



WWF

FACTSHEET

2012



Dinaric Arc Parks

OBJECTIVE

Maintaining and strengthening political will for dialogue and collaboration between the Dinaric Arc countries

TERRITORY

The Dinaric Arc Parks encompass the territory of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia

75 PARKS

The Dinaric Arc parks will include 75 national and nature parks from eight countries

200

Participants will be included in project activities

The Dinaric Arc is a region of South-Eastern Europe that covers some 100. 000 km² and more than 6. 000 km of coastline, stretching over the entire area oriented towards the Adriatic Sea from Trieste (Italy) to Tirana (Albania).

WWF started the project Dinaric Arc Parks in early 2012, with the aim to create an association of nature and national parks in the territory of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. This three-year project is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MAVA Foundation.

Regional network of protected areas

The first and main objective of this project is to create a network of protected areas by connecting all parks in the Dinaric Arc region. The planned **five-day conferences of parks**, which will be held at the end of each project year, will help managers and senior staff of individual parks to get to know their colleagues in the region, exchange management plans and examples of good practice and to plan potential collaboration.

The plan also includes **study visits** through the region, thus providing park employees with better insight into the situation of other parks in the region. The project team will provide **technical support** to those parks that decide to enter into a joint project with another park in the region, while the project secretariat will serve as the liaison between all parks in the network. The most significant values of parks and protected areas within the network will be highlighted in promotional materials and at the website made for improved promotion of the Dinaric Arc parks.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the IJC opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Capacity building for the network of parks

National and nature parks in all Dinaric Arc countries are mostly or entirely dependent on state funding. That is why a series of **capacity building and trainings** will be held within this project.

As all the countries participating in the project, if not already members, are close to becoming members of European Union (EU), we will organise a series of workshops and study visits about the Natura 2000 and **the role and management of protected areas in EU**.

The beauty, culture, geographical position and biological diversity of the Dinaric Arc countries are already a tourist attraction. However, it is expected that the Dinaric Arc parks will be yet another magnet for tour operators. We will ensure that employees of protected areas are introduced to the *European Charter for Sustainable Tourism of the EUROPARC Federation*, as well as to its practical implementation in our region. We shall prepare workshops for travel agencies' employees and organise several study tours in which not only tourism workers, but also journalists from the region will learn more about the beauties of parks and their biodiversity.

Protected areas' employees will have an opportunity through project activities to be introduced to the work of the EUROPARC Federation, the experience and expertise of employees of protected areas in Europe, as well as to the latest approaches and findings in the field of protected area management.

Dinaric Arc Parks as a brand

With its natural and cultural values, the Dinaric Arc stands even with the Carpathians, Alps or any other known ecoregion in the world. When we are already creating a network of Dinaric Arc parks, why not create a brand that would place our region next to the most well-known global tourist destinations?

Through our website, brochures, various communication tools and, ultimately, an extensive advertising campaign, we shall strive to develop Dinaric Arc parks as a brand that will be recognised in the region and beyond by 2015. We will develop cooperation with ministries of tourism and travel agencies and find a way how to best promote the Dinaric Arc Parks brand.



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SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE GORNJE PODUNAVLJE, SERBIA
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Capacity Building:

1. role of protected areas in EU
2. local development and cooperation with private sector
3. sustainable tourism in protected areas
4. climate change

Brand:

1. web page
2. media campaign
3. publications
4. advertising campaign
5. cooperation with tour operators

Further info:

www.discoverdinarides.com

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

croatia.panda.org

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