



PARKS, FOR ONLY ONE EARTH

International and National Conferences

Feltre

July 10 – 11 2008



PROTECTED AREAS:

Warming Up to the Challenge?

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IUCN in Brief:



- **Globally:**
 - 1100 members from over 140 countries
 - state, government agency and NGO members
 - six specialist Commissions with over 10,000 scientists and experts from over 160 countries
 - observer status to the United Nations

- **Pan-Europe:**
 - 369 members
 - 6 programme offices
 - largest IUCN programmatic area

KEY ISSUES AND FINDINGS



FROM THE DURBAN + 5 MEETING

Cape Town, South Africa

8 – 11 April 2008

- **80 PA experts assessed progress made and the challenges in implementing key recommendations of the V th IUCN World Parks Congress**

World Parks Congress (WPC)



- Convened every 10 years by IUCN since 1962
- The Vth WPC was held in Durban, South Africa in 2003

Key Outcomes from 2003 WPC

- Durban Accord and Action Plan
- Message to the CBD COP 7 (2004) - PoWPAs

Key Issues and Findings from Durban + 5



- There has been an increase in the number of protected areas in many countries
- **but biodiversity loss is still accelerating !!**
- Improving PA Management Effectiveness remains a major challenge
- More than 6,300 PAs have been assessed; now increasing emphasis on conducting system level assessments

Key Issues and Findings from Durban + 5



- **The CBD has been a major stimulus for action through the incorporation of most of the targets from the Durban Action Plan into the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (COP 7)**
- **Other international Conventions, such as the World Heritage Convention, have also provided a stimulus for action**

Key Issues and Findings from Durban + 5



- **Funding of PAs increasing overall but PAs are still seriously underfunded**
- **There has been a significant increase in Indigenous Protected Areas and Community Conserved Areas, but progress has been variable**
- **There is increased recognition of the need to link PAs into the broader landscape**

Key Issues and Findings from Durban + 5



- **Climate change has serious implications for the world's PAs and is the major overarching issue confronting PAs in the 21st century**
- **Next IUCN WPC planned for 2014**

In summary, there has been significant progress since Durban but major challenges remain for the world's PAs !

Results from CBD COP 9



- **Marine and coastal biodiversity:**
 - **criteria to identify PAs in the High Seas**
- **Protected Areas:**
 - **options for mobilizing financial resources for implementing Programme of Work reviewed**
 - **promotion of research into role of PAs in climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Protected Areas and Climate Change



- **Climate change increasingly affecting life maintenance systems and impacts will certainly be significant for people and nature**
- **PAs are conservation cores and anchors for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services under increasingly stressful conditions and their importance and economic and other value is increasing daily as a result, but little recognized**
- **PAs are best insurance for the most important elements of “natural infrastructure” and thus sustainable economic and social development**



Protected Areas and Climate Change

- **PAs already noticeably affected: mountains (alpine, glaciers), marine (coral bleaching), coastal (flooding, erosion) and drylands (erosion)**
- **In Canada, under all climate scenarios, > half of PAs will experience substantial vegetation change**
- **In UK, estimated that 10% of reserves could be lost in 30 - 40 years**

PA Vulnerability Characteristics



- **Higher latitudes (tundra, boreal) and altitudes (mountains, cloud forests), coastal, islands, drylands**
- **Possess high edge : area ratio**
- **Are isolated or islands: physically, ecologically**
- **Have considerable anthropogenic stresses in and around boundaries already**
- **Possess isolated populations and fragmented ecosystems within**

PA Vulnerability Characteristics



- Possess particularly vulnerable ecosystems or ecosystem components (e.g. water regime dependent, low tolerance range of species to physical parameters)
- Have species and/or ecosystems at edge of their ranges
- Are homogeneous (topographically, geomorphologically)
- Are small in size

IMPLICATIONS



- **Climate change has major implications for the planning and management of PAs and for their future conservation effectiveness: this must be widely recognized and acted upon now**

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?

- **Certain adaptation principles can be applied and specific actions can be undertaken to help maintain PA biodiversity values, conservation roles, and their support of society, economy – of life**

PA Adaptation Principles



- Adapt in anticipation - be proactive
- Maximize ecosystem resilience
- Avoid fragmentation and provide for connectivity (corridors or biolinks)
- Strive for “porosity” or “permeability” of landscapes to provide for species movement
- Enlarge large PAs and adjust boundaries and buffer zones as needed
- Involve local communities and stakeholders

PA Adaptation Principles



- **DO NOT “move” PAs in anticipation**
- **Protect known/anticipated refugia**
- **Improve effectiveness of buffer zones around PAs**
- **Protect ecosystem processes and services**
- **Include climate change scenarios in the selection of new PAs and in system planning**
- **Support *ex-situ* conservation efforts**
- **Create or restore habitat where possible**

PA Adaptation Principles



- **Consider assisting species migration if feasible and practical**
- **Invest in restoration with the future in mind**
- **Conserve functional groups of species and components most threatened**
- **Adopt a regional scale for PA planning and management**
- **Adjust and improve monitoring in PAs**
- **Use adaptive management and strategy testing**

PA Adaptation Actions



- **Identify sensitive biomes/areas**
- **Analyse PAs' vulnerability - undertake national level PA system reviews**
- **Review adaptation options and develop, implement and monitor effects of strategies; adjust strategies as required**
- **Adjust system planning on basis of new evidence; include adaptation in PA management plans**

PA Adaptation Actions

- **Model biodiversity response to climate change at a regional level with multiple PAs – trans-boundary, coastal and marine as well**
- **Represent vegetation types and gene pools across environmental gradients (latitudinal and altitudinal) where possible**
- **Reduce PAs' own carbon footprint and communicate and educate**

LOOKING AHEAD



- **Perception of PAs must be changed**
- **PAs are not luxuries that cannot be afforded by society – they are absolute essentials that must be invested in**
- **PAs are the basic insurance we have for the future**
- **Insurance must be bought and maintained**
- **Planning and management of PAs must change in approaches used, scale, time horizons, objectives of management**



NATURE HAS PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR US
– BUT CAN NO LONGER AFFORD
TO PAY OUR BILLS !!!

IT'S TIME TO CONTRIBUTE
TOWARDS THE PAYMENTS !!





Thank you !!

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DURBAN ACTION PLAN



Seeks two overarching outcomes:

- **PAs fulfil their role in biodiversity conservation**
- **PAs make a full contribution to sustainable development**

Action Plan also aims to realize eight other outcomes:

DURBAN ACTION PLAN



- **A global system of PAs (with links to surrounding landscapes and seascapes)**
- **Effective management of PAs (with reliable reporting on management)**
- **Secured rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (in relation to natural resources and biodiversity conservation)**

DURBAN ACTION PLAN



- **Greater support for PAs from all sectors**
- **Improved / diversified forms of governance**
- **Greatly increased financial resources**
- **Better communication and education on the role and benefits of PAs**

South Eastern Europe

Is very rich in natural and cultural heritage and diversity

Numerous assets are trans-boundary and thus shared

Is undergoing continuing geo-political and socio-economic





- **Protected Areas in the SEE Region
– Building Bridges Across
Landscapes and Cultures**



europaean
greenbelt

European Green Belt

Backbone of ecological network, from Barents to Black Sea

Trans-boundary cooperation

Nature conservation and sustainable development



European Green Belt initiative



The Dinaric Arc

WWF, UNESCO-BRESCE, UNDP, IUCN, the Council of Europe, FAO, Euronatur and SNV are concerned with the future of the Dinaric Arc and are active in the region with a varied portfolio of projects and initiatives to secure the long-term conservation and sustainable development of this part of Europe. These institutions have joined forces and created the **Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI)**



A unique world of nature and people where eastern Europe meets the Mediterranean.

The Dinaric Arc is a region of south-eastern Europe with a surface of approximately 100,000km² and more than 6,000km of coastline, encompassing the whole region facing the eastern Adriatic Sea, from the area of Trieste (Italy) to Tirana (Albania). It includes portions of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, FYR Macedonia, and Albania.

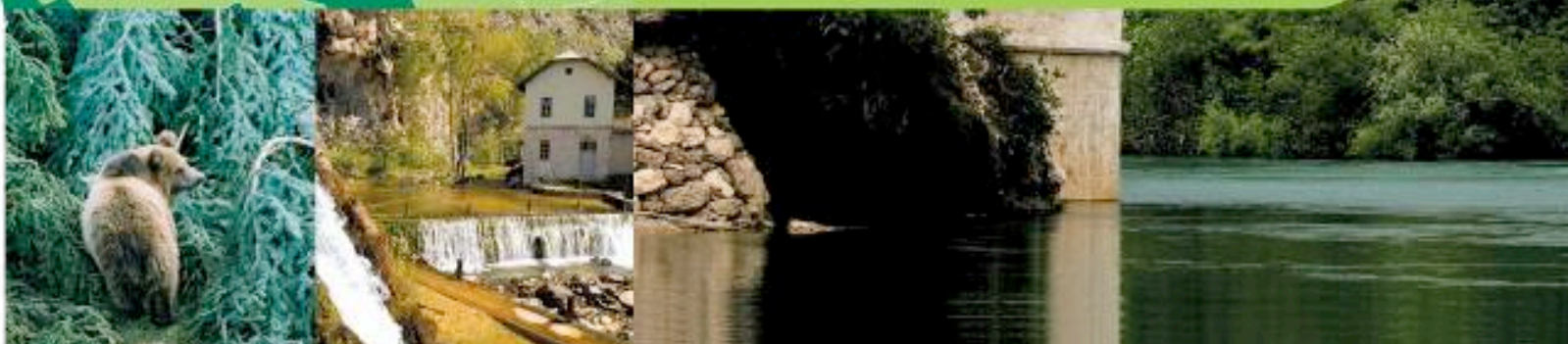
The relatively high Dinaric Alps (maximum height is 2,764m) run parallel to the eastern Adriatic coast, and are famous for their karstic geology – Ljvnsko Polje in western Bosnia being the largest karstic field in the world. Towards the southern end of the region, the Pindjete Massif and the "Albanian Alps" are among the widest mountains in Europe.

The Dinaric Arc hosts important freshwater ecosystems, including the most extended network of subterranean rivers and lakes in Europe, and wetlands of international importance, such as the Hvalba delta

(Bosnia and Herzegovina/Croatia, and Skadar/Shkoder lake (Montenegro/Albania). The river Tara is well known for forming a long and wild canyon, one of the deepest in the world. The Eastern Adriatic coast still includes unspoilt tracts, with limited major mass tourism development. Hundreds of islands characterise the eastern Adriatic coast, from Braon to Sazan, giving way to a variety of seascapes and coastal/marine ecosystems. The extremely indented Bay of Kotor is unique in the Mediterranean, while the coast of Albania is amongst the widest in the whole Mediterranean basin.

The borders of this topic are indicative and could evolve during the initiative program.

ITALY
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA
SERBIA
AND MONTENEGRO
ALBANIA



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Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI)



Main goal:

Promote favourable conditions for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Dinaric Arc

Objectives:

1. Support synergies and cooperation among key stakeholders concerning conservation and development in the region

2. Develop a Dinaric Arc eco-regional framework to guide efforts towards integrated biodiversity conservation and trans-boundary cooperation



Important Drivers

- **Political and social transformation processes**
- **EU accession process creating more funding – presents benefits and potential challenges**

Challenge

- **Integration of sustainability and natural infrastructure investment into development programmes**