

Joint statement

of the representatives of the Governments of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Slovenia

As the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Governments of the above listed countries recognize that a joint and coordinated effort is needed in efficient delivery of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas obligations. Transboundary cooperation between the Dinaric Arc countries in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, with the aim to create a well managed, and ecologically representative protected area network, is the key to safeguard the Dinaric Arc ecoregion's exceptional natural and cultural values.

We, the representatives of the Governments:

1. Recognize the specific natural and cultural values of the Dinaric Arc ecoregion and acknowledge the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas to be a valuable framework for conserving biological diversity and generating benefits to local and national economies.
2. Aim to further continue our activities towards implementation of national priorities leading to delivering on the objectives of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
3. Support increased understanding of the relationship between the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the EU legislation on nature conservation.
4. Encourage mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences in protected areas management on the regional level.
5. Recognize the importance of regional cooperation to achieve transboundary sustainable management of the South-Eastern European region, including the Adriatic Sea, Dinaric Alps and Sava River Basin.
6. Recognize and support the need for sustainable use of water resources and protection of groundwater-dependent ecosystems by introducing sustainable integrated management principles in the Dinaric karst system.

7. Encourage the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Dinaric Arc through support for traditional activities in protected areas which contribute to biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods.
8. Call upon the Dinaric Arc Initiative partners (WWF, UNESCO BRESCE, IUCN, UNDP, Council of Europe, FAO, SNV, UNEP, Euronatur) and other interested parties to strengthen their cooperation with the Dinaric Arc countries and facilitate necessary support in the delivery of the national priorities.
9. Support evaluation of the contribution of protected areas to each country's economy and for the region as a whole.



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Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration
(Republic of Albania)



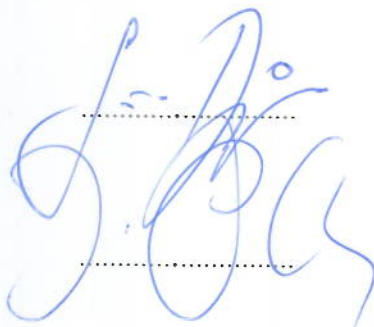
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Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)



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Ministry of Culture
(Republic of Croatia)



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Ministry of Tourism and Environment
(Montenegro)



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Ministry of Environmental Protection
(Republic of Serbia)

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Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
(Republic of Slovenia)



National priorities of the Republic of Albania in delivering on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Dinaric Arc

As the signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Government of the Republic of Albania recognizes the importance of efficient delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas objectives in establishing an ecologically representative protected area network in the Dinaric Arc region.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration of the Republic of Albania will continue to work towards:

1. Enlargement of Llogora National Park
2. Enlargement of Bredhi Hotoves National Park from 1,000 ha to about 20,000 ha
3. Enlargement of Llura National Park from 1,000 ha to about 20,000 ha
4. Establishment of the Skadar Lake Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
5. Establishment of the Transboundary Protected Area (TBPA) Prokletije
6. Establishment of the TBPA Shebenik (Albania) – Jablanica (Macedonia) as part of the Green Belt Initiative
7. Designation of marine protected areas, including revision of regulatory and policy framework necessary to create a legal platform for marine biodiversity conservation
8. Strengthening institutions at national and regional levels, through assessing protected areas management effectiveness (RAPPAM)

National priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in delivering on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Dinaric Arc

As the signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) recognizes the importance of efficient delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas objectives in establishing an ecologically representative protected area network in the Dinaric Arc region.

The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska, will continue to work towards:

1. Development of the list of natural habitat types in BiH
2. Production of a GIS map of identified habitats
3. Significant enlargement of protected areas network in Bosnia and Herzegovina and establishment of new protected areas:
 - Supporting the enlargement of Kozara National Park (NP) and development of a Management Plan for this NP
 - Supporting the enlargement of Sutjeska NP and development of a Business Plan for this NP
 - Supporting the process of establishment of protected areas in Prenj-Cabulja-Cvrstica-Vran area
 - Supporting the process of establishment of Bjelasnica-Igman National Park
 - Supporting the establishment of basic functions of Una NP
 - Supporting the establishment of protected area covering Lom and Janj oldgrove forests
 - Supporting the establishment of Jahorina Nature Park
4. Supporting the process of preparation of Red Lists of species in the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Increasing the representation of karst habitats in the national protected area system
6. Supporting conservation of wetlands in BiH, especially peat bog communities in high Dinaric mountains
7. Accomplishment of valorisation of a number of small valuable areas, with the goal of establishment of new protected areas with appropriate IUCN category

8. Initiating the process of evaluation of threatened species in BIH territory, under the criteria in the Annex III of the EU Habitats Directive, with the goal of recognizing the appropriate Natura 2000 sites
9. Development of legal act on habitat types
10. Examining possibilities for transboundary cooperation between:
 - Sutjeska NP (BIH) – Durmitor NP (Montenegro)
 - Drina catchments (BIH) – Tara NP (Serbia)
 - Una NP (BIH) – Plitvice Lakes NP (Croatia)
 - Dinara Mountain (BIH – Croatia)
11. Improving intersectoral collaboration, harmonizing development plans and recognizing different types of sensitive habitats in BIH while including it in the process of spatial planning
12. Improving sub-national institutional cooperation on biodiversity conservation issues
13. Strengthening institutional protected area management capacity at the entity and the state levels



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
MINISTARSTVO KULTURE

CROATIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

National priorities of the Republic of Croatia in delivering on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Dinaric Arc

As the signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Government of the Republic of Croatia recognizes the importance of efficient delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas objectives in establishing an ecologically representative protected area network in the Dinaric Arc region.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia will continue to work towards:

1. Proclamation of the Neretva Nature Park and the Mreznica Regional Park
2. Developing Management Plans for 5 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): National Parks of Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet, Nature Parks of Telašćica and Lastovo Archipelago by 2012
3. Strengthening capacities of the 5 Croatian MPAs management bodies on issues related to MPA management, also, including some of marine protected areas at the SPAMI List
4. Improvement of a system of effectively managed and representative network of MPAs in the Mediterranean by 2012
5. Strengthening institutions at national and regional levels, through assessing protected areas management effectiveness (RAPPAM)
6. Ensuring stakeholder participation in management planning of protected areas based on the model successfully implemented in the Karst Ecosystem Conservation Project
7. Creation of a functional ecological network - system of protected areas and corridors in marine and coastal habitats (Natura 2000 marine sites)
8. Examining possibilities for creation of transboundary cooperation between Risnjak National Park (Croatia) and Notranjski Regional Park (Slovenia)
9. Examining possibilities for transboundary cooperation between Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) and Una National Park (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
10. Transboundary cooperation between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in examining possibilities for protection of the Dinara Mountain



Montenegro
Ministry of Tourism and Environment

**National priorities of Montenegro
in delivering on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas
in the Dinaric Arc**

As the signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Government of Montenegro recognizes the importance of efficient delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas objectives in establishing an ecologically representative protected area network in the Dinaric Arc region.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro will continue to work towards:

1. Supporting the establishment of the Prokletije National Park and the preparation of its Management Plan
2. Examining possibilities for the establishment of Transboundary Protected Area (TBPA) Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) - Sutjeska National Park (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
3. Development of sustainability indicators for Durmitor National Park (for example, indicators for carrying capacity)
4. Establishment of marine protected areas (Island Katici, Stari Ulcinj and Platamuni)
5. Establishment of basic functions of the Tara River Biosphere Reserve
6. Preparation of necessary steps for the development of NATURA 2000 network in Montenegro
7. Development of an institutional base for implementation of the CBD and capacity building

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National priorities of the Republic of Serbia in delivering on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Dinaric Arc

As the signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Government of the Republic of Serbia recognizes the importance of efficient delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas objectives in establishing an ecologically representative protected area network in the Dinaric Arc region.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia will continue to work towards:

1. Establishment of a Transboundary Protected Area (Biosphere Reserve) which would encompass Tara National Park and surrounding areas on the Serbian side, and several municipalities on the Bosnia and Herzegovina's side of Drina River
2. Development of a Management Plan for the future Tara National Park Biosphere Reserve with full participation of local communities
3. Declaring new protected areas within the Dinaric Arc region of the Republic of Serbia (Zaovine protected area)
4. Development of a Management Plan for Golija Nature Park
5. Sustainable development and conservation of waters and freshwater ecosystems, waste management in the Uvac River basin and its protection zone
6. Strengthening the institutions at national and regional levels, through assessing protected areas management effectiveness (RAPPAM)
7. Completion of an ecological gap analysis



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National priorities of the Republic of Slovenia in delivering on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Dinaric Arc

As the signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Government of the Republic of Slovenia recognizes the importance of efficient delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas objectives in establishing an ecologically representative protected area network in the Dinaric Arc region.

The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia will continue to work towards:

1. Promotion of regional cooperation to achieve transboundary sustainable management of the Balkan ecoregions (Adriatic Sea, Dinaric Alps, Sava River Basin), using the ecosystem approach, to ensure maintenance of ecosystem services and sustainable development
2. Providing technical assistance to the countries of the Dinaric Arc region in the accession period to EU in the establishment and promotion of Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI)
3. Increasing the protected area network in the Slovenian part of the Dinaric region for 2,5 percent
4. Development of transboundary cooperation between relevant protected areas
5. Promotion of new types of protected areas governance (private – public protected area management)
6. Linking protection of the Alpine Convention region with the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion
7. Researching further the vulnerability of karst hydrological systems and ensuring sustainable use of water resources and conservation of terrestrial and subterranean biodiversity
8. Carrying out further awareness raising campaigns to demonstrate benefits of protected areas for local inhabitants and increasing public support for nature conservation