

LIFE RESTORE FOR MDD

UNESCO Five-country
Biosphere Reserve



Co-funded by
the European Union



MURA DRAVA DANUBE



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LIFE RESTORE FOR MDD

Preserving and restoring floodplain forest
habitats along the Mura-Drava-Danube rivers

LIFE RESTORE for MDD | LIFE Platform Meeting on Forest Restoration, 04.06.2025

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THE PROJECT

- LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT
- EU LIFE-Project "LIFE RESTORE for MDD"
- Duration: 01/10/23 – 30/09/2028
- Total amount: € 20,024,000,-
- EU Co-funding: 67%
- Habitats: HT 91EO* und HT 91FO
- Coordinating Beneficiary: WWF-AT,
World Wide Fund for Nature, Austria

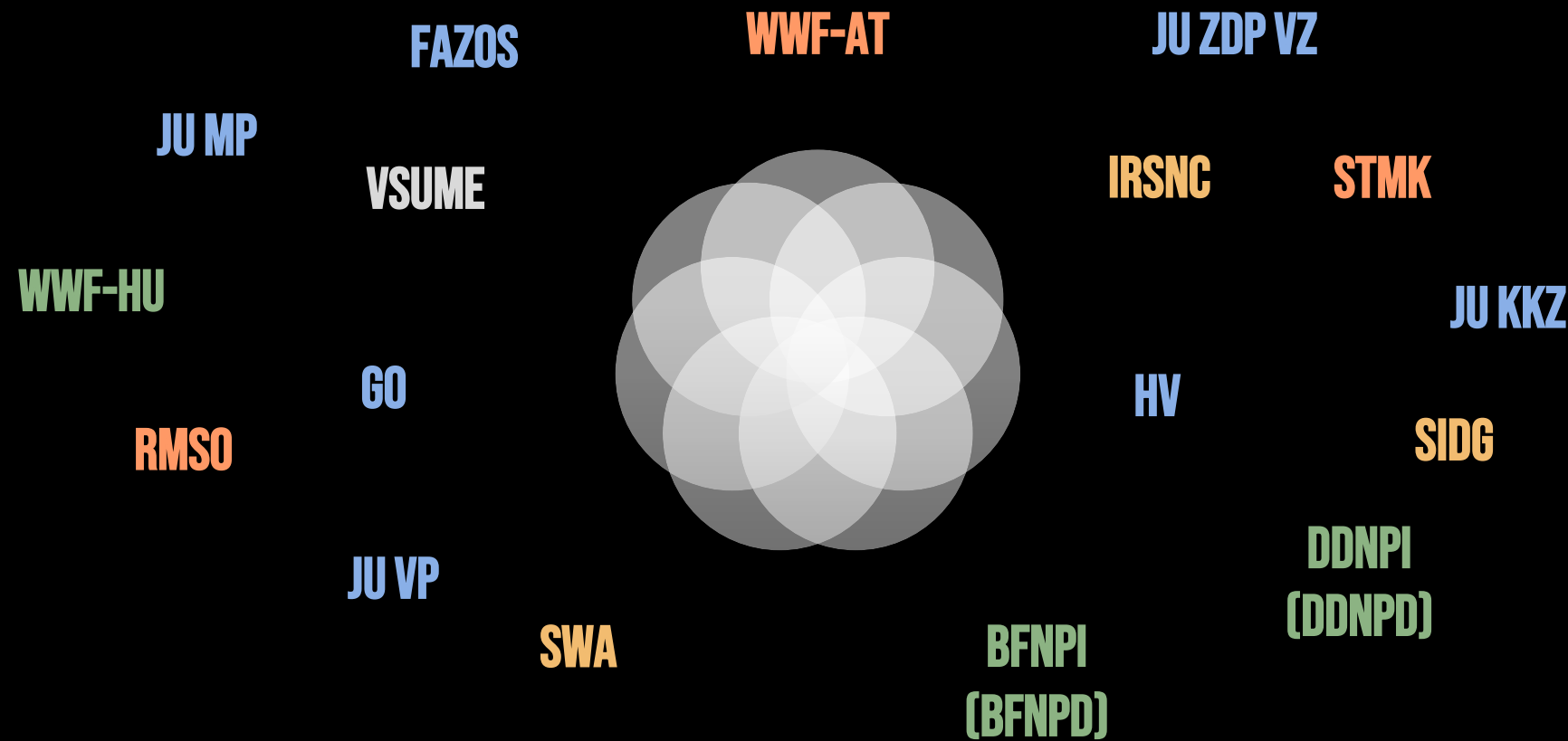
**LIFE RESTORE
FOR MDD**

LIFE RESTORE for MDD, 04.06.2025



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17 PROJECT PARTNERS IN AT, SI, HR, HU AND SR



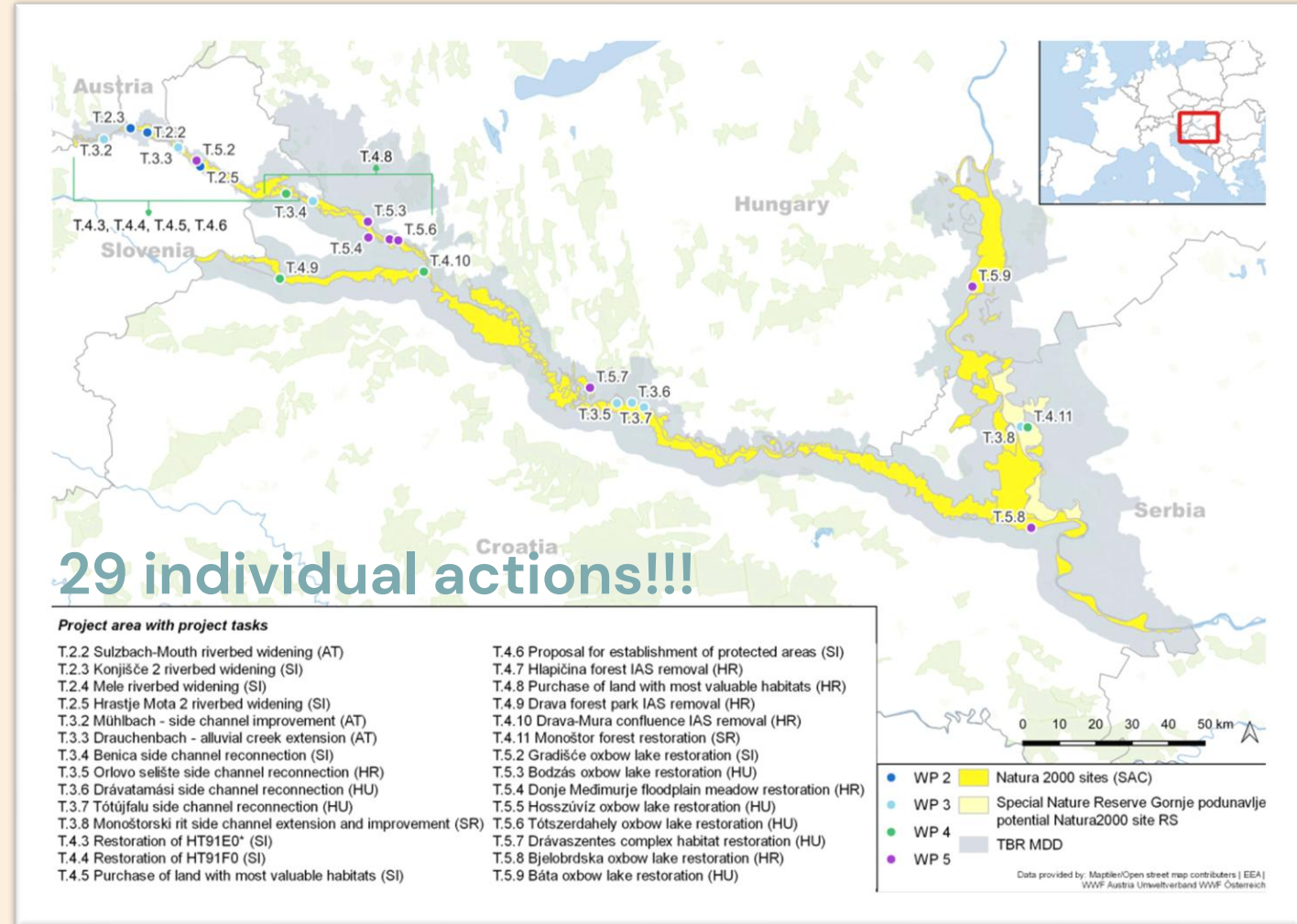
WWF AT – UMWELTVERBAND WWF OSTERREICH (WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE)
IRSNC – ZAVOD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE ZA VARSTVO NARAVE
DDNPI (DDNPD) – DUNA-DRAVA NEMZETI PARK IGAZGATOSAGA
WWF HU – WWF VILAG TERMESZETI ALAP MAGYARORSZAG ALAPITVANY
SWA – DIREKCIJA REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE ZA VODE
GO – UDRUGA ZA ZASTITU PRIRODE I OKOLISA ZELENi OSIJEK
HV – HRVATSKE VODE PRAVNA OSOBA ZA UPRAVLJANJE VODAMA
FAZOS – SVEUCILISTE JOSIPA JURJA STROSSMAYERA U OSIJEKU, FAKULTET AGROBIOTEHNIICKIH ZNANOSTI OSIJEK
STMK – AMT DER STEIERMARK LANDESREGIERUNG
JU VP – JAVNA USTANOVA ZA UPRAVLJANJE ZASTICENIM DIJELOVIMA PRIRODE I EKOLOSKOM MREZOM VIROVITICKO- PODRAVSKE ZUPANIJE
VSUME – JAVNO PREDUZACE VOJVODINASUME, PRETROVARADIN
SIDG – SLOVENSKI DRZAVNI GOZDOVI, D. O. O.
RMSO – REGIONALMANAGEMENT SUDOSTSTEIERMARK STEIRISCHES VULKANLAND GMBH
JU KKZ – JAVNA USTANOVA ZA UPRAVLJANJE ZASTICENIM DIJELOVIMA PRIRODE NA PODRUCJU KOPRIVNICKO KRIZEVACKE ZUPANIJE
JU ZDP VZ – JAVNA USTANOVA ZA UPRAVLJANJE ZASTICENIM DIJELOVIMA PRIRODE VARAZDINSKE ZUPANIJE
JU MP – MEDIMURSKA PRIRODA – JAVNA USTANOVA ZA ZASTITU PRIRODE
BfNPI (BfNPD) – BALATON-FELVIDEKEI NEMZETI PARK IGAZGATOSAG

PROJECT SCOPE

- **Restoration**
 - Natural processes for sediment mobilization (966,000 m³)
 - Structure and functions of riparian forests (336 ha)
- **Improvement**
 - Connectivity and dynamics between rivers and floodplains (hydrology 1918 ha)
 - Habitat structures in riparian forests (morphology 32 ha)
- **Sustainability, replication and utilization**
 - Transboundary revitalization plan (1 plan)
- **Raising awareness**
 - Importance of Natura 2000 sites (1,000,000 Outreach; 22,535 participants; integrative measures implemented on 3 river sections)
- **Monitoring** the impact of the project (Key Project Indicators)

THE PROJECT AREA

- **Conservation**, improvement or afforestation of natural forests – *11 sites*
- **Restoration** of river morphology for natural forest regeneration – *4 sites*
- **Reconnection** of tributaries to the river and restoration of oxbow lakes – *14 sites*
- **Integrative cross-border river Restoration Plans** – *3 river sections*



SUSTAINABILITY



- Harmonised (transboundary) standards and guidelines for Natura 2000 sites
- Pilot Restoration plans
- Continuous availability of adequate planting material
- Educational materials & school programmes in the TBR MDD
- Baseline information for management plans for Natura 2000 sites and the TBR MDD
- Potential transboundary replication and upscaling

HT 91E0* und HT 91F0



HABITAT TYPES

Alluvial forests (HT 91E0* – Priority Habitat)

This habitat type consists of diverse alluvial forests, mainly along rivers and streams. These forests are characterized by trees such as White willow (*Salix Alba*), Black poplar (*Populus nigra*), Black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). All types occur on soils, which are periodically flooded, nutrient-rich and well drained. Alluvial forests are crucial for biodiversity as they provide habitats for a wide range of species, especially birds, amphibians, insects, and a variety of seasonal plants.

Riparian mixed forests (HT 91F0)

This habitat type is dominated by a mixture of Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*), Field elm (*Ulmus minor*), and ash species like Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) or Narrow-leaved ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*). These forests are adapted to periodic flooding along major rivers. They contain a rich herbaceous layer and are often mixed with other forest types. Riparian mixed forests provide habitats for a wide range of species, reflecting their ecological importance and diversity.

LIFE RESTORE FOR MDD

PRESERVING AND RESTORING FLOODPLAIN FOREST HABITATS ALONG THE MURA-DRAVA-DANUBE RIVERS

