



Memorandum of Cooperation

between

**the EU LIFE projects
“LIFE RESTORE for MDD” and “LIFE Wild Island”**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is to establish a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the partnerships of the EU LIFE projects “LIFE RESTORE for MDD” and “LIFE Wild Island” to enhance the impact of their activities, share knowledge, explore synergies and optimise the use of resources.

Both project partnerships,

RECALLING the EU legal requirements on water, nature protection and the challenges of climate change as provided among others by the EU Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive, Habitats and Birds Directives as well as the Biodiversity Strategy and the forthcoming Nature Restoration Law,

RECALLING the importance of both projects to contribute to the implementation of the UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube and the network of protected areas along the Danube River,

RECALLING their LIFE project objectives to protect and restore the river and floodplain forest systems of the Natura 2000 network, Ramsar sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and protected areas in the Danube River Basin,

HAVING a common interest to improve communication, exchange information, share experience and learn from each other in implementing good conservation and restoration practices,

NOTING further that certain areas along the Danube and certain partners of both projects overlap,

ACKNOWLEDGING of certain successful restoration projects which have already been implemented in the area concerned,

STRESSING the importance of implementing joint strategies to enhance conservation and restoration efforts in Natura 2000 sites, protected areas and other wetlands in the Danube River Basin,

Have reached the following understanding:

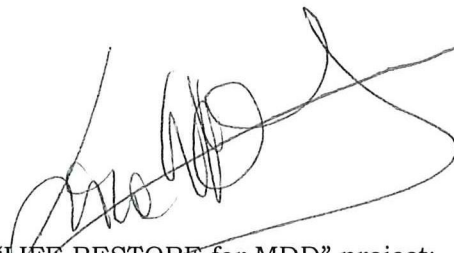
- To capitalize on the network of both partnerships and collaborate on specific areas of mutual interest including the joint learning about state-of-the-art river restoration and floodplain forest management through joint events, excursions and experience exchange;
- Share experience and practice in institutionalising the cooperation of an international partnership in the long term;

- Share resources, including but not limited to, expertise, knowledge and facilities, to support the collaborative efforts;
- Communicate and promote key project results through both project websites (<https://wildisland.danubeparks.org/> ; www.liferestoreformdd.eu), social media and newsletters;
- Invite each other and participate in relevant conferences and workshops;
- Seek to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the Danube Parks Federation and the UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube beyond the scope and timeframe of both projects;
- Seek cooperation, where appropriate, with other similar restoration projects which are planned and/or will be implemented in the area concerned.
- Maintain open and regular communication to ensure smooth cooperation between the projects. The contact points for both projects will be the respective project managers. established for efficient communication.
- Organise a joint meeting at least once per year (3 representatives per project led by respective project managers) to share information, discuss project progress and plan and coordinate joint activities. A meeting report will be provided to the project partnerships. Joint agreements for follow up activities will be in cooperated into the After-LIFE conservation plans.

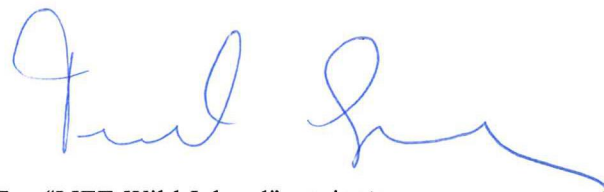
Based on the cooperation on project level, this Memorandum of Cooperation aims to strengthen the long-term cooperation of DANUBEPARKS – Danube River Network of Protected Areas and the UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, considering also the upscaling of the Danube WILDIsland Ramsar Regional Initiative as a possible future joint activity.

This MoC will come into effect on 21 November 2023 and will remain in force for a period of the duration of both LIFE projects. It may be extended or amended by mutual written agreement.

Sombor, 21 November 2023



For “LIFE RESTORE for MDD” project:
Lisa Wolf, WWF Austria, Coordinating Beneficiary:



For “LIFE Wild Island” project:
Georg Frank, DANUBEPARKS Secretary General, Project Coordinator: