

2nd Steering Committee, 3rd September 2011, Orth an der Donau (Austria)

Letter of Commitment by the Directors of the Danube River Network of Protected Areas concerning the White-tailed Eagle Action Plan

The Danube River Protected Areas play a key role for the conservation of biodiversity, especially for flagship species of large scale habitat complexes in Danube River Floodplains. The International White-tailed Eagle Conference at Illmitz 2007 – the first with focus on Central and South-East Europe - has stressed the leading role of Protected Areas, especially for transnational coordination of the conservation approach along the Danube River.

The Danube River Network of Protected Areas (DANUBEPARKS) has been established as platform for the cooperation of the Danube River Protected Areas, for the development and implementation of transnational nature conservation activities as well as to promote exchange of experience and know-how on the field of nature conservation.

In 2009, DANUBEPARKS started an initiative for the elaboration of the White-tailed Eagle Action Plan for the Danube River, based on the joint approach of numerous Protected Areas and a discussion process including international White-tailed Eagle experts. Therefore, this document has to be seen as a result of the joint work of the Danube Protected Areas in a leading role in cooperation with the Advisory Board of experts of Danube countries.

The White-tailed Eagle Action Plan for the Danube River calls to implement concrete actions for the conservation of this species. As flagship species, conservation actions for the White-tailed Eagle should contribute furthermore to the protection of our joint natural heritage at the Danube as well as to promote transnational cooperation on this sector.

The finalization of the Action Plan has been done within the DANUBEPARKS Task Force Meeting Birds in Persina Nature Park (March 2011). This memorandum is a result of the discussion process under the lead of the Persina Nature Park and it calls to take further steps towards its implementation.

This letter of commitment, signed by the Directors of Danube River Protected Areas represented in the DANUBEPARKS network, is to stress the willingness of these Protected Areas to take over consequently a leading role in the implementation of this Action Plan.

A consistent implementation of the actions proposed by this Action Plan will serve as best practice for the whole ecosystem along the Danube and secure the Danube River and its tributaries as the backbone for the White-tailed Eagle population in the Danube River basin.



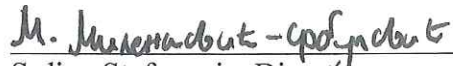
Stela Bozhinova, Director
Persina Nature Park
Bulgaria



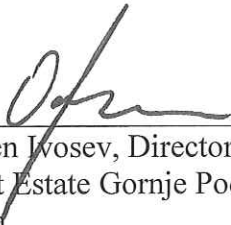
Grigori Baboianu, Governor
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority
Romania



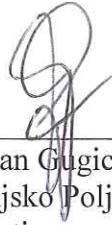
Yordan Kutsarov, Project Manager
Rusenski Lom Nature Park
Bulgaria



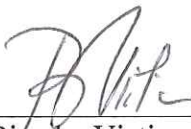
Srdjan Stefanovic, Director
Djerdap National Park
Serbia



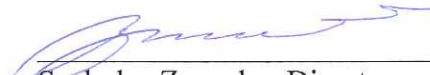
Ognjen Ivosev, Director
Forest Estate Gornje Podunavlje
Serbia



Goran Gagic, Director
Lonjsko Polje Nature Park
Croatia



Biserka Vistica, Director
Kopacki-rit Nature Park
Croatia



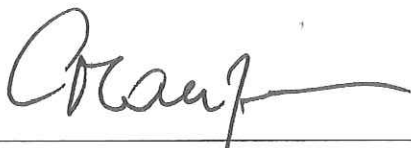
Szabolcs Zavocky, Director
Duna-Dráva National Park
Hungary



András Fűri, Director
Duna-Ipoly National Park
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Tomas Kusik, Director
BROZ
Slovakia



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