

A one-week study course about „ Adaptive Conservation Site Management under Global Change“ for young scientists took place as a cooperation between the Centre for Econics and Ecosystem Management and the Agricultural University of Tirana. It was held in Shkoder, Albania from 20 - 26 of January. The project introduces the internationally acknowledged planning methods “Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation” and



A historic vote to improve the sustainability of the international trade of eight species of sharks and rays that are listed as threatened on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is among the key decisions taken at the CITES wildlife trade summit held in March 2013 in Bangkok.

Other decisions taken at the 16th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) include strengthening measures to reduce poaching and illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn, which have increased dramatically in recent years. "The decisions taken at CITES will help secure the future of many species provided to the Convention by IUCN's Species Survival Commission and TRAFFIC was key in supporting evidence-based decision making at the Bangkok meeting."

For more information please visit <http://www.iucn.org/?12640/Sharks-rhinos-and-elephants-among-wildlife-trade-summit-winners>.



Earth Hour is a global environmental initiative in partnership with WWF. Individuals, businesses, governments and communities were invited to turn out their lights for one hour on Saturday, 23 March 2013 at 8:30 PM to show their support for environmentally sustainable action. Since 2007 when 2.2 million people took part, the event has massively expanded to over 7,000 cities and towns in 152 countries and territories with hundreds of millions of participants across seven continents. In 2013, Earth Hour is not merely an

annual event, but is a continuous movement driving real actions to change the world we live in.

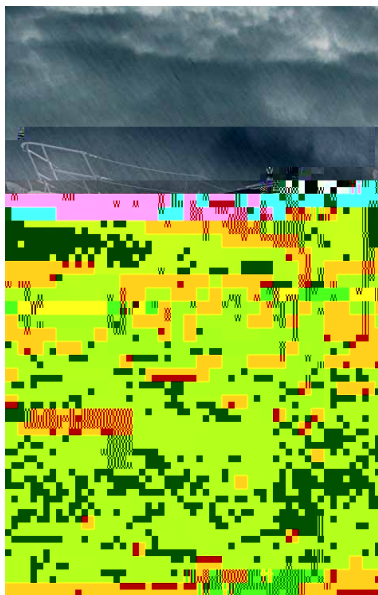
The slogan for this year's Earth Hour campaign in Serbia "Every hour can become Earth Hour" reminds us that the main point of this action isn't just turning off the lights for this event, but continuous change of our everyday habits related to use of electric energy and other natural resources. This year in Serbia 59 cities and municipalities participated, 44 CSO's, 38 schools along with many governmental institutions and companies. During the main events in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Nis, people attended acoustic concerts and other programs organized by WWF and local NGOs. Besides the activities and events in Serbia, WWF organized Earth Hour in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia too.

For more information please contact Sonja Badjura, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme at sbadjura@wwfdcp.org.

The Adriatic Sea hosts several species of cetaceans (some populations like bottlenose dolphin) and sea turtles. They are recreational boats). Biodiversity conservation issues like these are common to all Adriatic countries. Vi dfUMVg UbX Yi dYfYbVWg k Jh hY Uja cZXY b]b[U Vta a cb Vtbgyfj Uhcb ZUa Yk cf_ UbX hcc`g# measures for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles.

IPA Adriatic CBC Programme. NETCET is coordinated by the City of Venice and managed by 13 partners from Countries of the Adriatic Basin: Italy, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro and Slovenia. Their main objective is to develop common strategies for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Adriatic through regional cooperation. Shared natural heritage cannot be managed by a single state in isolation. Due to the migratory nature of these species and the joint responsibility of Adriatic states, collaboration is essential to planning effective long-term conservation strategies. Project developed tools will be readily available to everyone. This would hopefully support better conservation in other regions where similar conservation issues arise. NETCET runs from October 2012 to September 2015.

For more information please visit www.netcet.eu or www.facebook.com/NETCETproject.



the Athens International Airport till 10 May 2013 welcome travelers offering a view on marine life through the eyes of graphic design students. MEDASSET, who is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, cooperated with AKTO College of Art and Design on this competition. All posters had to promote the need to protect the Mediterranean Sea while raising public awareness about the degradation of the marine environment. Out of forty-eight works by a Judging Panel, and the three prizewinning designs were announced during a presentation ceremony held at the airport on 25 January. The three awards for top designs were sponsored by IDEAL and Panorama Bikes, COCO-MAT, and Skiadopoulos Photographic Equipment.

biodiversity – are also represented in the Exhibition. Additionally, there are images from MEDASSET's 25 years of conservation work across the Mediterranean.

For more information please contact Jenny Ioannou, MEDASSET at JennyIoannou@medasset.gr. To see the posters, please visit http://www.medasset.gr/cms/index.php?option=com_phocagallery&view=category&id=4%3Acompetition&Itemid=132&lang=el.

Through working groups' exercises, they analyzed the concept of the National Park of Prespa (Korçe) - a biodiversity hotspot. Prespa lakes and its water basin are the habitat for nearly 1,500 species of plants of which 19 are endemic for this area. Aquatic it hosts the Dalmatian Pelican, a globally endangered species.

On the country level, there are around 3,200 species of vascular plants. 91 globally threatened species are found in Albania.

For more information please contact Daniela Ruci, REC Albania at druci@rec.org.

Under a new Life+ project, which will go on until September 2015, direct threat to the survival of the endangered Danube sturgeons. The project "Joint actions to raise awareness on overexploitation of Danube sturgeons in Romania and Bulgaria" represents a major contribution to European biodiversity protection. It sets out to stop overexploitation and to secure the long term survival of these species with their high natural and economic value. Project target makers, sturgeon



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WWF's activities aim to have minimal environmental impact, building shelters and bird-watching points. The management of the Danube-Carpathian Programme is carried out in accordance with the principles of transparency, publicity and non-discrimination.

For more information please contact Olga Apostolova, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme at oaostolova@wwfdcp.bg



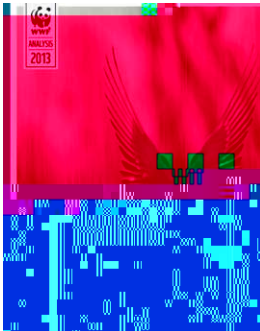
Griffon vultures can be seen again in the skies of the Central Balkan National Park. Their return was made possible by the 'Vultures' Return in Bulgaria' LIFE08 NAT/BG/278 Project, supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Bulgarian Zoological Society (FZS) and the German Federal Environment Agency (DBU). It was initiated in 2010 with the construction of a vulture adaptation aviary near the village of Manolovo, with birds arriving mainly from the Vulture Conservation Foundation, based in Mallorca, Spain. The birds are marked with a special yellow wing tags and rings with individual code, one of them with a prototype GPS/GSM transmitter continuously sending coordinates. To attract the vultures released within the project to suitable and safe place in the Park, scale models are placed. In the area surrounding the vulture adaptation aviary the released vultures and the visiting wild unmarked birds can be seen. Feeding site for vultures in the Central Balkan NP is built next to the aviary and is supported by the NGO Green Balkans'.

For more information please contact Diana Terzieva at did@centralbalkan.bg.

How should we evaluate a protected area? It is one of the questions that interest the employees of parks in the region. Trying to answer it using the methodology for the assessment of protected areas' value (PA-BAT), WWF started a number of workshops within the project 'Dinaric Arc Parks'. The methodology was introduced in Banja Luka at the end of last year. In 2013, WWF has held three workshops for the representatives of national parks, nature parks and their stakeholders. The methodology was designed to help the agencies, organisations and institutions for nature protection in collecting and comparison of the data showing protected areas' value.

The workshop was held in Medvedgrad near Zagreb on 25 March 2013. Sue Stolton from Equilibrium Research and a WWF consultant was the lecturer. Together with Nigel Dudley, her partner, she developed this awarded global methodology. The workshop gathered experts in nature protection, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatian Environment Agency and named PA-BAT coordinators. Two workshops for stakeholders of parks were held in Risnjak National Park and Medvednica Nature Park. The workshops will be held in April in other Croatian parks and in other countries.

In 2003, the countries of the Carpathian Mountains (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine) signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. In 2010, a Protocol on Sustainable Tourism was adopted accordingly, which provides a legally binding frame. Its implementation requires a strategy that focuses on sustainable tourism development. Referring to that need, a project was initiated in March 2013. With the project Susaina8epublic, HungaryNuclear Safety 18(esmer)1ns. In 2Advisp(aUNEP)1(alnt



WWF launched a new report criticizing dam projects worldwide that continue to violate fundamental sustainability criteria. In the “Seven Sins of Dam Building” report, numerous dam projects under construction or planned are given a failing review by the conservation organization. Aside from the internationally controversial Belo Monte (Brazil) and Xayaburi (Laos) dams, European projects, such as in Austria and Montenegro are also on the list.

Access the report under http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/seven_sins_of_dam_building_wwf.pdf



In order to promote protected areas and environmental issues, and to highlight the importance of wildlife diversity in Belgrade, the Secretariat for Environmental Protection of the City of Belgrade has funded two projects in 2013 so far: ‘Belgrade through Nature and Time’ and ‘The Belgrade Blue-Green Map’.

The Survival School NGO showed great enthusiasm in preparing the guide titled ‘Belgrade through Nature and Time – A Guide through Bio-Geo-Diversity’, which highlights primary natural and cultural values and provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to learn many interesting things about plants, animals and geological monuments. This book, available in Serbian and English, informs about the most important locations to learn about bio- and geo- diversity, about representative and rare objects, specimens and phenomena, offers maps with “recommended paths” and much more.



The Secretariat for Environmental Protection of the City of Belgrade, in cooperation with Environmental Improvement Center, has realized ‘The Belgrade Blue-Green Map project.’ The map is a multimedia platform showing urban and protected areas in Belgrade. It is available in English and Serbian, detailing interesting facts about 49 valuable urban rarities. Furthermore, it features precise distances from the viewer’s current position to interesting areas. It can also guide visitors to desired destinations. The Belgrade Blue-Green Map application is intended for smart phones and devices. More information is available at <http://beograd.bgmap.rs/>.

For more information please contact The Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Belgrade, natasa.djokic@beograd.gov.rs.

Celebrate EUROPARC Federation's 40th anniversary in 2013! Founded in 1973, the federation is today representing more than 400 members across Europe. EUROPARC is facilitating exchange and training on sustainable management and communication of protected areas' mission. Highlight is the European Day of Parks on and around 24 May with the motto "[My park. My passion. My story](#)".

5h hY' W'fY' cZ hY' ZXYfUjcb' gHUbXg']bHYfbUHjcbU' bYtk cf_]b["" 5h hY' annual EUROPARC conference in Hungary a diverse, multicultural audience will listen to high profile speakers and share insights into the latest protected area management developments. Emphasizing the importance of young people, the first EUROPARC Youth Conference will be hosted by Hortobágy National Park Directorate and held at Debrecen, Hungary, 9-13 October 2013. While EUROPARC continues to grow by connecting people around conservation, protection, and management, the following programmes are the most prestigious activities: Transboundary Parks, Junior Rangers, the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, Volunteer Management in European Parks, and the Alfred-Toeffer-Scholarships and Medal.

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<http://europarc.org/what-we-do/> or <http://europarc.org/who-we-are/our-history>.

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 "bUbW]U' gi ddcfhicZH.Y]f'k cf_'Ug']bX]]Xi U'g' cf' U'g' cf[Ub]nUHjcbg"; fUbhia U_Yfg']bWl XYX']b' hY' Terra Viva Grants Directory range from funders of community projects to funders of science and research. For more information please visit: www.terravivagrants.org.

In order to promote best practices in plant conservation at community level, Plantlife is launching the Roger Crofts Plantlife Community Conservation Award. The Award is open to community groups, small non government organisations or individuals from Eastern Europe working on the plant conservation in the wild (in situ).

Roger Crofts, a former Plantlife Chairman and board member has donated this Award (which will run for ten years from 2013) in order to celebrate the efforts of local communities to conserve wild plants and their

