

Joint meeting of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and DANUBEPARKS

Representatives of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative met with delegates from the Danube River Basin countries in International Conference Centre Geneva during the evening time slot devoted to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives on 4 November 2022, a day before opening of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14).

The [joint meeting](#) provided short information on history, activities and future plans of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), launched in 2004, and on the DANUBEPARKS network and its Wild Islands LIFE project within which a new Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) is developed.

As the DANUBEPARKS concluded:

- Danube natural heritage is unique
- Danube protected areas are key sites
- transnational cooperation is needed at the world's most international river
- DANUBEPARKS is an on-site actor with experience and capacity
- WILDIsland as best practice for Green and Blue Infrastructure
- LIFE WILDIsland is support for large-scale implementation
- Danube WILDIsland Ramsar Regional Initiative as future perspective

Added value of a Danube WILDIsland Regional Initiative:

- first river-based RRI in Europe
- good practice for other large rivers (in Europe)
- connecting existing RRIs (CWI & BlackSeaWet)
- EUSDR & Danube WILDIsland to link Ramsar & EU macro-regional strategies (like EUSBR & NorBalWet, EUSAIR & MedWet)
- new dimension of Ramsar management (non-intervention vs. wise-use)
- "Contracting Parties have the main responsibility to create, manage, develop, supervise and coordinate the functioning of the RRI and establish their coordinating unit - delegated to a centre" like DANUBEPARKS

The CWI supports establishment of the new RRI Danube WILDIslands and identifies fields of possible future cooperation

- Support of the CWI to DANUBEPARKS in finalisation of the WILDIslands RRI documentation
- Advice of the DANUBEPARKS to CWI and Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) in developments of the governance of the networks
- Stronger voice of wetlands / Ramsar issues in the EU Strategy for the Danube region (EUSDR) and its Priority Areas and in the Carpathian Convention / EU / Bern Convention level – policy and advocacy action
- Common projects and management / restoration activities / ecological connectivity
- Common training and CEPA activities
- Exchange of information and cooperation with partners (WWF, IUCN, Wetlands International, BirdLife, ALPARC, CNPA...)



CWI Meeting, Geneva 4 November 2022, Photo: CWI



Joint CWI and Danube WILDislands meeting, Photo: CWI



Meeting of the CWI and WILDIslands RRI, Photo: CWI



Tasting of Carpathian and Danube regional products, Photo: Ján Kadlečík