



Case study #07b: Danube floodplain Hungary

Case study cluster: large transboundary rivers

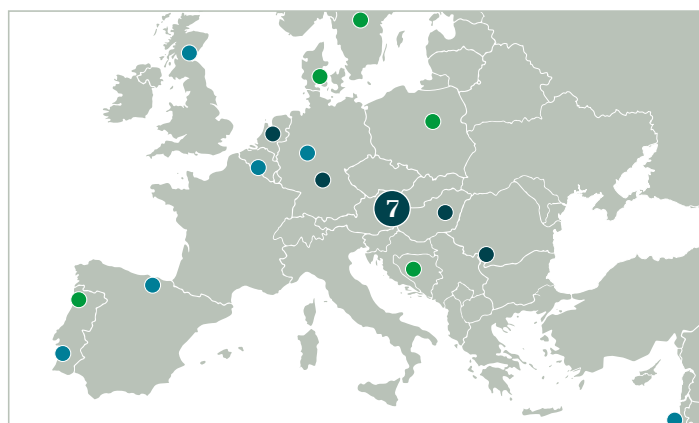
Country: Hungary

Scientific partner: Balaton Limnological
Research Institute

Implementation partner: WWF Hungary

Twinning case study: LIFE IP IRIS (similar study
on transboundary floodplain restoration)

Website: szabadsagsziget.hu



Demonstration

- **Type of restoration:** restoration of a Danube side-branch
- **Size:** the restoration site is 4 km long
- **Location(s):** Danube Liberty Island at rkm 1448 to 1452
- **Value of the case:** To create a long-term, sustainable conservation model for white willow (*Salix alba*) alluvial forests in Hungary. A core aim was to eliminate or mitigate the factors that threaten the habitats of community interest. To achieve these goals, the project consortium intended to clear the project area of invasive species and non-native tree plantations and restore the appropriate water flow in the side-arm to improve water availability for white willow forests during low water periods and to facilitate an undisturbed ecosystem, where natural processes are predominant.
- **Stakeholders involved:** Municipality of Town Mohács, Danube-Drava National Park Directorate, Lower-Danubian Water Management Directorate, Transdanubian Regional Waterworks Co.
- **Sectors involved:** conservationists, local governments, local inhabitants, the regional water supplier and companies.
- **Innovations being applied:** The innovative character of the project is that the water management body, the drinking water supply company and the

protected area manager body were also partners in the project. The redesign and translocation of the drinking water supply tube made it possible to remove the rockfill dam of the side-branch.

Implementation plans

No field work is planned in the frame of the project. Although there are some options for further implementation which might improve the project results, for example improving water supply during low water seasons (e.g. redesign the groynes on the left bank upstream the side-branch, or remove sediment/sand right upstream the side-branch).

Additional information

The Middle-Danube case study site is composed of an Austrian and a Hungarian project area which are geographically independent from each other (rkm 1882 in Austria, rkm 1448 to 1452 in Hungary). The information of them is shared in two separate leaflets (7a and b), while upscaling of restoration on the Austrian-Hungarian river stretches will be developed together. The demonstration site in Hungary is a restoration project which was finished in 2014, no field work is planned during the MERLIN project on the Hungarian Danube.