

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

PA6: Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils



SONDAR Workshop 17-18 April 2013

## Current activities in Priority Area 06

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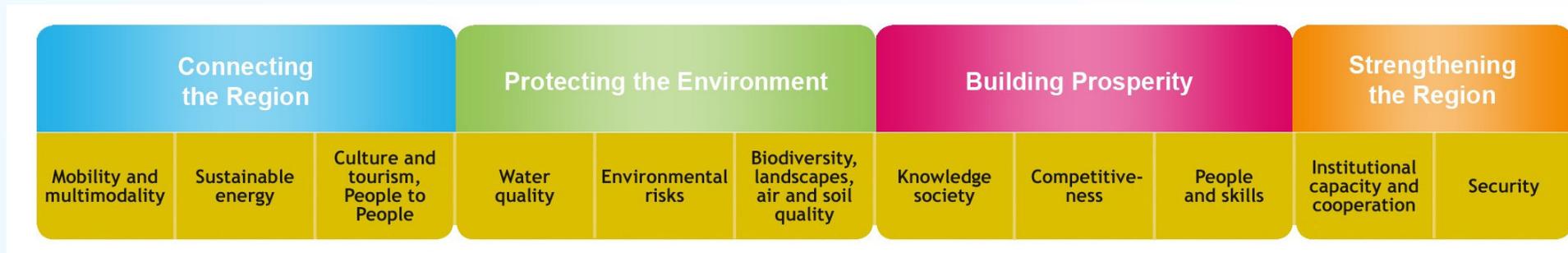


Tulln, 18 April 2013



## EUSDR

### 4 Pillars – 11 Priority Areas



- Coordination of implementation of the **11 Priority Areas** by two **Priority Area Coordinator (PAC)** from two countries.
- **Bavaria** (Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Public Health) together with **Croatia** (Ministry for Environment and Nature Protection) is PAC for Priority Area 6: Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

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# Targets of PA6

## PRIORITY AREA 6

### Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

#### Targets of Priority Area 6

- To **halt the deterioration** in the status of **all species and habitats** covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement, adapted to the special needs of the Danube Region by 2020.
- By 2020, **ecosystems and their services** are maintained and enhanced by establishing **green infrastructure** and **restoring at least 15%** of degraded ecosystems, **including degraded soils**.
- By 2020, **Invasive Alien Species** and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are **controlled or eradicated**, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS.
- Secure viable populations of **Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species** by 2020.

Action Plan identifies 16 actions for Priority Area 06



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# Implementing the EUSDR – the PA6 approach

## Cooperation and Networking

- PA6's mission: Make the voices of biodiversity and nature protection heard by using **EUSDR momentum!** Connect new and ongoing activities with **policy level**.
- Make the voices of biodiversity and nature protection heard by developing and implementing **realistic** and **convincing activities!**
- **Stakeholder involvement** and their **networking** is seen as precondition for PA6 and EUSDR-related activities. Strong need to establish **circum-Danubian Networks!**
- **Stakeholder** as **multiplicators** and **regional contact points** for PA6
- **Information** about opportunities and possibilities of PA6 and EUSDR to stakeholder and public.



# Implementing the EUSDR – the PA6 approach

## Integrative approach within EUSDR

- Cooperation in the **Environmental Pillar II** is well established.
- Priority Area 6 is strongly connected to **other Priority Areas** (e.g. Transport, Energy), cooperation shall be enhanced here as well. Development of integrated processes under common umbrella of EUSDR.
- PA6 started cooperation with PA1a (Steering Group attendance, Joint Workshops).
- EUSDR provides **opportunity** to create and develop **horizontal thematic links** among different “branches” and to **bring together** the relevant **stakeholders**.



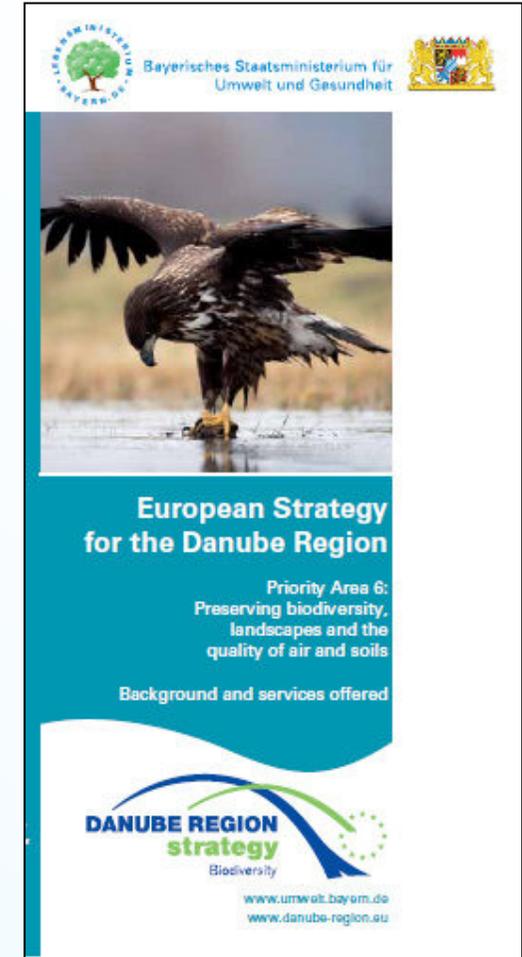
# Implementing the EUSDR – the PA6 approach

## Summary of the PA6 approach – key characteristics

- Horizontal integration: cross-sectoral perspective.
- Vertical integration: bottom-up (involving stakeholder and actors), connection to policy level. PACs as service providers and facilitator.
- Demand-driven: facilitate, strengthen and foster emerging and existing activities.
- Open and flexible processes, there is no “one-fits-it-all” approach.
- Development of PA6 Stakeholder Network in Danube Region.

## Philosophy

- Focus on realistic and feasible activities.
- Respecting principles of sustainability and equal opportunities
- Enhancing visibility.



# Implementing the EUSDR – the PA6 approach

## EUSDR and PA6 Highlights in 2012 and 2013

- Establishment of Danube Sturgeon Task Force
- Connecting and cooperation with other PACs
- Tightening cooperation with relevant organisations and NGO´s (e.g. ICPDR; WWF; IAD)
- Bavarian Stakeholder Workshop (Oct. 2012 and Feb. 2013, Neuburg)
- Joint Pillar II Stakeholder Workshop (October 2012, Budapest)
- First Annual Forum of the EUSDR (November 2012, Regensburg)
- Bilateral project development meetings (ongoing)
- Focus on project preparation for next funding period (2014-2020)



# Implementing the EUSDR – the PA6 approach

## Current activities in Priority Area 06 (and EUSDR)

- Strengthening and networking of running projects and preparing new projects
- Identification of best practice mechanism to link projects with policy level
- Labelling of projects
- Enlargement of PA6 Steering Group with additional Observers
- Integrative approach provides basis for sustainable development
- Public participation shall be enhanced
  
- First report from COM to EP published in April 2013. Danube Sturgeon Task Force explicitly mentioned.
- Preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> PAC Report (due in June 2013)
- Involvement in programming process for ETC 2014-2020
- Cooperation with Joint Research Centre



# Implementing the EUSDR – the PA6 approach

## Added value of the EUSDR – Personal reflection

- Coordinate existing and new activities in the entire Danube Region.
- Concentration of funds.
- Horizontal and vertical integration.
- Equal weight of each Priority Area.
- Holistic approach possible
- Political awareness, support and strategic approach
- Macro-regional identification and awareness building.
- Connecting people from 14 countries by concrete actions under one umbrella.
- Several more opportunities to be explored within the process!



## Thank you for your attention!

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