DANUBE PARKS POPLARS - BLACK POPLAR CONSERVATION:
Tasks, Objectives and Needs for Co-operation

Conference on Black Poplar
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DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0
Anchoring the Danube River Network of Protected Areas as Platform for Preservation of Danube Natural Heritage

Network Of 17 Protected Areas
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- Lower Prut Nature Reserve
- Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Reserve
- Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site
- Rusenski Lom Nature Park
- Persina Nature Park
- Đerdap National Park
- Lonjsko Polje Nature Park
- Kopački rit Nature Park
- Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve
- Duna-Dráva National Park
- Duna-Ipoly National Park
- Fertő-Hánsag National Park
- Dunajské Luhy Protected Landscape Area
- Záhorie Protected Landscape Area
- Donau-Auen National Park
- Donauwald Neuburg Ingolstadt
The focus of DANUBEPAKRS STEP 2.0

- to build on the achievements of the first joint project, anchor results firmly either by implementation actions or by integrating them into a policy framework and to further enlarge the network. The areas of work are River Morphology, Habitat Management, Flagship Species, Monitoring, Tourism and Anchoring of the Network. Between October 2012 and September 2014, a budget of € 2.2 mio is to be invested in nature protection along the Danube.
Project Structure DANUBEPAKRS STEP 2.0

- WP1 Project Management
- WP2 Communication & Dissemination
- WP3 STEP 2.0 Sustainable Transnational Environmental Platform
- WP4 Flagship species go for Stakeholder
- WP5 River Morphology goes Policy
- WP6 Building joint quality for joint tourism
Why Black Poplar?

- Black poplar (*Populus nigra* L.) is a main habitat species along the European rivers and plays a main role in the initial development of riparian forests having possibility to quickly widespread its seeds throughout the wind and water
Black Poplar

• Belongs to the hydrologically conditioned species, which grow naturally in river inundations, forming a complex of alluvial hygrophilous forests
• Heavily dependent on the hydrologic conditions of the riverside environment for its regeneration;
• Regulation of water flows for river navigation, flood control and agriculture in the last two centuries destroyed 80% of natural floodplains along the Danube, which are loss of habitat for rich flora and fauna of the Danube Basin.
• In Serbia, Special Nature Reserve „Gornje Podunavlje" represents the largest wetland and in terms of nature conservation has great significance
Current state

- Reduced natural sites
- Reduced natural populations
- Prevailing of old populations
- Lack of young populations
- Unfavourable health and biological vitality
Threats

• Alternation of riparian ecosystems, hydro-melioration works and changed natural water regime
• Lack of favourable sites for natural regeneration
• Pressure of diseases (*Dothichiza populea*, *Melampsora spp*, *Marssonina brunnea*)
Needs

- Gene pool protection
- New sites for reproduction
- Dynamic floodplains
- Recent deposits of sand and shingle
- Free of vegetation
- Optimal water / soil conditions
- Reproductive material
- Collaborative work
Due to specific problems in restoring and preserving the remaining black poplar (Populus nigra L.) forest fragments, it is required implementation of special protection and conservation measures for this species, whose harvesting in not permitted without the prior secured renewal.
WP4
Flagship species go for Stakeholder involvement

• Danube-wide black poplar (indicator species) cadastre of single trees, old growth stands and rejuvenation areas
• Genetic database of native black poplar species from the Danube for replanting
• The promotional campaign “Danube parks poplars” - raising awareness for the most majestic single trees
• Stakeholder involvement
Mapping – Black poplar Cadastre

- Provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating local action for biodiversity priorities at both national and local levels
- Represent start point for future monitoring
- Inventory can be described as a point-in-time measurement of the resource to determine location or condition
- Map, record and monitor the localities of all remaining black poplars
Study of morfological variability

- Morphologic variation = genetic + environmental factors
- Picking trees, taking leaf samples, leaf herbarization, labeling, leaf measuring, statistic analysis, morphological study
The objective of this molecularly based approach was to examine existence of genetic variability and diversity of *Populus nigra* L. between different locations, different countries using the most polymorphic SSR markers to acknowledge existence of intraspecific DNA variation within and between populations.
Nursery reproduction

may

jun

july

august
Labeling
Stakeholder involvement, Black poplar monograph

• Black poplar monograph

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