

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

(Hereinafter referred to as 'The MoU')

**BETWEEN**

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR PROTECTED  
AREAS OF ALBANIA**

**AND**

**PUBLIC ENTERPRISE NATIONAL PARKS  
OF MONTENEGRO**

(Hereinafter referred to as 'The Parties')

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Objectives**

The Parties enter into this MoU with the following objectives:

- (1) To provide a foundation and organisational basis for the increased cooperation between the Parties.
- (2) To facilitate, support and formalise the development of a working relationship between the Parties at regional and local level.
- (3) To ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the Parties are well understood so that policies, programmes and agreements can be better aligned for the benefit of both Parties.
- (4) To further develop the working relationship between the Parties on issues relating to strategic development and operational matters.
- (5) To strengthen transboundary cooperation in the fields of nature protection and in particular the management of transboundary protected areas such as “Skadar Lake National Park” / “Skadar Lake Managed Nature Reserve” and “Prokletije National Park” / “Albanian Alps National Park<sup>1</sup>”.
- (6) To help empower the Parties to secure a high level of participation and equitable sharing of benefits in decisions made about the protection, management and development of the protected areas.
- (7) To ensure a smooth cooperation and exchange of information, transparency and awareness on the role of protected areas among communities.
- (8) To contribute to the effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

### **Shared beliefs and values**

The Parties enter into this MoU in recognition of the following beliefs and values:

A shared commitment to maintaining mutually beneficial cooperation between the Parties.

of the international border and that ‘nature knows no boundaries’.

protected areas for the sake of nature, culture and human well-being.

thriving and sustainable local economies that sustain communities and enable people to remain in the areas.

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the National Park is not officially adopted. There is an ongoing process of merging existing protected areas into one National Park which is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

protected areas can provide benefits for people through sustainable use and management.

A shared belief that the costs to communities of nature conservation should not outweigh the benefits it brings.

the benefits arising from protected areas should be shared fairly and transparently and that it should primarily benefit communities living in and around those areas.



