



# DANUBE PARKS

network of protected areas



## DANUBEPARKS - Danube River Network of Protected Areas – Development and Implementation of Transnational Strategies for the Conservation of the Natural Heritage at the Danube River

### Towards a Danube River Network of Protected Areas

The natural Danube River sections and large wetlands are part of our common European natural heritage. Danube Protected Areas represent unique natural areas in a transnational ecosystem.

The enlargement of the European Union created a new general set-up along the Danube River. The economic development has intensified pressure on remaining natural flood plains and river sections, whereas NATURA 2000 and Water Framework Directive still wait for full implementation.

Based on existing co-operation, representatives of Protected Areas launched an appeal for the establishment of a Danube River Network as a platform for continuous transnational co-operation (Declaration of Tulcea, April 2007).

### The ETC - South East Europe project DANUBEPARKS

Within the framework of the EU funding program ETC - South East Europe (SEE), 12 Protected Area administrations from Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria und Romania successfully submitted the DANUBEPARKS project.

For the official launch of DANUBEPARKS all project partners signed the Declaration of Vienna on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 to set forth the goals of the new network and to avow the objectives of the sustainable collaboration. The total EU funding sums up to 2.7 million Euro for a total implementation time of 3 years (up to February 2012)



**Lead Partner:**

Donau-Auen National Park, Austria

**Project Partners:**

BROZ – Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, Slovakia

State Nature Conservancy, Slovakia

Duna-Drava National Park, Hungary

Duna-Ipoly National Park, Hungary

Kalimok Brushlens Protected Area, Bulgaria

Persina Nature Park Directorate, Bulgaria

Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters - Ruse, Bulgaria

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania

**Network Partners:**

Nature Park Kopacki Rit, Croatia

Nature Reserve Gornje Podunavlje, Serbia

City of Ingolstadt/Auenzentrum Neuburg, Germany

**Observer Partners:**

ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Ministry of Environment and Water, State Secretary for Nature and Environment Protection, Hungary

Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Serbia

State Forestry Agency, Bulgaria

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Serbia

City of Ingolstadt, Germany

via donau - Austrian Waterway Company

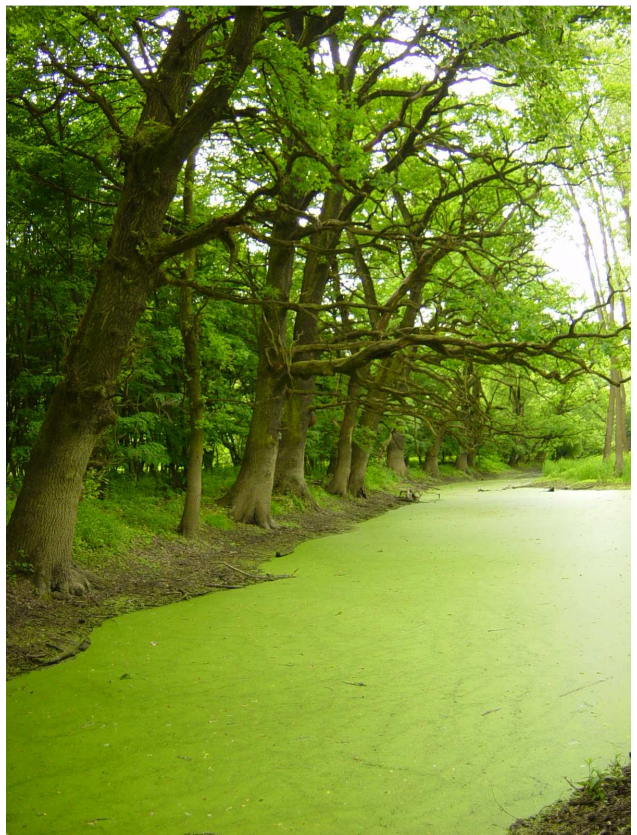
Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

Ministry of Environment, Romania

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Institute for Nature Conservation, Serbia

Ministry of Culture, Croatia



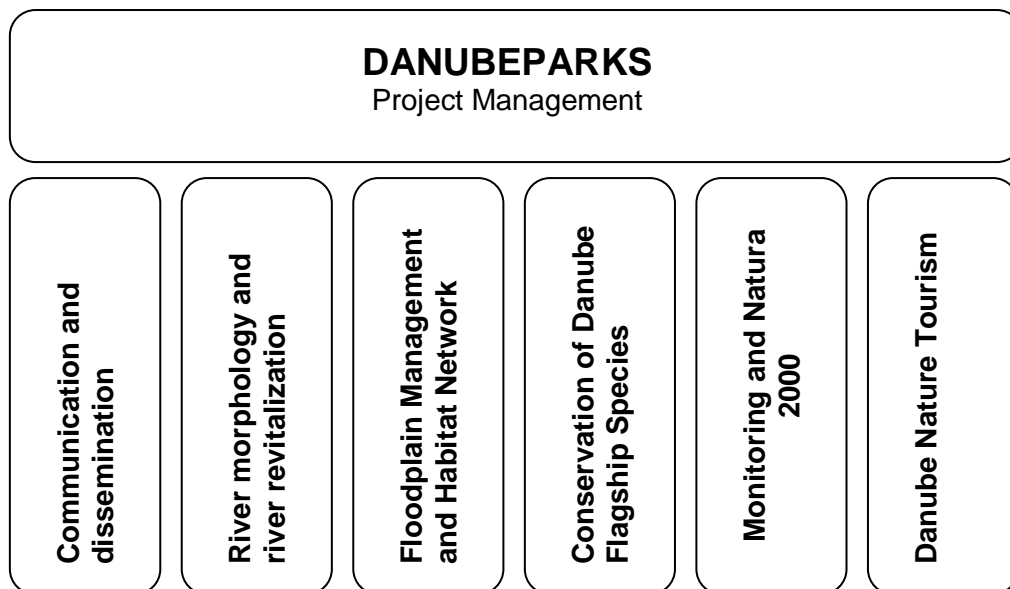
## Goals, Visions and Activities of DANUBEPARKS:

DANUBEPARKS has been established to foster conservation agendas on transnational level and to raise the capacity of single Protected Areas by the

- development and implementation of joint transnational conservation strategies
- coherent management practice and
- common corporate identity of Danube Protected Areas.

Expected internal effects include a transfer of knowledge and experience serving as the base for the elaboration of joint management and conservation plans and the implementation of pilot projects of Danube-wide significance. The overall goals are to improve the ecological situation of the Danube wetlands and the habitat for flagship species, as well as strengthening the regional development by fostering nature tourism and cultural exchange.

In terms of external effects, joint PR initiatives and collaborative conferences of international significance will help to strengthen the voice of Danube Protected Areas on international level.



## Further steps and future development of DANUBEPARKS:

The long term concept of DANUBEPARKS includes further Protected Areas along the Danube and its larger tributaries. All Danube Protected Areas are invited to join the network, all stakeholders are welcome to play an active role in the Danube River Network of Protected Areas.

## DANUBEPARKS

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