

DANUBE parksCONNECTED

WP 3 WILD island

Towards a Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor



WP responsible partner: Duna Ipoly National Park

Total Budget: € 680.959,20

14:00 – 17:00 Workshop WP 3 WILDislands

Participants: Project Managers and external experts

Moderation: Theresia Fladl

Key notes

Introduction WP 3: Milestones of work package implementation, *Balázs Tóth, Duna-Ipoly National Park/Hungary & Georg Frank, DANUBE PARKS*

Wilderness at European rivers, non-intervention management, *Max Rossberg, European Wilderness Society*

Presentation of WILDislands case sites (by selected project partners)

15:30 Coffee Break

15:45 Implementing WILDislands – Open Discussion

Balász Tóth, Danube Ipoly National Park & Georg Frank, DANUBE PARKS

Topics

Establishment of WILDislands criteria

Next steps

Cross-sector cooperation

Act. 3.1: Danube WILDisland learning process

- Cross-sector conference DANUBE parks CONNECTED & Danube STREAM
25-27 April, Dunakiliti, Fertő-Hanság NP
- WILDisland guidelines (definitions, criterias...)
- WILDisland Inventory (Danube-wide)
- Cross-sector conference (2018, Serbia)
(organized by Danube STREAM)
- DANUBE PARKS Contribution to PLATINA 2 Manual on Waterway Maintenance
- National meetings with waterway sector (each country)

Today: discussion

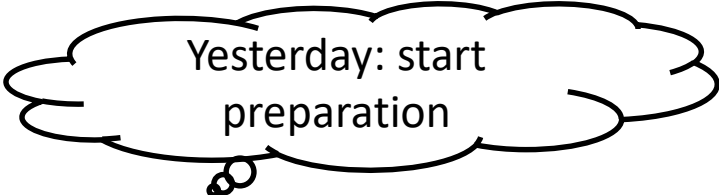
Today: introduction



Budget: 273.518,55 €

Act. 3.2: Joint Implementation of WILDisland

- 5 pilot restoration actions (NPDA, SNC SR, DINPI, Wachau, Persina)



Yesterday: start
preparation

Budget: 252.136,50 €

Act. 3.3: Establishing the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor



Today: internal nomination

- min. 21 Inseln along the Danube until 2019

Today: brainstorming

- Online-database for implementation and communication

Budget: 88.250,50 €

DANUBE PARKS

network of protected areas

WILD ISLANDS



TARGETS
of our DANUBE PARKS
wild islands project

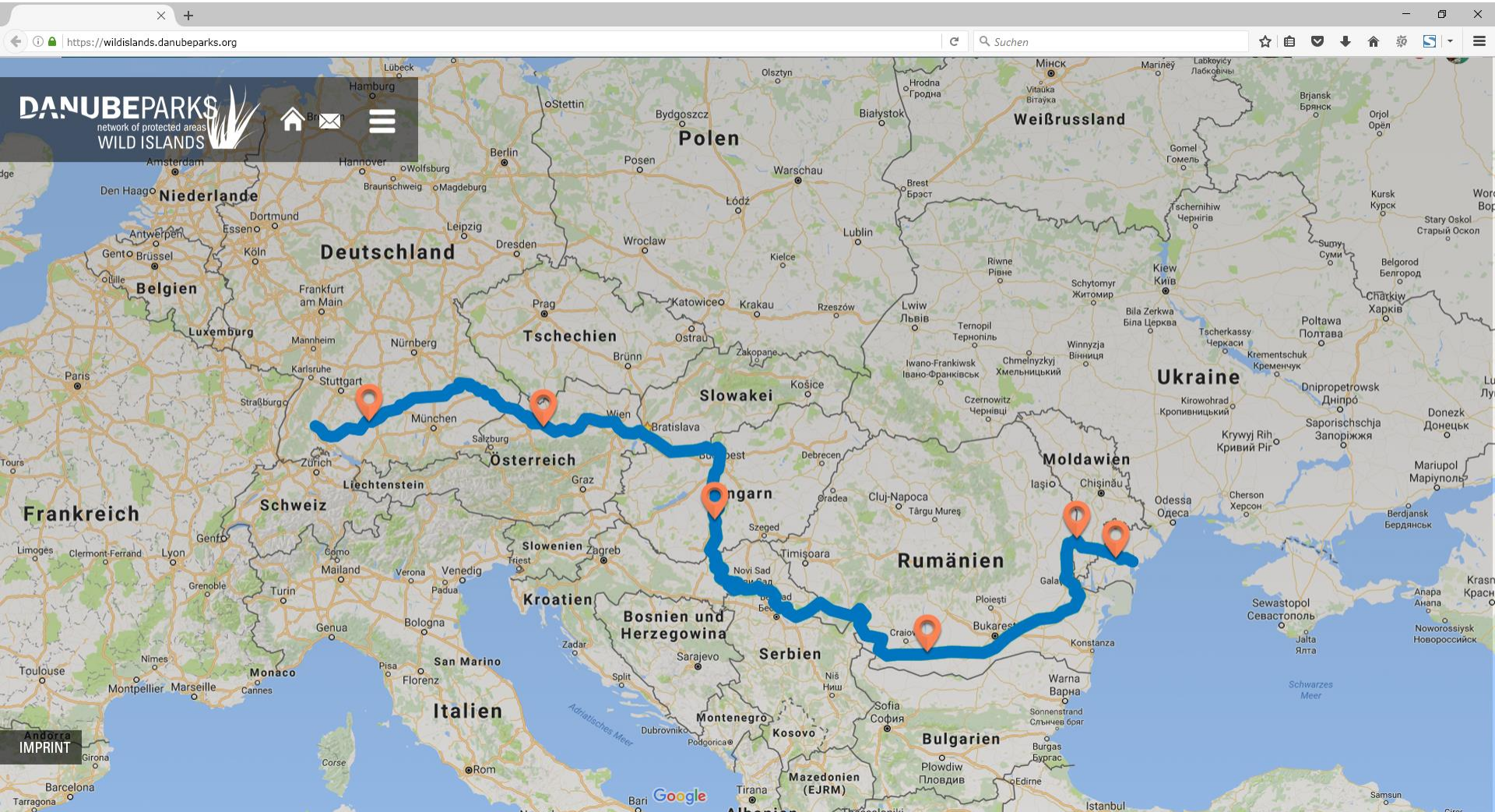
[more](#)

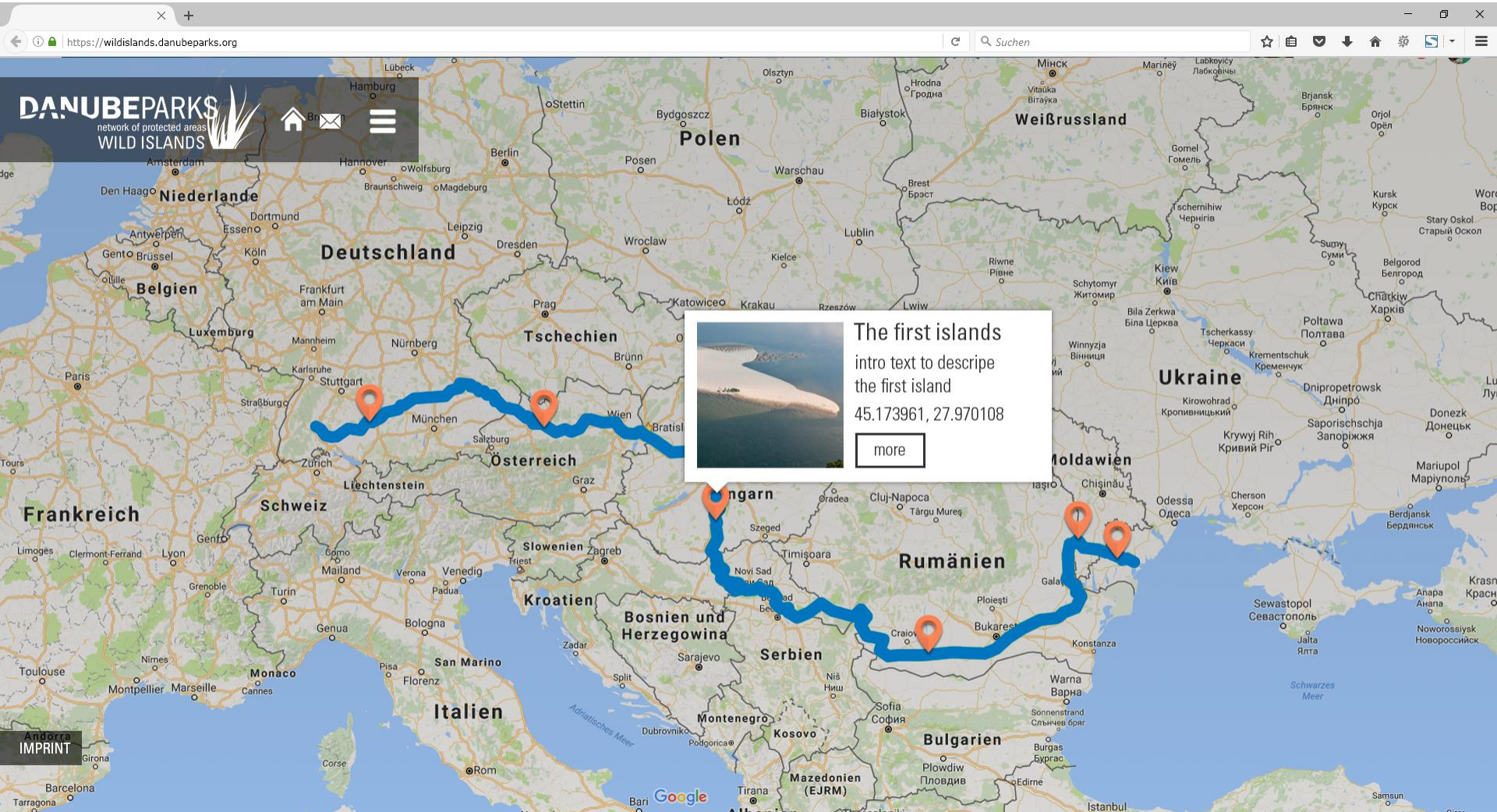
INTERACTIVE
map of the DANUBE PARKS
wild islands

[more](#)

EXPLORE
the islands

[more](#)

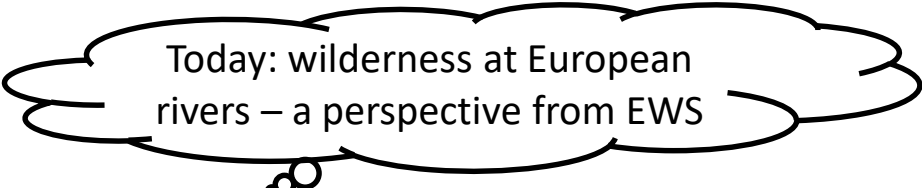




The first islands
into text to describe
the first island
45.173961, 27.970108

[more](#)

Act. 3.4: Anchoring WILDisland: capitalisation & follow-up strategy



Today: wilderness at European rivers – a perspective from EWS

- WILDisland Masterplan
- Stakeholder meeting (organized by Danube STREAM, Vienna 2019)
- Cross-sector Directors Meeting: future Cooperation, follow-up projects,... (Budapest 2019)

Budget: 67.053,65 €

Today's To-do's

Today: presentation case
sites & Document

- **Definition WILDisland**
- Establish the WILDisland working group & define its role
- Online platform: joint understanding, process of contracting
- Identification of stakeholders on WILDislands
(table to be filled in)
- Short discussion: Platina Manual on Water Maintenance
- Prepare your pilot actions

Definition & Standards

- General Statement
- Frame Conditions: WILDIsland as „flagship habitat“ for river morphology, dynamics & wilderness and habitat connectivity along the Danube

WILDisland: main criterias

- **all semi-aquatic** respectively **semi-terrestrial structures in/nearby the main course of the river** or its large side-channels, when (regularly) **surrounded by water**.
- (type of) vegetation is not a limiting factor...but only **natural or semi-natural** habitat types
- **outcomes of river dynamics and natural processes** (also islands altered by human alteration (e.g. forestry) and resulting out of existing river engineering infrastructure (e.g. behind groyne fields) can be included.
- (nearly) **without any human infrastructure**

WILDisland: main criterias

- **natural habitats** for which **non-intervention management** is an adequate concept
- in good ecological status, so **non-intervention management** is to increase habitat quality
- **all semi-aquatic** respectively **semi-terrestrial structures** **in/nearby the main course of the river** or its large side branches



Management principles

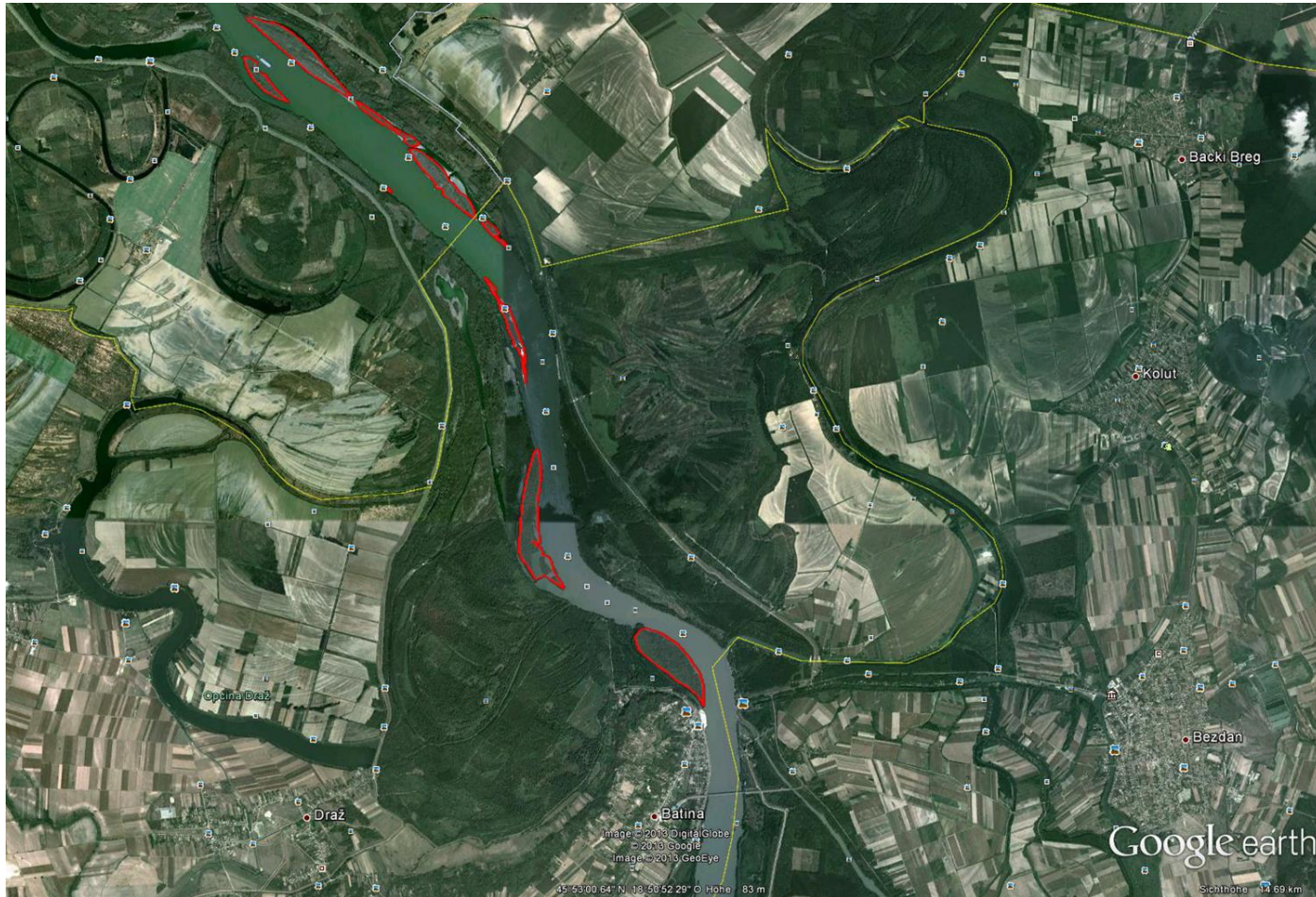
- **commitment for non-intervention management**
- **No forestry & logging, no erection of infrastructure, no river regulation work**
- **Exceptions of non-intervention:**
 - **human security**
 - **needs of common interests (e.g. flood protection)**
 - **legally binding interventions**
 - **River restoration** (aiming to reduce existing human alterations)
 - **does not influence maintenance work in the navigation channel or infrastructure actions downstream or upstream**
 - **doesn't influence landownership** and corresponding rights and duties
 - **WILDIsland concept doesn't touch local activities of local people** (angling, camping)

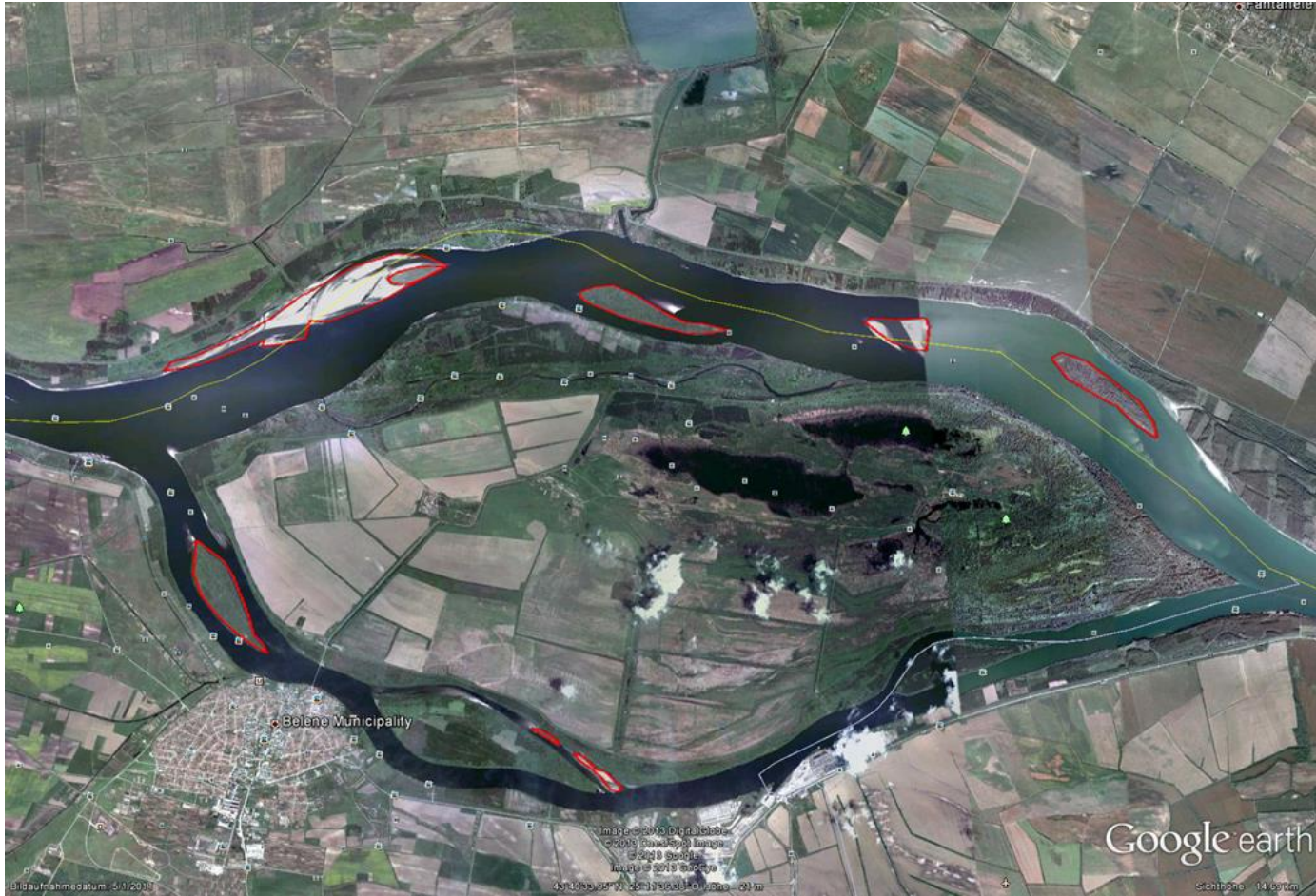


Establishing WILDisland - implementation

- Designation of the islands: based on google earth (different years are to be considered, regular evaluations necessary)
- step-by-step approach for implementation
 - Ingolstadt: definition of 1 “easy” island/region
 - Commitment until 2019: min. 21 islands
 - (- long-term vision: approx. 500 islands, approx. 9,000 ha)







Country	No. of islands	Hectares
Germany	65	116
Austria	56	189
Slovakia	19	165
Hungary	120	1170
Croatia	30	693
Serbia	56	730
Bulgaria	65	2155
Romania	117	4276

Table 1: Rough estimation of the long-term potential for WILD islands along the Danube, based on an internal survey based on google earth (2012).

Establishing WILDisland - implementation

- Responsible: DANUBE PARKS working group “WILDisland and river morphology”
- Islands included only when all requirements fulfilled
- agreement on non-intervention management can be reached by....
 - existing conservation status (e.g. core zone NP, reserves)
 - additional legally binding conventions
 - self-binding agreements and statements by the responsible land owners and land users

Establishing WILDisland - implementation

- online database: to establish, to communicate and to promote WILDisland (hosted on www.danubeparks.org , including fact sheet of each designated WILDisland, natural values, restoration measure...)
- Implementation on the spot together with landowners and land users
- Evaluation of the process by WILDisland working group 1x per year together with ICPDR & EUSDR (tbc)
- Supervision: by “coordination board”

WILDisland communication

- WILDisland is also to be seen as communication tool to promote better conservation of these “flagship habitats”

To-do's (Roadmap)

- Establish the WILDisland working group (define the role – e.g. towards Dunakiliti-conference)
- How to proceed with the document? (fine tuning in Dunakiliti? signing by Directors?)
- Online platform: joint understanding, process of contracting (DINPI: 7,500 €)
- Identification of stakeholders (table to be filled in)
- Short discussion: Platina Manual on Water Maintenance