

IMPLEMENTATION OF MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK IN VIROVITICA- PODRAVINA COUNTY

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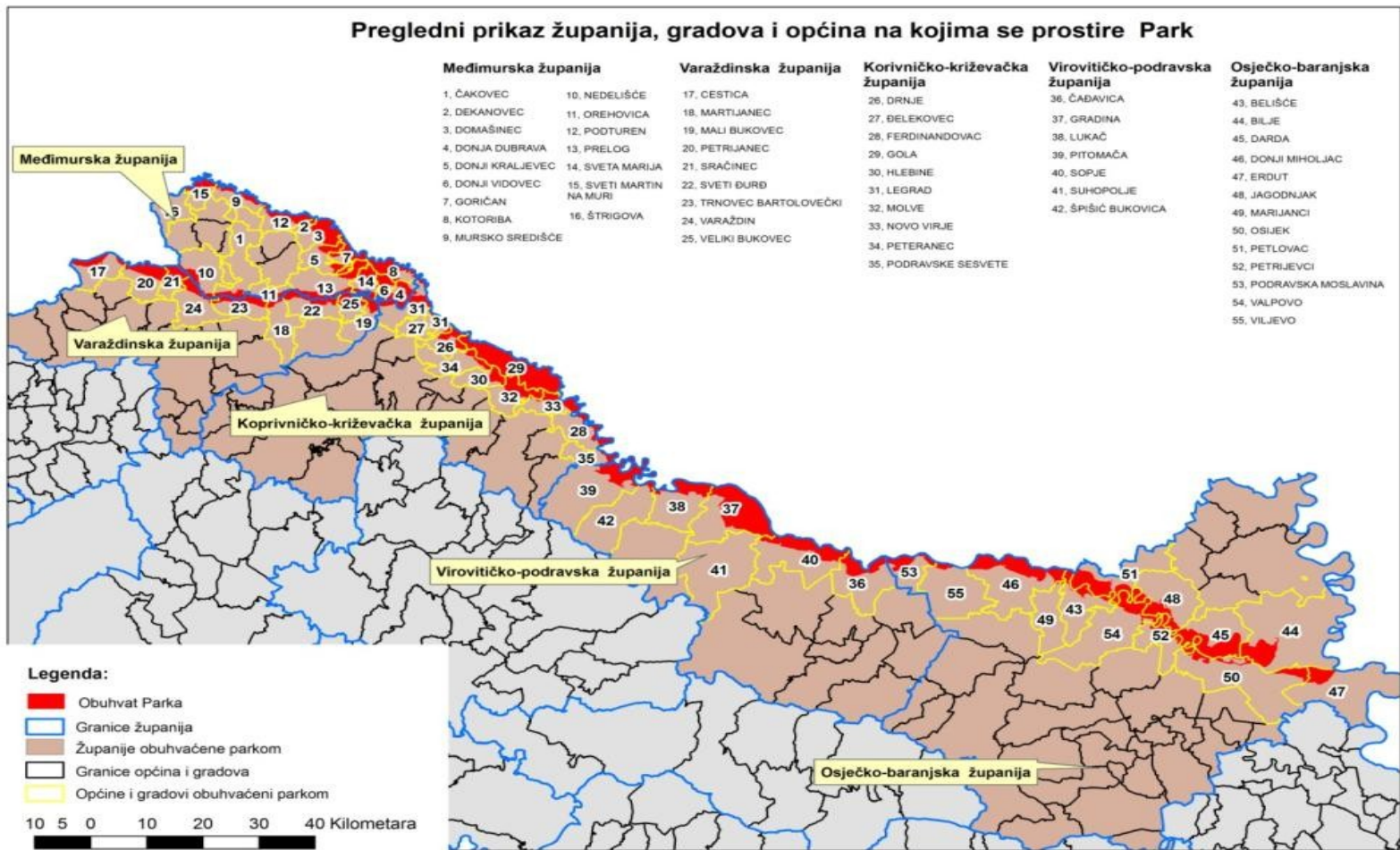
Grad, Slovenia, September 11th 2013

MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- ❑ The Croatian Government has declared RP Mura Drava in February 2011 as the first regional park in Croatia.
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- ❑ RP MD extends to the territory of the five counties, and includes 13 earlier protected areas in different categories of protection (significant landscape, monument of park architecture, forest special reserve), as well as areas within the National Ecological Network, today's NATURA 2000 sites.
 - ❑ Area of the RP MD is jointly managed by the 5 relevant Public institutions for management of the protected natural values of each of these five counties.
 - ❑ Rivers Mura and Drava are among the last semi-natural lowland river flows in Central Europe, and they are characterized by high level of biodiversity.



OVERVIEW OF THE MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

Total area	87 680,52 ha	
Area of the Regional park – county distribution		
MEDIMURJE COUNTY	16.962,54 ha	19,4%
VARAZDIN COUNTY	9.809,81 ha	11,23%
KOPRIVNICA-KRIZEVCI COUNTY	16.780,85 ha	19,19%
VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA COUNTY	17.801,96 ha	20,35%
OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY	26.102,49 ha	29,84%

MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

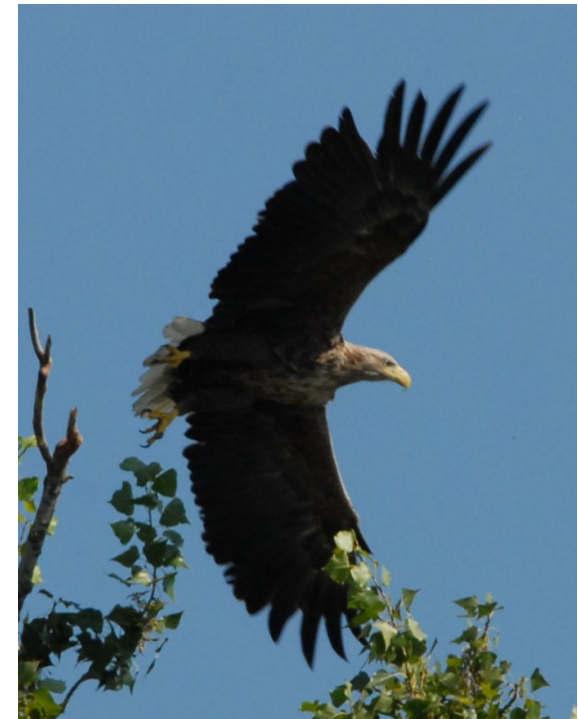
Particularly significant are wetlands, which are among the most vulnerable habitat types in Europe: riparian forests, wet meadows, dead branches, abandoned beds and meanders, reefs and steep banks where the nesting strictly protected species.



- From a total of 60 habitat types (according to the National Classification of habitat, RH) recorded in the proclaimed RP MD, 37 are rare, endangered and protected under the Nature Protection Act.

MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- Wider area of the Drava River is valued as an important area for birds (SPAs) and divided into four parts: Mura and Drava accumulation, Upper Drava (from Donja Dubrava to Terezino Polje), Middle Drava (from Terezino Polje to Donji Miholjac) and Danube and Lower Drava. Also, a large number of species present in this area is listed in Annex I of the Directive of birds that are endangered at the European level.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- In Mura and Drava, 73 species of fish are founded. 37 of them are located in the Red Book of Freshwater Fish of Croatia.



- Wetlands are suitable habitat for numerous species of reptiles and amphibians.



- Two regional endemics are noted in this area - Pannonian marsh frog (*Rana arvalis* Wolterstorff) and great Pannonian newt (*Triturus (cristatus) dobrogicus*).

MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- RP MD is the range of strictly protected otter (*Lutra lutra*), and this is area where begin the reintroduction of the beaver (*Castor fiber*), which is in the second half of the 19th century, was completely cut off from this areas.
- There is very important and very rich fauna of dragonflies .
- The area of RP MD is a habitat for 20 species strictly protected or protected species of butterflies, and 8 strictly protected species of fungi .



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- Among the rare and endangered plants at European level are the Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica*), Arrow (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*), Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) and the critically endangered species in Croatia which is growing on sandbanks, German Tamarisk (*Myricaria germanica*).



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- Preserved natural river banks along Mura and Drava with their flora and fauna constitute a distinctive lowland landscape of the edge of the Pannonian Basin.
- Small stretched settlements live in harmony with the surrounding nature, river, trees, meadows and fields. That life in harmony of natural and created goods is the highest value of this area and Mura and Drava represent its fundamental backbone.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- The park area is characterized by significant geo-diversity related to diversity mainly Quaternary sediments (river gravels, sands, eolian sediments) and the hydro-geomorphic processes (forming shoals, meanders), minerals, gold and paleontological findings (fossil mammals), and occurrence of coal and oil.



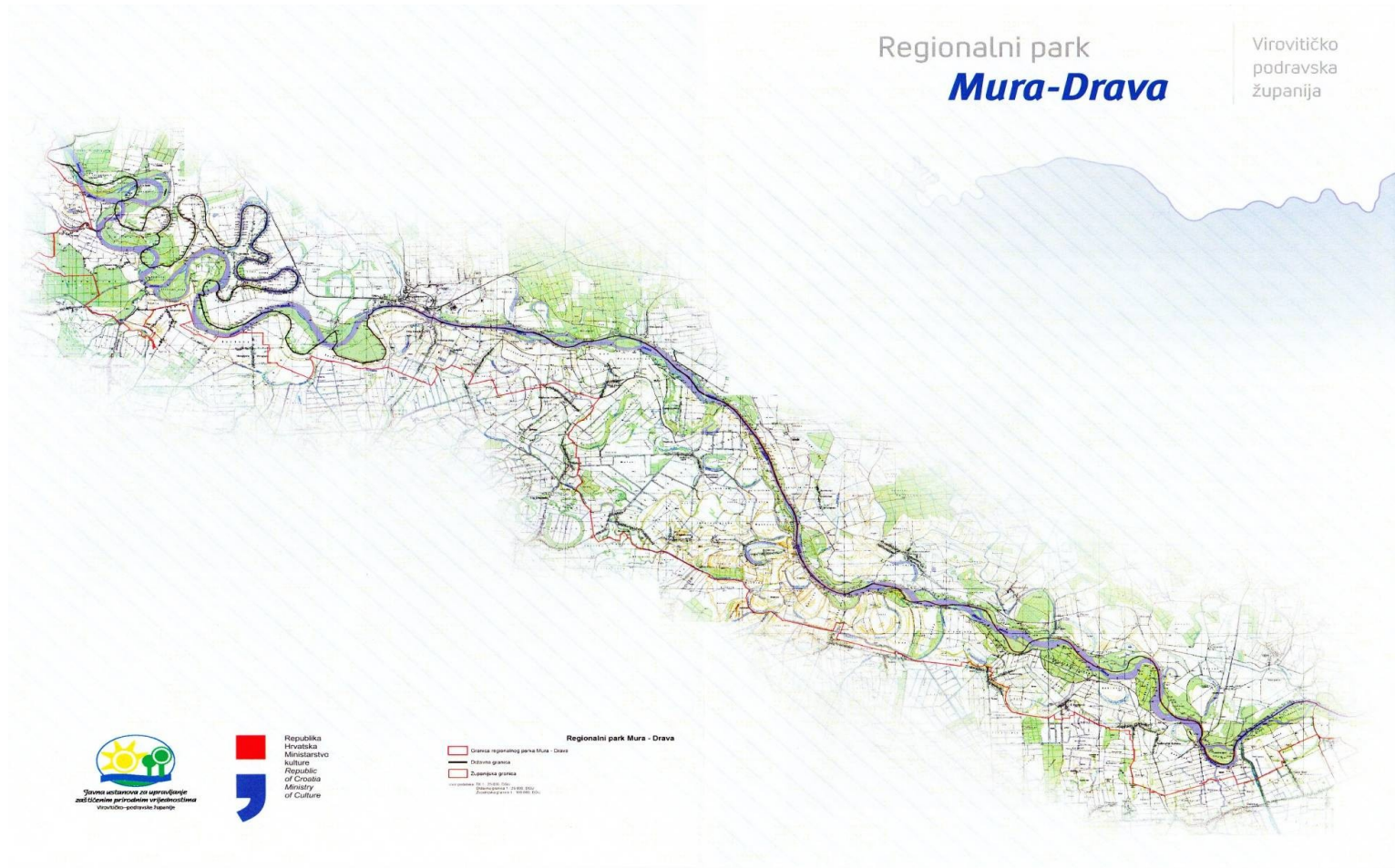
MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- ❑ Particularly strong connection between people and the river establish a specific way of life along the river, with numerous recreational and traditional activities
- ❑ In the area of RP MD, there are 8 towns, 47 municipalities and 169 villages.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- RP MD in Virovitica Podravina county extends through seven municipalities (Pitomača, Špišić Bukovica, Lukač, Gradina, Suhopolje, Sopje and Čađavica)



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- The idea of protecting this area, and the actual implementation of the RP MD began with the inclusion of Croatia in the project Green Belt, whose main realiser in Virovitica Podravina county was Ivan Darko Grlica. Public Institution was also include in the project. Then they set up the first steps in the cooperation of the Public Institution and the NGO Natural history society Drava, with a common goal to adequately protect this area. In the municipalities between Pitomača and Sopje, they set up first tables on which is presented an exceptional biological diversity of this area.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- Immediately after the declaration of RP MD 2011, Public Institution start with marking the area of the RP and developing of promotional materials. In each of the seven municipalities and on the only cross-border entrance in our county, we set up a large info boards and shared promotion materials to residents and visitors of the area.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

On the occasion of 22nd May - Day of nature protection in Croatia and the International Biodiversity Day, each year Public Institution sends a proclamation notice to all kindergartens, primary, secondary and high school in our county to inviting them to celebrate these important dates for the protection of nature and provides them with information about the RP MD sending to them posters and promotion materials. Public institution used every public event in our county to promote RP MD and its importance for the conservation of nature.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- At the end of 2011, in cooperation with the NGO BAOBAB and biologist Goran Šafarek, Public Institution organized in the center of the Virovitica Podravina county, city Virovitica, in the City Museum, photo exhibition "RP MD - harmonious coexistence of man and nature", with intent to additionally inform the population about the importance and value of area of RP MD.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- During the 2012, Public Institution has restored summer residence of Count Draskovic, with funds of the World Bank, which is located in a protected monument of landscape architecture, which is in the area of RP MD. Today the building works as Informative-educational and visitor center of Public Institution, and it is possible to implement program "school in nature". Center is near river Drava (distance of about 300 m).



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- In Center we conducted different activities – presentation and promotion of RP MD, educational workshops, project workshops (EU projects), formal meetings, workshops with local residents, interactive workshops with children, education of target population groups and stakeholders - farmers, foresters, handicraft exhibitions, workshops of making traditional jewelry, culinary workshops, with the aim of branding products in this area, etc.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- In the spring of 2013, Public Institution and Natural history society Drava, with the help of the Ministry of Tourism, jointly implemented project Educational trail “In a hug of Drava“. The trail begins at IEC in Noskovačka Dubrava, length is approximately 2000 m, equipped with 20 educational board on which is represented area of RP MD and its unique biodiversity. Educational trail ends with 4 boards on the river Drava. Texts on boards are in three languages - English, Croatian and Hungarian.



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- In the summer of 2012, the UNESCO declared Biosphere Reserve Mura Drava Dunav. RP MD is part of declared BR MDM.
- Area of RP MD is once again recognized like area of exceptional biological diversity and value.

A4 ZONATION MAP TBR MURA DRAVA DANUBE (CROATIA HUNGARY)



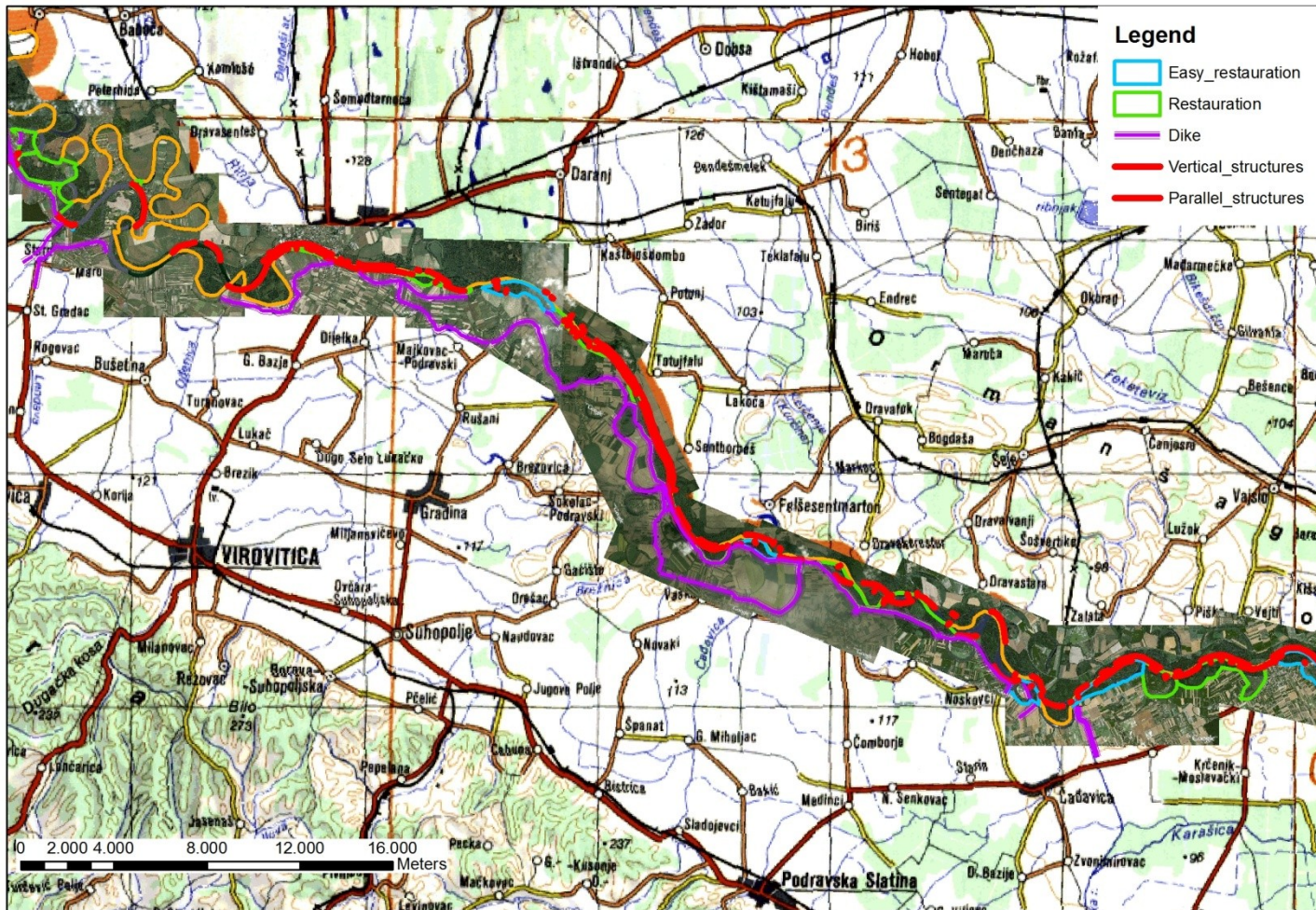
MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

- Natural history society Drava and Public Institution expected to sign contracts for prepared and nominated projects in Croatia and by EU funds.
- We intensively cooperate on the preparation of new projects, together with other partners - other Public Institutions, NGOs, State department for nature protection, Ministry of environmental and nature protection, National Park Dunav Drava (HU), WWF, Croatian wathers, Croatian forests and others.

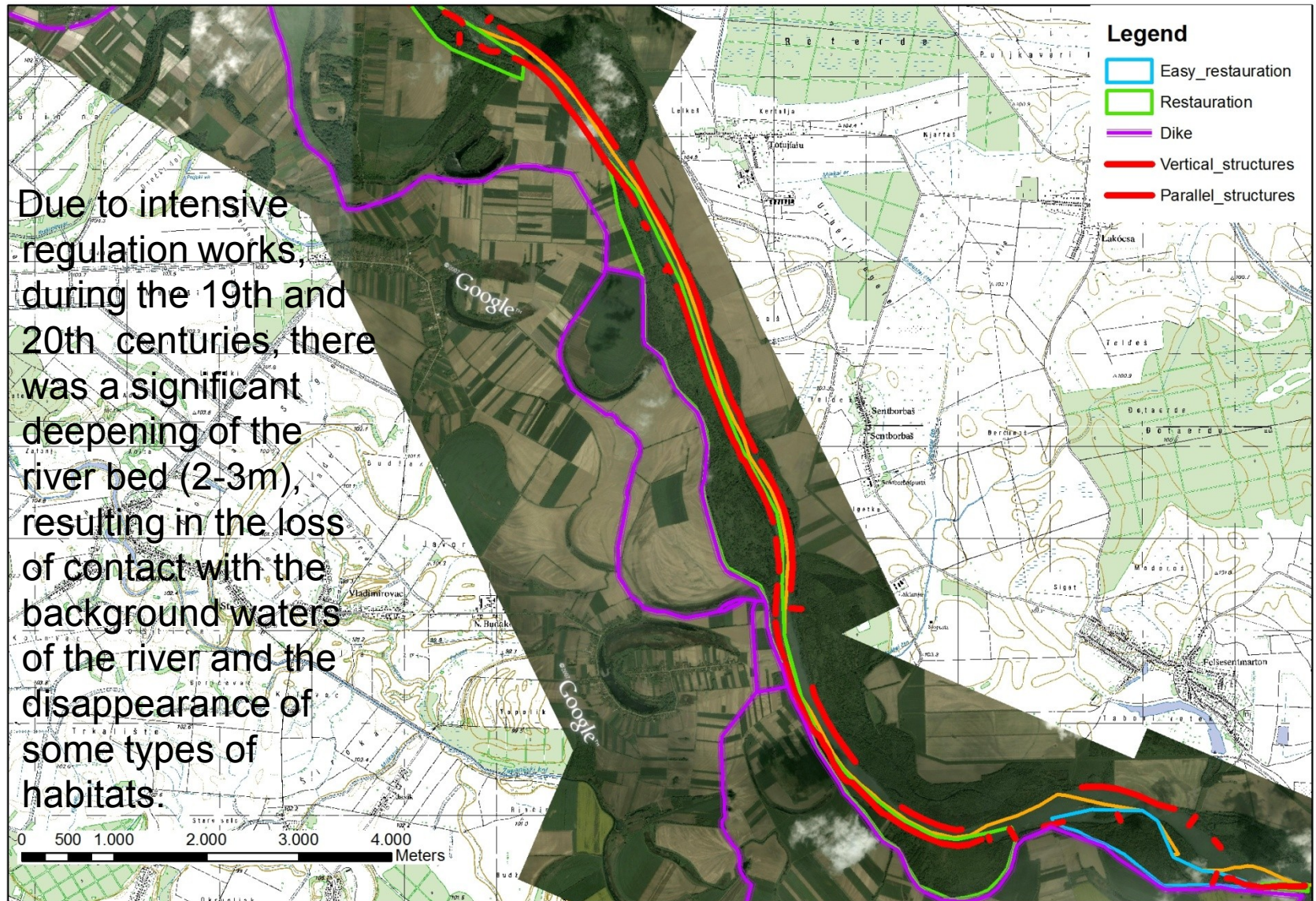


MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK

▣ Structures on the Drava area in Virovitica Podravina county



MURA DRAVA REGIONAL PARK



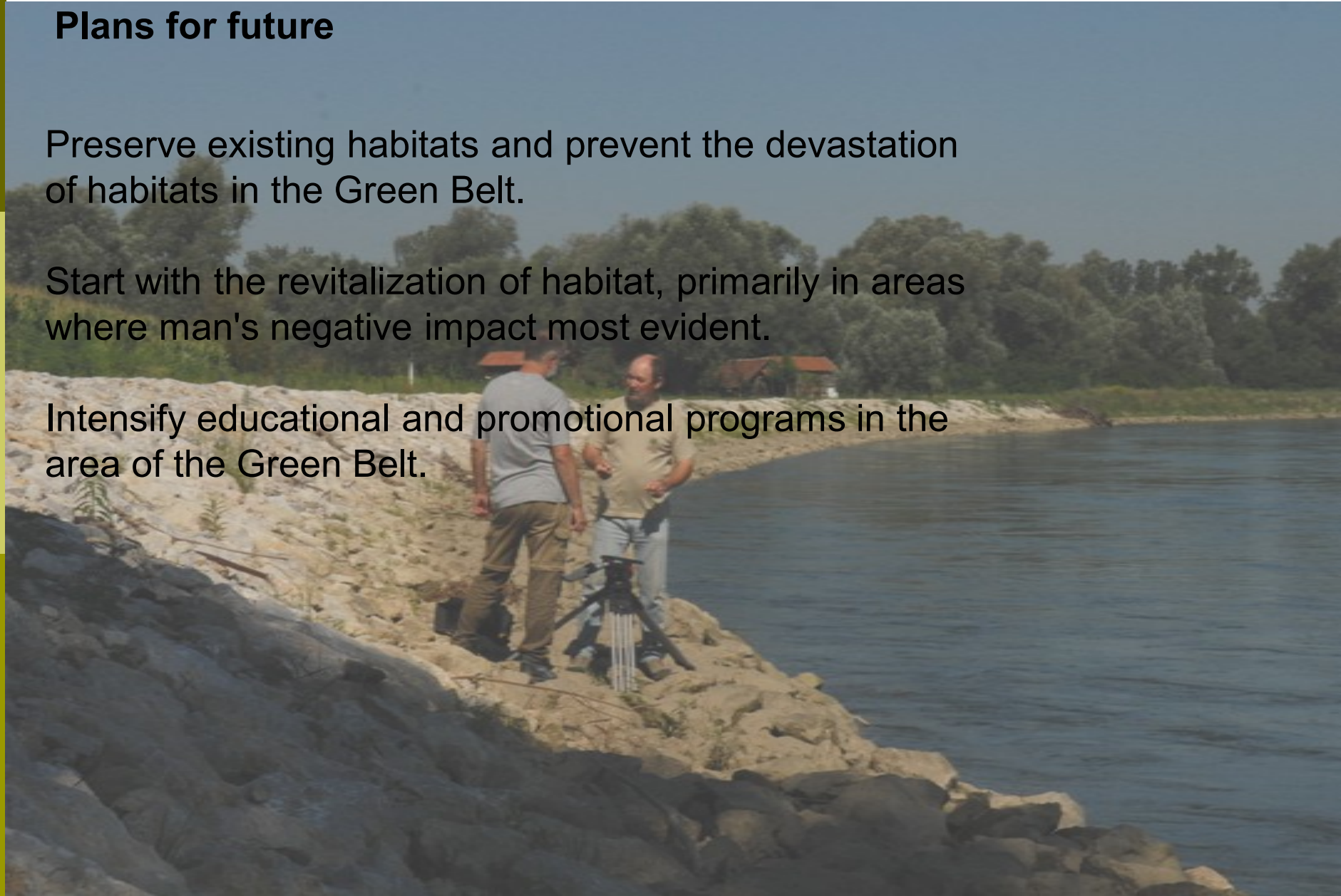
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Plans for future

Preserve existing habitats and prevent the devastation of habitats in the Green Belt.

Start with the revitalization of habitat, primarily in areas where man's negative impact most evident.

Intensify educational and promotional programs in the area of the Green Belt.



A wide, calm river flows through a lush green forest. The water is still, reflecting the bright sky and the dense trees on both banks. The forest is composed of various types of trees, including tall, thin ones and shorter, bushier ones. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Thank you for your attention!

See you in Virovitica Podravina county!