

31. maj – 02. juni 2022. Sarajevo

REGIONALNOM SARADNJOM DO ODRŽIVIH ZAŠTIĆENIH PODRUČJA



MAIN CONCLUSIONS FROM THE VI PARKS DINARIDES CONFERENCE AND THE CSO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

- **The Green Agenda** as well as related funding mechanisms **provide great opportunities** for raising the profile of protected areas and for achieving more efficient management of protected areas.
- During the conference, **CSO have developed and adopted a joint declaration on better implementation of the Green Agenda** in the Western Balkans, asking the EU and governments to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful participation in Green Agenda plans and projects.
- Sustainable **financing of protected areas remains a challenge** and a stronger commitment is needed to create systemic solutions for their financing.
- There is interest in **improving and establishing a mechanism for regional cooperation** in the field of nature protection. ParksDinarides and WWF are ready to take further steps in leading the process.
- The conference recognized **the need and great importance of cooperation** between civil society organizations and managers of protected areas. Through this cooperation, the management of protected areas in the region can be significantly improved.

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CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PARKS DINARIDES CONFERENCE – EACH SESSION

DAY I – PARKS DINARIDES

OPENING SESSION - <https://fb.watch/dCWKqhyW98/>

Enver Hadžiahmetović - **Cantonal Minister**
Titta Lassila **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden)**
Jelena Milos **EU commission**
Zoran Mrdak **Parks Dinarides CEO**
Nataša Kalauz **WWF Adria CEO**

SESSION I – PROTECTED AREAS AND GREEN AGENDA - COMMITMENTS, PROCESSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction:

Boris Erg - **IUCN Eastern Europe & Central Asia (Serbia)**
Igor Kreitmeyer - **Ministry of Commerce and Sustainable Development (Croatia)**

Panelists

Dragana Mileusnić - **The Nature Conservancy (Belgium)**
Peter Skoberne - **Faculty of Environmental Protection in Velenje (Slovenia)**
Danijel Springer - **Ministry of Commerce and Sustainable Development (Croatia)**
Titta Lasilla - **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden)**

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- **The Green Agenda** as well as related funding mechanisms **provide great opportunities for raising the profile of protected areas** and for achieving more efficient management of protected areas;
 - We also need to watch out for negative effects and take into account that the primary **role of protected areas - nature protection**;
 - We recognized the importance of sector cooperation as well as the **important role that civil society organizations** can play in compensating for the lack of capacity of managers;
 - We also recognized the **insufficient work of the RCC** in the preparation of the action plan and in the implementation of the green agenda. It is necessary to involve all relevant actors in the implementation;

- There are many opportunities for financing biodiversity, but **there is a lack of capacity to absorb funds**, whether human capacity or lack of appropriate projects that can be supported;
- **Parks Dinarides** as a regional network of protected areas can be **an important tool for implementation and a link between PAs**, local communities and decision makers;
- Protected area managers should be more proactive.

SESSION II – PROTECTED AREAS IN THE DINARIDES AND THEIR SUSTAINABILITY

Denisa Dedić - **Kantonalna javna ustanova za zaštićena prirodna područja Sarajeva**

Anela Stavrevska-Panajotova - **NP Shar mountain**

Fatmir Brazdha, **RAPA/ Elbasan**

Daniel Springer, **Ministarstvo gospodarstva i održivog razvoja**

Kristina Kujundžić, **GIZ**

Goran Sekulić, **WWF Adria**

Martin Šolar, **Parkovi Dinarida**

- Protected areas continued to operate in the previous year and there were new initiatives and **expansion of the percentage of protected areas in the Dinarides region** (examples of the Sharr Mountains National Park, Dinara Nature Park, 3 nature reserves at the Neretva estuary);
 - Sustainable financing of protected areas remains a challenge and a stronger commitment **is needed to create systemic solutions for financing protected areas**;
 - It is necessary to increase the efficiency of the use of existing funds, **to improve the capacities of protected areas for the use of funds**;
 - The **need to improve regional cooperation and formalize regional cooperation mechanisms** was recognized. And in that sense, Parks Dinarides are recognized as an existing instrument that can be used;
 - **Initiate dialogue and consultations** in order to organize a **ministerial conference** to consider the institutionalization of regional cooperation.
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DAY 2

SESSION 1. PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

Participation – protected areas and civil society organisations (CSOs) – Examples

National park Tara
Nature Park Orjen
Pecka
Gajna

SESSION II MECHANISMS FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES – CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DISCUSSION

- NGOs are a very important partner for protected area managers and it **is necessary to strengthen cooperation and improve communication** between managers and the non-governmental sector.
- **Trust, understanding and enthusiasm** are the key to cooperation.
- **Education** - a very important mechanism **for improving the cooperation** between managers and the local community.
- Parks **must be accessible to all**.
- The **change of the management of the National Park is reflected in the work and management in the PA** - it is necessary to work on overcoming the form and work on the essence, i.e. continuously work on the protection of nature and sustainable management.
- **Projects are not sustainable ways of financing nature protection**, but the state needs to create a sustainable framework for financing nature protection.
- The **state must know what the needs are in protected areas** and accordingly seek and secure sources of funding.
- Decision makers need to know that nature conservation costs, and restoration and revitalization even more so. **Investing in nature is not a cost but a potential and development opportunity of the state.**
- Decision-makers simply **need to be aware of nature conservation**.

SESSION III – WOMEN IN NATURE PROTECTION - https://fb.watch/dCWMGxB_91/

Panelists:

Iris Beneš – Brodsko ekološko društvo
Sanela Klarić – zastupnica u parlamentu BiH
Ivana Vasić – Vojvodina Šume
Ana Čolović Lešoska – Eko Svest / WWF Adria

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EACH SEASON – CSO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Day 1

SESSION I - HUMAN RIGHTS IN NATURE PROTECTION

Exercise of the right to participate / Aarhus Conventions in matters of public interest: strategies and obstacles in the environmental and nature protection sector

Đorđe Stefanović, **WWF Adria**
Nevenka Lukic Rojsek, **WWF Adria**
Tanja Petrović, **Mladi istraživači Srbije**

- The public interest exists and needs to be further and continuously built in order to **strengthen participatory democracy in environmental issues;**
- Access to judiciary should be strengthened through the **process of accession to the European Union and through legal aid and advice;**
- It is necessary to **continuously cooperate with the media** in order to further raise awareness of environmental and nature issues;
- Environmental organizations need to **further strengthen cooperation with organizations in the field of democratization and human rights;**

Defenders of human rights in the environment: key challenges for the future of nature protection

Ljubica Vukčević, **RERI**
Ena Bavčić, **Civil Rights Defenders**
Željka Leljak Gracin, **Zelena akcija**

- Environmental defenders face a number of pressures, **but there is no system of continuous support for their work;**
 - It is necessary **to change the narrative of the work of civil society organizations in the direction of positive changes** that are initiated and which contribute to;
 - **Continuous dialogue with donors** in order to provide resources for **real needs for the protection of environmental defenders .**
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Session II – GREEN AGENDA AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS THROUGH THE PRISM OF ENVIRONMENTAL CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS

Petra Remeta **WWF Adria**
Dragana Mileusnić **TNC**

- Civil society organizations **have developed and adopted a joint declaration** on better implementation of the Green Agenda in the Western Balkans, asking the European Commission to provide guidance to Western Balkan governments **to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful participation in Green Agenda plans and projects.**
- The **joint declaration was sent** during the conference to the EC and will be **accompanied by meetings in Brussels with the Commission**, but also with the Austrian Environment Agency leading the Green Agenda implementation project to design mechanisms for the participation of CSOs.
- Civil society organizations want to participate in the design of participatory mechanisms, **but also in the development of criteria and checklists for the selection of Green Agenda projects**, together with the European Commission.

SESSION III CSO CAPACITY BUILDING (PARALLEL SESSIONS / WORKSHOPS)

Workshop 1: Sustainable development and nature conservation

Milena Ljubičić, **WWF Adria**

- When developing tourism, we need to take into account the pros and cons and carefully approach both the development itself and what and how to communicate to the local community in this context. A **holistic approach is needed in the development of tourism and other industries in the protected area.**
- Organizations should pay particular attention to how and when the proposed interventions and the protection itself affect. They **need to prepare quality arguments and work intensively with the local community to benefit from protection, as well as to educate the local population.** Civil society organizations should be more involved in creating systemic solutions for sustainable development through public advocacy.
- We have a lot of work ahead of us to make sustainable development in the context of **nature protection a reality for local communities and protected areas.** Civil Society organizations can contribute a lot to much needed cooperation with managers and the local community **with a more careful and studious approach to communicating protection and benefits to the local community.**

Workshop 2: Advocacy and illegal and unsustainable practices in nature conservation

Goran Sekulić, WWF Adria

- Protected areas and natural resources **are exposed to numerous pressures that often result from illegal and unsustainable activities** (construction, poaching, illegal wood cutting, etc.)
- Civil society organizations can be important partners in combating these activities, but **they often lack knowledge of legal frameworks and procedures;**
- Civil society organizations **mainly focus on detecting, reporting and alerting** the public, **which is good if it is backed up with arguments, but it is insufficient;**
- We should strive to build partnerships with managers and relevant institutions and **joint advocacy for better implementation, but also change the legal framework where necessary.**

Day 2

SESSION II MECHANISMS FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES – CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DISCUSSION

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