Transboundary cooperation along Mura-Drava-Danube: coop MDD project

TransParcNet Meeting, Retz/AT
June 7th 2018, Magdalena Wagner
Future Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve „Mura-Drava-Danube“ (TBR MDD)

Zonation of the future TBR MDD

- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Transition Area
- Different valid zonations exist

The zonation shown on this map reflects the current status of nomination documents of the five countries, except for some small areas on the Croatian-Serbian border. There, two valid official zonations exist that differ from each other and can therefore not be correctly displayed. Those areas are marked in a separate color on the map.

Hungary, Croatia, Serbia: Existing (Transboundary) Biosphere Reserve
Slovenia: Nomination for Biosphere Reserve submitted, decision of UNESCO expected in June 2018
Austria: Nomination for Biosphere Reserve under preparation, submission to UNESCO expected in 2018
Since 2012

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Interreg Danube Transnational Programme coop MDD

Since 2017
Future Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve „Mura-Drava-Danube“ (TBR MDD)

From 2019

From 2018

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Core Zone

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Transition Area

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Free flowing river stretches of the Drava and Mura Rivers
Pre-condition for survival of migrating species like Ship Sturgeon (*Acipenser nudiventris*)
Highly dynamic sections with natural habitats and processes
Habitat for typical riparian species, dependent on steep slopes and gravel banks
Restoration potential due to wide floodplain forests
Assessment of the Restoration Potential in the TBR MDD

Map 4: Restoration potential of river banks and side-arms

60% (652km) of impacted banks could be restored

120 side-branches (519 km) could be re-connected
Assessment of the Restoration Potential in the TBR MDD

Map 6: Prioritisation of Restoration Potential of Floodplains

36% (165.318 ha) of the floodplain could be re-connected
Transboundary cooperation

- Coop MDD – transboundary management
- Protected Areas
- Bike Trail - Sustainable regional development
- Fights against threats
Coop MDD – joint management
Coop MDD Team
11 project partners from 5 countries
- 2 WWFs, 8 Protected Areas,
  1 Municipality
13 associated partners

Facts & Figures
Danube Transnational Program
2,2 Mio € Budget
85% EU-Financing
January 2017 – June 2019
Goals & Activities

Coordinated management → Transboundary Cooperation Programme

Support by the local population → RIVERS‘COOL Network & local action plans

Continued cooperation → Preparation of follow-up projects

Political support → Cooperation with UNESCO, EUSDR, Ministries
Goals & Activities

Coordinated management →
Transboundary Cooperation Programme
Guidelines for a dynamic river corridor

Cross-border and cross-sectorial cooperation

Species and habitat protection

River management and engineering

Fish ecology and fishery

Forest management and forestry

Meadow management and agriculture

Game management and hunting

Visitor management and education

Spatial planning and regional development
Challenges

(Too) many topics

Stakeholder acceptance

Traditional use

National protection categories

Zonation system

National legislation
Transboundary Action Plan

24 actions
9 high priority
4 working groups
TAP – Working Group Species & Habitats
TAP – Working Group Rivers‘cools
TAP – Working Group Coordination & Communication

COOP MDD
Transboundary Management Programme for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube”

The Mura, Drava and Danube rivers are valuable and free-flowing, covering 700 km and connecting 200 thousand hectares across Austria, Slovakia, and Serbia – the “Amazon on the European continent”. Stuning biological diversity, species, and natural habitats such as floodplain forests, river islands, and banks.
TAP – Working Group Hydropower
Next steps:
- Cooperation agreement
- Capitalization seminars
- Follow-up projects!
See you in Mura-Drava-Danube!