



IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin



Photo: Tomasz Pezold

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 27th 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. European Regional Conservation Forum



More than 170 people from all parts of IUCN gathered in Bonn, Germany for the European Conservation Forum, held from 6 to 9 September 2011. Member organizations and Commission members from more than 25 countries discussed and debated the Union's work across the region, with a particular focus on the next IUCN Programme, to run from 2013 to 2016. The European Regional Forum was the fifth in a series of 10 regional forums bringing together the IUCN family throughout the world to discuss the Union's work in the lead up to the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Korea.

Hosted with the generous support of the City of Bonn, the German federal state of North Rhine Westphalia and the European Union, the four-day forum was held under the slogan "Switch to Action!".

Some of the recommendations that emerged from the discussions were: Reinforcing IUCN's role in bringing together different actors from across society to find solutions for biodiversity; Need for better connection and mobilization of IUCN network in Europe; Putting the restoration of degraded habitats at the core of IUCN's work; IUCN can help find ways to improve how biodiversity is communicated to policy makers and the general public; Use of IUCN's unique knowledge products to help promote nature-based solutions to a wider audience; Growing IUCN's work with business, making sure that the right approaches are used to maintain IUCN's independence and credibility.

All ideas, suggestions and input gathered at the meeting will be integrated in the new global IUCN Programme, and will help define the action plan for IUCN in Europe for the years to come. IUCN Members in Europe can still comment on the proposed draft Programme for 2013-16 by e-mailing their suggestions to programme@iucn.org.

More information available at

http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/regional_conservation_forum/

Voices from the Forum

Members, Commission experts and representatives of National Committees share their views on the European Conservation Forum. > [Video](#) > [Interviews](#)

1. Focus on Transboundary Protected Area of Bjeshkët e Namuna/Prokletije Mountains

Photo: T. Pezold



Albania: The training on Transboundary Protected Areas, conducted by IUCN Programme Office for South Eastern Europe in cooperation with IUCN WCPA members, was held in Shkodra, Albania, 12-13 September. The training was given to representatives of Local Action Groups (LAGs) from Albania and Montenegro residing in the area of potential three lateral transboundary protected area of Bjeshkët e Namuna/Prokletije Mountains.

Based on practical experiences, the participants were introduced to modern transboundary protected areas concepts and approaches with an emphasis on governance, management, financing, administration and tourism. Lively discussions in work groups resulted in valuable feedback which will be further utilized to set basis for transboundary cooperation agreement between the two LAGs.

The training was led by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) members – Michael R. Appleton, Alois Lang (Public Relations and Ecotourism Department of Neusiedlersee-Seewinkel National Park, Austria), Martin Šolar (Director of Triglav National Park, Slovenia) with the contribution of IUCN Secretariat and local experts. The training was organized in the frame of “Environment for People in Dinaric Arc” project implemented jointly by IUCN, SNV and WWF, and financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

For more information about the training please contact Tomasz Pezold, IUCN SEE at Tomasz.pezold@iucn.org or visit www.dinaricarc.net.

2. River basins of the South-Eastern Europe countries

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe embarked on a project “Strengthening of the regional cooperation/networking in the forestry and water management sector and sustainable development in the river basins of the South-Eastern Europe countries”. One of project activities is elaboration of a feasibility study. Its aim is to assess the current situation and responsibilities of different institutions in water and forestry sectors and to determine necessary steps for the development of a functional network or Commission on sustainable forestry and water management in the South Eastern European region supported by national governments, institutions and international community. The study will also assess the possibilities for promoting stakeholder participation in the development of joint actions and efforts for the implementation and enforcement of agriculture, water and forestry policies and improving the current level of enforcement of existing water, agriculture and forestry legislation.

The project is financed by the GIZ Study and Expert Fund (GIZ SEF), implemented in the period May 2010 – April 2012 in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo UNSCR (1244) and Serbia.

For more information please visit <http://www.seerural.org> or contact Henk Zingstra, Wageningen International at Henk.zingstra@wur.nl or Karina Kitnaes, Orbicon at kaki@orbicon.dk.

3. Local Biodiversity Action Plans in SEE

Photo: REC Albania Archive



Albania: The development of local economy in Peshkopia, North-East Albania, is highly dependant on local biodiversity and especially on fruit species (cherries, apples, plums, hazelnut) and on medicinal plants collection. It also has important forest areas and thermal water resources. Aware of these local values, the municipality started a process to bring the biodiversity values into local planning for the first time, through “Local Biodiversity Action Plans in South-Eastern Europe” project, supported by ECNC and REC. The

project aims to promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to biodiversity and ecosystem services for the sustainable development of rural communities in SEE, as part of an effort to reduce the downward spiral of poverty, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. The goal is to increase overall human well-being within the wider context of ensuring regional peace and stability.

The Municipality has adopted the local plan and started the process of identifying the priorities to be implemented with the support of ECNC and REC by Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The priorities for the period September 2011-December 2011 include strengthening of the cooperation between institutions; promotion of local culture and tradition and local environmental management development; integration of the biodiversity principles into local development plans and policies; increase of local capacities and engagement of experts in order to better explore the values of nature, and engagement of local population which has a good tradition in eco-tourism.

For more information please contact Eduart Cani, REC Albania at ECani@rec.org or visit http://www.ecnc.org/programmes/nature-and-society-ongoing-projects?action=detail&id=79&PH_PSESSID=40132c6aa32dc26d6ebef2ec434a2b

4. The Danube floating conference

Serbia: In June 2011, in accordance with the EU Commission’s recommendation for consistent trans-national cooperation on the implementation of its newly signed Strategy for the development

Photo: M. Milenkovic



of the Danube Region, the Danube Competence Center (DCC) was successful in organizing its first ever “Danube Floating Conference”. During the Conference, supported by GIZ, 120 participants from governments, international organizations, and municipalities from eight Danube countries gathered to discuss and sign a declaration on mutual goals in developing tourism in the Middle and Lower Danube Region.

The conference offered a platform for participants to present their visions for “Danube 2020,” and the opportunity to discuss new methodologies and forms of tourism cooperation. It also gave the participants the opportunity to discuss how to exploit the tourism potential of the Danube and not endanger the environment and rich biodiversity of the Danube region. Participants discussed about the projects that simultaneously support tourism, energy efficiency and environmental protection. The two-day conference ended with a “Declaration of the Danube Floating Conference,” in which the representative Ministers from Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia signed a declaration to cooperate with one another in order to succeed in implementing the EU’s Danube Strategy, and to develop tourism in the Danube regions. For the DCC, the success of the conference underlines importance and efficiency of trans-national cooperation in developing Danube Tourism.

For more information please contact Gordana Plavsic, GIZ at Gordana.plavsic@giz.de.

5. Workshop on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)



Germany: 21 - 25 September 2011 the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with TRAFFIC and FAO held a workshop on Isle of Vilm, Germany on the Sustainable Management of Non-Wood Forest Products in South East Europe. The workshop inter alia aimed at providing a plenum for dialogue on sustainable use of MAPs in SEE between relevant stakeholder groups and to act as a follow-up on FAO-TRAFFIC Expert Consultation on Institutional Needs for Sustainable Non-Wood Forest Product Sector in South-East Europe

(Sarajevo, 2010). The current situation was analysed and information from previous studies and meetings was updated. This was especially important for defining priority MAP species and to introduce and develop strategies for sustainable management and use (e.g. the widespread use of the FairWild Standard).

More information on the outcomes of the workshop will be made available shortly on the Agency’s website (http://www.bfn.de/0610_vortraege+M52087573ab0.html). For more information please contact Ralf Grunewald, BfN at ralf.grunewald@bfn-vilm.de.

6. Ecological Networks Seminar held in Moldova

Photo: T.Pezold



Moldova: The international seminar dedicated to the development and creation of regional sectors of Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) was held from 13 to 14 October in Chisinau. Organized by IUCN and BIOTICA Ecological Society in cooperation with the Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the Ministry of Environment, the Seminar contributed to the international conference marking 50 years anniversary of the Institute.

The Seminar was opened by welcome speeches given by Mr. Furdui, Vice-president of Academy of Science of Moldova, Mr. Salaru, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Sepp, Vice-President of IUCN and Mr. Toderas, director of Institute of Zoology of Academy of Science of Moldova. Participants will learn about the recent projects that focus on ecological networks in Moldova, such as IUCN/BIOTICA project “Development of the National Ecological Network of Moldova as part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, with emphasis on transboundary cooperation”, UNDP/GEF project “Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova” and Emerald project coordinated by Moldovan Ministry of Environment. Additionally, approaches from neighboring countries and the EU (with emphasis on Natura 2000 network) were presented and discussed while the special attention was given to cooperation across borders.

For more information please contact Tomasz Pezold, IUCN SEE at Tomasz.pezold@iucn.org.

7. EKOsovo International Youth Exchange

Photo: ERA group Archive



Kosovo: The cross-border region Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije Mountains between Kosovo and Montenegro filled with energy and enthusiasm from 8-15 August 2011, when 16 youth from Kosovo, Austria, Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro gathered together for “EKOsovo International Youth Exchange”, hosted by Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group. Participants started the youth exchange in Plav, Montenegro and crossed the border to Kosovo by foot over the mountains

through Bogiqe, the heart of the Prokletije Mountains. In addition to the outdoor experience and spectacular views, participants learned about the natural values as well as challenges of the region, received tools for project development and at the end of the program participated in a two-day training to develop their own ideas for future international projects. This international exchange marks the 8th year that ERA group has been organizing such cross-border events in the region.

The International Youth Exchange was part of the project “EKOsovo – Development through Biodiversity”, implemented by Environmentally Responsible Action group in partnership with Interkulturelles Zentrum in Austria. The project is financed by the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo and the Austrian Development Agency, with support from SALTO SEE Resource Center. The training was organized as part of a series of events focused on the European Commission’s Youth in Action programme, where ERA group serves as the Contact Point for Kosovo support.

For more information please contact ERA group at info@eradirect.org.

8. IUCN PA management categories training for the Dinaric Arc

Photo: T. Pezold



Croatia: At the end of September 2011 a three-day training workshop introduced the IUCN protected area management categories and governance types to conservation experts from five Dinaric Arc countries having the responsibility of decision making on protected areas designation and management. The training was organized within Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc project financially supported by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and held by IUCN WCPA experts Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton. The training opened with welcoming remarks from Milan Nekic, Director of NP Sjeverni Velebit and Davorin

Markovic, Director of the State Institute for Nature Protection in Croatia – the two organizations generously supporting the event.

Training’s main objective was to improve understanding on IUCN protected area definition, the differences between the six IUCN PA categories as well as the importance on assigning IUCN PA categories for the global protected areas network. The steps of assigning PA categories were exercised by participants indoor but also during a field session demonstrating examples from the area of Velebit mountain. The region of Dinaric Arc still holds the rare opportunity of designating new protected areas, even big ones such as national parks– a chance most of the other European countries have used up by now one way or another.

For more information contact Veronika Ferdinandova, IUCN SEE at veronika.ferdinandova@iucn.org.

9. Wetland restoration in the Mura-Drava-Danube area



Photo: WWF Archive

Within the framework of Danube-Carpathian Programme, WWF is implementing a two-pillar project “Wetland restoration in the Mura-Drava-Danube area” that will undertake practical wetland restoration in the Drava-Danube confluence area. The project duration is two years and the aim is to support and enable successful preservation of natural values in the project areas and to provide critical habitat for the Danube’s rich flora and fauna. This project will restore the natural wetlands in protected areas in

Special Nature Reserve „Gornje Podunavlje“ (Štrbac area) in Serbia and in Nature Park „Kopacki Rit“ (Podunavlje fishponds) in Croatia, halt the loss of biodiversity, as well as enhance opportunities for eco-friendly tourism and recreation.

Both protected areas, SNR Gornje Podunavlje and NP Kopacki rit are part of the vast Central Danube Floodplains that encompass two neighboring countries, and represent one of the most prolific wetland areas in the middle course of the Danube. This internationally recognized area is a hot spot of rare natural habitats such as large floodplain forests, river islands, gravel and sand banks and oxbows. Due to their exceptional natural features, both Kopacki rit and Gornje Podunavlje have been listed as Ramsar sites, being also part of the European Green Belt, and recognized as a part of future UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube” that will comprise five countries – Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.

Project is financially supported by The Coca Cola Company, with the aim to improve the status of wetlands in Danube River basin and to become a model example of how businesses and non-profits can work together to benefit nature conservation.

For more information, please contact Duška Dimovic, WWF at ddimovic@wwfdcp.org

10. The Green Belt evening in Nature Park Goricko



Photo: K. Malacic

Slovenia: On 16 September a movie evening focusing on the European Green Belt was organized in the Grad Castle, within the Project Neighbor to neighbor. Eight movies about nature and people at the former Iron curtain were shown, including *Borders separate. Nature unites!* (2008) produced by IUCN and *Iron curtain-Ribbon of life* (2008) produced by BBC, Natural History Unit. The event was opened by piano concert

of Bojan Berden. Guests from Austrian and Hungarian Greenbelt sites were present, amongst others Alois Lang, Bernard Wieser, Johann Pfeiler, and Bertl Langer. NP Goricko announced the first Nature Film Festival (G-fest), that will be held from 24 to 26 May 2012 in the Grad Castle, that will offer unforgettable experience to all visitors.

For more information please contact Stanka Dešnik, NP Goricko at stanka@siol.net.

11. Egyptian Vulture conservation in Central Anatolia

Photo: Doga Dernegi Archive



Turkey: Doga Dernegi (Birdlife in Turkey) keeps on monitoring the globally endangered Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*) population in Ankara. The project documents the breeding success of the species around the Beypazarı district in Turkey. Kirmir Valley in Beypazarı, where the majority of the forages, is a Key Biodiversity Area that has been known to hold an important proportion of the Turkish population of Egyptian vultures. However, an extensive survey was never carried and there is no

reliable estimate. Through the breeding season of 2011 Doga Dernegi team conducted field surveys which spanned from April to August. The team has found 37 Egyptian vulture territories in a 500km² area. By the end of August, 26 pairs bred successfully and raised 32 fledglings. Doga Dernegi will continue to monitor the Egyptian vulture population of Kirmir valley and invites birdwatchers to visit the Beypazarı Nature House, which serves as a visitor centre and a guesthouse.

For more information please contact Bilgecan Sen, Doga Dernegi at bilgecan.sen@dogadernegi.org.

12. Balkan Snow Vole saving Croatian karst

Photo: BIOM Archive



Croatia: Members of the Association for Biological Research – BIOM, supported by the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb and Zagreb ZOO started a project aiming at the conservation of karst biodiversity through research of a typical karst species endemic to the Balkans, Balkan Snow Vole (*Dinaromys bogdanovi*). The main goal of the project is to better understand the biology of this rare and cryptic species in order to evaluate its current conservation status in Croatia, because at the moment it

is Data Deficient. According to IUCN red list it is listed as Vulnerable (VU) at the level of the whole known distribution range in the Balkans, confirming that this kind of action is urgently needed.

Research in captivity in Zagreb ZOO and extensive field research already provided new insights and knowledge about ecology and distribution of the Balkan Snow Vole, which is a prerequisite for appropriate and effective conservation actions for this species. Project also includes educational presentations and panels for students in Zagreb and Split, mountaineers and other target groups among which the project will raise awareness and promote biodiversity and conservation of Croatian karst.

Project “Balkan Snow Vole – The mysterious dweller of the Croatian karst” is funded by the Croatian Environmental protection and energy efficiency Fund.

For further information please contact: info@biom.hr or visit www.biom.hr.

13. Balkans Peace Park Summer programme



Photo: P. Spafford

Albania: For the fourth year, the summer programme was held in the village of Thethi in Northern Albania. A raft of volunteers from different parts of the world taught English and Environmental Studies to young people, alongside Albanian teachers and volunteers. There were two modules this year, each three weeks long. The number of Albanian volunteers on the programme increased this year. It was gratifying to see several young graduates attending the classes as volunteer teachers.

The village is changing fast as many family homes are being adapted to guest houses. Families who left Thethi in the 90's are now returning, at least for summers. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the B3P continues with its support to Thethians. This will be greatly helped by the establishment of B3P Albania, a massive step forward for the B3P. A cross border trek alongside Giz is planned as well as new summer programmes across the whole mountain region of Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro.

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

14. Protecting high trunk orchards

Austria: Naturschutzbund Burgenland organised international meeting of experts involved in high trunk old orchards protection and development, held 22 -23 September in Castle Tabor, Neuhaus/ Klausenbach. Unfortunately those orchards are not Natura 2000 sites, so their protection in EU countries is very diverse. They are of great importance for species protection, especially for birds like *Upupa epops*, *Otus scops*, *Jynx torquilla*, *Picus canus*, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, *Athene*

Photo: S. Dešnik



noctua and others. High trunk orchards protection activities are numerous in Austria, but not that present in Slovenia and Hungary. During this meeting the experts exchanged their opinions and experiences, visited three nature parks Goricko-Raab-Orség and visited the fruit exhibition from high trunk orchards of castle Tabor. The exhibition remained open for interested public also on the two following days.

For more information please contact Stanka Dešnik, NP Goricko at stanka@siol.net.

15. A hotbed of ideas and innovation for Europe's natural heritage



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

320 experts responsible for managing Europe's natural resources met in the Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, Germany last week to plan for the future and seek solutions for the quality management and sustainable use of nature.

The event that brought them together, the EUROPARC Conference 2011, is the largest networking opportunity Europe of its kind.

The EUROPARC Conference 2011 from 21 to 24 September was a hotbed of ideas and innovation. Conference keynote speakers Ed Gillespie from Futerra, Dr. Miranda Schreurs, Chair of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils, and Trevor Sandwith, Director Global Protected Areas Programme IUCN stressed out the many assets that nature has to offer society. An investment in natural infrastructure not only reduces the loss of biodiversity, it creates jobs and businesses; brings capital and people into rural regions; creates sustainable development; and improves the health and wellbeing of people. The conference agreed the Bad Urach declaration, which calls upon Europe's politicians to acknowledge the long-term values and benefits of our protected natural areas and to recognise the need to invest wisely in their management. Without this investment the fundamental needs of our society are threatened.

The EUROPARC Conference is an annual event of the EUROPARC Federation, the voice of Europe's protected areas. This year it was hosted by the Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve and the Ministry for rural spaces and consumer protection of Baden-Württemberg. It was organised by EUROPARC Germany.

For more information please visit www.europarc2011.com.

16. EU standards and methods for habitat identification and classification

Ukraine: A closing workshop was held in June 2011 in Lviv, concluding a project that introduced the principles of the Habitats Directive to Ukraine. Although Ukraine is not required to implement the *acquis communautaire*, policy documents of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources clearly indicate the wish to align nature protection practices with those applied in the EU. The immediate project outputs are: 1. Translation of the official text of the Habitats Directive, its annexes and the interpretation manual into Ukrainian. 2. A catalogue of habitat types for the Ukrainian part of Carpathians including distribution maps. 3. Database structure (based on Natura 2000 and Turboveg data base structures) with links to GIS. 4. Trained Ukrainian experts in the identification and mapping of habitat types and the use of field manual for habitat classification.

Adaptation of the specific terminology used in the Habitats Directive into UA language was rather challenging and it took a fair amount of debate to agree on acceptable translations of terms like “favourable conservation status” and “conservation measures”. Developing the catalogue of habitat types of the Ukrainian Carpathians was the most demanding task of the project. In total 120 potential Ukrainian habitat types are identified and all have been described. Application of the Habitats Directive in Ukraine is hampered by the fact that Ukrainian biologists work on the bases of the “dominant approach” in vegetation classification which is opposite to the widespread Braun-Blanquet approach used in the Habitats Directive.

The project was implemented by Centre for Development Innovation (Wageningen University) in partnership with State Museum of Natural History (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Lviv), Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv), Orbicon, Nature and Aquatic Environment (Denmark) and WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme.

For more information please contact Henk Zingstra, Wageningen International at Henk.zingstra@wur.nl or Bodhan Prots at Bohdan.prots@gmail.com.

1. Database of and for Civil Society Organizations



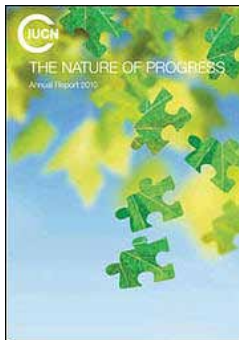
The TACSO CSO Database is an online listing of different Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

in the Western Balkans and Turkey. For each registered CSO, information can be found about the organization’s mission statement, area of interest, and contact details. The Database will serve as a reference resource to existing and active CSOs as well as a basis for networking and partnership making, i.e. on EU applications and funding, among different organizations. In addition, information on the legislation and government institutions that are relevant to the work of CSOs within the region can be found on the database.

To add your CSO organization to the database, please click on the button “<http://www.tacso.org/cso-db-res/reg/registration.aspx>” and follow the steps. After the last step, check your e-mail and click on the link to confirm your registration. After an administrator approves your account it will be visible on the CSO Database.

Disclaimer: TACSO is not responsible for the authenticity of the information published by the CSOs! For more information please visit: <http://www.tacso.org>

2. The nature of progress



IUCN’s annual report for 2010 is published, taking a look at activities undertaken, and progress made towards our conservation objectives. *The Nature of Progress* presents highlights of 2010 that was designated the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations—a landmark year for charting the way forward on how we value, protect and respect nature.

Report can be downloaded from <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2011-030.pdf>.

3. Species on the edge of survival



This book is inspired by the IUCN Species of the Day 2010 web initiative, and serves as a guide to 365 of the world’s species on the IUCN Red List. This list profiles a wide variety of species from the official list of threatened animal, fungi and plant. Each profile includes a photograph of the species, a location map describing the species’ habitat, information on the level of threat (from “Least Concern” to “Extinct in the Wild”), and descriptions of why the species appears on the Red List.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/?8084/Species-on-the-Edge-of-Survival--The-ultimate-guide-to-nature-in-need>

4. Best LIFE Environment Projects 2010



The EU Member States represented on the LIFE Committee and the European Commission's LIFE Unit have announced the Best LIFE Environment Projects 2010. The result of the selection, as approved by the LIFE Committee members in the spring of 2011, are the 13 projects featured in this publication. These projects represent the most recent successful LIFE Environment projects in terms of their contribution to immediate and long-term environmental, economic and social improvements; their degree of innovation and transferability; their relevance to policy; and their cost-effectiveness.

Download: [Best LIFE Environment Projects 2010](#)

5. TB eNEWS online



The 4th issue of TB eNEWS, prepared by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, can be downloaded from the website: www.tbpa.net.

1. Equator Prize 2012 Call for Nominations



The Equator Initiative, a UNDP-led partnership, has announced its call for nominations for the Equator Prize 2012, which will be awarded to 25 outstanding local initiatives that are working to advance sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. Winning initiatives will each receive US\$5,000, with 10 selected for special recognition and a total of US\$20,000. Representatives of winning communities will also be invited to participate in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in Brazil in June 2012.

The Equator Prize is awarded for community-based innovation in sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management and environmental conservation. The eligibility has been expanded to all countries receiving support from UNDP, making this a truly global award for local best practice. Nomination forms are available in 16 languages and can be completed online. The deadline for nominations is 31 October 2011.

For more information please contact Joseph Corcoran at joseph.corcoran@undp.org or visit www.equatorinitiative.org.

2. The Exhibition on Nature Conservation in Belgrade

Photo: Center for Protection and Research of Birds



The opening of the exhibition “15 ways how to conserve nature” will take place in Student Cultural Center in Belgrade on 26 October 2011, at 11 a.m. It represents the final event of the IPA Civil Society Facility funded project “Partnership Actions for Biodiversity Protection in Western Balkans” lead by Young Researchers of Serbia, in partnership with WWF, Green Home and Sunce.

Within the mentioned project, with the main objective to protect biodiversity and natural resources in Montenegro and in Serbia by promoting and supporting the implementation of key EU conservation policy instruments (i.e. Natura 2000), 15 small grants were given to environmental NGOs in both countries. Results of those grants will be presented on exhibition “15 ways how to conserve nature” that will be opened till 1 November 2011.

For more information please contact Petra Boic Petrac, WWF at ppetrac@wwf.panda.org.

3. Workshop on Spiritual Values of Protected Areas of Europe



From 2 to 6 November 2011 the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation will hold a workshop on Spiritual Values of Protected Areas of Europe on the Isle of Vilm at its International Academy for Nature Conservation. The Workshop will explore the conservation status, trends and challenges of sacred natural sites or sacred landscapes, which are found in a many protected areas of Europe, including, *inter alia*, sanctuaries, monasteries, hermitages, pilgrimage ways, sacred or holy mountains, lakes, caves, springs, rivers, rocks, etc. related to a number of diverse living religious or spiritual traditions. Moreover, given the secularization of many European societies, spiritual values are not necessarily limited to living religious values, but include other related aspects, such as sacred sites from ancient civilizations, as well as peaceful settings of natural beauty to gain inspiration and improve the well-being of mind and soul. Silence, solitude and beauty are usually understood as prerequisites for a deep, spiritual experience of nature.

Although many people agree that spiritual values are of major importance in Protected Areas, and even though most visitors show special interest in them; in fact, spiritual values are often neglected when it comes to the identification, assessment and effective ways of adequately integrating them into Protected Area planning and management. So, the workshop will also attempt to develop guidance for PA manager on how to best manage and communicate spiritual values.

You may find more information on the Agency's website under: [http://www.bfn.de/0603_kalender.html?&no_cache=1&L=1&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[qlist\]=4&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[uid\]=53&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[cid\]=36&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[cmd\]=single](http://www.bfn.de/0603_kalender.html?&no_cache=1&L=1&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[qlist]=4&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[uid]=53&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[cid]=36&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[cmd]=single)

For more information please contact Ralf Grunewald, BfN at ralf.grunewald@bfn-vilm.de.

4. Green Belt Meeting in the Balkans



From 16 to 19 November 2011 the 3rd Regional Green Belt Meeting will be held on the coast of Montenegro. The meeting will be organized by EuroNatur, the Regional Coordinator for the Balkan Green Belt and represents a follow up on two successful meetings: Novi Sad 2005 and Blagoevgrad 2008. More information about the programme and the location will be distributed soon. Funding is secured for participation of limited number of participants, mainly those coming from countries along the Balkan Green Belt.

For more information please contact greenbelt@euronatur.org.

5. Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme - 2012

Photo: BfN Archive



The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is an extra-occupational training programme for potential nature conservation leaders from Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The 18-month course will catalyze personal capacity development through training on international best conservation practice and policy, management training and personal network development. It thereby aims at enabling early-career conservation professionals to take over leading conservation positions in their countries, hereby improving the effectiveness of their organization and participating more actively in international forums and networks.

The programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and implemented by its Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, in collaboration with IUCN, the CBD Secretariat and additional international partners. It will be launched this autumn and the first course at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm will start in March 2012. The programme's website and online application forms will be available under http://www.bfn.de/06_akademie_natursch.html from late October 2011. For more information please contact Andrea Strauss, BfN Vilm at ktf@bfn-vilm.de.

6. Ecosystem climate relevance beyond forests and peatlands

Photo: BfN Archive



The workshop will be held 26-29 October 2011 at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany. It will explore and discuss the existing knowledge base on the climate relevance of ecosystems and the potential synergies with climate change mitigation that can be achieved through sustainable land management and nature conservation. It will focus on ecosystem types and regions that have so far

attracted less attention in discussions on ecosystem-based approaches to combat climate change. While the climate relevance of tropical rainforests and peatlands has been the subject of intensive scientific and political debates, knowledge on the mitigation potential in drylands, temperate and tropical grasslands and coastal vegetation types including sea grass meadows and mangroves is more limited.

Further information on the meeting is available from the website of the International Academy for Nature Conservation, as well as from cordula.epple@unep-wcmc.org and andrea.strauss@bfn-vilm.de.

7. Green Screen Fest



Serbia: The citizens of Belgrade will have the opportunity for the second time to visit the International Environmental Film Festival “Green Screen Fest” that will take place at the Sava Center in Belgrade, from 14 to 16 November 2011.

The Festival’s audience can expect to see a selection of quality films (revue documentary-feature films, amateur and short films), in addition to that they will be able to visit the „Mini-Festival“ of innovations and educational workshops. The main topic of the „Green Screen Fest“ this year is „Forest and Forest Ecosystems“, and it contributes to marking of the International Year of Forests. The final program of the Festival, film trailers and announcements of upcoming films or any other events can be found on the website www.greenscreenfest.org.

8. MarCoastEcos2012



International Conference on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MarCoastEcos2012): Increasing knowledge for a sustainable conservation and management will be held in Tirana, Albania from 25 to 28 April 2012. The abstracts submission deadline is 10 January 2012. To subscribe to the info mailing list please send email with the subject “Interested in MarCoastEcos2012” to contact@marcoastecos2012.al and sajmir.beqiraj@fshn.edu.al.

For more information please visit <http://marcoastecos2012.al> or contact Sajmir Beqiraj, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana at sajmir.beqiraj@fshn.edu.al.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Terra Viva grants



The Terra Viva Grants Directory develops and manages information about grants for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in the world’s developing countries. Please find a link which provides information on application deadlines from October 2011 through to March 2012 and further <http://www.terravivagrants.org/Home/funding-news/application-deadlines-2>.

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.

Regional Office for Pan-Europe

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.

IUCN's Pan-European Region covers the whole of Europe and North and Central Asia. Four offices located in [Brussels](#), [Belgrade](#), Gland and [Tbilisi](#) deliver IUCN's Pan-European Programme, supported by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in [Malaga](#). Together we strive to meet our goals for a sustainable Europe by using local expertise and the strength of the global IUCN network.

Pan-European Mission

“To foster and fortify a European network of excellence in environmental research, policy and best practice, with the aim to contribute to IUCN's global mission, support the integration of biodiversity conservation into economic development and to support innovative initiatives for the multifunctional, sustainable use of natural resources.”



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