



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: IUCN/T.Pezold, Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 31st 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

The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress

In memoriam: Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby

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The 2012 IUCN Congress

The IUCN Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every four years, it aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development. It is a unique global event that has been taking place since 1948, when the very first Congress took place in Fontainebleau, France.



Photo: IUCN/A. Nesic

The IUCN Congress comprises of two elements: the Forum and the Member's Assembly.

- the [Forum](#) is a hub of public debate bringing together people from all walks of life discussing the world's most pressing conservation issues. It takes the form of various events namely [Pavilions](#), [Workshops](#), [Knowledge Café](#), [Posters](#), [Conservation Campus](#), various [Social Events](#) and the [World Leaders Dialogues](#).
- the [Members' Assembly](#) is IUCN's highest decision-making body. A unique global environmental parliament, it involves a blend of governments and NGOs – large and small, national and international – taking joint decisions: Motions. Presented by IUCN Members on a wide range of conservation issues, when adopted, motions become either Resolutions (action expected from IUCN itself) or Recommendations (action expected from other agency or the world at large).

More than 10,000 people participated in the 2012 Congress on Jeju Island (Republic of Korea), including over 5,000 conservation experts from 153 countries and more than 550 events. Leaders from governmental and public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and experts discussed, debated and decided upon solutions for the world's most pressing environment and development issues. The 2012 IUCN Congress comes between other two key global environmental events in 2012, following the Rio+20 conference held earlier this year and preceding the CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India. By doing so, the IUCN Congress was a good opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of the Rio+20 conference and prepare for the important decisions to be made at the CBD COP 11. Last but not least, the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress should be seen as an important stepping stone toward the next IUCN Worlds Parks Congress, to be held in Sydney, Australia in 2014.



Summit of Mt. Halla, Photo: Jeju Province

The Congress theme was **Nature+**, a simple and memorable slogan that captures the fundamental importance of nature and its inherent link to every aspect of our lives. It explored environmental and development challenges, advocating for nature based solutions:

- [Nature+ climate](#): *Nature-based solutions to climate change*
- [Nature+ food](#): *Nature-based solutions to food security*
- [Nature+ development](#): *Nature-based solutions to social and economic development*
- [Nature+ people & governance](#): *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use*
- [Nature+ life](#): *Valuing and conserving nature*

This year's Congress introduced groundbreaking changes which proved to be highly successful. The two key elements – Forum and Assembly – were aligned for five consecutive days based on the Draft IUCN programme

areas, aiming towards greater coherence as the main conclusions and messages of each Forum day were presented straight after – the following day at the Assembly.



The second change, in respect to the voting procedure during the Member's Assembly, was the introduction of an electronic voting system, providing absolute accuracy and ease of use for

Members, while diminishing the intensive and long process of paper ballots counting.

Finally, the IUCN Secretariat took a major step towards improving the accreditation process through the development of an online accreditation system. This new system offered Members and observers the possibility to submit their statements of credentials and for Members to directly change their Head of Delegation and manage their proxy votes (given and received).



Photo: IUCN/J. Stjela

OUTCOMES

- **[New President of IUCN elected:](#)** The 2012 IUCN Congress saw the election of Mr. Zhang Xinsheng of China as the new President for the coming four years. The Congress also elected Treasurer, Chairs of the six IUCN Commissions and Regional Councilors. The elected Councilors for East Europe, North and Central Asia are: Amirkhan Amirkhanov from Russia, Michael Hošek from the Czech Republic and Tamar Pataridze from Georgia, all eager and with a vision, action plan and fresh ideas on contributing to the work of IUCN, promoting the Union and attending to the priorities and needs of the Members, within the Region they represent, linking all vital elements of IUCN. More information can be found here: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/council/>



Mr. Zhang Xinsheng by M. Nummelin

- The Member's Assembly adopted the [IUCN Programme](#) for the next four years, defining and directing the Union's efforts and activities. The IUCN Programme 2013-16 aims to mobilize and unite communities working for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and poverty reduction in common efforts to halt biodiversity loss and apply nature-based solutions. Three Programme Areas are identified: Valuing and Conserving Nature, Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use and Deploying Nature-based Solutions.
- 164 motions on important conservation issues were adopted and will be classified as resolutions or recommendations. Moreover, one quarter of these motions were prepared by European IUCN Members! Some of the globally relevant motions of high importance for Europe are possible membership of local authorities, envisaged changes in IUCN statutory Regions, a request to incorporate geodiversity in IUCN's Programme and considerations about IUCN's work on energy. Europe specific discussions included, just to mention a few approved ones, motions on illegal hunting of migratory birds in the Mediterranean (033), protection of Mavrovo National Park (061), and the need for environmental safeguards regarding oil and gas exploration in the Mediterranean (120). A full list of the motions can be found [here](#).



Photo: M. Nummelin

SEE AT THE IUCN CONGRESS

The IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe, as part of IUCN Regional Office for Europe, was actively involved in several events during the 2012 IUCN Congress.

(1) Brief presentation on the new diagnostic tool on transboundary conservation that will be published within the upcoming publication “Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner’s guideline based on experiences from the Dinaric Arc” was given at the **“Marine Peace Park Korea and transboundary issues”** event organized by the Korea Maritime Institute. The diagnostic tool was well received and the initial discussions on supporting its further development have been held at the margins of the event. There is a need for translation into other languages, testing in different regions, and further development.



Photo: M. Nummelin

(2) **IUCN Europe Members’ meeting** titled “For IUCN Members from East Europe, North and Central Asia, and West Europe” was held on 8 September. The event gathered almost one hundred IUCN Members to discuss motions relevant for European membership, present candidates for President, Councillors, and Commission Chairs, as well as to open the floor for the most pressing questions. The event was a good opportunity to briefly introduce the new programme for IUCN Europe.

(3) Co-organisation of the [event](#) **“Regional platforms for enhanced conservation – experiences from South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus”** held on 11 September at the Protected Planet Pavilion. The objective of the first part of the event was to present the state of transboundary conservation and regional conservation platforms in South-Eastern Europe with particular emphasis on the Dinaric Arc. The welcome word was given by Her Excellency Ms. Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, Minister of the Environment, Estonia. The event featured a panel consisting of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and IUCN Members from South-Eastern Europe. A new milestone publication on transboundary conservation “Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner’s guideline based on experiences from the Dinaric Arc” was introduced during the event. The publication will be soon available at: www.tbpa.net. The [event](#) was organized by IUCN ROFE, IUCN Members and partners and partly supported by the MAVA Foundation.



Photo: M. Nummelin

One of the major events on conservation across borders at the IUCN Congress was a workshop titled **“Sharing benefits and efforts from transboundary conservation”** organized by the IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG), BfN, and Korean National Park Service. The aim of the workshop was to enable experience-sharing between some of the most prominent transboundary conservation initiatives from all around the world such as the European Green Belt, the Korean DMZ, The Himalayas, Mesoamerica, and South-Eastern Europe. The Dinaric Arc Initiative was highlighted during the presentation on the current state of transboundary conservation.

IUCN Programme for South-Eastern Europe would like to thank all those who have supported this joint presence and performance at the Congress, in particular IUCN Members and partners who have taken an active role by participating in and contributing to numerous events. We would also like to emphasise an important role MAVA has played in making South-Eastern Europe for the first time so visible at this major global conservation event. We do hope that our region will continue to play a prominent role at the global level for many years to come, showcasing and sharing good practices and success conservation stories.



Prepared by Constantine Makris
IUCN European Membership Relations Officer

Edited by IUCN SEE

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby
by V. Dobretic

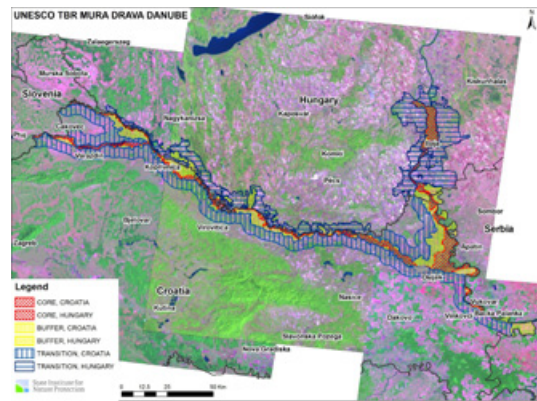
IUCN deeply mourns the loss of Martin Schneider-Jacoby who worked at IUCN Member EuroNatur (www.euronatur.org) since its foundation. We will all remember Martin as a truly passionate, inspiring person with a genuine sense for nature conservation. Always on the move, Martin has built an immense legacy over time. He was instrumental in creating numerous protected areas, launching major conservation initiatives, always participating in countless field projects.

Martin was one of the pioneers of IUCN presence in the Balkans. His vision contributed to the setting up of the IUCN Office for South-Eastern Europe in Belgrade, Serbia. We feel it is now our task to take up this great legacy and let it live up to Martin's expectations.

Thank you for everything. Your spirit will always shine as a beacon.

1. Mura - Drava - Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

The International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), has proclaimed new transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura - Drava - Danube between Croatia and Hungary, on 12 July 2012. World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) now includes 610 reserves in 117 countries, including 12 transboundary sites. The area along the river course of Mura, Drava and Danube represents Central Europe's largest floodplain ecosystem as continuous stretch of habitats extending across the state borders. It has a high biological and landscape diversity, important geological values and shows rich cultural heritage. This area is home to a large number of endangered plant and animal species (white-tailed eagle, black stork, little tern), and is abundant in variety of wet habitats, some of them among the most threatened in Europe (alluvial forests, wet grasslands, gravel and sand bars, oxbow lakes, abandoned riverbed, etc.). Following the Ministerial Declaration (Gödölo, Hungary, 2011), Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia work together on preparation of the establishment of pentilateral biosphere reserve in order to comprehensively manage the Mura-Drava-Danube river ecosystem, which would result in the creation of the first transboundary protected area between the five countries.



Satellite map MDD TBR

For more information please contact [Mirna Bojic](#), Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection.

2. Sustainable use of traditional orchards

A three year project "Upkac" was launched in October 2011 within the frame of European territorial cooperation SI-HU 2007-2013. It is aimed at preserving and ensuring sustainable use of a very important part of mosaic agricultural landscape, traditional high-stem orchards. They are home to many endangered species, including several cavity nesting birds. DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia is one of five partners working on this project, covering mainly education and ecological research of two bird species, Hoopoe and Scops Owl. Through the use of high resolution nest cameras and telemetry the project managed to gain some insight into their diet, breeding biology and habitat use at Goričko Landscape Park (NE Slovenia). Both species have steeply declined in the past 15 years in this area (both by over 75%), which is largely attributable to changes in farming. They feed mainly on large insects (molecrickets, grasshoppers, beetles, butterflies) which have become scarcer due to cutting of tree lines, disappearance of old orchards, conversion of extensively managed meadows to fields and intensive grasslands, and the use of biocides. The results of the ecological study will be used to

prepare nature conservation measures for birds. They will also be presented on lectures and workshops for local people, and presented in a publication on birds in agricultural landscape.

Project “Upkac” is part financed by the European Union, European Regional Development Fund. For more information please contact [Katarina Denac](#), DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia.



Project “Upkac” nest cameras

3. Ramsar wetlands of Hutovo Blato under threat

WWF expressed worries to the public and the governments of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in relation to the possible negative impacts that the planned construction of new hydropower plants - Dubrovnik 2, Upper Horizons (HPP Dabar) and Ombla - could have on the environment. At a press conference in Zagreb in July, WWF emphasized that this project collects water from the karst fields of Eastern Herzegovina and diverts them to HPP Dubrovnik and/or releases them in direction of HPP Capljina. If done without special care this could increase salinization and jeopardise the agricultural production in the Neretva Delta, as well as threaten the only pristine remains of Hutovo Blato Nature Park wetlands, one of the largest habitats of migratory birds in the Balkans. Due to project’s sensitivity, WWF called upon the governments to develop the joint SEA for all planned individual projects in the area. Additionally, the currently developed “Neretva and Trebišnjica River Basin Management Plan” is expected to help in finding the best solution and should be used as the tool for strategic decision making. Recently the government of Federation in BiH rejected the EIA on HPP Dabar in order to review the project and address uncertainties. Despite the rejection by FBiH government, the government of Republika Srpska approved the EIA study. Consequently, the government of FBiH issued a lawsuit against the government of Republika Srpska.



Hutovo blato by WWF/B.Stojanovic

For more information please contact [Bojan Stojanović](#), WWF MedPO.

4. European governments heading for biodiversity disaster

In its report [On the Road to Recovery?](#), released in October, BirdLife Europe offers the comprehensive assessment on the progress the EU is making towards the six targets set in its EU Biodiversity Strategy, which aims at halting the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. BirdLife Europe concludes that unless harmful EU subsidies in agriculture, fisheries, transport and energy sectors come to an end and funding for nature conservation increase, European governments risk derailing the Strategy entirely. In 2010 the European Union missed its target to halt biodiversity decline because of weak implementation of legislation, lack of funding and a systemic failure to reform sectoral policies such as agriculture and



fisheries. Recognizing the urgency and importance of safeguarding our ecosystems, the EU has adopted a new 2020 headline target. Two years later, the [European BirdLife Partnership](#) undertakes a first stocktaking exercise of progress made 'on the road to' the 2020 target and intends to repeat this assessment at regular intervals until 2020. BirdLife Europe proposes a solution that includes reforming the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and steering the current EU budget negotiations for the period 2014-2020 towards investments in biodiversity and ecosystems.

For more information please or contact [Caroline Jacobsson](#), BirdLife International.

5. A step towards Ecological Network of Moldova

In the course of last three years IUCN and its member, BIOTICA Ecological Society, in close cooperation with Moldovan Ministry of Environment, were working on the creation of the National Ecological Network (NEN) in Moldova. Taking into consideration the agricultural expansion and dense rural population, the physical creation of the NEN is of great importance for biodiversity and landscape conservation, soil and water protection, as well as for the improvement of the agri-environment reality and climate change adaptation. Project was finalized in June 2012 resulting in the study of 151 sites. A Geographic Information System (GIS) of the National Ecological Network has been created, and a Directory of the Key Elements of the NEN has been published. This Directory comprises of descriptions of 9 NEN Core Areas of international importance, 13 – of national and 91 – of local importance. In addition, descriptions of 13 Core Areas of Ukraine in a cross-boundary zone were also included.

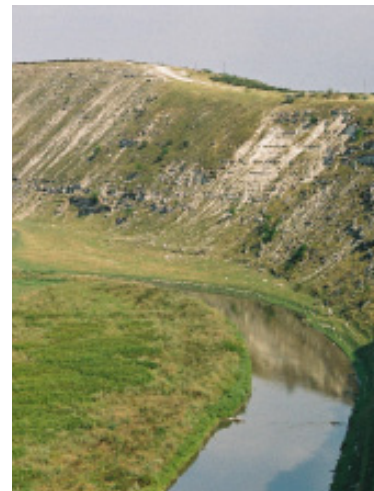


Photo: IUCN Archive

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

6. Position paper on management of the Sava River

As an official observer of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), EuroNatur has reacted to currently urgent processes and questions related to the ongoing development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (SRB MP) by releasing a position paper in September 2012. EuroNatur demands the incorporation of non-economical sectors and goals into the scope of action of the ISRBC. Moreover, the importance of the Sava River for navigation needs to be reassessed and the necessity of increased navigation on the Sava should be reviewed taking into account available alternative transportation systems. The classification of the Sava River and some tributaries as "Heavily Modified Water Body candidates" in the SRB MP is misleading and a review is highly recommended. The SRB MP shows significant gaps related to the environmental impact assessment of planned infrastructure projects along the Sava and the preparation of a Sava River restoration plan for modified river sections in Croatia and Slovenia. Moreover, the Natura 2000 processes in Slovenia and Croatia need to be reviewed and transboundary impacts of dam construction and river regulation along the Sava need to be evaluated according to the ESPOO guidelines. The position paper is supported by the Croatian Society for Bird and Nature Protection (HDZPP) and BirdLife Slovenia (DOPPS).



Natural river bank of the Sava River by EuroNatur

For more information please contact [Romy Durst](#), EuroNatur. The position paper can be downloaded [here](#).

7. Young nature conservationists from Kosovo and Montenegro meet at the Balkan Green Belt in Jablanica-Shebenik



Photo: MES/D. Melovski

From 1-10 October 2012 a capacity building workshop was held for young conservationists from the Western Balkans in Vevčani, Macedonia and Librazhd, Albania, situated at the foothills of the Jablanica-Shebenik mountain range. Altogether, ten participants – five from Kosovo, four from Montenegro and one from Albania attended this workshop representing small and start-up NGOs from their home countries. The workshop was organized jointly by EuroNatur, the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA). The main goal was to train young conservationists in field methods, e.g. monitoring of large carnivores, and to familiarize them with current concepts and trends in nature conservation. Another objective was to establish ties across

borders and strengthen co-operation between local NGOs along this precious part of the European Green Belt. The fact that partners from Macedonian and Albanian NGOs shared their experiences from many previous projects with their Kosovar and Montenegrin colleagues and that we discussed together a common strategy for cross-border nature conservation highlights the participatory approach of this training programme.

Three more workshops are planned for 2013 within this capacity training programme which is financially supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The main focus of the upcoming workshops will be put on the designation and management of large-scale protected areas with a special emphasis on a transboundary setting.

For more information please contact [Thies Geertz](#), EuroNatur.

8. Symposium held in Kopački rit Nature Park in Croatia

Public Institution Kopački rit Nature Park organized a symposium “Kopački rit Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow” on 27 September 2012., that presented the most important researches, educational and economic activities in this nature park. Since this area is the central part of a recently proclaimed Mura – Drava – Danube Biosphere Reserve, promotion of an interdisciplinary and innovative approach in nature protection and sustainable management of natural resources that benefits development of the whole society is of great interest for this area.



Photo: Kopački rit Nature Park

Business sector (Privredna Banka Zagreb) has recognized the importance of this event and sponsored it by publishing the Proceedings of the Symposium. For more information please contact: uprava@kopacki-rit.hr

9. Sustainable tourism in Europe's nature destinations

In July this year, after a vigorous on-site evaluation, Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve, Italy has officially received the status of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, becoming the 100th protected landscape in Europe to have achieved this status. Awe-inspiring landscapes, untouched nature, rich heritage and traditional communities: these are just some of the reasons why national parks, nature parks and other designated protected areas are becoming some of Europe's most popular holiday

destinations. In light of the increasing number of visitors more and more places are turning to a tourism that ensures these fragile assets remain intact and that brings additional benefits to the local population. The European Charter is a vital and practical tool that supports protected areas of all kinds, as well as local tourism businesses to develop and implement sustainable tourism. It is based on the 10 Charter Principles for sustainable tourism and comprises a set of guidelines, check-lists and methodologies.

For more information please visit [website](#) or contact [Morwenna Severon](#), EUROPARC Consulting.



Photo: M. Piazzal

10. Saving the Croatian dace

The Croatian dace (*Telestes polylepis* Steindachner, 1866) is critically endangered steno endemic freshwater fish for the Danube basin, restricted to the underground overhead system in the drainage of the former river Zagorska Mrežnica, Croatia. Such a restricted range and a small number of found specimens indicated the imminent threat of extinction of the Croatian dace, and therefore caused immediate conservation action. Through the NatuRegio project, State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP) implemented the Conservation Action Plan activities. Their goals were to initiate the population control of the chub *Squalius cephalus*, to increase public awareness (involvement of the local school, information leaflet and poster publishing) and to prepare the feasibility study for the Croatian dace reintroduction and repopulation. This project significantly contributed to the conservation of this critically endangered species on a global scale. Implemented from March to July, the project resulted in the creation of a cooperation network for conservation of the species. SINP and the project partners Public Institution for the management of protected natural values in Karlovac County, the elementary school Ivana Brlić Mažuranić from Ogulin, Sport fishery society Ogulin, Croatian ichthyological society and other stakeholders continue working on the conservation measures realization.



Telestes polylepis by P.Mustafić

For more information please contact [Aljoša Duplić](#), State Institute for Nature Protection of Croatia.

11. Bulgarian forest rangers visit Germany

How can forestry and nature conservation work together successfully? In order to find the answer a group of forest rangers from the Smolyan region in Bulgaria visited the German Black Forest Nature Park at the end of September. The study tour was organised by the Green Balkans and EuroNatur within the capacity building project funded by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA). The region of Smolyan near the Greek border is part of the Balkan Green Belt and shows a mosaic of ecologically valuable woodland communities and rare grassland ecotypes. The high diversity of habitats harbours a wide range of rare plant and animal species. Several areas of this region form part of the European protected area network Natura 2000. As the implementation of Natura 2000 is still to be completed in the Western Rhodopes, EuroNatur and Green Balkans started a project on sustainable management of Natura 2000 woodlands

Photo: EuroNatur/A.K. Heinrichs



for the benefit of man and nature. During the study tour the participants saw best practise examples on how to deal with deadwood and habitat trees, and on how to manage the forest so that it remains a suitable habitat for certain species, eg. the capercaillie. The participants were impressed with the way that the Black Forest management aligns ecological with economical interests, and took home a bundle of ideas and tools that can be transferred to the Smolyan region.

For more information please contact [Neli Arabadzhieva](#), Green Balkans or Anne [Katrin Heinrichs](#), EuroNatur or visit [website](#).

12. Working together on Business & Biodiversity

EUROPARC Consulting and the European Business & Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC) have entered into a partnership to highlight how companies can integrate sustainable biodiversity management into their business strategies to counteract the loss of biodiversity and to safeguard their operations and develop new areas of business. The partnership aims to sensitise the economy even more to the protection of biodiversity. It is hoped that this increased awareness of biodiversity conservation will affect a broad spectrum of industries as well as large and small companies.



More information can be found [here](#).

13. Economic Performance and Resource Constraints in the Mediterranean Region

Global Footprint Network, UNESCO and the MAVA Foundation hosted a two-day international conference in October, "[Securing Competitiveness for the Mediterranean](#)," to launch the new [Mediterranean Ecological Footprint Trends report](#). The purpose was to obtain a clear-eyed assessment of the Mediterranean region's ecological deficit, and to explore what it means for the region's long-term economic security. The first day of the conference was dedicated to diving into the report's findings. Among the report's key discoveries: From 1961 to 2008, the Mediterranean region's per capita Ecological Footprint grew by 52 percent (from 2.1 to 3.1 global hectares or gha), while per capita biocapacity decreased by 16 percent (from 1.5 gha to 1.3 gha). As a result, between 1961 and 2008, the region's ecological deficit increased 230%. By 2008, the most recent year data is available, the region's Ecological Footprint exceeded local biocapacity by more than 150%.



Photo: UNESCO/O. Jovanovska

On the second day, participants - including government finance, planning and environment representatives, NGOs, and academics - discussed the need to shift from a silo to a systemic approach in governance, as well as the need to incorporate one-planet thinking into educational programs and awareness campaigns to mobilize both policy makers and civil society. In a world of Ecological Overshoot, attendees agreed, relying on continuous physical expansion to stabilize an economy no longer works. Long-term economic success cannot be secured without monitoring and managing the demand on, and availability of, the regenerative capacity of Earth's ecological assets.

For more information please contact [Alessandro Galli](#), Global Footprint Network.

14. Transboundary protected areas – connecting nature and society

The importance of transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) has been recognized by nature conservationists since the first TBPA was established in 1932. With the political changes real challenges started for TBPAs and they became a priority in the “Parks for Life” programme of IUCN and EUROPARC. Today we might ask what was achieved in TB conservation in Europe since that time? As a result of bilateral cooperation and mutual support, several TBPAs have today a higher protection status. With international cooperation considered important from a political perspective, nature conservation programs across borders can often achieve more than a national project only. EUROPARC launched ‘Transboundary Parks - Following Nature’s Design’ programme aiming at promoting and facilitating TB cooperation between European PAs. Significant changes for TBPAs have been driven by external factors such as the EU enlargement and new Schengen area. Despite the success in TB conservation since the 90ies some challenges still remain: TB cooperation for Junior Rangers and environmental education activities achieved remarkable results, while collaborative management planning or zoning systems still show deficiencies. The conditions for TB work vary significantly as the [2012 TransParcNet annual meeting](#) showed. At EUROPARC 2012 conference certified TB parks share their experiences in the workshop “My park is your park”. TB cooperation by the general and local public is greatly important from a long-term perspective. EUROPARC’s [\(Re\)connecting society with biodiversity](#) is fully in compliance with the conclusion by Hentschel & Stein (1999): “Transfrontier protected areas should unite not only nature, but also nations”.



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

For more information please contact [Handrij Härtel](#) for the TB-WG of EUROPARC Federation, or visit the [website](#).

15. Long term vision for Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna Mountains

The second Trilateral Stakeholder meeting in the proposed Transboundary Protected Area Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna Mountains was held in Shkodra in September, organized by B3P (Albania) and UNEP. The conference participants, including the representatives of regional organizations, discussed and agreed on the need for long-term thinking. The present joined forces, shared information and pointed out the importance of factors common for the area: internet access and improved border crossings. It was mentioned that earlier this year, B3P members led a highly successful cross-border trek which took place in all three countries that the proposed protected area encompasses. The B3P had a chance to reiterate its



I.Beka, GIZ, and Arian Gjura, B3P
by A.Gorazhi

own priorities: environmental thinking, the protection of the diverse culture of the region, and the promotion of economic development with a focus on sustainable tourism. The following day, parties interested in supporting B3P more actively, agreed to work together on the practical realization of ideas discussed during the meeting.

For more information please contact [Peter Spafford](#) or visit [website](#).

16. End overfishing or Fishing will be over!

MEDASSET joined OCEAN2012, a coalition of 170+ organizations across Europe, dedicated to transforming European Fisheries Policy so that it ends overfishing, and destructive fishing practices and delivers fair and equitable use of healthy fish stocks. During the summer, the members organized raising awareness events called "European Fish Weeks".

MEDASSET organized three successful events in Greece, which included screenings of the documentary "[End of the Line](#)" and the short animation "[Ending Overfishing](#)", presentations by experts and invited speakers, and a photography exhibition which showcases mankind's relationship with the sea - a valuable source of life, beauty and admiration - now running out fast. All events ended with citizens participating in a human fish shape photography; a symbolic gesture, calling on decision makers to take steps that will put an end to destructive fishing practices and the emptying of our seas. The [fish shaped photos](#) will be presented by the OCEAN2012 network to the Members of the European Parliament, before the voting of the new European Common Fisheries Policy.



Photo: Fotogramma Association

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

17. European World Heritage Professionals visit Beech Forests

On 26 September, the Jasmund National Park on the island of Rügen in Germany, the German component of the transnational Beech Forest World Heritage site, welcomed 27 World Heritage professionals from 18 European countries who visited the site as part of the first Periodic Reporting meeting held in Berlin from 24 to 25 September 2012. The site managers of this German component had the occasion not only to show the Ancient Beech Forest but also to explain their coordination with the Slovak and Ukrainian partners who are managing the [Primeval Beech Forests](#) of this transnational property inscribed in 2007 and extended by the German component parts in 2011. The visit of the European World Heritage professionals also highlighted the start of Periodic Reporting cycle. All World Heritage sites in Europe will be asked to take stock of their sites' state of conservation and management activities. This reporting exercise will be launched in July 2013 for all countries in South-Eastern Europe and shall be the occasion to enhance cooperation and exchange in the region. Preparatory meetings for the larger Eastern and South-Eastern European region are planned to take place in November 2012 in Georgia and in early 2013 in Azerbaijan.



Photo: Nationalparkzentrum Königstuhl

A process has been started to possibly further extend the trilateral site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by other important ancient and primeval forests in other European regions including South-Eastern Europe as suggested by the World Heritage Committee when approving the latest extension in 2011.

For more information please contact [Barbara Engels](#), German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, BfN and [Kerstin Manz](#), UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

18. ADAPT YOURSELF

This September, the citizens of Belgrade had a chance to find out what climate change is, how to adapt to it and what are its consequences for all life on planet. During this event, organized as part of the campaign “ADAPT YOURSELF!” of the Environmental Improvement Center and other members of the Climate forum, everyone interested had a chance to participate in a quiz on climate change, and the most successful participants were awarded. This educational part was followed by the performance of the art group “Cirkusfera”. The campaign “ADAPT YOURSELF!” is part of the



Photo: Environmental Improvement Center

project “South East European Forum on Climate Change Adaptation”, whose aim is to strengthen the cooperation of all interested parties and develop the regional civil society organizations’ capacity to actively take part in monitoring the adoption and the application of EU legislation relevant for climate change. Climate change will have significant and negative socio-economic consequences, so one of the important aims of this project is to improve sustainable management of natural resources. Regional forum on climate change adaptation assembles more than 80 civil society organizations (CSOs) from Serbia, Montenegro, FYR Macedonia and Croatia. The project is funded by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

For more information please contact [Ivana Jovicic](#), Environmental Improvement Center.

19. Peaks for Peace: the southern Balkans hike

In the first week of July 2012 the international expedition “Discover Balkan Peaks” across the southern Dinaric Alps was held “to promote free access to the mountain paths, and friendship, in the triangle of Kosovo (UN1244), Montenegro, and Albania”. The trek was organized by the Alpine Club of Kosovo (UN1244), to celebrate their recent joining of the UIAA, the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation. The trek began in the Rugova valley accessible from Peja, Kosovo (UN1244). Through forests of conifers and alpine pastures the group reached the traditional, scattered little village of Babino



Photo: P.Rossi

Polje (Montenegro). Scenes of old, traditional farming delighted their eyes at sunset: manual hay mowing, hay-stacks, horse-pulled carriages... In 4WDs they then reached Zastan and hiked over the border to Theth in Albania through rugged landscapes reminding of the Dolomites. Decrepit machine-gun posts formerly guarding the border increased the landscape’s dramatism. Theth is a lively village where the recently refurbished private farms now also function as guest houses. The initiator was Pavlin Polia, a young Albanian who working in Italy got acquainted to the “Slow food” philosophy. Returning home he invested his savings in sustainable tourism, safeguarding of the environment and traditional agriculture.

Hikers reached Valbona through a 1799 m-high pass that ended the five-day trek. This hike symbolized peace and friendship across the borders, and hope for the future.

For more information please contact [Partizia Rossi](#), Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime or directly local contacts [Arben Lila](#) (Alpine Club of Kosovo (UN1244)) and [Pavlin Polia](#) (hiking guide in Theth).

20. WWF restored fishponds in Kopački rit

Representatives of WWF, Nature Park Kopački rit and the Coca-Cola company, gathered beginning of October at the Bio-ecological station in Tikveš, Croatia, to present to journalists their efforts in restoring fishponds in the Danube region. That activity is part of the project “Restoration of wetlands in the area of the Mura, Drava and Danube,” which has been implemented in the past two years by WWF and the Croatian Society for the Birds and Nature Protection. Restoration of wetland habitats (570 ha) in Kopački Rit took place on the fishponds Podunavlje near Kopačevo. Ponds were abandoned several years



Photo: Green Osijek/J. Sadilkovic

ago and with time they converted into overgrown wetlands, negatively impacting the biodiversity. After the renewal, it will start to serve again as feeding, resting and breeding area of many rare and endangered species. Vegetation in succession was removed and the bottom of the pond has been deepened. Numerous tourist tracks with information content had been built and the bird observatory will be set soon. During the press conference, the declaration of cooperation between WWF and the Nature Park Kopački rit was signed, which will ensure the long term preservation of wetland habitats and biodiversity in Danube ponds. After the press conference and the tour through the Podunavlje fishponds in Kopački rit, WWF and Coca-Cola team went to the special nature reserve Gornje Podunavlje – Štrbac.

For more information please contact [Petra Boic Petrac](#), WWF MedPO.

21. Srebarna 2012 held

Students' most popular annual meeting on nature conservation through use in Bulgaria, was held in Silistra from 31 May till 2 June 2012. More than 20 projects were presented by 75 students, including the Romanian participants. The main forum topics were Biodiversity: study and conservation through use; Sewage recycling and utilization; Protected areas; Renewable energy sources and Biofuels. The awarded projects are “I am fond of Nature and take part”, ЦУТНТ/ССТС, Silistra and “Ecoassistant Appliance”, Prof. Assen Zlatarov Secondary School on Tourism, Varna. The 21st edition of the international nature conservation forum took place under the authority of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, National Palace of Children, Evrika Foundation, Regional Inspectorate of MEYS, Silistra Municipality and the Youth Center on Technology and Science Creativity, Silistra. Due to economic restrictions, publication on students' projects will not be prepared this year. Two meetings preceding the Srebarna Youth Ecoforum 2013 might be held next year, to discuss possible implementation of Srebarna 2012 project ideas. The involvement of national and international organizations is more than welcome.

For more information please contact [Sonya Zlatanova](#), National Union for Conservation of Nature (Bulgaria).

1. DIKTAS Newsletter



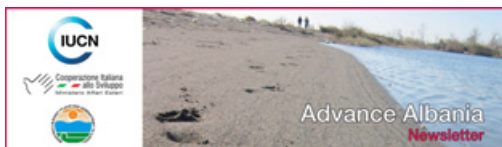
DIKTAS is a project initiated by the aquifer-sharing states and supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve understanding of transboundary groundwater resources of the Dinaric region and to facilitate their equitable and sustainable utilisation, including the protection of unique karst groundwater dependent ecosystems. The Second newsletter of the [DIKTAS](#) project features the Pilot Upstream project “Dinaric Karst Serial Nomination” and is accessible [here](#).

2. How to tell a love story



The *Love. Not Loss.* campaign of IUCN’s Commission on Education and Communication strikes again with the launch of a series of short films, including [How to tell a love story](#). Find out how you can help re-connect people and nature using Love not Loss campaign. Watch the original video of the campaign [Love. Not Loss](#), or visit the [IUCN CEC](#) website to feel the love and have a laugh!

3. Advance Albania Newsletter out



Mr. Pashko Ujka, the Mayor of Velipojë, a town close to one of the protected sites where IUCN is working towards nature-based solutions, shares his views on the challenges the town faces and his work programme which combines environmental protection and tourism development. Mr.

Ujka’s interview is part of the new issue of the [Advance Albania Newsletter](#), published within “[Institutional Support for Protected Areas in Albania](#)” project.

4. Protected Planet Report



The Protected Planet Report 2012 has been compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and a wide range of organisations that build on the work of the CBD-mandated Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. The Report underlines the successes of countries, communities and nongovernmental organisations with respect to protected areas – since 1990, for example, protected areas have increased in number by 58% and in their extent by 48%. However, many protected areas face management, governance and financial challenges and half of the world’s most important sites for biodiversity are still unprotected. Protected Planet report can be downloaded [here](#).

5. Support local action across the border



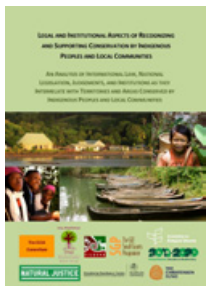
IUCN has published Guidelines to accompany the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Local Action Group (LAG) of Albania and the Local Action Group (LAG) of Montenegro, concerning their cooperation in environmental protection, tourism, recreation and sustainable development in the transboundary context of the Bjeshkët e Namuna/Prokletije Mountains. The Guidelines are available in English, Albanian and Montenegrin language , and can be downloaded [here](#).

6. Transboundary Nature Conservation in the Western Balkans



Experts from IUCN WCPA TBC SG, IUCN SEE Office, EuroNatur and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) compiled a paper that emphasizes the relevance of and the need for transboundary nature conservation in the Western Balkans. High mountain ranges, wetlands and water bodies along the borders in the region are retreat areas for an outstanding variety of plant species and for rare large carnivores. Crossborder cooperation efforts are key for preserving their ecological integrity but have to face many challenges such as lack of funding and political awareness for declaring further TBPAs. The article (in German) was published in the current special issue on nature conservation in Europe of *Natur und Landschaft*, the oldest German academic journal on conservation issues and can be downloaded for 2,95 € from [here](#).

7. Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities



The ICCA Consortium (Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas) conducted two studies from 2011-2012. The first (the *Recognition Study* available [here](#)) considers various legal, administrative, social, and other ways of recognizing and supporting conservation measures by Indigenous peoples and local communities. It includes 19 country level reports (from Europe: Croatia, Italy, Spain, and United Kingdom). The second (the *Legal Review* available [here](#)) analyses the interaction between ICCAs and international and national laws, judgements, and institutional frameworks. The synthesis report ([English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)) argues that while there are a number of positive developments at the international and national levels, Indigenous peoples and local communities are still routinely denied their rights and ICCAs remain to a great extent inappropriately- or under-recognized and under-supported by state agencies and other key actors.

8. Protected Areas Insight Magazine



Focusing on (Re)connecting with nature, the latest EUROPARK's magazine explores the need to improve society's understanding of and need to, reconnect with nature. However, to re-connect we need to recognize the gaps that exist. The magazine can be downloaded [here](#).

9. Protected areas in Europe - an overview



Protected areas today cover a relatively large part of Europe, with almost 21 % of the territory of EEA member countries and collaborating countries consisting of protected areas. In spite of this widespread presence of protected areas in all European countries, the topic has not received as much attention on a pan-European level as other environmental issues. The report prepared by EEA provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of protected areas and aims to assist policymakers and the wider public in understanding the complexity of the current systems of protected areas. To access the report please visit the [website](#).

10. Climate change in SEE



This project is co-funded by the European Union



South East European Forum on Climate Change Adaptation

South East European Forum on Climate Change Adaptation has published a newsletter that contains a review of the regional conference in Zagreb “Climate Change in South East Europe”, puts a spotlight on the start of the regional campaign “The climate has changed. Have you?”, shares news from the region,

publication reviews and more. The newsletter can be downloaded [here](#).

For more information please visit the [website](#).

11. Voices4Climate



The Voices4Climate Competition invites young people from all over the world to submit photos, videos, music videos, and podcasts that tell powerful climate change stories. Start shooting, snapping, reporting, and rapping and tell us: how is climate change affecting your country? Voices4Climate will now accept photo, video, and

music video entries till 31 December 2012. Each photo, video, or music video entry must tell a climate change story related to one of these eight categories: 1) Agriculture, 2) Cities, 3) Energy, 4) Forests, 5) Gender, 6) Health, 7) Jobs and the Green Economy, and 8) Water. For inspiration, check out “[Me and My Bike](#),” one of last year’s winning videos from Kenya’s Slum Talent Trust. Music video winners will be invited to spend a day with MTV editors in New York or London and have their music video featured on MTV’s Voices platform.

For more information please visit the [Facebook page](#) or [website](#).

1. Governance and Capacity Building Workshops for Eastern Europe



The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) together with the ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas Romania is organizing two consecutive workshops at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on Isle of Vilm, Germany in December 2012. The first workshop (2- 5 December 2012) will focus on protected area governance in Eastern Europe. The second one (5-7 December 2012) will aim at capacity building to support the Parties to the CBD from Eastern Europe in the implementation of the PoWPA. Representatives of the national decision makers, PoWPA focal points, experts from 19 countries, from European and international expert organizations (IUCN, WCPA, Europarc, UNDP, ICCA), NGOs and the CBD Secretariat are invited to participate in the first interactive workshop on governance. The second workshop will be on invitation only. Both workshops aim at discussing the needs and opportunities for the Eastern European Parties to reconsider approaches and to develop concrete actions for improving protected area governance systems and for planning, and developing long term, comprehensive capacity building systems for protected area managers. Based on country surveys and case studies, interactive sessions are planned to analyze present gaps as well as for developing recommendations on *governance approaches* (first workshop) and *for planning model approaches for capacity building* in Eastern European protected areas (second workshop). For more information please visit [BfN](#) and [PROPARK](#) websites.

2. Dinaric Arc Parks conference



WWF Mediterranean Programme Office is organizing a conference for the people who are working in protected areas, especially nature and national parks of Dinaric Arc region. The 5-day conference will start on 19 November in Banja Luka as part of the regional project “Dinaric Arc Parks” which involves eight countries of the region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (UN1244), FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. It started in January 2012 and in a period of three years its main goal is to create a network of protected areas, maintaining and strengthening the political will for regional dialogue and collaboration between the countries of the Dinaric Arc. Key objectives of the project are to create a vibrant, active regional network of agencies and staff responsible for protected areas management, to build capacity of protected areas staff and to build Dinaric Arc brand within the region and globally. WWF started to build capacity of protected areas staff in climate change, values and benefits of protected areas, sustainable tourism and in the role of protected areas during EU Accession. Main topics of the conference are Benefits and values of protected areas of the region; Sustainable tourism; Climate change and Protected areas in an EU context. Among other key speakers Mrs. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, the Nobel Prize winner, will give a presentation on climate change and the effects it has on protected areas, nature and environment.

For more information please contact [Petra Boic Petrac](#), WWF MedPO or visit [website](#).

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. IPA - Cross-Border Cooperation Programme - Albania-Montenegro - 2012

Programme(s) : IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

Sectors : Local (Social and Economic) Sustainable Development, Ecosystem Management, and partnership building

Abstract : The global objective of the Programme is to promote cooperation between people, communities and institutions from the bordering areas, aiming at sustainable development, stability and prosperity in the mutual interest of citizens of the two countries. The specific objectives of the Programme are: Promotion of economic development through the economic valorisation of its tourist and cultural potentials; Improvement of the protection, promotion and management of sensitive ecosystems and their sustainable development; Furtherance of citizens' cooperation and partnership building across the border.

Deadline(s) for submitting applications : 03 December 2012

Eligible organisations : Organisations concerned with social affairs, local development, the environment, Cooperation and Development

Regions concerned : Border region between Albania and Montenegro

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

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

European Commission, Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, B - 1049 Brussels

3. LIFE+ - Pilot Project - New Knowledge for an integrated management of human activity in the sea -2012

Programme(s): Life+

Sectors: Research, Environment

Abstract: This call for proposals aims to develop new concept and decision-making tools for integrated environmental monitoring for the MSFD to support management of human activities in EU marine waters.

Deadline(s) for submitting applications: 19 December 2012

Eligible organisations: Research centres, Local and Regional authorities, Corporations, Administrations States, Agencies Chambers, SMEs, Universities, Associations, International Organisation

Regions concerned: European Union, Candidate countries, European Economic Area, Switzerland

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

For more information, contact the contracting authority ([here](#)):

European Commission, DG Env D.2, BU-9 04/191, B-1049 Brussels

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!

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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."



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