

Bucharest and IAD-Expert Group Leader for Water Quality, gave a talk on challenges in Danube Water quality. In the four World Cafes organised in the afternoon 'Co-creation, Co-design and Citizen Science' was another subject of exchange.

As a result of the Participation Day, recommendations on each key area included in the agenda were summarized. This

document will be forwarded to representatives of the EUSDR, e.g., during the Annual Forum in June 2024 and on other occasions. The document and further information can be accessed here:

<https://danubestrategy.eu/events/3rd-npd-austria-waters2040>

International Symposium „Deltas & Wetlands” at DDNI, Tulcea, May 2024

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The 'Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development' organized in Tulcea, between May 13 - 17, 2024, the 31st edition of the 'Deltas & Wetlands' International Symposium (<https://ddni.ro/wps/deltaswetlands-31-symposium-2024/>). The event was attended by approx. 200 representatives from 20 countries. It took place under the patronage of IAD (International Association for Danube Research), BENA (Balkan Environment Association), with the support of the Tulcea County Council and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority.

The Symposium included four sections, covering several research fields: biodiversity and nature conservation, environmental factors, anthropogenic impact, new research approaches regarding climate change in the European Green Deal Challenges, natural and socio-economic resources, GIS & modelling systems.

Honorary plaques with the title 'Researchers Emeritus' were awarded to Nicolae PANIN and Dan BĂLTEANU. Stoica Preda GODEANU presented the book 'The eight layers of our planet', in the process of release.

The Symposium brought together specialists and researchers, among them Andreea STRACHINESCU, Head of unit - DG MARE, Ming JIANG, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ulrike LEIS, Deputy Director - Project Finance Program European Climate Initiative (EUKI), Delia DIMITRIU, Climate Impact Director – Smarter Mobility Solutions, Nick NELSON – Inter-Fluve from the United States as well as the IAD members Katrin TEUBNER (General Secretary) and Bernd CYFFKA (President).

Two Living Labs were held within the EcoDaLLi project, the main objective of which was to coagulate the governance structures of the Danube in terms of innovative solutions for the ecological restoration, protection and conservation of the Danube basin and the Danube Delta.

Topics of the presentations addressed the pillars of the Danube Delta Decarbonisation Strategy developed by the 3D Initiative



View of the auditorium. © Edward Bratfanof

(<https://edaphic-bloom.eu/>): Mobility Pillar, Agriculture Pillar, Energy Pillar, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Pillar, Circular Economy Pillar and issues regarding cooperation between the Danube and the Nile deltas.

The round table 'Artificial intelligence for climate change adaptation and mitigation', concluded that an increasing number of researchers are turning to artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor biodiversity and streamline efforts to help species threatened by decline or even extinction. Unlike conventional methods that can disrupt ecosystems or require considerable time, labor and resources, AI has the potential to analyze large amounts of real-world data quickly and efficiently.

Biodiversity loss is one of the most critical issues facing humanity, requiring urgent and coordinated action. Despite continuous conservation efforts, biodiversity has declined dra-

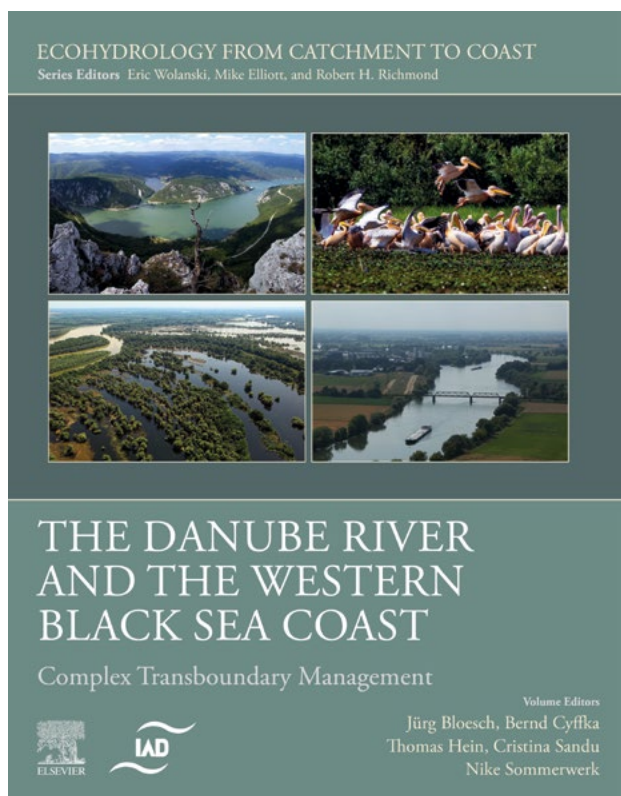
matically in recent decades. Artificial intelligence (AI) is a tool that offers opportunities to accelerate action on biodiversity conservation.

The PICO Business session was an opportunity to explore and discuss issues related to the public CDI partnership with the business environment in an interactive and engaging format. Through the PICO method, participants presented and discussed ideas, innovations and business projects in a concise and structured way.

The symposium provides a valuable platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences in wetland ecology and health. The resulting conclusions will serve as a starting point for concrete actions and continued engagement in conserving and protecting wetlands and promoting sustainability in natural resource management.

New book announcement:

The Danube River and The Western Black Sea Coast: Complex Transboundary Management



This book is a new volume in the Elsevier series 'Ecohydrology from Catchment to Coast' treating all large rivers in the world. According to the headline, it focuses on the second largest river in Europe, the Danube River Basin (DRB) and its recipient, the Western Black Sea Coast (WBSC). Sturgeons, as prominent flagship species, that appears in a few chapters, show best the link between the sea and the river. The Editorial

Board and most of the Chapter Authors are IAD members, making this book truly an IAD-publication.

An Introduction (Theory and Practice – Science meets Management) and a summary with outlook (Towards a sustainability approach for the socio-ecological system) encircles three parts: The first part (Chapters 2-7) treats selected scientific aspects such as hydrology and hydromorphology, sediment balance, water quality, aquatic biodiversity, the Danube Delta and the Black Sea Coast. The middle part (Chapters 8-13) covers key pressures and implementation of transboundary water management: hydromorphological alterations and overexploitation of aquatic resources, invasive species, climate change, political key players, the role of protected areas, and stakeholder participation. The third part (Chapters 14-16) assesses visions for a sustainable future in the Danube River Basin, considering sustainable development, ecosystem services, human interaction, and improving biodiversity through floodplain conservation and restoration. Amongst others, the primacy of the economy (business as usual) is questioned with regard to DRB and WBSC development. The greatest political problem is the badly missing implementation of environmental law. A key element for successful projects is the proper application of public participation. A couple of distinct case studies clearly elucidate the existing environmental problems.

The book is addressed to a variety of potential readers, from scientists and students to water managers, economists, nature conservationists and the interested public. Its publication is scheduled for 4th quarter of 2024.