



ACTIVITY REPORT
OF PARKS DINARIDES – NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS OF DINARIDES
FOR 2017

Podgorica, 2018.

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STRATEGIC TOPIC1: BUILDING CAPACITIES OF THE NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

Objective 1.1 Staff and technical capacity of Parks Dinarides for the efficient conduct of activities

1.1.1 Engagement of human resources

In 2017, there were only three full-time employees in Parks Dinarides : Zoran Mrdak – Executive director (since June), Lidija Brnović – Policies Officer and Ljubiša Pejović – Communication Officer. Ivana Živaljević was outsourced as financial administrator and accountant.

1.1.2 Supply of material-technical assets

For the operational needs of the organization the office was furnished with basic office furniture and technical equipment.

1.1.3 Staff, professional and organizational development of staff for quality performance of activities of the Network

Parks Dinarides have applied for the Program of Professional Development of the Government of Montenegro for 2 executives.

1.1.4 Support to scientific-professional research

Not implemented due to the lack of finances.

Objective 1.2 Networking of the protected areas in the region

1.2.1 Organizing annual meeting of the Assembly and the Steering Committee of Parks Dinarides

Annual Assembly of NGO Parks Dinarides was held on 10 March 2017 at PP Lonjsko polje.

In 2017, three meetings of the Steering Committee were held:

- 10.03.2017 in PP Lonjsko polje – Republic of Croatia
- 10.05.2017 in NP Una – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 15.05.2017 – electronic meeting

Objective 1.3 Financial sustainability of Parks Dinarides

1.3.1 Development of project ideas and preparation of project applications

In 2017, Parks Dinarides, in cooperation with other organizations and institutions, worked on the preparation of numerous project applications, two of which were approved. Besides, they started to work on new project ideas to apply with in 2018.

i) Sustainable Tourism Strategies to Conserve and Valorise the Mediterranean Coastal and Maritime Natural Heritage - INHERIT“.

The Project is co-funded by the European Union within the Mediterranean Program (MED) in the duration from 2018 - 2022.

It is an integrated project with 15 partners from all 10 MED countries aiming to conserve and valorise natural heritage in MED coastal and maritime tourist destinations. The project will test and deploy a new approach adapted to MED specificities protecting natural heritage from the adverse effects of intensive tourism development.

INHERIT will promote sustainable tourism alleviating seasonality and tackling the surpassing of the hosting capacity, by designing and implementing a "bottom-up" protection approach

relying on self-regulation and monitoring of local population, as well as other tourism stakeholders.

The INHERIT protection approach will involve all the key stakeholders (at MED, national, regional and local level) in activities of studying, testing and capitalization, to deliver:

- Strategic policy and protection measures at MED level, addressing the negative effects of intensive tourism flows
- MED INHERITURA sites representing the areas in which human activities coexist with substantial natural heritage, by monitoring the INHERIT protection approach
- Network and management mechanism of the INHERITURA sites, with the assumption of sustainability and growth after the project completion
- Thematic tourism routes (e.g. remote islands, prehistoric sites), that will be integrated into the INHERITURA sites, using the improved protection as an asset to increase tourism attractiveness in a sustainable way.

The project was approved.

ii) **ConnectGREEN** – Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure, a project funded within the Interreg Transnational Danube Program. The ConnectGREEN Project aims at maintaining, respectively improving the ecological connectivity between the natural habitats in the Carpathian Eco region: Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine. The initiative focuses on connecting the Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas of transnational relevance by identifying ecological corridors and deficiencies in connecting, by engaging all relevant actors in integral management of ecological corridors and development of strategic solutions for harmonizing the nature protection and development. The lead partner in the project is WWF Romania, while PARKS DINARIDES are involved in the project implementation as affiliated partners.

The Project was approved.

iii) **Project ECO KARST**, for which the final application was submitted in May 2016 within the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, was approved in the total amount of €166,465.00. PARKS DINARIDES share is 15% of total project costs and €141,495.25 is provided through the grant.

ECO KARST project aims to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of karts bio-regions in the Danube region through promotion of values of ecosystem services. The main project outcome is a common strategy and 8 local action plans for the promotion of ecosystem services in protected areas. Mapping of ecosystem services will help identify possible models for the development of business based on the biodiversity values. Lead applicant is Slovenia Forest Service, and other partners are:

1. Notranjska regional park, Slovenia
2. Nature park Žumberak, Croatia
3. NP Tara, Serbia
4. Kalkalpen National Park, Austria
5. Energy and Environment Company of Lower Austria (BeNu), Austria
6. Bükk National Park Directorate, Hungary
7. Hungarian Academy of Science, Ecological research Centre, Hungary
8. Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Development, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Cantonal institution for protected and natural areas, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
10. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia

11. Bihor County Council, Romania
12. Cantonal Ministry of Urban Planning, Spatial Planning and Environmental protection, Bosnia and Herzegovina
13. PARKS DINARIDES – network of protected area of Dinarides.

In April 2017 the Government of Montenegro advertised the **Tender for allocating funds collected from the games of chance**, and submitted the application for co-funding of the project: „ECO KARST- Ecosystem services of karst protected areas – driving force of sustainable development“ implemented within the Interreg Transnational Danube Programme. **The Project was not approved.**

iv) In September 2016, application was prepared and submitted for the project *WISE-Skadar Lake*, within the program of trans boundary cooperation IPA CBC Albania - Montenegro. The Lead Applicant is the Natural Museum of Montenegro and Parks Dinarides , along with the National Association of Protected Areas of Albania are partners. The project is dedicated to wise utilization of biodiversity resources in the swamp cross border area between Albania and Montenegro. **The Project was not approved.**

vi) In December 2016, application was prepared and submitted for the project *HERBA*, within the cross-border cooperation program IPA CBC Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro. Partners in the project are the National Park Sutjeska and NGO Dinarica from Bosnia and Herzegovina, PARKS DINARIDES and NGO OZON from Montenegro. The project objective is laying foundations for a sustainable development of tourism and business on the basis of medicinal and aromatic herbs in the cross-border area of the National Park Sutjeska and Nature Park Piva. **The Project was not approved.**

Table 1: Status of the projects with participation of Parks Dinarides

PROJECT TITLE	LEAD PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	STATUS/ approved funds
<i>Sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean coastal and maritime natural heritage - INHERIT</i>	Region of Peloponnese	Interreg Mediterranean Programme	Approved 149.600,00 euro
<i>Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin - ConectGREEN</i>	WWF DCP Romania	Interreg Danube Transnational Programme	Approved Affiliated member
<i>ECO KARST- Ecosystem services of karst</i>	Slovenian Forest Service	Interreg Danube Transnational	Co-financing not approved

<i>protected areas – driving force of sustainable development“</i>		Programme	166.465,00 euro
<i>Wise implementation of economic development on Skadar Lake - WISE Skadar Lake</i>	National Agency for Protected Areas, Albania, Natural Museum in Montenegro	Cross Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020/ EU IPA II	Not approved
<i>Laying the Foundation for Development of Herbal Tourism and Business in Cross-border area- HERBA Project</i>	National Park Sutjeska and NGO Dinarika, in Bosnia and Herzegovina NGO Ozon in cooperation with the Nature Park Piva in Montenegro	Cross-border Co-operation Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020/ EU IPA II	Not approved

1.3.2 Staring of joint initiatives with foreign and local organizations and donors

Parks Dinarides implement joint initiatives with strategic partners and other institutions and organizations of civil society through different modes of interaction: notifying wider public and members of the network of events in the region, consulting and direct inclusion of into the implementation of specific activities in the field (especially through the project with WWF Adria „Protected areas for nature and humans“), formalization of ideas through preparation of project activities (table 1).

STRATEGIC TOPIC 2: PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2.1 Conservation of biodiversity in protected areas

2.1.1 Monitoring the bear population within the project „Bear watching in the NP Tara and the NP Biogradska gora“¹

The National Park Biogradska gora and Parks Dinarides , in cooperation with WWF and local partners are intensively working on monitoring and collecting the data on numbers, movements and distribution of brown bear, all that with application of the state of the art technology.

In fall 2017, the presence of brown bear in the NP Biogradska gora was confirmed and documented by using camera baits and successful catching and marking of one bear. The brown bear, named Nikola, was marked by GPS/GSM necklace.

2.1.2 Training in collecting DNA material of brown bear

Training was postponed for 2018.

2.1.3 implementation of Interreg project “ECO KARST – Ecosystem services of karst protected areas – driving force of sustainable development”

Project „ECO KARST – ecosystem services of karst protected areas-driving force of local sustainable development” is implemented within the common policy of the European Union and International Programme for Danube region (DTP). Specific project objective is stimulation of sustainable utilization of natural and cultural heritage and resources. The Project started in January 2017 and lasts for 2,5 years. The project addresses 12 partners from nine countries of the Danube region, led by the Slovenian Forest Service. Total value of the project financed by EU (ERDF +IPA) is 2,273,302.50 €.

The first meeting of partners in the project was held in the period from 08-10 March 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which marked the start of activities in project implementation.

2.1.3.1 Study visit to - NP Kalkalpen

Study visit to the National Park Kalkalpen was organized in September 2017 in cooperation with the host of this event - NP Kalkalpen with other partners in the project. Parallel to the study visit, a meeting of the Steering Committee was also held, thanks to the presence of all partners. The Study visit was aiming at inspiring all of the participants with numerous practical examples from the region of the NP Kalkalpen, related to the conservation of nature and managing protected areas, business development, spatial planning and inter-sectorial cooperation. Likewise, being in an international environment with Austrian experts had offered a possibility for establishing contacts, exchange of information and further cooperation.

¹Project „Bear watching“ constitutes a joint initiative of the NP Biogradska gora and the NP Tara, dedicated to the development of nature-oriented tourism by promoting measures for the protection and improvement of brown bear habitats (Ursus Arctos). Objective of this effort of locating and marking of brown bears is more intense tracking and collecting of data on numbers, movement and distribution of this species with application of the state of the art technology, for the sake of their conservation. Through this project and with cooperation of science and economy representatives we set up the system for development and sustainable utilization of natural resources and nature protection. Main project components are development of the advise model of the national park beneficiaries, improvement of monitoring the population of Brown bear (Ursus Arctos), and development of specific tourist offers leaned on „bear watching“.

2.1.3.2 Training A – Identification of type of ecosystem services and mapping and analysing of local communities

In November 2017 the training was organized (Training A) on identification of types of ecosystem services and mapping and analysing of local communities. Training objective was improvement of skills and knowledge of training participants (3-4 experts from each pilot area), which are necessary for identification of different types of ecosystem services and relevant stakeholders. The training was organized in cooperation of Parks Dinarides , Hungarian Centre for Eco-toxicology research - MTA ÖK, a host – PI Nature Park Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje and sub-regional coordinators. PARKS DINARIDES provided a logistical support in organization of the event while the content of training was based on methodology developed by Centre for Eco-toxicology Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - MTA ÖK.

2.1.4 Creation of database

Parks Dinarides collect the data from all regional members on activities being implemented on conservation of biodiversity in protected areas. Examples of good practice are forwarded to the database maintained by WWF Adria within the project „ Protected areas for nature and people“. The list of regional experts dealing with biodiversity conservation and topics of relevance for the protected areas (good management, financing, advocacy of policies, etc.)is also regularly updated.

STRATEGIC TOPIC 3: IMPROVING COOPERATION WITH LOCAL POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Indexation of protected areas²

Note: Indexation of protected areas is implemented in cooperation with WWF Adria, within the project „Protected areas for nature and people“. During the first year of project implementation (2016.) the main implementer of planned activities was WWF Adria, while in 2017, after determining the initial index per protected area, coordination of follow-up activities was overtaken by Parks Dinarides . Due to the complexity of the task which implied drafting of comprehensive methodology of relevance for all of the protected areas of Dinaric Arc, regardless of their differences (with regard to the method of management, level of protection, number of employees, social-economic characteristics, etc.), the planning process lasted longer than it was planned.

3.1.1 Determining the index of interaction between protected areas and local population

In 2017, WWF Adria and PARKS DINARIDES engaged an international team of experts to develop the **methodology for assessing the level of cooperation between protected areas and local communities** in Parks Dinarides . Objective of this activity was to collect the information on how the protected areas and representatives of local communities assess

²Indexation of protected areas is the initiative implemented within the project „Protected areas for nature and people, aiming at building and strengthening the mechanisms for cooperation with local communities and promote examples of good practice from the region and worldwide on the ways the local population may feel the social-economic benefits of protected areas. Dinarides Parks will, in cooperation with WWF Adria, engage the consultants' team for the development of methodology for determining index to measure the level of interaction of protected areas and local communities. After the indexation is implemented in each member of the Association, certain funds will be allocated to protected areas for increasing the index (improving the interaction with community according to pre-determined criteria).

the level of cooperation and based on the obtained results to develop recommendations for each individual protected area.

Directors of protected areas gave their opinions to the set of carefully selected questions, or, in case the director was prevented, a person authorized for representing the positions of the park at the workshop. These are the categories of representatives of local community who took part in the process: a) representatives of municipalities and/or villages located in the protected area; b) Interest groups with special interest in protected area (representatives of foresters, agricultural producers, farmers, hunting associations, fishing societies, mountaineering unions or companies, etc.); c) Actors whose stable sources of income to the largest extent depend on the resources of protected areas (e.g. persons/cooperatives/entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture, tourism, forestry, owners of large agricultural land, etc.); d) Representatives of vulnerable groups: young people, elderly population, disable persons and representatives of minorities, poor and e) Local non-governmental organizations and/or civil society organizations, unless already in one of the previous groups.

Workshops for assessing the interaction between the local communities were organized in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo³, in Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia. Workshops were organized in 66 protected areas, in the majority of members of PARKS DINARIDES Network. 930 persons participated, of which 290 or 31,20% were women.

Country	Number of parks included	F	M	TOTAL	F %	M%
ALBANIA	12	25	148	173	14.45	85.55
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	37	67	104	35.58	64.42
CROATIA	14	91	145	236	38.56	61.44
KOSOVO*	1	2	4	6	33.33	66.67
MACEDONIA	3	7	37	44	15.91	84.09
MONTENEGRO	6	25	51	76	32.89	67.11
SERBIA	16	49	153	202	24.26	75.74
SLOVENIA	7	54	35	89	60.67	39.33
TOTAL	66	290	640	930	31.18	68.82

3.1.2 Providing support to protected areas in improvement of indexation of interaction with the community according to the determined criteria

Final results of assessment of cooperation of local communities and protected areas came out of Validation Panel, on the basis of the processed data collected during the implementation of workshops on assessing the cooperation in protected areas and in

³Appointment 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

accordance with the Standard ranking criteria. On the basis of obtained results, a team of experts developed the "Capacities Building Plan" for further inclusion of community in the area of Dinaric Arc.

Parks Dinarides will support the improvement of index of interaction with local community through developing Grant program for protected areas of the region and Regional educational program.

3.1.2.1 Grant program for protected areas

Guidelines and criteria were prepared in 2017, as well as the technical basis for invitation for allocating Grants for protected areas. The call for allocation of grants will be advertised in January 2018.

The main objective of this call is to build a partnership between protected areas and representatives of local communities based on principles of accountability, transparency and participation.

Specific objectives of the call are:

1. Improve the level of cooperation between protected areas and local communities in the Dinaric Arc countries;
2. Establishment of permanent structures /mechanisms for communication and improvement of the functionality of existing cooperation between competent institutions and civil society in the protected area;
3. Encouraging proactive access to 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).

3.1.2.2 Regional Educational Programme "School Networks in Protected Areas"

Results of research on involvement of local community have shown that education in protected areas is recognized as important component of work, from both the manager and local communities. Accordingly, the Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides and WWF have launched a regional educational programme "school Networks in Protected Areas" within the framework of „Protected Areas for Nature and People“. The project includes six members, that is, protected areas of Parks Dinarides from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

Included protected areas are:

Protected areas in Canton Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nature Park „Hutovo blato“, Bosnia and Herzegovina

„Lovćen“ National Park, Montenegro

„Skadarsko Lake“ National park, Montenegro

Special Nature Reserve „Obedska bara“, Serbia

Nature Park „Stara planina“, Serbia

„School Networks in Protected Areas “ includes the following activities:

Training for a person in charge of the educational programmes in protected area and teachers from the territory of municipalities the protected area belongs to. Topics covered during trainings are: experiential learning outdoors, active citizenship, development of educational programmes and their promotion and methods of programme evaluation. Training envisages three three-day training.

Training is scheduled for 2018.

3.1.3 Developing mechanisms for cooperation with local communities

Implementation of measures for improving the existing and creation of new mechanisms for cooperation with local communities within the indexation process will be realized in 2018. Meanwhile, Parks Dinarides are working on establishing new models through other initiatives and the protocol on cooperation with local communities was established through the project „Bear watching in the NP Tara and NP Biogradska gora“ by signing the Memorandum of Cooperation between the lead partners in the project in two countries and by setting up efficient communication channels.

3.1.4 Setting up stakeholders system in protected areas

Parks Dinarides have been continuously working on setting up the stakeholders system in protected areas. In 2017, in addition to the inclusion in the process of «Index of interaction with local population», the work was done in involving local communities through the project „Bear watching in the NP Biogradska gora“.

3.1.5 Organizing conference dedicated to protected areas in the region of Dinarides

Organizing of conference was postponed for 2018.

3.1.6 Establishing a tourist product „Bear watching“

A small population of brown bear in the NP Biogradska gora required the extended duration of the process of tracking and documenting the presence of bears. For these reasons, activities on establishing a tourist product (marketing plan, educational corner, building of permanent hatchery), are planned for 2018.

3.1.7 Organizing training for wildlife interpreters

In the period from 9-12 May 2017, the training for wildlife interpretation was held in the National Park Tara in Serbia, with special emphasize on the bear. The event was organized by Parks Dinarides – network of protected areas of Dinarides and WWF in cooperation with the national parks Tara and Biogradska gora. The training helped employees in the national parks and representatives of local community interested in involving into the process of attractive tourist product in the nature-bear watching to connect.

During the workshop, the participants became familiar with methods of preparing the wildlife interpretation and standards for services and facilities for the interpretation of brown bear and wildlife, communication techniques with visitors, taking photos of the nature and with a special tourist product. Practical exercises in the field included specificities of daily, evening and morning walk through the nature, when the participants planned on the trails of the National park Tara how to make an unforgettable experience of sunrise and sunset to the participants, of morning and evening sounds into the forest, tracking bear leads and other animals and how to transmit their knowledge on biology and function of the game into the interesting stories of forest inhabitants for the tourists. After having lectures on facilities for bear watching, the visit was organized to the observation post in the part, in the vicinity of which three bears were observed.

Training programme was conducted by Petra Drašković Pelc and Marko Slapnik, experts for interpretation of nature heritage from Slovenia.

3.1.8 Providing support to protected areas in reaching criteria of EU Chapter for sustainable tourism

Parks Dinarides have provided the required information to all members that were interested in ECST. If appropriate project call is announced, there is the interest to apply with a regional project by which many interested areas will get a possibility of assisting in the process of obtaining certificate.

STRATEGIC TOPIC 4: COMMUNICATION AND PR

4.1 Improvement of internal communication

4.1.1 Implementation of internal communication

Whereas one of the main objectives of Parks Dinarides is exchange of professional knowledge and raising level of knowledge and awareness between the protected areas of the region, the network of protected areas of Dinarides is implementing the internal communication plan, aimed at enhancing the regular communication within the network, in order to affect the common tools and better management policy in protected areas, exchange and provision of different documents, database and good practices and planning and coordination of projects of interest for the members of Parks Dinarides .

Accordingly, different types of training, webinars, programs, scholarships, were communicated with members of Parks Dinarides . These are the most important ones:

- Webinar: "Natural benefits: Nature, Health and Protected Areas" 22.03.2017.
- „Nature Conservation Klaus Toepffer Fellowship Programme“ (KTF) 23.03.2017.
- Scholarship for summer school "Protected Area Management" Opportunity for young professionals working for Protected Areas 18. - 29. July 2017, Klagenfurt/Austria 12.04.2017.
- „Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarship“: Call for applications! 18.04.2017.
- Webinar: „Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas“ 19.04.2017.
- Webinar: „How Conservation Planning Can Inform Key Decisions for Advancing and Implementing NBSAPs“,21.04.2017.
- Invitation:“MAB Programme and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe for the 2017 „ 10.05.2017.
- Webinar "Evidence base: Recognise the values of our nature in the Dinaric Arc region - natureforpeople.org“ 20.06.2017.
- Promoting People - Centred Approaches: „Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture,“27.06.2017.
- „1The 2018 Natura 2000 Award invitation“ 29.08.2017.
- Protected Areas for Sustainable Agriculture webinar: building partnerships with farmers, 11.10.2017.
- Invitation: „The management of mountain forest habitat types in Natura 2000 sites: experience and case studies from the Continental Bio geographical region seminar“ 12.10.2017.

4.2 Improvement of external communication

4.2.1 Creation and implementation of communication strategy

Parks Dinarides within the framework of „ Protected Areas for Nature and People“ and in cooperation with colleagues for communication from WWF Adria have continued in 2017 to implement three *strategic communication documents*:

1. *Communication Plan for Parks Dinarides*
2. *Communication Plan for the project “Bear Watching” implemented in the NP “Tara” and NP “Biogradska gora” and*
3. *Communication Plan for the project “Protected Areas for Nature and People”;*

Within the framework of ECOKARST program, together with partners from eight countries, Parks Dinarides through their communication channels participate in the implementation of the Communication Plan of Interreg program ECOKARST – Ecosystem services of karst

protected areas aimed at protecting, valorisation and sustainable development of karst region of Dinarides, Alps and Carpathian mountains.

Media tools

Within the PARKS DINARIDES there are several media channels:

1. *Web page:* www.parksdinarides.org
2. *Blog portal:* <https://dinaricarcparcs.blogspot.com/>
3. *Facebook page:* www.facebook.com/DinaricArcParks/
4. *Newsletter, distributed online, quarterly, to regional and international stakeholders*

4.2.2 Updating the web page of Parks Dinarides

The web page www.parksdinarides.org, which, within the interactive map, presents more than 90% of all the national parks, nature parks and regional parks of eight regional countries, constitutes a unique and most comprehensive database when speaking about protected areas of Dinarides.

It also constitutes a large potential for the development of cooperation with organizations and associations promoting the active holidays and recreation in protected areas of Dinarides, such as, for example Via Dinarica, Via Adriatika...

Along with the presentation of news and activities implemented by Parks Dinarides, the web page is focused also on presentation of rich natural and cultural heritage, characteristic for the area of Dinarides.

Additionally, since the end of 2017, in a form of „storytelling“, the presentation of the best practices of protected areas of Dinarides was launched. The plan is to present as many as possible best stories of protected areas from all eight countries of the region and their publication not only on web page of the Parks Dinarides but also on communication channels of partner organizations.

4.2.3 Updating the blog of Parks Dinarides

The blog www.dinaricarcparcs.blogspot.com, which in time grew from the media for internal communication of members of Parks Dinarides into the external communication portal, brings daily news from protected areas of Dinarides. Considering that since the III General Assembly of Parks Dinarides the network of protected areas of Dinarides has spread and counts more than 90 protected areas of Dinarides, www.dinaricarcparcs.blogspot.com became the portal of protected areas from all eight regional countries which, in addition to the news from protected areas, also publishes news on international publications, acts, tenders, awards, projects related to the nature protection, analytical texts and other information of significance for the protected areas and nature lovers. Thanks to the contribution of members of Parks Dinarides and daily publishing of new contents on the blog, there were 1 213 news published in 2017. Out of all communication channels of Parks Dinarides, the blog percentage wise has the most convincing largest growth. The blog has around 30.000 visits a month, which totals 263.590 reviews in 2017., which is more than 100% of all reviews since launching of the blog in 2012.

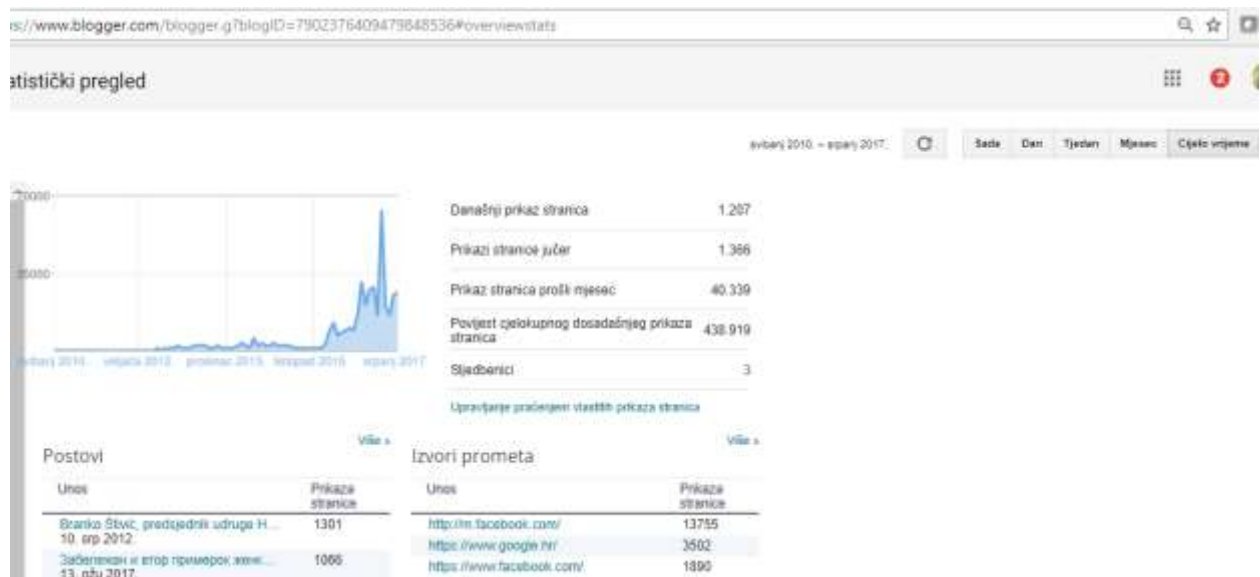


Figure: Statistical overview of visits to the blog of Parks Dinarides

4.2.4 Updating the Facebook page of Parks Dinarides

Facebook page www.facebook.com/DinaricArcParks/ is regularly updated and counts more than 45 000 regular followers during 2017. For this type of promotion via social media, the plan of publishing news was changed in 2017. Since Facebook reduced the „visibility“ of business accounts, Parks Dinarides decided to publish information, photo and video materials of members of Parks Dinarides several times a week, and not daily, as before. A better effect than before was achieved by this method of publishing. Namely, in 2017, www.facebook.com/DinaricArcParks/ counts more than half a million visitors, to be more precise, 560.590 visits. This type of social network still appears to be an extraordinary tool for the promotion of other communication channels of Parks Dinarides .

4.2.5 Participation at relevant gatherings

4.2.7.1 Promotion of Parks Dinarides at EKOBIS 2017

At the 15th International Ecology Fair “ EKOBIS 2017”, held in Bihać, under the slogan “Future starts today”, among 250 exhibitors, Parks Dinarides won the number one, along with the National Park Una and Tourist Cluster Una, which is the reason for this part of the fair being the most visited one. Several thousand visitors had the chance to meet with the contents of tourism and cultural product of protected areas of Dinarides. Promotional stand of PARKS DINARIDES attracted the most interest thanks to the attractive promotional material of national parks and nature parks. Nature Park Velebit, Notranjski, Medvednica, Pivška presihajoča jezera, Kozjanski, National Parks of Albania, Tara, Sjeverni Velebit, Krka, Lovćen, Biogradska gora, Skadarsko Lake, Durmitor, Prokletije, are some of the parks that were presented. EKOBIS visitors were most interested in access to the parks they had no opportunity to see so far and what is their offer. The largest interest was shown for active holiday in Parks Dinarides that is, for pedestrian tours, mountain climbing and biking.

4.2.7.2 Parks Dinarides presented at International festival of Alpine flowers in the NP Triglav

Within the 11th International festival of Alpine flowers, held in Bohinj, in the NP Triglav, Parks Dinarides presented themselves within the thematic day of protected areas. At the professional conference of the festival, the topic of tourism in protected areas was especially

considered. Members of Parks Dinarides from Bosnia and Herzegovina - NP Una , Croatia - NP Kornati and from Serbia - NP Fruška Gora, as holders of the European certificate for sustainable tourism (ECST), presented their examples of good practice and pointed out the importance of that prestigious reward not only for the parks but also for the entire development of protected areas in this region. The conference participants were especially interested in the work of WWF Adria and Parks Dinarides . Director of WWF Adria, Martin Šolar presented the significance and work of protected areas from eight countries of the region. Participants were addressed by the President of the Steering Committee of Parks Dinarides , Amarildo Mulić, who emphasized the importance of networking of protected areas. On that occasion, Mulić, presented the mission and vision of the network of protected areas of Dinarides, aiming at improving the nature protection and future connecting of protected areas of Dinarides, as well as building of the organization in partnership with WWF Adria and other relevant national and international institutions.

4.2.7.3 Annual meeting of WWF and partner organizations in PA4NP project

Parks Dinarides have participated in the annual meeting of WWF Adria and partner organizations in the project „Protected Areas for Nature and People“. During the five day meeting they analysed the results of activities achieved during the second year of project implementation and prepared the plans for the forthcoming period. Within the meeting, there were educational and thematic workshops on internal and external communication, monitoring and evaluation and elaborate the plan on presenting the good practices from protected areas of Dinarides.

4.2.7.4 Parks Dinarides at the Assembly of ALPARC

The annual Assembly of the network of parks in the Alps (ALPARC), which was held in the National Park Gesäuse in Austria, was attended by the Parks Dinarides and WWF Adria, which were represented by Martin Šolar and Zoran Mrdak. They presented the work of these organizations in the protected areas in the region and potential projects for cooperation in future. As observers of the Assembly of ALPARC they were acquainted with the manner of work of another regional network of parks that already has 20 years of experience. They also presented the organizations at the so-called Alpine buffet-alpine version of the bazaar, such as was organized at the conferences of the Parks Dinarides .

4.3 Structuring, monitoring and evaluating a dialogue with key stakeholders for the inclusion of natural resources into the strategic development plans (national and regional level)

4.3.1 Identifying key stakeholders and sectors affecting the protected areas

In cooperation with WWF Adria, and within the framework of „Protected Areas for Nature and People“ experts were selected for the preparation of stakeholders review in Montenegro, and the same reviews are conducted by WWF Adria with local partners in other countries of the region. Preparation of final version is on-going, based on the policy team comments and professional comments of WWF Adria and Parks Dinarides . The Parks Dinarides will, based on the national final documents, determine which questions are common and priority to resolve for multiple countries members of the organization (e.g. funding of protected areas, managing visitors, business development etc.). Selected topics will be subject to public advocacy in the next project phase.

4.3.2 Identifying partners for the development and implementation of advocacy plans and the inclusion of protected areas and natural resources into the decision-making processes

Report on stakeholders review included the proposal of potential partners who could give a significant contribution during the joint activities in all countries of the region.

4.3.1 Monitoring, increasing of interaction and dialogue with key actors (establishment, monitoring and evaluation)

Parks Dinarides, in cooperation with WWF Adria, started to monitor the interaction with stakeholders through *Capacity Assessment Tool*. Additional efforts were made in the development of index for assessing the interaction between the protected areas and local communities, as well as instruments for their improvement.

4.4 Promotion of values and welfare of protected areas, gathering information, notifying members of the network of changes in regulations and strategic documents relevant for managing the protected areas

4.4.1 Promotion of recommendations of national reports on values and welfare of protected areas

WWF Adria is in the process of finalizing the national reports on values and welfare of protected areas. After the reports are published, Parks Dinarides will, in cooperation with, prepare and implement the promotion plan per countries.

4.4.2 Notifying members and building capacities for identifying the needs of the parks (information and arguments available to the protected areas)

WWF Adria is working on establishing the base with arguments of significance for the protected areas. Parks Dinarides provide the necessary information on Network members. Also, Parks Dinarides connect the Network members in order to exchange the information of relevance for the development of legal framework and practices in relevant fields (e.g. one of the members asked for the information on method of hunting regulation in the protected areas.)

4.4.3 Interactive base for the protected areas

Establishing of interactive base is also one of the activities of WWF Adria within the framework of „Protected Areas for Nature and People“. Parks Dinarides provide the information on their members and examples of good practice from the region through web site, blog and direct communication with the protected areas and WWF. The base will be active from March 2017 for Croatia and then successively for other countries of Dinaric area.