
Cooperation on nature conservation between Croatia and Hungary along Drava River

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History of cooperation

- n 9 years long – since 1999
- n Memorandum of Cooperation between Kopački rit Nature park and Duna – Dráva National park on topics:
 - exchange of experiences
 - harmonization of management plans
 - publishing common publications, common programmes
 - realizations of international or transboundary projects

Supportive activities

- n EURONATUR
- n IUCN
- n WWF, WWF Hungary
- n Dravska liga
- n Prirodoslovno društvo Drava
- n Zeleni Osijek
- n Bird Life
- n Unesco Participatory Program 2006-2007
co-financed preparation of the nomination in Croatia
- n Habitat restoration in Kopački rit and Beda with support of Dutch Government and ECNC, 2003

High-level political support

- n Trilateral state presidents meeting – wishes for transboundary protected area (WH!)
- n Bilateral cooperation between Croatian Government and Hungarian Government:
 - Agreement on cooperation on the field of environment and nature conservation
 - Appointment of coordinators for specific task – TBR Mura-Drava-Danube in April 2008.
 - Ministries encourage the working team to maximum efforts

Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

- n In response to popular demand for the protection and maintenance of the area Governments decided to nominate new Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube

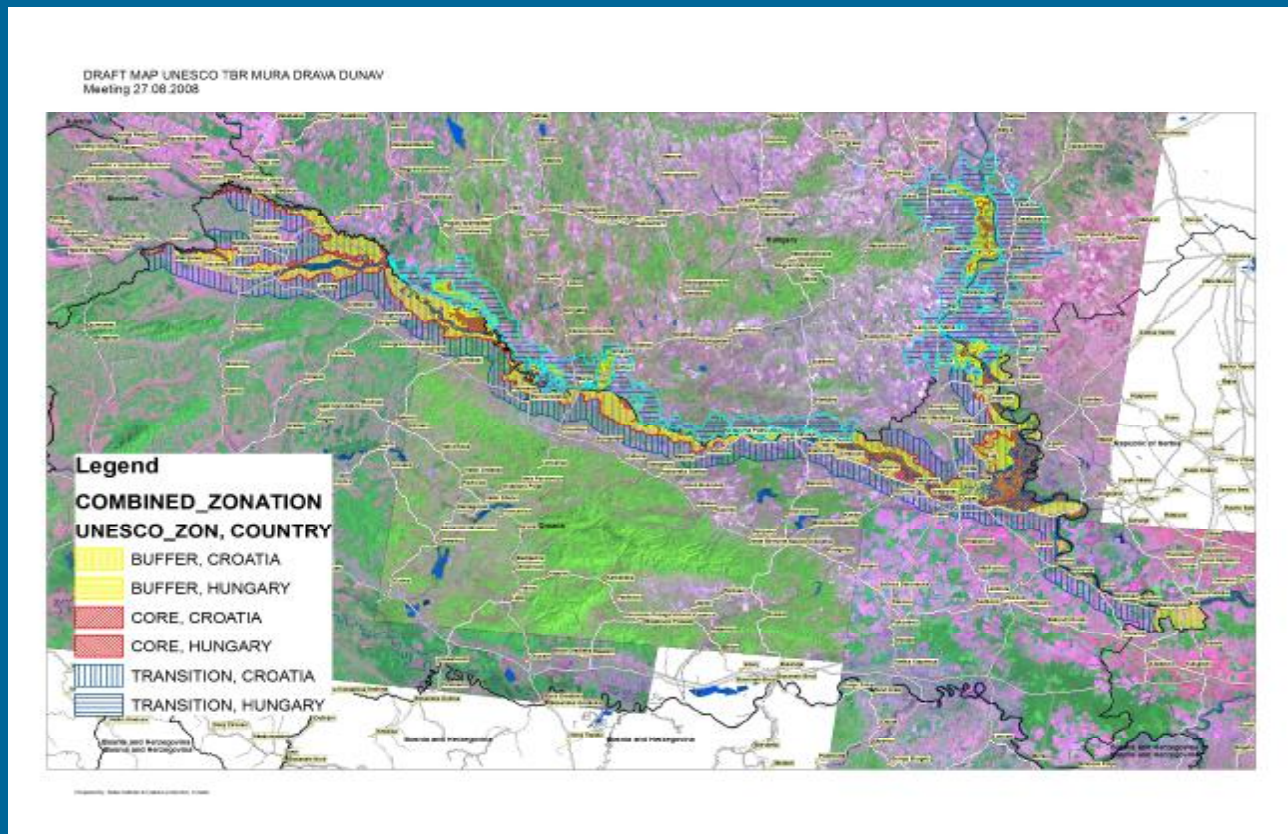
Protocol for Preparation of the Nomination

- n Coordinators: Mirna Bojic (HR), Szabolcs Zavoczky (HU)
- n Supported by Croatian State Institute for Nature Conservation, Duna-Drava National park Directorate
- n Ministry representatives, National MaB committee representatives
- n 3 Meetings in Pecs and Zagreb, Aide Memories for each
- n Solving questions from general (partners, area) to specific one (zone borders, settlements, activities, map standards)
- n Draft nomination with draft map of joint area

Joint Declaration –will be signed on the occasion of the third meeting of our governments in October 2008

- n appreciate the results of the Croatian-Hungarian cooperation in the field of environment and nature conservation, particularly those of the implementation of the agreement between the Duna-Dráva National Park and the Kopački Rit National Park, and encourage the development of the mutual relations,
 - n support of the establishment of the Croatian-Hungarian transboundary Mura-Drava-Danube biosphere reserve (MDD-BR), furthermore help with all means the creation and management of this reserve,
 - n entrust the experts of both Ministries and the competent institutions, to finalise and transmit a draft of the joint nomination file needed for the designation of the MDD-BR to the Hungarian and Croatian National MAB Commissions until the 30th September 2008 and
 - n encourage the competent institutions to nominate the MDD-BR as soon as possible to the UNESCO. The Hungarian party takes note that the Croatian party will submit the joint nomination to the UNESCO immediately after the proclamation of the Croatian Mura-Drava Regional Park, on the other hand Hungarian party will hand the joint nomination until the end of 2008
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BIOSPHERE RESERVE MURA-DRAVA-DANUBE



- extremely important role in promoting the development of eco-tourism, awareness raising and environmental education in the concerned regions.
- life of 300 000 people will be positively affected directly and indirectly by the creation of this reserve.

Conclusion – Example of good practice

- n Tradition of bilateral cooperation from 'the bottom to the top'
- n Idea supported by public (NGO's) and relevant organizations (financial support)
- n Governmental Agreement is of fundamental importance – relevant partners for relevant agreements!
- n Successful work - Ministries encourage working team to maximum efforts – meetings on monthly basis- draft nomination prepared in 3 months
- n High importance given to the work – Joint declaration of MaB Mura-Drava-Danube will be sign on Joint Governmental Meeting
- n While nomination process is going on, conservation and tourism projects for the region could be applied

We are inviting further countries to join us!

Let's develop Drava River as an 'ecological backbone'!