



# SavaParks Network Roadmap

WP3-Strengthening Sava Parks

WP3 leader: Nature Conservation Movement of Sremska Mitrovica

15 May 2021

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Purpose of the SavaParks Network Roadmap.....	3
3. Phases of the SavaParks Network Roadmap.....	4
3.1 THE FIRST PHASE.....	6
3.1.1 SavaParks Network Mission and Vision.....	6
3.1.2 Structure of the SavaParks Network and responsibilities of the Network Bodies .....	6
3.1.3 Communication and cooperation.....	11
3.1.4 Risk management .....	13
3.1.5 Priorities and objectives.....	21
3.1.6 Project ideas .....	23
3.2 THE SECOND PHASE.....	24
3.3 THE THIRD PHASE.....	26

## 1. Introduction

The SavaParks is a Network of Protected Areas in the Sava River Basin established on World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2015, when representatives of the state institutions engaged in the protection of nature, both public and private bodies responsible for protected areas management, as well as national and international civil society organizations active in nature conservation along the Sava River and its tributaries signed the Declaration on the Sava River Basin Protected Areas Network. Members of the Network are connected by their responsibility for the conservation of the typical aquatic and alluvial biodiversity features and habitats along the Sava River, from its source in the Slovenian Alps down to its confluence with the Danube River in Belgrade and along its tributaries.

Aiming at sustainable operation of the network its members joined efforts to develop a document that would streamline the network activities in the forthcoming 7 years period – The SavaParks Network Roadmap.

The SavaParks Network Roadmap represents an operational long-term framework for the future cooperation of all SavaParks Network members and other stakeholders from the Sava River Basin.

It has been created in participatory manner with inputs from a wide range of stakeholders gathered at regional workshops organized within the frame of the Sava TIES project and at biannual SavaParks Network meetings.

Stakeholders were from different levels - local, regional and national level, different sectors – like nature and water management or the agricultural sector, and represented different institutions from the Sava River Basin, such as ministries, public utility companies, universities, institutes and civil society organizations. They discussed topics as follows:

- the vision and mission,
- the structure of the Network,
- roles and responsibilities of the different network bodies and members,
- communication rules and
- risk management.

Priorities and objectives represented in this document are the SavaParks Guiding Principles prioritized by the stakeholders. These objectives are setting an outline for the elaboration of concrete project ideas, which shall be implemented by the Network in the forthcoming 6 years period.

## 2. Purpose of the SavaParks Network Roadmap

The purpose of the SavaParks Network Roadmap is to secure continuous long term operational basics of the Network and the cooperation of the cross-sectoral stakeholders in line with the SavaParks Guiding Principles that provide a framework to harmonize the use of natural resources in protected areas along the Sava and its tributaries, as well as river and floodplain stretches currently not under protection, with aspects of biodiversity conservation

and the preservation of ecosystem services, maintenance of environmental flows and the protection of the cultural heritage of the Sava River Basin.

The Roadmap provides an organizational setting, communication rules and considers the projects needed to be taken for nature conservation, river and floodplain rehabilitation, climate change adaptation and sustainable regional development along the Sava River and its tributaries in the period after the Sava TIES project, as presented in Figure 1.

Moreover, it secures the durability of the Sava TIES project results by establishing institutional, financial and political support for their further use.

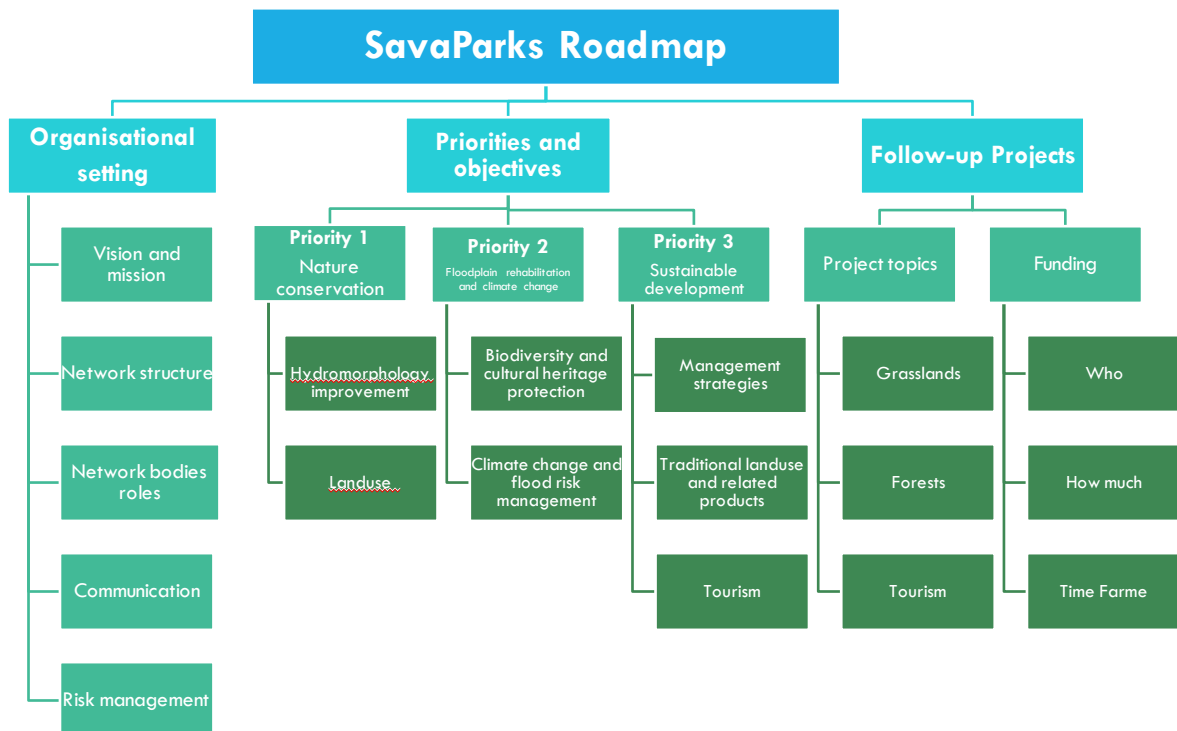


Figure 1. SavaParks Network Roadmap structure

### 3. Phases of the SavaParks Network Roadmap

The SavaParks Network Roadmap is divided into three interdependent phases placed in a seven-years' time period as shown in Figure 2.

**The first phase** is about setting the scene for the network operation which includes:

- defining a vision and mission,
- agreeing on functional structure of the network,

- adopting communication rules for network members, and
- carrying out risk assessment,
- defining strategic priorities and the Guiding Principles objectives
- elaborating follow-up project ideas.

The main result of this phase will be the official registration of the network with structure, priorities of work, operational objectives and project ideas that provide a framework for maintaining the network in the long run towards achieving common vision and mission.

**The second phase** is the core phase of the Roadmap. In this phase project ideas, that were elaborated in the first phase, are further developed into full project proposals in line with the relevant open calls for proposals. The main part of the second phase is project implementation and the network strengthening in a quantitative and qualitative way.

**The third phase** is the final phase of the Roadmap when all achieved results should be evaluated against set indicators.

After each phase, there should be a review of the current state of the progress and redefining type and dynamics of achieving desired results if necessary.

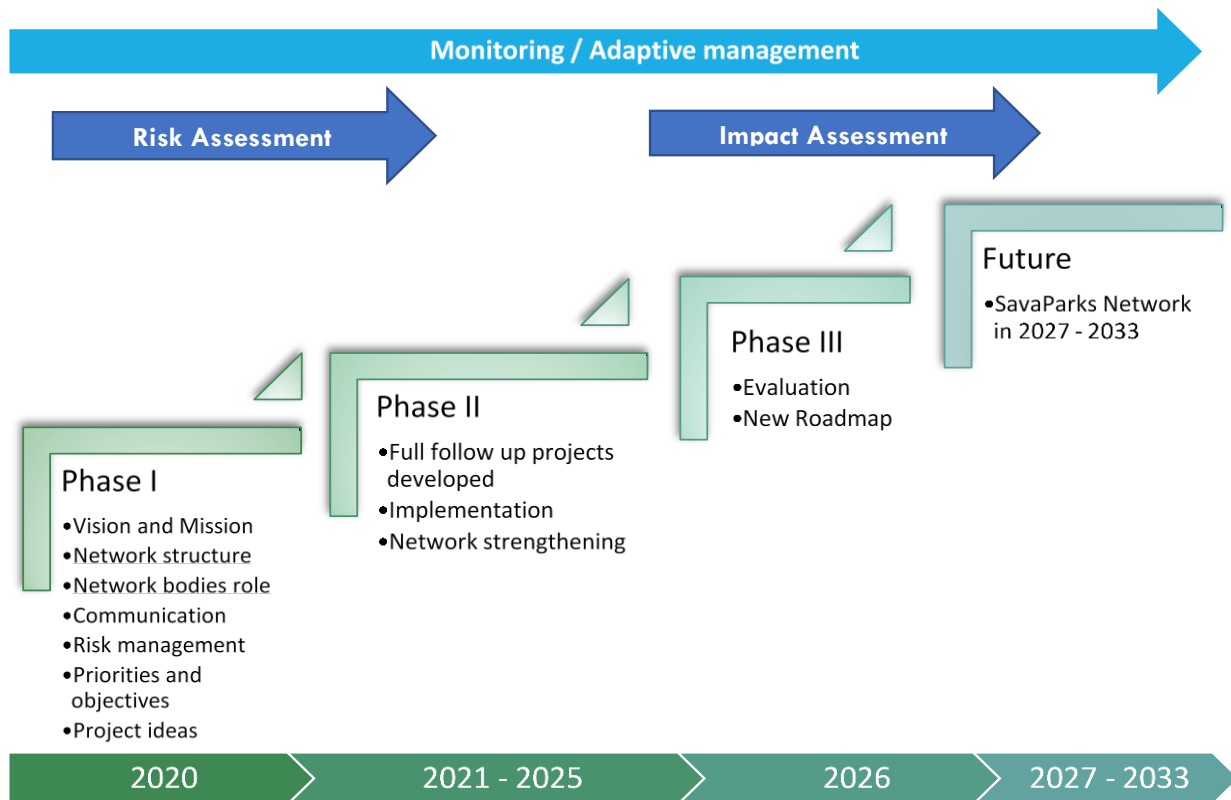


Figure 2. Phases of the SavaParks Network Roadmap

### 3.1 THE FIRST PHASE

In this phase the foundations of the network are laid with the aim of securing efficient operation of the network and smooth communication among the network members leading towards achieving desired objectives based on real nature protection needs in the Sava River basin.

The main outcomes of the first phase are as follows:

- adopted SavaParks Network common vision and mission;
- established the functional structure of the network with defined roles and responsibilities of each network body, for being in place once the network officially registers;
- adopted basic communication rules for the network members;
- carried out a risk assessment;
- further defined the network priorities and objectives;
- elaborated follow-up project ideas.

This phase is put into one year time line and was accomplished by the end of 2020.

#### 3.1.1 SavaParks Network Mission and Vision

##### **Sava Parks Mission**

Our Mission is to protect the ecological and cultural heritage of the Sava River Basin through cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation.

##### **Sava Parks Vision**

Long lasting harmony between preserved nature and human societies in the Sava River Basin.

#### 3.1.2 Structure of the SavaParks Network and responsibilities of the Network Bodies

When developing the structure of the network, the main underlining idea was to secure efficient decision making, as well as smooth and continuous operation of the Network, once it becomes fully operational. In the interim period the Secretariat will be combined with the Leading organization. In addition to that, the role of the spokesperson and the president will be combined and connected to the Lead organization.

The main Network bodies that would enable efficient operation of the Network are as follows:

1. President (P)
2. Steering Committee (SC)
3. Secretariat (S)

4. General Assembly (GA): all members (M)

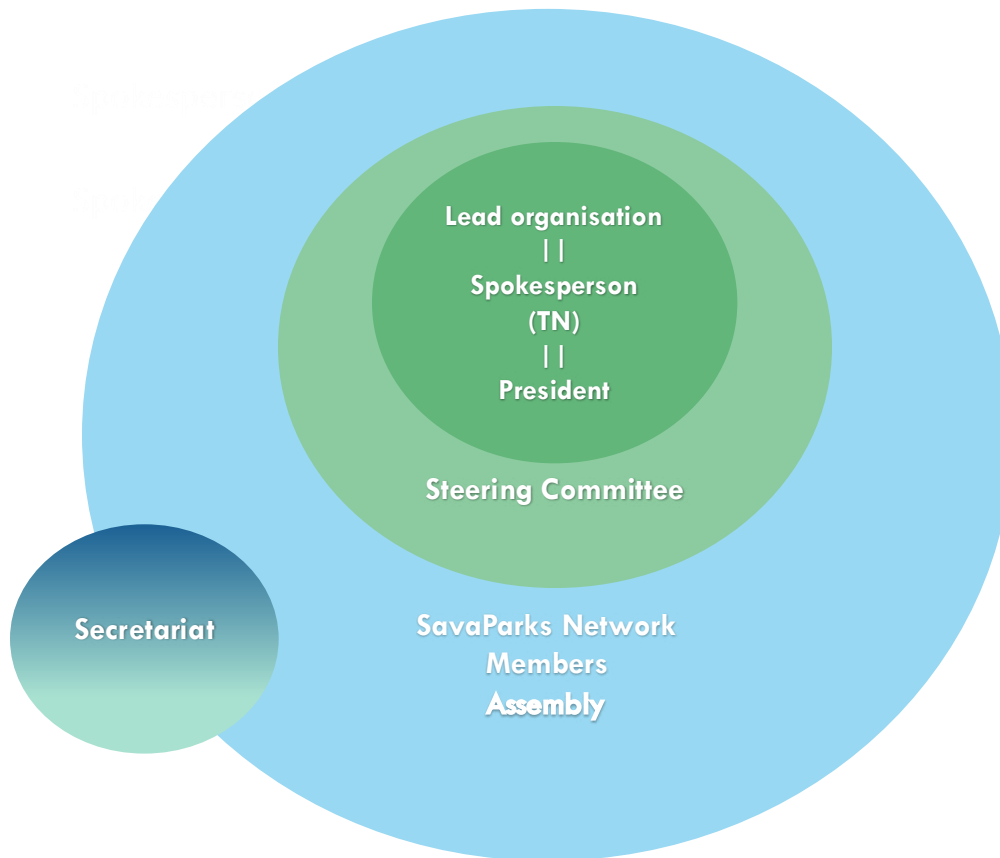


Figure 3. Structure of the SavaParks Network

**President**

The President of the network is at the same time the President of the Steering Committee and his/her role is:

- to represent the Network,
- to lead the Steering Committee,
- sign and verify Network documents,
- propose draft documents for the SC meetings that should be adopted, eg. Annual Work Plan, Annual Financial Plan
- conclude Employment Contracts and Volunteer Agreements with employees and volunteers in case the Network is officially registered.

President is responsible for the implementation of the Annual Work Plan and for the financial affairs of the Network.

## **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is the Network managing body. It consists of 5 members – one member coming from each Sava River Basin country + Germany (EuroNatur). Steering Committee members are appointed by the SavaParks Network members: network members from each country propose their representative in the Steering Committee. Each SC member makes decisions on behalf of all Network members from the country that he/she represents.

The Steering Committee members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of 3 years. The Steering Committee members could be elected more than once.

The Steering Committee meets 2 times per year. The Steering Committee meetings are prepared by the Secretariat and moderated by the President. If the President is not present at a SC meeting his “moderation role” is taken over by another SC member.

Tasks of the Steering Committee:

- strengthen the position of the Network within and outside the Sava River basin;
- lobbying activities and advocating SavaParks Members` interests;
- support the work of the Secretariat;
- prepare documents foreseen by the Annual Work Plan for the General Assembly;
- make a plan for fundraising activities and coordinate fundraising activities;
- present new application for membership at the General Assembly;
- discusses on the Network`s future projects.

## **Secretariat**

The Secretariat is the administrative body of the Network. It consists of a Secretary, communication manager and administrator. Depending on the available budget the percentage of people engaged will be defined. The interim Secretariat is hosted by the Lead organization.

The Secretariat should be moving with the Lead Organization. In case the SavaParks Network is officially registered, the host organisation is in the country of registration.

Tasks of the Secretariat:

- maintain communication among the Network members and the SavaParks Network bodies by all communication tools that the Network has (Website, social media, E-mail lists etc.);
- support spokesperson in preparatory activities for presenting the Network at different events;
- keep the network members up to date regarding nature conservation related topics in the Sava River Basin;
- keep the network members up to date regarding upcoming funding opportunities
- prepare notices, letters, and press release;
- coordinate developing of the new project proposal together with SC and interested members/stakeholders;



- help to organize the SavaParks Network meetings;
- prepare Minutes from the network meetings and share them among the Network members;
- administrate membership fees and new members applications.

## **General Assembly**

General Assembly is the main decision-making body. It takes all strategic decisions, such as:

- adopting the Statute and other strategic documents of the Network;
- adopting the Network Annual Work and Financial Plan;
- approving the annual financial report;
- awarding membership status - vote for new Network members at the annual Network meetings;
- electing the members of the Steering Committee;
- agreeing on membership fees for full Network members.

The General Assembly consists of the full Network members. The General Assembly meets once per year. It is chaired by the President of the Network.

The Steering Committee together with the Secretariat is responsible for organizing the General Assembly.

## **Membership**

Members of the network could be:

- private and public bodies in charge of protected area management in the Sava River Basin;
- ministries from the environmental and cultural sector from the Sava River Basin;
- state institutions engaged in nature protection in the Sava River Basin (institutes, universities, public utilities companies);
- national and international civil society organizations active in nature conservation in the Sava River Basin;
- individuals.

There is no limit of the maximum Network members.

## **Tasks of the Network members:**

- participating at the Network meetings;
- actively working on fundraising for the project proposal defined as priorities for the Network;
- participating in developing project proposals and implementation of the projects (according to own interest);

- reporting activities that are in line with the SavaParks objectives at Network annual meetings;
- regularly sending news about relevant actions to the Secretariat (to the person in charge of maintaining SavaParks Web site and social media);
- publishing the Network news on their Web site if possible;
- voting for the new Network members at the general Assembly;
- regularly paying membership fees to the Secretariat (full members).

### **Membership categories**

Becoming the SavaParks Network member implies many benefits such as possibilities to increase capacities for nature conservation management, to share experience and information, as well as to participate in project developments and implementations.

The Membership in the SavaParks Network provides possibility to influence decision making process within the network and consequently contribute to streamlining the nature protection of the Sava catchment area.

By being a part of the network, each member could strengthen its position in public participation processes regarding different nature conservation issues in the Sava River Basin by getting the network's support.

The type of benefits depends on the membership categories presented below.

#### **1. Full members**

Full members are organizations with work focus on the Sava catchment area. It is an advantage if they are situated in the Sava catchment area.

Full members pay membership fees, have voting rights and are preferred partners for projects developed within the Network.

#### **2. Observers**

Observers are organizations with work focus in line with the SavaParks priority areas and Guiding Principles. It is an advantage if their work is focused on the Sava catchment area.

Observers do not pay a membership fee and cover their own costs. They have no voting rights and no decision-making influence but may be stakeholders and get support.

#### **3. Individuals**

Individuals do not pay a membership fee and cover their own costs. They have no influence but may get support.

### **Application procedure**

Before getting the membership status potential members undergo the following procedure:

- Step 1 - Filling in application form - fulfil criteria.
- Step 2 – Getting 1 year observer status.

- Step 3 - Getting approval by the Steering Committee.
- Step 4 - Getting approval by the General Assembly.
- Step 5 – Signing the Declaration and becoming a full member.

### **Voting procedure**

Each Full Network Member has the right to vote: one member one vote. Observers and individuals have the right to participate and speak at the General Assembly, but no right to vote.

Voting takes place at General Assembly meetings. Right to vote have only full members present at the meeting. In case organizing the General Assembly is not possible, full members vote via E-mail. If the full member does not respond within a given period, its vote is not taken into consideration.

Decisions are made if >50% of the full members vote. However, if the topic for voting is crucial and/or hard, decisions are made if >70% of the full members vote.

### **Membership fees**

Once the SavaParks Network is officially registered all Full Network members pay a yearly membership fee to the Secretariat or respective representative of the Network.

Preferably the membership fee is calculated based on the following criteria: GDP, organization form and organization size. However, the SC can decide on exceptions and other fee criteria if needed. Moreover, the general assembly can agree and vote for other possibilities related to the amount to be paid.

Membership fees will be used for co-financing, the operation of the Secretariat, the SavaParks website (<http://www.savaparks.eu/>) and Network meetings.

Donations by Individual Members and Observers are possible and welcome.

### **3.1.3 Communication and cooperation**

Communication and cooperation of the Network is performed at two levels: internally - among network members, and externally - between the network and all other interested parties. Precondition for smooth communication and cooperation among network members is agreeing on the network bodies and their communication obligation and tasks.

#### **Internal communication of the Network**

The Secretariat maintains internal communication of the Network by

- providing logistic support to the real and virtual meetings, and
- distributing information and documents via E-mail and Web site (section accessible only for network members – planned for the future)

## **Network meetings**

The General Assembly meet ones per year, while the Steering Committee meets 2 times per year. In case it is not possible to organize real meetings, online meetings are organized.

The Secretariat together with the SC and the hosting organization oversees providing logistic support to the network meeting, the SC secures the content of the meeting, while the moderation is provided by the SC, the President and/or the host organization.

Meetings should be financed by project funds, membership fees and by own money.

## **Securing active communication of Network members**

Active communication of Network members is secured by

- clear communication related tasks of Network members in the annual activity plan,
- common projects, and
- Network meetings.

## **Communication in the period of reduced funds/common projects**

Communication in the period of reduced fund must be maintained by the SC through

- organising virtual meetings,
- E-mails communication,
- updating Web site,
- initiating voluntary work,
- standing/lobbying jointly for common goals,
- organising national meetings.

## **External communication**

The Secretariat maintains external communication of the Network by

- preparing awareness raising materials, and
- updating Network Web site social networks.

All Network members shall regularly provide news for the Network Web site and social networks. Network members could publish Network news on their web sites.

## **Funding of the communication activities**

Communication activities are funded by the membership fees and project funds. Preparing of awareness raising materials should be funded from project funds only.

## **Official statements of the Network**

Official statements of the Network are written and signed by the Steering Committee. Official statements of the Network shall be approved by the Full Network members by voting as follows:

- Normal/Easy topics: Relative majority (>50%)
- Crucial/Hard topics: Absolute Majority (>70%)

Online votes can always be added to Meeting elections, especially if member representatives need to discuss their position with their organization/institution.

How to deal with disagreement of individual members?

- Not all members have to agree (disclaimer).
- Official statements could contain a footnote with information on all agreeing members.
- It is not optimal to publish a single member disagreement statement, but if asked, the disagreeing member can use the disclaimer as explanation.
- If the clash is too large, the disagreeing member could step out of the active membership.

### 3.1.4 Risk management

Risk could be defined as exposure to internal and external factors that can cause objective failure or desired objectives and outcomes. To prevent or minimize negative effects of risks, good risk management plan is necessary.

Risk Management planning process is composed of the 3 phases: risk identification, risk estimation and risk management plan.

#### a) Risk identification

to the purpose of this is to identify the existing and possible threats that the organisation might face. These can come from many different sources. For instance, they could be:

- Financial – eg. non-availability of funding
- Natural - weather, natural disasters, or disease
- Political – government policy, political changes
- Technical – advances in technology, or from technical failure
- Social – related to e.g. stakeholders

#### b) Risk estimation

The Risk estimation is based on the principle that a risk has two primary dimensions:

**Probability** – A risk is an event that "may" occur. The probability of it occurring can range anywhere from just above 0 percent to just below 100 percent. Note: It cannot be exactly 100

percent, because then it would be a certainty, not a risk. And it cannot be exactly 0 percent, or it wouldn't be a risk.

**Impact** – A risk, by its very nature, always has a negative impact. We must estimate impact on organization functioning.

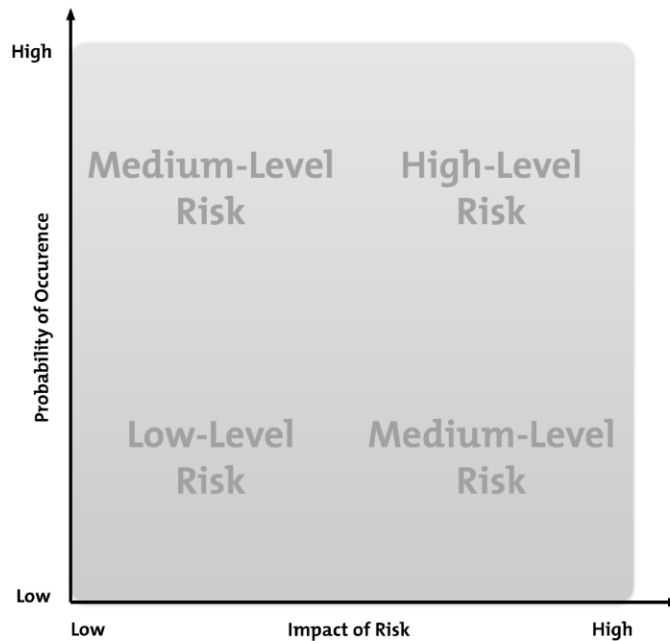


Figure 4. The Risk Impact/Probability Chart. Source: Mind Tools Ltd, 2006 – 2015.

The Risk Impact/Probability Chart presented at figure 4 helps us to group the risks into 4 main categories:

- Low impact/low probability – Risks in the bottom left corner are low level, and you can often ignore them.
- Low impact/high probability – Risks in the top left corner are of moderate importance – if these things happen, you can cope with them and move on. However, you should try to reduce the likelihood that they will occur.
- High impact/low probability – Risks in the bottom right corner are of high importance if they do occur, but they are very unlikely to happen. For these, however, you should do what you can to reduce the impact they will have if they do occur, and you should have contingency plan in place just in case they do happen.
- High impact/high probability – Risks towards the top right corner are of critical importance. These are your top priorities and are risks that you must pay close attention to.

c) Risk management plan

After identification of the value of the risks, you can start to look at ways of managing them by

- Assigning action plans for each risk
- Discussing of risks by stakeholders
- Getting consensus about relative importance of risks among stakeholders

The SavaParks Network risks are divided into 2 main risk categories: internal and external risks as presented in table 1 and 2.

Table 1. Internal SavaParks Network risks

Internal Risks	Type of risk	Risk level	Impact	Contingency plan
Insufficient or lack of fund for continues operation of the Secretariat	Financial	High level risk High impact/high probability	Insufficient /Lack of communication among Network members Long term impact: Unachieved objectives of the Network	Secure that membership fee is paid regularly by clearly identifying the benefits of being a Network member Secure that high quality project proposals are prepared for open calls for projects To raise donations from public  To include costs of running the Secretariat to a project budget
Lack of funds for organizing annual network meetings in the period between the project	Financial	Medium level risk Medium impact/high probability	Insufficient communication among Network members	Organize virtual/hybrid meetings. Motivate Network members to cover their own costs
Members are not willing to pay the membership fee	Financial	Medium level risk/medium probability	Insufficient /Lack of communication among Network members.  There is not enough money to cover the operation costs of the Secretariat  The Network does not operate efficiently	Motivate members to pay the fee (to promote benefits of being a member)  To calculate the acceptable fees for most members
Lack of donations apart from the project-based funding	Financial	Low-Medium level impact/ Medium level probability	Depends on how ambitious we are – but it could be a lack of money for the further development of the Network	To ask for the money from donors frequently



Lack of funds for co-financing the projects	Financial	High level impact/High level probability	Slowing down project implementation	Secure fund from national or own resources before implementation starts
Internal communication tools not in place/operational (website, social networks)	Social	Medium impact/medium probability	Lack of communication/partnership amongst the SavaParks membership	Regular and high-quality content update  Boosting social networks' content and cooperation amongst members/partners  Multilingual content based on network members' languages
Strong disagreement on crucial themes/topics amongst the Network members	Social	High impact/medium probability	Obstacles in development/implementation of joint projects	Boosting open dialogue based on facts and arguments towards joint decision/compromise
Lack of certain members' motivation and capacities for active participation in network.	Social	High impact/high probability	Unbalanced division and participation amongst the members in the Network work	Open dialogue amongst the members.  Reaching the mutual understanding on importance of the network and each individual member  Capacity building based on identified needs of members
Frequent changing of contact person within the members organization		High level risk High impact/high probability	Continuity of Network work is harmed	Have at least 3 staff within organization familiar with SavaParks Network activities

Equipment and facilities needed for Secretariat	Technical	Low impact/high probability	Obstacles in regular functioning and fulfilling the role of the Secretariat	Positioning of Secretariat in one of the SavaParks member (depending on the country of registration) Identification and purchase of needed equipment
Unexpected appearance of IAS species, which can make damage on native biodiversity (example <i>Amur</i> or <i>Pacif</i> , <i>Astacus leniusculus</i> )	Natural	High impact/medium probability	Network does not react efficiently in solving the problem  Network does not work efficiently towards the mission Ecological issues threatening the habitats and biodiversity within the Sava River Basin	IAS database introduced and efficiently operational  Set up Early detection and rapid response system with local stakeholders
Occurrence of natural disasters caused by climate changes (flood, draughts, diseases, and pests like insects)	Natural	High impact/medium probability	Networked unprepared for disaster	Strengthening of the Sava Park for early detection of the problem and timely reaction  Efficient exchange of knowledge and experience  Cooperation with different sectors
Changing of the director within the protected area	Political	Medium impact/high probability	Staff do not have full institutional support in participating at the Network meetings  Inefficient functioning of the network	Main Network activities incorporated in management plans and annual programs

Table 2. External SavaParks Network risks

External Risks	Type of risk	Risk level	Impact	Contingency plan
There are no adequate calls for project proposals relevant for the Network's projects after current projects are finished	Financial	High level risk High impact/high probability	Network does not operate efficiently towards fulfilling the Network objectives	<p>Make fundraising plan and prepare project ideas before the end of the current project</p> <p>Motivate Network members to promote their activities which are in line to the Network priorities and objectives by using Network communication tools</p> <p>Create common projects that do not require additional funds (on voluntary basis)</p>
Lack of donations apart from the project-based funding	Financial	Low-Medium level impact/ Medium level probability	Depends on how ambitious we are – but it could be a lack of money for further development of the Network	To have a list of potential donors and to keep track of them, to communicate with them regularly
Calls for proposals are changed in a way that they become loans, not a co-funding	Financial	High level impact/ Medium level probability	Network does not operate efficiently due to lack of funds in the period of adaptation to new financial mechanism	Preparing in advance for such changes in financial mechanism
Insufficient interest/motivation of stakeholders for the cooperation/partnership	Social	High impact/high probability	Lower quality of PA management caused by lack of multi-sectorial approach	Planning and conducting of the intensive lobbying/advocacy campaign focused on joint interests in close relation to PA management

Insufficient level of knowledge/experience of stakeholders in relation to importance and ways of PA management.	Social	Medium impact/high probability	Lack of stakeholders' recognition and support to possible cooperation/partnership	Planning and conducting capacity building and intensive promotional activities focused on stakeholders.
Internal/external communication tools not in place/operational (website, social networks)	Social	Medium impact/medium probability	Lack of stakeholders' and public awareness  Lack of visibility of the network and its members	Regular and high-quality content update  Boosting social networks' content Multilingual content based on network members' languages
Lack of different sectors' and stakeholders' interests for different Network events	Social	Medium level risk  Medium impact/high probability	No adequate increasing of knowledge, awareness and changing attitude among local stakeholders' communities	To start communication with local stakeholders in time and maintain communication  Local stakeholders should be one of the key communication target groups
Lack of political support for the Network activities due to political changes	Political	Medium impact/medium probability	Policy recommendations regarding different nature protection topics developed by the Network are not incorporated into national programs and strategies	Start talking early with decision makers  Continues communication with all stakeholders
Changing EU policies related to financing of the projects	Political	High impact/medium probability	Not enough fund	Be prepared to adapt to new type projects

### 3.1.5 Priorities and objectives

Starting point for developing priorities and objectives of the Network in the forthcoming 6 years period were the SavaParks Guiding Principles, adopted by the SavaParks Network members in 2015, with the purpose of providing a framework for nature conservation, river and floodplain rehabilitation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development in the Sava River basin supported by all network members and respected by decision makers. All objectives presented

**Sava Parks Guiding Principles**

I. Guiding Principles for Nature Conservation  
 The nature conservation Guiding Principles are with respect to the three main processes shaping the Sava River basin landscapes:

- 1) hydro-morphological dynamics,
- 2) temporal flooding, and
- 3) traditional and extensive land use

II. Guiding Principles for river and floodplain rehabilitation and climate change adaptation and mitigation

- 1) River and Floodplain Rehabilitation to halt loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage
- 2) River and Floodplain Rehabilitation due to climate change adaptation and mitigation and flood risk management

III. Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development

- 1) Protection of natural, cultural, and historical heritage
- 2) Management and development strategies
- 3) Traditional land use and related products
- 4) Responsible nature and culture based tourism

Whole document is available at:  
<http://www.savaparks.eu>

below are the Sava Parks Guiding Principles listed according to a ranking done with all SavaParks.

Network Members at different workshops and Network meetings, now providing the outline for defining concrete projects to be further elaborated and implemented in the second phase of this Roadmap. Objectives are grouped around the three main groups of the SavaParks Guiding principles representing here the strategic priorities of the Network as presented in the table 3, 4 and 5.

They will guide the Network in the forthcoming years towards transnationally coordinated activities resulting in harmonized use of natural resources, conserved and restored the values of water dependent ecosystems and protected cultural heritage of the of the Sava River

basin.

Table 3. Strategic priority - Nature conservation (NC)

Strategic objective NC1. Improve hydro-morphological dynamics of the Sava River and its tributaries	
Specific objective NC1.1	To preserve and restore natural water regime and hydro-morphological processes
Specific objective NC1.2	To increase the floodplain areas and further improve retention capacity of the river and floodplains (exact location to be defined).
Specific objective NC1.3	To promote re-connection of disconnected alluvial forests of the Sava River basin to significantly attenuate the flood wave and increase the flood retention areas (e.g. Spačva and Bosut forests)
Specific objective NC1.4.	To raise awareness on projects that may cause hydro-morphological deterioration, further riverbed degradation and incision, lateral and longitudinal hydrological disconnection, and interruption of sediment flow
Strategic objective NC2. Foster traditional and extensive land use practice in the Sava River basin	
Specific objective NC2.1.	To Strengthen sustainable agriculture in the Sava River basin respecting the needs of biodiversity and nature conservation and maintain traditional environmentally friendly forms of agriculture that support the landscape and biological diversity
Specific objective NC2.2.	Promote and implement natural renewal of forest with native wood species and intensive eradication of invasive and alien species within the Sava River basin

Table 4. Strategic priority - River and floodplain rehabilitation and climate change adaptation and mitigation (RR)

Strategic objective RR1. River and floodplain rehabilitation to halt loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage	
Specific objective RR1.1	Prohibit and/or remove any longitudinal stone construction and replace it with alternative solutions (eco-remediation measures)
Specific objective RR1.2	Pollution prevention from point and non-point sources of pollution
Strategic objective RR2. Climate change adaptation and mitigation and flood risk management	
Specific objective RR2.1.	Assess consequences for the ecology of rivers and resilience to climate change from HPP and always ensure adequate environmental flow downstream as well as up-stream retention areas

Table 5. Strategic priority - Sustainable development (SD)

Strategic objective SD1. Management and development strategies	
Specific objective SD1.1.	Support the recognition of the natural and cultural heritage of the Sava River and its tributaries, as well as the requirements of the European Union enlargement process in the context of future infrastructure and energy development projects
Strategic objective SD2. Traditional land use and related products	
Specific objective SD2.1.	Support the creation of new markets for traditional high-quality products from the Sava region at national and international level
Specific objective SD2.2.	Improve the integration of local community interests in strategies to preserve and manage the biodiversity in extensive agricultural areas
Strategic objective SD3. Responsible nature and culture-based tourism	
Specific objective SD3.1.	Support the development of branding for the protected areas in the Sava River basin to increase their international recognition and attractiveness and to ease the development of a Sava River Protected Areas marketing concept in the future
Specific objective SD3.2	To increase protected area administrations capacity for improving eco- and ethno-touristic offers based on the specific capacities and potentials of the respective sites
Specific objective SD3.3	To develop transboundary nature and culture-based touristic packages interconnecting the protected areas in the Sava River basin

### 3.1.6 Project ideas

Based on results obtained at the action planning workshop, when SavaParks Network members were identifying possible activities that would lead towards fulfilling of selected objectives, three project topics were chosen according to overarching problems and common habitat types:

- wet grasslands,
- forest, and
- sustainable tourism.

The development of project ideas for each of the selected project topics was focused on:

- identifying main problems to be addressed by the project,
- selecting strategic and specific objective of the Roadmap (SavaParks guiding principles) the project idea contributes to,
- identifying ongoing and finished projects complementary to the project idea,
- assessing the project impact,
- defining the project objectives, expected results and project main activities,
- identifying the main target groups, partners and additional supporters to the project,

- proposing source of funding and indicative budget.

Core part of each follow-up projects includes network strengthening aspects, leading to relevant and efficient network growth. In the second phase project ideas should be further elaborated into project concepts ready to be upgraded and adapted to the specific call for project proposal.

## 3.2 THE SECOND PHASE

The second phase is the phase of full project concept development and implementation phase. It is put in within the 5 years' timeframe that should be finished until 2025.

At the beginning of the second phase project ideas developed in the first phase were further elaborated into two projects:

- (i) Grassland protection and management in the Sava River Basin (Sava Grass)
- (ii) Protecting Sava River through resilient and sustainable tourism (Green Tourism at Sava)

**The Sava Grass project** is aiming at mitigating the loss and degradation of endangered wet grasslands within the Sava river basin by

- improving knowledge regarding the best practices related to high nature value farming,
- strengthening of proper grassland management through community engagement and harmonized cross sectoral cooperation in favor of grassland conservation,
- enhancing the protection and/or protection implementation of grasslands within the SRB, and
- promoting and enhancing the visibility of these habitats.

Therefore, the Sava Grass contributes to all three Network's strategic priorities and related objectives as presented below.

Strategic priority: Nature Conservation (NC)

Strategic objective NC2. Foster traditional and extensive land use practice in the the Sava River basin.

Specific objective NC2.1. To Strengthen sustainable agriculture in the Sava River basin respecting the needs of biodiversity and nature conservation and maintain traditional environmental friendly forms of agriculture that support the landscape and biological diversity.

Strategic priority: Sustainable Development (SD)

Strategic objective SD2. Traditional land use and related products.

Specific objective SD2.2. Improve the integration of local community interests in strategies to preserve and manage the biodiversity in extensive agricultural areas.

**Green Tourism at Sava project** is aimed at fostering local and transnational initiatives along Sava and expanding sustainable tourism mechanisms to the entire river basin by



- improving and further establishing the visibility of the SPN as touristic green destination by international cooperation,
- enhancing engagement and mutual benefits for communities and protected areas in the SRB by connecting PAs and local actions, and
- improving sustainable touristic offers and respective economical management within several areas of the SRB.

Therefore, Green Tourism at Sava is in line with Sustainable Development strategic priority and contribute to the achieving of the following strategic and specific objectives.

Strategic priority: Sustainable Development (SD)

Strategic objective SD2. Traditional land use and related products

Specific objective SD2.1. Support the creation of new markets for traditional high-quality products from the Sava region at national and international level.

Strategic objective SD3. Responsible nature and culture based tourism

Specific objective SD3.1. Support the development of branding for the protected areas in the Sava River basin to increase their international recognition and attractiveness and to ease the development of a Sava River Protected Areas marketing concept in the future.

Specific objective SD3.2. To increase protected area administrations capacity for improving eco- and ethno-touristic offers based on the specific capacities and potentials of the respective sites

Specific objective SD3.3. To develop transboundary nature and culture-based touristic packages interconnecting the protected areas in the Sava River basin.

### 3.3 THE THIRD PHASE

The third phase is evaluation and new Roadmap planning phase. Evaluation will be done at the end of each Roadmap ` s phase based on defined indicators as presented in table 5. However, in the Phase II, which is the longest phase of the Roadmap, an evaluation of challenges and achievements should be done each year.

The evaluation will be led by the Steering committee with technical support of the Secretariat. Evaluation findings shall be the input for the new planning phase that starts in 2026.

Table 5. Expected results and indicators of achievement.

PHASE I	Expected results	Indicators of achievement
	Defined the Network vision and mission	All Network members agreed on common vision and mission
	Adopted structure of the network and defined roles and responsibilities of the network bodies	All Network members agreed on the Network structure
	Communication rules are defined	All Network members agreed on Communication rules
	Risk assessment carried out	All Network members agreed on risk assessment
	Follow up project ideas developed	2 follow up project ideas developed
PHASE II	Secretariat is operational	Secretariat is hosted by a network member  At least 1 person from hosting organization works at least 50 % of work time for the Network  Network is officially registered in 2022
	Steering Committee (SC) is operational	Network members from each country proposed their representative in the SC till the end of 2021  2 SC meetings is organized each year
	SavaParks Network is growing in a qualitative and quantitative way	About 5-10 new members and 5 observers joined the network

		<p>until 2025</p> <p>At least 2 potential projects in line to the Network priorities and objectives initiated by the network members each year.</p>
	Communication among network`s members is efficient	<p>Number of network members participating at the annual GA</p> <p>Number of news published at the network`s web site by each member – at least one news per month generated by each member</p>
	Follow up projects developed	<p>Funding for at least 1 project successfully obtained till the end of 2021</p> <p>Secure funding for at least one new network project per 2 years</p>
	Project implementation	At least 2 big projects has been successfully implemented until 2026
PHASE III	Achieved results evaluated and new planning circle started	<p>New Roadmap developed</p> <p>Evaluation of the cycle 2020-2026 has been conducted</p>