

Operational plan for IMMP – Vienna







Imprint

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aim and purpose of OP

The aim of OP

• The purpose of the plan

 Link to the strategic part of integrated multi-use management plan

- Aim of the Operational Plan (OP) is to ensure the multipurpose and sustainable use of urban and peri-urban forests – UPF. It can be seen as action plan to manage and/or solve existing conflicts between different users in the UPF focus areas of Vienna.
- The OP can be used as a basic document for other municipalities / cities for forest management addressing similar issues and can be used as a guideline how to manage the addressed issues (in Vienna conflicts between users and lack of communication/information)
- It can be seen as a basis for a participatory process; how different stakeholders can be in involved properly to ensure a smooth implementation.
- Aim in Vienna is a sustainable use of multifunctional areas (main functions: flood protection, recreation/tourism and nature/biodiversity protection).
- While the OP is a concrete action plan for implementation of sustainable management of UPF in a specific area (the focus areas), the strategic plan (SP) covers a broader development area (the strategic area).
- The strategic area in Vienna covers the Danube Island – an island with the primary function of flood protection but which has been developed to an intensively used area for recreation and leisure activities but also to a high valuable area for flora and fauna.
- The SP defines long-term objectives (specific objectives SO), presents the state of the art of the strategic area, sets priorities for development within this area, defines target groups who are addressed, presents strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for each SO and defines possible actions.

1.2 The design of the plan, obligations and validity of OP

- General restrictions and framework conditions in elaboration of the OP and the project URBforDAN
- CoV (City of Vienna, Municipal Department for Water Management – Dep. 45) is responsible for implementation of the OP within the URBforDAN project. Besides two other departments (49 – Forestry and Agriculture and 42 – Gardens and Parks) Dep. 45 is responsible for conservation and maintenance of the Danube Island (strategic area). The tasks of each department of the City of Vienna is regulated in the rules of procedure ("Geschäftsordnung") and the allocation of business ("Geschäftseinteilung") for the "Magistrat" (Municipal Administration) of Vienna.
- CoV, Dep 45 is not responsible for the management of forests and therefore the OP doesn't address "classic" forest management issues (this has been clearly stated in the project application phase).
- The Municipal Department for Forestry and Agriculture – Dep. 49 is mainly responsible for the management forests in Vienna. The central task is the maintenance of the recreational forests in and close to the city and the establishment of recreational areas and green areas with new forests and meadows. The construction and maintenance of hiking trails, forest playgrounds, educational trails, information facilities and lookout points also fall within the area of competence of the City of Vienna's forestry company. But due to capacity reasons, the Dep. 49 was not able to participate in the project.
- The actions to be implemented are restricted to three relatively small focus areas (approx. 23 ha) and not a largeforest area (like for example the "Wienerwald"), where the main objective is to combine different interests of users while preserving nature.
- Main problems are: conflicts between different user groups, pollution, absent information and awareness of the

- importance of nature conservation
- Main actions are therefore: regulating user groups, information and awareness rising
- The OP of Vienna is therefore more seen as an action plan and not as a guidance document for greater forest management plans.
- Nevertheless, the overall IMMP of the URBforDAN project could be used as guidance document for responsible authorities to further develop forest management plans. The plan will be forwarded to responsible authorities and has been presented to them in January 2020.

Basis for OP

- The department for Forestry and Agriculture (Dep. 49) is responsible for protection, conservation and regulation of Viennese forests and is therefore one of the most relevant key actors/stakeholders. The land forest inspection unit (resp. Dep 58; "Landesforstinspektion") is the responsible authority for elaboration and update of the forest development plan in Vienna.
- In 1991 Austria elaborated a nationwide forest development plan ("Waldentwicklungplan", WEP) according to the Austrian Forest Act 1975. It demonstrated the conditions of the Austrian forests and its development potential.
- The plan (map) has been digitalized and is available here:
 www.waldentwicklungsplan.at/map
- Legally protected zones scattered over the whole island restrict the use of the Danube Island; as water protection areas (in the north) and nature protection areas (north and south) or protected habitats and species (acc. to Water Act and Nature Conservation Act). The protected zones can be found here: https://www.wien.gv.at/umweltgut/public/
- The land use plan ("Flächenwidmungsplan")
 of Vienna defines parts of the Danube Island
 as areas for recreation, parts as protected
 zones and parts as area for events.
- The City Development Plan 2025 (STEP 2025) does not foresee any developments regarding the Danube Island depart from its

preservation (important ecological corridor, recreation for tourism, etc.).

- Relation to forest management and other planning bases
- According to the WEP, the forests on the Danube Island are mainly (98,52%) characterized as forest with welfare function (for climate regulation). A minor part (1,48%) has the function of recreation.
- In the URBforDAN project, a more detailed classification has been elaborated, using ecosystem services provided by each forest area and can therefore be used as basis for further development of the WEP, for spatial plans, land-use plans etc., as relevant ecosystem services (ES) in an UPF area have been mapped using GIS software and further evaluated.

Obligation

- The operational plan is not binding for anyone. The applied methodology has been presented to the responsible authorities and will be forwarded once finalized to Dep. 49 and the land forest inspection unit for uptake of results for the further development of the WEP.
- Actions set in the focus areas will be planned and implemented according to existing legislation (e.g. water act, nature conservation act, forest act).
- The OP directly and indirectly influences the work of the forestry administration which is generally responsible for forest planning, management and monitoring (Dep. 49) as actions will be implemented in forested areas.
- Preparation of the plan
- The plan has been prepared by the City of Vienna, Municipal Department for Water Management – Dep. 45. Relevant key actors and stakeholders have been included in the planning process (stakeholder questionnaires, workshops and presentations).

• Time validity

- The plan will be implemented within 5 years and is therefore valid for this period.
- Responsible for proper implementation and therefore revision is Mr. Wilfried Fellinger

from the Municipal Department for Water Management. All actions will be communicated with relevant authorities.

- Implementation and operational planning
- The OP is the basis for the implementation of the activities of CoV in the UPF focus areas within the URBforDAN project (some of the activities will be implemented also after the project in case of outstanding permits). It includes guidelines, planned measures and facilities. The OP cannot contain all the details for the implementation; therefore, activities that are defined in the OP can be elaborated during the period of validity of OP in detail by operational projects (even after the end of URBforDAN project).

• OP area

 The OP covers the 3 parts (focus areas) of the Danube Island – the Toter Grund, the Bay Reichbrücke and the Zinkabachl (please refer to relevant maps in Appendix 1).

2 THE IMPORTANCE OF URBAN FORESTS AND MAIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

2.1 Purpose of UPF

 Ecosystem services/ forest functions/ importance of UPF

- The purpose of Urban and Peri-Urban Forests (UPF) are the "green lungs" of the city. Even if many UPF are protected as cultural/natural heritage, they are often suffering from inappropriate management or overuse. The challenge is to change the existing management and user situation in UPF into sustainable, well managed multi-use areas.
- In Vienna, according to WEP, forests on the Danube Island are characterized as forest with welfare function (for climate regulation). More detailed functions have been elaborated and categorized within URBforDAN project and are provided by ecosystems and its services (Ecosystem services ES). URBforDAN project defines 4 different main categories of ES provisional ES, regulating ES, supporting ES and cultural ES. Further, a unified ranking for these ES has been elaborated (1 very important, 2 important, 3 medium important). A detailed description can be found in the Appendix 2.
- Main parts of the forest areas on the Danube Island are regulating ES (63,3%), followed by provisioning ES (21,0%). Further, there are cultural ES (11,4%), and supporting ES (5,5%). Detailed information can be found in Appendix 2.
- The mapping and ranking of ES in Vienna have been done with a group of experts (ecologists, landscape designers, Danube Island specialists, GIS experts).
- Main management objectives are to combine different interests of users while preserving nature and to retain the existing ES: provision of drinking water, nature protection, recreation/tourism and education/science
- Target groups / users

 O Main user groups on the Danube Island are:

 1) Management authorities of the Danube Island:
 City of Vienna, Dep. 45 Water Management,

Dep. 22 – Nature Protection, Dep. 42 – Gardens and Parks, Dep. 49 – Forestry and Agriculture, viadonau (Operative Management of DHK – official owner)

- 2) Visitors / tourists / users for leisure and recreation activities: Joggers, Hikers, Cyclists, Inline-Skaters, With the dog walkers, Quality time spenders (friends, family), Forest product pickers, Bathers, Photo hunters, Workers
- **3) Educational institutions**: Schools, Universities
- **4) Special user groups / organizations**: Caritas Gruft (Social Organization for Homeless people), WASt (Social Organization for Homosexuals), Check-it (Social Organization for Drug Addicts)

3 STATE OF FORESTS AND FOREST USE

3.1 State of forests and forest management

Forest area

• Ownership of forests

 Forests, site conditions, forest types, stand types

- The whole area of the **Danube Island** is approx. 370 ha, **145 ha are covered with forests** (acc. to WEP, data extracted: Sep 2018). The forested area within the focus areas are (Zinkabachl 2,3 ha of 3,8 ha, Bay Reichsbrücke 0,3 ha of 1,6 ha and Toter Grund 14,0 ha of 17,7 ha).
- The Danube Island is a flood protection dam (original function of the island). The total area of the Danube Island and therefore the forests on the island are **owned by representatives of the DHK** (DHK is responsible for flood protection on the Danube in Lower Austria and Vienna; viadonau is the operational unit of DHK). DHK members are the City of Vienna itself, the republic of Austria and the Province of Lower Austria. The ownership is therefore characterized as **public ownership**.
- The City of Vienna (especially the department 45, 42 and 49) is responsible for maintenance and management of the Island and therefore no management conflicts exist. Responsible municipal departments (Dep 42, 45 and 49) regularly hold meetings on further development / management of the Island ("Green Joure Fixe").
- The Dep. 45 is in charge of all bodies of water in Vienna, both groundwater and surface water and therefore also responsible for flood protection.
- Forest types on the Danube Island are broadleaved types (only deciduous forests; classes: Fraxinus, Quercus, Acer, Tilia, Juglans, Prunus, Carpinus). A map of the forested area is available in Appendix 1.
- Tracks on changes in the forested area can be gathered from the digital WEP (find link below).
 But: forest is not defined via this plan (legally), it is defined in the forest act as area covered with woods with a minimum area of 1.000 m² and an average width of 10 m.
- Acc. to the Dep 49, the growing stock is 135 m³/ha, the annual increment 4,4 m³/year per ha and the annual cut is around 100 m³/year.

- More data regarding forest management (e.g. data on development phases/age classes, growing stock, stand increment) can be provided by the Municipal Dep. 49 Forestry and Agriculture (https://www.wien.gv.at/kontakte/ma49/index.html) or the land forest inspection unit (https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/wasserrecht/landesforstinspektion/).
- Forest operations
- Main activities in the forests are regular cuttings, wood harvesting, transportation, silver culture and protective work and sale of wood.
- The annual cut is about 70 m³ per year products are used for the barbeque zones (larger areas on the island where barbeque is allowed in general and also spots to rent a small barbeque spot online) and the rest is sold.
- Wood production
- Used machines and equipment: Chainsaws, tractors, trailers, logging trailers, winches, small trucks, harvesters in selected areas, lifting platforms, wood chippers
- Forest accessibility
- Existing pathways are used (no additional pathways), pathways are in a good condition (no modernization necessary), in existing forests loggings trails are established
- Impacts, problems
- o Forests on the Danube Island are influenced by damages from floods (Danube Island is partly flooded in case of big flood events), user groups (overuse, vandalism, pollution), maintenance and care (safety cuts) and from infrastructure projects (which means, sometimes cutting is necessary "for the public benefit" when e.g. a new hospital is needed but this is very unlikely to happen on the Danube Island).

3.2 Visit to UPF and infrastructure

Visit to forest

- The Danube Island is annually visited by approx. 6
 Mio. people.
- Visitors mainly use the Danube island for cycling, walking with dogs, jogging, hiking, inline-skating, festivals, to spend time with family/friends, bathing, and further for photographing, for working issues and for educational / scientific issues.

- For users, forests on the Danube Island are important for recreation and leisure activities.
- According to the elaborated stakeholder analysis data gathered via an online user questionnaire, (Dec 2018) and workshops with stakeholders (Nov 2018, Feb 19) main conflicts are: different velocity and interests of different users groups (problems with dogs, cyclists are to fast, social groups which are "disturbing" others alcohol/drugs/homosexuals, grill-zones, e-bikes, too much events, etc.)
- Already available infrastructure
- The Danube Island can be best accessed by public transport (metro lines, city train, trams) and by bike via different bridges (mostly used entrance: Reichsbrücke). Mainly used transportation is by car (39%), by public transport (38%) and by bike (36%).
- There are 134 km of roads and 58 km of recreational paths located on the island.
- The Danube Island is a place for different kind of uses; the user map in Appendix 4 demonstrates the different kind of possibilities for users and its locations, e.g. grill zones, bathing zones, drinking fountains, etc.

3.3 Important objects in UPF

- Nature conservation
- The Zinkabachl is an ecological landscape in the north of the Danube Island and consists of a small river connected to the "Neue Donau" with forests on both riversides. This area is an important ecological landscape and is located within a landscape protection area ("Landschaftsschutzgebiet") – acc. to nature conversation act. ES category: Nature protection, recreation and tourism
- The **Toter Grund** is a natural monument in the southern part of the Danube Island. This area is a natural protection area acc. to nature conversation act. ES category: Nature protection, recreation and tourism
- Cultural heritage
- The Bay Reichsbrücke is a valuable recreation area in the middle of the Danube Island. It is a structural river bay, which is connected to the Danube on one side. Main function: recreational area for visitors, ecological compensation area for

the hydro power plant "Freudenau". ES category: Scientific/educational

Other objects

- In the northern part of the island there is a water protection zone (acc. to water act), main function: provision of drinking water
- The middle part of the Danube Island is mainly used for recreation and for big events (like the Donauinselfest).
- The rest of the forests on the Danube island are categorized with climate mitigation (acc. to WEP)

Detailed descriptions to all areas can be found in **Appendix 3**.

3.4 Assessment of use, changes and influencing factors

• Damages, risks

- Damages to forests are mainly caused from floods (Danube Island is partly flooded in case of big flood events), user groups (overuse, vandalism, pollution), maintenance and care (user protection cuts) and from infrastructure projects (of course, only if necessary: cutting for the public benefit).
- Potential threats to forests are climate change (droughts, heat, stress to ecosystems, floods, etc.), increasing number of visitors (overuse and disturbance) and spreading of invasive alien species.
- Issues of forest use
- Conflicts between different user groups:
 - There is a **pathway system** on the island which is used for inline-skating, jogging, walking, cycling, walking with the dog etc., there is no separation of the user streams. Especially in narrow passages, this leads to conflicts (**different velocities of user groups**, dogs without leash, etc.)
 - Some user groups are very "possessive": there are people living on the island (e.g. homeless people) who claim certain spaces as their property. Further, along the island there are certain nudist areas, where the people are also very possessive and treat other people like "people from outer space". This leads to conflicts e.g. when departments want to implement protection cuts.

- The focus areas are often used from social fringe groups which leads to problems (Zinkabachl homeless people pollution, disturbance of other user groups; Bay Reichsbrücke drug addicts threats to other user groups, pollution with high infective materials; Toter Grund sex in public places destruction of the natural monument, indecent exposure).
- o Influences of forests due to user groups:
 - vandalism, pollution of areas (waste)
 - infective materials (syrings) form drug addicts
- Maintenance and care of forests sometimes difficult:
 - possessive user groups do not understand (necessary) works of departments
- o Increase of use:
 - too much grill zones
 - increasing events (Donauinselfest, Afrika Tage, Beachvolleyball-WM, etc.)
 - not enough toilets and drinking fountains
 - stress to flora and fauna
- No / not enough information
 - about importance of nature, biodiversity, climate change, forests

4. GUIDELINES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

4.1 Subordinated guidelines

• Forest management plans

- O In 1991 Austria elaborated a nationwide forest development plan ("Waldentwicklungplan", WEP) according to the Austrian Forest Act 1975. It demonstrated the conditions of the Austrian forests and its development potential. The plan (map) has been digitalized and is available here: www.waldentwicklungsplan.at/map. The forested areas demonstrated in the maps (Appendices) are extracted from the WEP (Sep. 18).
- 2020+ Austrian Forest Strategy: The Forest Strategy serves as a guideline for short-, mediumand long-term forest policy in Austria. The manifold tasks harboured by forests are covered in seven specific fields of action and contain 49 strategic goals derived from a vision for Austrian forests as well as many specific forest-policy approaches. More information can be found here: https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/english/forestry/Austriasf orests/2020--Austrian-Forest-Strategy-.html

Spatial plans

- The land use plan ("Flächenwidmungsplan") of Vienna defines parts of the Danube Island as areas for recreation, parts as protected zones and parts as area for events.
- The City Development Plan 2025 (STEP 2025) does not foresee any developments regarding the Danube Island depart from its preservation (important ecological corridor, recreation for tourism, etc.).
- Hazard Zone Plans: The protection against natural hazards is a task handled and managed by the state (Federal Government, Provinces and municipalities) and is implemented by the Federal Water Engineering Author-ity and the Service for Flood and Avalanche Control. These institutions prepare hazard zone plans and study the impacts of natural hazards on residential areas, in order to determine the limits of building activities in these areas. The original function of Danube Island is to protect the City of Vienna from floods and therefore the island I also mapped in the hazard

zone plan (refer to: https://www.hora.gv.at/). The trees near the riverbanks are of course affected during a flood event but only parts of the island are flooded in case of a higher flood event (e.g. flood event with a recurrence interval of 100 years). In case actions / constructions are planned in a flood hazard zone, this has to be permitted by the relevant authority.

Strategic plan for UPF

- While the OP is a concrete action plan for implementation of sustainable management of UPF in a specific area (the focus areas), the strategic plan (SP) covers a broader development area (the strategic area – Danube Island).
- The SP defines long-term objectives (specific objectives SO), presents the state of the art of the strategic area, sets priorities for development within this area, defines target groups who are addressed, presents strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for each SO and defines possible actions.

4.2 Fundamental/basic concepts

- Forest land, forest area
- The forest areas in the focus areas will not be influenced or reduced (except from regular safety cuttings and some cutting for opening up the area to avoid hidden places). The foreseen actions acc. to OP cover pollution prevention, information/awareness rising/education and regulation/guidance of users (e.g. via attraction of foreseen user places, information boards, etc.)
- Structure and forest composition
- Use in coordination with Forest Law 75, forest management plan, operation. Since the stocks are relatively young, the main focus of forest management is on the thinning and the safety cuts to be made (road safety, traffic safety) When selecting tree species, great attention was paid to diversity in order to achieve stability within the stand; Increasing problem is the penetration of neophytes in the entire area of the Danube Island, forest edges are maintained regularly in the course of meadow maintenance

- Technology of wood production
- At forest works, bio-chain oils are used
- Careful work in the stocks, taking into account nature conservation aspects
- Works in the area of the water protection area according to the water law, observing breeding periods
- Informing the local population / those seeking relaxation, measures in coordination with the other departments and district politics
- Nature conservation
- Parts of the Danube Island are legally protected by nature conservation decree of Vienna¹. The Zinkabachl is located within a landscape conservation area (LSG Floridsdorf, Teil F, Donauinsel Nord²). The Toter Grund is a natural monument. Moreover, legally protected species are located at the Zinkabachl (beaver).
- Areas with emphasized ES (or forest functions) in the UPF area
- 0
- ES in focus area Toter Grund: Nature protection
 (2), recreation and tourism (3)
- ES in focus area Bay Reichbrücke:
 Scientific/educational (1)
- o ES in focus area Zinkabachl: Nature protection (1)
- The use of forests
- According to the Austrian Forest Act³ everyone can use forests for recreational purposes. Special activities are only allowed with a permit from the forest owner. In Vienna, a special act (tree protection act⁴) regulates that clearing is not allowed at all for trees that are larger than 40 cm in diameter (special permits have to be obtained for clearing).
- Infrastructure in the forest area
- Responsible for maintenance and care of the forests and also for pathways and roads within the forests is the forest owner. In case of the focus areas, the forest is owned by the public and in

1

2

3

4

?

https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010371

https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000419

https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000483

https://www.wien.gv.at/recht/landesrecht-wien/rechtsvorschriften/html/l5400000.htm

case of Vienna, the Dep. MA49 – Forestry and Agriculture is the responsible body. Use (for everyone) of the pathways and roads is allowed but for special uses (e.g. driving, riding, mountainbiking) a permit from the forest owner has to be obtained. **Besides from pathways** (refer to map in Appendix 1), **no infrastructure** is located within the focus areas.

- Communication / Informing the public
- The actions according to OP will be presented to all stakeholders and it is foreseen, that the OP can be downloaded from the website of the City of Vienna. The actions foresee an educational path at the Bay Reichsbrücke and information boards for awareness rising (e.g. why works in forests are necessary, importance of nature conservation, etc.). Further, problems with homeless people, drug addicts or other social fringe groups will be directly communicated with social organizations (Caritas, Check-it, Wast) to ensure timely and adequate actions.
- Responsible Departments for informing the public are Dep. 42, 45 and 49.
- Cooperation between stakeholders
- At the beginning of URBforDAN project, stakeholders were identified and reach from user groups for leisure and recreation activities to social organizations representing social fringe groups to relevant authorities dealing with maintenance and care of the Danube Island. The stakeholders were invited to 2 workshops. In the 1st workshop the project was presented and conflicts, problems and solutions were discussed together. In between, a stakeholder questionnaire was elaborated and implemented via an online survey (Dec 18) and a detailed stakeholder analysis was done (Jan 19) to elaborate potential conflicts, problems and solutions. In the 2nd workshop the results of the analysis were presented as well as foreseen actions in the focus areas. The stakeholders will be kept updated via the website and upon request. A **presentation** with detailed actions foreseen will be held, inviting again all stakeholders.

4.3 Guidelines for allocations with priority ES

Allocations for priority ES

- The WEP defines 4 different functions for forests

 utilization 2) protection 3) welfare 4)
 recreation. Further, each function is further allocated to a value (1 less important, 2 important, 3 very important).
- The Danube Island is (mainly) characterized as forest with welfare function (for climate regulation) – value 0133 which means, welfare and recreation is very important.
- All forest areas on the Danube Island have been mapped (Appendix 1), these areas are in accordance with the WEP (date: Sep 2018).
- More detailed functions have been elaborated and categorized within URBforDAN project and are provided by ecosystems and its services (Ecosystem services ES). URBforDAN project defines 4 different main categories of ES provisional ES (e.g. provision of drinking water), regulating ES (e.g. local climate mitigation), supporting ES (e.g. nature protection) and cultural ES (e.g. recreation/tourism, educational/scientific, cultural heritage). Further, a unified ranking for these ES has been elaborated (1 very important, 2 important, 3 medium important). A detailed description can be found in the Appendix 2.
- ES in focus area Toter Grund: Nature protection
 (2), recreation and tourism (3)
- ES in focus area Bay Reichbrücke:
 Scientific/educational (1)
- ES in focus area Zinkabachl: Nature protection (1)
- Other multifunctional forests
- Overlapping of allocations
- All forests areas have an ES function (at least climate regulation according to WEP).
- Some focus areas have more than one ES function, as described above. The higher the ranking – the more important the function.

4.3.1
Allocations for
priority ES

- In Appendix 3, details for the focus areas are presented (importance, surface, guidance/actions in the area)
- No other forested areas available.

4.3.2 Other multifunctional forests

4.4 Detailed forest zoning

- Zoning regarding the forest o land use
- Details on the zoning (chapter 4.3) is presented in Appendix 2. No more detailed zoning will be elaborated as the focus areas in Vienna only cover three relatively small areas (in total 23,3 ha).
- Management regime
- Please refer to section 3.1.

4.5 Activities

- Concrete actions are planned in the three focus areas:
 (1) Project Zinkabachl: Open the area to make it more visible, connect the tributary to the river, establish new pathways (visible, to avoid settlements of homeless people), guide visitors
 - (2) Project Bay Reichsbrücke: construction of an educational path, construction of a small bridge to connect the river bay to the pathways, improvement of the landscape to open the area (very visible to visitors; to avoid use of drug dealers)
- (3) Project Toter Grund: Leave the area as it is (further protection of natural monument); only information boards for visitors
- Regarding management, information, awareness rising and communication with stakeholders, the following activities are planned:
 - (4) Direct communication regarding social fringe groups with the relevant social organizations (e.g. when detecting hot-spots of homeless people, Caritas will be directly called to prepare suitable actions in time)
 - **(5) Installation of information boards** will be established (e.g. why works in forests are necessary, importance of nature conservation, etc.).
 - **(6) Dissemination**: all actions will be **presented** to the stakeholders (Workshop). Stakeholders will be kept updated via website and upon request.
 - (7) Communication activities: of course, several communication activities within the URBforDAN project have been conducted (e.g. Website, Facebook, Instragram, posters, leatlets, promotional videos, giveaways, promotional tools etc.)

4.5.1 A detailed plan for each of activities listed above

A detailed description of each activity listed above is described in Appendix 3.

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1 Implementatio n/ responsibility

- A list of main managers/coordinators of activities and their responsibilities
- The OP will be implemented by the City of Vienna, Municipal Department 45 (Water Management) (within the project and afterwards). Regular checks on the implementation status will be done.
- Responsible person is Mr. Wilfried Fellinger. In case of personnel change, another person from the Dep. 45 will be appointed for continuation.
- All actions will be implemented in accordance with laws and regulations and with the relevant authorities (forests - Dep. 42, gardens/parks – Dep. 42, nature protection – Dep. 22).
- The timeframe for implementation is explained in Appendix 2. The regular maintenance and care of implemented actions and facilities will be done by the Dep. 45.

Subsidy system

 No subsidy systems / compensation systems are required.

5.2 Forest owner association

 The forests on the Danube island are owned by the public, therefore no forest owner association is necessary.

6. MONITORING

6.1 Indicators of monitoring and control

Please find below the table of indicators.

6.2 Revision of the plan

The actions in the OP will be yearly revised and checked if the actions have been implemented according to planning. The responsible person is Mr. Wilfried Fellinger of the City of Vienna, Dep. 45 – Water Management

No.	Activity	No.	Indicator
	Project Zinkabachl	1.1	Design ready
		1.2	Approvals / permits available
1		1.3	Actions implemented
		1.4	Regular checks by CoV (MA45) - maintenance and care of equipment
		1.5	Yearly questionnaire among users about Danube Island
		2.1	Design ready
		2.2	Approvals / permits available
2	Project Bay Reichsbrücke	2.3	Actions implemented
	Ploject bay Reichsblücke	2.4	Regular checks by CoV (MA45) - maintenance and care of equipment
		2.5	Yearly questionnaire among users about Danube Island
		2.6	Participating educational institutions
	Project Toter Grund	3.1	Design ready
3		3.2	Actions implemented
		3.3	Regular checks by CoV (MA45) - maintenance and care of equipment
4	Direct communication regarding	4.1	Regular contacts to social organizations
	social fringe groups	4.2	Immediate communication in case of incidents
	Installation of information boards	5.1	Design ready
5		5.2	Actions implemented
3		5.3	Regular checks by CoV (MA45) - maintenance and care of equipment
		5.4	Yearly questionnaire among users about Danube Island
6	Dissemination of results	6.1	Stakeholder Workshops implemented
0		6.2	Regular updates of webiste and social media pages
7	Communication activities	7.1	Implementation of all communication activities acc. to project

7. COSTS AND FINANCING

Details on the actions are presented in **Appendix 3**. Costs within URBforDAN project will be covered by EU funds (EDRF, 85%) and by own budget (15%). Costs after URBforDAN project will be covered by own budget (100%).

within URBforDAN project (Juni 2018 - Nov 2020)			
Category	Description	Costs [EUR]*	
External services		38.500	
	Overall concept for Zinkabachl + Reichsbrücke		
Maintenance and development plan "Forest + Wa	to follow water act and nature conservation act	14.000	
Planning of 3 maintenance measures are to be	Detailed ecological concept for Zinkabachl as		
carried out to improve the ecological situation of	described above incl. actions for visitors	7.000	
appl. action areas (ecological stepping stones),	Detailed ecological concept for Reichsbrücke as		
including measures such as deadwood zones,	described above incl. actions for visitors	7.000	
reforestation, clearing of undergrowth (invasive	Detailed concept for Toter Grund (2 info-plates)	2.500	
	Detailed Planning for educational path incl.		
Planning of Nature trail concept	wooden bridge	8.000	
Equipment and Installation		50.000	
Equipment and Installation for Eradication of	Replanting of resistant ashes (Zinkabachl)	3.500	
invasive species in the pilot action areas and in	Replanting of resistant ashes (Reichsbrücke)	3.500	
	Production and installation of 2 info plates		
	(Zinkabachl)	2.000	
	Production and installation of 2 benches, 2		
Equipment and Installation for visitor guidance	tables, 2 chaise lounges (Zinkabachl)	12.000	
measures	Production and installation of 2 benches		
	(Reichsbrücke)	2.000	
	Production and installation of 2 info plates (Toter		
	Grund)	2.000	
Information and education tables and other			
urban equipment for nature trail	Production and installation of 7 info-platforms	25.000	
Infrastructure and Works		0	
Staff costs (Oct 19 - Nov 20)	days worked (290 EUR/day)	58.000	
Implementation of actions acc. to OP	159	46.000	
Maintenance and care, Regular checks	17	5.000	
Communication / Stakeholders	24	7.000	
	Total	146.500	
*costs are based on a preliminary assumption			

up to 5 years after URBforDAN project (Dec 2020 - Nov 2025)		
Category	Description	Costs [EUR]*
Infrastructure and Works		75.000
	Tributary connection, new	
Infrastructure and Works Zinkabachl	banks, reshape of mouth,	50.000
Infrastructure and Works for the nature		
trail (Reichbrücke)	Wooden bridge	25.000
Staff costs (Dec 20 - Nov 25)	days worked (290 EUR/day)	14.000
Maintenance and care, Regular checks	24	7.000
Communication / Stakeholders	24	7.000
	Total	89.000

APPENICES

Appendix 1: Maps of forested areas, strategic area and operational area (focus areas)



Figure 0-1: Strategic Area – Danube Island and its location within the City of Vienna

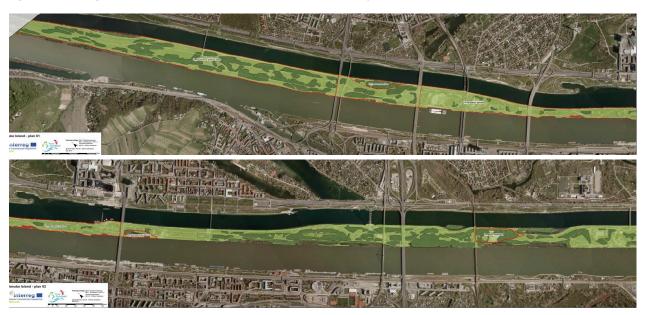




Figure 0-2: Mapping of the entire strategic area (Danube island) according to WEP / Map of forested areas (dark green areas: forest, light green: no forest)



Figure 0-3: Location of the three focus areas



Figure 0-4: Operational area, Focus area 1: Zinkabachl (ES main function: nature protection, ranking 1)



Figure 0-5: Operational area, Focus area 2: Bay Reichsbrücke (ES main function: scientific/educational, ranking 1)



Figure 0-6: Operational area, Focus area 3: Toter Grund (ES main function: nature protection, ranking 2)

Appendix 2: Functions of Ecosystem Services (ES), Mapping and Ranking in Vienna

According to the **WEP**, the **forests on the Danube Island** are mainly (98,52%) characterized as forest with **welfare function (for climate regulation)**. A minor part (1,48%) has the function of recreation.

More detailed functions have been elaborated and categorized within URBforDAN project and are provided by ecosystems and its services (Ecosystem services – ES). URBforDAN project defines 4 different main categories of ES – provisional ES (e.g. provision of drinking water), regulating ES (e.g. local climate mitigation), supporting ES (e.g. nature protection) and cultural ES (e.g. recreation/tourism, educational/scientific, cultural heritage). Further, a unified ranking for these ES has been elaborated (1 – very important, 2 – important, 3 – medium important). Ranking was only done for ES that are important.

The whole **Danube Island** has been mapped **according to the URBforDAN guidelines for ES mapping** with the following **results** (entire forest area is about 145 ha; other areas cover about 230 ha; in total the Danube island covers an area of about 375 ha).

The results for the detailed mapping and ranking in Vienna are presented in the table below:

Table 1: Results of ES Mapping in Vienna

Ecosystem service (ES) – area (ha) and % of entire forest area – only 1st rank and 2nd rank	Individual objective/ES	Area (ha) and % of entire forest area
Provisioning ES	11_Timber production	
	12_Non-timber products	
	13_Provision of drinking water	30,2 ha; 21,0 %
Regulating ES	21_Local climate mitigation	90,9 ha; 63,3%
	22_Local air quality	
	23_Protection against noise pollution	
	24_Regulation of floods	
	25_Protection against erosion	
	26_Waste-water treatment	
Supporting ES	31_Nature protection / habitats for species	7,9 ha; 5,5%
Cultural ES	41_Recreation and tourism	16,0 ha; 11,2 %
	42_Scientific / educational	0,3 ha; 0,2 %
	43_Cultural heritage	

The **guidelines for ES mapping** (prepared by the project) include a detailed description of the ES and the ranking system – please refer to the document "guidelines for E&S mapping".

Appendix 3: Details on planned actions Activity 1: Project Zinkabachl

a) Map:



b) Description:

Main problem: current settlements of homeless people, pollution of environmental valuable areas, disturbance of other user groups

Aim: Open the area to make it more visible, connect the tributary to the river, establish new pathways (visible, to avoid settlements of homeless people), guide visitors

Details:

- 1) The old tributary will be connected from both sides to the new Danube. The length of the new area will be approx. 160 m with a width of 6-8 m and a depth > 1,5 m at low water levels. The banks of new section will be shaped steep (habitat for Kingfisher), minimal ripraps are foreseen. The footbridge at the outlet of the existing tributary will be removed and the mouth will be reshaped.
- 2) The forested areas will be maintained by reducing undergrowth cover and replanting of resistant ashes to strengthen domestic species and evaluate invasive alien species. The forest area characteristics will be restored. Dead wood zones will be established (for specific insects, birds and bats).
- 3) 2 Infopoints and 2 recreation areas for users will be established:
 - Infopoint #1 "Zinkabachl":
 - Installation of an aluminum plate, describing the Zinkabachl its ecological importance, history (old tributary of the Danube), occurrence of species (flora, fauna) and an indication "do not disturb the wildlife"
 - Installation of 1 bench and 1 table (wooden) + logo

- Infopoint #2 "URBforDAN":
 - Installation of an aluminum plate, describing the URBforDAN project (enabling the actions, + logo/funds)
 - o Installation of 1 bench and 1 table (wooden) + logo
- Installation of 2 wooden chaise lounges: 1x at the southern end, 1x at the northern end of the Zinkabachl
- 4) Close contact to Caritas (social organization for homeless people) to set adequate and timely actions for homeless people

c) Cost assumption:

External assistance:

Budget category acc. to AF / Vienna Budget (Dec. 2019)	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
Maintenance and development plan "Forest + Water"	Overall concept for Zinkabachl + Reichsbrücke to follow water act and nature conservation act	14.000
Planning of 3 maintenance measures are to be carried out to improve the ecological situation of appl. action areas (ecological stepping stones), including measures such as deadwood zones, reforestation, clearing of undergrowth (invasive species), special measures for riverain forests (Part 1 of 3)	Detailed ecological concept for Zinkabachl as described above incl. actions for visitors	7.000
	Total	21.000

Equipment and Installation:

Budget category acc. to AF / Vienna Budget (Dec. 2019)	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
Equipment and Installation for Eradication of invasive species in the pilot action areas and in riverain forests	Replanting of resistant ashes	3.500
Equipment and Installation for visitor guidance measures	Production and installation of 2 info plates	2.000
Equipment and Installation for visitor guidance measures	Production and installation of 2 benches, 2 tables, 2 chaise lounges	12.000
	Total	17.500

<u>External works - Infrastructure (not covered by project costs)</u>:

[budget not covered by the project]	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
	Tributary connection, new banks, reshape of mouth, remove footbridge	50.000
	Total	50.000

d) Summary Table:

Project Zinkabachl	
Area	Zinkabachl
Situation / problems of	current settlements of homeless people, pollution of

	environmental valuable areas, disturbance of other user groups
Target state	No settlements of homeless people
	Valuable habitats and species protected
	Open, visitor-friendly area
Purpose	Open the area to make it more visible, connect the tributary to the river, establish new pathways (visible, to avoid settlements of homeless people), guide visitors
Priority	High
The most important functions	Nature protection / habitats for species
Possible activities	Relaxing, walking, resting
Unwanted or prohibited activities	Fishing, camping, barbeque, dogs
Silviculture measures	Reforestation
Harvesting measures	No measures
Infrastructure measures	Tributary connection, new banks, reshape of mouth, remove footbridge
Operational plan	Steps:
	1) Planning phase:
	 Overall concept for Zinkabachl + Reichsbrücke to follow water act and nature conservation act
	- Detailed ecological concept for Zinkabachl
	2) Coordinate with stakeholders (MA49, MA31, MA22, viadonau, user groups, social organizations)
	3) Implementation: Replanting of resistant ashes, Production and installation of 2 info plates, Production and installation of 2 benches, 2 tables, 2 chaise lounges, Tributary connection, new banks, reshape of mouth, remove footbridge
	4) Monitoring of actions, maintenance and care
Costs [EUR inkl. VAT]	Staff costs: please refer to chapter costs and financing
	External Services: 21.000
	Equipment and Installation: 17.500 Infrastructure: 50.000
	minastructure. 50.000
Financial sources	Within project: 85 % EU funds (EFRE) and 15 % own budget - city of Vienna
	After project: 100% own budget City of Vienna

Coordinator	City of Vienna – Department for Water Management (MA45)
Stakeholders	MA49, MA31, MA22, viadonau, user groups, social organizations
Experts basis	Hydraulic engineering, landscape planning, public relations
Notes	Infrastructure works might be implemented after the project (not financed via project URBforDAN)

Activity 2: Project Reichsbrücke

a) Map:



b) Description:

Main problem: drug addicts/deals often use this place as it is near to the metro/train and offer possibilities to hide (e.g. bushes), pollution of areas (waste), infective materials (syrings) form drug addicts

Aim: construction of an educational path, construction of a small bridge to connect the river bay to the pathways, improvement of the landscape to open the area (very visible to visitors; to avoid use of drug dealers)

Details:

- 1) The bay Reichsbrücke is an ideal starting point for schools to discover the Danube Island as it is easily accessible by public transport. Therefore, a nature trail (educational path) will be established: several info platforms with different topics will be installed round the bay:
 - Info-platform with a roof as meeting point: Introduction of bay, compensation area for hydro power plant built in 1996
 - Info-platform "habitats": importance of species and habitats
 - Info-platform "neophytes": what are neophytes, how to treat them
 - Info-platform "Danube": history of Danube, importance of the Danube river
 - Info-platform "Flood Protection": Danube Island as flood protection dam
 - Info-platform "Water"
 - Info-platform "UBRforDAN" + importance of urban forests

The contents might be changed in design phase.

The platforms will be established in a way to easily communicate the key messages (to be elaborated within detailed design) – especially designed for schools.

- 2) The forested areas will be maintained by reducing undergrowth cover and replanting of resistant ashes to strengthen domestic species and evaluate invasive alien species. The forest area characteristics will be restored. Dead wood zones will be established (for specific insects, birds and bats).
- 3) 1 wooden footbridge for the connection of the educational path and two new benches (wooden) will be installed.
- 4) Close contact to Check-it (social organization for drug addicts) to set adequate and timely actions for drug addicts

c) Cost assumption:

External assistance:

Budget category acc. to AF / Vienna Budget (Dec. 2019)	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
Maintenance and development plan "Forest + Water"	Overall concept for Zinkabachl + Reichsbrücke to follow water act and nature conservation act	Covered within action "Zinkabachl"
Planning of 3 maintenance measures are to be carried out to improve the ecological situation of appl. action areas (ecological stepping stones), including measures such as deadwood zones, reforestation, clearing of undergrowth (invasive species), special measures for riverain forests (Part 2 of 3)	Detailed ecological concept for Reichsbrücke as described above incl. actions for visitors	7.000
Planning of Nature trail concept	Detailed Planning for educational path incl. wooden bridge	8.000
	Total	15.000

Equipment and Installation:

Budget category acc. to AF / Vienna Budget (Dec. 2019)	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
Equipment and Installation for Eradication of invasive species in the pilot action areas and in riverain forests	Replanting of resistant ashes	3.500
Equipment and Installation for visitor guidance measures	Production and installation of 2 benches	2.000
Information and education tables and other urban equipment for nature trail	Production and installation of 7 info- platforms	25.000
	Total	30.500

External works - Infrastructure (not covered by project costs):

[budget	not covered by the project]	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
		Wooden bridge	25.000
		Total	25.000

d) Summary Table:

Project Reichsbrücke	
Area	Bay Reichsbrücke
Situation / problems of	Drug addicts/deals often use this place as it is near to the metro/train and offer possibilities to hide (e.g. bushes), pollution of areas (waste), infective materials (syringes) form drug addicts
Target state	No drugs hotspot, no infective materials
	Place for environmental education (schools, visitors)
_	Open, visitor-friendly area
Purpose	Construction of an educational path, construction of a small bridge to connect the river bay to the pathways, improvement of the landscape to open the area (very visible to visitors; to avoid use of drug dealers)
Priority	Low
The most important functions	Scientific/educational
Possible activities	Relaxing, education & excursions
Unwanted or prohibited activities	Fishing, camping, barbeque, dogs
Silviculture measures	Reforestation
Harvesting measures	No measures
Infrastructure measures	Wooden bridge
Operational plan	Steps:
	1) Planning phase:
	- Overall concept for Zinkabachl + Reichsbrücke to follow water act and nature conservation act
	- Detailed ecological concept for Reichsbrücke
	- Detailed Planning for educational path incl. wooden bridge
	2) Coordinate with stakeholders (MA49, VHP, viadonau, user groups, social organizations)
	3) Implementation: Replanting of resistant ashes, Production and installation of 2 benches, Production and installation of 7 info-platforms, Wooden bridge
	4) Monitoring of actions, maintenance and care
Costs [EUR inkl. VAT]	Staff costs: please refer to chapter costs and financing External Services: 15.000

	Equipment and Installation: 30.500 Infrastructure: 25.000
Financial sources	Within project: 85 % EU funds (EFRE) and 15 % own budget - city of Vienna
	After project: 100% own budget City of Vienna
Coordinator	City of Vienna – Department for Water Management (MA45)
Stakeholders	MA49, VHP, viadonau, user groups, social organizations
Experts basis	Hydraulic engineering, landscape planning, public relations
Notes	Infrastructure works might be implemented after the project (not financed via project URBforDAN)

Activity 3: Project Toter Grund

a) Map:



b) Description:

Main problem: Sex in public places – destruction of the natural monument, indecent exposure **Aim**: Leave the area as it is (further protection of natural monument); only information boards for visitors

Details:

- 1) Installation of 2 Info-Points (fixed aluminum plates): ecological importance of the Toter Grund (old tributary of the Danube, Natural Monument), occasion of species (flora, fauna) and an indication "do not disturb the wildlife"
- 2) Close contact to WASt (social organization for homosexuals) to set adequate and timely actions

c) Cost assumption:

External assistance:

Budget category acc. to AF / Vienna Budget (Dec. 2019)	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
Planning of 3 maintenance measures are to be carried out to improve the ecological situation of appl. action areas (ecological stepping stones), including measures such as deadwood zones, reforestation, clearing of undergrowth (invasive species), special measures for riverain forests (Part 3 of 3)	Detailed concept for Toter Grund (2 info-plates)	2.500
	Total	2.500

Equipment and Installation:

Budget category acc. to AF / Vienna Budget (Dec. 2019)	What will be done in this area	Costs [EUR]
Equipment and Installation for visitor guidance measures	Production and installation of 2 info plates	2.000
	Total	2.000

d) Summary Table:

Project Toter Grund	
Area	Toter Grund
Situation / problems of	Sex in public places – destruction of the natural monument, indecent exposure
Target state	Preservation of the nature protected area
	No visitors
	Educated people (respecting nature)
Purpose	Leave the area as it is (further protection of natural monument); only information boards for visitors
Priority	Middle
The most important functions	Nature protection / habitats for species
Possible activities	Tolerated: Walking, place for homosexual people
Unwanted or prohibited activities	Fishing, camping, sexual activities
Silviculture measures	No measures
Harvesting measures	No measures
Infrastructure measures	No measures
Operational plan	Steps:
	1) Planning phase:
	Detailed concept for Toter Grund (2 info-plates)
	2) Coordinate with stakeholders (MA22, user groups, social organizations)
	3) Implementation: Production and installation of 2 info plates
	4) Monitoring of actions, maintenance and care
Costs [EUR inkl. VAT]	Staff costs: please refer to chapter costs and financing
	External Services: 2.500
	Equipment and Installation: 2.500
Financial sources	Within project: 85 % EU funds (EFRE) and 15 % own budget - city of Vienna
	After project: 100% own budget City of Vienna
Coordinator	City of Vienna – Department for Water Management (MA45)
Stakeholders	MA22, user groups, social organizations

Experts basis	Public relations
Notes	none

Activity 4: Direct communication - social fringe groups

a) Description:

Main problem: The Danube island offers an ideal place for social fringe groups:

- for homeless people: calm areas (no visitors), many places to hide (bushes, etc.)
- for homosexuals: Toter Grund is a known spot for sexual activities
- for drug addicts: this is not a special function from the Danube Island, but e.g. the Bay Reichsbrücke offers an ideal place for drug dealers (metro line U1 in ca. 100 m, connecting Danube island with the city center; several places to hide like bushes)

After consultation and discussion with social organizations, the main problem is the missing or delayed communication to relevant social organizations.

Aim: Improvement of communication, direct communication regarding social fringe groups with the relevant social organization (e.g. when detecting hot-spots of homeless people, Caritas will be directly called to prepare suitable actions in time). Moreover, the focus areas will be opened up (no more places to hide) – refer to Activity 1 and 2. Homosexuals will be further tolerated in the Toter Grund.

Details:

After detection of new "hot spots" social groups will be immediately contacted:

1) Homeless people: Caritas Gruft

Link: https://www.gruft.at/ueber-uns/kontakt/

Telefon: +43 1 587 87 54 (Betreuungszentrum Gruft – Tageszentrum, Barnabitengasse 12a, 1060

Wien)

E-Mail: gruft@caritas-wien.at

2) Homosexuals: Wiener Antidiskriminierungsstelle für gleichgeschlechtliche und transgender

Lebensweisen (WASt)

Link: https://www.wien.gv.at/kontakte/wast/

Telefon: +43 1 4000-81449 E-Mail: wast@gif.wien.gv.at

3) Drug Addicts: checkit! Suchthilfe Wien gGmbH

Link: https://checkit.wien/impressum/

Telefon: (+43) 01/4000 53650 E-Mail: checkit@suchthilfe.at

b) Cost assumption:

Only staff costs (refer to chapter financing and costs).

Activity 5: Installation of information boards

a) Description:

Main problem: Main problem is the low awareness of visitors of the Danube island regarding nature and environment protection

Aim: Raise awareness at special spots located at the focus areas on different topics.

Details: Installation of information boards will be established (e.g. why works in forests are necessary, importance of nature conservation, etc.). Please refer to the relevant project area. The information boards will be regularly checked by staff from the City of Vienna (MA45).

b) Cost assumption:

Please refer to the relevant project area.

Activity 6: Dissemination

a) Description:

Main problem: (no problems)

Aim: All actions will be **presented** to the stakeholders (Workshop) to ensure a proper implementation of the pilot actions. Stakeholders will be kept updated via website and upon request.

Details:

- Final Presentation of IMMP + Actions: latest 30.01.2019
 - Actions will be presented and discussed with all relevant stakeholders
 - Stakeholders: viadonau, VHP, MA22, MA31, MA49, MA45, MA42, check-it, WASt,
 Caritas Gruft, Nutzergruppen
- Website: https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/gewaesser/donauinsel/urbfordan.html
- Mail: post@ma45.wien.gv.at

b) Cost assumption:

Only staff costs (refer to chapter financing and costs).

Activity 7: Communication activities

a) Description:

Main problem: (no problems)

Aim: Communication activities acc. to WP2 – URBforDAN project.

Details: Several communication actions are foreseen, according URBforDAN project, i.a.:

- Communication channels: Website, Facebook, Instagram, Newsletter, press conferences, press releases
- Dissemination at events: Posters, leaflets, Event-Toolkit, Give-aways
- Other: URBforDAN video, events, scientific articles

b) Cost assumption:

Already covered by the project.

Appendix 4: User Map - Danube Island

PDF document "Wiener Donauinsel – Paradies für SportlerInnen, Erholungsuchende und NaturfreundInnen" – please find below a low resolution extract.



Figure 0-7: User Map of the Danube Island (extract)