



FACTSHEET

2018

WWF Adria Wildlife Programme



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Brown bear

Adria's biodiversity highlights:

- Top European region for **plant diversity**
- 7,000-8,000 **marine species**, equating to 2/3 of all known fish species in the Mediterranean
- More than 50% of all **birds** in Europe
- More than 400 new species of **invertebrates** have been discovered within Dinaric karst in the last decade alone
- Over a third of Croatia's and Slovenia's land area is included in the **Natura 2000** network, reflecting their remarkable biodiversity

VISION

With its beautiful rivers and waterfalls, lakes and wetlands, numerous islands and spectacular coast, dangerous yet challenging peaks, virgin forests and thousands of unique and rare species, the Adria region is a special world, much of it still undiscovered. Many of the most important natural areas are protected as a part of national or nature parks.

One of the persistent challenges in securing protected areas (PAs) assets are diffused sustainable management services, collectively very important but relatively small for individuals. As well, unsustainable use of resources provides benefits to only a few people. Competences of PAs practitioners to adapt to new needs and threats, especially those bringing large benefits, such as tourism, need to be enhanced.

Adria region is a biodiversity hotspot and WWF commits to safeguard priority species and takes a range-wide approach to their conservation. Based on the Living Planet Report data, over 57% of biodiversity globally being lost, **WWF Adria's vision is to keep wildlife thriving in the whole region.**

RESULTS WWF WANTS TO ACHIEVE

- The number of protected and well-managed areas, including ecological networks Natura 2000 and Emerald network, are increased in the Adria region.
- The conservation status of species and habitats in the Adria region is improving.
- Innovative approach in community coexistence with wildlife is supporting a positive relationship between people and large carnivores.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

- Advocacy through Nature Alert Coalition (national Civil Society Organisations, CSOs) and similar forums or networks.
- Regional EU Platform on coexistence between people and large carnivores (Dinaric-Pindos, Dinara-Balkan populations of large carnivores).
- Highlighting the importance of tackling biodiversity loss with the new political establishment after the national elections.
- Raising awareness on the value of biodiversity, contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), among others through the natureforpeople.org website bringing examples from WWF Adria and partners.



Lynx

STAKEHOLDERS

In order to keep wildlife thriving and achieve sustainable management of PAs in the region, WWF Adria has a long history of working with diverse stakeholders:

- **Policy and decision-makers** - collaboration with the responsible national authorities in the whole region.
- **CSOs, academia and interest groups (hunters, farmers)** - collaboration on making the case for nature, such as Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores.
- **Business sector** - advocating for the sustainable tourism in PAs and Natura 2000.
- **Parks Dinarides - network of protected areas of Dinarides** (80 members) - partner of WWF Adria in exchanging knowledge and the implementation of best practices of sustainable development and management.

Large carnivores are the most charismatic species of the region:



> **3,000 bears** of Dinaric-Pindos population, 2nd largest after the Carpathian population



> **3,900 wolves** of Dinara-Balkan population, the largest in Europe



120-130 Dinaric lynx population, and only **50** individuals of the **Balkan Lynx**, the smallest and most threatened native Eurasian Lynx subpopulation

OLM – “baby dragons”, long-lived, rare and bizarre cave-dwelling creature is Europe’s only cave-adapted vertebrate. Sir David Attenborough chose OLM among ten creatures he would take on his ark and save from extinction because it is one of Nature’s “ultimate specialists”.



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Olm

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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.

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