

Internal Newsletter of DANUBEPARKS – June 2010

News from the Work Packages

Project Management

The reimbursed money for period 1 has been received by Donau-Auen National Park in the end of May and has been transferred on to the Project Partners within the first week afterwards. Unfortunately, the money for the Bulgarian partners had been taken out from the reimbursement. However, we are now submitting the progress report of period 2, including the Declarations of our Bulgarian partners of both first periods – we hope the situation will be solved until the next reimbursement!

Communication

The Draft Concept for the **Online Platform for Nature Tourism** has been established by NPDA and sent out to all partners for feedback – until now we have some answers and remarks from the side of SNC SR and PNPD. The concept will be presented and discussed in more detail at the Tourism Task Force Meeting on July 2nd in Mohács.

The DANUBEPARKS brochure is ready for printing! In cooperation of all partners, text and design has been prepared step by step. The printing of the English brochure is expected for beginning of June and will be presented at the Steering Committee Meeting. The digital version has been sent to all of you to translate it into your languages and prepare the printing. The version in German language is already available in hardcopy,



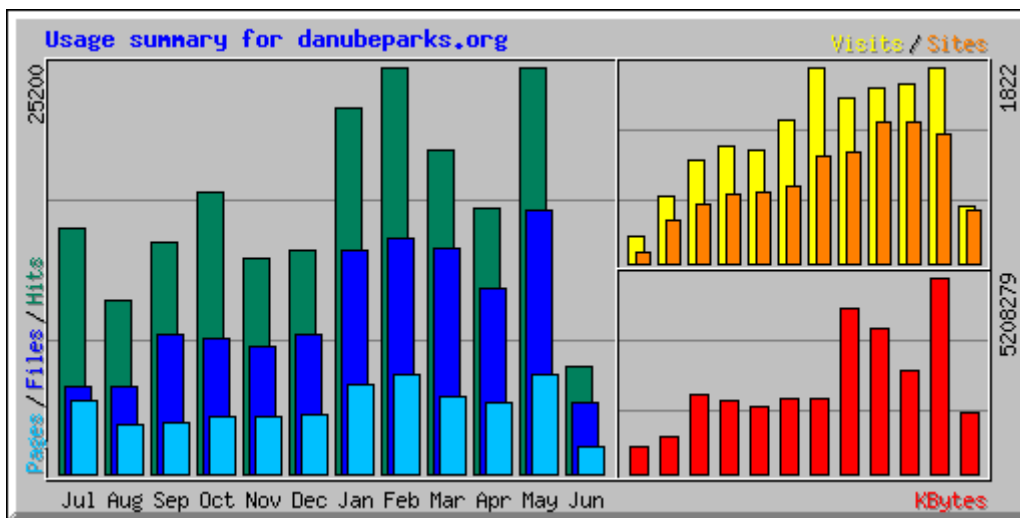
MBA students from the **Bristol Business School** did project works about the Donau-Auen National Park and about DANUBEPARKS. The main project interesting for us is the **evaluation of internal and external communication of DANUBEPARKS**. The results were presented by the students on May 24th in Orth/Donau. The main findings are:

- Project team members are for the majority satisfied with the communication inside the project team
- Objectives, challenges and communication needs are shared across the project team
- There are some very successful communication tools (Newsletters, Task Force Meetings, etc) and some less successful (Intranet)
- Many project partners are not fully satisfied with the external communication tools

- Some suggestions for the improvement of the website were adding of social network sharing tools, clearing of general information, language to be more understandable and engaging for the broad public.

The [presentation](#) can be found on our project website!

May has been a **record month again for our website** with 25.200 hits this month! Generally, the usage of our website is increasing, but with some ups and downs. We can see from the last months, that those months with many news on the website as well as activities that are visible to the public (such as task force meetings with corresponding press releases) are increasing the activity on our website very much! Therefore, please be active and send news to be posted on the website as well as on [Facebook](#) continuously to Donau-Auen National Park!



River Morphology & Revitalization

The questionnaires on Conservation & Navigation sent to all partners in April have been answered by some partners, some are still missing. All partners who have not answered yet: please send your inputs as soon as possible! As we have learned at the conferences on the EU Strategy on the Danube Region, the topic of conservation and navigation will be of highest priority for all protected areas at the Danube. Therefore, we all should support the elaboration of the DANUBE PARKS Joint Strategic Paper on Conservation and Navigation as powerful as possible!

Floodplain Management and Habitat Connectivity

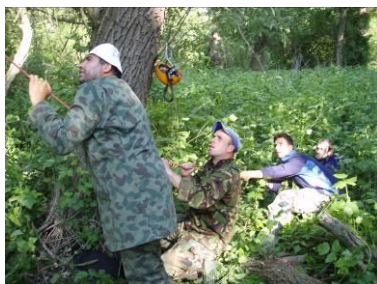


[BROZ](#) did an excursion on the topic of floodplain management on May 5th to the area of Velký Lél Island. The target group for this presentation of past and planned activities (including those happening within the DANUBE PARKS project) were partners from the Ministry of Environment, the State Nature Conservancy, the Regional Environmental Office as well as Water Management Experts and NGO activists.

Conservation of Danube Flagship Species

On May 7th, **Birdlife International** signed an official “**letter of support**” for the elaboration of the **White-tailed Eagle Action Plan**. This underlines the transnational importance of this Action Plan and helps us to get the support also by the Council of Europe (as already agreed by mail). Based on the results of the workshop in the Duna-Dráva National Park the experts will intensify their work on the action plan, so it will be ready in autumn 2010 for its presentation at the international White-tailed Eagle Conference in the Duna-Dráva National Park in (see timetable at next page).

In **Persina Nature Park** and **Danube-Delta Biosphere Reserve**, the [White-tailed Eagle monitoring and ringing](#) took place. In Persina, since several years already, a couple of nests are known to exist in the park – the areas Lakat and Milka Islands are protected mainly because of the suspected breeding of White-tailed Eagle. Now two nesting pairs have been found – one on each island; three young Eagles have been found, measured and ringed. In the Danube Delta, also four young Eagles have been found and ringed. This gives hope for the further development of the Lower Danube as a home range for White-tailed Eagle, which are currently not wide-spread at the Lower Danube. View also the [public photo album](#) on Facebook!



Detailed Timetable for the White-tailed Eagle Action Plan

Activity	2010											2011									
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
establish Advisory Board	█																				
official support by BirdLife International		█																			
cooperation process Council of Europe	█	█	█																		
basic scientific surveys (optional)		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
literature search	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
work in content & drafting	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
study visits to selected PA by experts							█	█	█	█											
draft sent to all PP												█									
Task Force Meeting (incl. Advisory Board)													█								
revision of the draft													█								
final draft presented to Council of Europe														█							
evaluation process Council of Europe														█	█	█					
report published in "Nature & Environment"																			█		
White-tailed Eagle Conference																				█	

Monitoring & NATURA 2000

Gyula Kiss, project manager of the Duna-Ipoly National Park, spent his staff exchange in the Donau-Auen National Park between May 24th-28th. Main focus has been on the preparation of the transnational methodology for the monitoring of Little-ringed Plover and Sandmartin, which has been presented at the “Monitoring workshop” – task force meeting WP6 – in the Duna-Ipoly National Park (2nd-4th June). (Details will be presented in the newsletter for June)

Danube Nature Tourism

[Duna-Dráva National Park](#) has been preparing for the **Danube Festival** in Mohács on July 3rd and 4th, where the DANUBE PARKS partners will present themselves with information booths, ranger programmes and a joint photo exhibition. Please make sure you have sent all relevant information to the organizers (evahorvath@ddnp.kvvm.hu) for your participation!

On the occasion of the Danube Festival, the first regular Steering Committee Meeting will take place. Invitation letter has been sent to all Directors, the detailed agenda will be sent to you very soon.

During May, the registration for the **Ranger Training** has been finished. There are now 20 participants registered (12 in [Donau-Auen National Park](#), 8 in [Danube-Delta Biosphere Reserve](#)) coming from seven institutions and six countries. They will all participate in both modules (English Course and International Nature Protection Course) and should transfer the gained knowledge also to their colleagues back home, so that the complete team of an organisation can benefit from the training!

Coming up soon!

DANUBE PARKS meetings & events

June 29 th	Awarding of prizes to winners of competition “A Chance for the Blue Danube” in Danube-Delta Biosphere Reserve
July 2 nd – 3 rd	Steering Committee Meeting Duna-Drava National Park
July 2 nd	Tourism Task Force Meeting Duna-Drava National Park
July 3 rd -4 th	Danube Festival in Mohács Duna-Drava National Park
July 7 th – 15 th	English Course (Part 1 of Joint Ranger Training) Donau-Auen National Park

July - October

Hosting of the mobile exhibition “A Chance for the Blue Danube” by several Project Partners

July	Kalimok-Brushlen
August	Duna-Drava
September	Duna-Ipoly
October	BROZ

September 6th – 15th

International Nature Protection Course
(Part 2 of Joint Ranger Training)
Danube-Delta Biosphere Reserve and travel along the Lower Danube

September 20th – 28th

International Nature Protection Course
(Part 2 of Joint Ranger Training)
Donau-Auen National Park and travel along the Upper Danube

Coming up soon! Other meetings we know about – may be interesting for you!

June 22nd- 25th, 2010

39th **IAD Conference** in Dresden (DE)
Large River Basins: Danube meets Elbe.
Organized by the International Association for Danube Research