



IGNP

Pilot Area 4: Djerdap – Iron Gates

Amalia Dumbravă

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CHARACTERISTIC & UNIQUENESS OF PILOT AREA

- The cross-border area of the Iron Gates has always been recognized as one of the most beautiful areas in Europe. The Danube forms here the longest gorge in Europe, with a length of 134 km. The Romanian Danube Gorge presents both narrowing and widening sectors. The complexity of the geological and tectonic structure led to the formation of a very varied relief from depressions, to mountain massifs and cliffs. On the left side of the Danube rise the Locva Mountains, the Almaj Mountains, the Mehedinti Mountains and the Mehedinti Plateau.
- The two parks preserve unique biological and landscape diversity and are amongst the most significant Natura 2000 (established and in order to be established) zones in their countries. The cultural-historical heritage in the parks includes sites of global, national and local significance.
- Djerdap National Park together with the Iron Gates Natural Park forms a unitary ecosystem. As a result, there are steps to declare the cross-border area as a Biosphere Reserve, and in the very near future as a cross-border RAMSAR site.
- Along the Danube, from Baziaș to beyond the Timoc Valley, natural and cultural history has created a landscape heritage with a wide international reputation, both in terms of biological diversity and cultural remains
- This area benefits from the most spectacular European gorge, the Danube Gorge, characterized by an alternation of depression basins and narrowing sectors, differentiated due to the extremely complex geological structures crossed by the river. It presents an alternation of areas with steep cliffs in which human activity was practically zero, with depressed areas in which settlements, cultivated lands, meadows, orchards denote an obvious human activity, even this alternation giving this space a special picturesque.



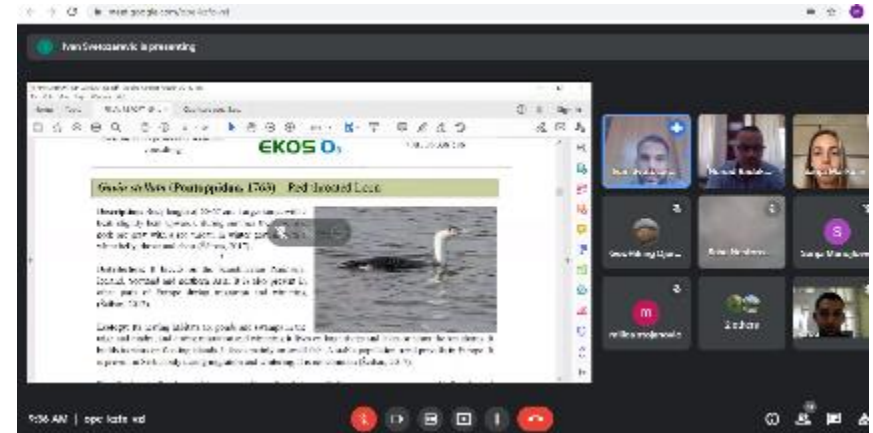
ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT & MEASURES IMPLEMENTED

- Collection of ecological and spatial data regarding the Natura2000 invertebrates species from Iron gates Natural Park area;
- Assessing the impact of ecological barriers on bat species along the Green Danube Corridor, applying specific monitoring methods.
- Monitoring protocol for medium voltage poles in the area of the Iron Gates Natural Park and in the area of the Djerdap National Park
- Analyse ESS in 6 different plots, according to the UN Vienna methodology
- Research on birds in the pilot region
- Socio-economic analysis of services and benefits for local communities



STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- National authorities: Environment, Waters and Forestry Ministry, National Forestry Administration, National Protected Areas Agency
- Regional authorities: Counties Councils, Protected of the Environment Agencies, Water Management Administrations, Protected areas Administrations
- Regional investors in energy sector: power lines infrastructure, wind farms developers
- NGO-s
- Local communities



IMPACT OF PROJECT

- We have contacted central authority in order to propose changes in the legislation of reporting the accidental dead and capture of protected species, at this time being totally dysfunctional.
- We have participated active to improve the spatial planning of the residential areas and send them feedback in each stage of their documentation, we also had discussions to maintain a high level of protection in some areas where local authorities wanted to develop economical activities. Most of our comments were inserted in their analyses and documents.
- We also informed the central authority that ecological corridors need special legislation, which is now missing in Romania.
- We have informed the owners of the powerlines about the negative impact of two lines on birds species and they decided to isolate in next future these lines.



NEXT STEPS + FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

- We kept the contact with the regional investors and we have been consulted by one of them regarding future activities of a LIFE project which could improve ecological connectivity (isolating the power lines, management of the invasive species etc.)
- We also keep a very close connection with NGO from Romania and Serbia regarding the bats protection and conservacy, a project is being under implementation at this moment regarding the migration of the bats and possible routes that they use
- We will use the data obtained in the project to analyse future infrastructure plans: wind farms inside or outside the protected area, spation planning of the localities etc.



CONTACT & INFORMATION

NAME

amalia.dumbrava@pnportiledefier.ro

Phone-number

+40 725442353

ORGANISATION

www.pnportiledefier.ro



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