

Dear Mr. Weller,

many thanks for your kind invitation to participate in the consultation over the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan. Please find below our remarks:

1) Sediments:

Bedload and suspended sediments are a key factor for the development of Danube River. Sustainable use of the Danube River is not achieved, as long as the river bed is severely degrading throughout the flowing parts of the river. At the very same time flooded areas are affected by increased sedimentation of fine sediments.

On the long scale, this will result in a disintegration of the river and its floodplains, as well as a loss of groundwater availability.

There are several well known contributions to this process, e.g. dams, dredging, river training, reduced sediment input from tributaries. A general strategy is needed to mitigate these impacts and to guarantee a development towards a sustainable use of the Danube River.

The Danube River Basin District Management Plan therefor has to address this questions:

- a) Basic data on sediment discharge of the Danube River with special respect to the sediment balance of free flowing stretches.
- b) Basic data on longterm development of water levels of Danube River with special respect to low water periods.
- c) Analysis of major reasons for the disturbance of sediment regime, river bed degradation, and longterm alterations in water level.
- d) Strategy to achieve a balanced regime for bedload and suspended sediments.
- e) Strategy to sustain the level of the river bed and water surface.

2) Role of protected areas:

Many areas with high potential and priority for revitalization are situated within or nearby protected areas. The management units of these protected areas should be directly involved.

Best Regards

Christian Baumgartner

Dr. Christian Baumgartner

Bereichsleiter Natur & Wissenschaft

Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH

Schloss Orth, 2304 Orth an der Donau, Österreich

Tel. +43 (0)2212-30026-15, Fax: DW 17

Mobil +43 (0)676-84223513

e-mail c.baumgartner@donauauen.at

www.donauauen.at

FN 153254z, HG Korneuburg, ATU 418 72 201

Nationalpark Donau-Auen Blog

Erfahren Sie mehr über unsere Arbeit – und posten Sie mit!

schlossORTH Nationalpark-Zentrum mit Schlossinsel

Ausstellungen & Veranstaltungen, Info & Buchung, Shop & Bistro

21. März bis 1. November täglich geöffnet