



WWF
FACTSHEET



Croatia: Danube Regulation Project

Name: Regulation of Danube

River-Km: 1380 to 1433 (53 rkm),
Croatian-Serbian border stretch

Beneficiary: Croatian Ministry of
Maritime Affairs, Transport and
Infrastructure

Implementing body: Agency for
Inland Waterways

Decision body (EIA): Croatian
Ministry of Environment and Nature
Protection

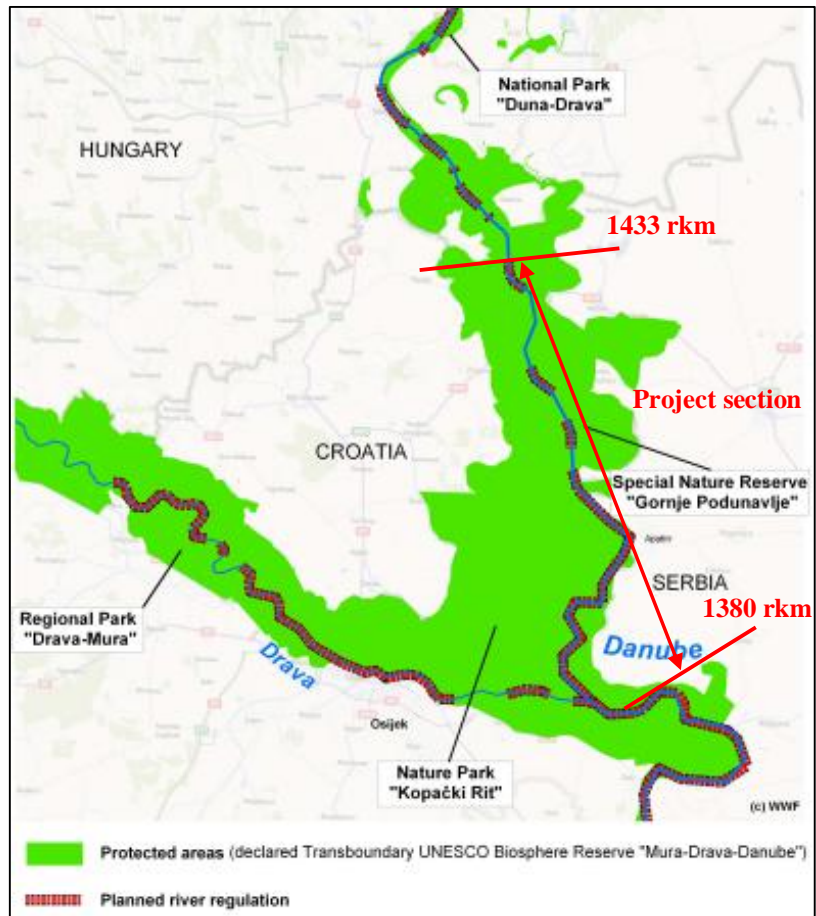
WWF Position

WWF does not accept this old-fashioned river regulation project and urges the relevant Croatian ministries and authorities to immediately stop it.

Improving navigation along this river section, which is unique on Danube and European scale primarily should consider non-structural measures and restoration of degraded parts should be emphasized.

WWF criticises that the project

- is threatening international key protected areas of about 50 000 ha and of outstanding natural values in Europe
- is not in compliance with EU law (FFHD, BD, WFD, FD) and international standards (Joint Statement & EU-PLATINA Manual) and int. conventions (e.g. Ramsar, ESPOO)
- has not involved stakeholders, NGOs and internat. experts at the start of the planning process



Project status

The Danube regulation project dates back to the plan developed by the Jaroslav Černi Institute in Belgrade in the 1978.

Based on this plan a detailed technical study was elaborated covering the entire river sections both Croatian and Serbian territory. It was developed

by the Croatian firm *hidroing*¹ and issued by the Croatian Agency for Inland Waterways in April 2010.

Project details

The project aims to channel the still natural shifting river course of the Danube according to the defined regulation corridor between Croatia and Serbia.

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http://puo.mzopu.hr/UserDocsImages/Elaborat_14_05_2010_1.pdf

The planned measures include 92 planned new river training structures in total (53 in Croatia) along the 53 km long river stretch between Croatia and Serbia (left and right bank of the Danube):

- Construction of 72 new T-groins and 2 parallel structures
- Construction of 15,5 km of new embankments
- Dredging of sand from the riverbed

In recent years several structures have already been built in this river section without any previous EIA or SEA:

- 2008/09: 4 new T-groins (1405-1406 rkm) and new embankment
- 2011: new embankment (1412 rkm)

Another project along the Danube between rkm 1321-1325 has already been approved by the Croatian Ministry of Environment in September 2010 without any previous EIA.

Project status (HR)

On 3 October 2011 the Croatian Ministry responsible for Environment started the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure. In February 2012 the EIA study was made public² (53 structures planned). Currently the EC is assessing the project and its compliance with EU law. The final decision on the project is expected during 2012 and will be taken by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection.

Impact & Conflict

This project is located within the boundaries of the

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<http://www.vodniputovi.hr/index.php?page=projects>

Croatian Nature Park "Kopački Rit" and the Serbian Special Nature Reserve "Gornje Podunavlje", both Ramsar sites, future Natura 2000 sites and part of the core zone of the planned Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" (TBR MDD).

The planned works for improving navigation, especially ensuring larger depth, will have serious impacts on terrestrial, aquatic habitats, fauna and flood control.

This would have considerable impact on:

- international key protected areas, the "Kopački Rit" Nature Park (HR) and the "Gornje Podunavlje" Special Nature Reserve (RS)
- the largest and best preserved floodplains and floodplain forests along the entire Danube
- the best preserved river stretch along the ca. 1900 km long upper and middle Danube section
- beside the Danube delta the most important fish spawning area in the Danube Basin, the Kopački Rit floodplains.
- the last specimens of the nearly extinct ship sturgeon (*Acipenser nudiiventris*) along the Danube

- the highest density of breeding pairs of White-tailed Eagles in Continental Europe (ca.70 pairs)



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