



WORK REPORT
PARKS DINARIDES -NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS OF THE
DINARIDES FOR 2018

Podgorica, 2019

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STRATEGIC TOPIC 1: BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

Objective 1.1 Personnel and technical capability of Parks Dinarides for efficient performance of activities

1.1.1 Human resources recruitment

In 2018, three persons were permanently employed in Parks Dinarides: Zoran Mrdak - Executive Director, Lidija Brnović – Officer for policies, Ljubisa Pejovic - Communication Officer (until Julyyy), and Jelena Marojevic-Galic - communications officer (since September). Ivana Živaljević and Dragan Jovanović, financial administrator and accountants, were engaged as outsource associates.

1.1.2 Procurement of material and technical assets

For the needs of organisation, the office is equipped with basic office furniture and technical equipment.

1.1.3 Personnel, professional, and organisational training of personnel for quality execution of Network activities

Parks Dinarides applied for the program of vocational training of the Government of Montenegro for four executors.

1.1.4 Support to scientific-professional research

Not implemented, due to lack of financial resources.

Objective 1.2 Networking of protected areas of the region

1.2.1 Organisation of Annual Meeting of the Assembly and the Steering Committee of Parks Dinarides

Annual Assembly of NGO Parks Dinarides was held in Budva on November 7th 2018. Steering Committee held one session on November 6th 2018.

Objective 1.3 Financial sustainability of Parks Dinarides

1.3.1 Developing project ideas and preparing project applications

During previous year, Parks Dinarides, in cooperation with other organisations and institutions, worked on the preparation of several project applications, one of them was approved. In addition, work on new project ideas has started, and those ideas would be competed in 2019.

- Climate changes in protected areas

The general objective of the project is to build capacity of OCD and managing protected areas (national parks and nature parks), to identify negative impacts of climate changes on protected areas and their specific ecosystems, and to integrate them into strategic documents in climate changes areas. Specific objective of project is to identify priority measures for adaptation of protected areas in Montenegro, risks associated with climate changes, in order to integrate them into strategic and planning documents in the field of environment and climate changes.

Therefore, with this project, we want to assess vulnerability of protected areas in Montenegro, in relation to identified climate trends, and develop recommendations that could be applied to certain protected areas in order to improve managing.

This also helps to create an analytical basis for the preparation of Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change, which Montenegro is obliged to prepare and adopt by 2020. Analysis on vulnerability can also serve as valuable material for the preparation of Low Carbon Strategy, which is another obligation of Montenegro until 2020.

In addition, through cooperation and communication with protected area managers, but also with all stakeholders, it will contribute to building capacity in identification of threats related to climate change, as well as strengthening overall awareness of these changes and improving information exchange in this area.

The project, which would last for six months, is realized through the program "Together for a Better Climate in Montenegro", which is implemented by NGO Green House, Council for Ecological Building of Montenegro and CAN Europe, and is supported by the Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro and Ministry of Public Administration.

1.3.2 Initiating joint initiatives with foreign and domestic organisations and donors

Parks Dinarides implement joint initiatives with strategic partners and other civil society institutions and organisations through various types of interaction:

- informing general public and network members about events in the region
- consultation and direct involvement in realisation of precise field activities (in particular through the project with Association for Protection of Nature and conservation of Biological Environment from Zagreb (WWF Adria) - "Protected Areas for Nature and People")

STRATEGIC TOPIC 2: PROTECTION OF NATURAL VALUES

2.1 Preservation of biodiversity in protected areas

2.1.1 Bear monitoring within project "Bears watching in NP Tara and NP Biogradska Gora"¹

National Park Biogradska gora and Parks Dinarides in cooperation with WWF Adria and local partners are working intensively on monitoring and collecting data on the number, movement, and population of brown bears.

¹ The Bear monitoring project is a joint initiative of NP Biogradska gora and NP Tara, which is dedicated to the development of nature-friendly tourism by promoting protection and improvement of brown bear habitat (*Ursus arctos*). The goal of the project is locating and marking brown bear in order to intensify monitoring and collecting data on the number, movement, and population of this specie with application of the latest technology, in order to preserve them. Through the project, cooperation between representatives of science and economy, is established a system for the development and sustainable use of natural resources and nature protection. The main components of project are development of advice model from national park users, improvement of brown bear population monitoring, and development of specific tourist offers based on "bears watching".

During the autumn 2017, presence of brown bears were documented and confirmed in NP Biogradska gora, using camera traps and successful capture and marking of one individual. Brown bear, named Nikola, was marked with a GPS/GSM necklace. However, bear shortly afterwards removed necklace. Although it was made an attempt to capture bear in autumn 2018, this activity was not realized because there was not noticed bear presence on observed trap cameras. The new attempt is planned for the spring of 2019.

2.1.2 Training for collection of brown bear DNA material

The training was held in cooperation with the NGO Bird Protection and Research Centre (CZIP) in the autumn of 2018. Namely, two trainings were organized in Podgorica and Nikšić for representatives of hunting organisations from the territory of Montenegro, and one training in the National park Biogradska gora for park supervisors.

2.1.3 First international conference on management of brown bear population in Montenegro

Parks Dinarides – Network of Protected areas of Dinarides, in cooperation with Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, CZIP, WWF Adria, and EuroNatur, on March 26th 2018, organized the first international conference dedicated to the management of brown bears population in Montenegro. The conference gathered local and foreign experts for large carnivores, representatives of competent institutions, non-governmental sector, hunting organisations, and international experts for the implementation of the EU and international regulations. The result of this event should establish basis for further long-term adequate management and protection of brown bear population in Montenegro.

2.1.4 First regional meeting about EU platform on coexistence between people and large carnivores

The first regional meeting on EU platform on coexistence between people and large carnivores organized by WWF Adria, IUCN-LCIE, Parks Dinarides, CZIP, and EuroNatur and it was held on November 6th 2018 in Budva, on this day entire area started cooperation within whole population of bears, wolves, and lynxes in this region.

At the meeting, attended by fifty participants from fifteen countries, it was concluded that management of large carnivores is of the key importance: cross-border cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and management of populations throughout the Dinarides region, regardless to current different practices.

2.1.5 Realisation of project “ECO KARST – ecosystem services of karst protected areas - driving force of local sustainable development”

The project "ECO KARST - ecosystem services of the karst protected areas - driving force of local sustainable development" is being implemented within framework of common policy European Union and International Danube Region (DTP) program. Specific objective of the project is to encourage sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources. Activities started on January 1st 2017 and it would last for two and half years. The project involves 12 partners from nine countries from Danube region, led by the Forest Management Institute of Slovenia. The total value of project is € 2,273,302.50, and it has been funded by EU (ERDF + IPA). The first meeting of the partners was held in the period March 8th - 10th March 2017 in Ljubljana, whereby the activities on the realisation of the project started.

2.2.1 Training B – Mapping, valuation, and evaluation of ecosystem services

Training for mapping, valuation, and evaluation of ecosystem services was held in March 12th to 15th 2018, in cooperation of Parks Dinarides with National Park Tara from Serbia and Centre for Environmental Research from Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Activities are implemented in seven protected areas (pilot areas) that have similar characteristics, issues, and challenges. After completing training, pilot areas were strengthened by multidisciplinary teams of experts, who are competent to map and evaluate ecosystem services, as well as to develop a strategic action plan, balancing different interests and finding sustainable solutions.

2.2.2 Training C – Training C – Identification of types of ecosystem services and mapping and analysis of local communities

Training on development of action plans and communication techniques with local communities from different sectors operating in protected areas was held in May 7th - 10th 2018 in Notranjski Park in Slovenia. It was realized by the Parks Dinarides, Forest Management Institute of Slovenia, and the Notranjski Park.

During this training, activities were carried out by teams of experts from seven pilot regions with training aim of action plans development and for assessment of business entities for development of activities that promote biodiversity.

2.2.3 Meetings of Steering Committee

During 2018, two meetings of ECO KARST project Steering Committee were held.

The Third meeting of Steering Committee was held in February 19th - 22nd in National Park Buk in Hungary, one of seven pilot areas in project. The event brought together all project partners, who performed first annual revision of project and discussed about work packages progress and plans for next period.

The Fourth meeting of Steering Committee was organized in September 24th to 27th 2018, in the Nature Park Apuseni in Romania. The participants discussed about progress of work packages progress and first round of workshops and plans for the next period.

2.2.4 Realisation of project “INHERIT - sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean coastal and maritime natural heritage“

Project “INHERIT - sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean coastal and maritime natural heritage” was co-financed by European Union within the Interreg Mediterranean (MED) program from 2018 to 2022. The total value of the project is 5.612.660.00€, out of which 127.160,00€ is financed from IPA funds. "Parks Dinarides – Network of Protected Areas of the Dinarides" is the only project partner from the IPA area.

In project participates in total 15 partners from all 10 MED countries participate, which aims to preserve and valorise natural heritage in coastal and maritime MED destinations. Project will test and develop a new approach tailored to MED specificities, protecting natural heritage from detrimental impact of intensive tourism development.

INHERIT will promote sustainable tourism that will ease seasonality and relieve capacity of destination, planning and implementing “bottom-up” protection based on self-regulation and monitoring of local population as well as other stakeholders in tourism.

The INHERIT approach to protection will involve stakeholders (at MED, national, regional, and local level) in the activities of study, testing, and realisation, towards the realisation of:

- Strategic Policies and protection measures at MED level, dealing with negative effects of intensive tourism flows:
- MED INHERITURA locations, which are areas where human activities coexist with natural heritage, monitoring INHERIT protection approach
- Network and management mechanism of INHERITURA locations, with assumption of sustainability and growth after completion of project
- Thematic routes (e.g. remote islands, prehistoric sites) that will be integrated to INHERITURE locations, using improved protection as means for increasing tourism attractiveness in sustainable way.

2.3.1 First meeting of project partners (Kick-off)

The first meeting of project partners (kick-off meeting) was held in Tripoli, Greece, in April 2018. On this occasion, besides presenting all partners, all aspects of upcoming activities from application form were presented. This also was official beginning of project studying phase realisation.

2.3.2 Second meeting of project partners

The second meeting of project partners was held in Murcia (Spain) in October 2018. In addition to presenting results from previous period, it also was presented: working plan about continuing studying phase, ongoing activities for active promotion of the project, financial and narrative report.

2.3.4 Activities in the study phase of the project

From beginning of project until the end of 2018, activities in project study phase, or Work Package 3 (WP3) were carried out. For each of these activities, one project partner was responsible for implementation of instructions. This phase of project involved collection of relevant available data that primarily were related to coastal area of Montenegro. Data were collected through research work or questionnaires distributed to third parties. Research phase continues in first quarter of 2019.

2.4 Project ConnectGREEN

Project ConnectGREEN - Reconstruction and management of ecological corridors of mountains as a green infrastructure is financed within Interreg Transnational Danube Program. Project ConnectGREEN aims to maintain or improve ecological connectivity between natural habitats in the Carpathian ecoregion: Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Initiative is focused on linking Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas of transnational significance by identifying environmental corridors and shortcomings in connectivity, by engaging all relevant stakeholders in integrated management of ecological corridors and developing strategic solutions for harmonising nature and development protection. Leading partner of project is WWF Romania, while Parks Dinarides are involved in project implementation as affiliated partners.

2.4.1 First meeting of partners

The meeting was held in November 20th 2018 in Bucharest (Romania), where all project and associated partners were presented. On that occasion, activities and results of Parks Dinarides organisation were presented to other partners. During the meeting and group workshops, it was mostly discussed about project topic, ecological corridors, and harmonisation in spatial

planning and nature protection, along with examples and exchange of previous experiences, both in Carpathian region and wider region of Europe.

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

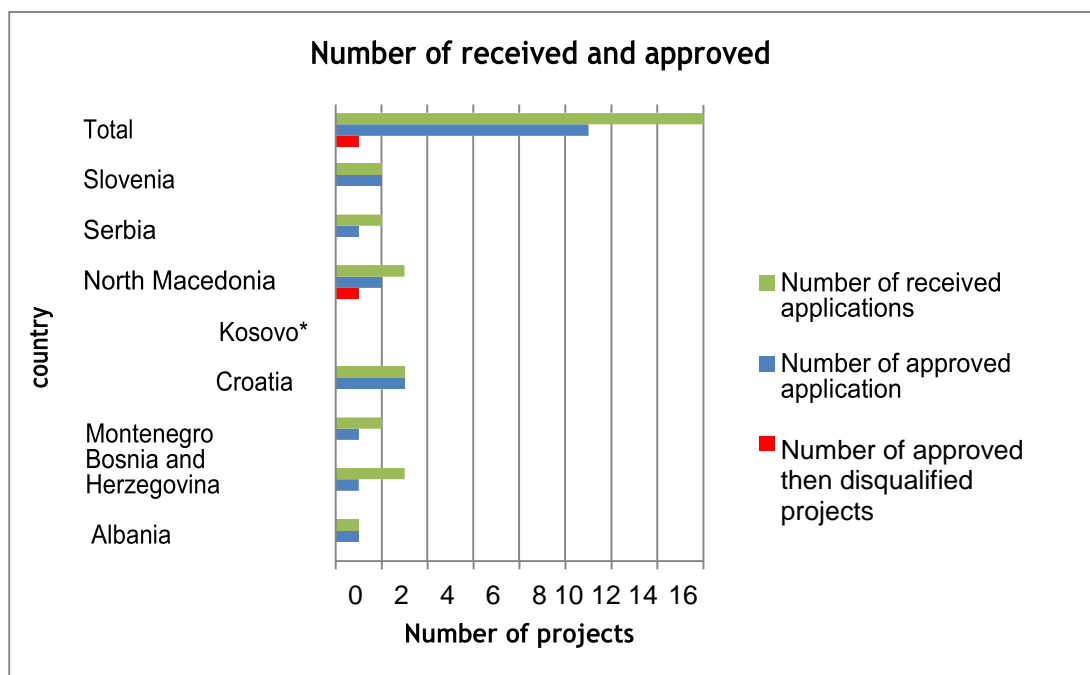
3.1.1 Grant Program for Protected Areas

In January 2018, Parks Dinarides launched first *Grant Program for Protected Areas*, and within it, ten local and regional initiatives were approved in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Grant Program for Protected Areas is intended for managers of protected area in Dinarides Arc region to promote relations and dialogue between protected areas and local communities and to create new partnerships at local and regional levels. Priority areas for Grant program for protected areas were Decision-making in the protected area; Planning management; Communication between protected areas, local community and the general public; Education and cooperation with local educational institutions and organisations; Economic Development and Equal Rights and Opportunities.

Priority in awarding grants was given to protected areas - Parks Dinarides network members, as well as areas that participated in the First cycle of Indexation, and other national parks, nature parks, and regional parks from Dinarides countries were invited to apply.

Total value of Allocated funding from Grant Program was 73,000.00€. Prescribed grant minimum amount per project was 3,000.00€, and maximum amount was 7,000.00 €. All submitted projects had committed to co-finance from their own sources in amount of 30% of total project budget. Since one of the applicants who had approved project did not fulfil necessary administrative prerequisites for funds payment, total allocated amount was 6,341.00 €.



Approved projects were implemented in seven Dinarides region countries, where new partnerships were established between more than thirty protected areas, regional and local institutions and organisations, private companies, and local producers. Project holders were: JU Zeleni prsten, JU For nature protection Međimurje nature, and Žumberak Nature Park - Samoborsko gorje from Croatia, National Park Mavrovo from North Macedonia, Regional park Kozjansko and Krajinski park Tivoli from Slovenia, Nature Park Tikvara from Serbia, National Park Shebenik - Jablanice from Albania, Nature Park Blidinje from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Nature Park Piva from Montenegro.

Various activities are carried out across the region in order to involve local population in decision-making processes on social and economic development and protection of natural and cultural values of park: preparation of guidelines for public involvement and establishing local forums, establishing mobile units to inform local population from remote and inaccessible areas on park activities, delivery and equipping parks premises for local producers - in order to improve conditions for production and joint placement of products, connecting offers from family farms with repurchase companies, training local mountaineers, etc.

Projects will be implemented in period from April 2018 to March 2019. All protected areas to which grants are allocated will participate in Second Cycle of Protected Areas Indexation - indexation - measuring the interaction of protected areas and local communities in management of protected areas.

Table 1. Basic information on projects supported within Grant Program Parks Dinarides

Leading Applicant	Partners	Title of the project	Allocated funds	Main outcome of the project
National Park Shebenik-Jablanica, Albania	Regional Administration for Elbasan Protected Areas High school "Ibrahim Muça"	<i>Young Rangers - a hope for the future</i>	6,895.00 €	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A group of young rangers from Elbasan, second generation of Youth Ranger School was established ii. Strengthening cooperation between administration of the national park through introduction of young representatives from local community with the processes of management, protection and development of the park
Nature Park Blidinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Local Association for promoting of Blidinje "Visit Blidinje"	<i>Taste, Feel and Meet Blidinje</i>	7,000.00 €	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. It is enabled to local population to produce final dairy products inside premises that are managed by Nature Park "P. P. Blidinje " ii. Better conditions were achieved through giving adequate space and procurement of milk brewing equipment, as well as better utilisation of milk, improved hygiene and better quality and placement of domestic products in restaurants in Blidinje
Nature Park Piva, Montenegro	Educational Centre Plužine National Park "Sutjeska", Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Let's get educated</i>	7,000.00 €	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Education Program for the Nature Park Piva was done. ii. Study visit to Park "Maksimir" in Zagreb, Croatia, was realised, , in order to exchange knowledge and experience in establishing educational programs in protected areas.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Employees in the parks "Piva" and "Sutjeska" were simultaneously trained for organising activities in the park, which include orientation in nature, and procurements of GPS devices for parks iv. Students of local Educational Centre were educated about values of park and orientation in nature.
<p>Javna ustanova (Public Institution), Park Prirode/ Nature park Žumberak – Samoborsko gorje, Croatia</p>	LUSH manufaktura ltd	<p><i>Capacity assessment and realisation of business cooperation which encourage biodiversity in nature park "Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje "</i></p>	4,770.00 €	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Organised tour visit to 260 registered OPGs (family farms) by park representatives. During organized visits to farms, concept of business that promoted biodiversity (Biodiversity Businesses) was introduced, as well as possibility of cooperation with the Park and Lush manufactory through possible purchase of local products. ii. Through cooperation with local community, there could be improved opportunities for selling domestic products on the "doorstep", creating panels that would serve to inform passers-by about possibility of buying. The panels were made with a board and twenty magnetic pictograms of typical products for certain area of park.

Međimurje nature -Javna ustanova za zaštitu prirode/ Public institution for nature protection, Croatia	Protective and environmental organisation Nobilis	<i>Connecting with nature</i>	6,800.00 €	i. Completed mobile stations where nature guards visit locations across protected areas of the Međimurje region
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Established central reporting system where citizens can report field problems or observe species important for the regional park Mura-Drava iii. Educational program for schools prepared
<p>Javna ustanova za upravljanje zaštićenim područjima i drugim zaštićenim dijelovima prirode na području Zagrebačke županije Zeleni prsten,</p> <p>Croatia (Public institution for management of protected areas and others protected parts nature in the area Zagreb County Green ring)</p>	<p>Ecologically ethnological recreational association of the River Sava devotees Sava's shippers</p>	<p><i>Together for the river Sava</i></p>	<p>6,709.00 €</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Founded Association council for area "Sava near Hruščica" ii. Designed monitoring protocol adapted to local people that were directly involved in recording status of key habitats in this Natura 2000 area iii. Natura 2000 sites was presented to local population iv. Children from elementary schools were educated on the values of the river Sava
<p>National Park Mavrovo,</p> <p>North Macedonia</p>	<p>Municipality of Mavrovo and Rostuse Association of mountaineers</p> <p>UPLAND guide Adventure</p>	<p>National Park Mavrovo for Youth - Education - Partnership - Future</p>	<p>7,000.00 €</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Training of local mountaineers according to UIMLA standard ii. Launching initiative to form a informal "mixed" rescue team on inaccessible terrain

				iii. Marked and completely arranged hiking trails and their recording by GPS device
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				iv. New tourist maps for hiking was prepared
Krajinski park Tivoli, Rožnik in Šišenski hrib Slovenia	IPoP - Institute for spatial policies National Park "Una", Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cooperation with land owners in protected areas areas – setup the basis for cooperation with forest owners, as a prerequisite to start co-management in Park of valuable nature features Krajinski park Tivoli, Rožnik and Sisenski hrib	7,000.00 €	i. Updated database connected with GIS system, about land owners in protected area and their classification into typical groups ii. Land owners educated on legal and institutional framework for work in protected area iii. Developed communication strategy with land owners iv. Study visit to Parks Dinarides member - NP Una was realized in order to exchange experiences on involving local population in park management
Kozjanski park, Slovenia	Development agency Sotla Javna ustanova/Public Institution Park prirode/Nature park Lonjsko polje, Croatia	Capacity building for better management in protected area in regional park Kozjansko	6,787.00 €	i. Permanent forum of interested parties was established ii. Study visits Parks Dinarides members: Nature Park Vransko jezero and Nature Park Lonjsko polje was realised

				iii. Communication strategy and organised training of employees was done
USR "Tikvara", Serbia	"Humana" - Society for supporting childhood and youth	<i>Establishment of User Council for Nature Park Tikvara and Bačka Palanka Municipality</i>	6,380.00 €	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increased participation of local stakeholders in the management of Nature park Tikvara through establishment of a stakeholder forum ii. Improving capacity of Nature Park Tikvara and local stakeholders through the realised program of training

3.1.1.1 Regional Education Program "School Network in Protected Areas"

The results of research on local community involvement have shown that education in protected areas has been recognized as an important component of work by both: management and local community. Accordingly, Parks Dinarides – Network of protected areas of the Dinarides and WWF Adria have launched a regional educational project "School Network in Protected Areas" within program "Protected Areas for Nature and People". Project includes six members, or protected areas of Parks Dinarides from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia.

The included protected areas are:

Protected areas of Canton Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nature Park "Hutovo blato", Bosnia and Herzegovina

National Park "Lovćen", Montenegro

National Park "Skadar Lake", Montenegro

Special nature reserve "Obedska bara", Serbia

Nature Park "Stara planina", Serbia

"School Network in Protected Areas" includes the following activities:

Training for a person in charge of education programs in protected area and teachers from municipalities' territories to which protected areas belong. Topics that would be covered during training: learning about nature from experience, active participation of citizens, development of educational programs and their promotion, and program evaluation methods. The training would last for three days.

3.1.1.2 Training 1

Place: SRP Obedska bara, Serbia

Date: May 7th – 10th 2018.

Training topic: didactic methods in learning, critical thinking, experiential learning, practical examples on learning about nature.

Participants: 6 ZP¹ representatives + 12 teachers

3.1.1.3 Training 2

Place: Regional Park Škocjan Caves, Slovenia

Date: September 17th - 20th 2018

Training topic: Learning from successful - School Network of park Skocjan Caves

Participants: 6 ZP² representatives + 12 teachers

During the training, the success of School Network of park Skocjan Caves was presented and marked 15th anniversary of the network at press conference. Training participants had opportunity to talk to representatives of park and teachers from the School Network and during these three days to hear all the details about how School Network was developed, what difficulties they encountered, and how they overcame them.

¹ Protected area

² ibid

3.1.2.3. Training 3

Place: ZP³ Vrelo Bosne, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Date: October 22th – 25th 2018

Training topic: School network in ZP⁴ - project planning, implementation of activities, and monitoring.

Participants: 6 ZP⁵ representatives + 12 teachers

Visiting lecturers: NP Djerdap, Serbia

This training was dedicated to detailed project planning for establishment and maintenance of School Network in each of protected areas involved in project. Besides defining objectives, individual activities, and timeframe, which are crucial for School Network functioning, various models of cooperation have been discussed. Practical part of the training covered topic of cooperative didactic methods.

3.1.2 Organisation of Fourth Conference of Park Dinarides

Fourth International Conference of Parks Dinarides gathered over 160 participants from eight countries from region, which, during three working days, exchanged experiences through discussions, presentations, and workshops with leading experts from region, and worked on strengthening the cooperation between protected areas and local communities that is one of foundations for good management on natural resources.

Appreciating importance of cooperation, participants agreed that Parks Dinarides would be dedicated to essential involvement of representatives from local population in planning and management of protected areas, in order to increase economic, social, and cultural well-being.

Four new members were admitted to the conference: JP Morsko dobro - Tivat solila, Orjen Nature Park, Tivoli Nature Park, Rožnik and Šišenski hrib from Slovenia and Public Zeleni prsten from Croatia. After receiving new members, Parks Dinarides – Network of Protected areas of the Dinarides now gathers 92 protected areas from eight countries in the region.

In addition to admission of new members, Steering Committee of Network has received two new members. The General Assembly elected new members to the JPNPCG Director Elvir Klica, representative of Montenegro and NP Mavrovo Director Samir Ajdin from North Macedonia.

Conclusion of conference

In addition to Network expanding, the conference brings important conclusions focused on strategic potentials for Network development:

- Parks Dinarides in cooperation with WWF Adria will continue to develop the inclusion index of local population. During 2019, new cycle of determining index for interested protected areas will be organized.

³ ibid

⁴ ibid

⁵ ibid

- Grant Program for Protected Areas has proven to be an effective mechanism for improving communication and cooperation between protected areas and local population. Parks Dinarides will make every effort to establish this Program as a permanent mechanism.
- The platform www.natureforpeople.com will use members of the Dinarides to share information and knowledge about solutions for good management over protected areas in the region.
- Participants at the meeting welcomed establishing Regional work group for Biodiversity for JI Europe (Biodiversity Task Force-BD TF). It is also recommended that this body, when developing a communication strategy, put in place adequate mechanisms for including protected areas and civil society organisations in decision-making processes.
 - EU funds represent a significant source of financing common ideas of protected areas and partners in the Dinarides countries. Parks Dinarides will help to link protected areas and develop joint project ideas.
 - Parks Dinarides will continue to work on the development of the Common Strategic Plan for period 2019-2021
 - The Parks Dinarides Assembly adopted Annual Report on Parks Dinarides for 2018 and Annual Plan 2019.

The conference was concluded with a field visit to the JP Morsko Dobro – Tivatska Solila, protected since 2008 as a Special Nature Reserve, and since 2013, it has been included in List of Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR).

3.1.2 Development of the Marketing Plan for "Bear watching in NP Tara and NP Biogradska Gora

One of the long-term goals of the Bear Observation Project in NP Biogradska Gora is the establishment of an attractive tourism product "Bear watching and living world in NP Biogradska Gora", which would benefit both: the park and local community. The principle of this type of tourist offer is that inhabitants of protected surrounding areas get the opportunity to be involved in brown bear protection measures through training for collecting DNA material and other activities, and creating attractive tourist offer as guides for bear watching and other living world or through the provision of services: accommodation, gastronomy, branded souvenirs and other tourism products and services oriented to nature.

A small brown bears population in NP Biogradska Gora demanded an extended duration of this watching process and documenting bears presence.

In the first half of 2018, expert was identified and engaged to prepare Marketing Plan for NP Biogradska gora based on wildlife tourism. As a part of the process of plan preparing, two one-day trainings were conducted "Interpretation of the living world in protected areas with integrated principles" Leave No Trace "(LNT)" in NP Biogradska gora (October 30th 2018) and in Durmitor National Park (November 5th 2018).

In addition to the training for supervisors, on November 21st 2018 in Kolasin, workshop "New possibilities for development of wildlife tourism, with emphasis on sustainable Bear watching (preservation, co-existence, cooperation, and creativity)" was organised. Workshop brought together representatives from local community, park management, tourist organisations, service providers, souvenir makers, etc.

Marketing plan, which was finalised in December 2018, offered new activities and products that could be part of new tourist offer in NP Biogradska gora. In the course of next year, park management will actively work with local community in creating precise offer and its testing.

4.1.1 Construction of educational corner in NP Biogradska gora

In 2018, material for premise equipping was prepared, and completion of works is scheduled for July 2019.

STRATEGIC TOPIC 4: COMMUNICATION AND PR

4.2 Improving internal communication

4.2.1 Implementation of internal communication plan

One of the main goals of Park Dinarides is exchange of expertise and raising awareness and knowledge between protected areas in the region. Network of Dinarides protected areas implements internal communication plan that aims to promote regular communication within the network in order to make it as good as possible and to influence on common tools and better management policies in protected areas, exchange and provision of various documents, database and good practices, planning and coordination of projects of interest to Parks Dinarides members.

4.3 Improving external communication

4.3.1 Implementation of communication strategy

Parks Dinarides, within program "Protected Areas for Nature and People" and in collaboration with WWF Adria Communications Teams in 2018, continued implementation of three strategic documents for communication:

1. Communication plan for Parks Dinarides
2. Communication plan for 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 ECOKARST program, together with partners from eight countries, Parks Dinarides, through their communication channels, participate in realisation of the Communication Program Interreg program ECOKARST - Ecosystem Services of Karst Protected Areas for the purpose of protection, valorisation and sustainable development of the Karst region of Dinarides, Alps and Carpathians.

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Media tools

Within Parks Dinarides, there are several media channels:

1. Website: www.parksdinarides.org
2. Blog portal: <https://Dinaridesarcparks.blogspot.com/>
3. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DinaridesArcParks/

4. Newsletter/Bilten, distributed online quarterly by regional and international stakeholders

4.3.2 Updating web page Parks Dinarides

Web page www.parksdinarides.org, where within interactive map, represent more than 90% of all national parks, nature parks, and regional parks from eight countries of the region, represents unique and most comprehensive database when it comes to Dinarides protected areas.

This is also a great potential for developing cooperation with organisations and associations that promote active forms of holiday and recreation in Dinarides protected areas, Via Adriatic...

Within presenting novelties and activities realised by Parks Dinarides, the website also emphasised presentation of a rich natural and cultural heritage characteristic for Dinarides area.

Also, from the end of 2017, in the form of "storytelling", presentation of best practices in Dinarides protected areas began. The plan is to present as many best stories from protected areas from all eight countries in the region, and publish them, on the Parks Dinarides website and on the communication channels of partner organisations.

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4.3.3 Updating blog Parks Dinarides

Blog www.Dinaridesarcparks.blogspot.com in time from the internal communication media for Parks Dinarides members grew into the portal for external communication; daily brings news from Dinarides protected areas. Considering that from Fourth General Assembly of Parks Dinarides, a network of Dinarides protected expanded and numbered 92 Dinarides protected areas, www.Dinaridesarcparks.blogspot.com has become a portal of protected areas from all eight countries from region, in which, besides the news from protected areas, publish news from international publications, acts, competitions, awards, projects related to nature protection, and analytical texts and other relevant information to protected areas and nature devotees. From all Parks Dinarides communication channels, blog has the highest growth rate. The blog records about 30,000 visits per month, in total about 400,000 visits in 2018.

4.3.4 Updating Facebook page of Parks Dinarides

Facebook page www.facebook.com/DinaridesArcParks/ is regularly updated and numbered 44,284 regular followers during 2018. As Facebook has reduced "visibility" of business accounts, Parks Dinarides have decided to provide bigger visibility of information, photos, and videos to Parks Dinarides members and to "boost" more posts. With such way of publishing, given information arrives to a much larger number of people. This aspect of the social network is still a remarkable tool for promoting Parks Dinarides other than rest channels of communication.

4.3.5 Participating in relevant meetings

4.2.5.1 Parks Dinarides on CEETO conference

Parks Dinarides participated in a three-day international conference on protected areas and sustainable tourism, organized by WWF Adria with project partners within the project "Eco-tourism in Central Europe: nature protection tools - CEETO". The event was held in Opatija (Croatia) on October 22th – 24th 2018. The conference brought together about 80 participants from eight countries, national decision makers, nature conservation and tourism agencies, protected area managers and Natura 2000 sites, project partners and other experts who discussed about most successful measures to reduce negative impact of tourist visits to protected areas and Natura 2000 sites.

The conference was also an opportunity for meeting of CEETO network members, which was established in the first half of 2018, and enables cooperation and networking of experts and protected areas in Central Europe with the aim of sharing knowledge and practices in the development, implementation, and promotion of sustainable tourism management.

4.2.5.2 Promotion Parks Dinarides in Ljubljana

An exhibition entitled "Nature connects us - Parks Dinarides" was opened at Jakopič's promenade, exhibition area in Tivoli Park in Ljubljana. The host of event was Krajinski park Tivol, Rožnik and Šišenski hrib, and the exhibition was prepared in cooperation with Parks Dinarides.

The goal of exhibition is to promote protected areas within the network of Parks Dinarides, which are the members of Community Parks Association of Slovenia.

In Tivoli Park, 120 billboards of large format are displayed, featuring photographs from 58 protected areas, members of the Parks Dinarides Association as well as photographs of members of the Community Parks Association of Slovenia, which gathers 14 managers from Slovenian protected areas.

The photographs show the natural and cultural heritage of protected areas, and advantages of protecting these areas for the local population and people living in the wider region.

Partners to Tivoli Park and Parks Dinarides in exhibition organisation were City of Ljubljana, Public Power Company that manages Nature Park Tivoli Rožnik and Šišenski hrib and WWF Adria.

The exhibition was opened from November 15th to January 15th 2019.

4.2.5.3 Annual meeting of WWF and partner organisation at PA4NP project

Parks Dinarides participated in the annual meeting of WWF Adria and partner organisations on the project "Protected areas for nature and people". During the five-day meeting, participants analysed results of work, achieved during second year of project realisation, and prepared plans for next period. Within the meeting, there were educational thematic workshops on internal and external communication, monitoring, and evaluation, and plan on presenting examples of good practises was elaborated on the presentation from Dinarides protected areas.

4.3 Structuring, monitoring and evaluating dialogue with key stakeholders on the inclusion of natural values in strategic development plans (national and regional level)

4.3.1 Monitoring the increase in interaction and dialogue with key stakeholders

Parks Dinarides, in cooperation with WWF Adria, monitors interaction with stakeholders through the Capacity Assessment Tool. In addition to this, it is worked on development of Index for interaction assessment between protected areas and local communities, as well as on instruments for its improvement.

