Dear Readers,

While preparations for the World Conservation Congress are entering the finishing faze, it is time to share with you the 18th issue of the IUCN SEE e-bulletin. As always, it brings information on activities in the region, events and publications related to nature conservation. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to this issue. Please note that the bulletin is available online at www.iucn.org/southeasterneurope. The 19th issue will be focusing on the World Conservation Congress outputs, fresh ideas and new directions.

IUCN SEE staff news

Dr Jörg Lohmann, IUCN SEE office director since its establishment and in the first four years of its existence, has been appointed CIM Advisor at Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro and moved to Podgorica in September.

Thanking him for the support and cooperation, we wish Jörg all the success and look forward to our future joint projects and activities in the region!

We are looking forward to welcome you at the World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008) and at the next SEE Green Belt Workshop (Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 19-22 October 2008.)

With best wishes,
IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe
As announced in the previous issue of the e-Bulletin we’ll be introducing IUCN members from SEE in the following issues. By answering specific questions representatives of the member organizations will have possibility to introduce themselves, their activities and express personal experience being a part of the unique IUCN family.

**Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia**

The host of IUCN SEE office for four years

Represented by Mr Srdjan Marincic

srdjan-marincic@zzps.rs

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When did your organization join IUCN and what is your organization's mission? The Institute became an active member of the IUCN in 1997 and has taken part in all programs and tasks pertaining to the IUCN Strategy for South-Eastern Europe since. The mission of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia is to maintain and protect nature and natural resources in the country. Applying modern models and methods of nature conservation the Institute cooperates with national and foreign research groups and specialized institutions and nongovernmental organizations. Experts from the Institute use integral and interdisciplinary approach to protect nature, while observing the latest scientific achievements and principles of active protection and preservation of geo- and bio-diversities. Protection of nature is based on multidisciplinary research and evaluation of areas as well study and recommendation of protection steps and regime.

Which projects or joint activities between INPS, IUCN and other members would you stress out? INPS actively supports the European Green Belt initiative and is the implementing partner for various IUCN managed projects, such as the Protection of Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin Floodplains, Gornje podunavlje – Integrating Local Communities and Nature Protection and Raising Awareness on Biodiversity and Sustainable Community Development in the Stara Planina Area.

What is, to your opinion, the benefit of being the IUCN member? Does it help to improve your position at the regional/national/international level? The benefit is notable; INPS is strengthening its international cooperation and presence. Through stronger communication with IUCN ROIE and all IUCN members from the South-East European region we focus on the work on transboundary protected areas and thus support the implementation of IUCN programmes.

How does IUCN contribute to the sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the region? IUCN facilitates INPS’s integration into European and global processes of protection and conservation of nature by developing and implementing projects in the region, organizing scientific and expert meetings. It is a platform that enables full cooperation between the scientific and expert communities, and governmental and non-governmental organisations offering a open flows of information.

What should IUCN change or do better in terms of communication with members in the region? One of the options for networking improvement could be the creation of e-mailing list for Members in the Region.

What are the 3 most valuable events you personally have experienced with IUCN? Those would be: Vth World Parks Congress (WPC), Durban (South Africa) September 2003; Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the IUCN and Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia with a view to establish a the IUCN Coordination Unit for South-Eastern Europe at the new premises of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia in Belgrade, 3rd of November 2003 and the first South-Eastern European Green Belt Meeting, 7th – 10th November 2005, Novi Sad, Serbia.
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News & Events

1. NGOs visit to the EU25 countries

As a part of the Building the capacity for nature conservation in South-Eastern Europe project a study trip to the EU25 countries was organized in July-August 2008. During 5 days a group of 5 people representatives from BBF-Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, IUCN-SEE, Balkani Wildlife Society Bulgaria and TEMA Turkey visited the Green Belt Office and the Fertő-Hanság National Park in Hungary, the Nationalpark Neusiedler See–Seewinkel in Austria and the Slovensky raj National Park in Slovakia. Meetings with PA sites managers and representatives of environmental NGOs like DAPHNE Slovakia were focusing on stakeholders and business sector involvement in biodiversity management and projects’ funding through the EU funds.
Visiting beautiful places in the protected areas (Fertő-Hanság and Neusiedler lakes, gorges in Slovenský raj) as well as information and educational centers was a good opportunity to learn more about PAs management and environmental education as an essential part of the biodiversity conservation process.

The study trip provided good platform to discuss more about implementation of the EU standards on nature conservation and establish new contacts. Transfer of experience from the EU25 countries which already went or have been going through the process of implementation of the EU environmental legislation and directives, will significantly contribute to the successful process in Bulgaria and Turkey. Through the project’s results the experience will be disseminated to other environmental NGOs in South-Eastern Europe.

For to the successful study trip the team was supported by the Green Belt Office - Hungary, Fertő-Hanság NP - Hungary, Alois Lang, former Green Belt coordinator (Neusiedler See-Seewinkel Nationalpark, Austria), Slovenský raj NP and DAPHNE Slovakia.

For more information about the project please contact Ventzislav Vassilev, BBF Bulgaria at ventzbox@biodiversity.bg or Lubomira Vavrova, IUCN-SEE at Lubomira.vavrova@iucn.org.

2. New homes for Tawny Owls

**Serbia:** Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) is the most common Serbian owl inhabiting forests from lowlands up to the high mountains. It has adapted to live almost anywhere (including towns and inner city areas) if a good food supply and trees exist. Tawny Owls may nest in a hollow tree, the fork of a trunk, an old crow’s nest, occasionally in a building or on the ground.

Lack of suitable breeding sites is the biggest problem for Tawny Owls. Majority of Serbian forests are not managed in a sustainable way and most of the mature trees are cut down for timber leaving wildlife no breeding and resting places. This shortage of natural nest sites may influence the breeding population of Tawny Owls. During June, July and August 2008 total of 40 nest boxes specially made for Tawny Owls were made and positioned within the Ovcar-Kablar Gorge reserve (SW Serbia).

Forests in the reserve are mostly young and don’t provide suitable nesting cavities for breeding Tawny Owls. Nest boxes were put up on mature trees inside all different forest habitats. Monitoring of nest boxes and Tawny Owl breeding pairs will start in March next year by a group of volunteers.

The project was funded by the National Investment Plan and the Tourist Organization of Cacak which in charge of Ovcar-Kablar Gorge reserve management.

Please visit the project’s gallery at: http://www.wild-serbia.com/gallery/ljudi-dogadjaji/Projekat_shumska/index.html

For more information about the project please contact Milan Ruzic milruzic@yahoo.com, Project leader
3. Successful Balkans Peace Park: Summer Programme in Thethi, Albania

Albania: Fifty-five students graduated at the Balkans Peace Park English Lessons and Environmental Education Summer Programme, which took place this past summer in Thethi, Albania. Supported by Albanian translators and international volunteers, the Balkans Peace Park Summer Programme served as a meaningful and successful pilot model for future initiatives to be developed in other villages throughout the Balkans Peace Park in the region. In addition to the Summer Programme, English lessons were held for adults, along with week-end workshops, focusing on topics of interest of attendees. These included quality improvement of tourism services, development of a tourist information office, marketing pertaining to tourism and waste management. Furthermore, in conjunction with the summer programme, projects including bridge construction, trash bin installation and GPS trail mapping were developed. Much more detailed reports will be available on the website: www.balkanspeacepark.org early next month.

For more information please contact Antonia Young, Chair - Balkans Peace Park Committee UK at A.T.I.Young@bradford.ac.uk

4. Joint Danube Survey 2 (JDS2)

The Joint Danube Survey 2 (JDS2) was launched on 14 August 2007 in Regensburg, Germany. In total, a distance of 2,600 km of the Danube River was assessed, 2,415 km of which were completed by the three boats of the JDS2 travelling from Kelheim, Germany, through 10 countries, to the Danube Delta in Romania and Ukraine until late September. The JDS2 sampled 96 sites on the Danube River and 28 on its major tributaries. Ten cities were also visited to increase public awareness. The JDS2 was possibly the world’s biggest river research expedition ever.

On September 11, 2008, the final results of the JDS2 expedition were publicly presented during a press conference at the World Water Congress and Exhibition in Vienna, Austria. The results have also been published in two key documents: Final Scientific Report and a hands-on public document – The Joint Danube Survey 2: Research Expedition and Conclusions. Both are available at www.icpdr.org/jds.

The findings confirm that cooperation among Danube countries to reduce pollution is bringing positive results. Progress has been made in many areas since the Joint Danube Survey 1 of 2001. Water quality is generally improving, but more work is needed. People can swim in parts of the Danube River Basin, but not everywhere. People can eat fish without health risk, but further investigation of mercury concentrations is needed in some areas.

For more information please contact Paul Csagoly, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, paul.csagoly@unvienna.org

5. First study on potential areas for Natura 2000

One of aspects of the project on Sustainable forest management funded by European Commission and implemented by Project Management Int., is the study on potential areas for Natura 2000 network designation. First results were obtained during 2007/08. The group of experts analyzed 15 layers of Natura 2000 in Kosovo territory (in accordance with the UN 1244 resolution). The existing network of 75 protected areas covers an overall area of 46,300 ha including one national park, 11 nature reserves, 2 protected landscapes and 61 nature monuments.
The list of 195 other proposed areas for protection was prepared, including the proposed national park of Bjeshket e Nemuna covering over 63,000 ha. Eight natural areas are identified as IPA regions and other 10 as Primary Butterfly areas. According to study there are no sites that fulfil criteria for the potential Ramsar site. Bjeshket e Nemuna and Sharri National Park are identified as IBA regions. Study identified 41 bird species included in Annex I of Birds Directive, and five of them are listed in the IUCN Red List. There are 19 local endemic plant species in this territory, while the number of the Balkans endemics is 138. Study identified 68 relict plant species.

For more information please contact Prof. Dr. Behxhet Mustafa, Lead expert of the study, Faculty of Natural Sciences at: behxhetm@yahoo.com

6. Opening of the Information Centre in Zagradec

Albania: The Information Centre of Zagradec (Micro Prespa Lake, Albania) opened its doors to the public in April 2008. The Centre includes an exhibition on the transboundary Prespa basin (shared between Albania, Greece and the FYR of Macedonia) and is situated in a traditional building in the village of Zagradec.

In 2005, the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) attained a building in Zagradec and since than, supported the local community

For more information, please contact Francois Doleson, SPP Coordinator of the project “Support of NGOs and capacity building in Albania - Establishment of a local NGO and an Information Centre in Zagradec, Mikri Prespa” at: fdoleson@yahoo.fr

7. UNDP Bulgaria Pilots a Training Course for Public Officials on Integration of Global Environmental Issues into Regional and Local Planning

Bulgaria: The Rio Conventions Project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) and the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW), financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) running in the period 2006-2010. The project will support the integration of three UN conventions – UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), or otherwise known as the Rio Conventions - into regional development and spatial planning processes in Bulgaria. The long-term goal of the project is to embed global environmental concerns into the processes of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning in Bulgaria.

In August 2008, under the project, the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, assisted by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski finalized a 60-academi hour training program for public officials entitled Integration of Global Environmental Issues into Regional and Local Planning which shall be offered to 130 employees of MRDPW, MoEW, municipalities and district administrations in Bulgaria during the period September 2008 – March 2010. The main goal of the course is to support the integration of global environmental issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation into the policy of regional and local planning.

Main topics of the training are: Introduction to Sustainable Development and the Rio Conventions; Practical mechanisms and tools for integration of environmental issues into the planning and management policy for regional and local development; Best practices for integration of issues concerning biodiversity loss, climate
changes and land degradation into the regional development and management; Environmental assessments in the context of regional development; Information technologies for preservation of the environment and regional development.

For further information, please contact Natalia Dimitrova, UNDP/GEF Rio Conventions Project at natalia@rioconventions.org

8. Exceptional landscape exhibition: Livanjsko Polje

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Franciscan monastery and EuroNatur open a new ecology and landscape exhibition in the Museum Gorica, Livno, which is famous for the art gallery and the collection of the cultural heritage of the region. The overall purpose of this exhibition is to sensitize the local population and visitors of the museum to the great ecological value of Livanjsko Polje, with the aim to secure long-lasting effects of the protection measures. Satellite pictures, paintings, photos of landscapes and animals, topographic and historic maps of the Livnanjsko Polje will be displayed in the museum of the Franciscan monastery as from September 25, 2008. Besides, the visitors will also be informed in detail about the uniqueness and diversity of the natural and cultural landscape that has developed in Livanjsko Polje as a result of repeated inundations. An extra room has been added to the museum for this purpose, which will be regularly dedicated to ecological issues in the future.

For further information, please contact Martin Schneider-Jacoby, EURONATUR at martin.schneider-jacoby@euronatur.org

9. A habitat of a rare kind of plant was found in the Central Balkan National Park

Bulgaria: A new habitat of a rare kind of plant was found in the Central Balkan national Park- rocky wormwood (Artemisia eriantha Ten.). This finding for the first time determines the occurrence of the rocky wormwood species in the Balkan Range in general, and middle Balkan range in particular, confirmed Mr. Stoyan Stoyanov, research associate with the Institute of Botany at the Bulgarian Academy of Science. The rocky wormwood is listed as rare in terms of endangered species in the Bulgarian Red Book, and so far there have been only a few habitats found in Rila and Pirin mountains.

The rocky wormwood is a perennial grass kind, normally found in the sub alpine and alpine zones. The amazing plant was found by one of the park employees, Mr. Venelin Koychev, during a regular tour of the treeless areas of Peak Mazalat (the Evil Peak) north slopes, part of the Triglav massif. The plants were found at a habitat typical for its kind, on karst ground, at 1884 m. above sea level, forming tufts in the cracks of 8-10 m high conglomerate lime rock. A specimen of the wormwood found in the park has been deposited with the Institute of Botany at the Bulgarian Academy of Science.

For further information, please contact Diana Terzieva, Central Balkan National Park Directorate at did@centralbalkan.bg
10. World Natural Heritage in Central, East and South-East Europe – Strengthening the Network

**Germany:** From 13th to 16th of September 2008, representatives of World Heritage (WH) sites and WH focal points from Central, East and South-East Europe met with experts from the UNESCO WH Centre, UNESCO MAB Programme, IUCN Programme Office for SEE and IUCN WCPA at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm (Germany).

During the network meeting recent developments in both the WH Convention and in WH sites of the respective countries were discussed. As an outcome of the meeting a comprehensive work programme was elaborated for the region to enhance the implementation of the Convention. This work programme focuses on management and monitoring of existing and future WH sites, on the linkages between cultural and natural heritage, on improving the cooperation between WH and MAB, as well as on communication and public awareness raising for WH. The network envisages elaborating concrete project proposals to put the work programme into practice.

The workshop was hosted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

For further information, please contact Barbara Engels and Andrea Burmester, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany at EngelsB@BfN.de

11. IUCN-SEE institutionalise cooperation with the Environmental Secretary of AP Vojvodina

**Serbia:** On 8 August 2008, a delegation of the IUCN Programme Office for SEE and its member organisation Green Network of Vojvodina, visited Novi Sad upon an invitation by Dr. Slobodan Puzovic, Secretary for Environmental Affairs of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Together with his team comprising experts on environmental issues and public relations, Dr. Puzovic presented the large portfolio and scope of work of the AP Vojvodina in the environmental sector, focusing on scientific basic research and corresponding data processing as well as on cooperation with the civil society, especially by granting NGOs in Vojvodina to work in the nature conservation field. A range of currently over 60 projects granted to NGOs is supposed to be increased even during the next years to achieve more than 100 project grants per year, mainly for small and medium size NGOs in order to support capacity building in the region for environmental affairs.

Besides this work focusing on local and regional cooperation and Public Private Partnership, AP Vojvodina is very much interested to extend its outreach into the international nature conservation scene by teaming up with IUCN. Besides detailed project cooperation, for instance the European Greenbelt applied to Vojvodina (map available with identified potential project sites, worth to apply the Greenbelt initiative), the AP Vojvodina is interested in the Countdown2010 Initiative (4 signatories from Vojvodina have already joined CD2010, including the AP itself), the Green Economy and the Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation components of the new IUCN programme 2009-2012. Cooperation on a regional basis was discussed and shall be followed up by AP Vojvodina and IUCN in the next weeks. IUCN further on encouraged AP Vojvodina to consider an institutional link with IUCN through membership and a personal extension of professional networking by joining the IUCN commissions.

For more information, please contact Lubomira Vavrova, IUCN SEE at Lubomira.Vavrova@iucn.org.
12. Velika Plaza: Unique protected Biodiversity Hotspot threatened

Two endemic subspecies of small mammals are described for the Natural Monument Velika Plaza in Montenegro. The 500 ha large protected area is a unique beach habitat at the Adriatic East Coast, 9 km long and in average 400 m wide. The site fulfills the criteria of a Ramsar Site (more than 1% of Europe’s Baillon’s Crake breeds here) and has unique vegetation.

The whole protected area including a large buffer zone is protected. In spring unique narcissus and orchid meadows spread from Ulcinj to the Bojana-Buna River. It is an EMERALD and future Natura 2000 site of unique value, but is threatened by the tourism.

Still in 2002 the habitats at Velika Plaza were preserved, but tourism disturbance impacted the site. Of over seven shore bird species, only two in few pairs survived on the beach. In August 2008 only four patches of dunes were found with good preserved vegetation in the protected area. The migrating and breeding birds are heavily impacted by hunting activities and all kind of illegal practices could be observed as use of tapes, decoys and hunting on the sea in March 2007 and 2008.

For further information, please contact Martin Schneider-Jacoby, EURONATUR at martin.schneider-jacoby@euronatur.org

13. Neretva Delta Forum for the sustainable use of shared natural resources

Croatia: Within the 20th International diatom symposium, held in Dubrovnik 7-13 September 2008, Project Office Manager of REC Project “Neretva Delta Forum (NDF) for the sustainable use of shared natural resources”, Meri Rogosic presented the history and presence of Neretva Delta as well as the main goals of the Project to 44 scientists, participants of IDS, during their one day trip to Neretva region.

The focus of PPP was on loss habitats in Neretva Delta due intensive agriculture development and protection of the most valuable remnants of the Mediterranean wetlands on the eastern Adriatic coast. Also, POM Meri Rogosic gave several educational lecturing of the “Possibilities of development of sustainable tourism in Neretva Delta” in Dubrovnik in Centre of Responsible Tourism. In the last months, members of NDF Associations are actively participated in public discussions of development of Ploce Harbour, workshops and meetings by NGOs “Green Action” from Zagreb and “Green Istria”, held in Metkovic and Ploce.

During the REC SECTOR grants programme – Supporting Environmental Civil Society Organizations in South Eastern Europe, NDF transboundary Associations applied with PP “Improvement of the waste management in urban environment of the Neretva Delta cross border region”. Leaders of NDF Associations passed the REC training of preparing PP in Budapest as well as other trainings for IPA programmes in Dubrovnik Neretva County held by Regional Agency.

The last project proposal designed by several NGOs from Neretva Delta in which NDF participated as partner is: “Neretva Delta reptiles and amphibians” applied to UNDP COAST project. In future perspectives of proclamation Neretva Delta as Nature Park in Croatia, this project proposal on inventhariosation, monitoring and protection of habitats of the 16 reptiles and 7 amphibians that are identified in lower Neretva Delta region becomes important milestone in sustainable development of the region.

For further information, please contact Maja Zaric, National Programme Officer for Migration and Health at maja.zaric@sdc.net
1. Joining forces to protect and enhance biodiversity

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (ECSTPA) is a practical tool for the sustainable development and management of tourism in protected areas in Europe. It has been successfully implemented for ten years. 58 protected areas in seven European countries already belong to the network and provide many excellent examples of how to develop and implement tourism activities that are ecologically, economically and socially balanced. The ECSTPA and its European Network are managed by the EUROPARC Federation.

A new brochure, ‘Joining Forces’, has been published as part of the ongoing EUROPARC project European CharterNet, which is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. It illustrates the results of a comprehensive analysis carried out by the project working group comparing the principles of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas with the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development – based on the global agreement of the CBD signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The brochure features a brief explanation of twelve key issues related to sustainable tourism development, which are based on the principles of the European Charter, and directly links them to the CBD Guidelines. All in all 25 good practice examples from seven European countries showcase the extensive work of charter protected areas. The Charter has proved to be an excellent, practical way of contributing to the conservation of biological diversity at protected area level by linking tourism, communities and people.

For more information please contact Petra Dippold at p.dippold@europarc.org

2. The Birds of Skadar Lake

Montenegro: National Parks of Montenegro published the „The Birds of Skadar lake“ by the author Nela Vesovic Dubak, Msc Ornithology, in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Country Office Montenegro, and with financial support of Ellis Foundation from Switzerland.

„This publication is meant for all of you caring about birds and visiting or residing in the area of NP Skadar Lake.

This is an attempt to prepare ornithological calendar with locations and brief description of species most commonly seen in the National Park. This publication will allow all visitors easy and momentary acquaintance with the rich bird world of the lake. The greatest pleasure is exploring and loving nature itself, hence Skadar Lake with its special species and colony nesting/resting places is an ideal place to be“ - explained the author. This publication presents 33 birds (mute swan, grey heron, squacco heron, little egret, pigmy cormorant, dalmatian pelican as a symbol of the NP...), length of their body, wing span, their eating and nesting habits at the Skadar Lake – home to a great number of birds and among the most ideal place for birdwatching. Of 280
Trainings & Seminars - ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Regional workshop for MAB stakeholders in SEE

In the framework of the institutional capacity building activities that the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE) is carrying on regular basis, a regional workshop for the stakeholders of the Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme is organised every year in a different country.

The 2008 edition will take place in Bulgaria, in November 11-14, hosted by the Central Balkan National Park and organised with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria. Biosphere Reserves coordinators and MaB Committees members will be invited from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYRO Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo territory (in accordance with the UN 1244 resolution), Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.

The workshop aims to make all the SEE countries aware of the Madrid Action Plan, as resulted from the February World Biosphere Congress; additionally, participants will be discussing the contribution of the Biosphere Reserves to the local economies.

For more information, please contact Giorgio Andrian, UNESCO BRESCE g.andrian@unesco.org

2. Mapping synergies – branding ideas

The next Green Belt Workshop for South-Eastern Europe will take place in the picturesque city of Blagoevgrad in the South-Western Bulgaria, 19-22 October. Approximately 40 participants will gather to take a challenge of making Green Belt initiative visible outside conservation sector and to develop further steps for branding conservation ideas and local products along its southern section. This event is an opportunity to revise Programme of Work of and to encourage new synergies in this Pan-European initiative.

‘Mapping synergies-Branding ideas’ will hopefully be inspirational event resulting in many project ideas. Some new partners will join us too. At the same time, it is a good chance to look back and take message home from the lessons learnt since the birth of the initiative. The event is coordinated with our partner Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) active on the Green Belt since the beginning. A field visit to the recently established the Belasitsa Nature Park on the triangle area between Bulgaria, Greece and FYR Macedonia is foreseen.

It is an excellent opportunity to understand how Green Belt project works in the transboundary context and interplay between different stakeholders. Regional media will cover the event.

photos by L. Topalova-Rzerzycha, BBF

For more information please contact Marijana Dzakovic, PR Officer National Parks of Montenegro at jpnpcg@t-com.me
For 2009, (sustainable) tourism along and beyond the Green Belt is at the centre of attention, 20 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Reisepavillon has gained the support and participation of some key organisations for this theme, including German Federal Agency for Nature Protection / BfN, IUCN, Friends of Nature, Friends of the Earth, WWF international, Europarc, GTZ and many others.

Reisepavillon – the International Alternative Travel Fair is inviting all IUCN-members and associates who would like to take an active role at this event - tour operators and tourist associations with their holiday offers, NGOs, conservation areas and association representatives concerned with our themes. In 2009 Reisepavillon is happening parallel to the f.re.e. leisure and travel fair, so that we can expect to generate even more visitor interest in sustainable tourism and destinations ‘beyond the former Iron Curtain’.

For more information, please contact Anke Biedenkapp, Managing Director at info@reisepavillon-online.de

3. Reisepavillon, a unique sustainable tourism platform

**Germany:** The 19th Reisepavillon is announced to take place in Munich, 26 February – 2nd March 2009. Reisepavillon is a unique sustainable tourism platform that, every winter, brings together holiday companies, conservation areas, NGOs, media professionals, politicians and holidaymakers with an interest in and commitment to sustainable tourism – on average there are 300 exhibitors, among them for several years now the Europarc Federation, and 18,000 visitors.

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For more information, please contact Anke Biedenkapp, Managing Director at info@reisepavillon-online.de

4. MSc course in “Management of Protected Areas”

**Austria:** Gain access to an attractive and future-oriented occupational field with a two-year postgraduate education and training.

In September 2009 the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) launches the next Master of Science course on the “Management of Protected Areas”. The curriculum covers ecological, economic and socio-cultural subjects and the development of personal skills necessary to plan, consult and manage protected areas. It was developed in cooperation with organisations like the IUCN, UNESCO, EUROPARC, ALPARC, WWF, PAN Parks and secretaries of CBD and Ramsar Convention. Experienced lecturers and international classmates guarantee an exciting time. The course is organised in 9 modules (70 days of course attendance either as classes or excursions) supported by e-learning units. The classes take place at the University of Klagenfurt and selected protected areas of Central, South and Eastern Europe. In order to qualify for admission, potential students need to hold a university degree, have a good working knowledge of English and demonstrate interest in the topic.

Launched in 2005, the course has already become an internationally well-established hub for the training of integrated management of protected areas. Become part of this expanding network and apply until 30.12.2008. Tuition fee is EUR 12,400 (limited scholarship funds available for students from low-income Central and Eastern European and developing countries).

For further information, please contact course directors: michael.getzner@uni-klu.ac.at or jungmeier@e-c-o.at or visit the website: www.mpa.uni-klu.ac.at
Guidelines for contributing to the IUCN SEE e-bulletin

IUCN welcomes articles in which you report on the activities related to transboundary cooperation in protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Please inform the public on the status of your projects and actions, as well as events that you attended. You are welcome to announce new meetings and workshops and briefly report on new publications and announce funding opportunities. Please send a photo to accompany your article if appropriate and indicate your email and/or weblink for further reference.

The articles should be 150-250 words in length. Please note this as the interest to distribute news articles through the bulletin is extremely high and we are trying to secure space for all of you to contribute. You are responsible for any content that you post or transmit. The editors reserve the right to shorten and modify the text if necessary.

Thanks for taking these guidelines into consideration!

All contributions should be sent to Aleksandra Nesic, aleksandra.nesic@iucn.org.

ROfE’s Structure

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