

Joint statement

of the participants of the Dinaric Arc Parks Conference from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Kosovo¹, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Slovenia

As the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), EU member countries, EU candidate countries and EU potential candidate countries:

Recognizing that joint and coordinated efforts are needed in efficient and sustainable nature management,

Recalling the Big Win commitments signed at the CBD 9th Conference of Parties in Bonn, 2008, and

Noting that increased cooperation of nature conservation authorities leads to more coherent nature conservation systems and better coordination at the regional level,

We, the participants of the Dinaric Arc Parks Conference will in the framework of Big Win 2 for successful nature conservation of Dinaric Arc Region:

1. Aim to further continue the activities towards implementation of national priorities leading to delivering on the three objectives of the CBD and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Targets as well as EU directives on nature protection and EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.
2. Work toward strengthening conservation planning processes in the region.
3. Ensure conservation of valuable terrestrial and marine areas through increased management effectiveness, representativeness, and well-connected system of protected areas.
4. Encourage mapping and assessing the state of ecosystems and related services, assessing economic valuation of protected areas and develop the sustainable financing schemes.
5. Apply the results of stakeholder driven approaches to understanding the current and potential values of protected areas and use this information to strengthen management of protected area systems, encourage new partnerships to support protected areas and maintain and promote local cultural traditions.
6. Support evaluation of the contribution of protected areas to each country's economy and for the region as a whole.
7. Support initiatives and projects under the environmental pillar of EU Adriatic-Ionian and Danube macro-regional strategies, which contribute to sustainable economic development and regional cooperation.
8. Continue supporting the need for sustainable use of water resources and protection of groundwater-dependent ecosystems by respecting the requirements of EU Water Framework Directive, Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, and public involvement.
9. Encourage integration of nature conservation goals into sectoral developmental plans and cross-sectoral cooperation.
10. Develop education and awareness programs on the value of natural capital to the country economy.
11. Recognize the specific natural and cultural values of the Dinaric Arc region and acknowledge the Dinaric Arc Parks network to be a valuable platform for creation of the joint regional brand.

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This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.