

## **ANNEX 1**

### **ROADMAPS TO IMPLEMENT EACH ACTION**

**Implementation of the EUSDR Priority Area 6 to preserve biodiversity,  
landscapes and the quality of air and soils**

**for the period from June 2012 – June 2013**

## ROADMAPS TO IMPLEMENT EACH ACTION – *progress report* for the period from June 2012- June 2013

*Rationale: The following text provides the progress on the roadmap in the period June 2012- June 2013. The roadmap produced as the part of the 1<sup>st</sup> report by PA6 in June 2012<sup>1</sup> gives a detailed overview on each milestones including deadlines, rationale, countries involved and future activities.*

### Action 1: “*To contribute to the 2050 EU vision and 2020 EU target for biodiversity*”

#### **Action 6.1 “*To contribute to the 2050 EU vision and 2020 EU target for biodiversity*”**

*In 2010, EU Heads of State and Government at the Spring European Council adopted a long-term vision and a headline target for European biodiversity beyond 2010. The European Commission is currently developing a strategy outlining the way to achieving the 2020 biodiversity target. Actions under the Danube Strategy will fully contribute to the implementation of the post-2010 EU biodiversity strategy to halt biodiversity loss and ecosystems services' degradation and to restore them in so far as feasible.*

**Milestone n°6.011: Assessment made for EUSDR region on update and revision of national biodiversity strategic documents (NBSAPs) in line with CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

**Milestone n°6.012: Follow up on implementation framework for EU Biodiversity 2020 strategy**

**Milestone n°6.013: Assessment made for Danube Region on progress achieved towards Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets<sup>2</sup>**

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| <p><i>Progress since the last reporting period</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In September 2012 (Moldova) Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans was held (almost all Danube region countries participated)</li> <li>■ Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) was held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012. Decisions XI/2<sup>3</sup> (Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to Parties) and XI/3<sup>4</sup> (Monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets) were adopted.</li> <li>■ In March 2013 (Konjic, BiH) Western Balkans Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators as part of NBSAP Updating was held.</li> <li>■ EUSDR countries are actively involved in revision of national biodiversity strategic documents in line with CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. (GEF eligible countries: BiH, HR, SRB and SI are using the GEF funds and will fully update NBSAPs by the end of 2014.</li> <li>■ Following the work outlined in the CIF (Common Implementation Framework<sup>5</sup>) and the work of the working groups (WG) in 2012/2013, Member States are working on implementing all EU Biodiversity 2020 strategy targets thus directly contributing to the PA6 biodiversity related targets</li> </ul> |
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.danube-region.eu/pages/reports>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-02-en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-03-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/policy/eu-biodiversity-strategy>

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| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In decision X/2<sup>6</sup>, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period with the country obligation to translate this overarching international framework into national biodiversity strategies and action plans by COP 12.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assessment on update and revision of national biodiversity strategic documents should be prepared in the I. quarter 2015 (after the CBD COP 12)<sup>7</sup>.</li> <li>■ Make use of Common Implementation Framework (CIF) as the framework for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards reaching the biodiversity related PA 6 targets</li> </ul>                             |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National projects related to the revision of national biodiversity strategic documents in line with CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</li> </ul>   |

<sup>6</sup> X/2 Decision: *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-02-en.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> By COP11 relevant information from Parties on starting process for revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans will be prepared. Based on information presented for consideration to the CBD CoP 11 indicative assessment on the progress related to the Milestone 6.011 will be prepared in 2013. This will be used as indicative information in period till assessment due in I Q 2015

**Action 2: “To manage Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas effectively”- Natura 2000”.**

**Action 6.2 “To manage Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas effectively”**

*Natura 2000 sites designated under the Birds and Habitats directives, as well as other protected sites should in principle have their own management plans or some other kind of contractual framework. But in practice, they often work in isolation and not efficiently enough. The effective management helped by transnational cooperation (networking) is necessary. The action should include exchange of experience and capacity building for protected areas/Natura 2000 sites administrations; community involvement; visitor management and tourism development; coordinated management planning, implementation and evaluation. It is also indispensable to increase public awareness about Natura 2000 sites and protected areas, with the help of e.g. the National Ecological and Rural Networks or the European Network for Rural Development. The action could be implemented e.g. through the existing Danube Network of Protected Areas and the Carpathian Networks of Protected Areas. ALPARC can serve as successful examples.*

**Milestone n°6.021: Follow up on reports prepared by EC for management of N2000 in Danube Region on implementation of conservation measures**

**Milestone n°6.022: Build capacity among riverine countries in Danube region**

**Milestone n°6.023: Assessment made for Danube Region according to assessment of conservation status and effectiveness of measures (management framework of Natura 2000 sites) for period 2007-2012 due to in 2013 prepared by the MS/COM**

**Milestone n°6.024: Follow up on financial instruments available for financing N2000 network in next programming period 2014 - 2020 to assess adequate financing of Natura 2000 activities in EUSDR region**

**Milestone n°6.025: To establish Mura Drava Danube bilateral Biosphere Reserve Hungary-Croatia**

**Milestone n°6.026: To establish Mura-Drava-Danube MAB Reserve Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, and Serbia**

**Milestone n° 6.027: DANUBEPARKS II - Anchoring the Danube River Network of Protected Areas as driver for transnational nature conservation strategies at the Danube**

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| <p><i>Progress since the last reporting period</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Composite report on Article 17<sup>8</sup> (related to the Milestone 6.023) for period 2007-2012, with a main focus<sup>9</sup> on <i>Renewed assessment of conservation status, based on established monitoring system and assessment of effectiveness of measures taken for the Natura 2000 network under the directive</i>, is still under preparation by ETC. The deadline (first delivery) for MS is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, so this matter will be processed in the next reports (Composite report by the EC will be prepared in spring 2015).</li> <li>■ Establishment of the Danube Region Programme (former ETC SEE programme) with a territorial coverage of the EUSDR states, including Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. Cooperation between the Task Force of the Danube Programme and the PACs established<sup>10</sup>.</li> </ul> |
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<sup>8</sup> Article 17 requires Member States to report every six years about the progress made with the implementation of the Habitats Directive

<sup>9</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep\\_habitats/](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_habitats/)

<sup>10</sup> The first meeting between the Task Force and the PACs took place on 21 May 2013 in Ljubljana.

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open dialog between other funding instruments coordinators (including ESI funds, and LIFE+) and NCPs and PAC is on-going. 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting between NCPs and Partnership Agreement Coordinators took place in Bucharest (RO), 16-17 April, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> joint meeting of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region in the programming process for 2014-2020 which took place in Stuttgart (DE) 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2013.</li> <li>■ On-going work on updating the Financing Natura 2000 Guidance Handbook<sup>11</sup> and development of a toolkit to assess the consistency between the PAFs and the Operational Programmes. This will be followed by workshops planned from Autumn in all Danube Region MS.</li> <li>■ MS are working on preparation of Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs)<sup>12</sup> with the objectives to strengthen 'integration' through strategic planning; with an aim of identifying priorities for Natura 2000 management; improving awareness about socio-economic benefits from Natura 2000; identifying and assessing forms of funding for Natura 2000. PAFs are received from following Danube Region MS: AT, CZ, DE, HU, RO, SK<sup>1314</sup>.</li> <li>■ ENEA-MA Working Group (WG)<sup>15</sup> on 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy and Biodiversity: The main objective of the WG is to facilitate the interpretation of the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy Regulations and thus enable the development of the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes in a way that promotes biodiversity most effectively. WG prepared a document<sup>16</sup> which helps to integrate biodiversity concerns and financing needs in the programming for the 2014-2020 MFF.</li> <li>■ In order to provide guidance on how to best ensure that activities related to the development and management of inland waterways are compatible with EU environmental policy in general and nature legislation in particular, European Commission recently published the "Guidance document on sustainable inland waterway development and management in the context of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives".<sup>17</sup></li> <li>■ <i>Ad hoc</i> group on agriculture and the biodiversity strategy: The aim of the group is to develop a series of recommendations to improve the integration of biodiversity aspects, particularly Natura 2000 management, in agriculture and thus enhance the state of species and ecosystems linked and affected by agriculture, supporting the task of the program officers that are in charge, at national and regional level, of developing and implementing the rural development programmes.</li> <li>■ A final draft of the Commission Guideline on Farming for Natura 2000 has been published. The document gives guidance on how to integrate Natura 2000 conservation objectives into farming practices, based on MS good practice experiences.</li> <li>■ <i>Milestone n°6.025 achieved</i>: July 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, UNESCO (MaB Program Secretariat) accepted the nomination of the Biosphere Reserve Mura – Drava – Danube as a part</li> </ul> |
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<sup>11</sup> Latest information can be accessed under: <http://www.financing-natura2000.eu/>.

<sup>12</sup> Obligation from the Art 8 Habitats directive

(<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:HTML>)

<sup>13</sup> Exceptionally for Croatia work was done on preparation of Natura 2000 network, and as a new MS, does not have developed PAF since the precondition as set in the Habitat Directive includes designation of 'special areas of conservation (SAC) with information about the conservation objectives, status of species conservation and priority measures, with the obligations under the Directive (6 years at most after the adoption of the SCI areas).

<sup>14</sup> 05.06.2013 - ENEA-MA WG Biodiversity meeting : PPP *Financing Natura 2000 (Article 8 Habitats Directive – PAFs)* Przemyslaw OGINSKI (DG ENV Unit B.3)

<sup>15</sup> Working Group "2014-2020 Cohesion Policy & Biodiversity" [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/cohesion\\_policy\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/cohesion_policy_en.htm)

<sup>16</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/pdf/ENEA%20BiodivFINAL%2002042013.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/TWT\\_BHD\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/TWT_BHD_Guidelines.pdf)

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|   | <p>of worlds' biosphere reserve network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Back-to-back event: Bavarian Stakeholder Workshop with Kick off conference of Danubeparks II contributed to enlarge the PA6 stakeholder network.</li> <li>■ Close cooperation between PAC6 and Danubeparks networks, development of new projects, will be backed up by a workshop in second half of 2013.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To enable the development of the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes in a way that promotes integration of biodiversity effectively.</li> <li>■ Following on the establishment of the Danube Region Programme as the tool for achievement of PA 6 targets</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the coordination Board for pentilateral Mura-Drava-Danube MaB Reserve, planned for April 2012, is going to be held in autumn, 2013.</li> <li>■ European unions' ecological network Natura 2000 will be expanded with the Croatian proposal due to HR accession to EU 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2013</li> </ul>                             |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Example of good coordination, cooperation and consultation among riverine countries are projects labelled by PA6: Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura – Drava – Danube and Danubeparks 2.0.</li> </ul>   |

**Action 3: To protect and restore most valuable ecosystems and endangered animal species**

**Action 6.3 To protect and restore most valuable ecosystems and endangered animal species** Enhanced protection of the remaining natural ecosystems, such as the Danube Delta or the Carpathians, wetlands restoration, afforestation of non-arable land, protection of marginal forests, bioremediation of highly impacted areas, supported by environmental research, are desirable. This is also crucial for endangered animal species protection, such as the Danube sturgeon, brown bears, wolves, lynx and wild horses living in the Danube Delta. Research, inventory, and monitoring of species and habitats of European and national importance are important parts of this action. Conflicts with humans and illegal trade in wild animals should also be addressed.

**Milestone n°6.031:** Follow up on assessment made by MS and COM applicable for Danube Region to improve knowledge of ecosystems and their services in the EU

**Milestone n° 6.032:** Follow up on assessment made by MS and COM on strategic framework to set priorities for ecosystem restoration to identify priority restoration project for EUSDR region

**Milestone n°6.033:** Sub-Strategy on Sturgeon Conservation

**Milestone n°6.034:** Reproduction of populations of rare and endangered fish species – a necessary condition for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the Ukrainian-Slovak transborder area of the Tisa river basin. Short title: “Fish: joint basin – joint solutions”

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| Progress since the last reporting period     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Working Group on Mapping and Assessment on Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) was set up under the Common Implementation Framework (CIF), the governance structure to underpin the effective delivery of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The objective of MAES Working Group is to support the implementation of Action 5 by the EU and its MS.</li> <li>■ April 2013, Discussion paper <i>An analytical framework for ecosystem assessment under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</i> was published<sup>18</sup> providing a resource document that compiles background information and provides the basis for a common conceptual framework and a toolkit to ensure coherent mapping and assessment across Europe and across scales.</li> <li>■ Final draft of the "Sturgeon 2020" Strategy and Program is prepared, June 2013</li> <li>■ For Milestone 6.034 No funding was obtained for the project submitted to ENPI HU-SL-RO-UA NGOs, but the project developers will continue working on different project ideas</li> <li>■ WWF restored fish ponds in the Danube River area in Nature Park Kopacki Rit (HR), October, 2012<sup>19</sup></li> </ul> |
| Opportunities and challenges in implementing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Further cooperation between stakeholders dealing with restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services and endangered species of the Danube Region is expected with a full support of the PACs.</li> </ul>   |
| Outline for the future                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In the next reporting period PACs will follow preparation of the MS and COM assessment on mapping and assessing the state of ecosystems and their services, support implementing of the projects regarding this action, and contribute to better</li> </ul>  |

<sup>18</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem\\_assessment/pdf/MAESWorkingPaper2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/pdf/MAESWorkingPaper2013.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <http://croatia.panda.org/?206462/WWF-obnovio-Ribnjake-Podunavlje-u-Kopakom-ritu>



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|  | endangered ecosystems and species status in the Danube Region.  |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i> | <div><div>■</div>Wetland restoration in the Mura-Drava-Danube area”<sup>20</sup><div>■</div>Sturgeon 2020</div> |



**Action 4: *To explore together the appropriateness of reviewing the Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of the Danube***

**Action 6.4 *To explore together the appropriateness of reviewing the Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of the Danube***

A Convention on fishing in the waters of the Danube river was signed in 1958 and has been in force since then. However neither recent geopolitical changes in the area nor policy developments related to the protection of the environment or to sustainable fishing have been reflected in the Convention. The parties to the Convention should examine this.

**Milestone n°6.041: Built cooperation, if appropriate, among parties regarding review of the Convention**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Danube region countries Parties to the Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of the Danube did not indicate any activities in the reporting period.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Possibilities of using the Convention on the EUSDR level should be raised on higher political level with an aim of all Danube Region countries signing the Convention.</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Further action is needed by the Danube region countries Parties to the Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of the Danube</li> <li>■ Further explore the synergy with PA4 action <i>to reduce existing water continuity for fish migration in the Danube basin</i></li> </ul> |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          |   |

**Action 5: *To develop green infrastructure in order to connect different bio-geographic regions and habitats***

**Action 6.5 *To develop green infrastructure in order to connect different bio-geographic regions and habitats***

*The habitats (including Natura 2000 sites) can better keep and enhance their value, if they are interconnected and this is the way to ensure that ecosystem services are being kept provided. The action could include scientific research to find new ways for connecting habitats, consultations with relevant communities and stakeholders, careful and integrated spatial planning to develop and apply practices and technologies for economic investments and infrastructural development benefiting biodiversity. Construction of e.g. ecobridges, eco-ducts and ecological "stepping stones" should be part of a planning of infrastructure building.*

**Milestone n°6.051: Assessment made to identify activities to be implemented in Danube Region countries form EU Green Infrastructure Strategy to best fit the EUSDR targets**

**Milestone n°6.052: Follow up on implementation of green corridors projects identified in EUSDR Action Plan**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Commission has adopted a Green Infrastructure Strategy, 'to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas'. Green Infrastructure (GI)<sup>21</sup> is contributing to all other targets of the EU Biodiversity strategy – in particular the full implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive (target 1) – and to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the wider countryside and the marine environment (targets 3 and 4).</li> <li>■ Working Group on Green Infrastructure and the Restoration Prioritisation Framework (WG GI-RPF) is established dealing with the Action 6a (Restoration Prioritization Framework) action 6b on Green Infrastructure of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020.</li> <li>■ Green corridors. Project development discussion with NGOs working in this field. Communication with PAC1b on this issue as well. To be further developed in second half of 2013.</li> <li>■ Joint Declaration of Intent on the European Green Belt<sup>22</sup> was signed on 15 May 2013 (Berlin)</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Investment priority 6.4. protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures gives a platform for development of projects and Integration of biodiversity into OPs<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Following the work of WG GI-RPF directly related to the target 2 of EU biodiversity strategy thus directly contributing to the PA 6 target "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."</li> <li>■ Follow up on the Joint Declaration of Intent on the European Green Belt</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          |  |

<sup>21</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.europeangreenbelt.org/>

<sup>23</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006

**Action 6: *To reduce the spread of invasive alien species (IAS)***

**Action 6.6 *To reduce the spread of invasive alien species (IAS)***

*The action would assess the impact of IAS on the ecosystems in the Danube region, identify environmentally friendly ways to control their development, promote research to identify ecologically sound ways to keep their population under control or eliminate them and raise public awareness about the danger of IAS.*

**Milestone n°6.061: To assess the effectiveness of IAS legislation in EUSDR region analysing implementation on new legislative framework on IAS in EUSDR region**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Further work on the dedicated legislative instrument on Invasive Alien Species was done by Commission which is due to be adopted in 2013<sup>24</sup></li> <li>■ <i>Assessing and controlling the spread and the effects of common ragweed in Europe</i> - Final report: ENV.B2/ETU/2010/0037 was issued.</li> <li>■ On CBD COP 11, decision XI/28<sup>25</sup> on Invasive alien species is adopted, in which invasive alien species are recognized as one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and that their increasing impact on biodiversity and economic sectors has a negative effect on human well-being. The need to continue to work on this issue is emphasized, in order to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Legislative instrument to fill policy gaps in combating IAS to be developed by COM by 2013. Following the adoption of the new legislative framework on IAS proposal is to assess the effectiveness of IAS legislation in EUSDR region by analysing implementation on new legislative framework on IAS on national level.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assessment of effectiveness of implementation on new legislative framework on IAS on national level</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mostly national based projects contributing to the overall Action 6.6.</li> </ul>   |

<sup>24</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/COP-11/cop-11-dec-28-en.pdf>

**Action 7: *To decrease the input of pesticides into the environment of the Danube Region***

**Action 6.7 *To decrease the input of pesticides into the environment of the Danube Region***

*To reduce the contamination of the Danube Region with pesticides, the countries of the Danube Region should use efficiently the possibilities of the Pesticide Framework Directive (PFD) establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides. PFD outlines aims and effective ways to reduce both the total amount of used pesticides and the toxicity of pesticides. The action should especially be focused on the development of ambitious programs and concepts for a reduction of pesticides in general or in specific areas as well as on the initiation of hot spot management or restrictions for the application of pesticides, e.g. by establishing buffer strips or compensating areas.*

**Milestone n°6.071:** *work will be defined in the next reporting period*

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions in the Council Agriculture Working Party and in the European Parliament (ENVI as lead Committee, with enhanced cooperation of AGRI Committee and opinion of ITRE Committee) are ongoing, in parallel with those on the proposal for a Regulation on the placing of PPPs on the market. (<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/pesticides.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/pesticides.htm</a>)</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support project development connected to this action.</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pesticide Framework Directive (PFD) and its implementation in all Danube Region countries.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          |  |

**Action 8: *To remove safely obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals in the area of Danube Region***

**Action 6.8 *To remove safely obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals in the area of Danube Region*** and implementing the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Resolution on Improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals, adopted at the 63rd World Health Assembly (WHA) which took place in May 2010 in Geneva.

**Milestone n°6.081:** *work will be defined in the next reporting period*

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants had joint meeting in Geneva (11 May 2013) where the “Geneva Statement on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”<sup>26</sup> was acclaimed. The Geneva Statement welcomed the UNEP-led consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste that has considered the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to sound management of chemicals and waste.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Support project development connected to this action.</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Update this action or revise it</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          |  |

<sup>26</sup>[http://synergies.pops.int/Implementation/MediaResources/PressReleases/ExtraordinaryUNConferenceTakesHistoricStrides/tabid/3226/language/en-US/Default.aspx#LiveContent\[GvaStatement\]](http://synergies.pops.int/Implementation/MediaResources/PressReleases/ExtraordinaryUNConferenceTakesHistoricStrides/tabid/3226/language/en-US/Default.aspx#LiveContent[GvaStatement])

**Action 9: *To prepare and implement transnational spatial planning and development policies for functional geographical areas (river basins, mountain ranges etc.)***

**Action 6.9 *To prepare and implement transnational spatial planning and development policies for functional geographical areas (river basins, mountain ranges etc.)***

The conservation of ecosystems and natural assets, along with the assertion of a sustainable growth perspective contribute to the enhancement of the quality of life and employment opportunities for local population. The aim is the development of coordinated spatial planning policies focusing on the protection and at the same time sustainable development of the functional geographical areas, based on its strengths and potential.

**Milestone n°6.091: BIOREGIO Carpathians - Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians**

**Milestone n°6.092: Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Development**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BIOREGIO Carpathians lays ground for further activities, it is labelled and it received the Letter of Acknowledgement.</li> <li>■ 28 of May, 2013, Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region”, Committee of the Regions (CoR) was held in Bruxelles. The Workshop aimed at promoting the development of a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region (Carpathian Strategy) in order to further strengthen the cooperation and the coordination between stakeholders at different levels and to further reinforce the role of the Carpathians in Europe.<sup>27</sup></li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Communication and knowledge exchange between Carpathian Convention Working Groups and PA Steering Groups should be recommended</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ As Project BIOREGIO Carpathians lays ground for further activities in implementation of transnational spatial planning and development policies, hence it will contribute to the Action 9.</li> <li>■ Follow up on the outcomes form the Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region” which is connected to the EU Strategy for Danube Region</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BIOREGIO Carpathians</li> </ul>  |

<sup>27</sup> The Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area and the parts of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) relevant for the Carpathians have been presented as a basis for the development of a possible future Carpathian Strategy. Possible Priority Areas and actions/projects of the Strategy, other related projects initiatives, and next steps, such as a possible Opinion of the CoR supporting a Carpathian Strategy, were discussed among the Workshop participants. <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-spatial-planning/events/workshop-towards-a-eu-strategy-for-the-carpathian-region-148.html>

**Action 10: To ensure appropriate treatment of solid waste**

**Action 6.10 To ensure appropriate treatment of solid waste**

*Integrated waste management systems should be established and implemented on national, regional and local level. The development of waste management centres for municipal and non-hazardous waste is needed, as well as rehabilitation and closure of incompliant landfills and highly polluted and contaminated sites and wild dumps. The action should also include awareness-raising about the needs of reducing and recycling waste.*

**Milestone n°6.101: SMIWASTRES (“Transfrontier collaboration for establishment of efficient System for Municipal and Industrial Waste Treatment on the basis of their Sorting”)**

**Milestone n°6.102: To develop Solid waste management strategies**

**Milestone n°6.103: Identify, agree on, design and implement the projects at the Upper Tisza Region floodplains**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SMIWASTRES- Project has been rejected by funding programme but might be object of resubmission. Exchange with project developer is ongoing.</li> <li>■ Towards the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (ICPDR – UNDP - GEF), should integrate issues of both water quality and water quantity, in a combined approach for land and water management, flood and drought. Pilot areas: Velyky Bychkiv (Ukraine) – Bocicoiu-Mare (Romania)<sup>28</sup></li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Horizontal approach between PA4 and PA8 (Environmental Technologies and Energy Efficiency Working Group) and PA 6 should be developed.</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Support project development connected to this action.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Relation with PA4 projects (Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan)</li> </ul>   |

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/undpgef-tisza-msp>

**Action 11: To create standardised and compatible information on land cover on transnational basis**
**Action 6.11 To create standardised and compatible information on land cover on transnational basis**

Within the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) framework, one of the main services that will be available is a land monitoring service. However, rather limited information on land resources is available for the Danube Region. Actions should thus focus on the possibilities to collect harmonised land cover information from national sources and to create standardized and compatible information on land cover on transnational basis.

**Milestone n°6.111: To collect harmonised land cover information**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), is now under the name Copernicus - the European Programme for the establishment of a European capacity for Earth Observation<sup>29</sup></li> <li>■ The Pan-European component of the Copernicus land monitoring service is coordinated by the European Environment Agency and will produce 5 high resolution data sets describing the main land cover types: artificial surfaces (e.g. roads and paved areas), forest areas, agricultural areas (grasslands), wetlands, and small water bodies. The pan-European component is also updating the Corine Land Cover dataset to the reference year 2012.<sup>30</sup></li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> |   |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Follow up on Corine Land Cover dataset to the reference year 2012 update</li> <li>■ Follow up on ICPDR activities related to the Danube GIS has evaluated some elements of this issue. For calculation of harmonized inventory of point and diffuse sources of pollution, for pressures assessment and scenarios calculations, information on land cover have been collected and assessed. Input data (also information for calculating erosion, run off, land use, etc) are updated and new scenarios calculations are expected to be available for assessing the effect of agricultural measures implemented in the Danube Region Basin.</li> </ul>                                  |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          |   |

<sup>29</sup> <http://copernicus.eu/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european>



**Action 12: To raise awareness about soil protection**

**Action 6.12 To raise awareness about soil protection**

This action could be achieved in cooperation with the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA), including more than 100 members from 7 Member States. Further partnerships in the Danube Region should be initiated on communal level and in the educational domains.

**Milestone n° 6.121: SONDAR - Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region**<sup>31</sup>

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SONDAR conference, April 2013. PAC 6 addressed a key note statement to the 80 participants about the state of play and future development within PA6. This second participation contributed to deepen the close cooperation between PA6 and SONDAR. It is intended that concrete future activities will be discussed and laid down in a working meeting planned for second half of 2013</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> |   |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PACs through the SG will try to establish contacts with soil protection experts and invite them to apply their project proposals to the Steering Group.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SONDAR - Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region</li> </ul>   |

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.sondar.eu/sk/index.php?article\\_id=17&clang=2](http://www.sondar.eu/sk/index.php?article_id=17&clang=2)

### Action 13: To decrease air pollutants

#### Action 6.13 To decrease air pollutants

All Danube region countries have signed the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution. In compliance with this Convention, there is a need to report about the level of air pollutants in the region. The action should concentrate on data collection and reduction measures.

#### **Milestone n° 6.131: Upgrading and further development of the monitoring network on air pollutants**

#### **Milestone n° 6.132: To take measures to gradually reduce the pollution, along the limit values for certain pollutants**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Danube region countries as signatures to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution need to report about the level of air pollutants in the region (action should concentrate on data collection and reduction measures).</li> <li>■ FAIRMODE<sup>32</sup> conference, April 2013, address challenges in application models for assessment of air quality and critical levels for different ecosystems as well as for reporting to EU</li> <li>■ The Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (TFMM)<sup>33</sup> reviews and assesses the scientific and operational activities of EMEP related to monitoring and modelling; TFMM conference, May 2013 organized by MHSC in Zagreb, Croatia<sup>34</sup></li> <li>■ Ongoing work on the development and application of modelling of long-range and regional transport of air pollutants.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020::Investment priority 6.5. <i>actions to improve the urban environment, regeneration of brownfield sites and reduction of air pollution</i>, gives a platform for improvement of air quality and development of air pollution monitoring and management system<sup>35</sup>.</li> <li>■ FAIRMODE (<i>Forum for Air quality Modelling</i>) enables cooperation in the field of atmospheric modelling, ensures the exchange of knowledge and the best practices. It is challenge to develop related modelling systems that encompass gridded emission inventories, environmental input data, and meteorological and chemistry models on the operational level.</li> <li>■ The EMEP programme (<i>European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme</i>) enables collaboration with a broad network of scientists and national experts that contribute to the systematic collection, analysis and reporting of emission data, measurement data and integrated assessment results. The collaboration can be established through four different Task Forces<sup>36</sup> within EMEP providing a floor for discussion and scientific exchange.</li> <li>■ Cooperation and exchange of information can be further developed in the field of natural sources contribution assessment. Results of models and measurements can be applied in order to relate concentrations with the sources or source regions.</li> </ul> |

<sup>32</sup> <http://fairmode.ew.eea.europa.eu/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/taskforce/tfmm/welcome.html>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.nilu.no/projects/ccc/tfmm/index.html>

<sup>35</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/proposals\\_2014\\_2020\\_en.cfm#2](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm#2)

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.emep.int/>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Neighbouring countries cooperate in the field of air quality protection and management.</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gather reports about the level of air pollutants in the region</li> <li>■ Analyse if the implementation of the air quality plans can serve as starting point for EUSDR cooperation options (e.g. exchange of methods and best practice experience)<sup>37</sup>.</li> <li>■ To implement number of measurement to reach compliance with air quality directives and to cover 100 % of urban population by air quality information</li> <li>■ To be in compliance with Air Quality Directive IPR (e-reporting)<sup>38</sup></li> <li>■ Follow up on the FAIRMODE meetings/projects, development and application of modelling systems.</li> <li>■ Follow up on EMEP meeting/projects, management of EMEP network and data, participation in modelling and measurements intercomparison studies.</li> <li>■ Future strengthening of cross-border cooperation regarding Air Quality issues supported by PACs.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ FAIRMODE - <u>Forum for Air quality Modelling</u></li> <li>■ EMEP - The European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme</li> <li>■ COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology</li> <li>■ Joint projects, cross-border cooperation between HR and BiH (example of good practice: Working groups are founded between BiH and HR in order to solve major air quality problems in Slavonski Brod and Brod in BiH)</li> </ul>  |

<sup>37</sup> Follow-up of the „Luftreinhalteplans Ulm“ [Air quality plan for Ulm] (November 2012), Implementation of EU Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. Basis is the Elaboration of „Luftreinhalteplans Ulm“ (May 2008) and implementation of the measures

<sup>38</sup> <http://rod.eionet.europa.eu/instruments/650>

**Action 14: To raise awareness of the general public, by acknowledging and promoting the potentials of natural assets as drivers of sustainable regional development**

**Action 6.14 To raise awareness of the general public, by acknowledging and promoting the potentials of natural assets as drivers of sustainable regional development**

*It would increase the perception of preserved nature as a valuable asset. Promotion of green, soft and eco-tourism is envisaged as a part of this action.*

**Milestone n° 6.141: Keep updated INTERACT portal on EUSDR regarding best available information on PA6 activities, projects and financing mechanism**

**Milestone n° 6.142: Implement stakeholder awareness communication activities for Natura 2000 in EUSDR region parallel with COM/MS communication campaign on Natura 2000**

**Milestone n°6.143: Organisation of stakeholders seminars and workshops and conferences**

**Milestone n°6.144: Implementation of Green Danube Network project**

**Milestone n°6.145: Follow up on the visibility activities across all identified EUSDR PA6 projects**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pillar II Stakeholder Workshop was held in Budapest, September 2012</li> <li>■ Next Pillar II Stakeholder Workshop is planned for autumn 2013 in Bucharest or Munich (tbc)</li> <li>■ www.danube-region.eu web page for PA 6 is regularly maintained and updated.</li> <li>■ Flyer describing PA6 in all Danube countries languages and English</li> <li>■ Newsletter on PA6 activities, December 2012</li> <li>■ Project Dunavision (with a main goal of supporting the sustainable development of the Danube region and the resilience of its communities, people and eco-social entrepreneurs) is labelled by Steering group of PA6</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> |  |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Continue working on raising awareness of the general public and stakeholders on Danube strategy actions and events.</li> </ul>  |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project <u>Dunavision</u></li> </ul>  |

### Action 15: To educate children and young people

#### **Action 6.15 To educate children and young people**

*Since there is a growing pressure on biodiversity and natural resources become scarcer, there is a particular need to educate the young generation. This should cover the services provided by ecosystems, value of natural assets and benefits for conservation of biodiversity. Part of the action could be devoted to the introduction of environmental education into the educational curricula of the Danube countries.*

#### **Milestone n° 6.151: In line communication activities from communication campaign on Natura 2000 further develop and promote activities including children and young people**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Letter of Acknowledgment was issued by the SG 6 to the project Haus am Strom and their activities on educating children and young people on biodiversity and nature protection (<a href="http://www.hausamstrom.de/">http://www.hausamstrom.de/</a>)</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The COM with MS will develop and launch a major communication campaign on Natura 2000 by 2013<sup>39</sup>. To increase stakeholder awareness and involvement especially in regards to education of children and young people. Danube Region MS will follow on the activities and outlines proposed by the strategy.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Following the launch of the communication campaign on Natura 2000 work on to identifying activities that promote activities including children and young people.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Haus am Strom - Exhibition on biodiversity and nature protection, for school kids, adults, highlights biodiversity assets, focus on sturgeons.</li> </ul>   |

<sup>39</sup> As defined in Action 3a in COM (2011) 244 final

### Action 16: To build capacities of local authorities in the environment-related matters

#### **Action 6.16 To build capacities of local authorities in the environment-related matters**

*Local authorities are primarily responsible for the implementation of environment related matters, such as waste or protected areas management. Often, they lack knowledge and capacities to develop projects in the environmental area. Under this action, the local authorities would be provided with training, an expert group helping regions and cities resolving problems would be established, and networks for exchange of good practices.*

#### **Milestone n°6.161: Implement guidance document to improve understanding of the key sector of EU nature legislation**

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| <i>Progress since the last reporting period</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Following on the good cooperation within Pillar II, PACs continued to bill strong horizontal approach with other Pillars of the Danube strategy (especially 1a <i>To improve mobility and intermodality – rail, road and air</i>)</li> <li>■ Follow up on the horizontal approach between different PA- development of matrix of interrelations between PA (by PAC 6 &amp; PA 1a)</li> </ul> |
| <i>Opportunities and challenges in implementing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The COM and MS will improve cooperation with key sectors and continue to develop guidance documents to improve their understanding of the requirements of EU nature legislation and its value in promoting economic<sup>40</sup>.</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Outline for the future</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cooperation with key sectors will be improved by using implement guidance document on EU nature legislation.</li> <li>■ Follow the development of guidance documents on EU nature legislation and its value</li> </ul>   |
| <i>Projects associated with the action</i>          |   |

<sup>40</sup> Following on the Action 3b in COM (2011) 244 final