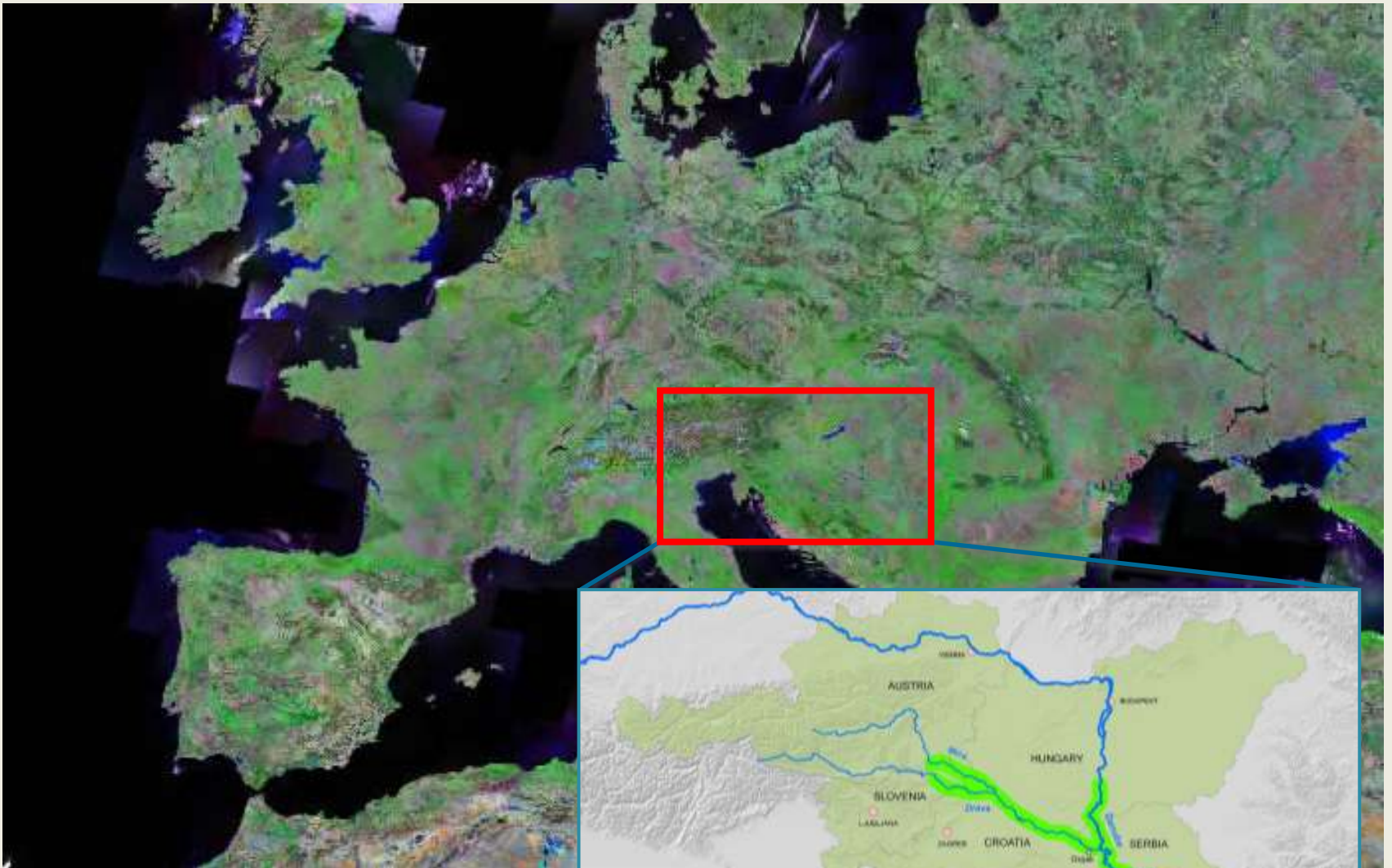




Conserving the „Amazon of Europe“

Towards the 5-country UNESCO
Biosphere Reserve „Mura-Drava-Danube“
(TBR MDD)

ERRC and European Riverprize, Vienna
September 11-13, 2013
Arno Mohl, WWF





Amazon



Danube-Drava
confluence - Kopački Rit





Outstanding natural values



Most important fish spawning area (Kopački Rit), beside the Danube delta



Outstanding cultural values



**Long lasting
cultural
tradition
connected with
landscape**



**More than 20 years of work
for the „Amazon of Europe“**

**From Vision to TBR MDD
designation!**



euRONATUR FOUNDATION



1990

„HA KIVÁGTAD AZ UTOLSÓ FÁT,
HA MEGMÉRGEZTED AZ
UTOLSÓ FOLYÓT, RÁDŐBBENSZ,
HOGY A PÉNZ NEM EHEŐ!”

Dzárva



SOMOGYI
TERMÉSZETVÉDELMI
TÁRSASÁG

Do you have a Vision?

**Then you would need
my help!**



Green light for TBR MDD - Agreements by Ministers



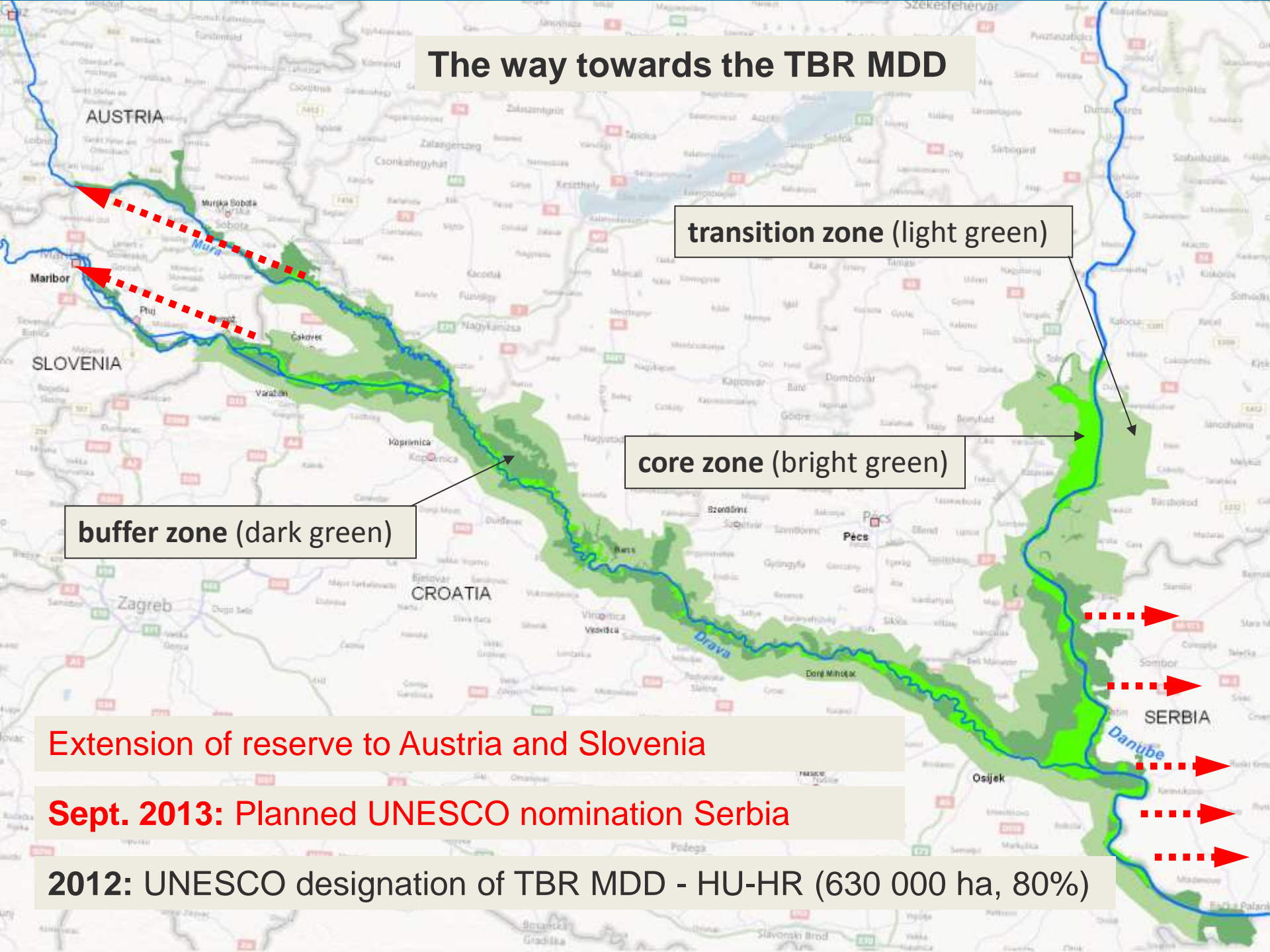
Croatia, Hungary 2009
„Barcs Declaration“ (HU)



5-country agreement 2011
„Gödöllő Declaration“ (HU)



The way towards the TBR MDD



buffer zone (dark green)

core zone (bright green)

transition zone (light green)

Extension of reserve to Austria and Slovenia

Sept. 2013: Planned UNESCO nomination Serbia

2012: UNESCO designation of TBR MDD - HU-HR (630 000 ha, 80%)

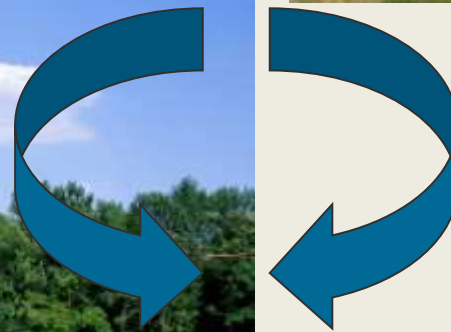




**Next 20 years of work
for the „Amazon of Europe“
From TBR MDD designation
to implementation!**



TBR MDD – Link nature conservation/cultural tradition with regional development, environmental education and research





The challenges ahead:

... final joint designation TBR „Mura-Drava-Danube“

... institutional harmonised and joint management structures

... coordinated management of natural values

... stop outdated river exploitation

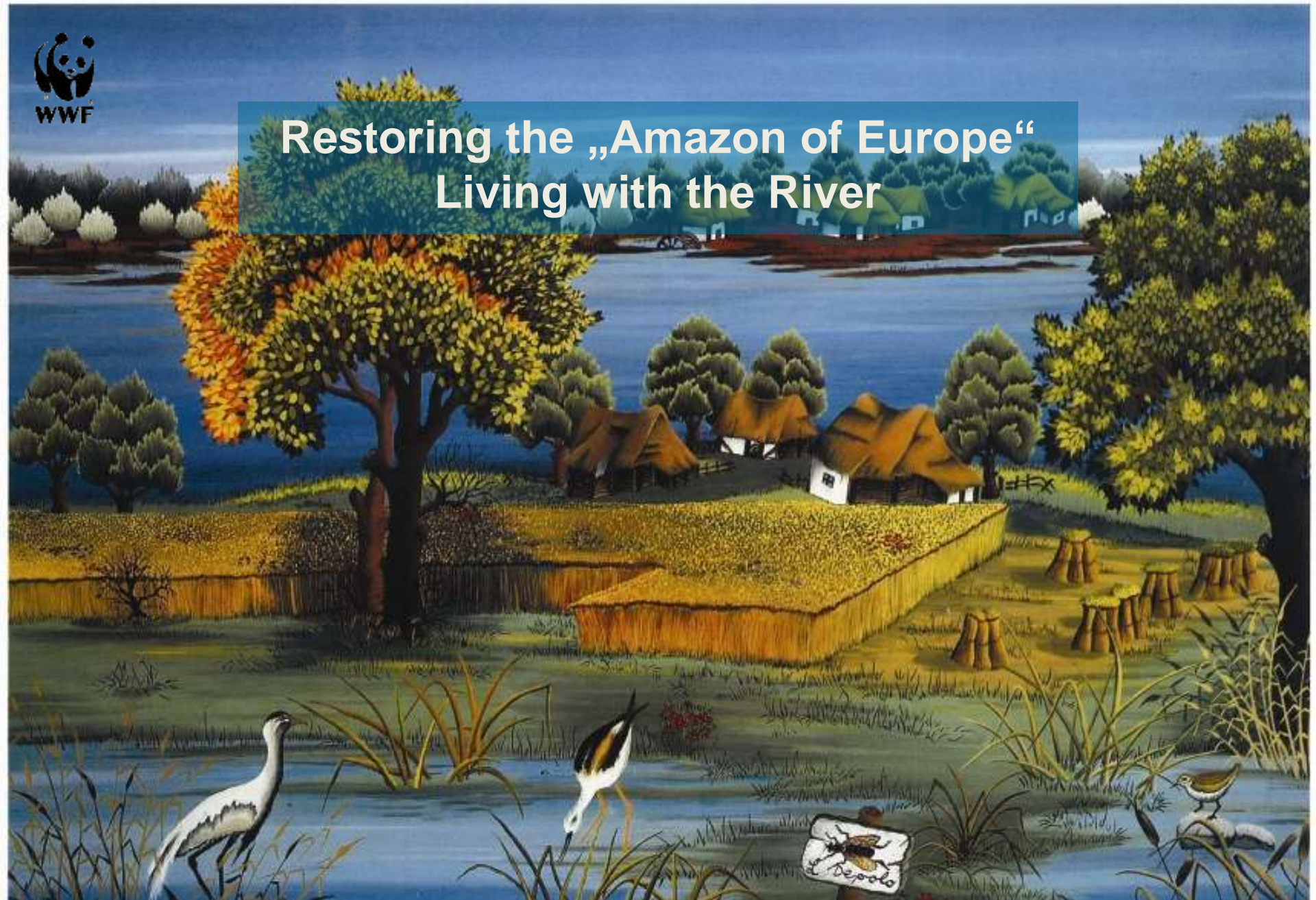
→ from river regulation to river restoration

... sustainable ecology-oriented development

→ from gravel mining to tourist milking



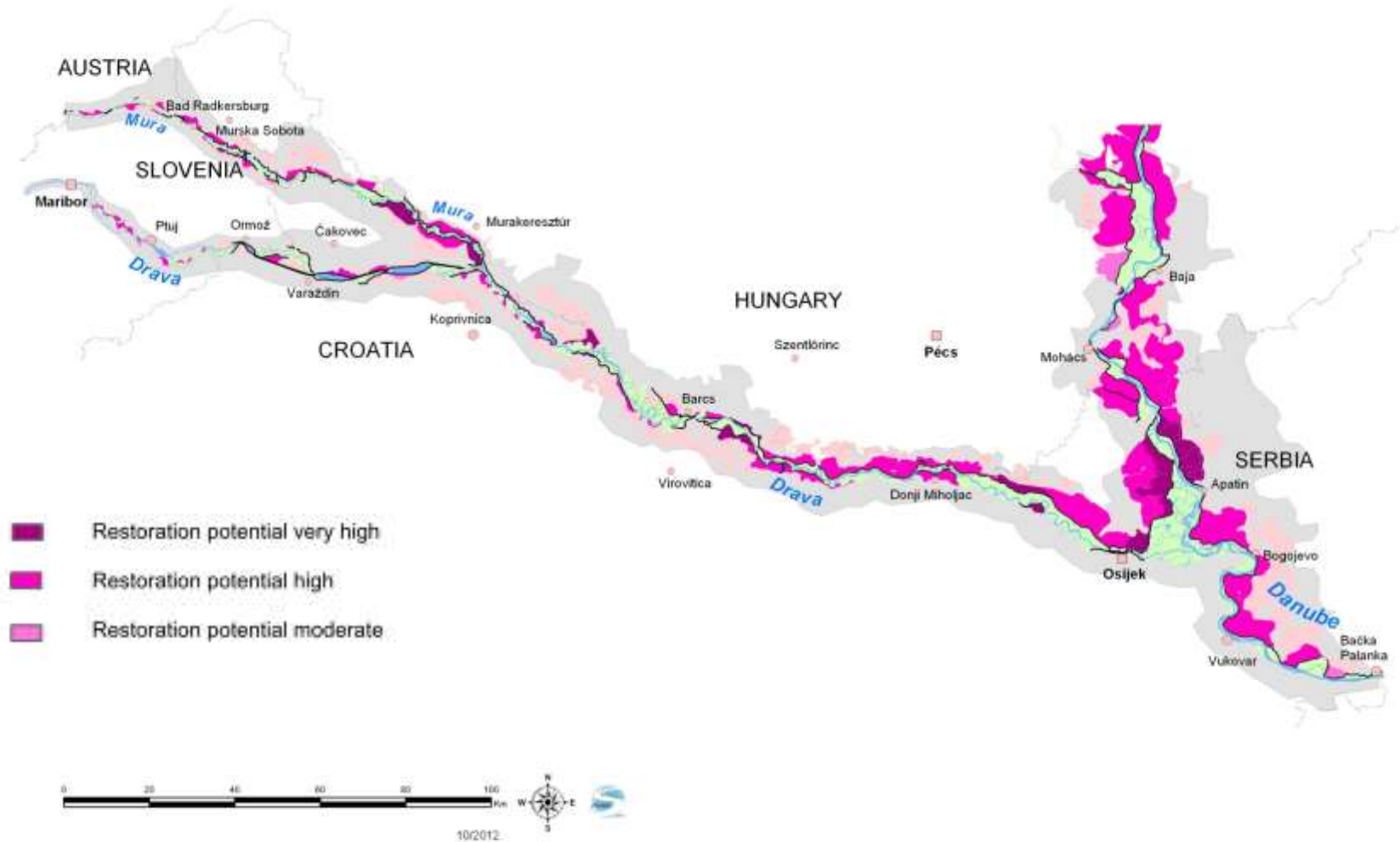
Restoring the „Amazon of Europe“ Living with the River

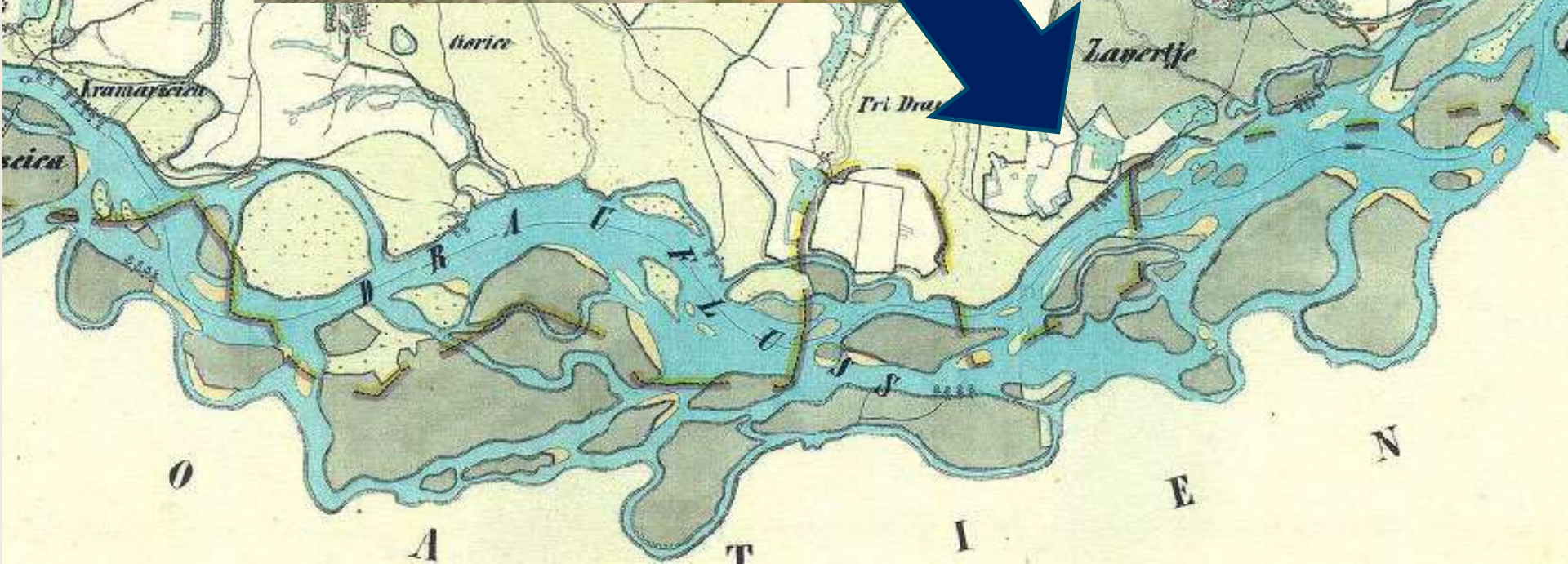


Water and landscape along Drava in the Podravina region

Assessment of the Restoration Potential in the TBR MDD

Prioritisation of Restoration Potential of Floodplains







ava





TBR MDD perfectly fits into ...

... EU Biodiversity targets 2020
& EU Directives (WFD, FD, FFHD, BD, Natura 2000)

... EU Danube Regional Strategy

... Drava River Declaration

... Ramsar Wise Use

... CBD, Bern and Danube Convention

... Restoration initiatives (Wetland Int., ECRR...)

... Good practice restoration projects (e.g. Upper Drava)



Partners and supporters for the TBR MDD





... Europe's largest river protected area (more than 800,000 ha)
... world's first five country biosphere reserve
... flagship for common understanding, regional cooperation



Join us!

www.amazon-of-europe.com