Sap. Here you find the biggest inland delta in Europe: Dunajské-Luhy is part of it. The river delta is situated on a migration corridor and offers wintering sites for important water birds. Protected plants such as the Siberian Water Lily can be found here.

**BROZ – Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, [www.broz.sk](http://www.broz.sk)**

**State Nature Conservancy, [www.soprs.sk](http://www.soprs.sk)**

### Záhorie Landscape Protected Area (Slovakia)

The Morava is one of the most important tributaries of the Danube; Záhorie Landscape Protected Area protects large floodplain areas on the Slovak-Austrian border. These provide habitats for many endangered species of birds, amphibians, fish and mammals.

**State Nature Conservancy, [www.soprs.sk](http://www.soprs.sk)**

### Donau-Auen National Park (Austria)

The Donau-Auen National Park protects one of the last dynamic sections of the Upper Danube. While most floodplains in Austria and Germany are severely degraded by land use and hydro-electric power stations, many indicator species of dynamic rivers still find suitable living conditions within the 9,300 ha of Donau-Auen. Being the lead partner of the DANUBEPARKS project, the National Park also has the coordinating role within the Danube River Network of Protected Areas.

**Donau-Auen National Park, [www.donauauen.at](http://www.donauauen.at)**

### Danube Riparian Forest between Neuburg and Ingolstadt (Germany)

Apart from the last free-flowing section between Straubing and Vilshofen, the German part of the Danube is degraded by a large number of hydro-electric power stations. Because of the intense ecological harm that has already been done to them, the last remaining riparian forests need focused management and revitalization measures. The Auenzentrum Neuburg is working on the riparian forests in this area, together with the local environmental administrations in Ingolstadt and Neuburg.

**City of Ingolstadt, [www.ingolstadt.de](http://www.ingolstadt.de)**

**Auenzentrum Neuburg, District of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen, [www.auenzentrum-neuburg.de](http://www.auenzentrum-neuburg.de)**

### Observer-Partners

- ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, [www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)
- Ministry for Environment and Water, Hungary, [www.termeszetvedelem.hu](http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu)
- Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Serbia, [www.eko.vojvodina.gov.rs](http://www.eko.vojvodina.gov.rs)
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Serbia, [www.ekoplan.gov.rs](http://www.ekoplan.gov.rs)
- State Forestry Agency, Bulgaria, [www.dag.bg](http://www.dag.bg)
- Ministry for Environment and Water, Bulgaria, [www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)
- Ministry of Environment, Romania, [www.mmediu.ro](http://www.mmediu.ro)
- Ministry of Culture, Croatia, [www.min-kulture.hr](http://www.min-kulture.hr)
- Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria, [www.lebensministerium.at](http://www.lebensministerium.at)
- Via donau, Austrian Waterway Company, [www.via-donau.org](http://www.via-donau.org)
- Forestry and Agriculture Agency of the City of Vienna (MA 49), Austria [www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/wald](http://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/wald)



**Donau-Auen National Park**



**Danube Riparian Forest between Neuburg and Ingolstadt**

1 Danube Delta  
Biosphere Reserve

2 Srebarna  
Nature Reserve

3 Kalimok-Brushlen  
Protected Site

4 Persina Nature Park

5 Gornje Podunavlje  
Nature Reserve

6 Kopački rit  
Nature Park

7 Duna-Dráva  
National Park



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8 Duna-Ipoly  
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9 Dunajské luhy  
Landscape  
Protected Area

10 Záhorie  
Landscape  
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12 Danube Riparian  
Forest between  
Neuburg and  
Ingolstadt