

# Protecting and restoring ecological connectivity in the Mura-Drava-Danube river corridor through cross-sectoral cooperation

**5-country Biosphere Reserve Conference**

**05-08 September 2022**

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5-country projects bring the  
5-country biosphere reserve to life



# Amazon of Europe



Extension project  
2020-22: Amazing  
Amazon of Europe

# River- and floodplain revitalization DRAVA LIFE, WISE DRAVA LIFE





# Transboundary MDD Action Plan

## Guidelines for a dynamic river corridor



Cooperation



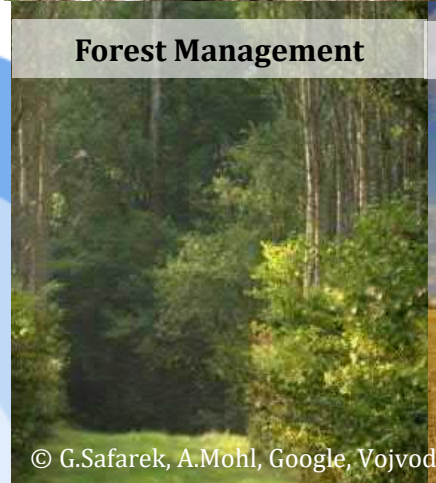
Species & Habitat Protection



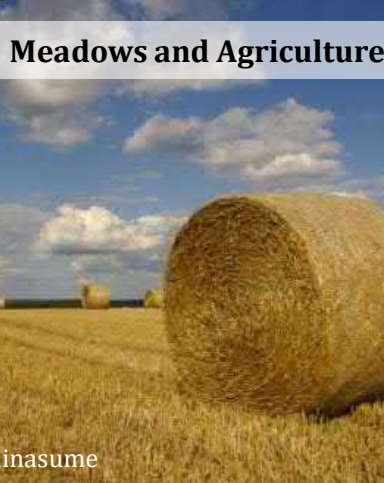
River Management



Fish Management



Forest Management



Meadows and Agriculture



Game Management



Visitor Management



Spatial planning



Cooperation & Communication



Species & Habitats Protection



Research & Education



Sustainable Use



Strategic Planning





Das Land Steiermark



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INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
FOR NATURE CONSERVATION



→ Wasserwirtschaft

Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Agriculture, Regions  
and Tourism



# Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

## Danube Transnational Programme

### lifelineMDD



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien  
University of Natural Resources  
and Life Sciences, Vienna



ПОКРАЈИНСКИ ЗАВОД  
ЗА ЗАШТИТУ ПРИРОДЕ



**PRI RODA**

VARAŽDINSKE ŽUPANIJE

JU za upravljanje zaštićenim dijelovima prirode

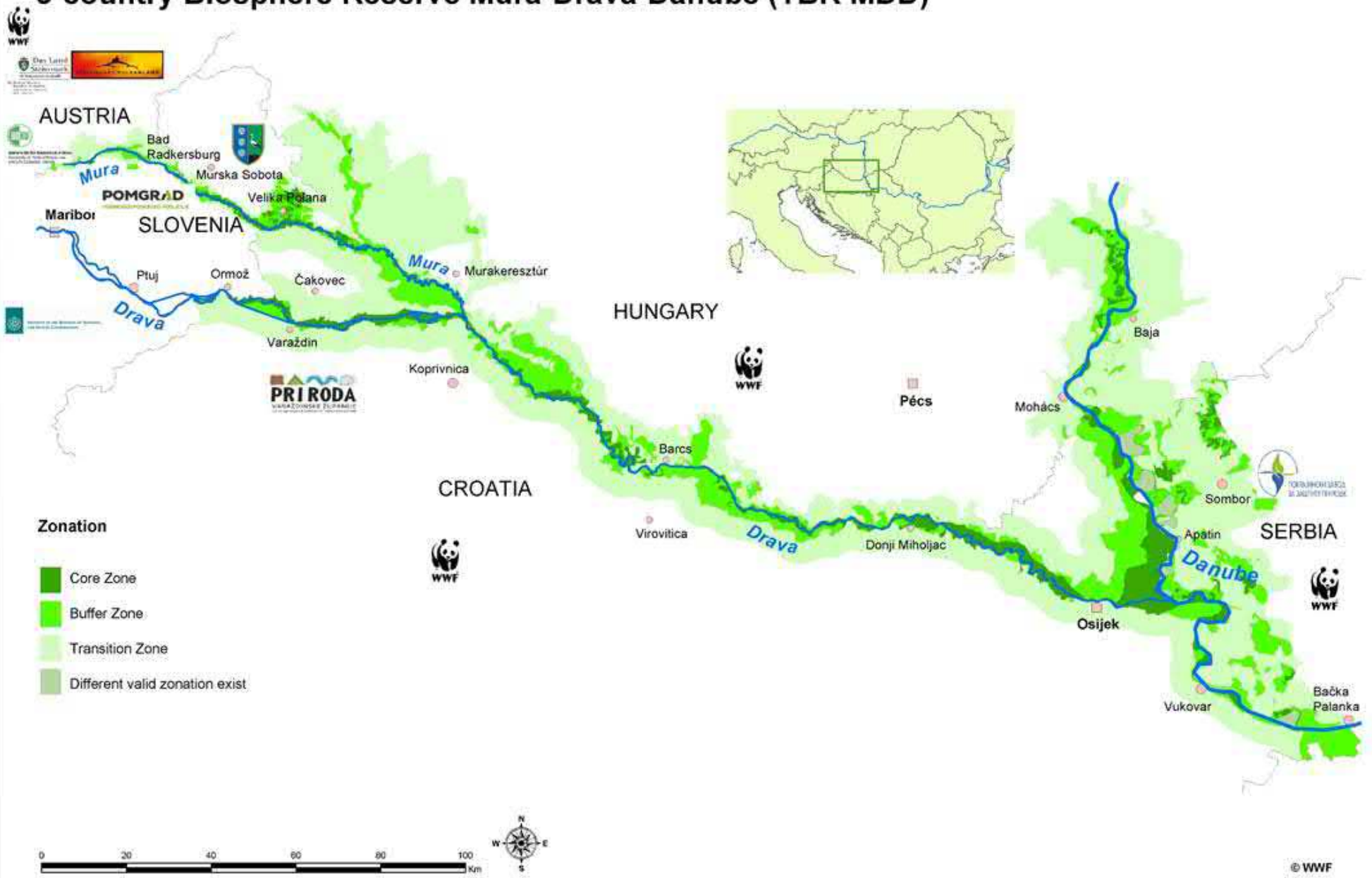
## lifeline MDD

**Protecting and restoring ecological connectivity in the Mura-Drava-Danube river corridor through cross-sectoral cooperation**

- **Official project start**  
01.07.2020
- **Duration: 30 months**  
– 30.12.2022
- **Budget: 2 987 788,53 €**
- **EU-funding: 85%**



# 5-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube (TBR MDD)

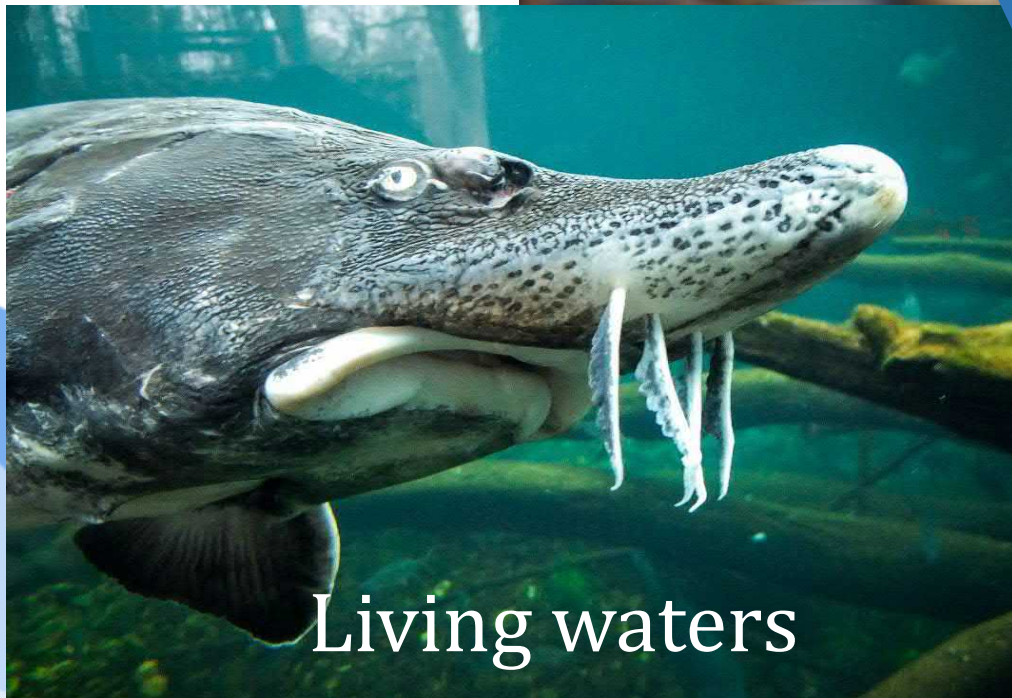






Living sediment

Synthesis report  
on science-based  
needs for actions



Living waters



Living river









# Cross-sectoral restoration of connectivity



# Pilot restoration measures

## Important stepstones for the river corridor

### Pilot site Mura river (Austria)

- Enhancement of an old river branch reconnection
- New side channel
- Restructuring of the river bank



### Pilot site Danube backwaters (Serbia)

- Improvement of the water management & retention in the floodplain and oxbows on Serbian Danube floodplains

### Pilot site Mura river (Slovenia)

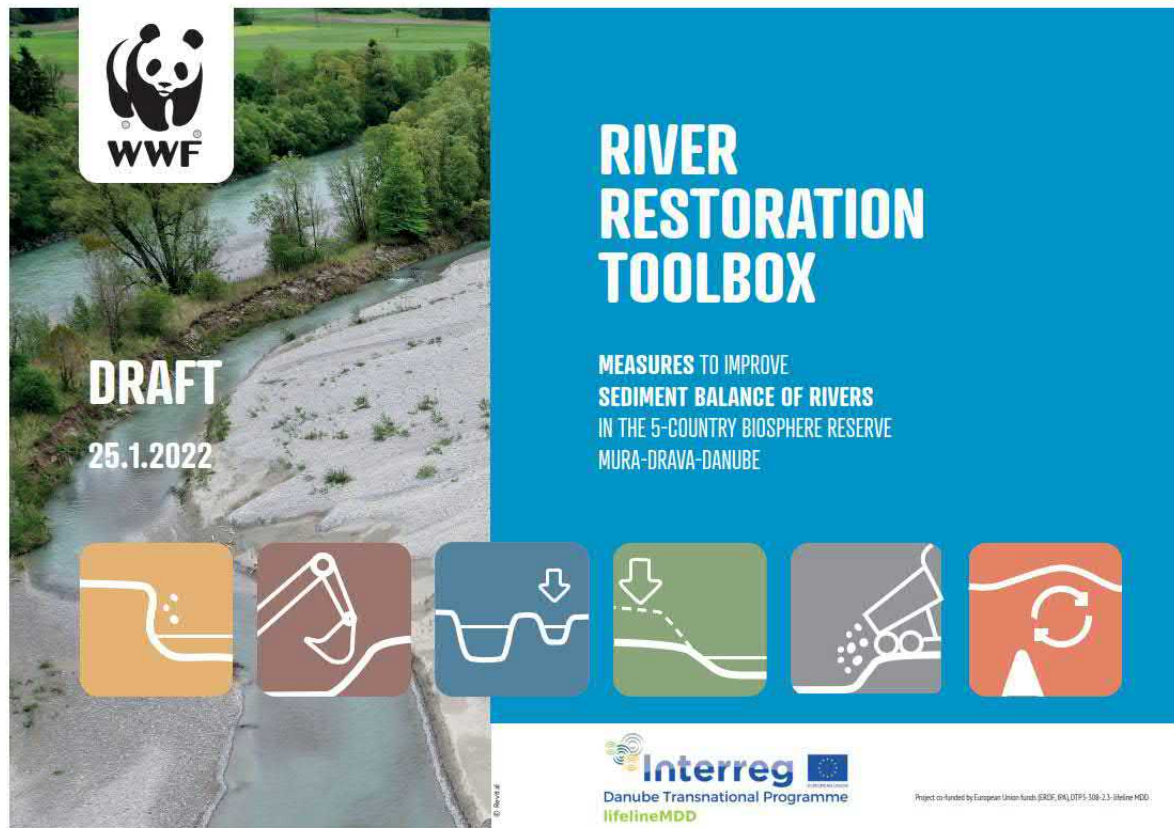
- Riverbed widening and lateral sediment mobilization
  - New side channel
- Removal of river bank protection





# River Restoration Toolbox

**Goal:** decision-support and planning tool for water management and nature protection institutions within the TBR MDD



Planning module M01  
**Erovable ("soft") banks** (p.20-23)



Planning module M02  
**Mechanical widening** (p.24-27)



Planning module M03  
**Initial channels** (p.28-31)



Planning module M04  
**Lowering of the foreland** (p.32-35)



Planning module M05  
**Additional input of sediment** (p.36-39)



Planning module M06  
**Structures to enhance erosion** (p.40-43)



# TBR MDD River Restoration Strategy

- Based on the **River Restoration Toolbox** and the **Synthesis report**
- Commitment to
  - **Support** each other
  - Work towards the **implementation** of a functional 5-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube"
  - Consider the proposed actions and recommendations in the "Synthesis Report on science based needs for action" and the "River Restoration Toolbox" as a **basis for future restoration plans & activities**
  - Participate in **future transboundary projects** for the practical implementation of the TBR MDD



 **Interreg**  **Study Visit**





# Living Minds

1.  
THE SOURCE



2.  
RIVER BRANCH  
"LIFELINE" S  
LEARNING HUB"

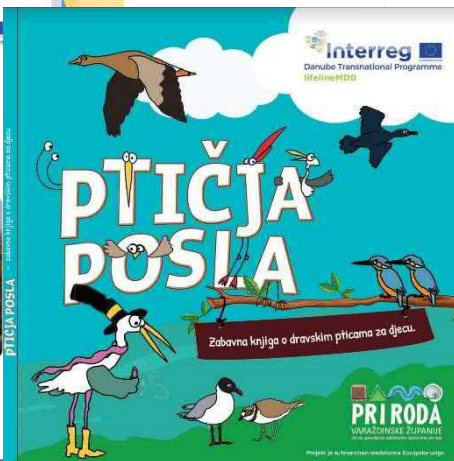
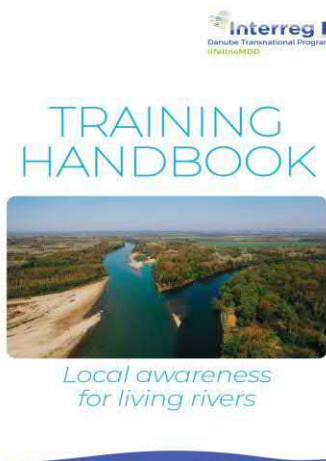
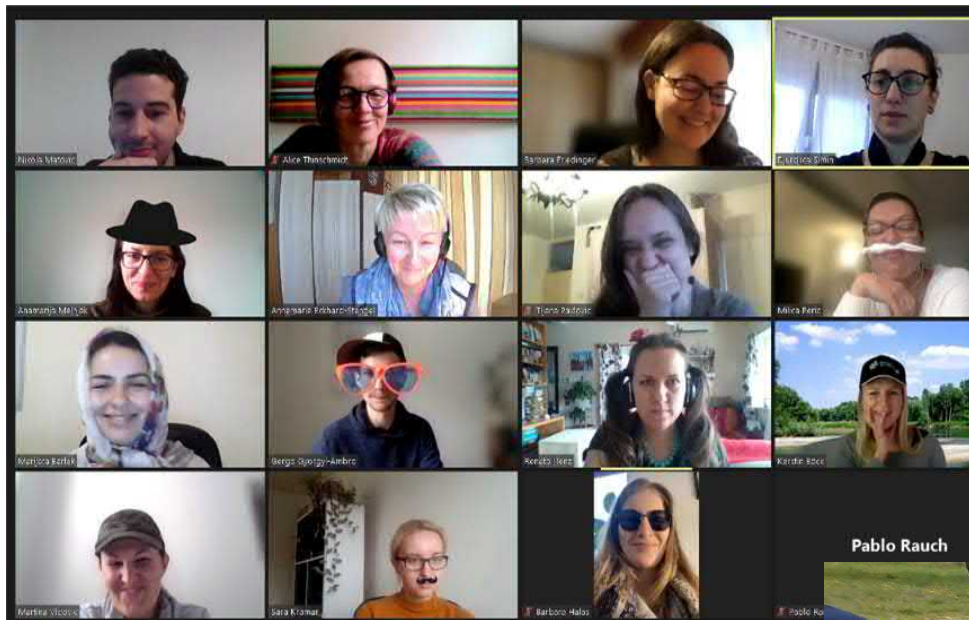
3.  
RIVER BRANCH  
"LET THE RIVERS  
RUN FREE!"

4.  
RIVER BRANCH  
"FLY WITH THE  
BIRDS!"

5.  
RIVER BRANCH  
"SWIM LIKE  
A FISH!"

6.  
RIVER BRANCH  
"CLIMATE CHANGE  
AFFECTS US ALL!"

7.  
THE MOUTH









# Living Cooperation



## Steering Committee

Steering of the strategic development on transboundary level

Steering Committee as the follow up of the Coordination Board

Optional: Scientific Board, dealing with transboundary research and monitoring

## Coordinating Management Body

Coordination of the TBR MDD following a rotating system

National BR Management & BR manager conference

Optional: Task groups, dealing with specific topics

## National Management

Coordination and management of national BR with respect to TBR

Individual National Management Authorities

Optional: Connecting BR with the protected area managements and local stakeholders







# Interreg



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## Visions

Connectivity & biodiversity within MDD river corridor improved

River restoration strategy implemented

Benefit for nature and people







Das Land Steiermark



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