

Cooperation Agreement

among the coop MDD partnership and managing institutions of Protected Areas forming part of the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube”

Acknowledging

That Mura, Drava and Danube in Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia form one of the most important river corridors and ecosystems in Europe, with preserved near-natural river dynamics and thus giving home to a high diversity of threatened species and habitats;

That Biosphere Reserves along those three rivers have already been established in Croatia and Hungary (2012), Serbia (2017), and Slovenia (2018) and Austria (2019);

The Ministerial Declaration to establish a 5-country Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, undersigned by the Environment Ministers of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia in 2011;

The goals of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program to preserve our natural and cultural heritage for a sustainable livelihood of generations to come.

The undersigned declare

that, depending on financial and staff resources and always acting within the boundaries of their respective national legislation and their institutional competences, they will:


- support each other in their local work with the exchange of experience, information and know-how, and in raising European and other external funds for projects aiming at the practical implementation of the 5-country Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube”,
- continue to work towards the establishment of a functional 5-country Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube” and promote its necessity within the local population and regional stakeholders,
- contribute jointly, as well as within national networks, to the elaboration of a nomination form for the 5-country Biosphere Reserve,
- support the objectives of the "Guidelines for a dynamic river corridor" developed within the coop MDD project,
- continue to work towards the step-by-step implementation of the “Transboundary Learning Network Concept” and the “Transboundary Mura-Drava-Danube Action Plan” developed within the coop MDD project,
- according to capacity, participate in future transboundary projects for the practical implementation of the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube”, independent of the date of its formal establishment.

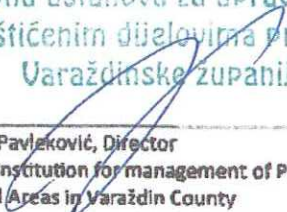
For this purpose, a part of the undersigned has recently submitted a transboundary project proposal within the Danube Transnational Project, which will aim at preserving and restoring the ecological functionality of the river corridor within a cross-sectoral effort.


Independent of joint projects, the undersigned will strive – depending on financial and staff resources – to meet at least once a year to foster exchange of experience and information.

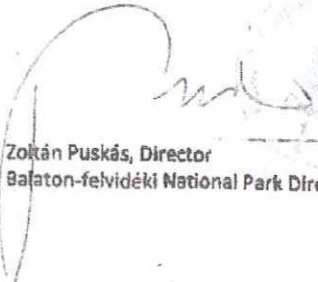
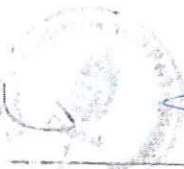


Željka Kolar, Director
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Davor Mikulić, Director
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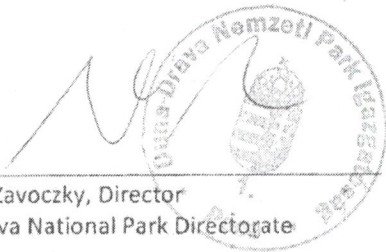
**Javna ustanova za upravljanje
zaštićenim dijelovima prirode
Varaždinske županije**

Jelena Pavleković, Director
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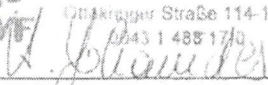
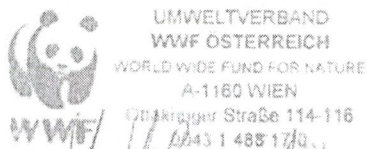


Damijan Jaklin, Mayor
Municipality of Velika Polana



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Tatjana Arnold Sabo, Director
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Marta Takač, Director
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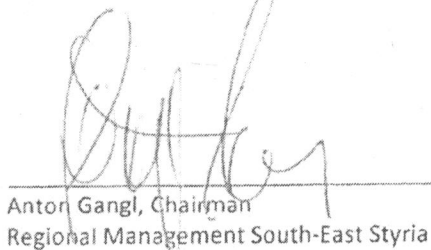
Nikola Križanac, Director
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Teo Hrvoje Oršanič, Director
Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature
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Slobodan Puzović, Assistant Director
Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina
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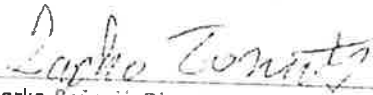
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Regional Management South-East Styria



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