



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: IUCN/B.Erg, Kotor Bay

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 30th 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!

IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe

IN THE FOCUS

Project cycle management

NEWS & EVENTS

1. Albania and Montenegro join for local action
2. Appeal for protection of natural treasures along the Green Belt
3. Milos island, a potential Marine Protected Area
4. European Transboundary Parks meet again
5. Study tour to Slovenia
6. New public bidding for Ulcinj Salina
7. Training of the Croatian Ranger Service in Dalmatia Region
8. RIO+20
9. At the crossroads of conservation and development
10. The Adriatic-Ionian Region plans
11. Mobilizing civil society in the Dinaric Arc
12. Educational walking trail in Krka NP
13. European Schools for a Living Planet
14. Campaigning for the sustainable hydropower in Albania
15. Wild orchids habitat to be protected
16. Ramsar COP 11 "Wetlands: home and destination"
17. Culture: contributing to wetland wise use
18. Turtle doesn't see the difference
19. Natura 2000 in Serbia and Montenegro
20. Forum on Climate Change Adaptation
21. The Vjosa/Aoos river ecomuseum
22. Natura 2000 and forestry
23. Pelican Conservation in SE Europe
24. Sustainable hydropower in the Western Balkans

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

1. Engaging CSOs in EU nature-related legislation
2. Eco-surveys on Balkan rivers and risk assessment of dam projects
3. TB eNEWS
4. EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
5. Advance Albania Newsletter out

TRAININGS & SEMINARS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Economy of resources
2. LANDLIFEWEEK
3. Ecologists of Macedonia
4. Dinaric Arc Parks conference
5. GREEN FEST calls for film entries

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Terra Viva Grants Directory
2. FP7 - CLEAN SKY RESEARCH and TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - 2012

Project cycle management



Photo: IUCN/ A. Nestic

Project Cycle Management (PCM) is a methodology for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of projects, based on the logical framework approach (LFA). LFA includes prior logic, cause-effect and contextual analysis. It teaches us how to translate our ideas into the well-planned reality we will be happy to implement to the satisfaction of the local community. Donors use the PCM approach for more than three decades, including the EU Delegation, the largest donor at the moment. Project Management Cycle consists of six phases: planning, identification, formulation, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

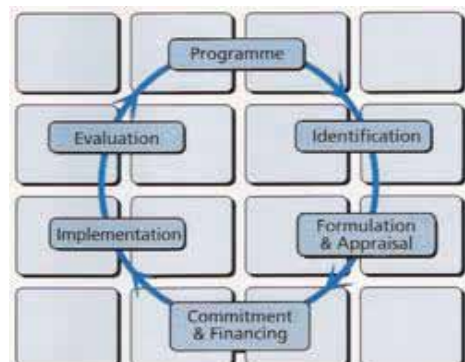
PCM PHASES

In the **planning** phase, it is important to determine and adjust the priorities of the organization/institution to the existing EU, national and local policies and strategies. During the **identification** phase we are dealing with four crucial analyses: problem tree analyses, objectives analysis, strategy analysis and stakeholder analysis. These four analyses place our project in the context, test causal relationships, allow us to be creative and choose the best strategy to achieve project's goals. Stakeholder analysis is of high importance, providing us with new insights and solutions to activate the local community and getting the necessary support from major stakeholders. In the **formulation** phase we develop a logical matrix that consists of the causal relations of all parts of the project located in sixteen fields. The **budget** is financial equivalent of our project plan. It is important to develop a realistic and balanced budget, which takes into account the donor principles. The next step of the PCM approach is elaboration of the application form - the crown of the project.

During the **financing** phase, donors evaluate the application form and select projects for funding that satisfy all their criteria. Once we have received the positive reply and the contract with the donor is signed, the real life of our project begins. In the **implementation** stage we conduct activities that were anticipated in the project plan. We **monitor** our work during the project implementation, the degree of achievement of results and our progress toward the project objectives. The monitoring consists of reports and progress-reports, which we communicate with donors. **Evaluation** is a particularly important part of the process cycle, because it allows us to assess the quality of our work, and the degree to which our project is completed. It is the basis for formulation of lessons learned: what we do well and what could be improved in the next cycle?

EXPERIENCE NOTES

1. It is important to align the strategic plan of the organization/institution with the donor/EU policies, priorities, programme and financial documents.
2. It is crucial to understand the difference between the project and the grant. Grant is not a gift! Grant is a financial resource allocated to our organisation in order to contribute to donor's



Project cycle management graph
Source: Management Development Institute
www.mdi.com.pk

objectives and policies achievement, as anticipated in the project plan.

3. Partnerships are an essential part of projects and very often project partners gather for the first time. Skills for selecting partners, establishing and developing partnerships are critical for the success of the entire project cycle.

4. Communication with the local community and the fact that project is developed according to the needs of the community, will improve our project's success and sustainability.

5. Projects are expected to be multi-sector. Even when focusing on nature protection, they should include cross-cutting elements, such as the gender issue, inclusion of vulnerable groups and society democratization.

6. Co-financing the project represents a significant challenge, especially for small organizations. By forming a lasting partnership with the local community, this challenge can be easily bridged.

7. Management of project activities and budget on a daily basis is the set of skills which are improved with experience. Regular communication with the donor is highly recommended, and it should be honest, open and transparent at all times.



Photo: IUCN/ A. Nestic

8. CSOs as the project implementers often find donors' administration challenging. All activities, results and objectives achieved must follow strict donor procedures. Some donors deliver trainings on specific procedures to be followed during the project implementation.

9. It is advisable to plan for a certain period of silence, during which the donor administration would process our application. This might lead to delays in the start of the project implementation.

10. The inflow dynamics of donor funds is often a challenge at the beginning and the end of project implementation. Sometimes project activities must be organized without the allocated funds, which would be received after the project reports are approved. Beneficiary often received the last instalment only after all reports are approved by the donor.



Photo: IUCN/ T. Pezold

Prepared by Marija Grujić and Jelena Nešić
Agenda Pro Ltd.

Edited by IUCN SEE

Transfer of the knowledge on project elaboration, fundraising and implementation to civil society organizations and government agencies in Serbia and Montenegro is the main objective of the Building capacities for conservation action project, led by IUCN. Selected project participants from Serbia and Montenegro are enrolled in the several months long training on the project cycle management that includes experts' advice on project proposals elaboration and guidance on later fundraising and implementation. This will improve the capacity of participants to efficiently implement conservation policies and actions.

1. Albania and Montenegro join for local action

Photo: IUCN/ T. Pezold



Common understanding for sustainable development in the border region of Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Namuna Mountains was officially announced on 8 May 2012, when Local Action Groups (LAGs) of Albania and Montenegro signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), agreeing to strengthen the cooperation in environmental protection, tourism and recreation. The MoU concerns the pristine ecosystem characterised by high biodiversity, rich local tradition and unique cultural values. Its magnitude places it at the top of the list of largest unspoilt natural areas of Europe. Yet, the region is facing inadequate management practices, ever increasing pressure caused by uncontrolled development, low public participation in management practices, lack of efficient communication and the understanding of biodiversity values and its benefit for the local communities. Given that the

signed MoU is not legally binding the LAGs must rely on campaigning, information sharing, cooperation and consensus building to achieve their aims. This MoU provides a framework for such actions. It is supplemented with Guidelines that suggest LAGs the ways to implement it in their own countries and to collaborate on its realization across the border.

For more information please contact [Tomasz Pezold](#), IUCN SEE.

2. Appeal for protection of natural treasures along the Green Belt

The organizers of the 6th Pan-European Green Belt Conference, the EuroNatur Foundation and BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany), draw a positive conclusion and consider the conference as a milestone on the path to further development of a powerful movement to protect the Green Belt in Europe. The conference with its roughly 100 participants representing 21 countries along the European Green Belt was held from 28th to 30th June in Mavrovo National Park, FYR of Macedonia. The European Green Belt Initiative has set itself the goal of preserving and developing what was once the area of the Iron Curtain dividing Europe over decades and transforming it into a Europe-wide connected green corridor for wildlife over a length of 12 500 kilometres. One of the results of the conference is that the overall coordination of the European Green Belt Initiative will be taken over by Coordination Group consisting of 12 persons to meet at least twice a year. The European Green Belt Initiative is to take on a more formalised shape and possibilities of founding an Association and a Trust are to be explored. The goal shared by all to coordinate the Initiative across Europe but also in the four regional sections in a professional manner requires medium and long-term secure funding for the tasks of the Coordination Group and the regional coordinators.

For more information please contact [Katrin Heinrichs](#) and [Thies Geertz](#) or visit www.europeangreenbelt.org and www.euronatur.org.

Photo: European Green Belt Initiative



Photo: Balkans Peace Park Project



María Victoria Gabioud, representative of the B3P (Balkans Peace Park Project) at the Green Belt conference, pointed out that during the discussions on the future of the initiative “most participants agreed on the importance of redefining the European Green Belt initiative and its objectives, especially for the Balkans, and that individual states should be more involved in this initiative”.

For more information please visit www.balkanspeacepark.org.

3. Milos island, a potential Marine Protected Area

Photo: MEDASSET



In order to engage local stakeholders in sustainable tourism and best practices for maintaining the environmental, cultural, social and economic integrity of local destinations MEDASSET and the Marine Sciences Laboratory of the University of Piraeus organized a meeting on Milos island, Greece, on 21 April 2012. The role that stakeholders can play in fostering responsible tourism activities was highlighted. Discussions among stakeholders also tackled the potential establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Milos island. Invited speakers, Jorge Moreno (Director of the Cabrera Archipelago National Park) and Robert Philip (former director of the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas) shared experiences on the development stages and the challenges related to the

creation of MPAs, as well as the environmental, social and economic benefits that an MPA can generate for the local tourism sector. Participants joined one of the three working groups: Milos MPA creation & economic benefits; integration of traditional activities into tourist itineraries and update of the Milos island tourism development plan. The meeting was supported by the Ocean Fund and was held under the auspices of the Municipality of Milos Island.

For more information please contact [Kostis Grimanis](#), MEDASSET or [Prof. Vasilis Tselentis](#), University of Piraeus.

4. European Transboundary Parks meet again



This year’s EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Network (TransParcNet) meeting took place 11-14 June 2012 in one of the most exceptional transboundary protected areas in Europe – the Trilateral Pasvik-Inari Park formed by the Inari-Vätsäri Wilderness Area (Finland), Øvre-Pasvik National Park (Norway), and Pasvik Zapovednik (Russia). The meeting marked progress in cooperation between IUCN and the EUROPARC Federation, organizer of the event and an IUCN Member. Meeting participants were informed about current activities of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, such as creation of a transboundary database, development of guidelines for TB conservation feasibility assessment, and elaboration of a number of publications. In relation to future plans, there is a need for work on

further guidelines on transboundary conservation with particular emphasis on legal aspects, governance and marine transboundary protected areas. The meeting brought together about 40 participants from 16 countries, park managers and experts. It was organized by Metsähallitus - the Finnish Natural Heritage Services with the support of Norwegian and Russian experts.

For more information please contact [Boris Erg](#), IUCN SEE.

5. Study tour to Slovenia



WWF started implementation of Dinaric Arc Parks project, with the aim to create an association of nature and national parks in the Western Balkans region. As its first activity a study tour to Slovenia was organized in May 2012. A group of 35 people working in protected areas in the region visited: Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve, Sečovlje Salt pans, Škocjan Caves, Triglav National Park, Notranjska Regional Park, Kozjanski Regional Park and Nature Park Goričko. They learned about the good practice examples, park management, Natura 2000, and sustainable tourism. Great attention was given to eco remediation and water-treatment pumps in Kozjanski Regional Park as a good practice examples.

For more information please contact [Petra Boic Petrac](mailto:Petra.Boic.Petrac@wwf.org), WWF Mediterranean Programme or visit <http://dinaricarcparcs.blogspot.com/>.

6. New public bidding for Ulcinj Salina

Beginning of May 2012, the Montenegrin Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development modified the physical plan of Ulcinj Salina, interdicting the development of touristic infrastructures on the territory. The authorities declared that the Salina, except the crystallization ponds, should become a future "Nature Monument". This concession was a reaction to strong national protests organized by the Centre for Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP). Only two months later, the Salina assets are once again offered in a public bidding procedure for 232 million Euros – 10% less than in December 2011. Consequently, CZIP is organizing a stakeholder meeting in the Municipality of Ulcinj



to define protection measures for Ulcinj as one of the most valuable sites for migrating birds in Montenegro. Last winter, a successful poaching control was conducted by CZIP with financial support of EuroNatur making the Salina a unique and safe refuge for numerous endangered waders and geese species. Recently, even flamingos have become regular guests in the Salina. In June 2012, 295 Flamingos were counted resting on the Ulcinj territory. Supported by EuroNatur, CZIP constructed nesting aids in early 2012 in order to encourage the development of breeding colonies.

For more information please contact [Marija Stanasic](mailto:Marija.Stanasic@czip.org), CZIP or [Romy Durst](mailto:Romy.Durst@euro-natur.org), EuroNatur.

7. Training of the Croatian Ranger Service in Dalmatia Region

With the support of United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/COAST project, in cooperation with the State Institute for Nature Protection and the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, the third workshop for the Croatian Ranger Service (or Supervisors) in Dalmatia region was organized, with a focus on Natura 2000 network implementation. This workshop, held 12-13 June 2012 in the village Drinovci (Sibenik-Knin County), highlighted the importance of preservation of aquatic ecosystems of the Adriatic water flows in the area. The workshop was attended by 25 representatives of rangers and expert services from the

Photo: Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection



Public Institutions for Managing Protected Natural Values and the National Parks and Nature Parks in Dalmatian County, as well as nature protection inspectors. It was a good preparation for the rangers acting in the ecological network. Considering the relevance of the planned works on maintenance of water flows, rangers were instructed about the nature protection measures that should be implemented. The participants had an opportunity to learn in practice whether the works aimed at maintaining rivers and streams are in compliance with the nature protection measures and conditions.

For more information please contact [Katrica Bezuh](#), Sector for Nature Protection Inspection, Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection.

8. RIO+20



The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012. It was preceded by the last preparatory session and consultation during which a consensus Outcome Document was prepared and finally presented to the formal conference, attended by Heads of State and Government or their representatives, and other high ranking officials. The Conference had two main themes: “Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” and “Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development”. IUCN was present at Rio during this entire period with a “One Programme” delegation. Full ‘Report of IUCN Delegation at Rio’ can be accessed under http://www.iucn.org/news_homepage/events/iucn_rio_20/.

9. At the crossroads of conservation and development

Transboundary cooperation among adjacent countries epitomizes the ambition of the UN Conference on sustainable development (Rio +20). As discussed during the side event organized by IUCN and the Italian Government (DGCS), it offers some early results and insights into the relevance of natural resource management for the green economy. International policy and strategic goals can indeed be institutionalized and translated into effective practice applied at regional to local levels. A panel debate involving national and regional leadership addressed the critical questions determined by the Rio +20 Conference of establishing cooperation between countries and sectors within countries to pursue sustainable development goals. The event addressed voices of government, protected area management agencies, local government, and NGOs. Deliberate investments in transboundary situations in Africa, South Eastern Europe and Mesoamerica highlighted the opportunities, conditions for success and likely outcomes of cross-border natural resource governance.



Photo: IUCN/VE.Erg

For more information please contact [Tomasz Pezold](#), IUCN SEE.

10. The Adriatic-Ionian Region plans



Photo: IUCN/S. Marinčić

State representatives and stakeholders from the Adriatic-Ionian Region met at a side event during the Rio+20 Conference to discuss prospects for post-Rio promotion of sustainable and equitable economic growth in the region. The event “Green Economy: Achievements & Perspectives in the Adriatic-Ionian Region” gathered high-level representatives from Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, and Bosnia and Herzegovina who presented the main findings of national preparatory processes and resulting strategic documents. This was followed by a panel discussion on the state of affairs in the field of the green economy, projected developments, and

planned activities. High-level participants included Jan Dusik, Executive Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, Franc Bogovič, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of Slovenia, and Oliver Dulić, Minister of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning of Serbia. IUCN presented its activities in SEE and highlighted people’s dependency on nature and the ecosystem services it provides. This meeting was an important step in strengthening cooperation that would ease the challenging transition to green economy in the countries of Adriatic-Ionian Region.

For more information please contact [Tomasz Pezold](#), IUCN SEE.

11. Mobilizing civil society in the Dinaric Arc

IUCN and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Centre for the Environment held training on civic engagement in nature conservation in April 2012, in Knin, Croatia. The training introduced the participants of the cross-border project sites of the Dinaric Arc region to the concept of civic engagement in natural resource management and inspired them to take responsibility for the environment they live in. The training emphasized the benefits of civic engagement, proving it to be a valuable approach to sustaining rural communities and their traditional landscapes in transboundary protected areas. It provided representatives from civil society groups, the national parks administration, municipalities and local communities with many useful methods of civic engagement. Among these methods were facilitation, communication, consultation, idea generation, prioritization, collaboration, and personal connection to natural landscapes. Participants learned from examples of civic engagement in protected landscape areas from other regions of the world such as North America, where this is a commonly used method.



Photo: IUCN/V.Ferdinandova

For more information please contact [Veronika Ferdinandova](#), IUCN SEE.

12. Educational walking trail in Krka NP

A new educational walking trail, Stinice – Roški Slap – Oziđana Pećina Cave, was opened on 27 April 2012 as part of the project ‘Sustainable visitor management in Krka National Park’. One of Croatia’s most beautiful walking trails has been fitted with educational info panels providing detailed information about the plant and animal species specific to Krka National Park, the geological phenomena and cultural and historical sites along

Photo: Krka NP/D.Marguš



the trail. The trail is 8.5 km in length, with an elevation difference of 176 m. The planned duration of the walk is about 3 hours, and it will be open to visitors year round. The Stinice – Roški Slap – Oziđana Pećina Cave trail is a true experience for all nature lovers, regardless of whether they want to set off for a few hours of walking, or to make a full-day excursion enriched with cultural content. The project ‘Sustainable visitor management in Krka National Park’ aims to disperse visitors to different locations within the park and to stimulate the development of rural economies in the headwater region. This project is part of the national integration project into the EU Natura 2000 network, headed up

by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection. This five-year project is the first completed project in a protected area financed by a World Bank loan. Another twenty such projects are expected to unfold in Croatia, depending on the quality of their preparations.

For more information please contact [Katia Župan](#), Krka National Park.

13. European Schools for a Living Planet

Photo: A. Spineanu



Closing event of the “European Schools for a Living planet” of WWF and ERSTE Foundation took place in June, in Moieciu, Romania. 33 school classes from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldavia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine responded to the call to stand up for Europe’s environment. Four winning classes were from one Romanian and one Bulgarian school, and from 2 schools from Serbia. Working on their eco-projects on “Danube – Europe’s lifeline” and “Ecological Footprint” they did researches, discussed with decision makers and went to nature expeditions. The activities ranged from self-built school gardens, street events and theatre performances to exhibitions and “pupils-teach-

pupils” campaigns. This year, the school environment initiative “European Schools for a Living Planet” was held for the fourth time. Since the beginning 3.000 pupils aged 12 to 17 from eleven European countries put their individual eco-projects into action. The progress of the nature conservation projects can be monitored via www.foralivingplanet.eu. There the school classes kept project diaries and posted pictures and videos about their projects.

For more information please contact [Lisa Simon](#), WWF Austria.

14. Campaigning for the sustainable hydropower in Albania

In the frame of the regional project “Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative-DASHI” the Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania in partnership with three other Albanian NGOs (Eco-levizja, EDEN, PPNEA) is starting the implementation of a small project for the sustainable hydropower. The aim of the project is to raise public awareness on the irreversible effects of the numerous hydropower construction projects. Project activities will include meetings with the local community along the Osuni River, stakeholders’ workshop in Tirana and contacts with



Photo: INCA

students of journalism and environmental studies. The working group is currently preparing an informative package (posters, leaflets, Facebook page, twitter) focusing on the irreversible effects that hydropower constructions have on people's livelihood and environment.

For more information please contact [Vilma Pulleja](#) or [Ilijaz Qirjazi](#), INCA.

15. Wild orchids habitat to be protected

In Krnjaca, a part of Belgrade, and in the close vicinity of Veliko blato, there is a habitat of strictly protected orchid species called marsh helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*). This orchid species is on the ANNEX B of the CITES list, and is also a part of European Red List of Vascular Plants, with the status LC - Least Concern. Experts of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia have recently conducted field research in order to elaborate the protection study of this rare species habitat. They have agreed that the species was seriously under threat due to the illegal dump sites found there. Previously, based on the work of the



Photo: INCS

Institute's experts on biotope mapping within the project "Belgrade Green Regulations", orchid population in this habitat was estimated at about one hundred specimen. However, the illegal disposal of solid waste makes this habitat increasingly threatened, and a number of orchids is constantly decreasing. Rubble, soil and other solid waste continues to be unloaded directly onto the habitat of marsh helleborine, the dump site has also been significantly broadened, which calls for urgent necessary protection of this habitat.

For more information please contact [Verica Stojanovic](#), Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia.

16. Ramsar COP 11 "Wetlands: home and destination"



The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP11) was held in Bucharest, Romania 6 – 13 July 2012. 162 Ramsar Contracting Parties gathered to assess the progress of the Convention and the sustainable use of wetlands to date, share knowledge and experience on technical issues, and plan their own and the Secretariat's work for the next triennium. The special focus of the meeting was on "wetlands, tourism and recreation". In this context the Ramsar Convention and UNWTO launched a publication containing 14 case studies at COP11 highlighting the value of wetlands for tourism and the economic benefits tourism can provide for the management of wetland areas (including the Skocjan Caves Ramsar Site in Slovenia). The full texts of the case studies as well as the publication can be found under: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-tourism-casestudies/main/ramsar/1-63-523-525_4000_0. Apart from

the negotiations in plenary a number of interesting and diverse side events took place. All documents of the meeting including the final decisions can be found on the Ramsar website under: www.ramsar.org/cop11. Further information about the event and the host country Romania including its Ramsar Sites can be found here: <http://www.ramsar.ro/>.

17. Culture: contributing to wetland wise use



Photo: SPP Archive

On 7 July 2012, during the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP11) in Bucharest, Romania, the Ramsar Culture Working Group organised a side-event on “Culture: Contributing to Wetlands Wise Use”. Facilitated by Sansanee Choowaew (Thailand) and Dave Pritchard (UK), the event featured a large variety of examples of how cultural values and practices contribute to the conservation and wise use of wetlands around the world. Next to examples of wetland and water-related festivals in Thailand and Japan, the conservation of a sacred wetland area in West Africa as well as the cultural importance of salinas and salt production for wetland conservation was showcased. The event was also the occasion to present the draft Strategic Action Plan for enhancing the role of cultural aspects in the work of the Ramsar Convention during the next triennium, until 2016. The side-event concluded with a special presentation on the cultural diversity and local traditions of the host country’s Danube Delta. Coordinated by Mr Thymio

Papayannis, the Culture Working Group of the Ramsar Convention gathers representatives from each region of the world as well as institutional members such as the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The initiative has been receiving financial support by the MAVA Foundation as well as organisational support by the Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (Med-INA; Athens, Greece).

For more information please visit http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-culture/main/ramsar/1-63-412_4000_0 or contact: secretariat@med-ina.org.

18. Turtle doesn't see the difference

On 23 May 2012, World Turtle Day, MEDASSET launched an awareness raising campaign on the devastating effects of plastic, especially bags, on marine life: “You See the Difference. A Turtle Does Not.” The ad, created Pro bono by XL Advertising Communication, was also posted on Facebook, and went viral in a matter of hours, shared worldwide. MEDASSET has since received requests for permission to display the



poster from all over the world, from NGOs, Universities and Aquariums. The Athens International Airport and ANEK Lines passenger ships will also display the ad in the coming months.

Plastic in our seas is killing sea turtles, sea birds and other marine life, as it is often mistaken for food. MEDASSET urges everyone to adopt habits that minimize the use of plastic. Consider using a reusable bag when shopping, avoid single-use plastic items, look for products and packaging made from renewable resources, choose products with the least plastic packaging and recycle what you can't refuse!

For more information please contact [Liza Boura](#), MEDASSET.

19. Natura 2000 in Serbia and Montenegro



Photo: M. Jovicevic

After three and a half years of the project “Strengthening the capacity of governments and civil sector in Serbia and in Montenegro to adapt to EU nature protection acquis”, WWF, together with partner organizations Green Home, Young Researchers of Serbia and Dafne, laid the foundation for the establishment of ecological network Natura 2000 in Serbia and Montenegro. The objective was to prepare both countries for EU integration, and to help them to adapt and improve their protected areas management and preserve their natural resources. During the project two NGO networks were established having 92 members; more than 200 people participated in professional exchanges; 7 training sessions were organized on Natura 2000, water management improvement according to the Water Framework Directive, and Natura 2000 integration in other sectors. The project was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway in order to protect the amazing biodiversity of the Western Balkans.

For more information please contact [Petra Boic Petrac](#), WWF Mediterranean Programme or visit http://croatia.panda.org/dinarski_luk/natura_2000_u_srbiji_i_u_crnoj_gori/.

20. Forum on Climate Change Adaptation

In June 2012, the South East European Forum on Climate Change Adaptation was established in Sutomore, Montenegro, within a two-day regional conference. It gathered around 70 representatives from civil society organisations, Red Cross National Societies, hydro-meteorological institutes, universities and governments from Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as experts from EU agencies and international organizations. During the conference, outcomes and recommendations of the four national climate vulnerability assessment reports were presented. Working group discussions on priority sectors of the report, covering ecosystems (biodiversity, forestry, agriculture), water management, health and disaster risk reduction and energy, allowed for identification of concrete actions to be taken to tackle climate change in the region of SEE. On the second day of the conference a training on climate change adaptation was facilitated by WWF, covering presentations on climate challenges related to energy and water. The establishment of the multi-stakeholder Forum has been enabled by the EU funded IPA project SEE Forum on Climate Change Adaptation.



Photo: WWF

For more information please contact [Sonja Badjura](#), WWF DCP.

21. The Vjosa/Aoos river ecomuseum

In May 2012 INCA and MedINA, in cooperation with two local partners, Forestry Service Directorate in Përmet (AL) and Pindos Perivallontiki-Ioannina (GR) initiated the implementation of a project for development of a transboundary eco-museum, focusing on the natural and cultural heritage of the Vjosa river basin. The project is financed by the EU, and was launched during the meeting in Zagori, Greece in June 2012. Project partners



Photo: INCA

discussed the project's Action Plan, virtual tour establishment, project's website, and the graphic identity of the Aaos region. Three possible thematic routes have been identified by the Albanian group: (i) water and water management (watermills, irrigation, fishing, recreational activities as thermal baths, sport activities), (ii) forests and forest management (development, sacred plants, barrel making activities, medicinal plants), and (iii) wine yards and wine making (festivals, cooking, drinking, folk music).

For more information please contact [Zamir Dedej](#), INCA.

22. Natura 2000 and forestry



Photo: WWF

A workshop on „Natura 2000 and forestry“ was organized beginning of May 2012, by WWF in cooperation with Public Enterprise Srbijašume. The aim of the workshop was to convey the experience of EU member state Slovenia in establishing Natura 2000 with a special focus on the forestry sector. Around 40 representatives of the forestry and nature conservation sector participated – Public forestry enterprise Srbijašume and Vojvodinašume, Institute of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, Institute for nature conservation of Serbia and the Institute for nature conservation of

Vojvodina province. The workshop was organized within the project “Serbia, Montenegro and Natura 2000: Strengthening the Capacity of Governments and civil sector to adapt to EU Nature Protection Aquis” that is being implemented by WWF in cooperation with NGO Young Researchers of Serbia and Green Home, and financed by the Ministry of foreign affairs of Norway.

For more information please contact [Sonja Badjura](#), WWF DCP.

23. Pelican Conservation in SE Europe

The 1st workshop on Pelican Research and Conservation in SE Europe, organized by the Society for the Protection of Prespa in collaboration with the Pelican Specialist Group of IUCN SSC and Wetlands International, was hosted in the Pyli Visitor Centre of the Prespa National Park Management Agency in May 2012. Sixteen experts from nine countries (Israel, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Montenegro, Slovenia, France and Greece) who work in pelican research and conservation in countries where the species breed, overwinter or migrate participated in the workshop. They shared valuable knowledge, data and experience, identified threats and discussed on appropriate synergies between SEE countries and the creation of a coordinated alignment for the protection of the two pelican species, the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* and the Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*. The Pelican Specialist Group will compile and publish an updated review of all existing knowledge regarding the SEE pelican populations. Finally, the “Prespa Statement on Pelican Conservation” was developed and signed by the sixteen experts, and it was agreed that the 2nd Workshop on Pelican Research and Conservation in SEE will be held in Turkey in 2015.

More information on the outputs of the workshop can be found under: <http://bit.ly/LtjhG5>.



24. Sustainable hydropower in the Western Balkans

Photo: WWF/M. Gunther



South-Eastern Europe hosts outstanding biodiversity hotspots. However, a growing number of hydropower developments represent a serious threat to SEE biodiversity hotspots. In order to ensure that development happens in harmony with nature and people WWF Mediterranean started the Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower initiative – DASHI. Spreading over Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo (UN1244), the Dinaric Arc region is home to natural treasures and is, at the same time, facing an unprecedented hydropower boom. Abundant domestic water resources and an increase in the local demand for energy are combined with troubled economies which see

energy export as important revenue. Outstanding freshwater ecosystems such as Skadar Lake in Montenegro and Albania, Hutovo Blato and Livanjsko Polje in Bosnia & Herzegovina - all Ramsar sites - are threatened. Through the DASHI project, WWF aims to safeguard these priority areas and to ensure hydropower projects are conceived in a sustainable way. WWF will focus on providing scientific arguments, mobilising civil society and fostering dialogue with all the sectors involved, from finance to dam builders. In the framework of DASHI the construction of four destructive dams on the Morača River in Montenegro, one of the few free-flowing rivers in Europe, has been put on hold. WWF has also established a positive dialogue with the energy sector in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

For more information please contact [Chantal Menard](#), WWF MedPO or [Bojan Stojanovic](#), WWF MedPO.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

1. Engaging CSOs in EU nature-related legislation



The published guidelines intend to assist experts of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in their effective engagement in national conservation efforts and to provide them with a tool for delivering knowledge to CSO members. Special attention in all sections of the publication is given to the role CSOs can play in the planning and implementation of conservation measures in the wider countryside and engagement of other stakeholders for coherent decision making. Publication is available in four languages (ENG, MKD, MNE, and SRB) under <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/about/places/belgrade/?10434/Engaging-CSOs-in-EU-nature-related-legislation>.

2. Eco-surveys on Balkan rivers and risk assessment of dam projects



These fundamental studies offer an overview of the striking ecological importance of 34,468 rkm of the major Balkan rivers covering a total area of 450,000 km² and draining 224 sub-catchments. The “Blue Heart of Europe” with its pristine streams and outstanding biodiversity is currently facing severe threads due to the planned implementation of more than 550 hydro power plants in 11 countries. Under the slogan “you have to know, what you want to protect”, the EuroNatur Foundation and the NGO ECA-Watch Austria initiated two extensive eco-surveys in 2010 to document the ecological status and assess potential dam construction risks. The respective reports on the “Hydromorphological status and dam projects” and on “Threatened freshwater fishes and mollusks of the Balkan – Potential impacts of hydropower projects” have been published in March 2012 and are now available on: <http://www.euronatur.org/Blue-Heart-of-Europe.1329.0.html>. The studies and reports were developed with financial support of MAVA foundation Switzerland.

3. TB eNEWS



The 5th issue of TB eNEWS, prepared by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, can be downloaded from the website: www.tbpa.net.

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020



The brochure and factsheet on the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 are online and accessible under: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/biodiversity_en.htm

5. Advance Albania Newsletter out



In less than five years, Albania has doubled the coverage of protected areas in the country. Protected areas are an opportunity for the country not only because they protect nature but because they ensure country's sustainable development. This is the key message of the first issue of the Newsletter for the “Institutional Support for Protected Areas in Albania” project, produced by IUCN which can be found under <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=c5259cf7e7cec92720f168f68&id=e6f423d8b1&e=053ab40f9d>.

1. Economy of resources



Long ignored by decision-makers as irrelevant to economic planning and national prosperity, resource limitation is now a critical factor that determines a country's success in the 21st century. According to a two-year study by [Global Footprint Network](#), whose findings will be released in a report in October, the Mediterranean region now uses approximately two and a half times more natural resources and ecological services than what its ecosystems can provide. Global Footprint Network and UNESCO, with the support of the MAVA Foundation, will launch the report on October 1 at a two-day conference at Palazzo Zorzi in Venice, Italy. The conference is expected to draw government finance, planning and environment representatives, NGOs and academics who wish to better understand the link between economic and environmental crises.

For more information, please contact alessandro@footprintnetwork.org.

2. LANDLIFEWEEK



The First European Land Stewardship Week will be held between 28 September and 7 October 2012. It is a campaign aimed to promote events throughout Europe to raise awareness about the importance of care for the earth and its wealth of natural and cultural resources. The Land Stewardship Week is facilitated by all the Landlife partners but requires to be boosted by actions of individuals, organizations and institutions working towards the common goal of preserving the natural, rural and cultural heritage of our lands and sustainable use of all our natural resources. That is why we ask for your participation on the campaign, and to get involved in this special week by organizing events during these dates. You can either organize a specific event or include an event that you have already on your agenda. You can [register your event](#) during all summer. LandLife is a LIFE+ 2011-2014 Information & Communication Project cofunded by the European Commission.

For more information please visit: www.landlifeweek.eu

3. Ecologists of Macedonia

4th Congress of the Ecologists of Macedonia with international participation will be held in Ohrid, FYROM, 11-15 October and hosted by Macedonian Ecological Society, in cooperation with Macedonian Limnological Society. It will offer a platform for of experts' experience and knowledge exchange. The papers will be presented through different thematic sessions, whilst each session will start by presenting case studies chosen by the Scientific Committee.

For more information please contact [Robertina Brajanoska](#), Macedonian Ecological Society or visit www.mes.org.mk.

4. Dinaric Arc Parks conference



International conference Dinaric Arc Parks will be held in a week of 19 November 2012, in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized by WWF in collaboration with Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republic of Srpska. The conference will focus on Protected Areas' benefits, Sustainable tourism, Climate changes, and Protected Areas in EU context. It is held within the project Dinaric Arc Parks that aims to create an association of nature and national parks in the Western Balkans. All managers and senior staff of individual parks are invited to meet their colleagues from the region, exchange management plans and good

practice examples. Institutions, governmental or nongovernmental organizations, as well as those who have an interest in particular topics, are invited to participate at the conference.

For more information please contact [Leon Kebe](#), WWF MedPO.

5. GREEN FEST calls for film entries



“Urban ecology and sustainable development” is the main topic of the Green Fest which will be held 14-16 November 2012, in Belgrade, Serbia. Environmental Improvement Center, the organizer of the Festival, with the support of Environmental Protection Secretariat – City of Belgrade, is announcing this year’s Call for Entries in two categories: amateur and short film. Authors can send their films for screening until 10 October. International Green Culture Festival “GREEN FEST” builds upon the successful tradition of International Environmental Film Festival “Green Screen Fest”, which had 7500 visitors in 2010 and 2011. For the last two years, over 130 films from 25 countries has been screened, 39 workshops and lectures were held, with over 20 “green” exhibitors and artists.

For more information please visit www.greenfest.rs.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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. FP7 - CLEAN SKY RESEARCH and TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - 2012

Programme(s): FP7 – EU Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities FP7 – Cooperation. Sectors: Energy, Environment, Industry, Innovation, New technologies

Abstract: This Call for proposals aims at incorporating Partners to address very specific tasks which fit into the overall technical Work Programme and time schedule.

Deadline(s) for submitting applications: 18 October 2012

Eligible organisations: Research centres, Corporations, SMEs, Universities

Regions concerned: Member State or in a country associated to the Seventh Framework Programme

For more information on the Call, click [here](#)

To download all related documents click [here](#) (section Information Package).

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, 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!

IUCN Regional Office for Europe

IUCN's European region covers the European continent, Russia and Central Asia, and includes the European Union overseas entities. Representing one third of the global membership, this is IUCN's largest programmatic region. Four offices in Switzerland, Belgium, Georgia and Serbia coordinate action in the region. Together we strive to meet our goals for a sustainable future by using the expertise and the strength of the global IUCN network.

www.iucn.org/europe

Our Mission

"To influence, encourage and assist societies in Europe to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."



Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe

Dr. Ivana Ribara 91
11070 Belgrade
Serbia
Tel: +381 11 2272-411
Fax: +381 11 2272-531
Email: see@iucn.org
www.iucn.org/southeasterneurope

IUCN SEE e-Bulletin contains third party articles. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN and the responsibility for the content of the published articles remains with the authors.

Whilst IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe has used reasonable endeavors to ensure that the information provided in the e-Bulletin is accurate, it reserves the right to make corrections and does not warrant that its content is accurate or complete. IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe accepts no liability for any errors, misprints or omissions herein (whether negligent or otherwise). The designation of geographical entities in this bulletin, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the definition of its frontiers or boundaries.

The bulletin may point to other internet sites that may be of interest to you, however the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe does not endorse or take responsibility for the content of such pages. The information in this bulletin is provided free-of-charge; therefore you agree by receiving it that this disclaimer is reasonable.

Edited and published by: IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe



The production of this publication is partly financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade.