



Expert group leader:

Prof. Dr. Dušanka Cvijanović

IAD Expert Group: **Habitat Monitoring and Conservation**

The Expert Group for Habitat Monitoring and Conservation works **to enhance habitat assessment and restoration across the Danube Basin**. By integrating EUNIS standards, remote sensing technologies, and key conservation frameworks such as the EU Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention, we promote **consistent monitoring, data-driven conservation strategies**, and regional collaboration to **preserve biodiversity**.

The specific Objectives and Goals are as follows

- Develop and coordinate strategies for **long-term habitat monitoring**, and monitoring of restoration measures, with a focus on riparian zones, floodplains, and wetlands.
- **Standardization and Validation** – Conduct national-scale validation of floodplain assessment methods in collaboration with local stakeholders, refining tools for broader application across the Danube region.
- **Address the current gaps in habitat assessments**, and promote the development and application of cost-effective remote sensing approaches in habitat monitoring.
- Implement harmonized techniques and classification systems aligned with EU directives in habitat protection and conservation in EU and non-EU countries (e.g., the **Water Framework Directive**, the **Bern Convention of the Council of Europe**, and the **European Union's Habitats Directive**).
- Compile and analyze habitat and species data from ongoing and past surveys to inform conservation strategies and **enhance water management programs**.
- Facilitate the exchange of information, tools, and experiences among projects, scientists, practitioners, and stakeholders in habitat monitoring and conservation assessment.

The Expert Group actively collaborates with universities, research institutes, NGOs, and governmental bodies across the Danube Basin. **We invite scientists and practitioners working in habitat conservation and monitoring to join our efforts, fostering a dynamic network dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.**