

# Mura-Drava-Danube as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve'

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**In news**— Recently, UNESCO designated Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve'.

## About the five country Biosphere reserve-

- **Stretching across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia**, the biosphere reserve covers 700km of the **Mura, Drava and Danube rivers**.



- The total area of the reserve, a million hectares in the so-called **'Amazon of Europe'**, makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.
- The strategy's aim is to revitalise 25,000 km of rivers and protect 30 percent of the European Union's land area by 2030.
- The reserve is home to floodplain forests, gravel and sand banks, river islands, oxbows and meadows.
- **It is home to continental Europe's highest density of breeding white-tailed eagle** (more than 150 pairs), as well as endangered species such as the little tern, black stork, otters, beavers and sturgeons.

## Mura river-

- It is a river in Central Europe rising in the Hohe Tauern national park of the Central Eastern Alps in Austria.
- It is a tributary of the Drava and subsequently the Danube.

### **Drava river-**

- It is a river in southern Central Europe.
- It is the fifth or sixth longest tributary of the Danube.
- Its source is near the market town of Innichen (San Candido), in the Puster Valley of South Tyrol, Italy.

### **Danube river-**

- It is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga in Russia.
- It flows through much of Central and Southeastern Europe, from the Black Forest into the Black Sea.
- The largest cities on the river are Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and Bratislava