

# Eco-tourism development in Upper-Danube Special Nature Reserve

2007-2020  
Policy exercise event

5th October, 2007

Group-2  
Novi Sad

# Aims and time frame of the participatory process initiated

## Aims:

- ❖ Initiate discussions related to local, regional development planning
- ❖ Identify local problems, needs related to development of eco-tourism
- ❖ Knowledge integration (expert and local)
- ❖ Develop sustainable tourism: to strengthen local tourism in line with nature protection
- ❖ Manage uncertainties related to local development

## Time frame:

- ❖ Planning process: 2 years
- ❖ Implementation, monitoring, evaluation: continuously till 2020

# Social actors of the participatory process

- ❖ National governments
- ❖ Ministry of Environment
- ❖ Water Management Authorities
- ❖ Forest management authorities
- ❖ Nature conservation NGO-s
- ❖ Local governments
- ❖ Industry
- ❖ Eco-tourism operators (pensions, restaurants or those interested to develop them etc.)
- ❖ Entrepreneurs
- ❖ Local artisans
- ❖ Farmers
- ❖ Young people (as potential operators of eco-tourism)
- ❖ Old people (know local traditions the best)

# Participatory methods

- ❖ Policy exercise
- ❖ Scenario workshops with local people
- ❖ Trainings
  - eco-tourism: for those interested in developing services, programmes, products for eco-tourism and agro-tourism
  - environmental education: events with local schools (excursions, summer camps, special training materials developed)
- ❖ Eco-tourism events

# Policy exercise

- ❖ With scientists and decision-makers:
  - to introduce eco-tourism to policy-makers,
  - increase awareness on the importance of nature conservation
- ❖ Outcome: report on the event, press release to local and regional newspapers

# Scenario workshops

- ❖ To create scenarios for eco-tourism based on community consensus
- ❖ Personal public invitation letter to representatives of social actors
- ❖ Input report:
  - results of impact assessment of community discussions on potential industrial investment (port, enbankments)
  - appraisal of state of affairs, problems, future visions
  - expert scenarios as a starting point for further discussions
- ❖ Participants (25-30 people expected):
  - representatives of various social actors
- ❖ Outcome:
  - detailed report on scenarios developed
  - policy suggestion for policy-makers on scenario to be implemented
  - press release to local and regional newspapers and to website of the participatory process

# Current situation

## Governance

- ❖ International NGO-s pushing the agenda of biosphere reserve
- ❖ 2 countries waiting for EU-accession: Serbia, Croatia, 3 countries already in EU: Hungary, Slovenia, Austria

## Economy

- ❖ Moderate level of local eco-tourism, eco-tourism development plan at the national level
- ❖ Plans of building the port, enbankments
- ❖ No coordination of tourism activities, no management authority for the development activities
- ❖ Intensive forestry, hunting tourism, moderately intensive agriculture

## Society

- ❖ Local culture (handicrafts, embroideries, traditional food, agricultural products, festivals)
- ❖ Population density: low
- ❖ Education of population: agricultural-oriented

## Environment

- ❖ Special nature reserve established in Serbia in 2001, rare bird species
- ❖ No visitors centre, bird-watching tower
- ❖ Some bilateral agreements between countries on nature conservation
- ❖ Cooperation of environmentalists: IUCN, local NGO-s, governmental organisations

## Technology

- ❖ Plans for dams, port, enbankments, hydroelectric plant

# Driving forces

## **Governance**

- ❖ Legal aspects: EU-laws, conservation laws, relationship of national agricultural, forestry and conservation policy
- ❖ EU accession of Serbia, Croatia

## **Environment**

- ❖ Level of environmental awareness
- ❖ Influence of international NGO-s such as WWF, IUCN, UNESCO

## **Economy**

- ❖ Level of purchasing power increasing

## **Demography**

- ❖ Human population growth: 4000-5000 people/ village
- ❖ Aging population

## **Technology**

- ❖ Industrial lobby (dams, enbankments)

## **Social**

- ❖ Some old traditions still conserved



# Critical uncertainties

- ❖ EU- accession on the way?
- ❖ International relations (conflict between countries?)
- ❖ Building of ports, enbankments?
- ❖ Regulation and implementation of nature conservation and environmental policy in the respective countries?
- ❖ National and regional development plans of the respective countries? (hard infrastructure vs. soft development)

# Scenario 1

## Sustainable eco-tourism

- ❖ No port, no energy plant, no dam
- ❖ Eco-tourism develops, but only in the buffer and transition zone: local culture conserved, handicrafts, local dresses, healthy (might be even organic) local agricultural products
- ❖ Only scientists can go the core area
- ❖ Small local enterprises based on local resources and local employment: tour-guides, accommodation, food (locally processed agricultural products)
- ❖ Walking trails are developed
- ❖ Number of visitors: limited
- ❖ Involvement of locals in drawing up of local eco-tourism and development plan, decision-making
- ❖ Bird-watch towers
- ❖ Small-scale nautical tourism
- ❖ Environmental education (using also the walking trails for this purpose)

# Scenario 1

## Sustainable eco-tourism

Increase

Decrease

### GOVERNANCE

EU-laws  
Conservation laws  
Conservation policy  
Collision between countries

### ENVIRONMENT

Level of environmental awareness  
Influence of international NGO-s (WWF, IUCN, UNESCO)

Level of biodiversity

Water pollution  
Garbage amount

Environmental education level

### ECONOMY

Level of purchasing power  
Industrial lobby (dams, embankments)

Number of locally owned enterprises

Number of families living from eco-tourism (org. products)

Number of visitors

### TECHNOLOGY

Intensity of agriculture  
Mechanical Fishing

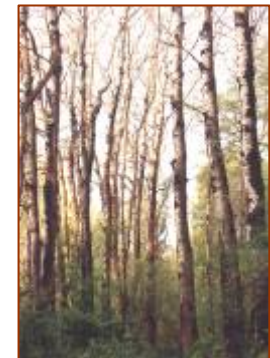
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Gender, Health  
Growth, Age and  
Education of population

Local employment

Education level of locals

Living standard



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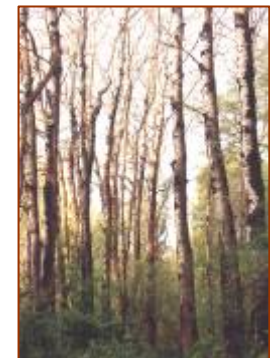
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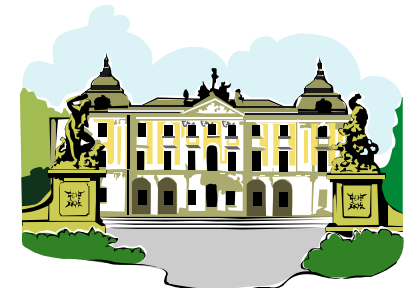
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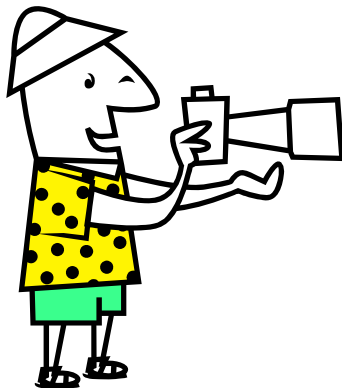
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SUSTAINABLE ECO-TOURISM

# Scenario 1

## Sustainable eco-tourism





# Scenario 2-Construction

- ❖ Port, dams constructed
- ❖ Destruction of nature
- ❖ Local traditions suffer
- ❖ Eco-tourism low level

# Scenario 2-Construction

Increase

Decrease

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## ECONOMY

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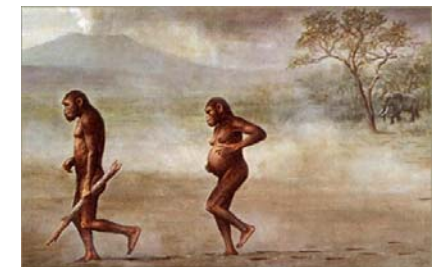
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LOW LEVEL ECO-TOURISM

LOW LEVEL ECO-TOURISM



# Scenario 2-Construction





# Scenario 3-Business as usual

- ❖ Hunting tourism continues
- ❖ Intensive forestry continues
- ❖ Level of environmental education remains low
- ❖ Number of tourists slightly increases
- ❖ Moderate increase in eco-tourism programmes
- ❖ Some infrastructure developed for tourists (birdwatching tower, visitors centres, accommodation)
- ❖ Not much cooperation between countries
- ❖ Not much cooperation between those involved in eco-tourism
- ❖ No involvement of locals in designing local development plans

**MODERATE ECO-TOURISM**