



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: Vladimir Dobretic

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 25th issue of IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin! We are already for three months celebrating 2011 – International Year of Forests, and all that's wonderful about the world's forests - jungles, woods and mangroves - and what they mean for the well-being of people and the planet.

We thank you for contributing to this issue and for your continuous interest in this publication. Please note that the bulletin is available online at www.iucn.org/southeasterneurope, while guidelines for submitting articles can be found at the last page of this issue.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe

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1. Expertise for experts



Serbia: A training workshop on the IUCN Red List was organized in Belgrade 2-4 March 2011, by IUCN, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia, and the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia within the Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc project. The training was organized for scientists involved in species data collection and analysis from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and FYR of Macedonia. It was conducted by Rebecca Miller, IUCN Red List Unit and Ana Nieto, IUCN Regional

Office for Europe. Participants improved their general understanding on what the Red List is, how it is compiled and by whom; learned how to produce high-quality assessments and how to apply the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, and understood clearly the Red List terms and definitions. Dr Ivica Radovic, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Serbia stressed out the importance of the synergy of knowledge this training offers. “The training was aimed at providing experts with better understanding of the IUCN Red List and to support further development of national Red Lists in South-Eastern Europe” - Boris Erg, Director of IUCN’s Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe added. The training was supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

For further information please contact Veronika Ferdinandova, IUCN SEE at veronika.ferdinandova@iucn.org.

2. Heart of Romanian Carpathians to become model for protected areas management



Photo: M. Gunther

Romania: A new project funded by the Environment Operational Programme of the European Commission will ensure the conservation of species and habitats of 260,000 ha in the heart of Romania. Over a period of four years, the project “For nature and local communities - the basis for a Natura 2000 integrated management in Hartibaciu -Tarnava Mare - Olt area” will develop an integrated management plan and get the local community more involved in the management

and promotion of the area. An inventory of species and habitats of community interest will be prepared. By the end of the project about 65 species and 21 types of habitats will be mapped. A tourism strategy for the region will be drafted and, in more concrete terms, more than 30 tourist trails will be marked as well as information boards installed. For youngsters and school teachers there will be educational packages for schools, training for teachers as well as an educational guide on Natura 2000.

For further information please contact Olga Apostolova, WWF Danube - Carpathian Programme at oapostolova@wwfdcp.bg.

3. Last chance to save Croatian rivers

Photo: P. Vandoren with NGO representatives



Croatia: On the occasion of World Wetlands Day and the 40th anniversary of the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), a delegation of Croatian NGOs (Green Action, Drava League, Croatian Society for Bird and Nature Protection, Udruga Lijepa Nasa), WWF and EuroNatur handed over a protest letter to Ambassador Paul Vandoren, Head of EU Delegation in

Zagreb. NGOs have addressed this letter to EU Environment Commissioner, Janez Potocnik and EU Enlargement Commissioner, Stefan Füle, in order to express their deep concern about new regulation projects planned by Croatian Water Management Authorities which would destroy Croatia's unique rivers and wetland areas of the Danube, Drava, Mura, Sava and Neretva - home to Europe's largest floodplain forests and several endangered species.

Despite the massive protest of local communities and the opposition of the Ministry of Culture - Croatian Water Management Authorities with the support from Hungary is still pushing to regulate the unique Drava-Mura confluence at Legrad, transforming its intact river landscape into a big canal. In the last five years the Drava has already lost about 80% of its breeding population of the endangered Sand Martin due to regulation of its natural river banks. Croatian Water Management Authorities and the Agency for Inland Waterways are also planning to regulate 53 km of the entire river Danube section in Croatia. Major regulation is also planned on the Sava river. About 386 km long stretch of the Sava river, including Lonjsko polje Ramsar site, should be put into a corset. In 2010 Croatian Water Management Authorities started a plan to irrigate the last remaining natural areas of the Neretva and its delta that forms the largest wetland complex along the whole Adriatic coast.

NGOs believe implementation of these projects would prevent the achievement of EU priorities related to water management and the maintenance of valuable ecosystem goods and services, including flood management, sustainable forestry and provision of drinking water.

For further information please contact Petra Boic Petrac, WWF Mediterranean Programme at PPetrac@wwf.panda.org.

4. Setting-up the Emerald Network

Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network

2010 was a significant year for the setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest under the

Bern Convention. Seven countries -from Eastern and Central Europe and the South-Caucasus- are ahead of completing a three-year project consisting in the assessment of their natural resources in

view of selecting the potential Emerald sites at national level. At the end of the second implementation year, in December 2010, some 249 sites were identified, covering a range of 3 to 10 percent of the countries' national territory. The sites selected so far already provide a suitable habitat for more than 1300 protected species. The targeted countries are expected to submit their final selection and relevant databases at the end of 2011.

In the West Balkan's region, six countries initiated Phase II of the Emerald Network process, which consists in assessing, at a biogeographical level, to which extent the national candidate Emerald sites will ensure the long-term survival of species and habitats listed in the Bern Convention's Resolutions. Switzerland and Norway are also expected to enter Phase II by the end of this year. Phase II is implemented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the EEA and the ETC/BD.

To support and guide this concrete field and scientific work, the Bern Convention Standing Committee gave a strong political impetus to the Emerald process by adopting a number of decisions showing a clear will towards the completion of the Emerald Network by 2020. Coherent milestones and targets to ensure success in the achievement of the Network have also been agreed.

For further information please contact Iva Obretenova, Council of Europe at iva.obretenova@coe.int or visit www.coe.int/emerald.

5. Zvezdara forest protection



Photo: INCS Archive

Serbia: The Zvezdara forest Nature Monument is still the precious oasis of greenery in the middle of Belgrade. Its protection has been initiated by citizens and then supported by the Secretariat of Environment of Belgrade City. As the following step, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia created the Conservation Study, which is soon to appear in the public debate.

The area of Zvezdara forest potentially belongs to the climatogene forest of Hungarian-Turkey

Oak *Quercetum-farnetto cerris*. The urbane flora diversity of the conserved area is characterized by the presence of 136 species, out of which 11 are under specific kinds of protection. In addition, out of 48 bird species present in Zvezdara forest, 37 are strictly protected. The study is open for the Public in premises of the Secretariat of Environment of the City, 15 March to 15 April 2011, while the Public debate is scheduled for 19 April 2011 at noon.

For further information please contact Maja Radosavljevic, Institute for nature Conservation of Serbia at maja@zzps.rs.

6. Marine Protected Areas Network in Croatia

Photo: A. Rossetti



Croatia: “Strengthening of the MPAs Network in Croatia” project is a part of a wider MedPAN South project which aims to speed up the process of establishing an efficient management of MPAs in the Mediterranean. Project kicked off in 2009 and its main objectives are to support public institutions for management of Croatian MPAs in the „step by step“ development of management plans; to strengthen the capacity of MPA management public institutions and to improve networking of Croatian MPAs and other

relevant institutions and their integration in MedPAN and AdriaPAN networks, in order to encourage the exchange of information, good practices and solutions to problems of MPAs management. By now series of workshops and trainings have been held and MPAs are entering the last phase of management plans creation. Importance of these plans is even more pronounced considering that this is the first generation of management plans for MPAs involved in the project.

Direct project beneficiaries and partners are public institutions for management of Croatian marine nature and national parks - Brijuni, Telascica, Kornati, Lastovo Islands and Mljet. Indirect beneficiaries are coastal county public institutions for management of protected areas that also participate to thematic workshops. Croatia project coordinator is Association Sunce from Split, and regional coordinator is WWF Mediterranean Programme Office. Project is financed by the European Commission, Fonds Francais pour l’Environnement Mondial and MAVA foundation. Its duration is four years (2008-2012) and is implemented in close cooperation with MedPAN network and UNEP MAP RAC/SPA.

For more information please contact Zrinka Jakl, Sunce at zrinka.jakl@sunce-st.org or visit www.sunce-st.org.

7. Dragash municipality: biodiversity assessment and recommendations



Kosovo: The current project “Preparatory Assistance to Sustainable Development in Dragash” implemented by UNDP Kosovo Office encompasses the biodiversity issue as the main benchmark. Its objective is to increase the Sharr Mountain National Park area, by including at least 22 000 ha of mountain area that will complete the regional mountain corridor under formal protection status comprising a total area of potentially 200 000 ha in FYR of Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo.

According to existing data the area is among the richest biodiversity centers in the Balkans with many endemic, relict, important and rare plant and animal species.

Based on data from previous early investigations, in Sharr Mountains exist about 1500 vascular plant species or more than 20% of overall Balkan flora. Also Sharr Mountains are characterized with reach and characteristic fauna.

With a total consensus of relevant Institutional authorities in Kosovo and backed by existing data, this area should be properly conserved in short time so that the ongoing trend of negative anthropogenic impacts may not deteriorate existing values. The economical benefit for local population and Kosovo in general is multifold in the field of tourism, education, food and agriculture. Later field examinations will reveal the exact situation on the ground and indicate the proper measures to be realized.

For more information please contact Behxhet Mustafa at behxhetm@yahoo.com or Halil Ibrahim at halilibrahimi@yahoo.com, from University of Prishtina responsible for biodiversity component of the project.

8. Management Plan for the Special Nature Reserve Zasavica completed



Photo: Pokret gorana of Sremska Mitrovica

Serbia: During the closing seminar held on 28 January 2011 in Sremska Mitrovica the Development and Management Plan for the Zasavica Special Reserve was presented. The Plan was elaborated in the frame of a project funded by the BBI Matra Program of the Dutch government. The overall responsibility was in the hands of the Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen University (The Netherlands) while Pokret gorana of Sremska Mitrovica was the local project implementer and main beneficiary of the project.

The overall objective of the Development and Management Plan is to integrate the protection and management of the Zasavica Special Reserve with sustainable rural development and particularly with the development of sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism. The elaboration of the plan aimed to set a standard for management planning of protected areas in Serbia. Innovative features in the elaboration process include the application of an inter-sectoral approach and the application of the principles of management planning as set out in the EU Habitats Directive. Four working groups have supported the elaboration of this plan: biodiversity, agriculture, tourism and hydrology. An important feature of the project was training of the experts of the Institute for Nature Conservation of the Province of Vojvodina in understanding and applying principles of the Habitats Directive. Following the provisions in Law on Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia (2010) the management plan is proposed to take effect from 2012 and runs until 2022.

For more information please contact Mirjana Bartula at mirjana.bartula@gmail.com or Henk Zingstra at henk.zingstra@wur.nl.

9. Natura 2000 in Albania

Photo: INCA Archive



Albania: The Institute of Nature conservation in Albania (INCA) in collaboration with WWF Mediterranean Programme organised a two-days training workshop (3-4 February) for the issues related to Natura 2000, in the framework of the CARDS project “Towards the EU

Biodiversity Protection Standards in Albania”, implemented by the two mentioned organisations. 25 persons participated representing the relevant national authorities (Ministry of Environment, Environmental National Agency), scientific institutions (universities, Botanical Garden), national NGOs, etc.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Alberto Arroyo Schnell, WWF Natura 2000 Coordinator, and Mrs. Andrea Stefan, Policy Officer of the WWF MedPO. Mr. Antoine Avignon, from the EC Delegation in Albania, welcomes the participants highlighting the relevance of the project for supporting Albania in the efforts towards the implementation of the EU biodiversity protection standards. The workshop introduced the Natura 2000 concept, explaining the role and the core elements of the Nature Directives and in particular the Natura 2000 network, focusing on the site designation process. One of the conclusions is the need to prepare a guideline book on N2000. The meeting was considered as the first relevant step in the long process of implementation of EU biodiversity framework in Albania, in particular the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

For more information please contact Zamir Dedej, INCA at zamirdedej@yahoo.com.

10. European Tree of the Year for 2011

Photo: Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation



Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation organised the first edition of an international contest called European Tree of the Year. National contest winners from five Central and Eastern European countries competed – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. With more than 23 thousand votes received online, a 500 year old lime tree from Leliceni, Romania won the contest.

The goal of the European Tree of the Year contest is to raise interest in trees with the European general public and to draw its attention to biodiversity loss. “Through the stories of the trees and their history connected to the local community, we try

to create interest in trees and local natural heritage. A high number of votes not only from Europe shows that the topic of trees and their importance for the environment can become a part of the international dialogue,” says Hana Rambousková and adds that France, Ireland and Poland will join the European Tree of the Year contest in 2012. The award will be handed over to the winner in a ceremony held by Environmental Partnership and IUCN, in Brussels.

You can find more information about the European Tree of the Year contest, its finalists and results on www.treeoftheyear.org.

11. Conservation of Long-eared Owl winter roosts



Serbia: There are numerous large winter roosts of the Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*) on traditional sites in villages and towns in Province of Vojvodina and some of them are the world's largest (e.g., Kikinda with more than 740 birds!). They typically roost in coniferous trees where they remain in close vicinity to a large number of people. However, many of these roosts are endangered by tree cutting, disturbance or shooting.

Modern agricultural techniques have increased agricultural production, but the number of pests has increased as well. To combat rodents, farmers use rodenticides, although this technique is expensive and requires frequent reapplication. In addition, rodenticides poison the soil and water systems and have secondary health effects on wildlife. The natural biological control offered by owls substantially decreases rodent numbers, thus lowering crop damage and eliminating the use of rodenticides. Therefore, preserving natural predator and prey relationships in agricultural landscapes is becoming essential tool for ecosystem conservation and sustainable development of rural communities. Conservation of winter roosts will also help the local communities through the development of eco-tourism (birdwatching).

Work under this project will conserve roosting sites through research and monitoring, information boards and an educational campaign. The first information board was placed in Kikinda on 17 March 2011. Additional 17 boards will be put in that many villages and towns in Vojvodina during March and April 2011. The project is funded by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, Provincial Secretariat for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development of Vojvodina, and Municipality of Kikinda.

For more information please contact Milan Ruzic, Serbian Owl Conservation Centre at milruzic@yahoo.com or visit www.sove.org.rs.

12. EKOsovo – Development through Biodiversity

Kosovo: In 2010, which has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity, Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group of Kosovo in cooperation with its partner Interkulturelles Zentrum (IZ) of Austria launched a project aiming at environmental education and supporting civil society in Kosovo called “EKOsovo – Development through Biodiversity”. This initiative is financed by the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo and the Austrian Development Agency. The project creates a ground for cooperation and exchange between environmental NGOs, stakeholders and local communities in Kosovo and contributes to capacity building of the environmental NGOs. Another aim of the project is increasing environmental awareness of the local population, specifically youth, and representatives of the administration in Kosovo. Particular attention is paid to the issue of biodiversity protection in Bjeshket e Nemuna/Prokletije Mountains, the cross-border region between Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania. Activities within this project are already underway and have included NGO trainings and the on-going development of a mountain guide. The next activity is training for environmental NGOs and youth centres focused on environmental education, and in 2011 the environmental education campaign for youth and schools “Shkova N’Rugova” will be launched within the project.

For more information please contact Ellen Frank, Environmentally Responsible Action group at ellen.frank@gmail.com.

13. Further lynx habitat along the European Green Belt to be protected soon?

Photo: EuroNatur Archive



FYR of Macedonia: Two areas - both potential habitat of the Balkan lynx and located on the Balkan Green Belt in Macedonia - are likely to be designated national parks. These two areas, the Shar Planina Mountains in the North of the country on the Kosovo border, and the Jablanica Mountains along the border between Macedonia and Albania, have one thing in common: they host an unequalled diversity of plant and animal species in Europe, among them also most likely Balkan lynx.

On occasion of their meeting with the Macedonian minister of environment, Dr. Nexhati Jakupi, EuroNatur director Gabriel Schwaderer and project leader Annette Spangenberg, as well as Professor Ljupcho Melovski and Dr. Slavcho Hristovski of the Macedonian partner organization MES and Uwe Riecken of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, all stressed the ecological significance of both these natural treasures. Minister Jakupi shares this view and assured

to speed up the designation of the Jablanica mountains as a national park. On Albanian territory, this mountain range is a nature reserve already since 2008. Now, the aim is to establish the nature reserve on Macedonian territory as well, in order to create a large-sized protected area of 500 square kilometers on the Green Belt. According to Minister Jakupi, the Shar Planina Mountains in the North of Macedonia will be declared a national park very soon. Once both areas are proclaimed national parks, the size of protected lynx habitat will increase significantly.

For further information please contact Annette Spangenberg, EuroNatur at annette.spangenberg@euronatur.org.

14. EUROPARC meets NP Djerdap



Photo: D. Dmdarevic

Serbia: Following the offer of Djerdap National Park to host the Charter networking meeting, EUROPARC Director Carol Ritchie and Council member Paulo Castro recently visited the park. The 7th Charter networking meeting

”Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: Building Bridges - Seeking Solutions” will take place from 28 June to 1 July in Donji Milanovac, Djerdap NP. The Serbian government fully supports this initiative, namely the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, The Ministry of the Economy, the Institute for nature conservation of Serbia, and the National Tourism Organization of Serbia. The Minister himself will open the conference along with other high level figures.

Confirming the established cooperation, the Park Director handed Diploma to Carol Ritchie, naming her the Ambassador of NP Djerdap. Europarc Federation representatives also attended the presentation of Eco Primer (author Branka Nastasijevic), that is intended for education of the youngest focusing on the values of natural resources and the promotion of Djerdap.

For more information please contact NP Djerdap at: office@npdjerdap.org.

15. The STAR Project workshop held

Serbia: The workshop on Agriculture in transition was held on 17.03.2011 within the STAR Project, in the NP Stara Planina. It was attended by the PE Serbia Forestry, representatives of the touristic organizations and municipalities, other interested associations, and representatives of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. The workshop was led by Ana Marusic-Morris, an expert in the



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field of European standards of marking geographical origin products. Aim was to present the idea of establishing a collective trademark for products and services from the area of NP Stara Planina and the opportunities this would provide. Collective trademark would certainly increase the recognition and value of products and services of the area. Overall objectives of the STAR project are promotion of rural development, sustainable use and improvement of PA management, the visibility increase of traditional products and their availability in touristic offer, contribution to development plans supporting the needs of local communities.

For further information please contact Maja Radosavljevic, Institute for nature Conservation of Serbia at maja@zzps.rs.

16. IPA CBC project: Albania – Montenegro

Photo: INCA Archive



Albania: In the frame of the IPA Cross-border Programme Albania –Montenegro (2007-2013), the project “Supporting the proposed Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Lake Shkodra/ Skadar area through a participatory approach”

proposed by the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) and Green Home (MNE), was selected as one of the winning projects in the first call. Its kick off meeting was organized on 1 March 2011 in Shkodra city, by INCA and the local project partner, the Transboundary Forum of Shkodra/ Skadar Lake (TFSL). During the meeting the project activities and expected results were presented, while participants had the opportunity to exchange information and network with environmental NGOs and stakeholders in the project area. There were 35 participants from different NGOs, Shkodra Regional Environmental Agency, municipality authorities, Shkodra Region, members of Forestry Services, Joint Technical Secretariat, European Union Info Center, local media, and colleagues from Montenegro, including the Green Home representative. One of the main outcomes was the establishment of the Working Group for designating Lake Shkodra as Biosphere Reserve that will be coordinated by the INCA, in cooperation with TSLF and based on a long term Action Plan for the implementation of transboundary biosphere reserve in the selected area. The civil society network established through this project will serve as a platform to exchange experience and information between NGOs.

For more information please contact Zamir Dedej, INCA at zamirdedej@yahoo.com.

17. Mitigating wolf habitat fragmentation in Central Greece



Greece: Callisto NGO is currently running a conservation project in Central Greece to help mitigation of negative effects that planned E65 highway and high speed railway under construction would have on wolf and wild ungulate subpopulations. E65 highway and high speed railway run parallel in close distance, creating a complex barrier system with other secondary natural and artificial barriers. Proposed mitigation measures and site selection are chosen based on field data (satellite telemetry on wolves, snow tracking, infrared

camera traps, transects) and habitat modeling. Wolf satellite telemetry data indicate that secondary barriers strongly influence wolf movements thus defining appropriate locations for wildlife passages need detailed site examination to locate critical corridor areas.

So far, close collaboration with engineers and constructors in an early as possible planning and construction stage has succeeded the additional approval and/or construction of 2 river bridges, 3 large wildlife overpasses, 7 large underpasses and suitable modification of other smaller passages. Major problems faced in proposing mitigation measures were: lack of coordination in wildlife passage design between construction agencies responsible for different infrastructures (railway, highway) but in the same area (in a multiple barrier system, mitigation infrastructures should be spatiotemporally combined) and frequent modifications of the E65 alignment due to technical causes, so even early mitigation proposals needed constant updating not always compatible with construction time tables.

For further information please contact Yorgos Iliopoulos, Callisto wildlife society at yiliop@otenet.gr

18. Birds and windfarms in Montenegro

Photo: Center for Protection and Research of Birds Archive



Montenegro: Upon learning that the construction of two wind parks in Montenegro is planned - on Mozura and Krnovo, Center for Protection and Research of birds quickly replied to this with the publication of Birds and wind farms, conflict or coexistence as well as organizing lectures focusing on positive, and to the public little known negative effects of wind farms on nature.

Also, through press releases published in the newspapers “Vijesti” and “Dan”, the Center has tried to draw public attention to possible risks and necessary investigations for the upcoming building plans. On 17 December 2010 the Ministry of Economy in cooperation with the Institute for Nature

Protection has organized a seminar on Integration of wind farms into the environment, with special focus on birds. The seminar was attended by representatives of relevant institutions of Montenegro and experts in the field of sustainable development from the EU and the region. One of the most important conclusions, for the territory of Montenegro, is that there will be no building of wind parks prior to elaboration of maps of sensitive areas for birds. This move is of great importance for the conservation of birds in Montenegro and is recognized as a major step in the right direction and commended by ornithological organizations in the region, as well as BirdLife International.

For further information please contact Bjanka Prakiljadic, Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro at bjanka.czip@t-com.me.

19. The Green Belt Initiative in Pella

Voras Mt. (2524m), Greece-FYROM borders



Greece: The Forest Research Institute (FRI/NAGREF) in Thessaloniki, national contact point for the Green Belt Initiative in Greece, currently hosts a German master student, who will do the research on the socio-economic effects of the protected areas, subject to the initiative in the prefecture of Pella (FYRO Macedonia- Greece). As nature protection can only be designated in an efficient manner if local communities participate, the research aims at identifying the potential benefits of a nature protection approach like the Green Belt Initiative on the adjoining communities. Therefore current strategies concerning nature protection as well as regional development in the area will be analyzed.

Furthermore the stakeholder network including not only directly involved actors but also indirectly involved persons or groups like the population in the area around the protected areas will be identified and interviewed for finding out about successes and challenges in the current/future approaches. The results of the research will serve for drawing up an outlook on and recommendations for future strategies and approaches, incorporating a comparison with neighboring regions or countries like the FYRO Macedonia.

For more information, comments or recommendations please contact Julia Guenzel at juliaguenzel@yahoo.de and Nikos Grigoriads at grig_nick@fri.gr.

20. Transboundary efforts for Mura River conservation

Slovenia: Tabrih Association, Medimurska Priroda, International Committee for the Conservation of Mura River, Naša Mura-Unser Mur and other associations and individuals, carried out the 12th Nature walk along the Mura River on 30 January 2011 to celebrate the World Wetlands Day. Their objective was clear and unambiguous message to Slovenian, Austrian and Croatian governments. Mura River with its remaining wetlands and floodplain forests should be included on the list of Wetlands of International Importance protected by Ramsar Convention. This year, more than 500

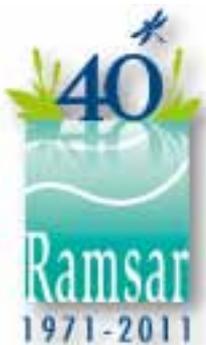


friends of Mura River and hikers from Slovenia, Croatia and Austria gathered in Križovec, in front of the Visitors Centre of the Medimurska Priroda Public Institute. The area along the Mura River in Medimurje is part of 144.000 ha large Regional Park Mura-Drava. The event was attended by some celebrities, like the famous Slovenian musician Vlado Kreslin who has devoted many songs to Mura River. However, politicians and decision makers were missed.

During the walk some of participants spotted the White-tailed Eagle, which can be often seen in this area as the Park Rangers Zvonko and Velimir confirmed. Furthermore Mura and Drava basin are home for other endangered species such as Kingfisher, Little Tern, Black Stork, Otter, Beaver and Scarce Large Blue butterfly as well.

For more information, please contact Gregor Domanjko, Nature Park Goricko at gregor.domanjko@goricko.info or visit www.park-goricko.org.

21. Second Assessment on Transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters



The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) is currently implementing the Second Assessment of Transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE Pan-European region. The Assessment is being developed upon request by the 6th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007) for the 7th Ministerial Conference that will be held from 23-26 September 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Ramsar Secretariat contributes to this process with the aim to introduce a number of transboundary Ramsar Sites and their ecosystem services, cultural and biodiversity values, pressure factors, transboundary impacts and as well as cross-border management. The assessment is organized in 5 subregions. For the subregion of South-Eastern Europe the Ramsar Secretariat included the Drava-Danube Confluence which is shared by three countries and includes the Ramsar Sites “Nature Park Kopacki rit” in Croatia, “Béda-Karapanca” in Hungary and “Gornje Podunavlje” in Serbia. Further, Prespa Park Wetlands which cover the territory of Albania, Greece (“Ramsar Site Lake Mikri Prespa”) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (“Lake Prespa”) as well as Lake Shkodra/Skadar and River Buna/Bojana, shared between Albania (Ramsar Site “Lake Shkodra and River Buna”) and Montenegro (Ramsar Site “Skadarsko Jezero”) will be featured within the assessment. Other transboundary Ramsar Sites in this region include “Hutovo Blato” (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the bordering “Delta Neretve” (Croatia), “Evros delta” in Greece and “Szaporca” in Hungary as well as sites in Bulgaria which extend into Romania (“Belene Islands Complex”, “Ibisha Island”, “Srebarna”).

For further information please contact Kati Wenzel, Ramsar Convention Secretariat at europa@ramsar.org

22. Fungi of Ada Ciganlija

Photo: INCS Archive



Serbia: Based on the mycologist's research, but initiated by the Natural History Museum in Belgrade, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia made the Study of the sites conservation in the favorite Belgrade picnic place Ada Ciganlija, the fungi habitat unique in Serbia. Three species characteristic for wetlands is where numerous fungi species appear; some of them listed as endangered or rare species. One of unique

fungi species found in this area is an extremely rare *Myriostoma coliforme*. Other species found here are *Geastrum melanocephalum* and *Rhodotus palmatus* with the status of strictly conserved species and *Pleurotus cornucopiae* and *Volvariella bombycina* that are on the Red List of fungi of Serbia and Red List of fungi in Europe. The Public insight into the Study "Fungi of Ada Ciganlija" and the legislation proposal on its conservation is possible in the period 15 March - 15 April 2011, while the Public debate is scheduled for 20 April 2011 in the premises of the Secretariat of Environment of Belgrade.

For further information please contact Maja Radosavljevic, Institute for nature Conservation of Serbia at maja@zzps.rs.

23. Wings Across the Balkans – two workshops held



Serbia: First of the three planned workshops, "Priority setting, organization and planning in existing and potential BirdLife International partners of the Western Balkans", within the Wings across the Balkans project, run by BirdLife International, took place in late October 2010 at the Mt.

Rtanj foothill in Eastern Serbia. Project participants are bird conservation organizations from West Balkan countries: BIOM – Biological Research Society (Croatia), CZIP - Center for Bird Research (Montenegro), DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia, DZZPV – Bird Protection and Study Society of Vojvodina (Serbia), HOD – Croatian Ornithological Society, LOA – League for Ornithological Action of Serbia (workshop organizer and host), MES – Macedonian Ecological Society and Our Birds (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Financed by the European Commission through IPA funds, aim of the project is to prepare countries in the Western Balkans for implementation of the EU Wild Birds Directive and enhancement of bird conservation through capacity building within local NGOs.

For further information please contact Dragan Simic, LOA at albicilla@sezampro.rs.



Croatia: Within the project “Wings across the Balkans” led by Birdlife and funded by the European Commission the second regional workshop took place in February 2011 in Samobor. Its overall objective was to improve the level of environmental and biodiversity protection in the Western Balkans and to strengthen role of CSOs in that process. Over 30 participants from nine countries attended

the workshop that was carried out by BirdLife and organised by the Association for Biological Research – BIOM from Croatia. Seven involved NGOs from the Western Balkans were trained with the aim to deliver effective conservation measures for chosen pilot IBAs (Important Bird Areas) in their countries. Priority bird species lists were compiled and analysed with respect to coverage with national monitoring schemes, available human resources and NGO capacities. Further, advocacy and lobbying strategies were developed in order to upgrade the status of chosen pilot IBAs into legally protected areas. Elaborated roadmaps will be implemented by the NGOs during the year 2011.

For further information please contact: kresimir.mikulic@biom.hr or visit www.biom.hr

24. Integrated Protection of the Transboundary Prespa Region



FYR of Macedonia: A regional conference on the integrated protection of the transboundary Prespa Lakes region shared by Albania, Greece and Macedonia was held on 17-18 February in Ohrid. The conference was organized under the auspice of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Macedonia, with support of the Galicica National Park authority, KfW, UNESCO and UNDP. One of the main objectives of the conference was to discuss poten-

tials for establishing a transboundary Prespa Lake Biosphere Reserve. The Prespa Lakes (Prespa Lake and Mikri “Small” Prespa Lake) region is home to exceptional natural and cultural values and they have a long history of conservation efforts. In 2000 the prime ministers of the three countries signed a joint declaration on the establishment of a TB Prespa Park, reinforcing the commitment ten years later by signing the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. Due to its richness in natural and cultural values, as well as the significance of shared water resources, any future effort in this area will have to recognize the principles of integrated and participatory management. The concept of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves endorses the above principles, and its application is seen as one of the ways forward for the transboundary Prespa Lake region.

For further information please contact Boris Erg, IUCN SEE at boris.erg@iucn.org.

25. Bird watching tourism in Croatia

Photo: BIOM Archive



Croatia: The Association for Biological Research - BIOM organised a seminar for the development of bird watching tourism in Croatia as a part of the project “Salbun”, financed by the COAST Project of the UNDP. “Salbun” focused on the endangered mudflat habitats in North-Western Dalmatia and its potential use for ecotourism services. The seminar was held in Zadar in October 2010. More than 30 participants from all over

Croatia attended the seminar, many of them working in tourist agencies or in protected areas. Aim was to emphasize the advantages of bird watching tourism with respect to the sustainable use of resources and biodiversity and its effective protection. Further, positive economic impacts were shown as well as infrastructural gaps and lack of human resources were analysed. During the discussion, it was pointed out, that more resources are needed for effective promotional activities on the European market in order to make Croatia more visible as birding destination. Moreover, BIOM presented its “handbook” for the development of bird watching tourism in Croatia and opened an exhibition of endangered mudflat habitats and its biodiversity. The seminar was a great success as there is interest to repeat the seminar in other regions of Croatia.

For further information please contact: info@biom.hr or visit www.biom.hr.

26. Landscape in harmony workshop

Photo: NP Goricko



Hungary: Workshop “Natural condition of the Orseg Natura 2000 sites: habitats and day butterflies” was held in March 2011 in Oriszentpeter, organised by Orseg National Park Directorate and Nature Park Goricko Public Institute within the framework of the project “Landscape in harmony”, implemented in the Operational Programme Slovenia – Hungary 2007 – 2013. Hungarian experts presented the results of the habitat and day butterfly mapping of the

Orseg Natura 2000 sites in 2010. Almost half of the 60,000 hectares of the Natura 2000 site Orseg mapped was dominated by spruce and pine forests, and young forests with pioneer tree species covering more than 67 % of survey area. From April till August last year the butterfly experts made inventory of 101 species on 90,000 hectares of Orseg SPA. It was for the first time that the lepidopterologists recorded *Everes alcetas*, *Lopinga achine* and *Hipparchia fagi* butterfly species in this area. The last presentation was given on methods and goals of habitat type mapping in Slovenia. It was presented on the example from Nature Park Goricko where the habitat type mapping and butterflies inventory started in 2010.

All mapping results will be used for the preparation of nature conservation guidelines for management plans of National Park Orseg and Nature Park Goricko, butterfly atlas and different guides.

For more information, please contact Gregor Domanjko, Nature Park Gori ko at gregor.domanjko@goricko.info or visit www.park-goricko.org.

27. Environmental education

Photo: E. Savolainen



Kosovo: Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group has once again taken their outdoor environmental education programs into the schools. As of March 2011, ERA has launched its new in-school program 'Shkova N'Rugova' as part of the EU-funded project "EKOsovo – Development through biodiversity". The first classroom to receive this program was a 5-grade class filled with 39 enthusiastic students in the Primary School 'Lidhje e Prizrenit'. Students learned about biodiversity and forestry through games and activities led by ERA's staff and volunteers, following learning by doing and through experience ideology. ERA will follow up with the 5-grade students by planting trees at a local site chosen by the students as part of their own analysis, and celebrate their active participation on Earth Day. 'Shkova N'Rugova' will not be limited only to one school, but will be replicated throughout another 6 schools in Kosovo.

"EKOsovo – Development through Biodiversity" is a project launched in 2010 by ERA group in cooperation with its partner Interkulturelles Zentrum. The project is financed by the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo and the Austrian Development Agency.

For more information please contact Ms. Ellen Frank, ERA group at ellen.frank@gmail.com.

28. Dry grasslands in the Biosphärenpark Wienerwald

Photo: Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Archive



Austria: On one hand, dry grasslands belong to the richest and on the other hand, to the most vulnerable habitats in Austria. In 2010 a multi-year project was launched to restore and maintain this valuable land along the spa region in the Biosphärenpark Wienerwald.

Many rare and unique fauna and flora live in the dry grasslands of the Biosphärenpark Wienerwald between Wien Mauer and Bad Vöslau. Among them the Adonis, Striped Daphne, different species of orchids, the impressive Predatory Katydid, the beautiful green lizard and many more. Some species like the Cantabrian Bindweed are found in Austria exclusively along the Spa line. With abandoning the extensive pasture usage ever since WW II, many dry lawns have disappeared. Those still existing today are often densely grown, thus prone to disappear.

Therefore the Biosphärenpark Wienerwald and the Naturschutzbund Lower Austria launched this multi-year project funded by the EU programme for rural development in cooperation with the municipalities of Baden, Bad Vöslau and Pfaffstätten to maintain or restore these valuable habitats. Exciting guiding tours accompanied by biologists are offered in all three communities as well as informative events with impressive images and film presentations. Professionally supervised care events are held in Bad Vöslau and Pfaffstätten where dry grasslands get freed. Everyone is welcome to join in.

For more information please contact Irene Obetzhofer, Biosphärenpark Wienerwald at io@bpmw.at.

29. What is Green Infrastructure and what how does it help nature conservation?

Photo: IUCN Archive



Montenegro: More than 17% of EU's territory today falls within NATURA 2000 network. The establishment of the network increased significantly the EU area where conservation principles steer the land management, still there remain 83% of our land which is not protected in any legal way. How we should use this remaining land was a topic for discussion at the workshop

on Green Infrastructure held in Durmitor National Park in Montenegro at the end of March. There is no widely accepted definition of green infrastructure and the concept itself has relatively recently been introduced at EU policy arena. In effect Green Infrastructure overarches various approaches for integrated land use all of them well known but with somehow limited application so far.

The underlying aim of building green infrastructure is enhancement of landscape permeability for species and re-connecting habitats which have been fragmented by intensive land use, transport routes and urban areas. Apart from spatial connectivity, the concept addresses the question of investment in ecosystem services rather than in purely technical solutions. It emphasises the integration of environmental and conservation concerns into sectoral policies and planning processes as well as the importance of participatory approach in spatial planning and decision making. GI is recognised as an important element of the EU's post 2010 biodiversity protection strategy, although certain elements were already included in EU Biodiversity Action Plan in 2006.

The main purpose of the workshop was increasing capacity and skills of CSOs for their active involvement in development and implementation of EU environmental policies at national level.

The workshop was organized in the frame of the project EU Environmental Policies and Strategies in South Eastern Europe: Capacity Building for the Implementation of EU Environmental Policies and Strategies in F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia funded by the European Commission.

Link to the EU page on GI: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

For further information please contact Veronika Ferdinandova, IUCN SEE at veronika.ferdinandova@iucn.org.

1. ECOLEX – global source of information on environmental law



New information tool now available: ECOLEX, an internet-based information system on environmental law. It combines the environmental law information holdings of the three partner organizations FAO, IUCN and UNEP. The pool of ECOLEX data is impressive; it contains comprehensive bibliographic and analytical information as well as full text links to more than 1100 multilateral and bilateral agreements, 62000 on national legislation, 420 court decisions and 28000 records on literature

on law and policy. Searching ECOLEX is easy. The portal offers a user-friendly Google-kind feature by which the user can find information in all or selected datasets. ECOLEX covers all aspects of environmental and natural resources conservation, including subjects such as fresh and marine water, air and atmosphere, soil and land use, species and ecosystems, fisheries and forestry, hazardous substances and waste, as well as food and agriculture. All information has been analyzed and indexed in a standardized way, descriptors such as country name, territory, region, keywords etc. were harmonized.

The global access free of charge and the trilingual user interface of ECOLEX attract users in English, French and Spanish speaking countries and especially those in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

For further information please contact Anni Lukács, IUCN-Environmental Law Centre at Anni.Lukacs@iucn.org or visit www.ecolex.org.

2. TB eNEWS – 3rd issue online



The 3rd issue of electronic newsletter dedicated to all aspects of transboundary conservation worldwide is available online on the website www.tbpa.net. TBPA in Focus: The World's First International Peace Park; Greater Mapungubwe and Limpopo to Benefit from New Tourist Border Posts; Cambodia-Thai Rangers Training.

For more information please contact Maja Vasilijevic, Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group at maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com.

3. New tool for custom-made connectivity solutions

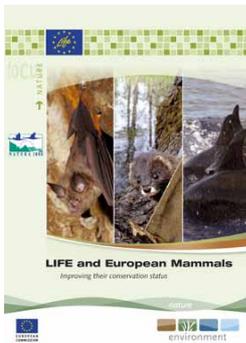
Ecological Continuum Initiative



Do you want to facilitate the migration of animals within and between their habitats? There are many different ways to do this. Whether you are a farmer, a mayor or leading a tourist company: the detailed search of the new online “measure catalogue” shows you possible activities to improve ecological connectivity that are adapted to your individual situation. The catalogue gives good practice examples of implementation, explains which stakeholders can get active in improving and establishing ecological networks and describes the legal basis of connectivity measures. All measure descriptions and good practice examples are as well available for download as pdf. You can enrich the measure catalogue with your own implementation examples. The online catalogue is available in English, German, French and Italian. It is provided by the “Ecological Continuum Initiative” and has been realized with financial support from the German Federal Agency for Nature Protection with funds from the German Environment Ministry.

For more information please contact Mateja Pirc, CIPRA International at mateja.pirc@cipra.org or visit <http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/information-services/measure-catalogue/>.

4. LIFE and European Mammals: Improving their conservation status



This brochure highlights many of the actions that the EU has supported and offers the overview of what has been achieved and how we, together with a wide range of stakeholders, can succeed in securing the future of Europe’s diverse range of mammals, both great and small. Download: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/mammals.pdf>

5. Bjeshket e Nemuna, natural pearl of Kosovo



Regional Environmental Center Office in Kosovo launched the publication “Bjeshket e Nemuna, a Natural Pearl of Kosovo- an analysis of the course to its declaration as National Park”. This Publication, written by Prof. dr. Zeqir Veselaj, is the most complete analysis of the 40 years long process of its declaration as a national park. Significant researches have been carried out for the development of this Publication, and it includes the first field analysis of the opinion of the communities living on the area of the Bjeshket e Nemuna/ (Prokletije); their perspective and their concerns. Some of the mentioned con-

cerns are understanding of national park concept, ownership and property issues, bordering of the area, conservation zones, management issues, overlapping of competencies etc. Around 2/3 of respondents have responded to be in favor of declaring the zone a National Park. The Publication also includes recommendations for concrete steps of the Kosovo Assembly, Kosovo Government, municipalities, communities of the area and businesses. The publication was financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society KFOS, and is available in the REC Library and on the webpage: <http://kos.rec.org>.

For more info contact Zeqir Veselaj at zveselaj@kos.rec.org.

6. Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) for distribution



Drawing on a range of information sources, including National Reports, biodiversity indicators information, scientific literature, and a study assessing biodiversity scenarios for the future, the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) summarizes the latest data on status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions for the future strategy of the Convention. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is offering to distribute copies of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3). Please note that only whole boxes can be sent to distribution points.

For further information, please contact Robert Höft, SCBD at robert.hoft@cbd.int.

1. The Future of the Sava River as a Navigable Waterway and Natura 2000 Site, 13-14 April 2011

Photo: M. Schneider-Jacoby



Croatia: Plans are in place to upgrade the Sava river to a Class IV waterway. At the same time, the river's largely pristine condition and impressive inventory of species make it a key element in the European habitat network. The aim of the conference is to assess the river's significance from a variety of perspectives and reveal potential hazards as well as solutions. The exchange of current information and prior learning among the expert delegates

will be vital to reaching best practice decisions on certain elements of the planned construction. An excursion to the Sava in the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park is included in the program the day prior to the conference. A new floating observation deck has been funded by the German Fund for the Environment

(DBU) and the Croatian Ministry of Tourism.

Please send your registration to Martin.Schneider-Jacoby@euronatur.org or a fax to EuroNatur +49 (0) 7732 / 92 72 22. The participation is free, but for organization purposes it is important to know the number of participants in the excursion and the conference itself.

For further information please contact Martin Schneider-Jacoby, EuroNatur at Martin.Schneider-Jacoby@euronatur.org or visit www.euronatur.org/SavaConference.

2. Search for Nature Photojournalist of the Year

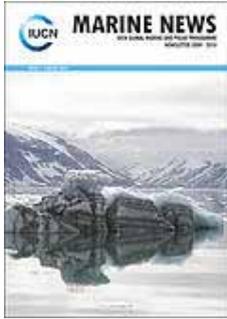
NATURE IMAGES AWARDS 2011
INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF IMAGES AND PHOTOJOURNALISM TERRE SAUVAGE - IUCN

Photojournalists, both professional and amateur, are invited to enter

the first ever Nature Images Awards organized by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and French nature magazine Terre Sauvage. Judges will be looking for entries which use inspirational images of nature to demonstrate the unique relationship between people and the natural world. The competition is divided into nine categories, ranging from 'People and Places' and 'Year of the Forest' to 'Nature and Society' and 'Life of a Species'. Prizes range from €500 up to €2000. Aiming to encourage new talent, three awards of up to €5000 will be made to fund further photojournalism projects, one of which is to highlight the work of IUCN's conservation projects. To participate in Nature Images Awards 2011 go to: www.natureimagesawards.com.

The number of entries is limited to five per person. Entries close at midnight on Friday 15 July 2011.

3. IUCN Underwater Photographer of the Year Contest



Have you been exploring the underwater world with your photo camera? Would you like to share your underwater photos to inspire others? From 18 March to 15 April 2011, you are invited to participate in IUCN's 2011 Underwater Photographer of the Year Contest. The first, second and third place photographs will be featured on the IUCN website and in the IUCN Marine News magazine in May 2011. The first place winner will also receive a Planet Ocean book.

To participate, please visit: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/photo_contest/

4. European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change, 12-13 April



The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with the support of the University of Greifswald and in co-operation with the European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA) is currently organizing a European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change to be held in Bonn, Germany, on April 12-13, 2011. It will offer a platform to discuss recent research

results in the field of climate change and biodiversity. Special attention will be given to the question of how these results can be fed into political decision making processes and support practitioners. No conference fee will be charged but participation is limited to 200 participants.

For further information please contact Katrin Kraus, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation at

katrin.kraus@uni-greifswald.de or visit <http://www.bfn.de/index+M52087573ab0.html#c65947>.

5. English for Environmentalists

The International Academy for Nature Conservation and the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation invite to participate in our language course "English for Environmentalists - Communication and Language Skills" held on the Isle of Vilm in Northern Germany in July 2011. The deadline for registration is 7 May 2011. This course will provide people with an opportunity to develop their vocabulary in relation to key points of interest in the fields of nature conservation, landscape management, environmental education, etc.

For further information please contact Kathrin Bockmühl, BfN at kathrin.bockmuehl@bfn-vilm.de.

6. Alfred Toepfer Scholarships 2011 now open

Each year the EUROPARC Federation in cooperation with the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. awards three scholarships to promising young conservationists with practical experience in the field of conservation and in the work of protected areas. The award provides three young European conservationists with €3000 to undertake a study visit to one or more protected areas in European countries other than their own. The deadline for applications is 20 May 2011. Applicants must be under 35, of European nationality and themes for applications must be connected to the management of natural areas.

For further information please contact Regina Schoefer, EUROPARC at r.schoefer@europarc.org or visit <http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/alfred-toepfer-schol>.

7. International Junior Ranger Camp registrations 2011 now open



The Weerribben-Wieden National Park (Netherlands) will be hosting EUROPARC's 10th International Junior Ranger Camp, from the 16 to 23 July 2011. The park is delighted to invite Junior Rangers from all over Europe to participate at the event.

All the activities during the camp will follow the theme: Junior Rangers and Nature, a perfect and healthy combination! Participants will have the opportunity to discover the region, the environment and the local traditions, to investigate the health of the water, and of the national park. 10 Parks, each with one adult Ranger and two Junior Rangers each, will have the opportunity to attend this year's camp. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first served basis, but no more than two parks per country will be admitted. To register, participants must fill in registration form and send it electronically to intern@europarc.org and a signed version to the EUROPARC Federation, Waffnergasse 6, 93047 Regensburg, Germany. The deadline for registration is 18 May 2011.

For further information please contact Federico Minozzi, EUROPARC at junior-ranger@europarc.org.

8. South East Programme - Transnational Conference

The Transnational Conference will be organized on 20 April 2011 in Ljubljana. Its objectives are to present the interactions between the SEE Programme and the Danube Strategy, to present a few good transnational projects and to provide the opportunity for presentation of project ideas and partner search. More information can be found on the official web page of the South East Europe Programme: www.southeast-europe.net or on the Slovene web page dedicated to the territorial cooperation programmes www.cilj3.mop.gov.si.

For more information please contact Margarita Jancic at margarita.jancic@gov.si.

9. Call open for Ramsar Wetland Awards



Ramsar launched a call for nominations for the Ramsar Wetland Awards, which will be presented at the next Ramsar COP in Romania, June 2012. The Ramsar Awards were established in 1996 in order to recognize and honor the contributions of individuals, organizations and governments around the world towards promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands. In 2012 at Ramsar COP11, a prize will be given in each of three categories: “Management”, “Wetland Science”, and “Education”. The Ramsar Secretariat invites all to consider whether they know suitable individuals, organizations, or initiatives that could be nominated by 31 May 2011.

For more information, please contact: award@ramsar.org.

1. LIFE+ 2011

Issued by: European Commission

Deadline: 18th July 2011

Who can apply: Administrations, States - Agencies, Chambers - Associations - Local and Regional authorities – Research Centres - SMEs - Training centres – Universities; Regions: EU Member States.

Amount available: Up to 50% of eligible costs, max.75% for Nature and Biodiversity. The global budget is 267 431 506 EUR.

Objectives:

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity -Protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU by 2010;
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance : Climate change, Water, Air, Soil, Urban environment, Noise, Chemicals, Environment and health, Natural resources and waste, Forests, Innovation, Strategic approaches;
- LIFE+ Information and Communication: Disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues, including forest fire prevention; and to provide support for accompanying measures, such as information, communication actions and campaigns, conferences and training, including training on forest fire prevention.

To download all related documents, [click here](#)

For further information, contact the contracting authority: The European Commission.

Please [click here](#) for your country contact.

2. ENP- Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM)- Demonstration Projects

Issued by: European Commission

Deadline: 14th June 2011

Who can apply: Associations - Development NGOs - International Organisation - Research centres – Universities; Regions: Member States, Mediterranean countries.

Amount available: between 1 000 000 and 3 500 000 EUR. Up to 80% of total eligible costs

Objectives:

- Draw the attention of Partner Countries' decision-makers and stakeholders on existing and forthcoming threats to water resources, on the necessity to adopt a more appropriate water consumption and water use model, as well as on the existence of solutions to tackle the problem;
- Support Partner Countries in designing and implementing sustainable water management policies at the national and the local levels, in liaison with existing international initiatives in the area concerned;
- Contribute to ensuring institutional reinforcement and the development of the necessary planning and management skills, in line with the draft SWM and Horizon 2020 objectives, and facilitate know how transfer;

- Enhancement of regional cooperation in the areas of sustainable and integrated management of water resources through institutional strengthening, society awareness, capacity building and participation.

To download all related documents, [click here](#)

For further information, contact the contracting authority: European Commission, EuropeAid Development and Co-operation Directorate-General, Unit A5 Finance, Contracts and Audit for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East Office J54 1/233. Reference: EuropeAid/131046/C/ACT/MULTI

Sustainable Water Integrated management (SWIM) + Lot Number, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium,
E-mail : EuropeAid-SWIM@ec.europa.eu

Guidelines for contributing to the IUCN SEE e-bulletin

IUCN welcomes articles in which you report on the activities related to transboundary cooperation in protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Please inform the public on the status of your projects and actions, as well as events that you attended. You are welcome to announce new meetings and workshops and briefly report on new publications and announce funding opportunities. Please send a photo to accompany your article if appropriate and indicate your email and/or weblink for further reference.

The articles should be 150-250 words in length. Please note this as the interest to distribute news articles through the bulletin is extremely high and we are trying to secure space for all of you to contribute.

You are responsible for any content that you post or transmit. The editors reserve the right to shorten and modify the text if necessary.

Thanks for taking these guidelines into consideration!

All contributions should be sent to Aleksandra Nestic, aleksandra.nestic@iucn.org.

Regional Office for Pan-Europe

Regional Office for Pan-Europe (ROfE) is a Regional Office of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Along with offices and commissions around the world, it links back to the President, Director General and Council of IUCN. For a history of IUCN and an explanation of the global structure please visit www.iucn.org.

IUCN's Pan-European Region covers the whole of Europe and North and Central Asia. Four offices located in [Brussels](#), [Belgrade](#), Gland and [Tbilisi](#) deliver IUCN's Pan-European Programme, supported by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in [Malaga](#). Together we strive to meet our goals for a sustainable Europe by using local expertise and the strength of the global IUCN network.

Pan-European Mission

"To foster and fortify a European network of excellence in environmental research, policy and best practice, with the aim to contribute to IUCN's global mission, support the integration of biodiversity conservation into economic development and to support innovative initiatives for the multifunctional, sustainable use of natural resources."



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