



# Dinaric Arc Ecoregion



**Protected Area Networks –  
cornerstone of development:**

## Making it happen!

In 2007/2008, governments of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia signed with WWF MedPO Memoranda of Understanding on implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Regional commitment to the PoWPA received a huge boost at the CBD COP9 in 2008, with the signing of a Joint Statement on the need to coordinate its delivery by ministers from the six countries hosting most of the Dinaric Arc ecoregion. Many national commitments to new protected areas were also made, and the Joint Statement served as a platform for launching new cooperation projects with various donor governments and other partners.

The following progress has been made towards PoWPA implementation: an ecoregion-wide protected area gap analysis is completed and will be available in spring 2010; national protected area management effectiveness and capacity needs have been assessed in the six countries; Bosnia-Herzegovina has designated a new protected area; and Slovenia has increased its protected area budget. Preliminary work has also begun on developing business plans for protected areas to ensure their sustainable financing.



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*Dominated by the Dinaric Alps, the Dalmatian coast and the Adriatic Sea, the Dinaric Arc ecoregion hosts well-preserved forests, a high proportion of endemic plants, important freshwater ecosystems, rich marine habitats and fishing grounds, and populations of large carnivores.*

### KEY PROGRESS

#### **Planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening, and managing protected areas**

- Biodiversity assessment and evaluation at a national level (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia)
- Final report on ecoregion-wide protected area gap analysis
- Creation of a new protected area by Bosnia-Herzegovina (20,000 ha)
- Thirteen new protected areas planned and extensions planned for 9 others

#### **Governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing**

- Assessment of national capacity needs (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia)
- Draft ecoregion-wide capacity building plan is under verification

- Assessment of protected area management effectiveness (RAPPAM) was carried out in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia
- Training on protected area economics and business plan development was provided to park managers and representatives of institutions responsible for protected areas
- Development of a pilot business plan for one protected area is ongoing in Slovenia
- Project launched on sustaining rural communities and their traditional landscapes through strengthened environmental governance in transboundary protected areas
- Project launched on establishing Natura 2000 in Serbia and Montenegro

### Enabling activities

- Signing Memoranda of Understanding with environmental ministries
- Signing of a joint statement by ministers from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia on the need for a coordinated effort to deliver on the PoWPA
- Significant increase in national budget for protected areas in Slovenia (+27% in 2008)
- Significant donor funding secured for PoWPA implementation (over CHF 1 million in 2008, including from GEF, and the governments of Finland, Italy and Norway)



Many nature-friendly, economic activities – especially small-scale high-quality agriculture and livestock-raising, sustainable forestry, small-scale fisheries and eco-tourism – form a valuable basis for the sustainable development of Dinaric Arc countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia and Italy

#### PARTNERS DINARIC ARC INITIATIVE



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#### DONORS

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### AREAS NEEDING FURTHER SUPPORT

#### Planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening, and managing protected areas

- Technical assistance and financial support in the development and implementation of plans for governance and management of transboundary protected areas

- Support for the development of Natura 2000 networks, especially in the marine habitats.

#### Governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing

- Financial support needed for developing protected area business

plans in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia

- Technical assistance and financial support to implementation of the Capacity Building Plan

#### Enabling activities

- Technical assistance and funding support to individual countries to implement the commitment included in the Bonn COP9 Joint Statement.

#### WWF in the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion

WWF began working in the Dinaric Arc ecoregion in the late 1990s, advocating for the establishment of protected area networks and ecological corridors as well as supporting the development of specific skills among conservation practitioners.

WWF's *Protected Areas for a Living Planet* project generated high-level political support for PoWPA through an event at the CBD CoP9 in 2008 where six governments signed the Big Win Joint Statement and made national commitments for improvement of their protected area systems. The project is working to implement these commitments.

For more information please contact:

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