



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: Jury Nechiporenko

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 26th issue of IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin!

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 and enjoyable summer!

IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe

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1. IUCN admits two new members in SEE during the 76th Meeting of the IUCN Council



“Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province has even until now had good cooperation with IUCN on the projects of protection of nature and biodiversity in the basins of Danube and Sava rivers,” says Biljana Panjkovic, Director of the Institute. “The membership in IUCN provides us with numerous opportunities to connect and work on joint projects with international organizations and regional institutions, which will contribute to integrated management of the rivers, Danube and Sava. That will certainly have positive effect on the PAs management, quality of plans and on protection and biodiversity status improvement in Vojvodina Province, that will be ensured by national and international regulations application.”

The Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province in Serbia works to protect and improve the conservation status of all species and ecosystems in the province. It collects and manages data, monitors status, assesses threats and defines proposals for measures to conserve nature and geological heritage. The Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province studies and prepares proposals for new protected areas, cooperating extensively with local and international partners to share knowledge and implement projects.

“The Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro values the reputation and position of IUCN in professional and scientific circles”, says Darko Saveljic, President of CPRB. “We would like, in our country, to be recognized in the same manner as IUCN is in the global system for nature protection.”

The Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro works to protect and monitor birds and their habitats in Montenegro and to educate the public on ornithology. It cooperates with other governmental organizations, universities and institutes, both in Montenegro and abroad for the wider protection of the nature and environment. In particular, CPRB has significantly contributed to the promotion of Tivat Salinas and its further declaration as a bird reserve, and has also influenced national legislation such as the bird directive in the Law on the Protection of Nature.

By joining IUCN, the member benefits from IUCN’s scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base and convening power, extensive networking opportunities and access to high-level political, economic and social decision making. IUCN extends a very warm welcome to The Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and The Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro and looks forward to future cooperation.

2. Regional Conservation Forum

IUCN Regional Office for Europe will host its Regional Conservation Forum from 6 to 9 September 2011 in Bonn, Germany. The Conservation Forum aims to bring together the large IUCN European constituency – representing one third of the global membership – to discuss solutions to today’s most pressing environmental and development challenges and find ways of putting them into practice in Europe. Regional Conservation



Fora are organized in each IUCN Region in preparation for the World Conservation Congress which will take place from 6 to 15 September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of

Korea. Regional Fora convene IUCN's constituency to discuss regional issues and provide regional input to the IUCN Global Programme to be adopted by the Members at the Congress.

"Switch to action!" is the leading theme of the IUCN European Regional Conservation Forum. Taking action for biodiversity is fundamental to ensure healthy ecosystems on which our life depends. Biodiversity is now higher on the European political agenda than ever before and considerable measures have been taken to halt biodiversity loss. Yet there is need for increased efforts to translate commitments into concrete conservation action. The Forum will provide a platform for discussion to agree on the way forward. Forum objectives are to identify priorities and tools for nature in Europe and beyond, define IUCN work and key programme areas in Europe and promote involvement of and cooperation with the IUCN constituency. Forum participation is limited to Member Organizations, National Committees, members of IUCN Commissions and the Secretariat.

More information available at www.iucn.org/europe/regional_conservation_forum

1. Top ten tips for eco-tourists

Photo: IUCN Archive



With many people starting to plan their annual holidays, IUCN has released a list of top ten tips for tourists who want to visit some of the most beautiful natural sites in the world without damaging the environment. Tips range from choosing eco-hotels and being mindful of your carbon footprint to avoiding buying souvenirs made from Endangered species and making sure you know that what you're eating isn't under threat.

The tips accompany a recent report by IUCN, Sustainable tourism in natural World Heritage, which shows that tourism, if managed properly, can contribute to both conservation and development goals in or near natural World Heritage Sites. From a conservation point of view, tourism can raise funds for protecting natural areas, enhance awareness amongst locals and tourists of biodiversity and conservation issues, as well as discourage local people from carrying out activities that are harmful to nature. The report sets out a range of factors that support and hinder sustainable tourism development in World Heritage sites. Top ten tips are available under:

<http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/?7321>

Report http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/sustainable_tourism_and_natural_world_heritage_report.pdf
IUCN's work on tourism http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/business/bbp_our_work/tourism/

2. European Council endorses Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

As it reads in the [Conclusions](#), the Council endorsed the Strategy and highlighted its role as a key instrument to enable the EU to reach its overall 2020 headline target – which is to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, restoring them as much as possible by 2020 while stepping up the EU contribution to stop biodiversity loss worldwide. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. The six targets



cover: (1) Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity (2) Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure (3) More sustainable agriculture and forestry (4) Better management of fish stocks (5) Tighter controls on invasive alien species (6) A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

The Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 is accessible under: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>

The implementation of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy will be a major challenge for the European Commission. IUCN, with its large network of experts and long-standing experience in biodiversity conservation, stands ready to support the Commission. To find out how, please visit <http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/?7513/IUCN-ready-to-help-EC-implement-new-Biodiversity-Strategy>

3. Protected areas need tourism – tourism needs protected areas



Bosnia and Herzegovina: Tourism's high potential is seen as not-to-miss opportunity for development of the Dinaric Arc where the appearance of natural and cultural diversity often goes beyond the imaginable. However, only good management planning can secure tourism sustainability providing both social and environmental benefits. In order to educate protected areas managers, tourism organizations and local authorities how

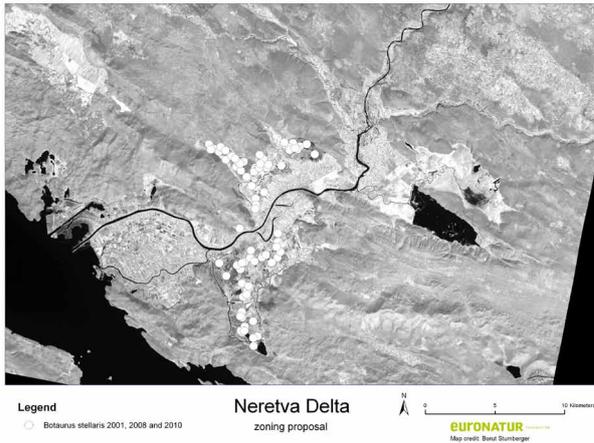
to avoid rampant ad hoc tourism growth, the IUCN-led project "Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc" organized a training on sustainable tourism development in the cross-border areas in Dinaric Arc at the end of June. The training covered topics such as establishment of cross-bored cooperation, building common vision and objectives including what makes a place unique not only for locals but also for potential customers. Once the planning is done in a proper manner and the tourist flow is on the way it is not time for sitting down, another important job is to be done - selecting indicators and measuring sustainability, monitoring the impact of tourism and undertaking corrective actions as necessary. Still it is important to remember that tourism per se is not a panacea for local development and not every place holds tourism potential. The manual on this topic will be elaborated and published in the autumn.

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

4. Irrigation of Neretva Delta Ramsar Site

Croatia: The Ministry of Environment of Croatia has published the EIA concerning the irrigation project of the Neretva delta in October 2010. The irrigation project aims to complete the old melioration programme started in Yugoslav times without any proper environmental assessment, and to enhance the improvised measures. The only goal is to connect the planned agricultural production with the physical characteristics of the area as climate and water quality.

Map of Great Bittern area



The protection of the whole area as a Ramsar Site is not mentioned in the EIA. The project foresees the melioration and irrigation of the last remaining pastures with dense population of Lesser-grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) and will impact prime habitats of species such as European Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*).

The “Proclamation of the Neretva Nature Park” is a Big Win commitment of Croatia, made during the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP9) meeting in Bonn, Germany May 2008. Management and zoning plan

is needed for the natural heritage, prior to irrigation and melioration programmes that will impact the remaining habitats. A first zoning concept has been prepared by EuroNatur, which can serve as guidelines, where irrigation and melioration are unfavorable for obligations of Croatia to preserve the Neretva Delta Ramsar Site and future Natura 2000 site. Only the preservation of the remaining habitats will guarantee a sustainable development of the whole Neretva Delta as a unique site for different economic activities in this unique cultural and natural landscape.

Links: <http://puo.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=4876>; <http://puo.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=4877>

For more information, please contact Martin Schneider-Jacoby, Euronatur, at martin.schneider-jacoby@euronatur.org.

5. 35th World Heritage Committee session at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris



France: The World Heritage Committee held its 35th session last June, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and discussed the manifold aspects pertaining to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at site-level as well as the general policy-level. Next to taking decisions concerning the state of conservation of several World Heritage properties, such as Pirin National Park (Bulgaria), the World Heritage Committee also inscribed a total of 25 sites on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, including three natural

properties, 21 cultural and one mixed site. The natural World Heritage in Europe was enriched through the extension of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine), inscribed in 2007, to now also include the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany. With Barbados and the United Arab Emirates, two more States Parties to the almost universally ratified Convention saw their first properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. One year prior to its 40th anniversary, the World Heritage List now numbers a total of 936 properties: 183 natural sites, 725 cultural, and 28 mixed sites.

The celebrations commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention that are to take place in all regions of the world during the year 2012 will be centered around the theme “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities”.

For more information, please visit: <http://whc.unesco.org>

6. Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech forests of Germany: A joint World Heritage property

Photo: T. Stephan



The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has approved the extension of the “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians” (Slovakia and Ukraine) by the “Ancient Beech forests of Germany”. The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany represent examples of ongoing post-glacial biological and ecological evolution of terrestrial ecosystems and are indispensable to understanding the spread of the beech in the Northern Hemisphere across a variety of environments. The new inscription represents the addition of five forests

totaling 4,391 hectares that are added to the 29,278 hectares of Slovakian and Ukrainian beech forests inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007. The tri-national property is now to be known as the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany). This extension followed a more than four year joint process of Slovak, Ukrainian and German partners to develop the trilateral integrated management system and established the basis for a successful future work. Together with the inscription the World Heritage Committee commended the States Parties to further their efforts and to cooperate with other interests States Parties towards a finite serial transnational nomination.

For more information, please contact Barbara Engels, BfN, at Barbara.Engels@bfn.de.

7. Regional protected area

Photo: INCA Archive



Albania: In the framework of the Democracy Commission Small Grant Program of the USA Embassy in Albania, the Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania implemented the project “Protecting natural resources - Empower local authorities and NGOs role to designate regional protected areas (Regional Parks)”, in the area of Ulza, Mati District. The grant provided INCA the opportunity to elaborate and implement the methodology for the assessment of the most valuable areas for biodiversity, based on the CBD Ecosystem

Approach principles and allowing for an integrated assessment of biodiversity elements and influencing factors using GIS application that facilitated discussion with the local communities and interest groups.

On 22-23 April, in cooperation with the Ulza Commune, INCA organized 2 days training for 30 representatives of different actors (local authorities, forest group, fisherman, school of the Commune, water users, NGOs, etc). Two main issues were discussed: the concept of the regional protected area, and the advocacy of the local representatives, for the sustainable management of natural resources. Project results were presented the project results and the proposed Regional Park delineated. Participants discussed the proposed regional protected area in several working groups. The conclusion was: there is a clear support of the proposal but also the concern how will the community react and adopt itself.

For more information, please contact Genti Kromidha, INCA, at genti.kromidha@inca-al.org.

8. First rat control on seabird colonies in Croatia

Photo: BIOM Archive



Croatia: Several rat species are globally recognised as dangerous invasive with harmful impacts on native flora and fauna. Among them, the ship rat is listed by IUCN (2000) as one of the 100 of the World's worst invasive alien species. The ship rat is present in Croatia since ancient times as one of the first organisms that invaded new areas following humans' migrations. Unfortunately, as its name suggests, it is spreading by ships and it has reached many

previously mammal-free offshore islands. On those islands they prey on eggs and chicks of colonial seabirds, severely decreasing breeding success of already endangered species. The Association for Biological Research – BIOM started a rat control programme with support of the Nature Park "Lastovo archipelago" aiming to increase breeding success of Cory's and Yelkouan Shearwater. During previous years, zero breeding success caused by rat predation was observed in some colonies, thus an urgent need for rat control was emphasized. Ship rats are excellent swimmers able to pass hundreds of meters of sea and a complete eradication is a reasonable solution only on isolated islets. Consequently, as all important shearwaters' colonies are on islets close to the main island of Lastovo, annual rat control is necessary during the shearwater breeding season. Rat control is conducted using live traps to avoid accidental mortality of other organisms that might happen when using snap traps or poison baits. Preliminary results indicate a higher breeding success already this spring what motivates BIOM's team to take further actions on this issue

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

9. Sustainable Management of Carpathian Forests

Photo: M. Meyer



The Carpathians: In line with the this year's United Nations International Year of Forests, seven Carpathian States have decided to further cooperate and strengthen their efforts in order to protect, maintain and sustainably manage forests in the Carpathians. The legal framework has been established through the approval of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention. On 25 – 27 May, High Level Representatives of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine, as well as representatives

from the European Commission, International Organizations, and NGOs met in Bratislava for the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention.

The Forest Protocol is expected to build the basis for wide reaching measures that will help to increase awareness of the benefits from sustainable forest management in the Carpathians, especially with reference to natural carbon stock, water supply and biodiversity, protection of virgin forests, and contribution to rural development. At COP3, the member states of the Carpathian Convention have also agreed on the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, a sector that is of fundamental importance for the development of the region.

Furthermore, the BIOREGIO Carpathians project has officially been launched. Funded by the SEE European Territorial Cooperation Programme, BIOREGIO is built up by 16 partners. The related national Ministries of the Carpathian countries act as project-observers. The main aim of the project is to develop, harmonize and implement integrated management plans for protected areas in the Carpathians.

For more information contact Veronika Hopfgartner at Veronika.hopfgartner@unvienna.org or visit www.carpathianconvention.org.

10. International Day of Biodiversity at Shkodra Lake



Photo: INCA Archive

Albania: On the occasion of the International Day of Biodiversity, and in the framework of the project “Supporting the proposed Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve of Lake Shkodra/Skadar area through a participatory approach”, financed by European Community as part of the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Albania –Montenegro (2007-2013), the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) and the Transboundary Forum of Shkodra/Skadar Lake have organized on 20 May 2011,

several activities, starting from 09:00 at the office of the Transboundary Forum of Shkodra Lake and finalising with a Press Conference on the project activities and role of the civil society organisation at the premises of European Information Centre in Shkodra. The representatives of INCA and TFSL in Shkodra together with some members of the working group set up in the frame of this project, organised meetings with the Mayor of Shkodra Municipality and the Chairman of Shkodra Regional Council in their respective offices. In these two meetings the civil society organisation got the support and the strong statement for the future collaboration with the local authorities.

The scope of the event was to promote biodiversity protection, the role of the civil society, and to present the expected results of the project focusing on the biodiversity values and resources of the Shkodra Lake, through the supporting of the trans-boundary activities for the protection of the ecosystems in the area and for the sustainable development in this region.

For more information, please contact Zamir Dedej, INCA, at zamir.dedej@inca-al.org.

11. SEE Forum on Climate Change Adaptation



This project is co-funded by the European Union



A new project coordinated by Austrian Red Cross and supported by WWF and other partners will mobilize civil society organizations from Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, working in the social,

economic, environmental and humanitarian field to focus on climate change adaptation, addressing various climate issues relevant to the region. Climate change will have major negative socio-economic impacts. The

main purpose of the SEE Forum on CCA is to raise awareness about climate change and its consequences, in particular within the general public and decision-makers.

According to different projected scenarios, adverse effects are to be expected in food and energy production, water resources, biodiversity, summer tourism, coastal management and human health.

Backed by Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, participating countries will carry out climate risk analysis, aimed at identifying major challenges and elaborating proposals for political solutions. These analyses will build upon existing national and regional initiatives in the public and non-governmental sector. Action on climate change adaptation in the region remains limited because of low capacities and the lack of regional and national coordination. Cooperation on climate issues between social, environmental, economic and humanitarian organizations is not in place neither on national nor sub-national levels, as well as there is no regional communication platform for know-how transfer, exchange of good practice and joint action on awareness building, advocacy and lobbying on climate change adaptation. The project is funded by the European Union through [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA\)](#).

For more information please contact Duska Dimovic, WWF, at ddimovic@wwfdcp.org or visit <http://www.seeclimateforum.org>

12. Sustainable Mountains Education Center opened in Peja

Photo: E. Frank



Kosovo: The Sustainable Mountains Education Centre is located in the historical monument of Haxhi Zeka's mill in Peja. The official opening took place on 9 June 2011 and gathered around 200 stakeholders and interested citizens from Kosovo and abroad to visit the center and to receive information on ERA's work and activities. The Centre offers environmental and outdoor education for local schools and youth groups, focusing especially on sustainable forestry, climate change, personal sustainable lifestyles, and raising public awareness of sustainable alpine development. In January 2011 Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group launched a new project "Sustainable Alpine Development in Kosovo through civil society development, Sustainable Mountains Education Centre and rural

initiatives" as an addendum to the Netherlands Development Organization SNV Balkan's project "Strengthening Sustainable Private and Decentralised Forestry". The project is funded by Swedish International Development Agency SIDA, and implemented in partnership with TreeVelop and Global Action Plan International. The project lasts until June 2013.

The goal of the project is to increase sustainable development in the Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije region through concrete actions initiated, supported and implemented by local NGOs, schools, local authorities and inhabitants of the region. In reaching that goal an essential part of the project is to establish a Sustainable Mountains Education Centre in Peja, which provides quality environmental education to the children and youth of Western Kosovo.

For more information please contact Ellen Frank, ERA group, at efrank@eradirect.org.

13. Wild plants in Central Europe



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

CE Project „Promoting traditional collection and use of wild plants to reduce social and economic disparities in Central Europe” has been launched on 1 May 2011. The knowledge of collecting

wild growing plants has been passed down from generation to generation, but in the 20th century, due to urbanization, changes in land ownership and lifestyle, this traditional knowledge is unfortunately being lost.



Photo: TRAFFIC Intl Archive

Nine partners including 3 Hungarian, 2 Czech, 2 Slovenian and 1 Polish institution with the leading role of Corvinus University of Budapest intend to protect and share this declining cultural heritage and to improve livelihoods of vulnerable groups in rural parts of Central Europe.

The main goal is to set up a capacity building strategy and formulate how the revival of the regional cultural traditions on plants' utilisation should contribute to strengthening local communities. The specific objective is to implement a pilot model by year 2014 that is socially and culturally acceptable, economically-sound and environmentally viable for the collection of wild plants, their processing and use. Expected results include a better capacity to sustainably collect, process and use indigenous plants as natural treasure.

For more information, please contact Peter Radacsi at peter.radacsi@uni-corvinus.hu.

14. Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije conference held



Photo: E.Savolainen

Kosovo: Within “EKOsovo - Development through Biodiversity” project, on 10 June 2011 local stakeholders of Bjeshkët e Nemuna/ Prokletije region of Western Kosovo gathered in Peja to discuss biodiversity issues and the role of civil society in its protection. Conference participants were representatives of different civil society organizations in Kosovo, private businesses, science professors; government officials from Ministries of Environment and Forestry; local authorities from Peja, Klina, Decan and Junik; representatives of the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo, Regional

Development Agency, and ERA's international partners from Austria, Netherlands, Sweden and USA.

The conference included lectures given by Dr. Behxhet Mustafa, Dean of Biology, University of Prishtina on biodiversity in Kosovo, and Dr. Luan Shllaku, Director of Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (Soros) on the role of civil society in environmental protection. Participants reiterated the need for a platform of cooperation between different stakeholders to protect the environmental values of Kosovo. In addition, all were in agreement that there is a need for a field study on the flora and fauna of Kosovo, especially in the Bjeshkët e Nemuna/ Prokletije region, as one has not been done in 40 years. Finally, the need for more environmental education and awareness-raising programs, such as the ones offered by ERA group and its partners for youth and the community, was stressed out.

The project is financed by the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo and the Austrian Development Agency, and is implemented by Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group in partnership with Interkulturelles Zentrum.

For more information please contact ERA group at info@eradirect.org.

15. Project “Preparation of Serbian Public for Participation in Water Protection”

Photo: WWF Archive



Serbia: The project directly supported the introduction of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other EU water related aqis in Serbia and built capacity of NGOs to participate in the stakeholder processes relevant to WFD implementation through transfer of experiences and knowledge from EU member states. Young Researchers of Serbia, Environmental Engineeres and WWF Danube Carpathian-Programme as partner from EU implemented project from July 2010 to June 2011.

The project paid due attention to open the dialogue and cooperation between civil sector and governmental organizations in the identification and prioritization of joint activities relevant for implementing the EU water related aqis Serbia. During the project implementation the “Training of Trainers on EU Water Policies” was carried out for target NGOs to gain specific knowledge and skills on different water management topics in WFD context. They learned how to take active part in the River Basin Management Plan preparation and implementation, and more efficiently play a watchdog role in the WFD process being conducted by the authorities and decision makers in Serbia. The curriculum for workshops on the EU WFD was developed and NGOs representatives transfered knowledge in the framework of 8 workshops with more than 150 participants from governmental institutions, NGOs and media. The publication ‘TIPS AND TRICKS’ FOR WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION’ a resource document for environmental NGOs on the EU guidance for the implementation of the WFD published by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and EEB (European Environmental Bureau) was translated into Serbian. The project was funded by the European Union through Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA); programme Strengthening Serbia-EU Civil Society Dialogue.

For more information please contact Duska Dimovic, WWF, at ddimovic@wwfdcp.org.

16. The Eco thread that binds us –update from Montenegro

Montenegro: Celebrating 20 years of declaration of Montenegro as an ecological state, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism along with a group of NGOs launched a campaign called “The Eco thread that binds us”, which was carried out from 21 April to 21 May. Campaign’s aim the revival of the ecological spirit and activism in Montenegro in order to promote ecology as a way of thinking, behaving and in personal culture. The campaign contributed to the creation of environmentally educated individual who has a responsible attitude towards nature.

The project “Montenegro and Natura 2000” is currently implemented by the line Ministry, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Montenegro and the civil sector. Project results so far are creation of inventory database kept at the Institute for Nature Conservation, preparation of pre-draft catalogue of Natura 2000 habitats and the mapping methodology field testing in pilot sites (Buljarica Bay, the Cijevna Canyon and Biogradska gora), forest habitats delegation to the FODEMO project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In the coming period the Reference list will be prepared. Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is currently working on preparatory activities and ideas for the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy with Action Plan, in accordance with Nagoya Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2020. In the framework of project ‘Integrated ecosystem management of the Skadar Lake’ jointly implemented by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro and Ministry of Environment of Albania, in co-operation with the World Bank, several activities are carried out: creation of joint monitoring program for Skadar Lake, the final draft should be ready in August 2011; drafting of the ‘Joint Fishery Assessment’ and the ‘Predictive hydrological model’. The model is based on historical hydrological data of streams in the basin of Skadar Lake (system Mora a, Zeta, Drim, Bojana and confluents) and should provide clarify reasons for changes in level of lake, and possible flood areas, as well as flood impact on biodiversity of the lake.

For more information, please contact Jasmin Muric, Ministry of sustainable development and tourism, at jasmin.muric@mrt.gov.me.

17. Balkans Peace Park Project (B3P)



Photo: A.Kennard

Albania: Co-ordinator Chris Whichelo, an experienced practitioner in youth education is leading this year three weeks on B3P’s Summer Programme (SP) in Thethi, supported by the American Embassy in Tirana. The SP has become a feature which draws back families who migrate to Shkodër during the winter, to join those local families who remain year-round in Thethi, whose children receive no other schooling during the year. Albanian teachers provide classes for the SP pertaining to the environment. Ten volunteers from the UK, professional teachers

and one Ph.D student will provide not only English language teaching, but also lead sessions in mountain guiding and a variety of sport and art activities. The Programme runs for six weeks; the co-ordinator for the last three weeks will be Eralda Nikshiqi from Shkodër. She has been involved with the Programme for a number of years and has a special interest in incorporating civil society participation into B3P activities and programmes. These programmes over four years have enjoyed much appreciation from local children and parents. The NGO, B3P-Albania is currently in the process of registration, with the hope of there being similar groups in both Montenegro and Kosovo.

For more information please contact Antonia Young, Balkans Peace Park Project Committee UK at a.t.i.young@bradford.ac.uk or visit www.balkanspeacepark.org.

18. Pannonian BirdExperience 2011 in Illmitz

Photo: G. Domanjko



Three representatives of Nature Park Goricko participated at this year's Pannonian BirdExperience 2011 in Illmitz organised by National Park Neusiedlersee Seewinkel and their partners to present the birds of cultural landscape of Gori ko Natura 2000 site and measures of their protection. The Pannonian BirdExperience held on 15-17 April was aimed at providing nature conservationists and "Birdwatchers" from National and Nature Parks, and NGOs from Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia with information's towards birds and its protection in the western parts of Pannonian Plain. During three days visitors could took part at more than 30 workshops and 21 excursions to nearby area and to other protected areas in Austria and Slovakia.

Important message of the event is that we shall observe and protect birds by disturbing them as little as possible by using and proper optical equipment. Therefore the top providers for observing and photographing the birds were presented at the event. NP Goricko representatives joined one of the guided tours and visited meadows, pastures and wetlands along the Lake Neusidl. Arno, biology student from Vienna explained the grassland management of NP Neusiedlersee Seewinkel and measures to preserve the habitats for birds. During the walking tour birds like Northern Lapwing, Skylark, Common Redshank, Eurasian Curlew, Gray Goose, and White-tailed Eagle were spotted.

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

19. New boost for the Carpathians

Photo: B. Erg



A third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) was held on 25 - 27 May in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. The meeting brought together representatives of the parties to the Carpathian Convention (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine), representatives of the EC, Italy, the Alpine Convention, as well as numerous observers (ICPDR, IUCN, UNWTO, WWF, etc.). Two major protocols have been agreed at the conference: the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism.

The member states of the Carpathian Convention have agreed on the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, a sector that is of fundamental importance for the development of the region but also puts large pressure on biodiversity of the region. In addition, the Carpathian States have adopted the "Strategic Action for the Carpathian area", a strategic briefing which calls for consideration of the "Carpathian Space" in the context of existing or planned European Union cooperation programmes.

On 22 May 2003 in Kiyv (Ukraine), the Ministers of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. The Carpathian Convention provides the framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved.

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

20. Strandja biosphere park

Photo: BBF-Archive



Bulgaria: During the International workshop held in Tsarevo in March 2011, to more than 60 participants the concept of biosphere parks in Europe was presented, focusing on the idea of designation of such a park in the Strandja region. The experience of Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Turkey and Greece showed that biosphere parks aim at human harmonious coexistence with the surrounding nature. While

protected areas mainly focus on the biodiversity conservation, biosphere parks and reserves focus on humans and promote their own potential for sustainable development.

During the third day of the seminar the potential of Strandja Park was presented - fire-walking custom, new visitor centres, followed by the visit to Brushlyan village with the attractive folklore program. One of the WS conclusions was that Strandja has the potential to be designated as Bulgaria's first biosphere park of a new generation. The preserved nature, tradition and customs, and its natural beauty: sea and mountains are its advantages. The need of conducting an awareness rising campaign with the local community was stressed out as well.

The workshop was organised with the support of UNESCO Venice Office and is part of the BBF project: "Collaboration for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Local Development in Strandja Mountain in Bulgaria", supported by EEA Financial Mechanism.

For more information, please contact Radostina Tzenova, BBF at radostina.tzenova@biodiversity.bg or visit www.bbf.biodiversity.bg.

21. Danube Delta and climate changes

Photo: Wild Wonders of Europe /Manuel Presti / WWF

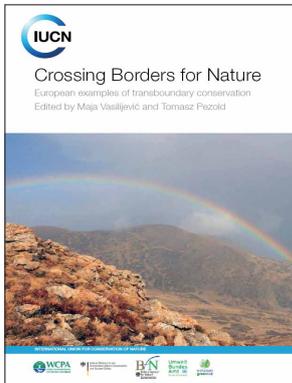


Romania, Ukraine and Moldova have embarked on a 3-years project funded by the European Union and implemented by WWF, the respective Biosphere Reserves and local authorities, which will prepare the Danube Delta for the likely effects of climate change. "Climate proofing the Danube Delta through integrated land and water management" aims to build a basis for the adaptation of the Danube Delta to the changing climate conditions. These can be inflow of salt-water into the Delta

because the water-level of the Black Sea might raise; changes in the Danube water flow (hotter summers, wetter winters); hotter average temperatures; migration of species; and others. Counter-measures can include for example rehabilitating Delta wetlands, as they can clean pollution and regulate changes in the Danube river level. The project will also help Danube Delta villages to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions, e.g. by promoting biomass as a heating source instead of fossil fuels. A broad awareness raising campaign on climate change adaptation will also be part of this project to offer solutions to the local communities.

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

1. Crossing Borders for Nature: European examples of transboundary conservation



Conservation action involving several countries brings large scale benefits to nature and helps resolve social and political conflicts, a new IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) publication shows. The book draws on cross-border conservation in Europe, highlighting its challenges and benefits. It was published as part of a project led by IUCN and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) which aims to improve transboundary conservation in the mountainous border zone between Albania, Macedonia and the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

To download this publication, click here: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2011-025.pdf>

2. Protected area staff training: guidelines for planning and management

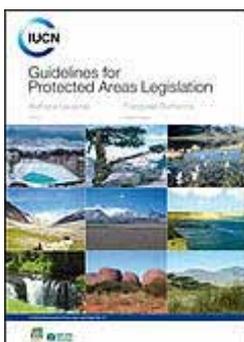


Qualified, competent and committed staff is central to the success of protected areas. Training of protected area (PA) staff is recognized as a vital component of efficient protected area management. As well as being an essential tool at local, regional and national levels, capacity building for PAs now has a strong international context and is being embedded into major global conventions and PA-related decisions. The principal goal of PA staff training is to raise the capacity of PA managers to adapt to new challenges, using innovative and creative approaches. These Guidelines treat each training course as a project that follows the classic project cycle: from identifying training needs through resourcing,

development and delivery of training to assessment of the use of the competences acquired.

To download this publication, click here: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAG-017.pdf>

3. Guidelines for protected areas legislation



The purpose of these guidelines is to update and expand the original guidelines on protected areas legislation published in 1980 and to reflect new developments and emerging issues. As with the original 1980 guidelines, the primary technical audience for these new protected areas legislation guidelines is the legal drafter working closely with protected area authorities as well as others involved in the legislative process.

To download the publication, click here: [Download PDF](#)

4. Interactive Danube platform launch on Danube Day



Danube Day, the annual celebration of the world's most international river, was this year marked with the launch of Danube +, an interactive map-based platform which will expand understanding of the river and the challenges and opportunities it presents. Danube + is an initiative of WWF and The Coca-Cola Company Europe Group, supported by The International Commission for the

Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The Danube + website prompts the public to explore the river by navigating through a satellite map which has three types of objects: natural values, environmental issues and actions for a living Danube. It also gives the public and other organizations the opportunity to share information about the river. It is hoped that this will gradually become the largest Danube community out there.

For more information, please contact Olga Apostolova, WWF Danube - Carpathian Programme at oaapostolova@wwfdcp.bg or visit www.danube.panda.org.

5. Biodiversity protection and animal welfare in agriculture

Serbia: Non-Smokers Educational Centre-RP is implementing a project "Environmental protection in local agriculture" aiming at rising awareness on environmental issues with the agricultural sector. One of project's results is the publication „Biodiversity protection and animal welfare in agriculture“.

The publication is available online, under:

http://issuu.com/stakleno_zvono/docs/za_tita_biodiverzitetu_i_dobrobit_ivotinja_u_polju

The Project is financially supported by Open society foundation from Belgrade.

For more information, please contact Milisav Pajevic at necrpkg@gmail.com.

1. Official Assessment of Emerald protected area network

Montenegro: The Council of Europe and its Partner ETC/BD have arranged the biogeographic seminar for the evaluation of the Emerald Network in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia and Albania. It is now scheduled for 2-4 November and will take place in Podgorica (Montenegro). It will deal with the biogeographic regions: Mediterranean, Alpine, Continental, and Pannonian.

NGOs are encouraged to nominate a common representative for each Country to participate in the meeting and give NGO's expertise and opinion on the site proposals which will form a systematically selected network of areas that will be the backbone for preserving Europe's natural heritage. For those states becoming a member of the EU, these networks – along with possibly a small number of additional sites - will form the Natura 2000 network, so this process is of great importance under all circumstances. The European Habitats Forum (EHF) will inform NGOs about details and, along with regional partners such as WWF and CEEweb, plans to hold a preparatory seminar in September or October to optimize NGO Input. In order to have a representative network of Protected Areas under Emerald, a good data basis is essential. NGOs are encouraged to coordinate their efforts in assembling data on the relevant habitats and species.

The results of an official preparatory seminar already held in Paris in January gives an idea what will happen in Podgorica : http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/EcoNetworks/News/Prepa_Biogeoseminar_2011/Biogeographical_Seminar_en.asp

For more information, please contact Friedrich Wulf at Friedrich.Wulf@pronatura.ch.

2. Applications for 2011 SEED Awards Now Open

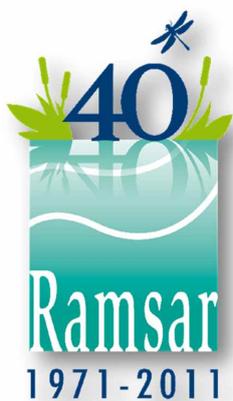


Social and environmental entrepreneurs who can demonstrate innovation, leadership and sustainability have the chance to win expert assistance and support for their sustainable development initiatives in the 2011 SEED Awards. The SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. Founded by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, SEED supports promising small-scale start-up social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalization and social exclusion.

The deadline for applications is 22nd August 2011. Applications can be filled in [online at](#) the SEED Initiative website www.seedinit.org or the application form can be downloaded and emailed to seedawards2011@seedinit.org.

For more information please contact Constance Hybsier at constance.hybsier@seedinit.org or Mellab Shiluli at mellab.shiluli@unep.org

3. 7th European Ramsar Pre-COP Meeting in Trnava, Slovakia



About 100 Ramsar focal points, NGO representatives, sustainable development and water experts are expected to gather 27-30 September in Trnava, a small town in the Slovak Republic. The Meeting will look at progress made concerning the implementation of the Wetland Convention's objectives at national and European levels. It is intended to be a forum for the exchange of experiences as well as a platform for discussion about environmental challenges in the water sector and how best to make use of the ecosystem services provided by wetland ecosystems. Despite a substantial number of participants, the meeting is intended to be very interactive. It is anticipated that each participant will contribute to exchanges and debates as well as to the common efforts to draw up concrete recommendations for the years to come. The Meeting will address major themes that influence the way we will work to manage and use wetland ecosystems during the coming years.

If you would like to have more information or would like to contribute or participate in this meeting, please contact europa@ramsar.org.

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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