



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: IUCN/B.Erg, Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Dear Readers,

It is our great pleasure to share the Winter 2013 issue of the IUCN SEE e-Bulletin with you. It brings a variety of news on nature conservation from the region with particular focus on the 'Big Win for Dinaric Arc' process and the high-level event held in Budva, Montenegro under the auspices of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro. Facilitated by IUCN and WWF, the process has led to the elaboration of a number of regional priorities and national commitments, setting a regional framework for action. Read about this new agenda for protected areas and nature conservation in SEE in the Focus section. Wishing you a pleasant reading!

Looking ahead, the year 2014 is expected with great anticipation. It will be marked by the [IUCN World Parks Congress](#) in November in Sydney, Australia, a global forum on protected areas held every 10 years. The [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), the world's most comprehensive information source on the species conservation status, is celebrating 50 years of guiding the conservation action and policy decisions. Many reasons to be proud of, but also a motivation to do more and better.

We look forward to cooperating on these important achievements.

Boris Erg, Director of IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe

IN THE FOCUS

Big Win for Dinaric Arc

NEWS & EVENTS

1. National Parks of Montenegro, new IUCN member
2. Transboundary Biosphere Reserve 'Ohrid- Prespa Watershed' nomination
3. Newly discovered natural phenomenon
4. Rural development and EU integration in Forestry in Macedonia
5. Save the Blue Heart of Europe
6. Danube floodplains of Serbia nominated for UNESCO TBR "Mura-Drava-Danube"
7. Chamois in National Park Paklenica
8. The Green Heart of Europe
9. Workshop on protected areas in the Carpathians
10. Protect the bridge on the Tara River
11. High-trunk orchard pearls – Upkač
12. TETRA PAK and WWF in Serbia for responsible forest management
13. Dinaric Arc Parks to be on top of political and economic agenda
14. Dinaric Arc Parks - driving force of the region
15. E-flow methodology included in the new draft of Water law
16. Pelicans in the focus
17. European Schools for a Living Planet
18. The European Roller nesting attempts in Goričko
19. Training of volunteers for International Waterbird Census (IWC) in Serbia
20. Road to sustainability: Serbia-BiH cross-border region
21. Birds of Paklenica National Park
22. First International Workshop on the Importance of Dinaric Karst Poljes held in Livno
23. Historic decision by EBRD to step away from coal
24. Flyway Conservation in the Mediterranean

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

1. Sustainable tourism management in the Dinaric Arc
2. DASHI Newsletter out
3. Traditional agricultural land use practices in the Dinaric Arc
4. Monograph about the Ornithological Reserve Crna Mlaka
5. Dragonflies of Krka National Park
6. Exhibition and publication "Water is life to karst"
7. TB eNEWS
8. Building Bridges Newsletter: Beyond Boundaries
9. Bear, Brown Bear

TRAININGS & SEMINARS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Registration now open for the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Terra Viva Grants Directory
2. The Equator Prize 2014
3. Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (Montenegro – Kosovo) 2011-2013

1. Big Win for Dinaric Arc

By officially endorsing a 'Big Win for Dinaric Arc' joint statement in December 2013 in Montenegro, nature conservation authorities from South-Eastern Europe agreed to strengthen regional cooperation on nature conservation. Supported by IUCN, WWF and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, participating authorities agreed on joint priorities in nature conservation and formulated own, national commitments thus setting a new agenda for protected areas and nature conservation in SEE.

The joint statement was endorsed by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo*, FYR Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia during the high level event held in Budva, Montenegro, under the auspices of the Government of Montenegro and with the participation of Mr. Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment. Responsible institutions made a decisive step that will strengthen their cooperation and help create a regional platform for harmonization of nature conservation policies.



Photo: Big Win for Dinaric Arc

Examples of nature conservation priorities

Albania

1. Increase protected areas coverage to 17% of the national territory
2. Raise awareness on importance of protected areas and biodiversity conservation
3. Establish transboundary National park of the Albanian Alps (Albania, Kosovo*, Montenegro)

BiH

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Enlarge current protected areas network
2. Build capacities of the institutions responsible for protected area management at various levels
3. Develop a GIS database of protected areas

Republika Srpska

1. Increase protected areas coverage through establishment of national parks and natural monuments
2. Develop management plans for designated protected areas
3. Increase protected areas management effectiveness through necessary capacity building

Croatia

1. Improve the financial sustainability of national protected areas
2. Align national protected areas with the IUCN PA categorization system
3. Ensure accessibility to the online Register of protected areas

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the IJC opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

FYR Macedonia

1. Protect and manage natural heritage and promote it through increased protected areas coverage
2. Promoting management of protected areas through development and adoption of management plans for the Nature Monument Prespa Lake and National Park Mavrovo
3. Building capacity of national parks in management of project on natural heritage protection and management

Kosovo*

1. Increase protected areas coverage to 17% of the territory
2. Develop national guidelines for protected areas management planning
3. Build and promote protected areas, based on assessment of their values and benefits

Montenegro

1. Develop management plans for five national parks
2. Evaluate ecosystem services of protected areas
3. Develop fundraising strategy for protected areas

Serbia

1. Increase protected areas coverage
2. Assess the ecosystem services of protected areas and ecological network
3. Educate, raise awareness and strengthen capacities on sustainable management of protected areas

Slovenia

1. Establish and further manage the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube
2. Work on inscription of the Dinaric Karst on UNESCO World Heritage List
3. Cooperate on improvement of effective management of Natura 2000 sites, Ramsar sites and other protected areas.



'Big Win for Dinaric Arc' agreement is an important step in the implementation of the project '[Toward Strengthened Conservation Planning in South-Eastern Europe](#)'. This major regional project funded by the MAVA Foundation, is a result of partnership between IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe and the environmental ministries and nature conservation agencies from the region.

"IUCN's goal is to facilitate the process of creating a regional cooperation platform for nature conservation and help align policies and standards applied across the region", said Boris Erg, Director of IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe. The project officially started with a kick-off meeting hosted by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. The meeting was attended by the representatives of each participating country and resulted in an agreement on the major steps in the project. These include setting-up of a regional network comprised of nature conservation authorities, a baseline assessment of national nature conservation systems in South-Eastern Europe, a comprehensive regional capacity building programme, and further elaboration of regional and national priorities in nature conservation.

'Big Win for Dinaric Arc' builds upon the experiences of the milestone regional agreement on biodiversity conservation made in 2008 at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn, Germany. On that occasion six countries from South-Eastern Europe signed a joint agreement in order to support the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.



Photo: Skadar Lake by National Parks of Montenegro

Integral version of Big Win National Commitments is available [here](#).

1. National Parks of Montenegro, new IUCN member



The Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro became a member of IUCN, following the decision of IUCN Council in November 2013. IUCN extends a very warm welcome to its new member and looks forward to strengthened cooperation in Montenegro.

“During their decades long existence, National Parks of Montenegro have been developing management segments to protect, improve and promote their outstanding values. In addition, international cooperation has increasingly great importance for nature protection. This motivated National Parks of Montenegro to become an official member of IUCN. Our goal is to follow examples of good practice and experiences from

more developed protected areas and apply them in own plans and programmes, to connect with other organizations, institutions and individuals working on nature protection and we expect other possibilities and efficient solutions, that would reach us through IUCN,” said Zoran Mrdak, Director of Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro. “We believe that the membership in IUCN will assure an international cooperation boost for National Parks of Montenegro, achieved through the promotion of numerous values of protected areas of Montenegro,” he added.

Montenegro, and its national parks, have an important place in the global network of protected areas, given their exceptional values, natural and cultural alike, geographical position and potential for effective management. First national parks in Montenegro were designated 61 years ago. With the proclamation of National Park Prokletije in 2009, Montenegro expanded its network of protected areas to 8% of its territory. National Parks of Montenegro manage five National Parks: Durmitor (World Heritage site), Biogradska gora (one of the last virgine forests in Europe), Skadar Lake (a wetland of International Importance - Ramsar site and the largest freshwater lake in South-Eastern Europe), and peaks and lakes of Lovćen and Prokletije. The Public Enterprise for National Parks is responsible for these areas’ protection, preparation and implementation of management plans and programmes, monitoring of the use of natural resources, establishment of internal procedures and promotion.

For more information please visit www.nparkovi.me or contact npcg@nparkovi.me.

2. Transboundary Biosphere Reserve ‘Ohrid- Prespa Watershed’ nomination



Photo: TBR Ohrid-Prespa Watershed

The nomination form for designation of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) ‘Ohrid- Prespa Watershed’ was submitted to the UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere (MaB) Secretariat in Paris by the Albanian and Macedonian Commissions for UNESCO at the end of September 2013.

The proposed TBR covers Ohrid and Prespa Lakes and the encompassing territory in the two neighboring countries including three national parks (Galicica and Pelister in Macedonia and Prespa in Albania), and several other protected area categories. The nomination process was initiated with the joint proposal submitted by Albania and Macedonia, allowing Greece to join at its earliest convenience. Biosphere reserve is seen as a proper tool to stream all current and planned activities towards sustainable development, ensuring sustainable use of nature recourses

and supporting demonstration projects, environmental education, research and monitoring - all related to conservation and sustainable development. It is expected that the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves will consider the nomination form in early 2014. The Biosphere Reserve 'Ohrid - Prespa Watershed' will be the first one designated in Albania and Macedonia.

For more information please contact Tanja Dزامtoska, Transboundary Biosphere Reserve 'Ohrid-Prespa Watershed' at dzamta@gmail.com.

3. Newly discovered natural phenomenon



Photo: INCS

The field research conducted on the Željina Mountain by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia revealed a waterfall of exceptional characteristics and beauty. It was named Željinski troskok (A triple fall of Zeljin) reflecting its three magnificent water cascades. The morphometric characteristics, genesis, water abundance, aesthetic values and cascading waters assured the inclusion of this natural phenomenon on the list of hydrological heritage of Serbia.

This waterfall of exceptional size is located near Jošanička banja, above the village Đurovići and on the stream Jelovak, the biggest source of Planska River. The waterfall is of erosive type, formed in granodiorites. It consists of three major cascades of height and length estimated at about 30 meters. Part of the stream bed is also cascading, and intersects with small waterfalls, while the vertical drop of the valley bottom decreases after few tens of meters of the flow, and stream water calms down. Zeljinski troskok has amphitheater-shaped vertical drop, it is very difficult to access from both upstream and downstream parts of the valley and is surrounded by beech forest growing on highly inclined steep. The water of Jelovak waterfall has been dammed on two places, above and below the waterfall, and is being used for irrigation of orchards and gardens. This discovery has once again confirmed the importance of systematic field research on valuable natural areas in Serbia.

For more information please contact Maja Radosavljevic, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia at maja.radosavljevic@zzps.rs.

4. Rural development and EU integration in Forestry in Macedonia



Photo: CDI – Wageningen UR

Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation (CNVP) through its office based in Skopje and the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) - Wageningen UR jointly developed and provided a tailor made training on "Rural Development and EU Integration in Forestry in Macedonia". The training was held for the National Association of Private Forest Owners (NAPFO) and included four training sessions, a study tour to Bulgaria and on-the-job coaching.

In order to improve the position of private forest owners CNVP helps NAPFO to increase its organisational strength and build capacity to better serve its members in the field of sustainable forest management. The training included topics such as: communication skills, workshop facilitation techniques, project design and management. Special attention was given to the

impacts and opportunities EU accession brings to Macedonia, focusing on the EU Rural Development Policies.

CDI – Wageningen UR helped CNVP to design and deliver the training, funded by through NUFFIC (Netherlands Organisations for International Cooperation and Higher Education). The trainings were jointly conducted by experts from the CNVP Macedonia and CDI. CNVP and CDI agreed to continue their cooperation to further strengthen the private forest sector in South-Eastern Europe in close cooperation with REFORD, Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development.

For more information please contact Henk Zingstra, Centre for Development Innovation – Wageningen UR at henk.zingstra@wur.nl.

5. Save the Blue Heart of Europe

Photo: The Vjosa River, Albania by Romy Durst



The rivers of the Balkan Peninsula host by far the highest density of hydromorphologically intact, near-natural or even pristine rivers of the European continent. While in the countries of central and Western Europe less than 10% of large rivers are free flowing until the present day, this region still hosts 30% of untouched natural rivers or river stretches. Another 50% are only slightly to moderately modified. Consequently, this region is rich in aquatic biodiversity (in particular fish and mollusks) and dynamic aquatic habitats – but, at the same time, it is

under dramatic pressure from increased hydropower investments and dam construction plans. More than 550 projects were planned by late 2011 with capacities > 1 MW.

In order to raise awareness on the conservation value of the region's freshwater ecosystems and the critical, unsustainable side of hydropower EuroNatur and Riverwatch have launched the campaign "Save the Blue Heart of Europe" in September 2013 with financial support from the MAVA Foundation. The abandonment of extremely harmful dam projects in Croatia, Slovenia, Albania and Macedonia is among the project's main objectives. Several national partners from the NGO sector, as well as scientists and nature conservationists from the region and abroad are involved. The campaign will tackle the financiers of hydropower projects in the region, as well as respective representatives of the EU Parliament and Commission, national governments and the civil society.

For more information please contact Cornelia Wieser, Riverwatch at cornelia.wieser@riverwatch.eu or Romy Durst, EuroNatur at romy.durst@euornatur.org.

6. Danube floodplains of Serbia nominated for UNESCO TBR "Mura-Drava-Danube"

Photo: Gornje Podunavlje Nature Reserve by J. Pap



Serbia has recently nominated its part of the territory of the future five-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" at UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme in Paris. This area corresponds to almost 20% of the "Amazon of Europe" which is jointly conserved by Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia and Austria. Summing up to nearly 177.000 hectares, Serbia's recent input into the future Trans-boundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, consists of four protected areas in five municipalities, including the Special Nature Reserves Gornje

Podunavlje and Karadjordjevo. The final decision for a UNESCO designation of the Serbian territory will be taken by the International Co-ordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme on the occasion of their meeting in Paris in June 2014.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF DCP at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

7. Chamois in National Park Paklenica

Photo: Chamois, NP Paklenica by D.Bušijeta



Experts have studied the colonisation and distribution of chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra* L.) in National Park Paklenica and surrounding area, within Mount Velebit Biosphere Reserve, from 1998 to 2013. The data confirmed the presence of chamois in Paklenica National Park since 1985. Field work and regular monitoring indicated positive growth trend in chamois population as well as its distribution. The surrounding hunting grounds may be one of the main reasons for slow population growth rate, whilst tourism and mountaineering activities in the national park have minimal impact.

For more information please visit www.paklenica.hr.

8. The Green Heart of Europe

Map: Green Heart of Europe by WWF



Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) starts a new initiative to save and protect nature across 12 countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The Green Heart of Europe, launched at the beginning of October in Salamanca (Spain), aims to protect five natural riches of the region – forests, wilderness, large carnivores, rivers and wetlands, and the Danube sturgeon.

This initiative covers the largest remaining area of virgin and natural forests in Europe outside of northern Scandinavia and Russia (with the primeval beech forests

of Ukraine and Slovakia) and Europe's most spectacular remaining wilderness areas outside of Russia (including the southern Carpathians and the Danube Delta). The region shelters two-thirds of the European populations of large carnivores like bear, lynx and wolf. The Green Heart of Europe includes most of Europe's last remaining intact rivers and wetlands, including the globally important Lower Danube Green Corridor and the Mura-Drava-Danube corridor, also known as "Amazon of Europe". These waters are home to the Beluga sturgeon - a 7-meter fish that survived the end of the dinosaurs but now teeters on the edge of extinction.

The initiative will see better collaboration among partners such as government, NGOs and local communities as well as ensuring the full implementation of existing tools like regional and international protection frameworks, strong legislation and government commitments to ensure the protection of this diverse region.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF DCP at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

9. Workshop on protected areas in the Carpathians



Photo: INCS

Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia was one of the institutions that participated in the workshop on sustainable financing of protected areas in the Carpathians, held in October 2013 in Sinaia, Romania. Organized by the Romanian state owned enterprise for forestry and protected natural areas management, WWF, GEF and UNDP, the workshop gathered participants from Poland, Slovakia, Serbia, Hungary, Ukraine and the United States.

Participants had the opportunity to share experiences related to nature protection and sustainable development of national parks. Particularly interesting was the innovative management experience presented by the lecturers from the United States, and the National Park Tatra in Poland, with, according to European standards, impressive number of visitors per day - around 10 000. Other discussion topics were Natura 2000 network implementation and a program of electronic education-CNPA. In the numerous contacts made with the representatives of Romsilva, UNDP and the management of national parks, different modes of future cooperation between the Institute and the aforementioned institutions were arranged.

On the last day of the workshop, a visit to the National Park Babele was organized, where, apart from the natural goods of the national park, its capacities and management resources were presented.

For more information please contact Maja Radosavljevic, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia at maja.radosavljevic@zzps.rs.

10. Protect the bridge on the Tara River



Photo: National Parks of Montenegro

Authority for the Protection of cultural properties in Montenegro has accepted the initiative of the National Parks of Montenegro to protect an immovable property - bridge on the Tara River, located in the National Park Durmitor. The bridge on Djurdjevica Tara has outstanding architectural, historical, cultural and environmental values based on which it deserves to be protected as an immovable cultural property of national significance. It was built in November 1940 based on the project of the engineer Trojanovic, at the crossroads between Pljevlja, Zabljak and Mojkovac. At that

time it was the biggest reinforced-concrete arched bridge in Europe and one of the largest in the world.

For more information please contact Marijana Dzakovic, National Parks of Montenegro at npcg@nparkovi.me.

11. High-trunk orchard pearls – Upkač

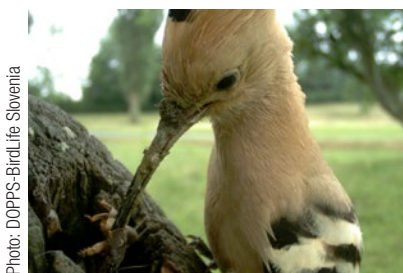


Photo: DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia

Public Institution Goričko Nature Park is implementing a 3 years long cross-border project “High-trunk orchard pearls – Upkač”, in partnership with DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia (Slovenia) and Órség National Park (Hungary). Project aims to preserve the biodiversity in the high-trunk orchards, especially birds such as the Hoopoe (upkaš or upkač called by locals) on one hand and on the other to encourage the owners of the high-trunk orchards to maintain them in a nature friendly way, and to use the orchards for new economic opportunities. A series of workshops was held on the

proper high-trunk orchards maintenance and on the bud grafting techniques of high-trunk trees. Mobile machinery for apple fruits pressing was bought and 22 workshops on juice production were held for more than 230 owners of the high-trunk orchards. An exhibition was opened in Grad castle in Goričko Nature Park that promotes and presents role and importance of the high-trunk orchards for humans and wildlife. High-trunk orchards are important habitat for many plant and animal species in Goričko. They increase the aesthetic value of the cultural landscape providing social and environmental benefits for Goričko inhabitants.

For more information please contact Uroš Koštric, Goričko Nature Park at uros.kostric@goricko.info or visit www.park-goricko.org.

12. TETRA PAK and WWF in Serbia for responsible forest management



Photo: WWF DCP

Tetra Pak company and WWF in Serbia launched a campaign in November that aims to promote the use of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certificate in Serbia. Respecting the principle “Nature has its own rhythm“, the leading world company for food processing and packaging has decided to take this step in order to inform consumers how to contribute to the protection of our living environment by purchasing basic products for daily needs. FSC certificate is issued by Forest Stewardship Council, and it confirms that natural resources for production of packaging are obtained from responsibly managed forests. As a part of the campaign in Belgrade city buses are turned into rolling promoters of responsible forest management and FSC certified wood and paper products.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF DCP at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

13. Dinaric Arc Parks to be on top of political and economic agenda



Photo: WWF MedPO

The 2nd Dinaric Arc Parks International Conference started on 2 December, with endorsement of the “Big Win for Dinaric Arc” document, and finished on 5 December, with a visit to Skadar Lake National Park. The conference gathered 165 people from over 60 protected areas from South-Eastern Europe. One of its main conclusions is a need to establish an independent Dinaric Arc Parks Association. The Dinaric Arc Parks project, implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF, managed to link 79 protected areas from Slovenia to Albania into a network of parks which share their experiences, ideas and set up joint projects.

The protected areas need to become relevant to be able to perform their main function - to protect biodiversity. The parks should become a constituent part of the development of the region and a driving force that will find ways to enhance the quality of life of people who live in or around them, without disturbing the fundamental natural values. The participants of the Conference expressed their wish to become formally united into a Dinaric Arc Parks Association. This decision was also

recognised by the competent ministries through the “Big Win for Dinaric Arc”, a joint statement of all ministries of the countries in the region. Accordingly, next year the WWF and the parks, in cooperation with the ministries, will try to find a model to establish a Dinaric Arc Parks Association.

For more information please contact Petra Boic Petrac, WWF MedPO at ppetrac@wwfmedpo.org or visit <http://www.discoverdinarides.com/en/conference/2013>.

14. Dinaric Arc Parks - driving force of the region



Photo: WWF DCP

The conclusions of the 2nd Dinaric Arc Parks International Conference were presented on 5 December in National Park Skadar Lake, Montenegro. During the closing press conference Mr. Mrdak, Director of Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro, shared this organization's plans, some of them being to nominate Skadar Lake a Ramsar site, and NP Biogradska gora a UNESCO site; to prepare 5 years long management plans for five national parks (2015-2020) and to strengthen cross-border cooperation in NP Prokletije. One of the main conference

conclusions was the need to create a formal association of Dinaric Arc Parks that would support placing protected areas on the political and economic agenda in all countries of the region. The “Big Win for Dinaric Arc” document will significantly contribute to this goal.

For more information please contact Marijana Dzakovic, National Parks of Montenegro at npcg@nparkovi.me.

15. E-flow methodology included in the new draft of Water law



Photo: B.Stojanović/WWF MedPO

After two years of advocacy and scientific work by WWF and Green Home a new draft of the Water law was proposed in Montenegro. It is introducing a new term and methodology of “environmental flow” that replaced the “guaranteed minimum flow” used so far. E-flow methodology takes into account the seasonal variations and flash flows and is addressing the actual needs of rivers' ecosystems much more than “minimum flow”. This achievement represents one of the most important results of the WWF DASHI project in Montenegro.

For more information please contact Nataša Kovačević, Green Home at natasa.kovacevic@greenhome.co.me.

16. Pelicans in the focus

Greece is a country of great importance for the two species of pelicans that are found in SE Europe, the globally threatened Dalmatian Pelican and the Great White Pelican. The country hosts 5 Dalmatian Pelican breeding sites, with Lesser Prespa Lake in NW Greece being home to the largest colony of this species in the world. Lately, there have been significant moves towards coordinated efforts for pelican conservation by Protected Area (PA) Authorities and other organisations active on Greek pelican sites. In this context, a workshop for pelican conservation and protection was organised by the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) and the Hellenic Ornithological Society at Prespa 12-13 December, supporting and encouraging interaction between “pelican partners.”



Photo: SPP/O. Alexandrou

Representatives from 7 PA Authorities in Greece participated: Lake Kerkini, Amvrakikos Wetlands, Messolonghi Lagoons, Prespa Lakes, Evros Delta, Lake Vistonida -Porto Lagos Lagoon, Aheron-Kalamas River. Information about monitoring techniques, threats and problems at each site were shared and discussed. Dr. Giorgos Catsadorakis, chairman of the IUCN SSC-WI Pelican Specialist Group and scientific consultant to the SPP, presented best practices in pelican conservation and monitoring. Crucial issues such as the need for systematic gathering of standardised monitoring data and the development of a National Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican were agreed upon. Finally, acknowledging the need for more systematic cooperation, the participants agreed to work together under the framework of a Memorandum of Co-operation.

For more information please contact Marianna Vlasi, Society for the Protection of Prespa at m.vlasi@wwf.gr.

17. European Schools for a Living Planet



Photo: European Schools for a Living Planet 2013 by L. Illigner

Four Serbian school classes will be part of the international environment initiative „European Schools for a Living Planet” of WWF and ERSTE Foundation this school year. The initiative was launched in October, when 33 pupils and teachers from Serbia and ten other European countries gathered at the one-week pupil-teacher academy in Austria. Through workshops and outdoor activities they learned about various nature and environment conservation topics. As a follow up, year the classes will realize individual eco-projects until the end of the school.

Activities may range from street theatre performances and exhibitions to newspaper series and action plans for schools. The progress of the nature conservation projects can be watched via the publicly accessible interactive weblog <http://schools.foralivingplanet.eu>. In June 2014 pupils and teachers will gather again in Romania, to present their nature conservation activities, share their experiences and develop ideas for a joint cross-border eco-action in autumn 2014.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF DCP at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

18. The European Roller nesting attempts in Goričko



Photo: G. Domarijko

The change of agricultural practices, conversion to monoculture, land consolidation and agricultural reclamation led to loss of suitable breeding and foraging habitats for the European Roller in Slovenia. The last remaining birds of the Slovenian population were nesting in Slovenske Gorice in 2005. This year two pairs of the European Roller tried, unsuccessfully, to breed again in Goričko Nature Park. Two more specimens were spotted last summer in Ledava valley, near the cross-border Natura 2000 site (Steirisches Hügelland) that hosts the small population of the

European Roller in Austria. In order to enhance the breeding chances for these magnificent birds members of DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia and Public Institute Goričko Nature Park placed 26 hunting poles and 3 nesting boxes at the edges of the extensively used meadows. Partners further agreed with farmers to mow their meadows which were mulched in the previous years and enable native plants and insects to flourish again. Grass from the mowed meadows was used for feeding horses

at the neighbouring farm. Next year 30 more hunting poles and nesting boxes will be placed. Similar actions to improve the potential breeding sites for the European Roller were carried out in 2008 together with the Austrian partners of the European Green Belt.

For more information please contact Gregor Domanjko at gregor.domanjko@goricko.info

19. Training of volunteers for International Waterbird Census (IWC) in Serbia

Photo: Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia



The participants of the IWC training workshop near Novi Sad (Serbia) were stunned by the impressive sight of 17,000 Common Cranes (*Grus grus*) and 8,000 White-fronted Geese landing on the salt pans of the nearby Special Nature Reserve "Slano Kopovo" on the evening of 1 December 2013. Slano Kopovo is known as the best-protected hunting ban area of Serbia, well-managed by the local hunters association, and was the stage for a highly successful and comprehensive training of volunteers for the annual IWC in

Serbia from 30 November until 2 December. With financial support from the MAVA Foundation, the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia (BPSSS) hosted the event, which provided a platform for the training of more than 100 amateurs and ornithologists from Serbia and neighboring countries in the framework of the EuroNatur project "Towards a functioning system of safe stop-over sites along the Adriatic Flyway". The workshop was supported by Wetlands International, the initiator of the IWC - the most comprehensive tool for international waterbird population trend monitoring. Besides building new capacities for the IWC, this successful event represents the kick-off for a new set of ornithological capacity building events, which will be held in a rotating system along the region in the future to further foster the positive development of the IWC coverage in recent years.

For more information please contact Romy Durst, EuroNatur at romy.durst@euornatur.org or Marko Sciban, BPSSS at sciban.marko@gmail.com.

20. Road to sustainability: Serbia-BiH cross-border region

Photo: M. Nikolic



Overall objective of the project "Wise use of common natural resources - road to sustainability of the Serbia-BiH cross-border region" is to contribute to sustainable development of this region by fostering cooperation and multi-stakeholder approach in integrated natural resources management in the Drina River Basin. The project is implemented by the Union of Ecologists UNECO from Belgrade and Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development (CESD) from Sarajevo.

Several activities were realized in the course of 2013. Introductory workshop was held in the ethno village Stanisic, near Bijeljina, in March. Representatives from six municipalities covered by the project participated, among hundreds of attendees. In June, the training on participatory planning of natural resources was held in monastery complex Saint Nicholas near Ljubovija. It was divided into blocks that supposed the presentation of the geographic information system GIS, a tool for environmental management, and methodology and analysis of the study of natural resources and the action plan. The following training was held in September in Sarajevo, focusing on the analysis of natural resources and GIS. It covered topics such as symbology and display of the shp files, georeferencing maps in QGIS, printing, exporting, and saving maps in QGIS. The year ended with the workshop on techniques for public participation, held in the ethno village Stanisic, near Bijeljina, 4-6 December.

For more information please contact Milos Nikolic, Union of Ecologists UNECO, at milos.n011@gmail.com.

21. Birds of Paklenica National Park

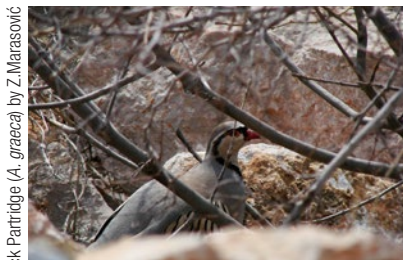


Photo: Rock Partridge (*A. graeca*) by Z. Marasović

In Paklenica NP and its surrounding area, within Velebit Mountain Biosphere Reserve, 254 bird species and 111 breeding species have been recorded. The monitoring focused on raptors, owls, woodpeckers and 23 species known as petrophilous breeding birds, and was done in canyon habitats Velika and Mala Paklenica. Four species were marked as very sensitive on the presence of climbers: the Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*), the Golden Eagle (*A. chrysaetos*), the Raven (*C. corax*) and the Rock Partridge (*A. graeca*).

For more information please visit www.paklenica.hr or contact Gordan Lukač, Public Institution Paklenica National Park at sluzba-zastite@paklenica.hr.

22. First International Workshop on the Importance of Dinaric Karst Poljes held in Livno



Photo: Workshop participants by B. Stumberger

The development and implementation of adequate sustainable management strategies will tip the scales in the preservation of karst polje landscapes in the future – this conclusion was drawn by the workshop participants after two days of presentations, working groups and excursions in and around the town of Livno, located in the world's largest karst polje – the Livanjsko polje in Western Bosnia and Herzegovina. Biodiversity, ecology, hydrology, management, land use and the vulnerability of the Dinaric karst were the central topics of the “First International

Workshop on the National and International Importance of Dinaric Karst poljes” held by NGOs Naše ptice, Naša Baština and EuroNatur from 30 September to 2 October 2013. Representatives from the NGO sector, international conventions, such as Ramsar, as well as scientists and experts from nine countries came together pooling their ideas and experiences. Constructive approaches to stop the loss of karst polje wetlands, hydrological alterations and over-exploitation of these invaluable landscapes were discussed and developed. The workshop marked the final phase of the EuroNatur project “Identification and Promotion of Karst Poljes in Bosnia - Herzegovina as Wetlands of National and International Importance” launched in 2011 with financial support from the MAVA Foundation. Furthermore, a touring karst polje exhibition was opened in the cultural centre of Tomislavgrad (Duvanjsko polje) on 2 October. The workshop material, including a remote sensing study about the flooding potential of Bosnian-Herzegovinian karst (Schwarz, 2013) is available under: <http://www.euronatur.org/Karst-Workshop-Livno.1534.0.html>. Workshop proceedings will be published in February 2014.

For more information please contact Romy Durst, EuroNatur at romy.durst@euornatur.org or Dražen Kotrošan, Naše ptice at kotrosan@bih.net.ba.

23. Historic decision by EBRD to step away from coal



Photo: Global Warming Pictures/WWF-Cannon

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) adopted measures on 10 December which, if implemented properly, should phase out its financial support of coal plants and promote increased investments in renewable energy and energy savings. In the coming months, WWF will be closely monitoring the EBRD's energy funding decisions to check if the Bank effectively walks the talk. The decision whether to support or not a new 600 MW lignite plant project in Kosovo*, that the Bank may

be asked to co-finance, will be a first crucial test. Good indicator was EBRD's September decision to give up on Kolubara B lignite power plant in Serbia.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF DCP at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

24. Flyway Conservation in the Mediterranean



Photo: Šasko Lake by B. Rubinić

BirdLife International is leading on the implementation of a trans-boundary project supporting the protection of migratory birds in the Mediterranean region. The project is entitled *Capacity Building for Flyway Conservation in the Mediterranean* and supported by the MAVA Foundation for Nature. Many key stop-over sites in the Mediterranean basin are seriously threatened by uncontrolled hunting, trapping and emerging collision risk for soaring birds from the expansion of power infrastructure (wind and solar energy and transmission lines). The Balkans is in special focus being a region

where infrastructure projects are still in their initial phase. A need to compile common guidelines and methodologies for assessing the threats to soaring birds has become one of the major priorities.

The project aims to reduce threats to migratory birds and support strengthened national and international cooperation for addressing these issues. Its main focus is to support effective capacity building for a group of eight national NGOs for them to work effectively together to protect key species and sites along the flyway. The Centre for Bird Study and Protection (CZIP) from Montenegro and the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) from Macedonia are main participants and DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia is playing a key role in project coordination and implementation in the Balkans.

The project is an excellent demonstration of BirdLife's local-to-global approach to conservation as it involves the implementation of both national and regional level activities. At national level, it is empowering NGOs for the implementation of flyway conservation activities. As part of project implementation in the Balkans, CZIP has successfully advocated for the shortening of the national hunting season, obtained a two-year hunting ban at Šasko Lake and lobbied to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments are mandatory for all wind farm developments. MES recently organised a national workshop for key stakeholders on the negative effects of wind farms on migratory birds. At regional level, one of the project's objectives is the development of a flyway conservation strategy for the Mediterranean. It is also providing a platform for knowledge exchange between participating organisations. In the Balkans, the project has identified the urgent need to compile common guidelines and methodologies for assessing the threats to migratory birds.

Coordination of conservation action is crucial for the protection of migratory birds and BirdLife is in a unique position as a global partnership to build the capacity of national NGOs to collaborate and address the flyway level conservation issues. Collaboration with other initiatives further strengthens BirdLife's approach. For example, CZIP is participating in a project led by EuroNatur, which addresses non-sustainable hunting and poaching in the Balkans and on a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund for the development of sustainable tourism in Ulcinj salina.

For more information please contact Claire Thompson, MAVA project coordinator and Borut Rubinić, DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia at Borut.Rubinic@birdlife.org.



1. Sustainable tourism management in the Dinaric Arc



Recently published IUCN's manual 'Sustainable tourism management in the transboundary areas of the Dinaric Arc region' presents the practical steps that need to be implemented in order to secure sustainable tourism development. When well-planned and effectively managed, tourism can provide economic benefits to local people and increase the support for conservation of the natural and cultural resources it depends upon. Downloadable from https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/sustainable_tourism_da_publication_final.pdf

2. DASHI Newsletter out



The sixth issue of the Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative (DASHI) Newsletter is published, providing information on the latest developments of the DASHI project as well as further news relevant to freshwater and hydropower in the larger region. To subscribe please contact Bojan Stojanović, WWF MedPO at bstojanovic@wwf.panda.org.

3. Traditional agricultural land use practices in the Dinaric Arc



This recently finalized manual explores existing traditional agricultural practices in the transboundary sites NP Plitvicka jezera-NP Una, NP Durmitor-NP Sutjeska, NP Tara-Drina, Neretva delta, and Mountain Dinara, and identifies mechanisms for the maintenance and extension of these practices. Published by IUCN, SNV and WWF, it proposes an entire spectrum of measures that could revitalize the rural areas of the Dinaric Arc and enable farmers to focus on the type of management that would protect biodiversity. Downloadable from https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/traditional_agricultural_land_use_practices_in_the_dinaric_arc.pdf

4. Monograph about the Ornithological Reserve Crna Mlaka



Cover by G.Šafarek

In one and a half years of intense work, the Croatian nature photographer, nature film cinematographer and biologist Goran Šafarek, produced an impressive book about one of the most precious sites for migratory birds in Croatia – the Crna Mlaka fishponds. The site is privately owned and used in extensive fish production. Due to sensitive management practice it has remained a remote and undisturbed resting, wintering and breeding site for numerous migratory bird species along the Adriatic Flyway, only 50 km away from the capital Zagreb. Amongst its guests there is the rare Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) resting in the ponds during migration in groups of up to 5,000 individuals. With its spectacular aerial pictures and close-ups, the monograph gives a deep impression of natural seasonal cycles of bird life and anthropogenic use in the fishponds and makes

us realize that man and nature may live in harmonized co-existence. The monograph proves that sustainable wetland management does have the potential to fulfill economic and ecological needs at the same time. Supported by the Croatian NGO BIOM, it was recently presented at the Faculty of Biology at the University of Zagreb and will be further used to promote more sustainable, extensive wetland management in Croatia and neighboring countries in the future. Crna Mlaka is one of the model sites of EuroNatur's Adriatic Flyway project launched in 2011.

For further information and book orders please contact Goran Šafarek, Baobab at safarek@visionexpander.com or Romy Durst, EuroNatur at romy.durst@euornatur.org.

5. Dragonflies of Krka National Park



Photo: Krka National Park

In 2008, the Public Institute of Krka National Park launched the series Biodiversity of the Krka River, aimed at presenting the biodiversity of the Krka River and Krka National Park. The fifth volume in the series, *Dragonflies of Krka National Park*, contains descriptions of 38 dragonfly taxa that inhabit the park area. The book has been written with the aim of bringing nature lovers close to these increasingly threatened insects which over history have been the subject of many myths and superstitions, but also a symbol of hope, determination and success. The dragonflies are a group of insects that have played an important link in the

food chain since their appearance in the Carboniferous period. Considering that their presence indicates a rich and preserved ecosystem, they have been recognised as a bioindicator of the state of the environment in modern science.

For more information please contact Katia Župan, Krka National Park at katia.zupan@npk.hr.

6. Exhibition and publication “Water is life to karst”



Photo: WWF MedPO/B.Stojanović



In October WWF organised a photo exhibition “Water is life to karst” devoted to the phenomenon of flooded karst fields, their high biological value and number of pressures they face, especially in changes of the hydrological regime. The focus of the exhibition was Livanjsko polje, the largest karst field in the Dinaric Arc and a wetland of international importance protected by the

Ramsar Convention. It is home to dozens of endangered species, and plays an important role in the life of local people with the resources and services it provides. A holistic approach is needed when planning and building in this highly sensitive area. The exhibition was opened by adviser of Federal Minister of Environment Mr. Dolušić, and was attended by several important stakeholders and mayor of Sarajevo Mr. Komšić.

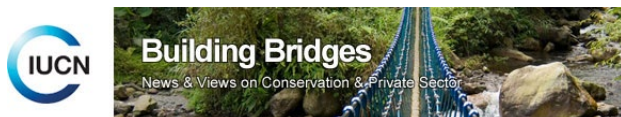
WWF prepared a special publication on karst fields, downloadable from http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_livno_brosura_preview_1.pdf

7. TB eNEWS



The 8th issue of TB eNEWS, an electronic bulletin prepared by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, can be downloaded from the website www.tbpa.net.

8. Building Bridges Newsletter: Beyond Boundaries



Produced by the Global Business and Biodiversity Programme of IUCN, the Building Bridges Newsletter brings together news and views on conservation and the private sector.

The last issue intends to convince business to address biodiversity and related issues beyond their traditional operational fences or their traditional sphere of influence.

Please visit http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/newsletters/building_bridges/january_2014.cfm

9. Bear, Brown Bear

The short documentary film 'Bear, Brown Bear' was made by the Institute of Ecology NATURE 2001, Slovenia. The film is marked by the exceptional footage and high quality concept. It features 15 different bears, captured in their natural habitat, filmed in the south of Slovenia, the Kočevsko region. In the anniversary year of Leopold Hufnagl (1857-1942), one of the pioneers of nature and bear conservation in Europe, the film 'Bear, Brown Bear' presents a specific document of nature conservation in Central and Southeast Europe.

Watch the film here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAM38LOtTbQ>.

For more information please contact eko.zavod@gmail.com or Viktor Luskovec at viktor.luskovec@gmail.com.

1. Registration now open for the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

The IUCN World Parks Congress is the landmark global forum on protected areas held every ten years. It will be convened in Sydney, Australia 12 - 19 November 2014, with the theme “*Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions*” designed to reflect and help deliver IUCN’s three Programme Areas. The World Parks Congress 2014 will articulate the vital role of protected areas in conserving nature while delivering essential ecosystem services, position protected areas within the goals of economic and community well-being in the post-2015 development agenda, and demonstrate and guide how this can be achieved in practice. The event is being organized by IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and hosted on behalf of the Australian Government by Parks Australia and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, in the Office of Environment and Heritage.

For more information and to register please contact worldparkscongress@iucn.org or visit <http://worldparkscongress.org>.



IUCN
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014



Global
Diversity
Foundation
A world of difference

GlobalEnvironments
SUMMER ACADEMY
Peer-to-peer learning for emerging changemakers

1. Terra Viva Grants Directory



This global database provides information about international grant funding for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in the developing world. They focus on grant makers (donors) serving the developing world. The website is mostly used by people searching for financial support of their work as individuals or as organizations. Grant makers included in the Terra Viva Grants Directory range from funders of community projects to funders of science and research. For more information please visit: www.terravivagrants.org.

2. The Equator Prize 2014



The Equator Prize 2014 will recognize twenty-five local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. Winning initiatives will each receive \$5,000, with several selected for 'special recognition' and an additional \$15,000 (USD). Representatives of winning communities will be supported to participate in a series of events held in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly, scheduled for September 2014 in New York. Call for nominations closes on 22 March 2014. In order to be eligible for the Equator Prize 2014, nominees must have been in operation for at least 3 years, be a community-based or local group, operating in a rural area and be located within a country receiving support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), excluding countries with a high level of development.

For more information please visit http://www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=767&Itemid=890&lang=en.

3. Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (Montenegro – Kosovo) 2011-2013

Programme(s): IPA

Sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Social Cohesion

Abstract: The global objective of the programme is the socio economic development of the programme area by fostering cooperation and joint initiatives. The specific objectives of the Programme are: Protection of biodiversity and promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources in the programme area; Economic development of the programme area with a special emphasis on two priority sectors: a) Sustainable agriculture and forestry; b) development of the tourism offer complementary to the existing seaside tourism in Montenegro. Promotion of socio-economic cohesion between communities living in the bordering regions.

Deadline(s) for submitting applications: 25/03/2014

Eligible organizations: Research centres, Local and Regional authorities, Schools, Training centres, Federations Unions, Administrations States, Agencies Chambers, Development NGOs, Universities, Associations

Geographical Zone: Montenegro, Kosovo

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

For more information about IPA click [here](#)

For further information, contact the [contracting authority](#)

Call for proposals No: EuropeAid/135345/L/ACT/Multi

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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, 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. The editors reserve the right to shorten and modify the text if necessary. Thank you for taking these guidelines into consideration!



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www.iucn.org/southeasterneurope

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