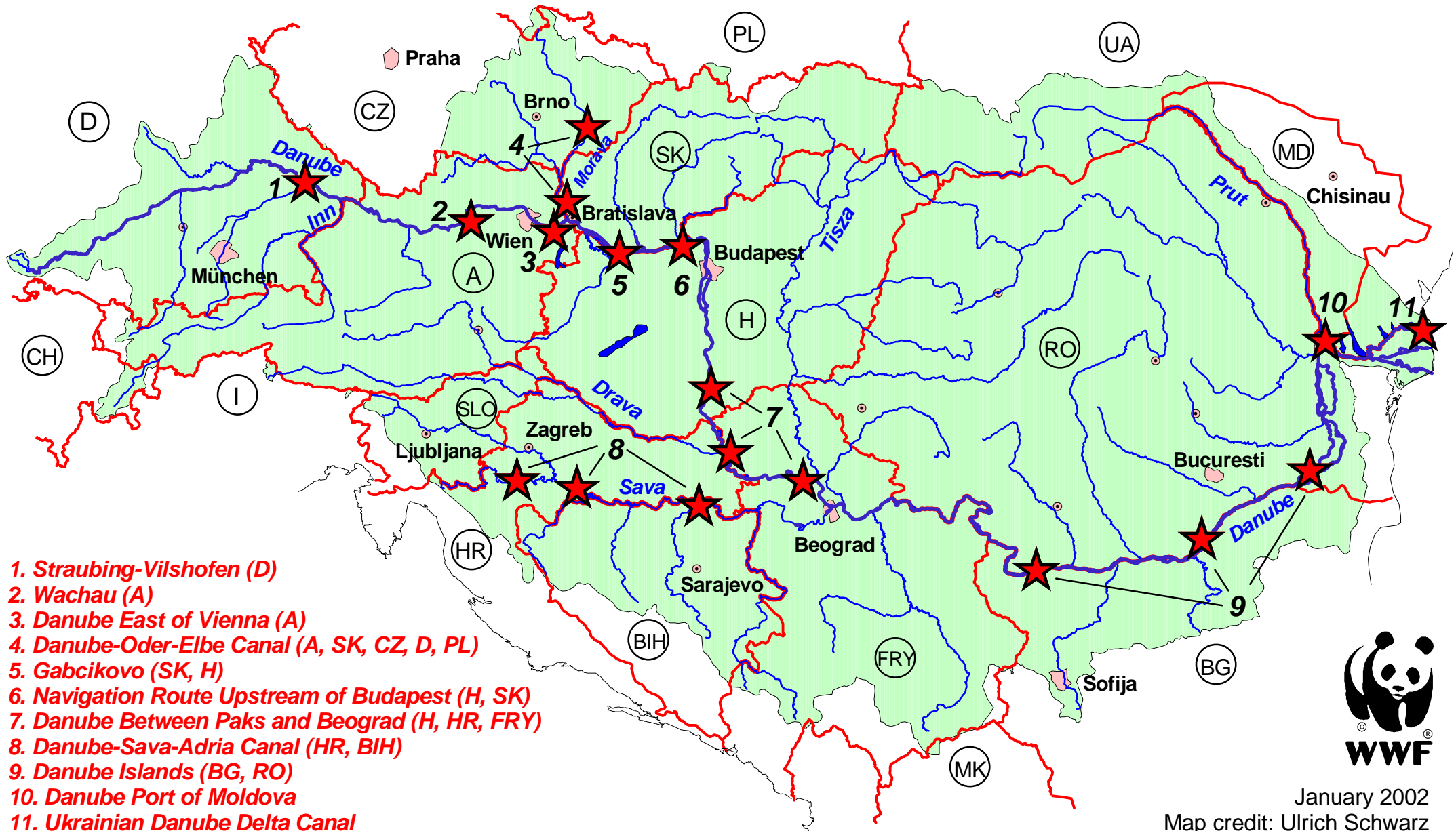


The Eleven Hot Spots: Natural Areas in the Danube Basin Threatened by Development Plans for Waterway Transport



1. Straubing-Vilshofen (D)
2. Wachau (A)
3. Danube East of Vienna (A)
4. Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal (A, SK, CZ, D, PL)
5. Gabčíkovo (SK, H)
6. Navigation Route Upstream of Budapest (H, SK)
7. Danube Between Paks and Beograd (H, HR, FRY)
8. Danube-Sava-Adria Canal (HR, BIH)
9. Danube Islands (BG, RO)
10. Danube Port of Moldova
11. Ukrainian Danube Delta Canal



The 11 Hot Spots

Natural Areas in the Danube Basin Most Threatened by Development Plans for Waterway Transport

1. Straubing-Vilshofen (Germany)

There is a questionable need for impounding the last ecologically valuable stretch of the Danube in Germany. Strong local opposition exists.

2. Wachau (Austria)

Planned river bed re-construction is not compatible with this UNESCO World Heritage Site and very important tourist area.

3. Danube East of Vienna: Danube Floodplains National Park (Austria)

The planned constriction of the river bed and its deepening is in conflict with all ecological needs of the national park.

4. Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal (Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany)

This mega-navigation project has not yet been justified on economic grounds. It would alter or destroy over 400,000 ha of protected river sites. The first conflict is the already initiated port project near Bratislava.

5. Gabčíkovo (Slovakia, Hungary)

The unresolved bilateral conflict remains over the use of Danube water for a power plant versus the health of the local ecosystem. Bed erosion downstream from the Gabčíkovo dam is a particularly serious problem.

6. Navigation Route Upstream of Budapest (Hungary, Slovakia)

Impoundment plans have been abandoned. The navigation channel works affect protected islands and a national park.

7. Danube Between Paks (Hungary) and Belgrade (FR Yugoslavia)

Natural dynamics have led to a unique self-restoration of the Lower Drava River and the Croatian-Yugoslavian section of the Danube. This is threatened by planned river regulation and border correction.

8. Danube-Sava-Adria Canal (Croatia, Bosnia & Hercegovina)

This questionable project (dams, drainage/irrigation) would destroy the still intact Sava River meanders and floodplains.

9. Danube Islands (Bulgaria, Romania)

A 500 km near-natural section with over 60 islands, remnants of the former extended riverine landscape, is threatened by new river bed development plans.

10. Danube Port of Moldova

A new oil port would bring major pollution risks for the Danube delta.

11. New Ukrainian Danube Delta Canal

A new navigation canal is to be built through the core zone of the "Danube Biosphere Reserve".