



NATURE CONSERVATION AND NAVIGATION alongside the DANUBE River

Cooperation of DANUBE parksCONNECTED & DanubeSTREAM

Georg Frank, DANUBE PARKS Secretary General

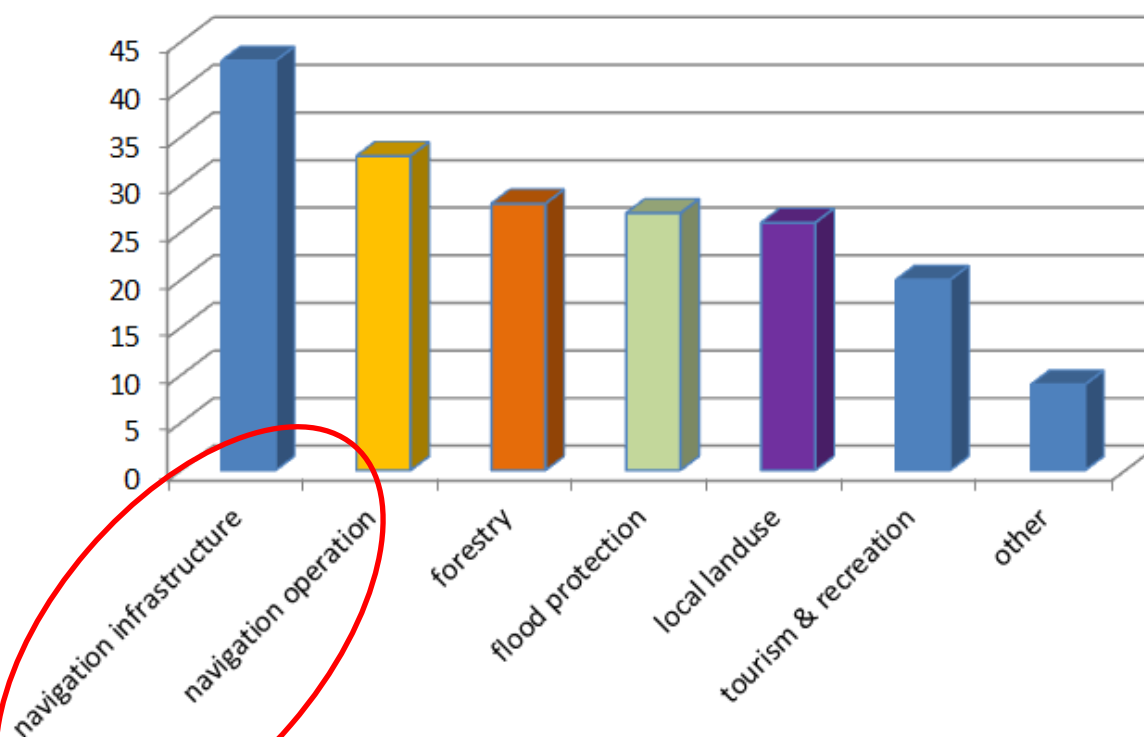
10th Meeting on the follow-up of the Joint Statement

Budapest, 11th September 2019



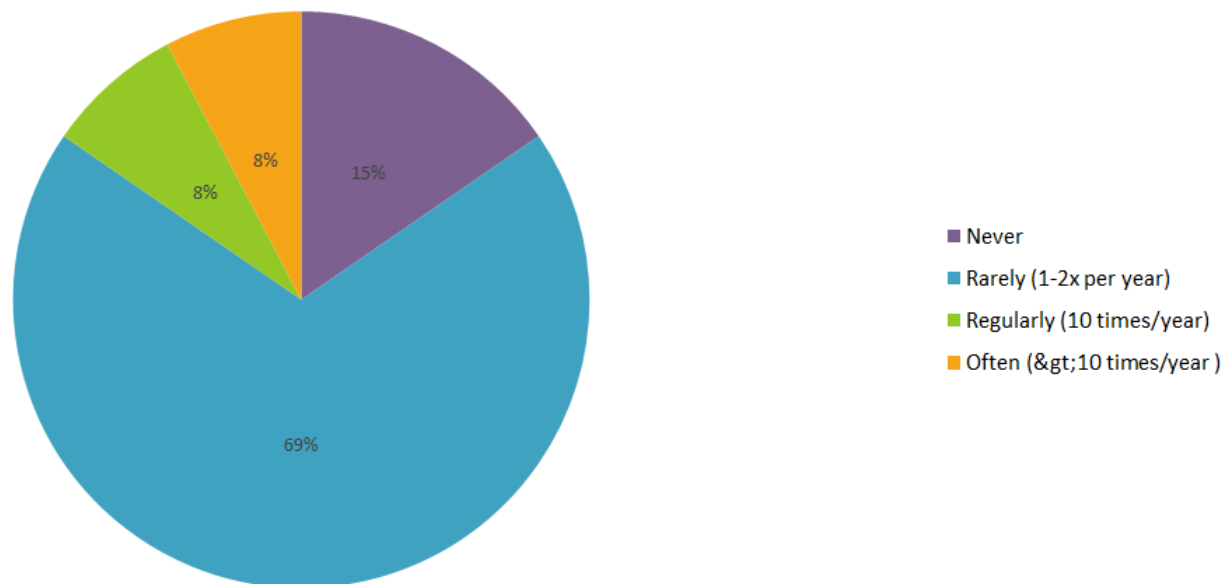


Which sector has the strongest impact on river (!) habitats in your Protected Areas/in your section in the previous 10 years? Please rank from 1 - 5 (1 is highest, 5 is lowest)



(DANUBE PARKS Questionnaire, 2017)

How often do you (respectively the expert team of your Protected Area) have official meetings with colleagues from the waterway/navigation sector?

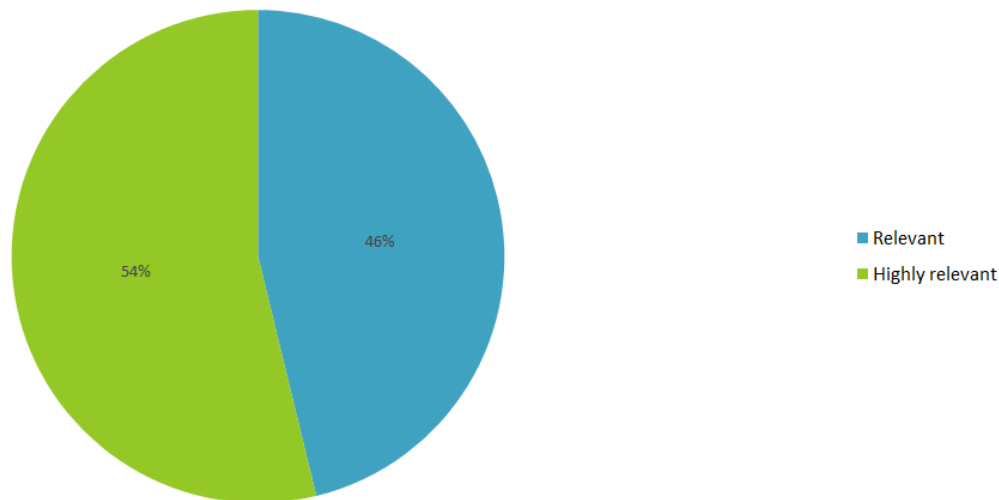


(DANUBEPARKS Questionnaire, 2017)



Cross-sector conference DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0 & NEWADA duo (Hainburg, 17th Oct. 2013)

In your opinion, how relevant is the cross-sector cooperation with the navigation sector for Danube Protected Areas?



(DANUBE PARKS Questionnaire, 2017)

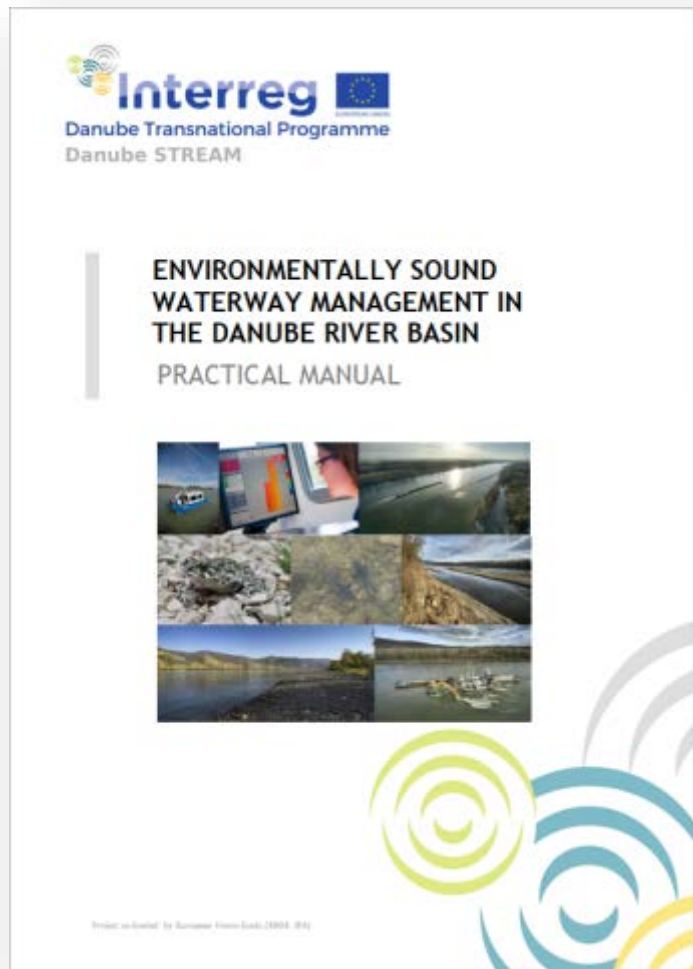
Cross-sector learning interactions DanubeSTREAM & DANUBE PARKS

- Intersectoral conferences
(Dunakiliti, April 2017 & Kladovo, May 2018); including **Danube Sediment**
- Presentation of and discussion on good practices in environmentally sustainable waterway management (developed within DanubeSTREAM)
- Danube Awareness Day (Vienna, 13th September 2018)
- Joint presentation at EUSDR Annual Forum (Bucharest 2019)



Manual on environmentally sound waterway management

- Sharing know-how and experiences with regard to the setup of integrated waterway maintenance in practice
- Providing checklists and a model process
- Illustrating the „integrated approach“ with good practices from the Danube region



An aerial photograph of a wide river bend, likely the Danube, featuring a large, elongated island covered in dense green forest. The riverbanks are characterized by extensive, light-colored sandbars and gravel deposits. The surrounding landscape includes patches of green fields and forested areas. The text 'WILDisland' is prominently displayed in the upper right, with 'The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor' written below it in a smaller font.

WILDisland

The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

AT040 PARADEISINSEL

AUSTRIA
48.12075377950, 16.68332212730

CATEGORY: A

AREA: 4,8 ha

ORIGIN: A

HYDRO-MORPHOLOGY: 3

RIVER KM: 1905

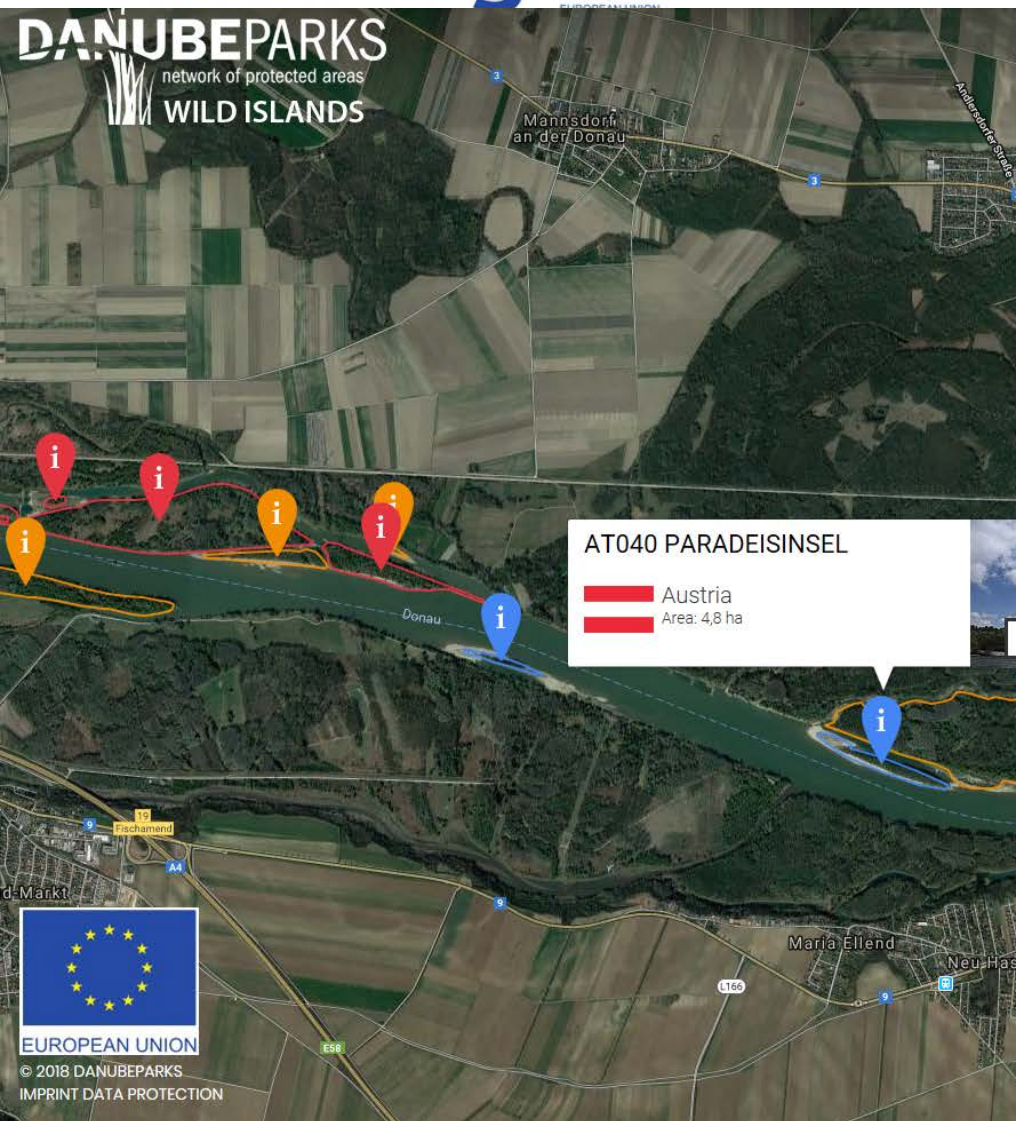
HABITAT CHARACTERISTIC:

PIONEER VEGETATION, BARS AND SOFTWOOD GALLERIES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

LARGE GRAVEL BANKS AND PRIMEVAL FORESTS (IN THE AGE OF APPROX. 30 YEARS) MAKE THIS ISLAND UNIQUE FOR THE UPPER DANUBE. VERY NICE GRADIENT FROM GRAVEL BANKS, WILLOW BUSH VEGETATION TO POPLAR STANDS. IMPORTANT BREEDING SITE FOR LITTLE RINGED PLOVER AND SAND PIPER, THEREFORE, IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE AREA.

CONSERVATION STATUS: NATIONAL PARK, NATURA 2000



LEARN MORE

Nationalpark
Donau-Auen

Haslau an
der Donau

Maria Ellend

Neu-Haslau

L166

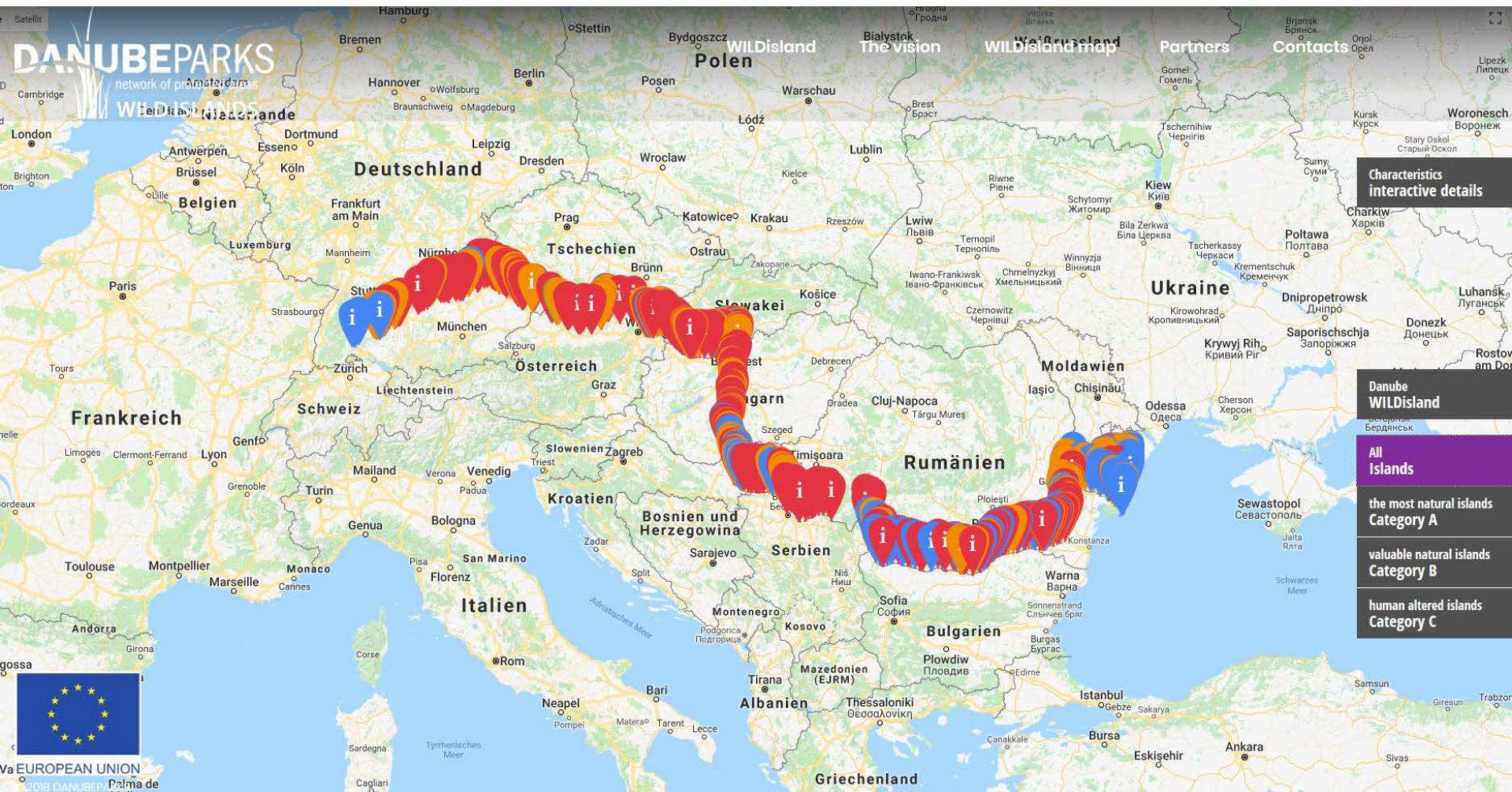
E58



EUROPEAN UNION

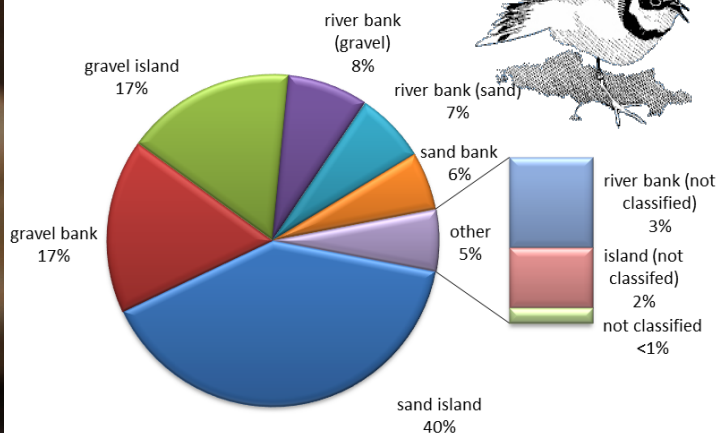
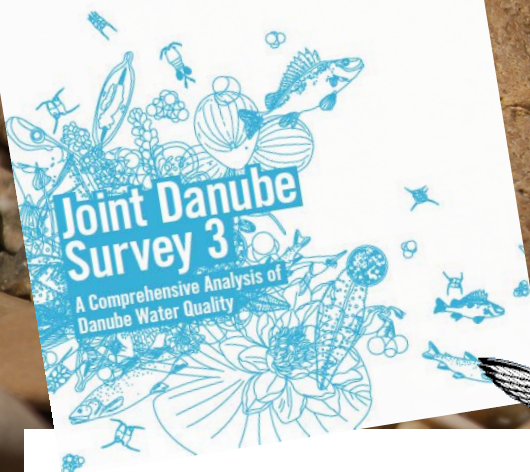
© 2018 DANUBE PARKS

IMPRINT DATA PROTECTION



WILDisland Habitat Corridor

Joint
Danube
Survey 3



at the Danube, >80 % of Little Ringed Plovers nest on „islands“

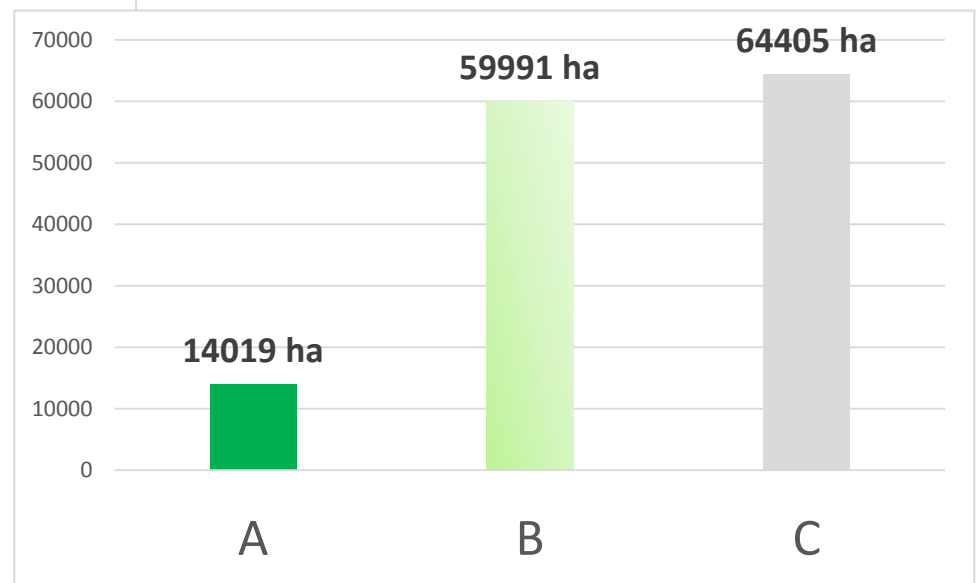
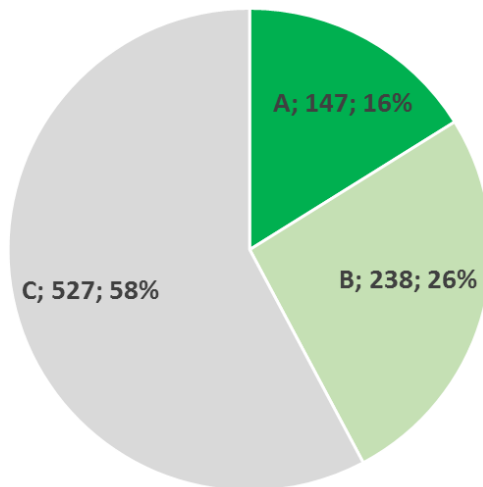
An aerial photograph showing a coastal area. On the left, a large, dense forest of green trees covers a hillside. To the right, a wide, sandy beach curves along the shoreline. A river or stream flows from the top right towards the beach, creating a delta-like pattern with several small, light-colored sandbars and pools of water. The water in the river is a dark, muddy brown. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the landscape.

WILDisland Habitat Corridor

**approx. 34% of Alluvial Forests (priority FFH-Habitat) are located on island
40% of it in good a good conservation status (including pristine forest stand)**

Results

In total: **912 islands with 138,415 ha**

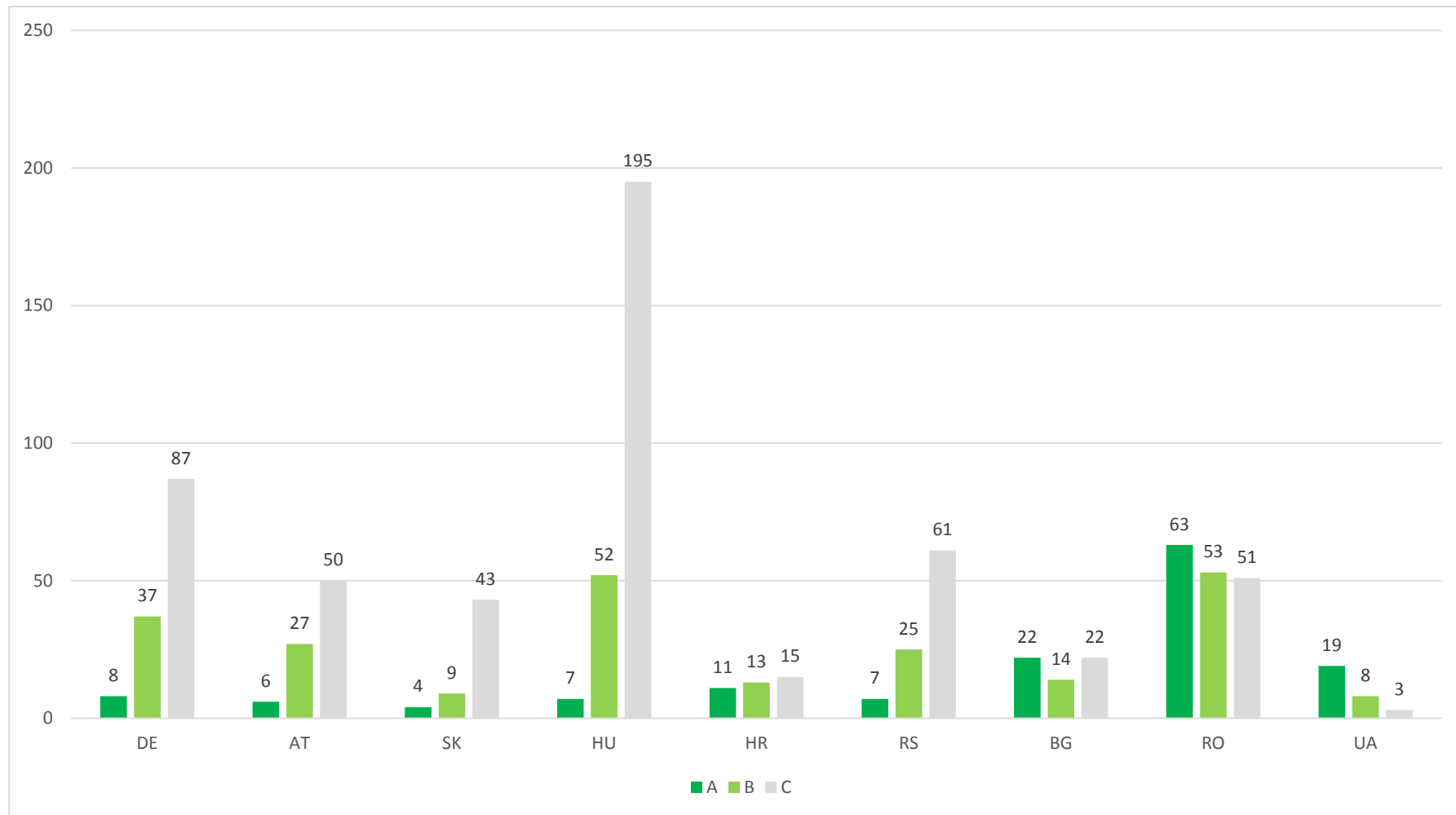


Category A = WILDIslands (natural islands)

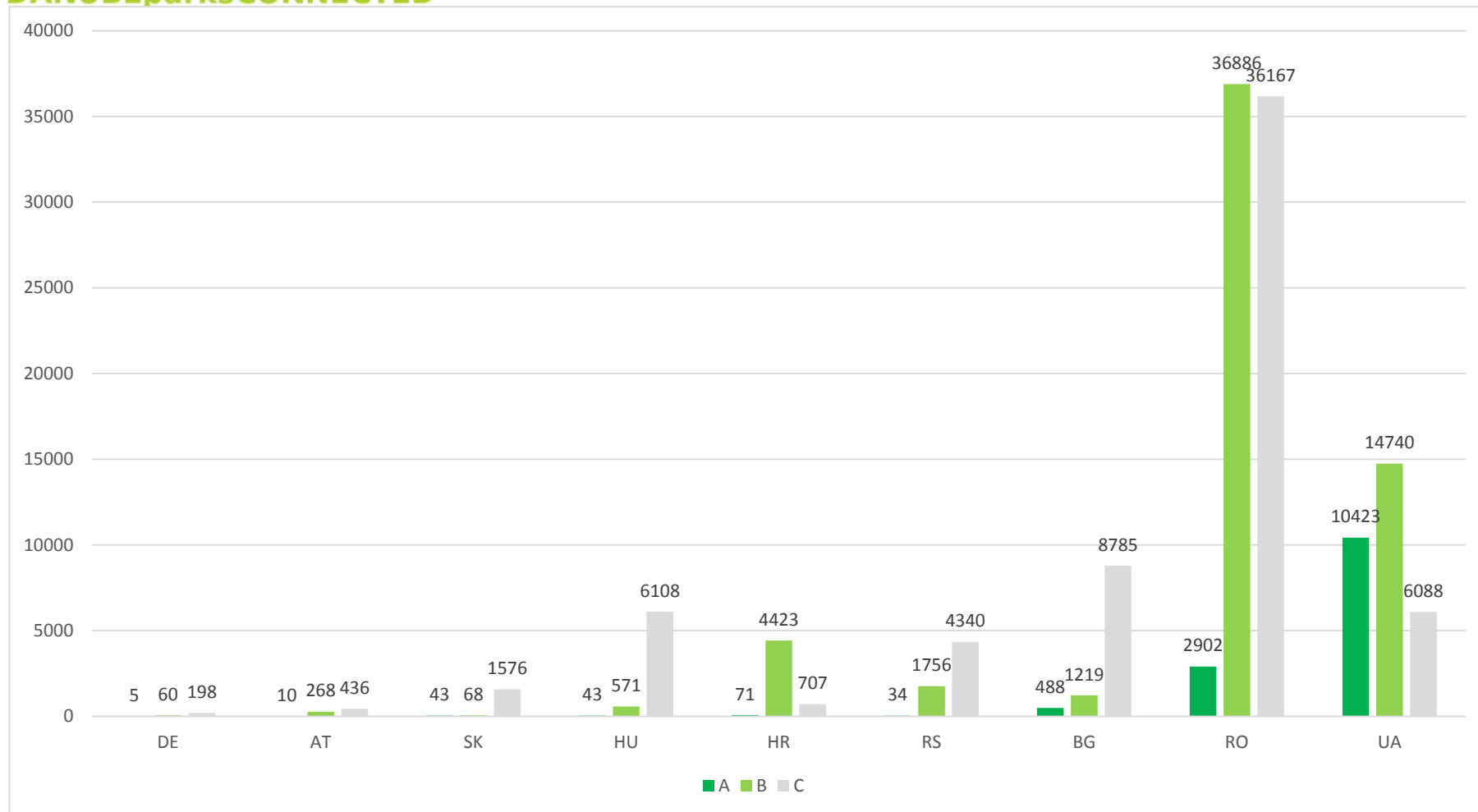
Category B = near natural islands with potential for restoration

Category C = other islands

Results per country (number)



Results per country (ha)



Commitment by the Danube Protected Areas to work for and to establish WILDIsland – the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

The Danube Protected Area Administrations

- share the common mission to work together for the Danube natural heritage;
- consider that the Danube River represent an unique nature region of European importance
- underline the common understanding for the importance of river dynamics as key natural driver of intact river ecosystems, and the importance to maintain and strengthen the ecological corridor along the Danube river course
- stress Danube islands as key habitats for unique, and often highly threatened species, characteristic for the dynamic river ecosystem and essential as stepping stones towards vital Danube habitat corridor
- share the common understanding of the high value of wild and wilderness areas with their diverse natural processes
- underline the diversity of islands as indicator for the diversity in riverbed morpholog and hydrodynamic structures.

Hence, together with partners and relevant stakeholders, DANUBE PARKS intends to prom better conservation of natural and semi-natural Danube islands by launching the WILDIsland initiative, considering islands as "flagship sites" of intact and natural river eco systems.

To ensure a better conservation of the Danube WILDIslands on a long-term, the proponen this initiative invite all land owners and land users, all relevant stakeholders and represen from the policy level, to support this initiative, considering the

- multi-functionality of the Danube, including its habitat corridor and biodiversity, recreation and inspiration area, transnational transport route and an important sustainable economic development
- integration of different sectors, in particular waterway management, forestry as water and sediment management, and tourism and recreation, to work efficient sustainable development of the Danube region and the conservation of the WIL

To establish WILDIsland – The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor, DANUBE PARKS invites the International Commissions to take over the patronage for this initiative, and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region for its support to anchor WILDIsland by promoting this initiative cross-over sectors by the relevant Priority Areas, in particular PA6, PA4 and PA1a.



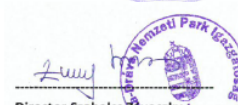
Director Stela Bozhinova
Persina Nature Park, Bulgaria



Director Ionel Manolache
Small Wetlands of Braila Nature Park, Romania



Director Marta Takač
Vojvodinašume, Petrovaradin, Serbia



Director Szabolcs Závoczky
Duna-Drava National Park Directorate, Hungary



Director Gábor Reischl
Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate, Hungary

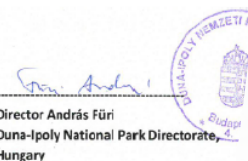


Governor Mălin-Matei Muşetescu
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania

Director Ivan Groychev
Rusenski Iom Nature Park, Bulgaria



Director Tomislav Bogdanović
Nature Park Kopački rit, Croatia



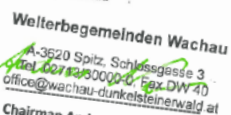
Director András Fűri
Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Hungary



Director Martin Lakanda
State Nature Conservancy, Slovakia



Chairman Tomáš Kušík
BROZ, Slovakia



Chairman Andreas Nunzer
Welterbegemeinden Wachau, Austria



HD Rupert Ebner
Environmental Department
Ingolstadt, Germany



Director Carl Manzano
Donau-Auen National Park, Austria



District Administrator Franz Meyer
Landratsamt Passau, Germany



District Administrator Roland Weigert
Neuburg, Germany

WILDIsland Commitment by DANUBE PARKS Directors



Nov. 2018



Dez. 2018



April 2019

Restoration Island at Wolfsthal (viadonau & Donau-Auen National Park)

KURIER

Wirtschaft Sport Lifestyle Kultur

Insellösung bei Wolfsthal
Renaturierung der Dona

Mit der Schaffung einer künstlichen Insel östlicher Lebensraum für Tiere geschaffen.

Chronik Niederösterreich

Eine richtige Insel statt eine weitgehend in Kiesbank – bei Wolfsthal ist ein weiteres P der Donau-Auen abgeschlossen worden. 7 Kilometer waren seit November 2018 neu Niederwasserregulierung rückgebaut, 600 entfernt und damit der Graben zwischen Donauufer vertieft worden. Die Insel Wc

Der Graben ist nun auch bei durchschnittlicher Wasserführung durchströmt. Zuletzt hatte die Kiesbank aufgrund der bestehenden Regulierung der Donau ihren Inselcharakter weitgehend verloren gehabt.

RENATURIERUNG: NEUE „DONAUINS

Wolfsthal. Mit der Umgestaltung einer Kiesbank in eine Insel bei Wolfsthal wurde unter anderem im Fluss ein Lebensraum für Fische geschaffen, in de geschützt sind. Das Projekt ist Teil des Via donau-Maßnahmenkatalogs zu Donaurenaturierung östlich von Wien. Laut Landesrat Stephan Pernkopf sind weitere Projekte in der Wachau und dem Nationalpark Donau-Auen in Vorbereitung.

BILD: JUTOR: VIADONAU

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Wien Oberösterreich Niederösterreich Salzburg Tirol Kärnten Steiermark Burgenland Vorarlber

Lebensraum Donau: Kiesbank zu Insel umgestaltet

Lebensraum Donau: Kiesbank zu Insel umgestaltet
Foto: Georg Frank

12 Apr 13:03 2019 von OTS Print This Article

In der österreichisch-slowakischen Grenzstrecke wurde auf Höhe Wolfsthal eine weidenbewachs Kiesbank zur Insel umgestaltet.

Wien (OTS) - Manchmal sind Insellösungen durchaus erstrebenswert. Das Vorhaben wurde in Kooperation mit dem Nationalpark Donau-Auen umgesetzt und die Vorbereitungen aus dem Proje DANUBE parks CONNECTED (Interreg DTP - Programm) kofinanziert.

meinbezirk.at

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Niederösterreich Bruck an der Leitha Lokales

FLUSSREVITALISIERUNG

Donau: Startschuss zur Revitalisierung der Insel Wolfsthal

5. Dezember 2018, 10:29 Uhr 109* gelesen 0 0

Donau: Startschuss zur Revitalisierung der Insel Wolfsthal mit Hans-Peter Hasenbichler (viadonau), Wolfsthal's Bgm. LABG. Gerhard Schöndinger und Nationalpark Donau-Auen Direktor Carl Manzano. Foto: © bme hochgeladen von Bianca Mrak

7 Bilder

First Commitments for non-intervention management signed on political level

Absichtserklärung

Das Bayerische Umweltministerium hat zusammen mit Kroatien die Koordinierung des Schwerpunktbereiches 8 „Erhaltung der biologischen Vielfalt, der Landschaften und der Qualität von Luft und Boden“ im Rahmen der Strategie der Europäischen Union für den Donaauraum und damit direkte Verantwortung für diese Themenfelder im gesamten Donaauraum übernommen, vor diesem Hintergrund wird folgendes beabsichtigt:

Die von der Donau beim Pfingsthochwasser 1999 aus einer langgezogenen Halbinsel geschaffene Insel östlich von Neuburg an der Donau, Donaukilometer 247,3,5 bis 247,4,8 soll von menschlichen Nutzungen freigehalten werden.
 Es wird von allen Seiten begrüßt, wenn der Wildnis-Charakter der Insel erhalten werden kann. Rechtliche und behördliche Verpflichtungen bleiben von dieser Absichtserklärung unberührt. Der Freistaat Bayern wird diese Insel als ersten Baustein in das Wildisland Projekt des Interreg Projektes DANUBE parksCONNECTED einbringen.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Bavarian Ministry of the Environment, together with Croatia, has taken over the coordination of priority area 8 „Conservation of biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil“ within the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region and thus is directly responsible for these topics throughout the Danube Region. Against this background, the following is intended:

The elongated island of the Danube east of Neuburg an der Donau, located at km 247,3,5 to 247,4,8, formed by the 1999 Whitsun flood, is to be held free from human use.
 Parties agree on preserving the natural character of the island. Legal and administrative liabilities are exempted from the provisions of the memorandum.
 The State of Bavaria will add the natural status of the peninsula as a first module to the Wild Island Project of the Interreg DANUBE parksCONNECTED campaign.

an der Donau, den 29. Juni 2018


 Staatsminister Dr. Marcel Huber, MfU





For further developing and strengthening the coherence of the Natura 2000 network, the WILDisland along the Danube can serve as a good example for the establishment of EU level Green Infrastructure projects.

*Conclusions EU Nature and Biodiversity Directors,
Seefeld, 2018*

Danube WILDislands as an Opportunity

The emerging **WILDislands Initiative** offers a cross-sectorial partnership of sustaining the WILDisland corridor:

- New awareness
- New image for Danube managers
- Better protection & management
- Joint cross-sectoral projects & additional resources
(LIFE+ WILDisland, in prep.)

**MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON THE
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
DANUBE WATERWAY
ADMINISTRATIONS AND
DANUBE PARKS**

**23rd May 2019: Board of Directors Meeting
DanubeSTREAM & DANUBE PARKS (Vienna)**

**16th September 2019: signing Memorandum of
Cooperation (Budapest)**