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Financing nature conservation and environmental protection in the region of South Eastern Europe is becoming

CSOs. Bilateral donors have very well defined priorities and policy targets into which project proposals must fit, they provide from small to substantial sources of funding and have well structured and professional administrations. Furthermore, the new EU member states have changed from being recipients of assistance to donors, creating new opportunities for Serbia and Montenegro to extend the group of donor countries from whom they can ask for support in the EU accession process and environmental protection.

Private companies represent a recently established source of funding for nature and environmental protection in Serbia and Montenegro. As such, it does not represent a major source of funding for CSOs and public sector, but nevertheless it can represent continuous support to their efforts and actions not only by providing financial means through sponsorships and donation programmes, but also through support in communication with the public, providing in-kind support, their expertise and volunteers, establishing the culture of corporate philanthropy in the region.

To access the table overview of Potential funding sources for nature and environmental protection in Serbia and Montenegro visit <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/about/places/belgrade/projects/?8948/Building-capacities-for-conservation-action>.

Recommended:

- Nature protection policies and funding opportunities - seminar results <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/?8949/Nature-protection-policies-and-funding-opportunities>
- Presentation on Accessing EU funding (2010) by A.Plasmeijer, IUCN [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

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## 1. IUCN membership



During the IUCN Council meeting held in February 2012, the membership application of the State Institute for Nature Protection was approved. On a country level, Croatia counts with the highest number of IUCN members in South Eastern Europe: 2 GOs and 4 NGOs.

The State Institute for Nature Protection is the central institution carrying out expert tasks of nature protection in Croatia. It is operational as of September 2003, and has been focusing on monitoring and assessing the state of nature; preparing expert proposals for the protection of natural values; establishing the conditions for nature protection; management of protected areas and the use of natural resources; reporting on the state of nature; participation in the implementation of international agreements on nature protection and organising educational and promotional activities related to nature protection. For more information, please visit [www.dzpz.hr](http://www.dzpz.hr).

By joining IUCN, the member benefits from IUCN's scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base and convening power, extensive networking opportunities and access to high-level political, economic and social decision making. IUCN extends a very warm welcome to the State Institute for Nature Protection!

Members form the highest decision-making body of IUCN. Every four years, IUCN Members gather for a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs, whose result is the adoption of IUCN Global Programme. The 2012 World Conservation Congress will be held from 6 to 15 September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

## 2. 11th Croatian Biological Congress

After three years, the Croatian Biological Congress is to be held 16- 21 September in Sibenik, Croatia. As previously, the Congress will respond to the growing need of biologists and scientists in the country to gather and exchange their experiences and knowledge.

This year the congress will host three satellite symposia, enriching the scientific discussion base. A special attention will be given to biology in schools - the main topic of one of the symposia. It will ensure the engagement and presence of the Croatian educational system representatives. The Congress will have 10 thematic sections (genetics, molecular genetics and evolution; cellular and molecular biology; genomics, pharmacogenetics, proteomics, bioinformatics and molecular diagnostics; virology and microbiology; algology and mycology; plant biology; animal biology; marine biology; toxicology, ecotoxicology and biomonitoring; conservational biology, nature and environment protection and legislation).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.hbd1885.hr/Kongres2012/index.htm>.





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## 14.

Doga Derneği, Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds, Hellenic Ornithological Society, and Romanian Ornithological Society are launching the EC funded project "Preparing the basis for an Inventory of Marine Important Bird Areas along the Southern Black Sea Coast" this spring. The Southern Black Sea coast holds internationally important populations of Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, and the Mediterranean sub-species of the European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*. *Puffinus yelkouan* has recently been upgraded on the IUCN Red List to 'Near Threatened'. The current project aims to train staff and volunteers from Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey on seabird research and conservation methods. Intensive fieldwork will also be undertaken to ascertain key feeding and rafting areas for Yelkouan Shearwaters and Shag, and all the Shag colonies in Turkey and Bulgaria will be surveyed. Consequently, Marine IBAs around the most important colonies would be mapped and characterized, according to the established Marine IBA methods and criteria. Training on methods to identify Marine IBAs and on designating Marine SPAs will also be organized.

For more information please contact [Süreyya Isfendiyaroglu](#), Doga Derneği.

## 15.

The WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme has received EU Structural Funds to support conservation of sturgeon spawning areas in Bulgaria. Among planned activities are review and improvement of the national legislation related to sturgeon conservation, field research of sturgeon habitats, identification of sturgeon spawning grounds along the Bulgarian Danube and strengthening populations through restocking with sturgeons of Danube origin (the release of at least 50,000 individuals is planned). Bulgaria, along with Romania, holds the only viable populations of wild

## 17. Natura 2000, L

After successfully conducted workshops on habitat mapping methodology, local Natura 2000 team revised Montenegrin habitat list, and added 16 habitat types from European habitat list. Species and habitat database was prepared according to the EU standards, forming a database. It enables easier tracking of the state in the field and it provides easier access to data for all who are working in environmental sector (ministries, parks, Environmental Protection Agency and Institute for Nature Protection). Such database allows quick access to the current state easing the work of relevant institutions while planning their

activities related to environment and nature protection. The project is ending in June and its results will be presented during the national workshop which will be held in Podgorica, Montenegro.

For more information please contact [Andrea Stefan](#), WWF MedPO.

## 18. World Wetlands Day, S

This year's World Wetlands Day in Prespa focused on local fisheries and rare fish species. Poetry, exhibitions and fishing games were only some of the interactive tools used to inform the children about the fish and the threats they face, as well as the measures needed for their protection. Children from primary schools of Prespa in Albania, FYROM and Greece were asked to take part in a competition for the best poem about the fish of Prespa. The participation was great and many young talented poets were discovered. This year's celebration was dedicated to fish & fisheries within the framework of a LIFE Information project that the Society of the Protection of Prespa is implementing in the Greek part of the Prespa Lake. One of activities is a mobile fish exhibition, produced in three languages that will travel the basin, raising awareness on the fish fauna and the threats it faces. The World Wetlands Day celebration was organised by the Society for the Protection of Prespa from Greece, in cooperation with the NGOs 'Environment & Health' and 'Transborder Wildlife' in Albania, and the Galicica National Park in FYROM.

For more information please contact [Marianna Vlasi](#), Society for the Protection of Prespa.

## 19. Forest Management, S

WWF MedPO started the implementation of 2,5 years long project "Promote responsible forest management to support sustainable development in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" in January 2012, funded by IKEA. It is initiated in Tuzla canton in BiH that will serve as a country model after.

## 20. S



On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, World Water Day, representatives of WWF and “Riverwatchers” met with Mirela Holy, Croatia’s Minister for Environment and Nature Protection in Zagreb. They submitted an international petition with 20,160 signatures asking the minister to immediately stop a highly controversial river channeling project which will lead to the destruction of the Danube’s most valuable wetlands in the Kopa ki Rit area in Croatia. The petition aimed to halt the channeling of the best preserved natural stretch of the Danube, which is home to Europe’s largest wetlands and floodplain forests. The channeling would ignore both EU law and international

environmental standards. If this project goes ahead, the free-flowing Danube in Kopa ki Rit Nature Park will be transformed into a monotonous waterway. The unique floodplain forests and one of the Danube’s key fish habitats would dry out. In total, approximately 500 square kilometers of wetlands, home to about 300 bird species, would be severely affected. Many highly endangered species - like the White-tailed eagle, the Black stork and the Ship sturgeon would be in danger of extinction.

For more information please contact [Petra Boic Petrac](#), WWF MedPO.

## 21. S

WWF MedPO is initiating a new project in the Western Balkans – Dinaric Arc Parks. Its aim is the establishment of positive regional identity built on shared natural and cultural values, personal contacts and joint actions between protected areas staff. The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and MAVA Foundation and will run from 2012 till end of 2014. The project kick-off meeting was held in Belgrade this March, with the participation of project coordinators from all countries, project leader WWF MedPO and EUROPARC Consulting.



Main project outputs will be the establishment of an active regional collaboration network composed of agencies and staff responsible for PAs management; development and implementation of a capacity building plan for the network (addressing key issues identified through completed PAs management assessments), and the wide promotion of “Western Balkans/Dinaric Arc Parks” network brand based on shared natural and cultural values. A key part of the project will be the development of sustainable tourism in all the partner countries. No less than ten protected areas will be chosen to work towards and achieve the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The Charter is a carefully assessed process by which protected areas analyze and improve their sustainable tourism “offer”, ending with the award of prestigious Charter status.

For more information please contact [Petra Boic Petrac](#), WWF MedPO or [Wilf Fenten](#), EUROPARC Consulting.

## 22. S



End of 2011 brought an end to three years long ECONNECT project. It confirmed that many animals live actually out of protected areas, that the importance of ecological networks is not widely recognized and that a functioning economy needs biodiversity. Measures for animals and plants protection must not be

limited to singular “ecological islands” or corridors. Ecosystems can only protect us from natural hazards or adapt to climate change if there is enough natural diversity. One of the project policy recommendations states that: “Ecological networks need to be considered as a value by society”. At the same time it is requested that information on forests or water courses which has been collected with public funding need to be publically accessible. This type of information is key for determining which habitats need to be inter-connected. Habitats were successfully connected in some of the project pilot sites. The project of the Austrian National Park Hohe Tauern has already been a model for the “Capercaillie action plan” of the Austrian province of Carinthia. The results of the ECONNECT project have been documented in various national publications and are accessible [here](#).

For more information please contact [Aurelia Ullrich-Schneider](#), CIPRA International

## 1. Natural Solutions



Protected areas are an essential part of the global response to climate change. They are protecting natural ecosystems and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon storage and sequestration. They can also help society cope with climate change impacts by maintaining the essential ecosystem services, upon which people depend. Protected areas are proven, “green” and cost-effective natural solutions to help address the climate crisis. IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme published the 4-page flyer “Natural Solutions – protected areas helping people cope with climate change” in 8 languages (English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic and Japanese). They can be downloaded from the WCPA website: [Natural solutions](#).

## 2. Balkans Scorecard



“If we compare the current state of affairs in the Western Balkans with the con icted reality of twenty years past, the region’s progress has been frankly miraculous” stated Mr Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement at Friends of Europe’s annual Balkan Policy Summit. However the region is not without its problems. Judiciary reform processes and political institutions remain to be strengthened, while organised crime and corruption need to be further combated. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media are still lacking and, though the regions’ economies are weathering the crisis quite well, much remains to be done to foster long-term economic growth. The full report is available in English under [Balkans scorecard](#).

## 3. B@B Newsletter #6



The EU B@B Platform has just started its third year of activities, now researching economic mechanisms related to biodiversity – one of the main concerns for the business sector. Companies struggle through the nancial crises and biodiversity might seem another burden. Hence investigating this topic together with the Platform’s participants will help stress the bene ts for companies willing to play a role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Read more on how business work to help conserve biodiversity under [B@B Newsletter #6](#).

## 4. Capacity Building Programme

As part of our role as Advisory Body on natural heritage to the World Heritage Committee, IUCN undertakes training and capacity building for natural World Heritage Site managers, State Parties to the Convention, and other stakeholders involved in the management and conservation of the exceptional sites. IUCN is currently implementing a [capacity building programme](#) in partnership with the Swiss Federal Of ce for the Environment and ICCROM, and in collaboration with ICOMOS. This three year programme (2010-2012) aims to enhance international and regional capacity on natural heritage.

## 5. IUCN Video



Discover IUCN, the world’s largest global environmental network. It is working in more than 160 countries, gathering the latest knowledge on biodiversity, running hundreds of conservation projects around the world and being nature’s voice on the international stage. Watch this video and nd out how IUCN works for a just world that values and conserves nature. IUCN video is available [here](#).







# 1.

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) offers assistance to countries engaged in the accession process to the European Union (EU) for the period 2007-2013. The aim of the IPA is therefore to enhance the efficiency and coherence of aid by means of a single framework in order to strengthen institutional capacity, cross-border cooperation, economic and social development and rural development. Pre-accession assistance supports the stabilisation and association process of candidate countries and potential candidate countries while respecting their specific features and the processes in which they are engaged. We would particularly like to draw your attention to the several on-going calls for proposals under the Cross-Border Co-operation component. Please find more information on [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/thefunds/ipa/crossborder\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/ipa/crossborder_en.cfm) and [http://www.interact-eu.net/ipa\\_news/51](http://www.interact-eu.net/ipa_news/51).

# 2.

This global database provides information about international grant funding for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in the developing world. They focus on grant makers (donors) serving the developing world. The website is mostly used by people searching for financial support of their work as individuals or as organizations. Grant makers included in the Terra Viva Grants Directory range from funders of community projects to funders of science and research. For more information please visit: [www.terravivagrants.org](http://www.terravivagrants.org).

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