Why is the river Danube important?

The Danube River is Europe's second longest river with a length of 2,860 km and is shared by 17 countries. With more than 11 million inhabitants along its course and as a major waterbody for a number of endemically rare fauna and flora species, the Danube attracts birders, biologists and environmentalists alike. The river and its ecosystem are a vital element of the Danube riparian countries' natural heritage and economy.

Over the years, Industrial developments, the construction of flood control schemes and the overuse of water resources lead to the preservation of small-scale ecosystems. The river has undergone massive changes over the years. Industrial developments, the construction of flood control schemes and the overuse of water resources lead to the preservation of small-scale ecosystems.

DEF aims

To influence the implementation of the Danube Regional Project (DRP) and promote the participation of NGOs in the implementation of the DRP's projects.

DEF's efforts are based on:

- protecting the natural values of the Danube region and promoting and implementing ecological policies for the conservation and sustainable management of the Danube and its related ecosystems.
- encouraging and promoting the involvement of NGOs in the implementation of the DRP's projects.
- providing training and technical assistance to NGOs involved in the implementation of the DRP's projects.
- advocating for the protection of the Danube region and its related ecosystems.
- strengthening the capacity of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and its member countries to implement the DRP.

What is DEF?

The Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) was created in 1998 in Vienna with the aim of promoting partnerships, lobbying and policy work for the protection and sustainable management of the Danube region. DEF is a Danube River Basin-wide platform of non-governmental, non-profit, non-commercial organizations working on environmental issues in the Danube region. The main goal of DEF is to influence the sustainable development of the Danube region and its related ecosystems.

DEF intends to provide and actively disseminate information on the state of the environment, national and international legislation, conventions and strategies. We also intend to provide a platform for the protection and sustainable management of the Danube region and its related ecosystems.

What are DEF's priority areas?

Public awareness and environmental education

The Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) is focused on public awareness and environmental education. DEF is committed to increasing public awareness of environmental issues in the Danube region and promoting sustainable development through public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and training workshops.

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Danube Regional Project

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) is an umbrella for some 80 activities. These are aimed at improving water supply, strengthening agricultural policy, providing river basin management tools and other water services, strengthening NGO co-operation and related activities.

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Current DEF project

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

Project aim:

The aim of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project (DRP) was to create a new mechanism for dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the Danube region, to promote the implementation of the Danube Environmental Convention (DICP), and to support the sustainable use of natural resources in the Danube region.

Project action:

The project included the following components:

- Land use planning and development projects to promote sustainable land use and to reduce the impact of land use on the environment.
- Water management projects to improve water quality and quantity and to reduce the impact of water use on the environment.
- Environmental education and awareness raising projects to increase public awareness of environmental issues in the Danube region.

Project outcomes:

The project achieved the following outcomes:

- Improved water quality and quantity in the Danube region.
- Increased public awareness of environmental issues in the Danube region.
- Improved land use planning and development in the Danube region.

Mission statement:

To protect the Danube River basin's biodiversity and resources, by enhancing cooperation among governments, non-governmental organizations, and people and stakeholders towards the sustainable use of natural resources.

Restoration and management of wetlands

Wetlands are among the most endangered habitats in the world. They play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and are often referred to as "the lungs of the Earth". They serve as a buffer against pollution and are critical for fish and wildlife populations. The project aims to protect and restore wetlands in the Danube region.

The knowledge, expertise and capacity of national experts are key to the project's success. The project aims to support national experts in the Danube region and to promote international co-operation and collaboration. The project also aims to promote and support the development of wetland restoration activities in the Danube region.

The project will provide support for the development of wetland restoration activities in the Danube region. It will also support the development of wetland management tools and other water services, strengthening NGO co-operation and related activities.

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