The Posavina Horse

Indigenous breeds are very important tool in management of invasive alien species.

is reflected by the significant number and size of the protected areas. In total, 64% of the Sava River is designated in various categories of protected areas. It is also one of the focal areas of biodiversity in Europe. Recently, it has been proven that, apart from the fact that it is the natural corridor for native species, it is also a pathway of invasive alien species expansion.

Project value:
1.604.137,00 €

Start of the project: 1 June 2018
End of the project: 31 May 2021

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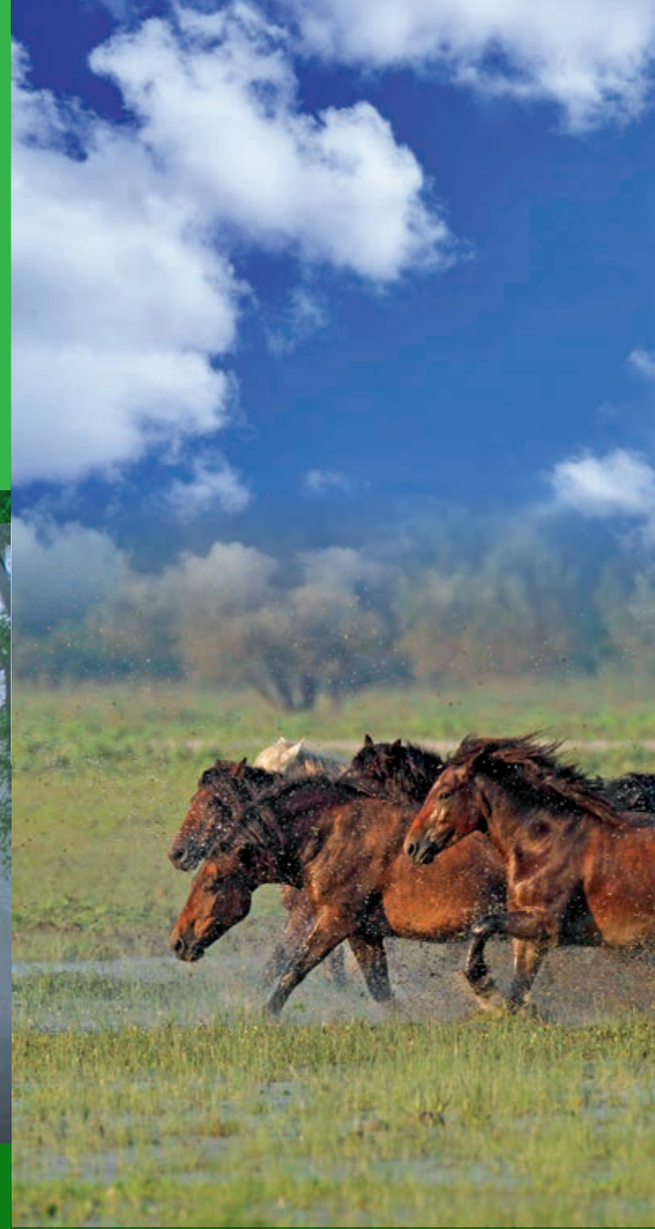
Sava TIES

Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
Sava TIES

Preserving Sava River Basin Habitats through Transnational Management of Invasive Alien Species

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)



Sava River

With a catchment area of 97,800 km² and a length of 926 km and passing through 4 countries, the Sava River is the largest tributary of the Danube by discharge. It is an important ecological corridor for natural movements of many species. Although often considered in public to be a polluted river, it is still in a very good condition. The ecological importance of the Sava and its floodplain

Sava **TIES**

What are invasive alien species?

Invasive alien species (IAS) are species which have established a stable population in areas where they have not been distributed historically and have a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the biodiversity, human health and/or economy. They can be introduced intentionally or unintentionally into new areas.

Tree of heaven
Ailanthus altissima

IAS are identified as one of the most significant threats to the Sava River basin (SRB) biodiversity. In fact this is no surprising information since they are considered to be the second biggest cause of biodiversity loss on a global level. Although they are invasive, we cannot always mark them as pests. Species like acacia or False Indigo are very melliferous and beekeepers can benefit from them greatly. However, taking into account that many of them release chemicals in the ground which prevent germination, growth and development of other plant species and many microorganisms important for maintaining soil fertility as well, it is more than clear that their uncontrolled expansion causes great damage. It is estimated that the damage from IAS is more than $1.4 trillion per year, representing nearly 5% of the world economy.

Areas where natural ecosystems are already disturbed, like urban and agricultural areas, are the most suitable for them. As long as there is no external disturbance, most often caused by human activity, healthy natural ecosystems in most cases can resist IAS impact.

This project will focus on the species that are already causing serious damage in the SRB. In 7 pilot areas in all 4 riparian countries the following IAS will be tackled: Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Furthermore, research on other IAS posing a threat on biodiversity will be conducted.

Japanese knotweed
Reynoutria japonica

Project objective

Is to reduce habitat fragmentation and improve the connectivity of the transnational Sava River basin (SRB) ecological corridor by developing cross-sectoral measures for monitoring, controlling and eradication of invasive alien species in the protected areas network of the SRB.

False Indigo
Amorpha fruticosa

Project implementation steps:

1. To engage cross-sectoral stakeholders in restoring SRB habitats infested with IAS
2. To achieve integrated, transnational approach to IAS management in SRB
3. To agree on IAS management measures for policy uptake

Project activities:

Strengthening SavaParks

- Establishment of cross-sectoral stakeholder committees
- Trainings and study visits for the transfer of good practice on IAS management from other areas
- Preparation of the SavaParks network after-project Roadmap
- Establishing Online Services to improve the IAS management

Transnational Invasive Alien Species Management Approach

- Development of protocols for IAS mapping and monitoring
- Mapping of IAS in the SRB
- Preparation of a study on land-use practices and a risk assessment study for key IAS along the SRB

Pilot Implementation

- Planning and implementation of measures for the eradication of IAS in pilot areas along the SRB

Policy Uptake

- Preparation of policy recommendations to include in strategic documents
- Trainings on the use of Strategic Framework for IAS management
- Policy impact actions

Communication

- Project promotion and IAS topic education
- Communication strategy preparation
- Public awareness raising

Project partners:

1. EuroNatur Foundation (DE)
2. Public Institution Ljubljansko barje Nature Park (SI)
3. Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution (HR)
4. Public Institution Green Ring (HR)
5. Public Company National Park „Una“ LLC Bihać (BA)
6. Center for Environment (BA)
7. Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province (RS)
8. Nature Conservation Movement Sremska Mitrovica (RS)
9. Public Enterprise „Vojvodinašume“ (RS)