

Commitment by the Danube Protected Areas to work for and to establish WILDisland – the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

The Danube Protected Area Administrations

- **share the common mission to work together for the Danube natural heritage;**
- **consider that the Danube River represent an unique nature region of European importance**
- **underline the common understanding for the importance of river dynamics as key natural driver of intact river ecosystems, and the importance to maintain and strengthen the ecological corridor along the Danube river course**
- **stress Danube islands as key habitats for unique, and often highly threatened species, characteristic for the dynamic river ecosystem and essential as stepping stones towards a vital Danube habitat corridor**
- **share the common understanding of the high value of wild and wilderness areas with their diverse natural processes**
- **underline the diversity of islands as indicator for the diversity in riverbed morphology and hydrodynamic structures.**

Hence, together with partners and relevant stakeholders, DANUBEPARKS intends to promote a better conservation of natural and semi-natural Danube islands by launching the WILDisland initiative, considering islands as “flagship sites” of intact and natural river eco systems.

To ensure a better conservation of the Danube WILDislands on a long-term, the proponents of this initiative invite all land owners and land users, all relevant stakeholders and representatives from the policy level, to support this initiative, considering the

- **multi-functionality of the Danube, including its habitat corridor and biodiversity, recreation and inspiration area, transnational transport route and an important area for sustainable economic development**
- **integration of different sectors, in particular waterway management, forestry as well as water and sediment management, and tourism and recreation, to work efficiently for the sustainable development of the Danube region and the conservation of the WILDislands.**

To establish WILDIsland – The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor, DANUBEPARKS invites the International Commissions to take over the patronage for this initiative, and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region for its support to anchor WILDIsland by promoting this initiative cross-over sectors by the relevant Priority Areas, in particular PA6, PA4 and PA1a.



Director Stela Bozhinova
Persina Nature Park, Bulgaria



Governor Mălin-Matei Mușetescu
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania



Director Ionel Manolache
Small Wetlands of Brăila Nature Park,
Romania



Chairman Milko Belberov
Club Friends of Public Park Rusenski lom, Bulgaria



Director Marta Takač
Vojvodinašume, Petrovaradin, Serbia



Director Tomislav Bogdanović
Nature Park Kopački rit, Croatia



Director Szabolcs Zayoczký
Duna-Drava National Park Directorate,
Hungary



Director András Fűri
Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate,
Hungary



Director Gábor Reischl
Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate,
Hungary



Director Martin Lakanda
State Nature Conservancy, Slovakia

Chairman Tomáš Kušík
BROZ, Slovakia

Welterbegemeinden Wachau

A-3620 Spitz, Schlossgasse 3
Tel. 02743 30000-0, Fax DW 40
office@wachau-dunkelsteinerwald.at

Chairman Andreas Nunzer
Welterbegemeinden Wachau, Austria

NATIONALPARK DONAU-AUEN GmbH
7304 Orth/Donau, Schloss Orth
Telefon 02212 3450 Fax 17
nationalpark@donau-auen.at

Director Carl Manzano
Donau-Auen National Park, Austria



District Administrator Franz Meyer
Landratsamt Passau, Germany

HD Rupert Ebner
Environmental Department
Ingolstadt, Germany



District Administrator Roland Weigert
Neuburg, Germany