



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



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

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 33rd 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

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1. Adaptive Management in biodiversity conservation



IUCN/V.Ferdinandova

A one-week study course about „ Adaptive Conservation Site Management under Global Change” for young scientists took place as a cooperation between the Centre for Economics and Ecosystem Management and the Agricultural University of Tirana. It was held in Shkoder, Albania from 20 - 26 of January. The project introduces the internationally acknowledged planning methods “Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation” and “MARISCO (Adaptive risk and vulnerability at nature conservation sites)”. The aim of the course was to enable participants to develop conservation strategies based on the principles of

adaptive management. In this context, they were also able to proactively take into account possible risks rising from climate change and local developments. The young researchers and academics of Albania gained experience in applying innovative international planning standards that would help them more effectively plan and implement conservation actions in future. The case study area used for teaching of the method was the nearby located Lake Shkodra. Thus the participants could also recognize the need for transboundary cooperation in nature conservation.

The course was financially supported by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and guided by Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibisch, Professor for Nature Conservation, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Management and Dr. Peter Hobson, Principal lecturer for Biodiversity and Nature Conservation and head of M.Sc. Conservation Management under Global Change at the Writtle College.

For more information please contact Lena Strixner, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development at lena.strixner@hnee.de or Veronika Ferdinandova, IUCN SEE at veronika.ferdinandova@iucn.org.

2. Bulgaria proclaimed 35 new protected areas since 2012



Erodium absinthoides by Ministry of Environment and Water

The Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Researches and Ministry of Environment and Water have joined forces to save some of the rarest and most unique plants in Bulgaria located outside of existing protected areas. Plant micro reserves are small areas (under 20 ha), designed to enable long-term monitoring of threatened and endemic plants' status. They allow the realization of traditional activities in line with the principles of nature.

The Life+ project “A pilot network of small protected sites for plant species in Bulgaria using the plant micro-reserve model” – BulPlantNet (LIFE08 NAT/BG/279) was initiated in January 2010. As its result, a total of 21 new protected areas have been proclaimed since 2012, increasing the total protected areas network by 1,735 hectares. The protected sites conserve *Verbascum purpureum* (village Bulgarian Polyana), *Serratula bulgarica* (village Hadzhidimitrovo), *Erodium absinthoides* (village Logodazh) and “Canyon” (village Kaspichan), just to name a few.

The total number of protected areas in Bulgaria today is 989, with total area of 583,963.7 ha (which constitutes 5,3% of the country's territory). Since 2012 to the present 35 new protected areas have been designated. Some of the new protected areas are Hrastevo (primeval forests of *Pinus nigra*, involving: *Quercus sessilis*, *Q. cerris*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Ulmus glabra*, etc.), The Swamp (natural marsh, representing a rare and remarkable natural landscape, *Emys orbicularis jabitat*), and the Veselina River (wetlands, riparian forests), declared on the initiative of local NGO and WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, in response to public demand and with the active participation of all stakeholders.

For more information please contact Kalina Stoyanova, kstoyanova@moew.government.bg or Tzvetelina Ivanova tzvety@moew.government.bg from the Ministry of Environment and Water or visit www.bulplantnet-bg.s-kay.com.

3. Sharks, rhinos and elephants among wildlife trade summit winners



IUCN/S. Gross

A historic vote to improve the sustainability of the international trade of eight species of sharks and rays that are listed as threatened on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is among the key decisions taken at the CITES wildlife trade summit held in March 2013 in Bangkok.

Other decisions taken at the 16th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) include strengthening measures to reduce poaching and illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn, which have increased dramatically in recent years. “The decisions taken at CITES will help secure the survival of many threatened species in the wild,” says IUCN Director General, Julia Marton-Lefèvre. “We are delighted to see that the scientific expertise on the biology, conservation and trade of species provided to the Convention by IUCN’s Species Survival Commission and TRAFFIC was key in supporting evidence-based decision making at the Bangkok meeting.”

For more information please visit <http://www.iucn.org/?12640/Sharks-rhinos-and-elephants-among-wildlife-trade-summit-winners>.

4. Earth Hour



WWF DCP

Earth Hour is a global environmental initiative in partnership with WWF. Individuals, businesses, governments and communities were invited to turn out their lights for one hour on Saturday, 23 March 2013 at 8:30 PM to show their support for environmentally sustainable action. Since 2007 when 2.2 million people took part in the first Earth Hour in Sydney, Australia, Earth Hour has massively expanded to over 7,000 cities and towns in 152 countries and territories with hundreds of millions of participants across seven continents. In 2013, Earth Hour is not merely an

annual event, but is a continuous movement driving real actions to change the world we live in.

The slogan for this year’s Earth Hour campaign in Serbia “Every hour can become Earth Hour” reminds us that the main point of this action isn't just turning off the lights for this event, but continuous change of our everyday habits related to use of electric energy and other natural resources. This year in Serbia 59 cities and municipalities participated, 44 CSO’s, 38 schools along with many governmental institutions and companies. During the main events in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Nis, people attended acoustic concerts and other programs organized by WWF and local NGOs. Besides the activities and events in Serbia, WWF organized Earth Hour in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia too.

For more information please contact Sonja Badjura, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme at sbadjura@wwfdcp.org.

5. Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic

netcet The Adriatic Sea hosts several species of cetaceans (some visitors like endangered fin whale, some with permanent populations like bottlenose dolphin) and sea turtles. They are threatened by human activities, especially related to fisheries and coastal tourism (e.g. impacts of recreational boats). Biodiversity conservation issues like these are common to all Adriatic countries but experience across regions in this field varies. There is much to be gained from sharing best practices and experiences with the aim of defining a common conservation framework and tools/measures for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles.

The NETCET project intends to address these challenges, with the financial assistance of the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme. NETCET is coordinated by the City of Venice and managed by 13 partners from Countries of the Adriatic Basin: Italy, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro and Slovenia. Their main objective is to develop common strategies for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Adriatic through regional cooperation. Shared natural heritage cannot be managed by a single state in isolation. Due to the migratory nature of these species and the joint responsibility of Adriatic states, collaboration is essential to planning effective long-term conservation strategies. Project developed tools will be readily available to everyone. This would hopefully support better conservation in other regions where similar conservation issues arise. NETCET runs from October 2012 to September 2015.

For more information please visit www.netcet.eu or www.facebook.com/NETCETproject.

6. Inspired by the Marine Environment



Twenty-five posters from MEDASSET's Competition displayed at the Athens International Airport till 10 May 2013 welcome travelers offering a view on marine life through the eyes of graphic design students. MEDASSET, who is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, cooperated with AKTO College of Art and Design on this competition. All posters had to promote the need to protect the Mediterranean Sea while raising public awareness about the degradation of the marine environment. Out of forty-eight works submitted to the competition, twenty-five were chosen for display by a Judging Panel, and the three prizewinning designs were announced during a presentation ceremony held at the airport on 25 January. The three awards for top designs were sponsored by IDEAL and Panorama Bikes, COCO-MAT, and Skiadopoulos Photographic Equipment.

Sea turtles – a flagship species and ambassadors for marine biodiversity – are also represented in the Exhibition. Additionally, there are images from MEDASSET's 25 years of conservation work across the Mediterranean.

For more information please contact Jenny Ioannou, MEDASSET at JennyIoannou@medasset.gr. To see the posters, please visit http://www.medasset.gr/cms/index.php?option=com_phocagallery&view=category&id=4%3Acompetition&Itemid=132&lang=el.

7. Landmine clearance in Krka National Park



NP Krka/M. Krstić

On 12 March 2013, in the presence of HE Kenneth Merten, US Ambassador to Croatia, numerous representatives of public, cultural and political life, the new tactile map was installed in front of the building of the Public Institute of Krka National Park in Skradin, and the Confirmation of Demining in Krka National Park was awarded. Through the donations of the Public Institute of Krka National Park, Croatia Without Landmines and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), and with the support of the United States Government the demining

project was implemented covering an area of 204,417 m² in the five final areas for demining within the boundaries of Krka National Park.

The same event saw the presentation of a new three-dimensional tactile map for blind and the vision-impaired that provides information on the topographic and architectural structures in Krka National Park and the surrounding areas. The relief in the scale 1:40,000 shows the course of the Krka River to the City of Šibenik. The first tactile map was installed in the park in 2011, at the viewing point at Skradinski buk. The map shows the relief of the area and the Skradinski buk waterfalls in a scale of 1:800.

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

8. A vote for fisheries



MEDASSET

The Common Fisheries Policy reform is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to reverse poor management that has led to depletion of fish populations, damage to ecosystems and marine species, including endangered species such as sea turtles and marine mammals. On 6 February 2013 the European Parliament cast a historic vote and supported a new policy that sets an early date (2015) to end overfishing and a clear target to rebuild depleted fish stocks by 2020. The adopted text includes strict capacity

assessments, demands financial aid to be conditional on compliance with the rules and rewards fishermen who fish in environmentally and socially sustainable ways with priority access to resources. The Parliament also voted to oblige vessels to land all catches based on a schedule of specific dates, with an aim to ban discards (fish thrown back to the sea, usually of an unwanted species or size). Now, the European Parliament and European Fisheries Ministers must negotiate to reach a compromise on the final text. Ministers are expected to show similar leadership to the Parliament's, for the sake of the health of our seas and the survival of fisheries dependent communities.

For more information please contact Liza Boura, MEDASSET at LizaBoura@medasset.gr.

9. Biodiversity areas and protected species training in Albania

A training on Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Species in Albania was organized by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) Albania in the framework of the program "Support to Civil Society Organizations in the field of Environment in Albania (SENIOR- A)" supported by the Swedish Government (SWEDEN). A group of 24 representatives of environmental civil society organizations from Albania and Kosovo had the chance to learn about the nature protection elements of biodiversity in Albania, such as protected areas, ecosystem services, biodiversity hot spots etc.



Through working groups' exercises, they analyzed the concept of ecosystem and ecosystem services. A field trip was organized to the National Park of Prespa (Korçe) - a biodiversity hotspot. Prespa lakes and its water basin are the habitat for nearly 1,500 species of plants of which 19 are endemic for this area. Aquatic ecosystems of the region are rich in endemic fish species, and it hosts the Dalmatian Pelican, a globally endangered species. On the country level, there are around 3,200 species of vascular plants, which constitute approximately 30% of all European flora, and 756 vertebrate species. Some 91 globally threatened species are found in Albania.

For more information please contact Daniela Ruci, REC Albania at druci@rec.org.

10. Romania and Bulgaria for the endangered Danube sturgeons



Under a new Life+ project, which will go on until September 2015, WWF in Romania and Bulgaria will work to tackle overfishing, the main direct threat to the survival of the endangered Danube sturgeons. The project "Joint actions to raise awareness on overexploitation of Danube sturgeons in Romania and Bulgaria" represents a major contribution to European biodiversity protection. It sets out to stop overexploitation and to secure the long term survival of these species with their high natural and economic value. Project target groups are fishing communities, law enforcement agencies, decision makers, sturgeon breeders and caviar processors and traders in Romania and Bulgaria. The project is aligned with the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2005. Key goals include zero sturgeon fishing in 15 targeted fishing communities by 2015, stronger enforcement and political support for the protection

of Danube sturgeons, 50% increased awareness and knowledge of overexploitation of sturgeons among target groups. The project is implemented by WWF in Austria, Bulgaria and Romania and is financed one half each by the European Union and WWF.

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

11. NatureInfo – an initiative for biodiversity information



The lack of biodiversity data is an obstacle to identifying important biodiversity areas, building trends in populations, registering changes in ecosystems and assessing impacts. One of the ways to address this issue could be the involvement of more biodiversity experts in data processing and maintenance of an open database available to anybody working on nature study, conservation and management. Such attempts were made, e.g. www.observado.org, but the data is used by a relatively limited number of people mostly from Western Europe.

A new initiative, NatureInfo is aiming at promoting the biodiversity data collection and maintenance of the existing open database. NatureInfo organises nature study camps and facilitates the

involvement of Western European nature lovers into field studies on biodiversity in Eastern Europe. Some of the results of this initiative is the availability of more up-to-date field data, enabling a better understanding of the ecological changes in the environment. At the same time the knowledge and experience of the participants is exchanged. NatureInfo initiated nature study camps in Bulgaria and Serbia and will gradually extend to other countries.

For more information please contact Svetlana Miteva at mitevasvetlana@yahoo.com or visit www.thehabitatfoundation.org.

12. Cooperation for 'Prespa Net'



On 29th March 2013, an Agreement of Cooperation was signed between environmental NGOs from the three countries sharing the Prespa lakes - the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES), the Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA), and the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP). The NGOs have worked closely for many years and have met now in Greece to officially lay the foundations of their environmental network for the region – 'Prespa Net'.

The three NGOs have seen first-hand that cooperation of civil society is essential for integrated management of the Prespa lakes' basin. Several projects in the region have been restricted to one country and it is clear that this fragmented approach cannot compensate for an inclusive and cross-border strategy. Prespa Net will work to fill the gaps by synergizing activities, enhancing cooperation between stakeholders involved in basin management, increasing the flow of information on ecological issues and lobbying for adequate environmental policies from the three states. Prespa Net has already begun its joint activities, moving beyond borders and respecting the unity of Nature.

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

13. Payment for ecosystem services in Russeski Lom Nature Park



We all benefit from tourism in nature, but we largely look at this "service" as free and inexhaustible. What if we assess the value of this service and are forced to pay for it? Under the project "Promoting payments for ecosystem services and related sustainable financing schemes in the Danube basin" WWF picked one protected area in Bulgaria – Russeski Lom Nature Park near the city of Russe – and set out to demonstrate how the park's natural capital can be saved from depletion by making tourists and tourist companies pay for using this service of

nature. Russeski Lom Nature Park boasts plenty of natural capital. However, the area is in need of protection because tourism is having a major impact on the park's biodiversity and habitats. The payments for ecosystem services scheme, proposed by WWF, attracts financial resources from companies of the tourism branch and visitors of the park. Funds are accumulated on a voluntary basis through donations, environmental surcharge or purchasing of tickets in the form of post cards sold in accommodation places or information centres. The accumulated funds are spent on conservation activities, such as creating artificial water bodies, restoring existing fishponds, providing fish-stock for the Black stork, restoring Ground squirrel and Corncrake habitats. Other

activities include managing tourist flow through the maintenance of trails and camping places with minimal environmental impact, building shelters and bird-watching points. The management of the financial resources is done by the local association “Friends of Rusenski Lom Nature Park” in accordance with the principles of transparency, publicity and non-discrimination.

For more information please contact Olga Apostolova, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme at oaostolova@wwfdcp.bg or visit panda.org/dcpc.

14. Protection across borders for Sharr/Šar Planina-Korab



MES Archive/S.Pejovic

The Sharri and Korabi mountains lie in the borders between Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo, but beyond the political confinements they constitute a geographical and ecological unit. Despite being proclaimed a protected area in the three respective countries, there are big challenges in terms of a joint management of this ecosystem. Subsequently, EuroNatur and its partners PPNEA, MES and FINCH have initiated a project which takes the process of developing a common vision for the management of this transboundary protected area (TBPA) a step further. This project is primarily focused on engaging local stakeholders in the

process of elaboration of a common vision for the management of the area. The first three lateral meeting was held 5-6 April 2013 in the city of Kukës, Albania and was attended by 36 participants. The discussion focused on the development potential of the area, and its management challenges.

For more information please contact Silva Huda, PPNEA at s.huda@ppnea.org or visit www.ppnea.org.

15. Action for Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna Mountains



Jonid Sulja

B3P, supported by UNEP, has hosted the second Trilateral Stakeholder Meeting in the proposed Trans-Boundary Protected Area "Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna Mountains" in September last year. It was attended by the representatives of regional organisations, although, with the exception of Kosovo the relevant ministries were not able to send representatives on the day.

The meeting saw a productive discussion on the need for long-term thinking and joint action. The delegates pointed out the importance of factors that unite the area – like internet access and improved border crossings. A highly successful cross-border trek has been maintained for a year by B3P members, and was mentioned as a good example of cooperation. The priorities of B3P were reiterated: environmental thinking, the protection of the diverse culture of the region, and the promotion of economic development with a focus on sustainable tourism. The gathering concluded with a meeting for parties who wish to take more active role in the activities of B3P, concrete ways to implement the agreed actions were discussed.

For more information please contact Peter Spafford, B3P at peter.spafford@ntlworld.com or visit www.balkanspeacepark.org.

16. Jointly for the Prespa Park



The Society for the Protection of Prespa (Greece) and Pelister National Park (FYR of Macedonia) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly work for the protection of the Prespa Park. This is within the spirit and priorities of the 2010 "International Agreement for the Protection of the Prespa Park", signed by the EU and the three countries that share the Prespa basin. The memorandum sets out activities such as the protection of forest ecosystems, river ecosystems and the endemic trout (*Salmo peristericus*), and environmental education for all ages on the common natural values and their sustainable use to benefit economic development.

This cooperation was inaugurated at the opening of the SPP's "Treasure of our Lakes" mobile exhibition at the National Park's Information Centre. The exhibition was created under the LIFE + project "Fish, Fisheries & European Policy in the Prespa Basin," which has raised public awareness about the rare fish of Prespa, their threats and their reciprocal relationship with local fisheries. Fun activities were held for children who came to the opening and they had the opportunity to learn all about Prespa fish and fisheries.

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

17. Last chance of a European rodent: the fate of the Vojvodina blind mole rat



Attila Németh

The Eurasian blind mole rat represents a distinct group among rodents extremely adapted to subterranean life. They have cylindrically shaped body with no external ear and a vestigial tail, and are completely blind spending their entire life in the tunnel system built underground. Genus *Nannospalax* include a large number of karyologically different taxa but due to the taxonomic uncertainty the European Lesser blind mole rats are treated as a single taxon and are categorised as Least Concern or Data Deficient. In the meantime, populations and habitats of many different chromosomal forms are disappearing at an alarming rate.

A recently published paper using genetic data evidenced that one of these mole rats, the Vojvodina blind mole rat has only two extant populations that are 150 km apart from each other. The combined occupied area is estimated to be less than 10 km² and the number of remaining individuals is fewer than 300. Even these two surviving populations are heavily fragmented and many fragments are under imminent threat by the establishment of tree plantations, small-scale and agro-industrial farms and land development. The landscape history analysis based on military maps spanning over the last 200 years has shown a drastic decrease in the extent and quality of potential habitats. One of the two populations inhabits unprotected areas although the newly established Kőrös-ér Landscape Protection Area (declared on 18 April 2013) in the Hungarian side of the distribution area gives us hope to save this critically endangered endemic rodent of Europe from extinction.

For more information please contact Gábor Csorba, Hungarian Natural History Museum at csorba@nhmus.hu and Attila Németh, Eötvös Loránd University at attila.valhor@gmail.com.

18. Vultures flies again over Central Balkan



Griffon vultures can be seen again in the skies of the Central Balkan National Park. Their return was made possible by the 'Vultures' Return in Bulgaria' LIFE08 NAT/BG/278 Project, supported by the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community, Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the German Federal Environment Agency (DBU). It was initiated in 2010 with the construction of a vulture adaptation aviary near the village of Manolovo, with the first eight birds in it. Until now 32 vultures are introduced, arriving mainly from the Vulture Conservation Foundation, based

in Mallorca, Spain. The birds are marked with a special yellow wing tags and rings with individual code, one of them with a prototype GPS/GSM transmitter continuously sending coordinates. To attract the vultures released within the project to suitable and safe place in the Park, scale models are placed. In the area surrounding the vulture adaptation aviary the released vultures and the visiting wild unmarked birds can be seen. Feeding site for vultures in the Central Balkan NP is built next to the aviary and is supported by the NGO Green Balkans'.

For more information please contact Diana Terzieva at did@centralbalkan.bg.

19. Assessing benefits of protected areas regionally



How should we evaluate a protected area? It is one of the questions that interest the employees of parks in the region. Trying to answer it using the methodology for the assessment of protected areas' value (PA-BAT), WWF started a number of workshops within the project 'Dinaric Arc Parks'. The methodology was introduced on the first International conference Dinaric Arc Parks held in Banja Luka at the end of last year. In 2013, WWF has held three workshops for the representatives of national parks, nature parks and their stakeholders. The methodology was designed to help the agencies, organisations and institutions for nature protection in collecting and comparison of the data showing protected areas' benefits.

In Croatia the educational workshop for the assessment of protected areas' benefits was held in Medvedgrad near Zagreb on 25 March 2013. Sue Stolton from Equilibrium Research and a WWF consultant was the lecturer. Together with Nigel Dudley, her partner, she developed this awarded global methodology. The workshop gathered experts in nature protection, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatian Environment Agency and named PA-BAT coordinators. Two workshops for stakeholders of parks were held in Risnjak National Park and Medvednica Nature Park. The workshops will be held in April in other Croatian parks and in Montenegro, implementing this methodology for the first time on a regional level.

For more information please contact Andrea Štefan, WWF MedPO at astefan@wwfmedpo.org.

20. Towards a Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Carpathian Mountains



Carpathians by Z. Okanikova

In 2003, the countries of the Carpathian Mountains (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine) signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. In 2010, a Protocol on Sustainable Tourism was adopted accordingly, which provides a legally binding frame. Its implementation requires a strategy that focuses on sustainable tourism development. Referring to that need, a project was initiated in March 2013. With the project partners CEEweb for Biodiversity, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian

Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, Ecological Tourism in Europe will arrange for consultations with representatives from governments, tourism agencies and NGOs of the countries involved in a participatory approach and present a strategy for sustainable tourism development at the next Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in October 2014. A series of stakeholder meetings and national consultations will be conducted, supplemented by 14 case studies on sustainable tourism development in the countries involved.

This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety with means of the Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It is supervised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the German Federal Environment Agency.

For more information please contact Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe E.T.E. at m.meyer@oete.de.

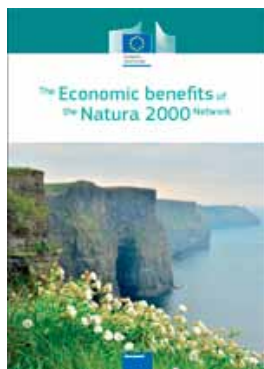
1. Pass the can!



Use your social network to make a big impact on real-world recycling. Alcoa Foundation will donate \$1 for each can ‘recycled’ online to the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and other eco-charities. With each crush of the can, you can send the application to only one Facebook friend and spread the word. “The [Pass the Can](#) Facebook app is our way of telling the world how critical and easy it is to recycle. It’s fun, engaging and allows you to make a big impact offline — while still online,” the Alcoa website declares.

Please visit: <http://www.passthecan.com/iucn>

2. Economic benefits of the Natura 2000 Network



Effective management and restoration of sites in the Natura 2000 network requires significant investments. Based on data received from 25 Member States it is estimated that a minimum of 5.8 billion EUR per year will be needed for EU-27 to manage and restore the sites in the network. However, these costs are greatly outweighed by the benefits provided by the network. In addition to playing a crucial role in protecting Europe’s biodiversity, Natura 2000 sites provide a wide range of other ecosystem benefits and services to society. EC DG Environment has released a publication on the identification, evaluation and subsequent demonstration of the economic benefits provided by Natura 2000.

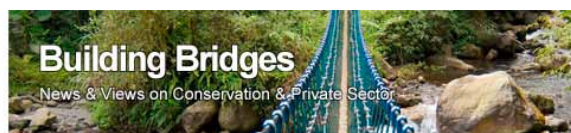
For more information please visit

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm.

The publication is accessible under:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/ENV-12-018_LR_Final1.pdf

3. The Green Economy and Natural Capital



The new IUCN “Building Bridges” Newsletter – changing the rules of the game for business from a voluntary to a compulsory system where all business will have to incorporate natural capital

and biodiversity values into their operations and institutions. To access the newsletter please visit http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/newsletters/building_bridges/mar13_bb.cfm

4. Seven Sins of Dam Building



WWF launched a new report criticizing dam projects worldwide that continue to violate fundamental sustainability criteria. In the “Seven Sins of Dam Building” report, numerous dam projects under construction or planned are given a failing review by the conservation organization. Aside from the internationally controversial Belo Monte (Brazil) and Xayaburi (Laos) dams, European projects, such as in Austria and Montenegro are also on the list. WWF calls for better use of sustainability criteria when planning dams.

Access the report under

http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/seven_sins_of_dam_building_wwf.pdf

5. Belgrade through Nature and Time and the Belgrade Blue-Green Map



In order to promote protected areas and environmental issues, and to highlight the importance of wildlife diversity in Belgrade, the Secretariat for Environmental Protection of the City of Belgrade has funded two projects in 2013 so far: ‘Belgrade through Nature and Time’ and ‘The Belgrade Blue-Green Map’.

The Survival School NGO showed great enthusiasm in preparing the guide titled ‘Belgrade through Nature and Time – A Guide through Bio-Geo-Diversity’, which highlights primary natural and cultural values and provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to learn many interesting things about plants, animals and geological monuments. This book, available in Serbian and English, informs about the most important locations to learn about bio- and geo- diversity, about representative and rare objects, specimens and phenomena, offers maps with “recommended paths“ and much more.

Belgrade blue-green map logo



The Secretariat for Environmental Protection of the City of Belgrade, in cooperation with Environmental Improvement Center, has realized ‘The Belgrade Blue-Green Map project.’ The map is a multimedia platform showing urban and protected areas in Belgrade. It is available in English and Serbian, detailing interesting facts about 49 valuable urban rarities. Furthermore, it features precise distances from the viewer’s current position to interesting areas. It can also guide visitors to desired destinations. The Belgrade Blue-Green Map application is intended for smart phones and devices. More information is available at <http://beograd.bgmap.rs/>.

For more information please contact The Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Belgrade, Tomislav Adžić or Nataša Đokić at natasa.djokic@beograd.gov.rs.

1. Forty years Working for Nature



Celebrate EUROPARC Federation's 40th anniversary in 2013! Founded in 1973, the federation is today representing more than 400 members across Europe. EUROPARC is facilitating exchange and training on sustainable management and communication of protected areas' mission. Highlight is the European Day of Parks on and around 24 May with the motto "[My park. My passion. My story](#)". At the core of the federation stands international networking. At the annual EUROPARC conference in Hungary a diverse, multicultural audience will listen to high profile speakers and share insights into the latest protected area management developments. Emphasizing the importance of young people, the first EUROPARC Youth Conference will be hosted by Hortobágy National Park Directorate and held at Debrecen, Hungary, 9-13 October 2013. While EUROPARC continues to grow by connecting people around conservation, protection, and management, the following programmes are the most prestigious activities: Transboundary Parks, Junior Rangers, the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, Volunteer Management in European Parks, and the Alfred-Toepfer-Scholarships and Medal.

For more information please contact office@europarc.org or visit <http://europarc.org/what-we-do/> or <http://europarc.org/who-we-are/our-history>.

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. Nominate a plant conservationist from Eastern Europe



In order to promote best practices in plant conservation at community level, Plantlife is launching the Roger Crofts Plantlife Community Conservation Award. The Award is open to community groups, small non government organisations or individuals from Eastern Europe working on the plant conservation in the wild (in situ).

Roger Crofts, a former Plantlife Chairman and board member has donated this Award (which will run for ten years from 2013) in order to celebrate the efforts of local communities to conserve wild plants and their habitats. Each year for ten years £500 and a certificate will be presented by Plantlife International to the best example of plant conservation projects that shows:

- Clear evidence of conservation endeavour at community level which benefits plant and habitat conservation in the wild (i.e. maintains, protects or restores degraded habitat and special plant species (e.g. threatened or widely used species)
- A discernible difference to survival of plants and their habitats.
- Benefits to the community.

This award is not for academic research, larger NGOs or for work in Western Europe. There is no age limit. Closing date for 2013 is 31 July at 17.00 CET.

Please visit http://www.plantlife.org.uk/about_us/news_press/new_award_for_plant_conservation/ to read about the Award and follow the links at the bottom to apply or nominate a project.

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 in Europe

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

Our Mission

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



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