



# “The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje”

Special mention of the CoE Landscape Award

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

Biljana Filipovic



# Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve



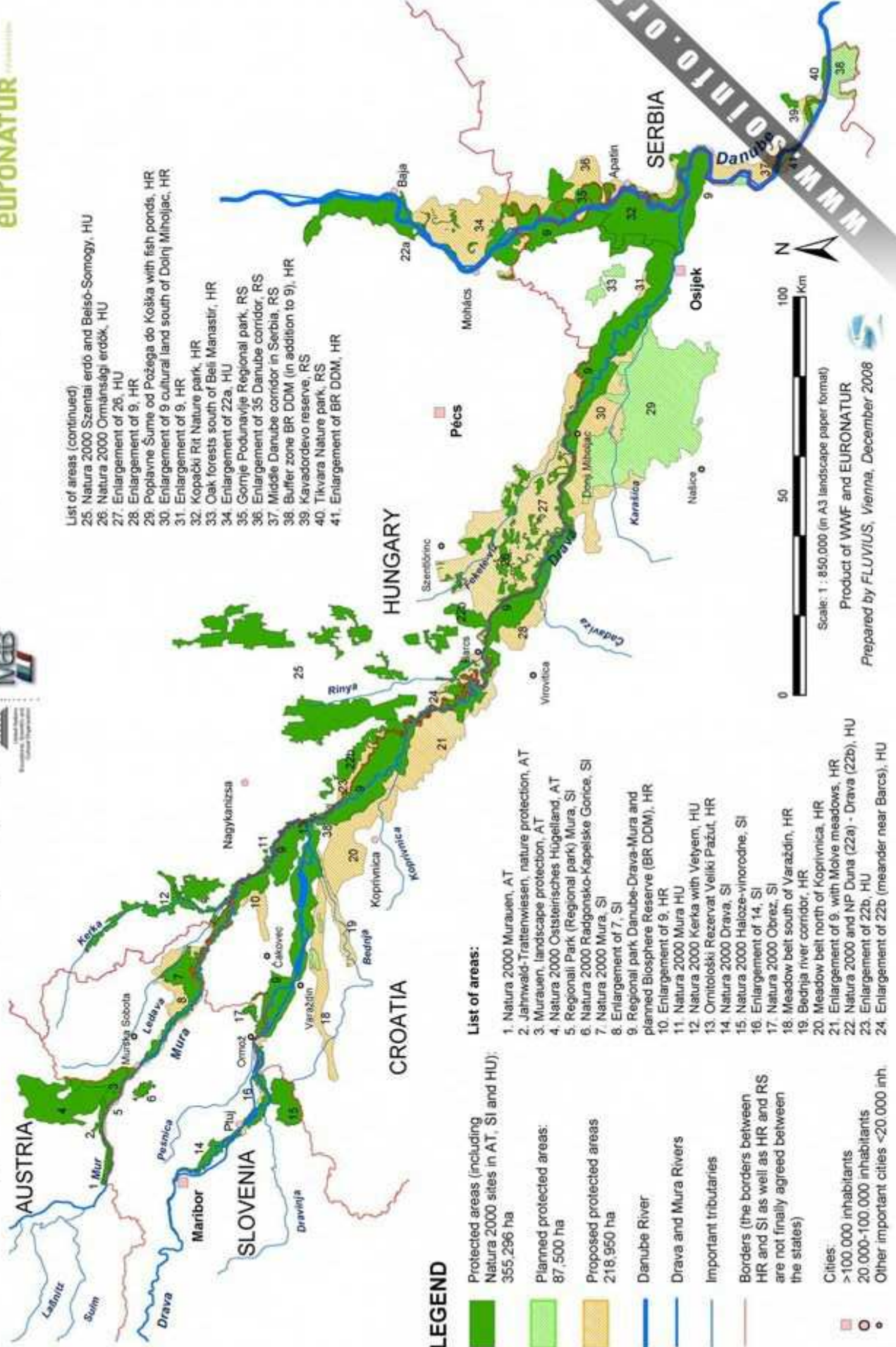
# Protected Areas along the European Lifeline Danube-Drava-Mura

Proposal for a Trans-Boundary Biosphere Reserve "Danube-Drava-Mura" within the framework of UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)



for a living planet™

EURONATUR



- List of areas (continued)
- 25. Natura 2000 Szentai erdő and Belső-Somogy, HU
  - 26. Natura 2000 Ormánsági erdők, HU
  - 27. Enlargement of 26, HU
  - 28. Enlargement of 9, HR
  - 29. Poplavne Šume od Požege do Koška with fish ponds, HR
  - 30. Enlargement of 9 cultural land south of Dolnji Miholjac, HR
  - 31. Enlargement of 9, HR
  - 32. Kopački Rit Nature park, HR
  - 33. Oak forests south of Beli Manastir, HR
  - 34. Enlargement of 22a, HU
  - 35. Gornje Podunavlje Regional park, RS
  - 36. Enlargement of 35 Danube corridor, RS
  - 37. Middle Danube corridor in Serbia, RS
  - 38. Buffer zone BR DDM (in addition to 9), HR
  - 39. Kavčardovo reserve, RS
  - 40. Tivvara Nature park, RS
  - 41. Enlargement of BR DDM, HR

## List of areas:

1. Natura 2000 Murauen, AT
2. Jahnwald-Trattenwiesen, nature protection, AT
3. Murauen, landscape protection, AT
4. Natura 2000 Oststeirisches Hügelland, AT
5. Regional Park (Regional park) Mura, SI
6. Natura 2000 Radgonsko-Kapelske Gorice, SI
7. Natura 2000 Mura, SI
8. Enlargement of 7, SI
9. Regional park Danube-Drava-Mura and planned Biosphere Reserve (BR DDM), HR
10. Enlargement of 9, HR
11. Natura 2000 Mura HU
12. Natura 2000 Kerka with Vetyem, HU
13. Ornitolóski Rezervat Veliki Pažut, HR
14. Natura 2000 Drava, SI
15. Natura 2000 Hložje-vinorodne, SI
16. Enlargement of 14, SI
17. Natura 2000 Obrez, SI
18. Meadow belt south of Varaždin, HR
19. Bednja river corridor, HR
20. Meadow belt north of Koprivnica, HR
21. Enlargement of 9, with Molva meadows, HR
22. Natura 2000 and NP Duna (22a) - Drava (22b), HU
23. Enlargement of 22b, HU
24. Enlargement of 22b (meander near Barcs), HU

## LEGEND

- Protected areas (including Natura 2000 sites in AT, SI and HU): 355,296 ha
- Planned protected areas: 87,500 ha
- Proposed protected areas 218,950 ha
- Danube River
- Drava and Mura Rivers
- Important tributaries
- Borders (the borders between HR and SI as well as HR and RS are not finally agreed between the states)
- Cities:
  - >100.000 inhabitants
  - 20.000-100.000 inhabitants
  - Other important cities <20.000 inh.



Scale: 1 : 850.000 (in A3 landscape paper format)  
 Product of WWF and EURONATUR  
 Prepared by FLUVIUS, Vienna, December 2008

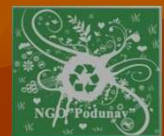
## Special Mention of Council of Europe Landscape Award to the NGO “Podunav”

- NGO Podunav represented Serbia on the project proposals for European Landscape Award in 2011 and 2013, receiving twice the special recognition of the Committee of Ministers.
- Main aim: promotion of natural beauty, culture and tradition of Backi Monostor and its surroundings



# Social and economic characteristics of Backi Monostor village

- Multiethnic heritage based on people living in harmony with the environment
- Environmental values of Special Nature Reserve "Gornje Podunavlje"

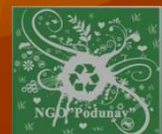


# Project Goals

- Sustainable development of the entire region through eco and rural tourism development, which includes the engagement of the whole local community,
- The connection of local culture and historic heritage in harmony with nature and its promotion as an eco and rural tourist destination
- The project is a partnership between local and regional institutions, non government and civil sector and local community

## Central aims

- Protection of the significant part of Danube middle flow (Special nature reserve “Gornje Podunavlje”) – wetlands, forests, animal and plant species
- Cross-border cooperation with the neighbours sharing same complex of Danube flood valley (National park “Kopacki Rit” – Croatia and Nature park “Danube – Drava” – Hungary) as a element for regional development
- Promotion of Special Nature Reserve “Gornje Podunavlje” as a base for sustainable territorial development
- Promotion and preservation of local culture – multiethnic heritage
- Nature and tradition preservation through eco and rural tourism development
- Increasing awareness among civil society and public authorities of the value of landscapes using the educational methods
- Raising awareness about landscape values





## Main activities

- Education and seminars with a local community of protected plant and animal species
- Workshops with children and adults on environmental protection
- Education and seminars with the partners on Organic Agriculture
- Meetings with partners from Croatia and Hungary on the subject of connecting the integrated nature protection and cross-border cooperation
- Educational workshops on eco and rural tourism
- Construction of Eco-centre
- Monostor marked as Green Belt site
- Construction of Tourist Information Centre
- Creating an tourist offer for Backi Monostor
- Inclusion of youth in activities related to environmental protection
- Motivating local people to get involved with eco and rural tourism through example of good practice
- Building and raising rural eco-tourism facilities
- Organizing festivals that promote the natural and ethnological contents of Backi Monostor



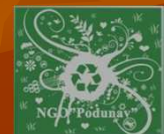


- Motivating young people to involve in traditional crafts
- The promotion of local traditional foods and the creation of brand
- Connecting with similar organizations in order to cooperate and integral protection
- Joint cross-border eco-tourism offer with Croatia
- Reception of tourists from Serbia and abroad, and their introduction to the Special Reserve and village tradition
- Collaboration with local and city institutions in order to increase the budget for tourism infrastructure
- Connecting all individuals and institutions involved in eco tourism offer of Backi Monostor and surroundings
- Appearances and presentations at fairs and festivals
- Creating promotional materials - leaflets, maps, travel documentary movies
- Raising awareness about landscape values through media presentations on TV

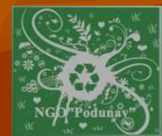


## Outcomes

- Special Nature Reserve "Gornje Podunavlje" recognized as significant protected area and a part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube
- Increased awareness of local inhabitants about importance of landscape
- Joint projects with partners from Croatia, relating to cross-border protection and development of eco-tourism
- Educated service providers in rural eco-tourism (hosts of guest houses, caterers, owners of the cottages, craftsman)
- Tourist Information Center - starting point for any visitor of Backi Monostor
- developed eco-tourism offer of Backi Monostor and its surroundings - the established visiting programs (day trips, weekend deals, multi-day programs ...)
- involved young people in the organization of environmental and recreational events

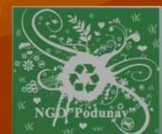


- Placement of domestic agricultural products
- New jobs through better tourist offer (preserving ethno houses for tourism)
- marked bike lanes, for sustainable biking – Euro Velo 6 and Via P. Panonie)
- Events that have assumed a traditional character - are held regularly every year and are of great importance to regional and national level – Bodrog fest, Danube Day
- preserved tradition of all ethnic groups - the dialects, dances, songs
- Young people who are dealing with some of the traditional crafts
- The well-known dishes (noted in all competitions, local and regional levels)
- Backi Monostor is marked as a tourist destination on the tourist map of Serbia and the region
- Identifying Backi Monostor at fairs, festivals



## Exemplary value

- **Project and initiatives for the protection of the environment by developing eco-tourism is an excellent example of good practice that can be applied to all similar sites**
- **Connections between all actors in the eco-tourist industry, local residents (owners of accommodation facilities, caterers, Ethno house owners, old crafts, farmers ...), as well as local institutions.. contributes to stable and sustainable development of the region by creating to new values.**
- **excellent example of good practice, that may encourage similar initiatives.**







# BODROG FESTIVAL



## Public participation and awareness raising

Active participation of local people in each segment

Project and activities of landscape preservation and rural development are in accordance with a local and Regional Development Plans Strategies and programs.

Activities of the project are a part of the international initiatives : WWF and IUCN

Raising awareness and capacity building about the cultural and landscape values is presented to the public through educational trainings, workshops and media campaigns, largely contributing to the main goal: informing the general public about their roles, rights and responsibilities in transparent and democratic decision making for future development.





## “REGERERATION OF THE DANUBE” ECO MUSIC FESTIVAL







■ Thank you for your attention

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