



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: IUCN/B.Erg, Spring

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share the Spring 2014 issue of the IUCN SEE e-Bulletin. We hope you will enjoy reading the nature conservation news from our region once again. We would also like to invite you to continue monitoring the [IUCN website](#) and its [focus](#) on the [IUCN World Parks Congress 2014](#). This is where you can find a selection of texts featuring the main themes of the Congress and showcasing the many ways protected areas benefit species and people, as well as watch a short documentary 'Doctors prescribe parks'.

Wish you a pleasant reading,

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

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1. The Society for the Protection of Prespa, new IUCN member



The Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) is a Greek non-governmental, non-profit organisation located in the Greek part of the Prespa basin. Established in 1991, its mission is to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Prespa basin, shared by Albania, Greece and the FYR of Macedonia. SPP became a member of IUCN in November 2013.

“The Society for the Protection of Prespa has a long history of collaboration with its transboundary partners in the Prespa basin and the wider SE Europe, recognizing the fact that successful biodiversity conservation requires that we look beyond the confines of our immediate environment or circumstances. Just as the natural world is inter-connected on many scales, the conservation community must seek out co-operative opportunities and networks in pursuit of the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. In joining IUCN we wish to make common cause with conservation organisations worldwide and add our voice to theirs in response to the complexity of challenges ahead of us all. We are particularly interested in the opportunities IUCN offers for sharing experiences and in its scientific knowledge base – we intend to disseminate the Prespa conservation model throughout the region and beyond, and to learn from the transboundary collaborative ventures of other members,” said Myrsini Malakou, Managing Director of the SPP. “Together with our fellow Greek and Balkan members we are committed to promote the biodiversity values of the region and join forces in initiatives for their protection,” she added.

SPP is continuously involved in the protection of the globally endangered Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and the great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*). Targeted research and the implementation of management measures have led to a gradual increase in their populations and today Prespa is honoured to host the largest Dalmatian pelican colony in the world, with more than 1,200 pairs. Other large-scale projects that the SPP is currently involved in include:

- A new LIFE Nature project aiming to promote the restoration and conservation of the [Priority Habitat Type *9562 Grecian Juniper Woods \(GJWs\)](#) in Prespa National Park in co-operation with the Greek Biotope and Wetland Centre through sustainable agro-forestry practices such as grazing;
- A [water monitoring programme](#), in co-operation with Radboud-Nijmegen and Wageningen Universities, aiming to evaluate the water quality of Great and Lesser Prespa Lakes and address the critical issue of potentially increasing eutrophication;
- The establishment and operation of a transboundary environmental NGO network, consisting of the SPP, MES from the FYR of Macedonia and PPNEA from Albania, whose aim is to safeguard the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Prespa region, whilst promoting sustainable socio-economic development.

For more information please contact Marianna Vlassi, SPP at m.vlassi@wwf.gr or visit www.spp.gr.

2. Bird populations on Skadar Lake stable

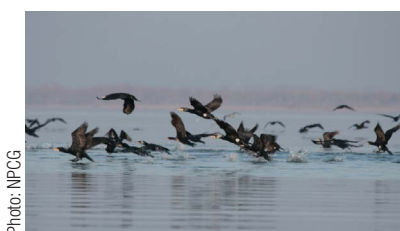


Photo: NPCG

During the regular winter count of birds in the Skadar Lake National park performed in January 2014, ornithologists have confirmed the presence of 88.000 birds in the area, similar to last year’s number. The most numerous birds present in the area of Skadar Lake are, *inter alia*, Euroasian Coot (67.963), Pygmy Cormorant (2.691), Seagull (1.908), Great Crested Grebe (1.749), etc. This year’s winter count was performed by ornithologists

Nela Vešović Dubak, National Parks of Montenegro, Onrej Vizi and Andrej Vizi, both from the Natural history museum of Montenegro. The winter count of birds on Skadar Lake is organized regularly since 1991.

For more information, please contact Milica Novakovic, National Parks of Montenegro at milicanovakovic@nparkovi.me.

3. All interested in protected areas – stakeholders' conference in Serbia



Photo: Young Researchers of Serbia

The national conference “Public participation in the nature protection” held in February 2014, gathered more than 100 participants interested in the public participation, good examples from other countries, public involvement and stakeholders' cooperation in nature protection. Welcome speeches were given by the representatives of Serbian Parliament, national and provincial environmental authorities and Governmental Office for Civil Society. Presentations of the Ministry, IUCN, local NGO, manager of Uvac protected area, representative of volunteers and local communities gave a lot of information to the participants. Work in groups covered three topics: Models of stakeholders' cooperation on nature protection; Challenges in implementing legislation on local level and Gender and nature protection. Working groups conclusions and recommendations are presented in the Conference final document and will serve for planning of future activities. During the conference an initiative for the “annual national award for volunteers in protected areas in Serbia” was launched, and it will stimulate public participation in nature protection. National conference was organized by Young Researchers of Serbia, Eko centar and CINA, and co-chaired by WWF. All presentations and final document are available [here](#).

For more information, please contact Milka Gvozdenovic, Young Researchers of Serbia at milka@mis.org.rs.

4. Sustainable Economic Activities in Marine Protected Areas



Photo: INCA

In cooperation with WWF MedPO INCA is implementing a project “Sustainable economic activities in Marine Protected Areas – Field Project Albania”, funded by the CEPF. It is part of a wider regional initiative, “Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine protected areas SEA-Med”, covering eight marine protected areas (MPA) in Libya, Tunisia, Turkey, Croatia, Algeria and Albania.

The project aims to support the development of tourism in the Karaburun-Sazan MPA, in close cooperation with local partners, the Park Administration, Orikum municipality, Vlora University, NGOs etc. The project will support business activities in the area that are nature based, promoting the sustainable activities and providing them with certificates of compliance with EU standards. Several meetings were organized in January, studying the certification process of sustainable tourism activities affecting the MPAs and preparing a database on nature based tourism activities in Vlora-Orikum that affect the Karaburun-Sazan MPA. They were organized by local experts from Vlora University, local NGO end Orikum municipality.

For more information please contact Marinela Mitro, INCA on marinela_mitro@yahoo.com.

5. Five Dinaric Arc Parks on a journey towards sustainable tourism



will then be considered by the [EUROPARC Consulting](#) will now work with these parks, taking them through an in-depth assessment process which includes a visit from a verifier consultant. A report will then be considered by the [EUROPARC Federation](#)'s Evaluation Committee which makes the recommendation on the award.

All five parks are part of the WWF "[Dinaric Arc Parks](#)" project which aims to connect parks right across South-Eastern Europe. EUROPARC Consulting, on behalf of the EUROPARC Federation, has been involved closely with both the project and the parks over the last few years, helping them progress sustainable tourism in the region. The Federation's flagship scheme, the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, is invaluable in assisting these special places in becoming a destination and creating a distinct brand without harming their special qualities. The aim is to have 10 parks or more from the project apply for the Charter award, creating a common way of working toward a sustainable future across the region. EUROPARC Consulting congratulates to all that have submitted their applications for the Charter, and will enjoy working with all these special places this summer.

For more information please contact Wilf Fenten, EUROPARC Consulting at wilf.fenten@europarc-consulting.org or Petra Boic Petrac, WWF MedPO at ppetrac@wwfmedpo.org, or visit <http://www.discoverdinarides.com> and www.europarc-consulting.org.

6. Management Plan for Central Balkan National Park



The public discussion on the updated Management Plan for the Central Balkan National Park was held on 11 March, with the participation of the National Assembly representatives, regional and local authorities, government agencies, professional organizations, research institutions, NGOs, Park resources users, and other interested citizens.

The Minister of Environment and Water Iskra Mihaylova congratulated to the project team emphasizing the importance of an updated management plan that meets the interests of the park stakeholders, guarantees a policy that protects the park territory and offers sustainable development for the local communities. The proposed document is in line of the first management plan, but improved based on the ten years of experience in park management. The Park management plan is a tool that should safeguard the natural and cultural heritage, enabling the development of sustainable livelihood in the area. The updated plan reflects the current state of abiotic and biotic components of the environment as well socio-economic characteristics of the Central Balkan and adjacent territory. It is also in line with the long term vision for Central Balkan (2010 – 2050) which intends to save the wildlife for future generations.

The management plan is updated with support of the European Regional Development Fund and the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria through Operational Programme "Environment 2007 to 2013".

For more information please contact Sergey Aleksandrov, Central Balkan National Park Directorate at s_aleksandrov@centralbalkan.bg.

7. World Wetlands Day along the Mura River



Photo: Gregor Domanjko

More than 300 hikers and friends of Mura River from Slovenia, Croatia, Austria and Hungary gathered on 2 February in Kotoriba, Croatia on the 15th Nature walk along the Mura River, celebrating the World Wetlands Day. Besides meeting people on both sides of the Mura River, the objective of the walk was to raise awareness on the loss of wetlands and the strong need to protect them. The Mura River with its remaining wetlands and floodplain forests should be included on the list of Ramsar sites and stay free of dams for power stations, as a part of future international

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Mura – Drava – Danube. Before starting the 14 km long walk the hikers were warmly welcomed by the organizers: Međimurska Priroda, Tabrih Association, International Committee for the Conservation of Mura River, Naša Mura-Unsere Mur and representatives of the local community. Due to bad weather the number of participants was lower than previous years. However, for the hikers that gathered the walk through cultural landscape along the Mura River, alluvial forest and nearby oxbow lakes was a great experience of wetland atmosphere.

For more information, please contact Gregor Domanjko or Stanka Dešnik, Nature Park Goričko at park.goricko@siol.net or visit www.park-goricko.org.

8. Skadar Lake as a Biosphere Reserve



In the framework of the cross-border project titled “To support the proposal of Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve Area of Skadar Lake”, implemented by INCA (Albania) and Green Home (Montenegro), a meeting was organized in Bar end of January to assess the efforts made so far and the project’s progress. The meeting emphasized several achievements of this project, such as the comprehensive information shared between the stakeholders, the support provided to the central and local

institutions, the close cooperation and strong solidarity reached with local authorities, environmental NGOs and other local actors around Skadar Lake.

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

9. Contribution to the preservation of the Balkan Green Belt



Recently published brochure “Establishment of nature conservation CSOs in Montenegro and Kosovo as a contribution to the preservation of the Balkan Green Belt” summarizes the course and the results of the correspondent project as well as its history and context. The project was implemented from April 2012 until February 2014 by EuroNatur and its partner organizations PPNEA and MES (from Albania and Macedonia, respectively) and aimed on building capacity within Civil Society Organisations for nature conservation in Montenegro and Kosovo in the fields of

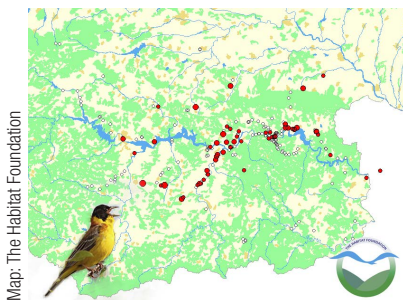
wildlife protection and management as well as protected area management.

Four courses were conducted within the project, focusing on different topics related to wildlife and protected area management. On average, twelve people from five different CSOs from Kosovo and Montenegro attended the workshops, held by both international and national experts. All participants highlighted the possibility of connecting with colleagues from neighbouring countries

during the series of workshops and stated that this would be very useful for their further work. The project as well as the production of the brochure were financially supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Download the project brochure [here](#).

For more information please contact Annette Spangenberg, Euronatur at annette.spangenberg@euronatur.org.

10. A new way to count birds in SE Europe



Distribution of Black-headed Bunting in the Eastern Rhodopes, Bulgaria.
 White dots: location of count, no Black-headed Bunting.
 Red dots: location of count with Black-headed Bunting.
 Small red dot: 1 bird per count; larger red dot: 2-5 birds per count.

In 2010 The Habitat Foundation started counts of birds in Bulgaria. Now, four years later the preliminary results are presented [here](#). The aim of this project is to count birds with the help of tourists that visit Bulgaria for its special bird fauna. Normally these tourists go home with nice memories of their travel and a list of species they've seen, but they don't leave any data behind that can be useful for the local conservation organisations. However now there are several websites where people can upload their sightings and make them available to conservationists, policy makers and scientists (such as <http://pc.trektellen.nl>). The disadvantage of uploading only incidental sightings is that locations can't be compared, because there is no information on the observer's effort. Therefore the tourists should count for 10 minutes all the birds they see and hear in a circle of 200 m around the spot where they stop. In the past four years these so called point counts were carried out on 212 spots in the Eastern

Rhodopes in Bulgaria. Here 165 bird species were registered, or 60% of the number of bird species known from this region, out of which 28 are listed as Threatened or Rare in the Red List of Bulgarian Birds. These point counts can also be carried out elsewhere in South Eastern Europe. The website <http://pc.trektellen.nl> is open to anybody who wants to participate.

For more information please contact Dennis Wansink, The Habitat Foundation at dennis.wansink@thehabitatfoundation.org or visit the [website](#).

11. Earth Hour in Serbia



A record number of 87 cities, over 120 schools and 75 NGOs are participated in this year Earth Hour in Serbia! The main event took place at the Republic Square in Belgrade where the most famous Serbian children's choir Kolibri sang a special repertoire dedicated to nature and environment. They were followed

by acoustic performance of Sambansa band. Participants of a special Earth Hour cyclothon symbolically switched off the lights on their bikes organizing a "slow race". Those who preferred a quiet atmosphere gathered for a candlelight dinner at Homa restaurant prepared by Filip Ciric, one of the most famous chefs in the region. Earth Hour activities included the most famous Serbian writers and columnists writing short essays on the topic "The most beautiful things always happen in the dark", while Facebook users submitted their own stories through the Facebook application. In partnership with Canon, a competition for the best photo without the flashlight also took place.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

12. National Parks Values and Benefits Assessment



Photo: INCA

The first assessment meeting on current and potential values and benefits of the protected areas in Albania took place at the Dajti National Park Information Centre in February 2014. It was organized by WWF and INCA, in the framework of the project “Dinaric Arc Parks”. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Dajti Park Administration, local authorities and business community as well as academia participated in the meeting. The Protected Areas Benefits Assessment Tool is a methodology developed by WWF used to identify hidden and non-hidden benefits of protected areas, collect information and

prepare further analysis of the potential beneficiaries. By applying this methodology, the information was collected on the overall benefits of the enriched biodiversity, the use of water catchment basin of the park, the economic benefits for businesses development and population through the mountain tourism. It also gathered information on protection measurements against erosion and climate change mitigation.

The preparatory meeting for the Valbona National Park certification by the EUROPARC Federation was held as well. The ECST Certificate would bring the membership in the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism for the park. ECST is an excellent tool for tourism promotion of this area, given that it would include the Valbona National Park in the European map of parks to be visited.

For more information please contact Abdulla Diku, INCA at adiku@hotmail.com or visit www.inca-al.org

13. Protected Areas Benefit Assessment Workshops in NP Tara and Kopaonik

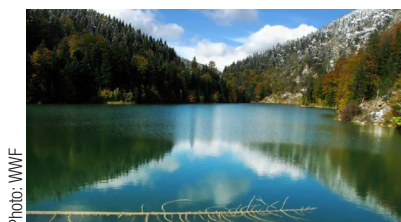


Photo: WWF

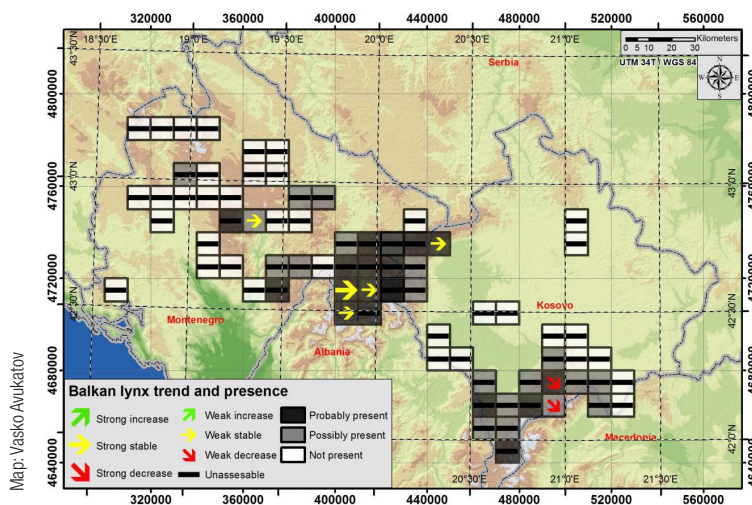
As a part of the Dinaric Arc Parks project, WWF in Serbia organized two Protected Areas Benefits Assessment Tool (PA-BAT) workshops for the stakeholders of national parks Tara and Kopaonik 25-27 February. A total of 56 stakeholders participated in the workshops including representatives of national parks officials, local communities, youth offices, hunter associations, service sector, and private forest owners in national parks.

The aim of these workshops is to connect organizations and stakeholders working in the field of protected areas through a series of conferences, study tours, workshops, trainings and other activities. The goal is to build capacity among the participants in applying economic analysis in the context of protected areas and to demonstrate how economic tools can be used to support sustainable management of parks and reserves. By now a total of 26 workshops (out of 52) have been organized in eight countries of WWF’s Dinaric Arc Parks project (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo*).

For more information please contact Aleksandra Stamenkovic, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme at astamenkovic@wwfdcp.org.

14. The Balkan lynx picture completed

It’s now the eighth anniversary since the efforts to save the Balkan lynx from extinction begun. A long term Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme has not only proved the existence of this elusive cat in Macedonia and Albania, but has also confirmed its critical status and the need for urgent conservation measures. The ongoing third phase of this initiative has welcomed the two northern



of Montenegro. The Baseline Survey has not only indicated the presence and trend of the large mammals, but has also shown the human-carnivore conflicts and peoples' attitude towards large carnivores in general, and lynx in particular. It represents a fundament for further ecological studies in the region.

For more information please contact Dime Melovski, MES at melovskid@mes.org.mk.

15. White-tailed Eagle poisoning in Serbia



In 13 February 2014 Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina province has initiated a public campaign aimed to raise awareness on huge illegal poisoning of animals, as result of illegal use of pesticides, especially carbofuran. Although forbidden, intentional use of this substance (very strong insecticide) for poisoning of unwanted animals has become almost usual practice causing massive killing of Red Foxes, Golden Jackals and wild dogs. These animals are found killed at various places in Province of Vojvodina, suspectedly by cattle owners and sometimes hunters. As result of primary (directly from the poisoning bait) or secondary poisoning (by consuming already poisoned animal), 26 dead White-tailed Eagles are found dead from 2009 till 2014, including two cases of massive poisoning: close to Vajska in 2012 (6 eagles) and Svilojevo in 2014 (8 birds).

Eagle poisoning, and poisoning of all other carcass-eating animals by illegal use of pesticides is bird conservation threat in all countries of Central Europe. However, although relatively new in Serbia, this threat is source of concern. Not a single case is legally prosecuted. In Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve, out of 23 pairs, possibly 4-5 are the nests with poisoned adults. Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, through media campaign and a series of contacts with local actors and stakeholders (police, inspections, responsible ministries, municipality leaders, land owners, hunters organizations, cattle breeders) is determined to give a substantial contribution to ceasing of raptor poisoning.

For more information please contact Marko Tucakov, Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province at marko.tucakov@pzzp.rs.

16. Using power of communications for empowering protected areas in Albania



Photo: WWF MedPO

In mid March, communications and interpretation training was organized in Tirana, to help Albanian protected areas in their everyday business and in upgrading quality of their touristic offer. Training was organized and held by WWF, within Dinaric Arc Parks - Albania project. A representative of each Albanian national park was present, forming a group of more than 20 participants. The assessment of communications knowledge of PA staff has been carried out prior to the training indicating the need for communications capacity building, related to writing effective press release, making their PA visible on the internet, developing and implementing media campaign, preparing a leaflet for their park, etc. Special guest of the training was Edmond Prifti, a journalist from the media agency in Tirana. For one hour, participants had a chance to ask the journalist whatever they were interested in: how to reach the media, how to increase the chance that their press release will be published... In order to make use of the gained knowledge, WWF's communications

officer will be in constant touch with the participants, encourage them to use the new skills and help them in implementing communication activities if needed.

The next training is planned for May 2014, and its focus will be the organization of press conferences and speaking in public. Hopefully these trainings will contribute to better recognition of Albanian parks as beautiful and desirable destinations worth to visit!

For more information please contact Martina Subasic, WWF Mediterranean Programme at msubasic@wwfmedpo.org.

17. The Balkans Peace Park



Photo: B3P

The Balkans Peace Park (B3P) has been working since 2001 to establish an internationally recognized transnational Peace Park within the boundaries of the National Parks in the mountain regions spanning Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo. Sylvia Shatwell, a B3P volunteer, visited the region in advance of B3P's 2014 Summer Programme. The purpose of the trip was to connect with key stakeholders in Albania and Montenegro and to strengthen established partnerships with NGOs, embassies and universities to build on the considerable progress already made in realizing B3P's vision for an environmentally protected area uniting communities of the three countries through conservation and the promotion of sustainable tourism. The meeting with director of Prokletije National Park, Enko Dreskovic was held in Plav, Montenegro. Plans were made for a summer camp for children from Plav and Gusinje that is scheduled for July 2014 and will be held in the magnificent mountains of Prokletije. The camp will be run by B3P

volunteers and Montenegrin partners and its theme will be conservation and natural environment. The Plav summer camp will extend the activity of B3P, which has run successful summer programmes in Thethi, Vermosh and Lopushe in Albania, and Rugova in Kosova since 2008. The summer programmes are the symbolic and practical building blocks of a much bigger vision for cross-border exchange, peace and cooperation based on a shared commitment to the protection of the natural environment.

For more information please contact Peter Spafford, B3P at peter.spafford@ntlworld.com.

18. The management plan for Karaburun-Sazan MPA



Photo: INCA

The first stakeholder meeting for the preparation of the management plan for Karaburun-Sazan National Park took place in Oriku in March 2014. It was organised by INCA in the framework of the project “Improvement of geographical coverage and the effective management of marine and coastal protected areas,” financed by UNDP and implemented by WWF in collaboration with INCA. The meeting was attended by various representatives of central and local government, local NGOs,

academics from the University of Tirana and Vlora, representatives of UNDP and other interested groups. The purpose of the meeting was to inform stakeholders about the preparation process of the management plan, on the structure and jurisdiction of the marine protected area of Karaburun-Sazan, and initiate the creation of a vision for the development of the area through comprehensive methods.

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

19. Medieval fortress Nečven

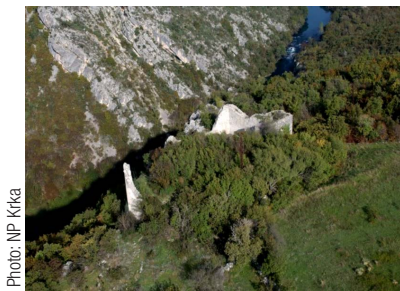


Photo: NP Krka

Through the cooperation of the Public Institute of Krka National Park and the Drniš Museum, another phase of the archaeological dig has been completed at the medieval fortress Nečven, situated in the village of the same name to the west of Promina, on the edge of a steep cliff on the left bank of the Krka River. Systematic research of this locality began in September 2011. The initial objective of the research was to uncover the architecture and determine the perimeter walls of the fortress. During 2012, the ruins of a structure outside the fortress and the southeastern external defensive wall were investigated. Between this wall and

the internal circular tower, a bread oven was found virtually in its entirety, and underneath it was a large quantity of ash and ceramic fragments. Over the next year, the oven was restored and the entrance partially reconstructed. In addition to the architectural remains, the dig also unearthed numerous metal and ceramic artefacts, which were transferred to the restoration workshop of Krka National Park for further processing. The research and conservation works at Nečven, as a cultural and historical monument, are part of the broader strategy of the Public Institute of Krka National Park, aimed at preserving the originality and at presenting the cultural and historical heritage of the park area.

For more information please contact Tihana Jurić, Public Relations Krka National Park at info@npg.hr.

20. The Vjosa/Aoos River Ecomuseum opening



Photo: INCA

The Vjosa/Aoos River Ecomuseum, first of this kind in Albania, was opened on 25 January 2014, in the frame of the VAecoM project “The Vjosa/Aoos River Ecomuseum; promotion and protection of the natural and cultural heritage of the Vjosa/Aoos river basin”, within IPA Cross – Border Programme “Greece – Albania 2007-2013” financed by European Funds and National funds of Albania and Greece. Lead by the Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) in collaboration with the Municipality of Përmet and the Directory of Forest services in Përmet, the ecomuseum’s

starting point was marked in the Multifunctional Centre in Përmet. The Director of the National Agency of Tourism in Albania has given a significant support to the museum opening.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by a field trip to the Vjosa/Aoos River valley in Greece and an International Conference organized on 26-27 January in the Municipality of Konitsa, Greece. During the conference the ecomuseum concept and content were introduced and potential for its development was discussed. The Joint Albanian-Greek Network for the Ecomuseum management was established. Partners expect that the project will have a positive impact on the cross-border area on socio-cultural, economic and environmental levels, improving the communication between people living on both sides of the border and opening the floor for new collaborations.

For more information please contact Daniela Godo, INCA at daniela.godo@yahoo.com or visit the [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or [Twitter](#).

21. A new sanctuary for the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal

[MOM, the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal](#), closely collaborating with central and local governmental Greek Authorities, has achieved an important victory in the long and on-going struggle for the preservation of the charismatic, but alas critically endangered



Mediterranean monk seal. A new no-take fishing zone (the first one after more than 20 years in Greek seas) has been officially declared through new environmental legislation by the competent Greek Authorities. This zone is located in the middle of the Aegean Sea in Northern Cyclades, covering a three nautical mile radius, surrounding the uninhabited and

isolated island of Gyaros. The newly established zone excludes all kind of fisheries, and provides an important and unique sanctuary for the local monk seal population, which is estimated to approximately 70 seals, excluding pups. Taking into account that current estimations bring the total number of the surviving *Monachus monachus* in only 600 individuals throughout their range, Gyaros constitutes a paramount area for the species globally. In order to further secure and enhance the status of this unique island, but also engage the local communities in its efficient and fruitful conservation, a 4-year EU LIFE+ Nature project is currently being implemented in its wider area. The project is entitled [CYCLADES “Integrated monk seal conservation in Northern Cyclades”](#) and is co-financed by the LIFE Nature financial instrument of the European Union and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

For more information please contact Vangelis I. Paravas, Mom at v.paravas@mom.gr.

1. Celebrating a new Red Book in Croatia



The State Institute for Nature Protection of Croatia and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts have launched two bird conservation publications of great importance, the 'Red Book of Birds of Croatia' and the 'Croatian Bird Migration Atlas'. On this occasion, all the so far published Red lists and Red data books of Croatia were exhibited, celebrating the 50th anniversary of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

The 'Red Book of Birds of Croatia' (eds. V.Tutiš, J.Kralj, D.Radović, D.Ćiković and S.Barišić) evaluates the vulnerability of each bird species nesting, wintering or regularly migrating across Croatia and reveals that 39% of 235 evaluated nesting bird species are facing the risk of extinction, being listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable. The 'Croatian Bird Migration Atlas' (eds. J.Kralj, S.Barišić, V.Tutiš and D.Ćiković) reveals the results of a 100-year long ringing project (1910-2010) in Croatia, during which 1.163.962 birds have been marked. The atlas offers an insight into the dynamics and routes of Croatian birds' migration, as well as the European populations migrating over or wintering in Croatia.

2. European Green Belt Newsletter out



The Coordination Group of the European Green Belt Initiative, EuroNatur (Current Chair of the Coordination Group) and BUND Project Office Green Belt have re-launched the European Green Belt Newsletter in February 2014. This newsletter informs about upcoming European Green Belt

meetings and conferences as well as about other important activities and developments of the initiative. To subscribe, please send an email to greenbelt@euronatur.org. For more news visit the [website](#).

3. The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014



IUCN
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions

12 – 19 November 2014

The IUCN World Parks Congress, a landmark global forum on protected areas, will be held in Sydney, Australia 12 - 19 November 2014 with the theme "*Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions*". Receive the Congress News by subscribing [here](#).

4. National Parks of Montenegro



First issue of the newsletter 'National Parks of Montenegro' is published - prepared for the local communities living in or near national parks as well as for all the stakeholders interested in the management, protection and promotion of these protected areas. It will be published quarterly by the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro. The newsletter is accessible [here](#).

5. Turtle Dives



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

Protecting marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean since 1988

MEDASSET's bi-annual e-newsletter "Turtle...Dives" contains the latest news on sea turtle conservation in the Mediterranean, related activities and events. Read the current issue and take a look at the ones you missed [here](#).

6. Website for primary schools



The Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro and the NLB Montenegrobank have created a webpage for the primary school pupils and their teachers, in the frame of the project „[Lets gladden the nature](#)“. This is where the visitors can learn about the biodiversity of the five national parks in Montenegro, the sustainable use of resources and their valorization. The website contains images from the lectures in nature, educational sheets in pdf formats, interesting comics and various games.

7. Krka National Park presents



Photo: NP Krka

The Public Institute of Krka National Park presented the guidebook ‘Speleological Guide to Krka National Park’ and the film ‘Terra Incognita’ about the underground life of Krka National Park for its 29th anniversary. The ‘Speleological Guide to Krka National Park’ represents a cross-section of the speleological and biospeleological research conducted throughout the park area from 1956 to 2010. Some of the researched speleological structures are the cave Miljacka II (the longest topographically mapped cave in the park area) and Stara Jametina pit (deepest

known pit). A total of 129 taxa were recorded in the speleological structures, including new representatives of the cave fauna, and a stable population of olm and certain taxa new to science from the groups of spiders, pseudoscorpions, terrestrial isopods, centipedes and millipedes.

‘Terra Incognita’, a 30 minute film, shows the underground habitats and the animals within them in three basic zones: entrance zones, semi-dark zone and dark zone. The subterranean terrestrial animals are covered based on their level of adaptation to life underground, as troglobionts (organisms that live exclusively in subterranean areas), trogliphiles (organisms that live above ground, but are sufficiently adapted to cave conditions that they can also live underground), subtroglyphiles (organisms that use caves for a certain part of their live cycle, such as for hibernation, reproduction, etc.), and troglonexes (organisms that incidentally found their way underground, where they either die or survive until resurfacing again). The aquatic organisms were also covered based on their level of adaptation to life underground, and in line with the names for the terrestrial organisms, the categories are: stigobionts, stigophiles, substigophiles and stigonexes. The film shows just a portion of the great diversity of the living world (of the total known 175 species), some of which are very important, rare and endemic taxa, as well as several species that were previously unknown to science.

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

8. PEGASO project



PEGASO is a collaborative project involving 25 partners that have worked for four years under the lead coordination of the Autonomous University of Barcelona to develop novel, shared approaches in support of integrated policies for the coastal, marine and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins.

Read the last newsletter [here](#).

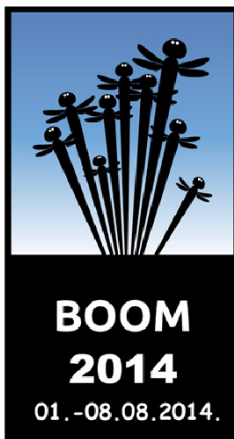
1. Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas



The mobile seminar on Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas is an intensive, 2.5 week seminar (in English) for individuals involved in efforts to use tourism and outdoor recreation in protected areas. To be held 10-25 September, in USA, the seminar will review how tourism in protected areas can help create public support for conservation, contribute to public health, fund protected area management, and provide economic benefits to local communities and national economies. Ideal participants will be mid-level professional and technical personnel who work for governmental or nongovernmental conservation and tourism organizations, in academia, in the private sector, and in community-based and indigenous tourism and conservation initiatives in or near protected areas.

Applications will be accepted until 1 May 2014. The course fee of \$5,000 does not include travel costs. No scholarships are offered to the course. For more information please visit: <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-tourism-course>.

2. IV Balkan Odonatological Meeting



The Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature BIO.LOG and the Natural Heritage Protection Society Arbor Magna together with Slovene Odonatological Society (SOD) are pleased to announce the Fourth Balkan Odonatological Meeting – BOOM 2014 that will take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1 to 8 August 2014.

The Balkan Odonatological Meeting represents unique regional research program developed and lead by young researchers and students from West Balkan region with the main goal of the establishment of regional cooperation in research and protection of dragonflies.

The Meeting combines field studies, lectures and workshops on dragonflies. During eight days participants will have the opportunity to investigate dragonfly fauna of different biogeographical regions of the country. Field excursions will lead us to largely unexplored habitats of different regions of Bosnia and

Herzegovina with the main focus on the Posavina region, one of the least explored regions of the country characterised with rich and diverse freshwater habitats.

For more information please email: balkandragonflies@gmail.com.

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. Call for tenders, Forecast: IPA \Further Implementation of Environmental Approximation Strategy

Contracting Authority(ies): European Commission

Sector: Environmental institution building

Contract Type: Services

Procedure Type: Restricted

Abstract: The purpose of this contract is to support the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection (MEDEP) and Working Group for negotiation of Chapter 27 in enhancing their capacities to plan and implement environmental legislation and the national environmental approximation strategy (already approved) through:

- assisting in analysis and better understanding of institutional capacity needs to implement the environmental 'acquis' and in proposing appropriate institutional structures to ensure effective implementation and enforcement,
- assisting in development capabilities for planning of implementation of selected heavy cost environmental legislation and including preparation of at least 5 directive specific implementation plans (DSIPs),
- strengthening capabilities in investment and financing planning,
- increasing efficiency of preparatory process to negotiate Chapter 27 'Environment'.

Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate: Forecast

Geographical Zone: Serbia

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

Call for proposals No: EuropeAid/135629/IH/SER/RS.

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, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's European region covers the European continent, Russia and Central Asia, and includes the European Union overseas entities. IUCN Programme Office for South Eastern Europe promotes improved governance of natural resources and biodiversity, and supports initiatives to conserve biodiversity and manage ecosystems for human well-being. Working closely with IUCN Members and Commissions, it shapes regional policy and supports two flagship initiatives: Dinaric Arc Initiative and European Green Belt.

www.iucn.org/southeasterneurope

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For the purpose of this publication, the name Kosovo is used to refer to the territory under the UNSCR 1244 and the name Macedonia is used to refer to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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