



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: IUCN/T. Pezold, Mt. Komovi (Montenegro)

Dear Readers,

For the 22nd time, we are welcoming you to the IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin. We are sending it with best wishes for the next year!

As always, the SEE e-Bulletin brings information on activities and events in the region, presents publications related to nature conservation and brings two funding opportunities, this time for Serbia. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to this issue.

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.

IUCN SEE staff news



Lee Dudley joined IUCN during October 2009 as the European Green Belt Coordinator and will seek to develop the partnership, bring funds to the initiative and act as secretariat.

A forester by education, Lee has a wide experience as: a woodland manager in Scotland leading land acquisition and managing conservation and remote sites; a member of a Community Forest movement, focusing on developing agricultural and urban opportunities through incentives, knowledge building and marketing; an expert involved in emergent growth and Green Infrastructure strategies for the Forestry Commission, a consultant focused on the urban greening and community forests sectors. Working as a consultant he has integrated his personal interest in landscape photography into business interests. Welcome Lee!

With best regards,
IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe

content

1. Assessing the conservation status of the brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in Greece
2. Towards a shared vision for the Sava River
3. CITES study visit to Italy
4. Agreement to support the Albanian Ministry of Environment
5. CITES Convention
6. International Conference on Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans
7. Review of the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)
8. Management objectives change for NP Galicica
9. Common Birds Monitoring scheme
10. Monitoring in Hutovo Blato Nature Park
11. Parks and Protected Areas Study Tour in the USA
12. Development of a transboundary monitoring system for the Prespa Park
13. Preserving natural heritage using EU tools
14. Exchange visits NP Djerdap
15. Protected Ivanova ka Ada near Pan evo
16. Balkans Peace Park (B3P)
17. Bear with GPS collar helps monitoring in Central Balkan National Park
18. Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc
19. Partnership between Sutjeska and Durmitor National Parks
20. Energy sector discussing environmental flows together
21. International Year of Biodiversity & Species of the Day
22. Copenhagen climate summit: Copenhagen Accord a step in right direction, but insufficient

1. Assessing the conservation status of the brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in Greece



Photo by Callisto

Greece: Over the past two decades intensive conservation actions have taken place by NGOs for the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) conservation in Greece and recently, bears have been located outside of their usual distribution area. This is encouraging and may indicate a possible re-colonisation trend of part of their historical range. However, bears are now facing a new threat due to the rapid development of transportation infrastructure in the country. One of examples is Via Egnatia, a 680 km long, closed highway, a part of the trans-European

highway network (TENT). This fully operational highway is connecting eastern with the western part of the country leaving a permanent print on the landscape and threatening to further fragment the bear distribution (as well as other wildlife species' distribution).

Using non-invasive genetic techniques, NGO Callisto aims at investigating the unseen effects of this development in terms of fragmentation and viability of bear sub-populations and at providing an update on the current conservation status of bears in Greece. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Mammal Research Unit of the University of Bristol and receives valuable support from Euronatur. The main aim is to widen our knowledge on the genetics of Europe's largest carnivore in the country and to minimize the ecological impact of large scale infrastructure on its genetic fitness and on habitat's integrity and quality.

For more information, please send an email to: pilides@hotmail.com.

2. Towards a shared vision for the Sava River



Photo: Visitors' centre in Zasavica, Serbia

Croatia: The Sava River Basin has the potential to provide not only security and protection to the livelihoods of the people living along its banks but also to be a model of transboundary integrated river basin management. This vision was created during the international conference 'Towards a Shared Vision for the Sava River', 4-5 November 2009, in Zagreb, Croatia.

One of the key challenges in managing the Sava River is the reconciliation of economic development with the protection and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. This along with other critical issues was discussed by the 100 participants who represented policy makers, scientists, nature conservationists

and water managers from the Sava River countries along with international organisations. The importance of strengthened transboundary cooperation between the Sava countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia), along with the need for improved integration and coordination of relevant sectors for the benefits of nature and local communities was stressed.



Apart from sharing experiences between different sectors and discussing future steps in the management of the Sava River Basin, the conference built upon the result of the LIFE 3rd countries project 'Protection of Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin Floodplains', which identified 51 sites as core areas for the future ecological network along the River, and in compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. Conference participants proposed a number of concrete actions including aspects of management and research priorities.

The conference was organized by IUCN with the support of its partners Wageningen International, Orbicon, the State Institute for Nature Protection (Croatia), the Centre for Ecology and Natural Resources of the Faculty of Science (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Agricultural Institute of the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Institute for Nature Conservation (Serbia), and the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation. The conference was supported through the EU LIFE III financial instrument.

NOTE: Conclusions of the working group sessions are available at

<http://www.savariver.com/conference/presentations.html>

For more information, please contact Boris Erg, IUCN SEE, at Boris.erg@iucn.org.

3. CITES study visit to Italy

Italy: Ten participants from Croatia, Romania and Serbia took part in a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) study visit on 16-20 November, hosted by the Italian CITES Enforcement Authority, Corpo Forestale dello Stato (CFS), and TRAFFIC.



Photo by TRAFFIC Europe - Central Eastern Office

Participants included officers from CITES enforcement authorities such as Customs, police and environmental inspection, who came to learn about the practices employed and experiences of CITES enforcement in Italy. They examined, among others, case studies of investigations, CITES databases, internet monitoring, as well as the practices of international and national interagency co-operation. The programme included a site visit to Fiumicino Airport (Rome), where the use of wildlife

detector dogs was demonstrated, and where the participants had the opportunity to assist with some control and inspection operations carried out by CFS.

Participants were also taken to one of the four wildlife rescue centres in Tuscany managed since 2001 by WWF Italy and promoted in collaboration with the Environmental Ministry and the CFS. The study tour provided an opportunity for participants to meet their national counterparts and share information and experiences as well as to develop further the co-operation needed to counter international wildlife trade crime.

The study visit was financed by the European Commission, DG Justice, Freedom and Security and was held with the kind and generous contribution of CFS.

For more information, please contact Katalin Kecse-Nagy, TRAFFIC Europe at: katalin@wwf.hu.

4. Agreement to support the Albanian Ministry of Environment



Belgium: The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS), signed an Agreement with IUCN that will result in important conservation and environmental management outcomes in Albania. This project will help to strengthen the Albanian Ministry of Environment's capacity to effectively manage its protected areas, will help raise awareness of biodiversity, and will contribute to improving control over the movement of hazardous waste. It will also demonstrate approaches to improving local socio-economic conditions in communities near protected areas through the promotion of sustainable alternative biodiversity supporting economic activities.



The project will be implemented through the IUCN Regional Office for Pan-Europe and the IUCN Programme Office for South-East Europe in Belgrade. It is expected to be implemented over a two year period, starting in January 2010. Key results will be announced in the course of the project's implementation on the website: <http://www.iucn.org/europe/>

For more information, please contact Chantal van Ham, IUCN ROFE at: chantal.vanham@iucn.org.

5. CITES Convention



Serbia: The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has adopted the Ordinance on transboundary movement and trade in endangered species on 01. december 2009. This important national legal provides a mechanism for better implementation of the CITES Convention as it is harmonized with a number of Regulations of the European Union that

regulate international trade in endangered species (338/97, 865/2006, 407/2009 and 359/2009).

Furthermore, six posters and a special section of the internet presentation of the Ministry have been developed for raising public awareness on the issue of wildlife trade. The CITES section of the Ministry's site (www.ekoplan.gov.rs/cites/) provides the necessary information related to the Convention and national legislation.

For further details please contact: pavle.jovanovic@ekoplan.gov.rs.

6. International Conference on Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans

Croatia: In recent years, wetlands and freshwater ecosystems of South-Eastern Europe have been facing increased pressure from the planned development of new hydropower infrastructure in the region. This international conference gathered the key stakeholders in dam development and operation in the region to discuss the possibilities of enhancing the sustainability of hydropower schemes through the adoption of environmental standards, including the concept of environmental flows. Presentations included examples of sustainable hydropower and innovative approaches from all over the world. All presentations from the hydropower conference are available at www.panda.org/mediterranean/hydropowerconference.

For further information please contact Angela Klauschen, WWF Mediterranean Programme at aklauschen@wwfmedpo.org.

7. Review of the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)

Picture: WS participants, BfN Archive



Germany: At the next Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD), the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) will be in-depth revised: How far are the targets, goals and activities achieved, how should timelines be adapted, how can the implementation be improved? To gather and discuss the national data, the Executive Secretariat of the CBD has organized several regional workshops in different continents. The one concerning Central and Eastern Europe took place

at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm in November/December. The PoWPA national focal points of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine were invited to participate and thus contribute to the global study on the implementation of the PoWPA which the Secretariat is conducting for COP-10. Furthermore, the recommendations of the experts of all regional workshops on how to better implement the PoWPA on a global, regional and national level, will be brought into the next meeting of the SBSTTA (the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) for discussion.

The workshop was funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and the European Commission.

For further information please contact Judith Jabs, BfN at judith.jabs@bfm-vilm.de.

8. Management objectives change for NP Galicica

FYR Macedonia: Galicica National Park, is a biodiversity hot spot in the region. It is part of the Cultural and Natural World Heritage Site of UNESCO and the planned transboundary Prespa Park and will, therefore,

continue to be an important refuge and stepping stone in the region.

Photo: T.Dietrich



The Park is currently managed as a forestry enterprise and on a self-financing scheme through firewood production which is contradicting its National Park status. With the assistance of two donor-financed projects by KfW (German Development Bank) and CRIC

(Italian Cooperation) as well as GFA Consulting Group's advisory services, the Park was able to elaborate a new vision and management objectives leading to modern management. The management plan will foresee a gradual transformation of the park management and its eco-systems towards nature protection and is the main tool in the transformation process. The plan is to reach 75% of natural landscape with no human intervention by 2025 (currently about 50%).

For more information please contact Til Dieterich, GFA Consulting Group at til.dieterich@gmail.com.

9. Common Birds Monitoring scheme



Photo: LOA Archive

Serbia: Special part of EuroBirdwatch 2009 in Serbia was the introductory workshop on Common Birds Monitoring scheme, led by Jordan Hristov (BirdLife Bulgaria). The special value this method has lies with participants and its supporters; it is a "citizens' science". There is no need to involve ornithologists, nor is obligatory the knowledge on rare

bird species. Even though all spotted species are registered, the final analysis is made using the species described with most data, or bigger statistical sample. Workshop had 16 participants, ecology and biology students, professors, protected areas managers and mountaineers, and their response was very positive. All of them are keen to take part in the monitoring next spring. So, this year's EBW should also mark spread of the CBM into Serbia. LOA intends to apply this monitoring scheme in the whole country and thus plans to hold a series of WS and trainings.

For more information please contact Dragan Simic, LOA, at loa@ptica.org.

10. Monitoring in Hutovo Blato Nature Park

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Hutovo Blato Nature Park is situated in the lower Neretva valley in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to its outstanding biodiversity Hutovo Blato has been internationally recognised as a wetland of importance under the Ramsar Convention. WWF Mediterranean Sharing Waters programme aims to develop environmental flow recommendations for locations in the Hutovo Blato NP that have been identified as the most important for preserving native biodiversity. There are important gaps in data and knowledge about the hydrology and ecology of the park, which need to be resolved before moving forward with a final design for the flow recommendation. Additional data collection and research will cover hydrology, bathymetry, water quality, evaporation, birds, fish, and vegetation over 2010. The existing network of hydrological stations will need to be rehabilitated, and possibly new stations will need to be added, in order to measure and monitor water levels and flows in

the selected locations. The most urgent priority is to monitor water levels and flows during the low flow period. Water chemistry analysis is needed for Deransko lake and Londza spring, and also Popovo polje, Bregava river, and Svitava lake. There is a need to better understand the number and species composition of bird fauna and the migration of species between Neretva area and Hutovo Blato. Monitoring of spawning activity for neretvanian nase in Londza stream, and its sensitivity to water fluctuation is one of the monitoring priorities. Monitoring of spawning activity of other fish species will be necessary as well.

For more information, please contact Zoran Mateljak, WWF Mediterranean at zmateljak@wwfmedpo.org.

11. Parks and Protected Areas Study Tour in the USA



Photo: G. Sekulic

USA: Parks and Protected Areas Study Tour for Conservation Professionals from Southeast Europe, was held 6 - 13 December 2009 in New England, USA. Participants, with six conservation and rural development specialists from Romania, Kosovo (UNSCR1244), Serbia and Montenegro. The programme was organized by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment, and supported with funding from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Starting with an orientation meeting at the QLF headquarters in Ipswich, Massachusetts, the group spent a week touring New England and meeting a broad range of conservation leaders of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, citizens groups, and educational institutions to learn about conservation management practices in the region. Via site visits, study tour participants had a chance to learn about the management of national parks, wildlife refuges, and heritage areas around New England while engaging with environmental professionals. Themes that were addressed during this study tour include visitor management and interpretation; the role of rangers in enforcement and monitoring; the wide spectrum of modern protected areas; and community outreach and support. Furthermore, how to encourage protection and preservation of protected landscapes through management, research and education were some of the specific issues discussed among the conservation professionals from SEE and the peers in New England.

For more information please contact Katarina Vuksic at ykatarina@hotmail.com.

12. Development of a transboundary monitoring system for the Prespa Park



Photo by M. Gletsos

Greece: An expert study for the development of a transboundary environmental monitoring system for the Prespa Park was completed in November 2009. The expert study was developed by the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) and Tour du Valat, with the participation of international and national experts, and in coordination with the GEF/UNDP Prespa Regional Project.

The proposed Prespa monitoring system will cover all key environment-related issues of the two lakes and their catchments, and it is intended to be transboundary, complementing but not substituting national monitoring programmes. The study itself was structured in seven thematic areas: water; aquatic vegetation and habitats; forests and terrestrial habitats; fish and fisheries; birds and other biodiversity; socio-economy; and land-use. For each thematic area, monitoring indicators, methods, equipment and budget, were proposed.

The whole process was largely participatory, with four transboundary thematic workshops taking place in the region between February and May 2009, involving the participation of dozens of local experts. It was steered by a trilateral Monitoring and Conservation Working Group, composed of representatives of the primary relevant stakeholder institutions of the three countries sharing the Prespa lakes. In the coming period (Jan-Dec 2010), a subset of the proposed monitoring indicators will be tested during a pilot application of the Prespa monitoring system.

For additional information contact Miltos Gletsos, Society for the Protection of Prespa at m.gletsos@wwf.gr.

13. Preserving natural heritage using EU tools

Bosnia and Herzegovina: WWF Mediterranean Programme and WWF Norway are implementing a third phase of the Europe's Living Heart project in BiH supporting administration in preparation for the future Natura 2000 site nomination. This project phase started in July 2009 and will last until the end of June 2010. Current activities include preparation for field mapping in BiH which will be held in spring, selection of the areas for field mapping and selection of experts that will define habitat types from the Annex I list of EU Habitat Directive. They will complete the habitat and species mapping necessary for the future site nomination in BiH for the Natura 2000 network. A database will be compiled on the basis of desktop studies to fully complete and review the entire list of species and habitats from Annexes I and II of Habitat Directive registered in BiH. Europe's Living Heart project is supported by WWF Mediterranean Programme and WWF Norway, and is financed by the Norwegian Government.

For more information, please contact Semra Fejzibegovic, WWF at sfejzibegovic@wwfmedpo.org or visit <http://www.panda.org/zivjetineretvu>.

14. Exchange visits NP Djerdap

Serbia: Representatives of the Iron Gate National Park and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia, through the German Foundation for Technical Assistance and Cooperation GTZ visited nature parks of the province of Baden – Württemberg in order to discuss possible cooperation. The meeting gathered the Ministry of Environment of Baden - Württemberg, Donau Esingena mayor, natural parks Southern Black Forest and Upper Podanavlje and Dunavbirou. Since there are obvious similarities with the Iron Gate NP, Directorate of Nature Park Upper Danube is interested to establish stronger cooperation of the two parks that might result in the preparation of joint funding applications.

For more information please contact NP Djerdap at: office@npdjerdap.org.

15. Protected Ivanovacka Ada near Pancevo



Photo: INCS Archive

Serbia: City Assembly of Pancevo, on the proposal of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, adopted a decision that puts natural monument “Ivanovačka Ada” under the protection regime as an important natural asset. This natural monument is located on the northwestern part of the river island called “Ivanova Ada” and represents the small remainder of the natural forest vegetation of the Danube Isle, important for biodiversity conservation of wetland areas.

Ivanovačka Ada, a small fragment of natural forests, testifies to the appearance of ancient wetlands forests of the Lower Danube region. Natural bottomland forests of Danube Adas, with their specific composition and structure, are populated by indigenous poplars and willows of high aesthetic and ecological values, with the impurity of leaved ash, oak and other native deciduous trees, which are also the habitat of subendemic and relict species of flora (*Rorippa sylvestris*, *Vitalis vinifera* L. subsp. *syilvestris*, *Erysimum sheiranthoides* L.).

The presence of species protected as natural rarities, with the habitats in flooded forests, contributes to the overall value and importance of this natural good. Nearby area of Ada is under strong anthropogenic influence, and the remaining habitat in Ivanovačka Ada is the last refuge for many species of amphibians and reptiles, among wich 60% is protected as natural rarities. Ada is a significant habitat of forest ornithofauna, where 71 bird species are recorded (whitetailed eagle, the green woodpecker, kingfisher ...), most of them of national or international importance.

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

16. Balkans Peace Park (B3P)



2010 CALENDAR

FEATURING PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY
STUDENTS AT THE B3P SUMMER SCHOOL,
THETHI, ALBANIA



Photo by Sijion Thana

All profits from this calendar will be used to further the charitable objectives of
The Balkans Peace Park Project (a registered UK Charity #101487)
www.balkanspeacepark.org



B3P is restructuring internationally, including an embryonic group now forming in North America. It is concerned for those families in the B3P regions, living through tough winter conditions in the mountains, without the amenities enjoyed by those in their nearest towns from which they are cut off. Yet these are the very people who are living the most environmentally friendly lives. B3P tries to support such individuals in the face of increasing profiteering of outsiders in constructing large summer hotels in the regions, where so many local houses could be renovated and repaired.

One offshoot of this year's B3P Summer Programme in Thethi, northern Albania, is the wonderful calendar with photos celebrating the village and its natural surroundings, including human use not abuse. The photographs were taken by children of the Summer Programme, and selected from 100 such photos taken by all the children which were on exhibition in the School at the Graduation of the Programme in August. Summer Programmes for 2010 in each of the three regions: Albania, Kosovo (UNSCR1244) and Montenegro are currently in the planning stages.

For more information, please contact Antonia Young, Former Chair - Balkans Peace Park Project Committee UK at A.T.I.Young@Bradford.ac.uk or visit www.balkanspeacepark.org.

17. Bear with GPS collar helps monitoring in Central Balkan National Park



Photo by Kostadin Valchev

A team of officers of the Directorate of Central Balkan National Park and Wildlife Society - BALKANS, Sofia, captured and marked with collar young, 81-pound brown bear. After placing a collar with a radio transmitter and GPS, the bear was measured and released at the place where it was caught. Information to be collected from marked bears, will serve to determine the size of its individual territory, preferred habitats, resting and wintering areas, and

others. Delivery of collars is funded by the DBU (German Federal Environmental Fund) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

This activity (bear capturing) is a part of the project: *LIFE07NAT/IT/000502 EX-TRA* "Improving the conditions for large carnivores - the transfer of best practices", implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Water and Wildlife Society Balkans on the territory of Central Balkan NP, Pirin NP, Rila NP and RIEW – town of Smolyan. The funding was secured through a European LIFE + scheme. Main objectives of the project are monitoring the status of population of brown bear, introducing best practices to reduce conflict between the coexistence of predators and local people, realizing preventive measures against predators and others.

The project is running until the end of March 2013 and is implemented in the territory of Italy, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece.

For further information please contact Diana Terzieva,
Central Balkan NP Directorate at did@centralbalkan.bg.

18. Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc



Following up on the commitments made in the "Big Win" joint statement (signed at the CBD COP 9), as well as on the premises of the Dinaric Arc Initiative, IUCN, WWF, and SNV have joined forces to set up the project "Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc" which will run for three years, from 2009 to 2012, and will support cross-border cooperation for the conservation of key natural and cultural sites. Covering six pilot sites, (NP Plitvička jezera-NP Una, NP Durmitor-NP Sutjeska, NP Tara-Drina, Neretva delta, Mountain Dinara, and Prokletije / Bjeshkët e Namuna) the project will promote the natural and cultural values of the area, while enhancing local livelihoods through improved regional cooperation and strengthened environmental governance.

The project "Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc" (also known as "Sustaining Rural Communities and their Traditional Landscapes through Strengthened Environmental Governance in Transboundary Protected Areas of the Dinaric Arc") is being implemented by IUCN, WWF Mediterranean Programme and SNV and is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

For further information please contact:
Boris Erg, IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe
at boris.erg@iucn.org,
Emira Mešanović, WWF Mediterranean Programme
at emesanovic@wwfmedpo.org or
Jan-Willem Knegt, SNV Netherlands
Development Organisation at jknegt@snvworld.org.



19. Partnership between Sutjeska and Durmitor National Parks

Photo: NP Representatives and WWF, by WWF



Montenegro: A partnership agreement has been signed in November in Pluzine between Durmitor NP in Montenegro and Sutjeska NP in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Pluzine council is officially responsible for the decision to be made in the future for the proclamation of a regional nature park Bioc, Maglic, Volujak including territories of the Sutjeska National Park and Durmitor National Park. This would be one of the first official

transboundary protected areas in the Dinaric Arc. These two national parks are rich in biodiversity, cultural and historical heritage. Representatives of the National Parks agreed on priorities: nature protection, local communities and businesses education and the sustainable tourism development.

The agreement signing was funded through the Western Balkans Environment & Development Cooperation Project “Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc”, that is being implemented by IUCN, WWF and SNV and is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

For further information please contact Emira Mesanovic, WWF at emesanovic@wwfmedpo.org.

20. Energy sector discussing environmental flows together

Photo: Hydropower dams on Neretva river, by WWF / E. Parker



Bosnia and Herzegovina: WWF Mediterranean Programme and WWF Norway are implementing a project in BiH to establish and maintain environmental flow requirements for the Neretva river basin. The long term objective is to make the Neretva river basin an example of the proper alignment with the Water Framework Directive in the Western Balkans.

Since the whole concept of environmental flows was new for the water administration, the project has tested several methodologies at different basins (and with different soil structure) in order to evaluate their appropriateness according to local conditions and to recommend some for sub-law development.

Since one of the first sectors to be influenced by new environmental flow legislation might be the energy sector, WWF organized a series of events (workshops, trainings, exchange visits) for representatives

of both water and energy administration of BiH, in order to achieve consensus on the process.

One such event was a workshop in Sarajevo on 9 December, when representatives of all BiH river basin agencies and hydropower/electricity production and distribution companies discussed together the

first draft sub-law on environmental flow, presented by an expert team from WWF. WWF has committed to further develop this sub-law, in a subsequent phase of the project. The Living Neretva project is supported by the WWF Mediterranean Programme and WWF Norway, and is financed by the Norwegian Government.

For further information please contact Branko Vucijak, WWF at bvucijak@wwfmedpo.org or visit <http://www.panda.org/zivjetineretvu>.

21. International Year of Biodiversity & Species of the Day



The UN declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage organizations, institutions, companies and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide.

IUCN's work on biodiversity includes comprehensive research on the status of species; action to protect threatened species; the management and restoration of natural areas, national parks and other protected areas; and promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources.

Governments, community organisations, the UN and more and more businesses actively seek guidance from IUCN on all of these areas.

Biodiversity is the backbone of all life on Earth and the core of what IUCN does. To coincide with the IYB, IUCN will be launching The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ "*Species of the Day*" in January.

Each day in 2010, a different species will be featured on a range of websites and through other media channels. The species will be selected from the entire range of groups, representing all regions and detailing the threats to their existence. This is a joint project of the IUCN Species Programme and the Species Survival Commission (SSC). It has been made possible through the support of UNEP and ARKive.

For more information, please contact Kathryn Pintus, IUCN at Kathryn.pintus@iucn.org or Rachel Roberts, IUCN at ssccharioffice@iucn.org.

22. Copenhagen climate summit: Copenhagen Accord a step in right direction, but insufficient



Photo IUCN Archive

Denmark: World leaders in Copenhagen have taken a first and useful step to slow the course of climate change – a threat that is already affecting people, ecosystems and biodiversity in many parts of the world. A global, legally-binding climate change treaty must be the next step.

Although the Copenhagen Accord goes some way to address some of the critical issues that have been on negotiators' agenda for the past two years, such as a financing package of US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020 to assist developing countries to adapt to climate change and to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, others remained unsolved. There was no agreement on a long term global mitigation target of 50% by 2050 to avoid dangerous climate change, and no agreement that global emissions should peak by 2015-2020. Both are, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, necessary to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations at 450ppm and to avoid global temperature rises of more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

"IUCN urges all countries to build on the Copenhagen Agreement and to find the common ground necessary to deliver an equitable, comprehensive and legally-binding agreement by the end of 2010," says IUCN's Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

content

1. Serbian IBA inventory launched
2. Species and Climate Change: More than just the Polar Bear
3. The contribution to arachnology and developmental biology

1. Serbian IBA inventory launched



The first detailed inventory of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Serbia was launched in September 2009. This comprehensive and beautifully illustrated book was published by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, and the Institute for Protection of Nature of Serbia, with significant contributions from the League for Ornithological Action of Serbia and the Bird Protection and Study

Society of Vojvodina. It describes 42 IBAs, covering 14% of the country's area, where priority action is needed to conserve biodiversity and to ensure long-term management and monitoring.

The network contains the entire Serbian breeding population of globally threatened species such as Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* and Great Bustard *Otis tarda*. Sites important for migratory species like Common Crane *Grus grus* are also included, as are foraging areas for Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*. Nine of the IBAs form transboundary sites with neighbouring countries, emphasizing the importance of cross-border cooperation. The book has been designed to appeal to a wide audience, from the general public to decision makers, as well as birdwatchers, scientists and other stakeholders, with the aim of raising awareness and promoting IBAs as places where birds and people can live in harmony.

For more information please contact Dragan Simic, LOA, at loa@ptica.org.

2. Species and Climate Change: More than just the Polar Bear

"The Polar Bear has come to symbolise the impacts of climate change on the natural world. But it is only one of a multitude of species affected, and many of these are also well-known, much-loved and important to people. This report presents 10 new climate change flagship species, chosen to represent the impact that climate change is likely to have on land and in our oceans and rivers." These are the first sentences of an impressive and highly up-to-date publication recently released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It helps to understand how rising sea temperatures, increasing ocean acidification and loss of ice habitats negatively affect species such as Staghorn Corals, Ringed Seals, and Emperor Penguins.

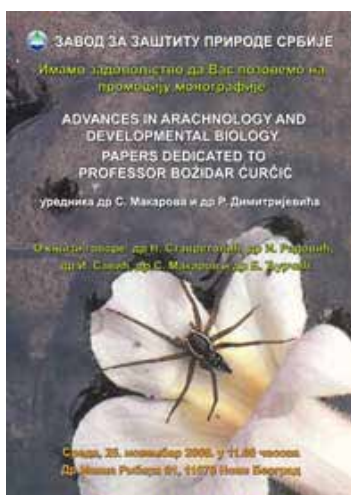
Arctic Fox © Flickr - Ómar Atli Þorgeirsson



Do you know that higher sand temperatures during egg incubation lead to significant higher numbers of female turtles and cause threats to the stability of Leatherback turtles' populations in the future? Or that Clownfish, to everybody known as "Nemo" from a very popular cartoon is losing its habitats due to increasing CO2 levels in the oceans and declining coral reefs? Other examples of global climate changes and their affects on biodiversity (Polar Fox, Salmon, Koalas, Beluga Whales, and Quiver Trees) will give you a food for thoughts on what is recently happening and how we can help to mitigate the negative impacts.

The book is available at <http://www.iucn.org/?4292/Species-on-climate-change-hit-list-named>.

3. The contribution to arachnology and developmental biology



150 years after Darwin's *Origin of Species* was promoted, the book *Advances in arachnology and developmental biology. Papers dedicated to professor Božidar P.M. Ćurčić*, editors dr S.Makarov and dr R.Dimitrijević, was presented in the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. The book was published on the occasion of four decades of tremendously rich and fruitful scientific and teaching work of the eminent biologist dr Božidar Ćurčić, professor of Faculty of Biology at University of Belgrade, and a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. In total 32 scientific papers published in this monograph show a series of new and highly significant scientific results in field of arachrology research.

Dr.Makarov explained that monograph represents work of 49 national and 16 international experts. Their contributions explain many aspects related to the development of different areas of developmental biology, biospeleology and biology in general. Prof. dr Radović, State Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, said on this occasion that the book represents the part of what is now called the Belgrade school of evolutionary biology in Serbia. Director of the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, prof. dr Stavretović stressed out that this monograph is not only a special contribution to the development of scientific thought, but the important connection between science and nature conservation.

In his review of the book, prof. dr Božidar Ćurčić emphasized the great contribution of his close associates and many young people from other former Yugoslav republics and European countries, and with the spirit and humor, presented other, less familiar side of life and work of a scientist and researcher. However, the final measures of effort and commitment remain incarnated in this book, as the guideline for the development of science for future generations.

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

content

1. The second Baltic Green Belt Forum

1. The Second Baltic Green Belt Forum

Photo: Baltic Sea Coast, Sillene National Park, by S. Maack



The 2nd Baltic Green Belt forum will be one of the major events within the European Green Belt initiative in 2010. It will take place from April 14th-16th 2010 in Palanga, Lithuania.

The forum offers partners from all along the European Green Belt the opportunity to meet and exchange experience.

Contributions from other parts of the European Green Belt are welcome, even though the focus will be set on

topics related to the Baltic Sea coast. Next to participating in the public international conference on April 15th, European Green Belt partners are invited to listen to the presentations of activities along the Baltic Green Belt project meeting on April 14th.



For more information, please contact Stefanie Maack at s.maack@geographie.uni-kiel.de or visit www.balticgreenbelt.net.

TRAININGS & SEMINARS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

content

1. IPA - Strengthening Serbia-EU Civil Society Dialogue – Serbia
2. IPA - Regional Socio-Economic Development Programme – Serbia

1. IPA - Strengthening Serbia - EU Civil Society Dialogue – Serbia

Issued by: European Commission, DG Enlargement

Deadline: 1 March 2010

Who can apply: Administrations, States, Administrations, States, Associations, Local and Regional authorities, Training centres, Federations, Unions, Investment Funds, Development NGOs, International Organisation from EU Member States and/or Pre-accession Countries (Serbia)

Amount available: Between 50,000 and 150,000 euro awarded per project, co-financing between 50% and 90% of total eligible costs.

Objective: To enhance the civil society dialogue between Serbia and EU Member States by: Developing a sustainable civil society dialogue between Serbia and the EU Member States; Supporting cooperation between professional organizations in Serbia and the EU in strengthening contacts and mutual exchange of experience between business community, professional organizations and social partners; Improving capacity of civil society organizations in formulation public policy, policy analysis and advocacy

To download all related documents, see: Guidelines <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1259576603945&do=publi.getDoc&documentId=98479&pubID=129362>

General website http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/civil-society-development/index_en.htm

For further information, contact the contracting authority: Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia at Snjezana.DJUKIC@ec.europa.eu

2. IPA - Regional Socio-Economic Development Programme – Serbia

Issued by: European Commission, DG Enlargement

Deadline: 8 March 2010

Who can apply: Associations, Associations, Local and Regional authorities, Training centres, SMEs from EU Member States, Pre-accession Countries, New Member States

Amount available: Global budget 3 million euro. Amount awarded per project between 300,000 and 500,000 euro, co-financing between 50% and 90% of total eligible costs.

Objective: To contribute to local development in Serbia by;

- Strengthening the capacities in Serbia for the design and implementation of a policy for balanced territorial socio-economic development aligned to EU accession requirements
- Improving the capacities of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and other Regional and Municipal stakeholders in terms of employment creating interventions at the regional and sub-regional levels

To download all related documents, see: Guidelines <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1259578820474&do=publi.getDoc&documentId=98468&pubID=129361>

General website http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/instrument-pre-accession_en.htm

For further information, contact the contracting authority: Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia at Fabrizio.SPADA-SANTONI@ec.europa.eu.

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 and 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.

You are responsible for any content that you post or transmit. The editors reserve the right to shorten and modify the text if necessary.

Thanks for taking these guidelines into consideration!

All contributions should be sent to Aleksandra Nestic, aleksandra.nestic@iucn.org.

ROfE's Structure

Regional Office for Pan-Europe (ROfE) is a Regional Office of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Along with offices and commissions around the world, it links back to the President, Director General and Council of IUCN. For a history of IUCN and an explanation of the global structure please visit www.iucn.org.

ROfE is comprised of four IUCN offices located in Brussels, Belgrade, Tbilisi and Moscow. The head office in Brussels, is a meeting point where the Programme Office for the Southern Caucasus, The IUCN Programme Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow and the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in Belgrade can disseminate information and strategies. Together as ROfE we strive to meet our goals for a sustainable Europe by utilizing local expertise and the strength of the global IUCN network.



IUCN

Programme Office for
South-Eastern Europe

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

Edited by IUCN SEE

The IUCN SEE Bulletin contains third party articles. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN and the responsibility of the content of the published articles is held by the authors.

Whilst the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information provided in the newsletter is accurate, it reserves the right to make corrections and does not warrant that it is accurate or complete. The IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe accepts no liability for any errors, misprints or omissions herein (whether negligent or otherwise).

The designation of geographical entities in this newsletter, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the definition of its frontiers or boundaries.

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

Published by: IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe, Belgrade