

# MURA – DRAVA – DANUBE

## Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

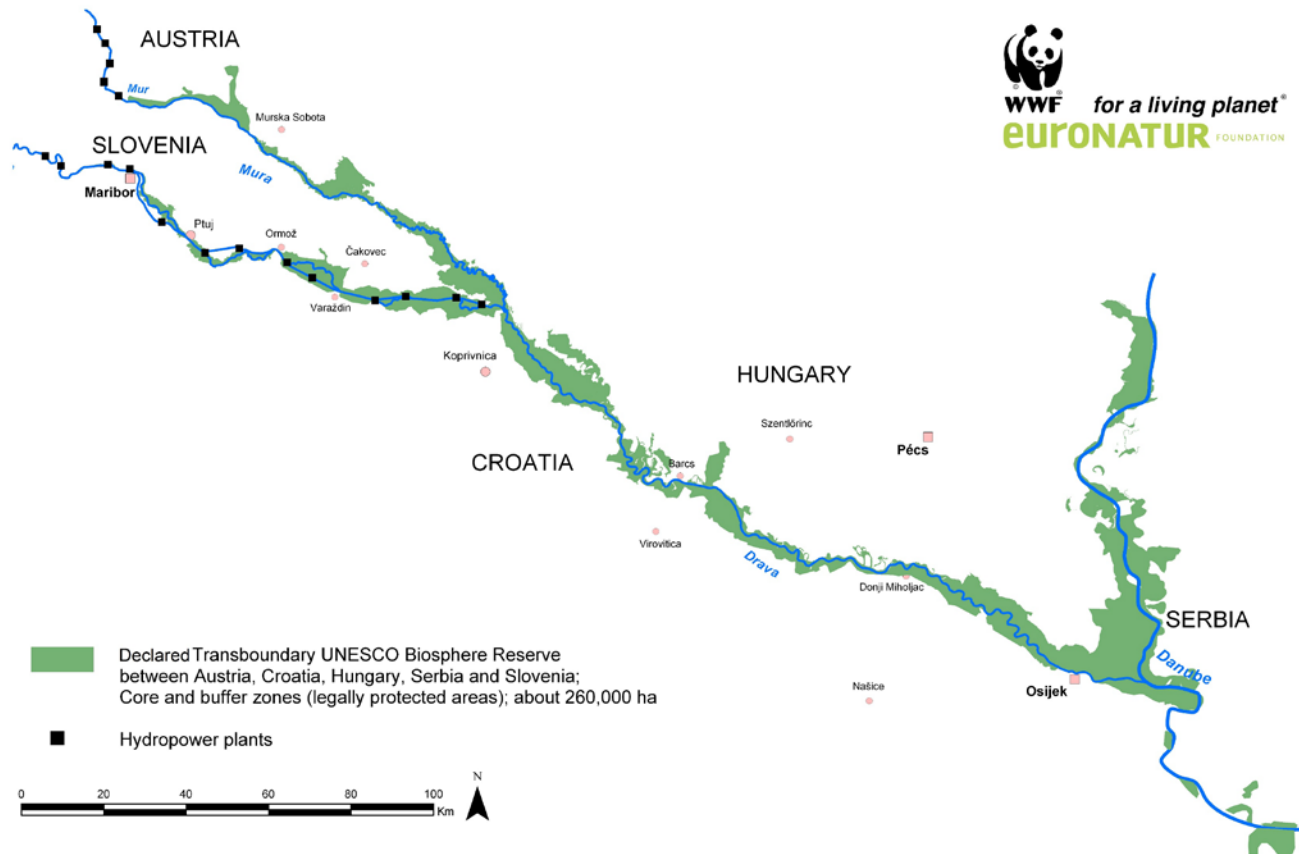
( Croatia – Hungary )



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Sarlat, France, April 2017.

- Based on 3 rivers in Central Europe: **Mura, Drava and Danube**
- Declared by UNESCO in July 2012
- Transboundary between Croatia and Hungary; final size 260.000 ha
- Directly linked on Kopački rit Nature park > greatest low-land protected corridor in Europe

Transboundary river system of the Mura, Drava and Danube







## The main problems encountered in start-up stage

- No tradition of institutional nature protection in region, but also the positive fact of *The Iron Curtain*
- Only „mechanical” river management during 1945-1995
- Too many „paper protection” within one decade (2001-2012)
- No sufficient funds and human resource for joint management (within Croatia and on international HU-CRO level)
- The permanent idea of „hydropower as sustainable option” (while existing dams on Drava river suggest otherwise)

# Solutions?

- 5 years of Biosphere reserve – joint projects of institutions responsible for management of parts of TBR
- Branding needed > based on joint vision of what TBR should be (for local people, not just in theory)
- Small-steps system to transform paper-parks to fully functional protected areas in IUCN V category > then TBR will work by itself









# Listing of the main deadlock points and difficulties (political, financial, technical, scientific, ...)

- Language and cultural barriers: Croatia and Hungary
- Strong traditions and rich resources of state-owned management institutions (e.g. water, forest) > people have more faith in machinery rather than in ecosystem services (i.e. related to flood management)
- Local human population are non-believers in economical power of TBR > because there is no big results yet (BR existing less than 5 years) > so they act within business as usual
  - **WHICH protected status** to communicate with general public:  
National park, regional park, Natura 2000 or BR?



