



**PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
PARKS DINARIDES – NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS OF
DINARIDES
FOR 2018.**

Podgorica, 2018

Introduction

The Parks Dinarides Network consists of more than 70 protected areas from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia. The official association "Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides" was established in Podgorica at the end of 2014 and the seat of the network is in Podgorica.

Initiative to form a regional alliance of protected areas in the territory of the Dinaric Arc countries is one of the results arising from the project „Dinaric Arc Parks”. The implementer of this project was the World Wildlife Fund WWF. Also, in December 2013, the countries of the Dinaric Arc signed in Budva (Montenegro) the agreement titled *Big Win II*, which is a continuation of the previous *Big Win* agreement that was reached in 2008, at the ninth CBD Conference in Bonn (Germany). Following the official adoption of the document in Budva, on 2 December 2013., the countries signatories, i.e. their competent ministries, committed themselves to work together to strengthen the planning process in the nature protection field and on valorisation of economic values of their natural resources, and based on these values to work on strengthening models for sustainable financing of protected areas in the region and joint work on the overall improvement of protected areas in the area of Dinaric Arc. This document was signed with the mediation of WWF and IUCN, by Ministers and representatives of ministries in charge of the environment in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo*¹, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia.

Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides aims at rendering and implementation by means of action of common interest in the improvement of nature protection and sustainable development and improving the cooperation between the protected areas of Dinaric Arc countries. That cooperation primarily refers to the improvement of natural and cultural resources of protected areas of Dinarides, their promotion and support and implementation of good practices of sustainable development and management.

Organization Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides supports:

- the policy aimed at improvement and development of the protected areas;
- improvement of mutual communication of its members;
- coordination of international and national projects.

Strategic topics of network activity are: building of the network of protected areas; protection of natural resources; improvement of cooperation with local population and sustainable development, communication and PR.

* Appointment is without prejudice to the position or status in accordance with UNSCR 1244/99 and opinion of the International Court of Justice on declaration of Independence of Kosovo

Strategic topic: 1. BUILDING THE NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS			
<i>Objective: 1.1 Staff and technical capacity of Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides for efficient conduct of their activities</i>			
	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME
1.1.1	Engagement of human resources	Engagement of Coordinator for INHERIT project. Application for the Program of Professional Development – 7 candidates (internship)	Whole year
1.1.2	Supply of material-technical assets	Supply and supplement to the material-technical assets required for work will be completed.	Whole year
1.1.3	Staff, professional and organizational training of staff for quality performance of activities of the Network	Within the realistic abilities, professional development of employees will be supported through seminars, courses, conferences, study exchanges, workshops.	Whole year
1.1.4	Support to scientific-professional research	Logistical support will be provided to all of the interested institutions and individuals in scientific-research work contributing to the protection and valuation of protected areas.	Whole year
<i>Objective: 1.2 Networking of the protected areas of the region</i>			
1.2.1	Organizing the annual meeting of the Assembly and Steering Committee of the Parks Dinarides	Regular annual meeting of the Assembly and Steering Committee. Extraordinary sessions will be organized if needed.	March – April Whole year
1.2.2	Organizing educational events aimed at professional development of staff of the protected areas of Network	Within the realistic abilities, workshops, training, seminars, study exchanges for staff from the protected areas of the Network will be organized.	Whole year

	members		
1.2.3	Organizing scientific-professional gatherings	Within the realistic abilities, workshops, training, seminars, study exchanges for staff from the protected areas will be organized.	Whole year
<i>Objective: 1.3 Financial sustainability of Parks Dinarides</i>			
1.3.1	Development of project ideas and preparation of project applications	Preparation of project applications with network members and institutions in charge of the nature protection, tourism development and sustainable development. Programmes to be open in 2018 are: - Norwegian mechanism - Interreg CG-BiH-CRO - Interreg MED - IPA CG-AL - Interreg Danube Transnational Programme	Whole year
1.3.2	Starting of joint initiatives with foreign and local organizations and donors	Building cooperation with strategic partners and other civil sector organizations through information, consultations and implementation of joint activities, creation of networks and coalitions.	Whole year
Strategic topic: 2. PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES			
<i>Objective:2.1 Project „Bear watching“</i>			
<p><i>Parks Dinarides and WWF, in collaboration with the NP „Biogradska gora“ from Montenegro and the NP “Tara“ from Serbia implement the initiative: „Bear watching“, constituting the basis for the development of nature-oriented tourism but with the promotion of measures for the protection and improvement of the bear habitats and prevention of poaching.</i></p> <p><i>The efficient system of monitoring the brown bear will be built through this project, by standardized monitoring methods, aimed at contributing to the conservation of this species in the area of the NP „Biogradska gora“ and the NP „Tara“.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the obtained data, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, this project aims to achieve noticeable progress in protection and preservation of wild species and their habitats, through specific actions in the field and in intense cooperation with managers and local actors.</i></p> <p><i>Likewise, long-term , we wish to establish an attractive tourist product „Bear watching“, which would provide benefit to both the NP „Biogradska gora“ and the NP „Tara“, as well as the local community. Population of protected areas and its surroundings have an opportunity to take part in the activities of brown bear protection through training for gathering of DNA material and other activities</i></p>			

and the creation of attractive tourist offer such as guides for bear watching or provision of accommodation, gastronomy, branded souvenirs and other tourist products and nature-oriented services.

Along with the activities on establishing the ecological corridors „Parks Dinarides“ will actively work with their partners on raising awareness and education of local population on values in the protected areas, in order to ensure the sustainability of this form of eco-tourism.

This initiative is being implemented within the project " Protected areas for Nature and People".

	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME
2.1.1	Monitoring the bear population within the project “Bear watching in the NP Tara and the NP Biogradska gora “	Measures on monitoring the brown bear population continue in 2018	Whole year
2.1.2	International conference on brown bear	Parks Dinarides have launched a strategic dialogue with relevant institutions - Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism (MSDT) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development (MARD) in preparation of the Management Plan for Brown Bear. Parks Dinarides and WWF, together with the partners (MSDT, MARD, EuroNatur, CZIP, Environmental Protection Agency), will organize the international Conference on Brown Bear Management.	March
2.1.3	Training in collecting DNA material of brown bear	In cooperation with the NGO CZIP, training will be organized for supervisors of the NP Biogradska gora on collecting materials required for the DNA analysis of brown bear.	September
Objective: 2.2 Implementation of Interreg project „ECO KARST- Ecosystem services in karst protected areas – driving force for sustainable development“			
2.2.1	Training for mapping, assessment and valuation of ecosystem services (Training B)	Training for mapping, assessment and valuation of ecosystem services will be held from 12 -15 March 2018., in cooperation between the Parks Dinarides and the National Park Tara from Serbia and the Centre for Eco-toxicological research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The project includes 16 partners from 9 countries and will be implemented in 7 protected areas of similar characteristics, problems and	March

		challenges. It is expected that, after the training, 7 pilot areas will be strengthened by multi-disciplinary teams of experts who will be competent for mapping and valuation of ecosystem and for the preparation of strategic action plan, balancing different interests and finding sustainable solutions.	
2.2.2	Training on the development of action plans and techniques of communication with stakeholders (Training C)	<p>Within the same project, from 7-10 May 2018, the Training C will be held (the third one out of four) on the development of action plans and techniques of communication with stakeholders from different sectors acting in the protected place Grahovo (Slovenia).</p> <p>Different activities will be implemented during this training, aiming at acquiring competences for the development of action plans in seven pilot areas and for the assessment of commercial entities for the development of activities fostering biodiversity.</p>	May
<p><i>Objective: 2.3 Implementation of Interreg project „INHERIT – Sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean coastal and maritime natural heritage “</i></p> <p><i>The project is co-funded by European Union within the Interreg Mediterranean Programme (MED) in the duration of 2018 to 2022. 15 partners from all 10 MED countries participate in the project aiming to conserve and valorise the natural heritage in coastal areas of MED destinations.</i></p>			
2.3	The first meeting of INHERIT project	<p>Representatives of the Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides will, from 10-12 April 2018, participate in the first meeting of the project „Sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean coastal and maritime natural heritage - INHERIT“.</p> <p>The meeting will be held in Tripoli, Greece</p>	April

Strategic topic: 3. IMPROVING COOPERATION WITH LOCAL POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Objective:3.1 Project PA4NP
Indexation of protected areas, members of Parks Dinarides
Bear watching*

	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME
3.1.1	Program of grants for protected areas	<p>Program of grants for protected areas is designed on the basis of assessing 66 protected areas and is intended to protected areas in Dinaric Arc region for the purposes of improving the relationship and dialogue between the protected areas and local communities. The main objective of the call is building of partnership between the protected areas and representatives of local communities based on the principles of accountability, transparency and participation. Specific objectives of the call are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the level of cooperation between protected areas and local communities in the Dinaric Arc countries; - Establishing of permanent structures/mechanisms for communication and improvement of the functionality of existing cooperation between competent institutions and civil society in protected area; - Encouraging proactive access to the protected areas upon involving local community representatives in the decision-making process (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies that affect the management of protected areas). 	January - December
3.1.2	Regional educational project „School networks in protected areas“	Results of research on involvement of local community have shown that education programmes in protected areas are essential instruments of work, by managers and by local community. Accordingly , Parks Dinarides – network of	Whole year

		<p>protected areas of Dinarides and WWF have launched the regional educational programme „ School Networks in Protected Areas“ within the framework of „Protected areas for Nature and People“. The Project includes six members, i.e. protected areas of Parks Dinarides from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected areas in Canton Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina - Nature Park „Hutovo blato“, Bosnia and Herzegovina - National Park „Lovćen“, Montenegro - National Park „Skadarsko Lake“, Montenegro - Special Nature Reserve „Obedska bara“, Serbia - Nature Park „Stara planina“, Serbia <p>„School Networks in Protected areas“ includes the following activities:</p> <p>Training for a person in charge of educational programmes in the protected areas and teachers from the territory of municipalities belonging to the protected area. Topics to be covered during training are: experiential learning in the nature, active citizenship, development of educational programmes and their promotion and method of programme evaluation. The training envisages three three-day trainings.</p>	
3.1.2.1.	Training 1	Training 1 will be held at SNR „Obedska bara“ in Serbia.	May
3.1.2.2.	Training 2	Training 2 will be held in the park “Škocjanske jame” in Slovenia.	September
3.1.2.3.	Training 3	Training 3 will be held in the park “Bijambare” in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	October
3.1.3	Organizing the Fourth Conference of Parks Dinarides	The Fourth Conference of Parks Dinarides will be held in Budva, with the main topic „People and Protected Areas“	November
3.1.4	Developing the marketing plan for „Bear watching“ in the NP Tara and the NP Biogradska gora	A new tourist product will be created in the NP Biogradska gora, „Bear watching“ as the basis for tourism development and improvement of economic situation of local population of this area. Marketing plan will include the review of options for	September – December

		the creation of tourism product, as well as the promotional plan.	
3.1.5	Building of educational corner in the NP „Biogradska gora“	Within the framework of „Bear watching“ in the administrative building of the NP Biogradska gora, interactive exhibition space will be built on the topic of brown bear and rainforest reserve	September - December
3.1.6	Organizing social and cultural events in the protected areas	Within their realistic abilities the Parks Dinarides will organize social and cultural events in the protected areas within which they will promote the products and services of local population and therefore support the local production in the protected areas.	Whole year
Strategic topic: 4. COMMUNICATION AND PR			
<i>Objective: 4.1 Improvement of internal communication</i>			
	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME
4.1.1	Implementation of internal communication plan	Regular communication within the network of Parks Dinarides through internal media tools, exchanges and provision of different documents, databases and good practices of interest for the members of Parks Dinarides.	Whole year
<i>Objective: 4.2 Improvement of internal communication</i>			
4.2.1	Implementation of Communication Strategy	PR, advertising and publishing in the media the activities of the network of Parks Dinarides and its members	Whole year
4.2.2	Updating the web site of Parks Dinarides	Parks Dinarides will continue publishing information on members of the Network and natural, cultural and other specificities of Dinaric Arc in the existing web site.	Whole year
4.2.3	Updating the blog of Parks Dinarides	In the following period there will be continuous activities on sharing all of the relevant contents of the Network on the existing blog	Whole year

4.2.4	Updating the Facebook page of Parks Dinarides	In the following period there will be continuous activities on sharing all of the relevant contents of the Network on the existing Facebook page.	Whole year
4.2.5	Participation in relevant gatherings	Representatives of Parks Dinarides will participate in relevant gatherings in order to promote the Network and establish partnerships.	Whole year
<i>Objective: 4.3 Structuring, monitoring and evaluating a dialogue with key stakeholders for the inclusion of natural values into the strategic development plans (national and regional level)</i>			
4.3.1	Monitoring, increasing the interactions and dialogue with key stakeholders (establishment, monitoring and evaluation)	WWF Adrian, Parks Dinarides and identified partners measure the interaction of protected areas with 2 policy instruments, OCD and decision-makers	Whole year
4.3.2	Participation in gatherings of relevance for the processes of decision-making of significance for nature protection	Parks Dinarides will participate in the decision-making processes of significance for nature protection and management in the protected areas, with special emphasize on participation in the process of EU integrations.	Whole year
<i>Objective:4.4 Promotion of values and welfare of protected areas, gathering information, notifying members of the network of changes in regulations and strategic documents of relevance for managing the protected areas</i>			
4.4.1	Interactive base: gathering and sharing information to network members on social-economic welfare offered by the protected areas (key information, summaries, studies)	Parks Dinarides notify the network members on existence of interactive base and foster new members to use the information from the base and supplement the database with data, studies, etc., on social-economic welfare in their protected areas, WWF Adria sets up and maintains the base and prepares the required arguments for network members. (https://natureforpeople.org/)	Whole year

4.4.2	Organizing events for the purposes of promoting values and welfare of the protected areas in order to engage the key actors	Celebrating the Day of Parks Dinarides and other dates of significance for the protected areas, with participation of network members.	Whole year
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Note:

Parks Dinarides regularly prepare and submit the applications for new partner initiatives in the region. Results of selection for cross border projects submitted in 2017, will be published in 2018. In case the EU delegation approves any of the projects, the activity report of Parks Dinarides will be timely updated.